

NORTH WEST
BRANCH NEWSLETTER

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NORTH WEST BRANCH

02/15



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Editorial

Events, tiles and a Spotlight on Lancashire



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Welcome to the first edition of the IHBC North West newsletter in 2015. This newsletter focusses on Lancashire with an overview of the several projects and schemes coming forward in that area. There are also some articles on 20th century architecture and the recent event with the Tiles and Architectural Ceramics Society (TACS). A detailed overview of the IHBC NW Conference 2014 on the Setting of Heritage Assets is to be published in the next edition of Context.

Following the meeting of the IHBC Council in December, I would like to congratulate Owen Barton on achieving his full membership to the IHBC and a warm welcome to the following new affiliates: Fiona Albarracin, Tamsin Cooke, Peter Lloyd, Suzanne Pickering, Fiona Wooler and Silvia Rossi.

Please do send me any news, views or anything which you think your North West colleagues might find useful or interesting. I would really appreciate your input. Please send any information to one or more of the following addresses:

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My grateful thanks to all the contributors who helped with this issue, in particular Diane Vaughton who has significantly contributed to this latest issue.

Jack Haw

IHBC NW Newsletter Editor

Heritage Consultant at Turley

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IHBC NW Annual General Meeting 2014

Highlights from the IHBC NW AGM 2014 in Liverpool

Following a successful year of events, the year ended with the IHBC NW AGM in Liverpool with guided tours of two prominent buildings within the city centre by Chris Griffiths, Conservation Officer at Liverpool City Council. The first building we visited was the Royal Insurance Building, a grade II* listed building, designed by the architect James F Doyle in the Neo-Baroque style. After being on the Heritage at Risk register for over a decade, the building has recently been restored and converted into a hotel (the Aloft).



The Royal Insurance Building c.1910



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Dining room within the building and the views of the deco-

Chris Griffiths discussed the background and history of the building and explained how a 'pod' has been inserted into the principal dining area. This new addition now allows for detailed views of the decorative plaster ceiling. Furthermore, the spectacular circular atrium of the staircase within the building has been retained, amongst many other features.

*Circular atrium within
the Royal Insurance
Building (overleaf)*

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IHBC NW Annual General Meeting 2014

Highlights from the IHBC NW AGM 2014 in Liverpool

Following the visit to the Royal Insurance Building, we visited Liverpool Town Hall, a grade I listed building, designed and rebuilt in 1754 and 1802 by various architects (including John Wood the Elder, John Foster and James Wyatt). It is noted within various sources as being one of the finest surviving 18th century town halls with some of the grandest municipal spaces in the country. It is fair to say that the rooms have the potential to cause an outbreak of neck-ache amongst visitors!



Liverpool Town Hall c.1836



One of the principal rooms within the Town Hall



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War Memorial within the Town Hall

The Town Hall also includes a wonderful war memorial forming an entire room at the centre of the building. This includes decorative friezes above the rolls of honour. On leaving the building, it was remarked by one of the members that the front doors boast what must surely be the best pair of knockers in the North West!



Door knockers to the front of Liverpool Town Hall

The tours were followed by the Annual General Meeting held at the Racquet Club on Chapel Street. This provided IHBC NW members with an update on the Branch and the extent of work going on behind the scenes.

Jack Haw & Crispin Edwards

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Spotlight on Lancashire

Lancashire: working hard at renewing and restoring its heritage

Across Lancashire councils are working with their local communities, public and charitable organisations including English Heritage, Heritage Lottery Fund and the Homes and Communities Agency and embracing its heritage. Recognising that heritage really is an 'asset' Lancashire is utilising it to regenerate commercial centres, encourage industry and stimulate growth in the residential market.

With three up-coming Townscape Heritage Initiative schemes and three HLF Parks for People projects the county is expected to receive £10.5m of Heritage Lottery Fund money to match fund council and stakeholder investment taking the expenditure on improving the historic environment to approximately £15m in the next 5 year.

Accrington is the most recent to receive HLF money for a £1.5m THI scheme to create a new town centre 'Square' and tackle empty properties. £2m goes to **Bacup**, a small town in Rossendale on the eastern fringes of Lancashire, to regenerate one of the best preserved early industrial market towns in the North West. 18th & 19th century buildings with much of their integrity still intact will benefit from sash window replacement and repair, replacement of stone flagged roofs and timber guttering.



Logo for the Bacup THI



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St. James Square, Bacup will see a dramatic overhaul increasing pedestrian space and incorporating a more sympathetic palette of materials enhancing the conservation area's strong sense of legibility. To support the scheme a wide ranging series of educational events including subjects such as heritage crime, stone conservation and re-searching a buildings history can be found at www.bacupthi.org.uk



Plans for St James Square as part of the Bacup THI

Regenerate Pennine Lancashire, an economic led initiative in east Lancashire covering areas such as Blackburn, Darwin, Hyndburn, Pendle and Burnley is incorporating a Heritage Investment Strategy that will look to

- secure funding for the long term improvement of significant identified heritage assets at risk;
- establish the importance of heritage and value of heritage assets in Pennine Lancashire; and
- contribute to the development of wider Pennine Lancashire strategies and investment plans.

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Spotlight on Lancashire

Lancashire: working hard at renewing and restoring its heritage

Chorley Borough Council have an exciting landscape project for Rivington Terraced Gardens, land owned and landscaped by Lord Leverhulme Bolton born industrialist and philanthropist, at the turn of the 20th century. The gardens are situated at the foot of Rivington Pike and are part of the landscape for people to walk around freely. As was fashionable of the era there are Japanese influenced features peppered around the former grounds and which are locally referred to as the Japanese Gardens. Over the years they have fallen into a state of disrepair and a HLF bid for £3.3m plans to stabilise and consolidate the existing structures and to carry out work that will continue the spirit of the original and revered landscape designer Thomas Mawson. Chorley Council is working with Groundwork Trust and Rivington Heritage Trust to develop the plans.



Rivington Terraced Gardens, Bolton

Coined the 'Guild City', **Preston** has secured several bids for HLF funding. A THI project worth approximately £1m will be for Winckley Square, the north-west's finest example of Georgian planned development. Winckley Square Conservation Area comprises of neo-classical townhouses built around Winckley Gardens and small 18th century commercial streets that have of late suffered from disuse and a forgotten public realm.



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Working with the Winckley Square Community Interest Group (WSCIC) and Lancashire County Council the aim is to revitalise the area by encouraging a mix of residential, commercial and leisure uses, seeing the potential of homes, offices, restaurants and cafes to enliven the area from day to night. More information can be found at; www.preston.gov.uk/winckleysquare.



Winckley Square, Preston c.1863

To boost the Square's regeneration, Groundwork have been commissioned to submit a stage II bid to Parks for People to restore **Winckley Gardens**, improving the landscape, access and legibility. Having received £60,000 from the stage I bid to develop a stage II proposal the project is working with the Civic Trust, WSCIC and the Historic Garden Society to secure £1m.

*Aerial View of Winckley
Square, Preston c. 1940*

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Spotlight on Lancashire

Lancashire: working hard at renewing and restoring its heritage

On the theme of designed landscapes, Preston's Grade II* registered historic Moor Park has acquired £2m for phase I of a II-phased project to contribute to the development of a regional skate park, the re-creation of ornamental gardens, the refurbishment of the Jeremiah Horrocks Observatory, landscape improvements and a new events arena. The £2m is part of a £35.5m Parks for People project awarded to 13 parks across the UK.

Preston CC is also making a major investment into its Markets Quarter funding a £2m regeneration project that includes the re-location of the markets operation to a new facility situated under the large 1875, Grade II listed Market Canopy. Subsequent phases will include the demolition of the current Market Hall, the Market Multi-Storey Car Park and Lancaster House and its redevelopment for a cinema-led commercial development.

The global IBI Group have won the contract to take the Market Quarter project forward to strengthen and extend the appeal of the current market offer, create a landmark destination for the city centre and connect the Market Quarter more effectively to the surrounding areas. It is envisaged the Market Canopy to be lively and active into the evening time.



CGI of the Market Quarter in Preston



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Aside from the larger schemes and strategies drawing in financial investment Lancashire Councils are focusing on the local historic environment giving conservation staff the go-ahead to investigate the undesignated heritage assets with a view to drawing up an approved 'Local List'. The seemingly long abandoned icon of the Local List is making its comeback – a highly successful seminar in Blackpool attended by many, hosted by Carl Carrington of Blackpool Council included talks from Stockport Borough Council, Oxford City Council and Lancaster City Council on their experience, new and old, on their approaches to Local Listing.



Extract from the National Heritage List for England (2015)

Supported by EH, Civic Voice and the Architectural History Practise, the event was packed with good practise guidance and tips on how to engage the local community. With a mere 36 listed buildings Blackpool recognised a review of the historic built environment was long overdue. Jointly funded by English Heritage and Blackpool Council £50,000 was invested allowing Blackpool's Conservation Officer Jan Cresswell to assess the seaside town by splitting the area up into character areas. Lancaster CC are using a similar approach identifying character areas with a view to filling in the gaps of the areas' history and development and to compliment the designated assets.

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Lancashire: working hard at renewing and restoring its heritage

Blackburn with Darwin Borough Council started their local list using buildings of note as identified in conservation area appraisals as well as extensive public consultation. Preston City Council is primarily focusing their attention in the rural areas as these tend to be underrepresented in terms of designated heritage assets. English Heritage' designation team in York have provided Preston with documentation on the former Grade III's as a starting point. Fylde Borough Council is intending to get another Officer in post to work specifically on the creation of a local list to fulfil commitments set out in their Heritage Strategy.

What emerged from the presentations and experiences was the acknowledgment for extensive collaboration with the local community and a clear identification and review process to validate the local list. Perhaps one of the best pieces advice that I took away was given by Karl Creaser of EH was to 'borrow from other authorities; try joint working, out-reach and sharing skills across local authority boundaries'.

Diane Vaughton

Conservation Officer, Preston City Council



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Blackpool Council



BLACKBURN
with
DARWEN
BOROUGH COUNCIL



*Aerial image of Blackpool
c.1940 (overleaf)*

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20th Century Heritage

North West Building recognised as part of thematic review by English Heritage

Following an English Heritage project to assess commercial buildings from 1964 to 1984, the work of leading modern architects has been celebrated at the start of 2015 with the listing of 14 of “the finest post-war office buildings in England”.

English Heritage was very selective in which buildings were recommended to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport because the threshold for special architectural or historic interest in recent buildings is particularly high. From the original research 23 buildings were selected for assessment.

The deregulation introduced to the planning system by the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act (ERRA) in 2013 is pertinent to this type of building. With modern offices, the special interest is often concentrated in certain parts of the building: it might be just the lobby, boardroom and façade, that are of special interest, and so it can be clearly set out in the List description which parts of the building are not of interest and can therefore be changed without consent (potentially open office floors, underground car parks etc).



Midland Bank, Dale Street, Liverpool - grade II listed

As part of this thematic review by English Heritage, the Midland Bank on Dale Street in Liverpool City Centre has been listed at grade II. The building has been listed for the following reasons:



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- Architectural interest: is an important example of a post-war bank atypically employing a high-quality Modernist design reflective of its era; a form of late-1960s pop architecture bringing fun and diversity to the streetscape; its strikingly bold design marks a new consumerism in the clearing bank and an attempt to engage younger customers;
- Materials: an early use of mirrored-glass providing a dramatic visual statement in the exaggerated sizing of the upper storeys' canted oriel windows;
- Degree of survival: the upper floors of the principal elevations remain unaltered, and the ground floor has been replaced by a faceted design echoing that of the floors above. Whilst the interior is plain and has undergone alteration in places, a number of notable original features survive, including the main stair and the tesserae-clad piers on the fourth floor, which maintain stylistic continuity with the exterior;
- Architectural practice: The firm of Bradshaw, Rowse & Harker has its origins in the practice of Herbert J Rowse (1887-1963) who was one of the most influential architects of the inter-war period. 4 Dale Street showcases the firm's experimental approach to sculptural form and design evident in some of their later work; and
- Group value: it has group value with the surrounding listed buildings of the Central Business District, including one of Liverpool's most famous buildings, Peter Ellis' Oriel Chambers (1864, Grade 1) which lies in sight of 4 Dale Street and which inspired the former bank's faceted design, reflecting the area's continued commercial importance and its development from the C18 through to the present day.

*Midland Bank as built c.1970
(overleaf)*

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Tiles and Ceramics Introductory Talk

Overview of the recent TACS event in Manchester in January 2015

The 'Tile and Architectural Ceramics Society' (TACS) came to Manchester to give an hour and half lecture on the 'Brief History of Tiles and Ceramics'. Organised by Katie Wray and Jack Haw on behalf of the members of the IHBC, the lecture was given at the Rain Bar just off Oxford Road, fittingly opposite the infamous Victorian tile-clad pub Peveril of the Peak.



Peveril of the Peak Public House

The presenter was the President of the Society Herman van Lemman, freelance historian, author and lecturer on the subject. With images, samples and leaflets the talk covered Medieval, English Delftware and Industrial tiles and pinpointed key factors in the development of tiles from the late 12th to the early 20th centuries.

The presentation began with the Medieval period in which the production of roof tiles was the biggest industry by far however fine decorative floor tiles were used in Abbeys, Churches and Cathedrals, (good examples are found at Lichfield and Winchester Cathedrals), and are characterised by their robust strength and rich brown and red colours. Often laid in a mosaic fashion or with friezes, they would have an imprinted design such as a heraldic motifs or simple geometric patterns. Such imprints were made using a wooden block to indent the design which was then inlaid with a contrasting layered glazing before firing. This method gave the tiles a smooth, hard wearing and polished quality.



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The locality of the clay source is a key factor in the clay's colour, strength and porosity; the closer to a river bed the clay is retrieved, the more iron oxide and impurities are present. The purer the clay the more yellow in colour, the purest clay is white – often termed China Clay.

English Delftware sometimes referred to as 'faience' is a tile that has been dipped in a white tin glaze to give the impression of a more purer clay. It was chiefly used as an alternative to the more expensive marble and polished stone for a clean, decorative and strong surface. The mineral cobalt was often used in the glazing process in this period which gave the finished tile the bright blue colour after firing.

Sadler & Green of Liverpool in the mid-late 1700's was the first company to industrialise this process of tin-glazing earthenware by transferring a copperplate design. These tiles are perhaps not as robust and were often used on walls to keep a clean and hygienic surface in places like cellars and pantries.

Samual Wright of Shelton, Stoke-on-Trent, took out a patent for inlaid tiles in 1830 but the industrialised process really took off in the 1840's with patents being taken out by notably Richard Prosser, the Birmingham engineer who invented the tile press which was purely a mechanical process. This process used a compressed soft-powdered dust clay which made it easier to fire at high temperatures and make wall tiles in a high volume.

Henry Minton also of Stoke-on-Trent bought the patent from Samual Wright in 1835 and was encouraged by Pugin to mass produce block printed wall tiles, the fore-runner of the modern wall tile. By the 1850's tiles were commonly used in homes, pubs and hotels in areas such as hallways, porches and cast iron fireplaces.

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Tiles and Ceramics Introductory Talk

Overview of the recent TACS event in Manchester in January 2015

Terracotta faience is a much bigger clay product and generally used in architecture, it is made from a technique called press moulding using a plaster mould, produced in blocks and is used as part of the construction rather than just an application of decoration. Faience is a very strong material, being frost and fire resistant, it is usually unglazed and is made from red or yellow clay. Chimney pots are made from this technique and are a very important part of tiling and ceramic history.

Salt-glaze became prevalent where salt is added to the glaze before the firing process to strengthen the glaze and give it the shiny, dark brown finish.

The method of slip-tailing, described like putting icing on a cake, was popular in the late 1800's and early 1900's but was an expensive way to decorate tiles. Underglazing, where the pattern is painted on and then a glaze applied over the top alongside enamel and opaque glazes were able to be mass produced and gave the manufacturer opportunity to provide a variety of fashionable finishes.

One of the main points to come out of the presentation was that through the various methods of tile production, it is possible to accurately date tiles – but it is advisable to rely upon the process of which the tiles were made and the thickness of the tile rather than its decoration.

The North-West's tile contact is Mark Watson, contact details and more information can be found on the TACS website; www.tilesoc.org.uk

For more reading on the history of industrial tile production refer to the paper Nineteenth-Century Tiles. Industrial Mass Production, by Lesley Durban. Lesley Durban is a member of TACS. A follow up talk and tour around Manchester highlighting good examples of tiles and ceramics is to take place later in the year.

Diane Vaughton

Conservation Officer, Preston City Council



*Terracotta finial to the corner of the London Road Fire
Station in Manchester*

Recent Appeals

Locally Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas in Stockport

Some recent appeals from Stockport in relation to locally listed buildings and conservation areas.



Romiley Signal Box

Appeal Ref: APP/C4235/A/14/2228584

Romiley Junction Signal Box, Romiley Station, Romiley, Stockport, SK6 4BN

Proposal: Demolition of Railway Signal Box

Romiley signal box lies adjacent to the locally listed Romiley Station, in the Church Lane Conservation Area. It was not included in the local listing of the station but is considered to make a positive contribution to the character and appearance of the conservation area, and hence its demolition to require some justification.

Network Rail is centralising all signalling nationally in 14 super centres. There are now fewer than 500 in situ signal boxes nationally, down from around 10,000 in 1948 (according to the English Heritage research report no. 28-2012 "railway signal boxes - a review" by John Minnis). Network Rail argued that there was no prospect of reuse, that its maintenance would be costly, that it would attract vandalism and that it has no architectural or historic interest due to the extent of alterations.

The Inspector dismissed the appeal. He identified the functional and visual relationship between signal box and station and that it forms part of the group. Although a recently vacated signal box in Stalybridge was vandalised after closure, no evidence was provided to enable any meaningful comparison with the appeal proposal.



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Romiley Train Station

Furthermore, there is also no evidence that securing the building in the event that it becomes unused would facilitate vandalism, or significantly harm the appearance of its surroundings. The limited benefits to the overall operational efficiency of the railways were not felt to outweigh the harmful impact of the loss of the signal box.

As a result of the decision Stockport Council will now seek to include the signal box within the local listing of the station buildings.

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Recent Appeals

Locally Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas in Stockport

Appeal Ref: APP/C4235/A/14/2228978

4 Grange Park Road, Cheadle, Cheshire, SK8 1HQ

Proposal: Construction of 3 bedroom dwelling



No 2-6 Grange Park Road, Cheadle

No 2-6 Grange Park Road in Cheadle is on a draft local list for Cheadle, and was identified during the planning process as a non-designated heritage asset.

Planning Permission had been granted for conversion of part of the building to flats with associated landscaping works, controlled by conditions. The application excluded part of the building plot, and an application was subsequently submitted for a new dwelling on this parcel of land, between the house and the road.



Proposed dwelling at No 2-6 Grange Park Road, Cheadle

The application was refused by Stockport Council on conservation and design grounds (in that it didn't meet various standards for amenity or comply with the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on residential design).

The Inspector (the same Inspector as for Romiley Signal Box) allowed the appeal. The council argued that the proposal would erode the spacious setting of the house, and intrude in views from the street. All original ancillary buildings were located behind the building line and the proposed 'coach house' design was not sympathetic to the high quality detailing of the house.

The Inspector concluded that the suburban housing surrounding the site had already degraded its setting, and that the small size of the new dwelling would render it subservient. Acknowledging the local architectural interest, several conditions requested by the council were applied."

Crispin Edwards

**Conservation Officer, Stockport Metropolitan
Borough Council**

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Open Branch Committee Meeting

*We warmly invite you to our next Branch Executive
Committee Meeting on the 19th March*

5pm Thursday 19th March

Rain Bar, 80 Great Bridgewater Street, Manchester, M1 5JG



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This is an opportunity to see and hear your committee members in action and understand the workings of the Branch. This will be of interest to anyone looking to stand for any committee positions in future; understand the structure and decisions of the committee; or simply socialise with branch and committee members!

Tea and coffee will be served at 5pm in the Boardroom, with the meeting commencing at 5:30pm. We will then move downstairs for a few social drinks after the meeting.

Registration is not mandatory, but it would be helpful to gauge numbers for refreshments. Therefore please email klu.wray@hotmail.co.uk or ihbcnwevents@gmail.com if you intend on coming. Committee papers can also be circulated to those attending.

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Upcoming Events

An exciting array of events leading to the end of the year have been compiled by the Events Committee, see below.

Heritage Case Law & Legislation Seminar, Manchester: 10th March 2015

Update on heritage legislation and case presented by Charles Mynors.

Contact jack.haw@turley.co.uk for more information and to book (limited spaces left).

Open Branch Meeting & Drinks, Manchester: 19th March 2015

An opportunity to see and hear your committee members in action and understand the workings of the branch.

Contact ihbcnwevents@gmail.com for more information.

Quarry Bank Mill, Cheshire: 18th April 2015

Tour of the Kitchen Gardens

Contact ihbcnwevents@gmail.com for more information and to book.

Heritage Development Economics Workshop, Liverpool: May 2015

Workshop with David Tomback from English Heritage

Tiles and Ceramics Walking Tour, Manchester: September 2015

Joint event with the Tiles and Architectural Ceramics Society, exploring the architecture of Manchester.

IHBC NW Affiliates Event, Manchester: 8th October 2015

Workshop on assisting affiliates in becoming full members.

For further information on any events please contact Katie Wray, IHBC NW Events Co-ordinator at ihbcnwevents@gmail.com



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Branch Committee Contacts

Who's who in the IHBC NW Committee Branch.



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IHBC Professionals

The Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC) is the key professional body for built and historic environment conservation specialists. The IHBC represents, regulates and supports professionals contributing to the conservation of valued buildings and places.

What does the IHBC do?

The IHBC encourages its members to develop their specialist skills in conservation. Joining the IHBC will help you recognise and expand your skills and understanding.

The IHBC:

- Provides advice to members, stakeholders and government;
- Promotes standards and skills in historic environment & building conservation and heritage regeneration;
- Encourages the special care of the historic environment as a sustainable and unique resource that benefits everyone; and
- Supports professional recognition of all the skills needed to secure sustainable conservation.

Membership Categories

Affiliates:

- Specialise or train in disciplines relating to built and historic environment conservation, and intend to seek full membership.

Associates:

- Have a special interest in historic places and seek to support and benefit from the IHBC, but are unlikely to seek full membership.

Full Members:

- Have demonstrated professional skills in line with the IHBC'S membership standards (see www.ihbc.org.uk);
- Must undertake continuing professional development (CPD); and may use 'IHBC' after their name

Concessionary rates (renewable each year) are available if you are on a low income (currently under £13,500).



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Membership Benefits

- Professional status and career recognition
- News, updates, guidance and resources
- Context, IHBC's Journal, 5 issues annually (retail £50.00)
- IHBC Yearbook, the Institute and the sector's annual review (retail £14.95)
- Building Conservation Directory (retail £16.95)
- Events: reduced rates & priority access (as applicable)
- Job notices & training opportunities
- Technical support, guidance and specifications
- National, regional & web-based advice and panels
- Tax relief on subscriptions (see IHBC website)
- Access to business support & listings including IHBC's Historic Environment Service Provides Recognition (HESPR)
- Guidance on project development
- Career advice, guidance & support
- Training and CPD events, eg. IHBC Annual School
- Networking opportunities, local, national & international
- Participation & CPD opportunities in electronic panels
- Access to advocacy & lobbying
- Support IHBC's wider public services (see IHBC website)

For further benefits and more information, please see
www.ihbc.org.uk

Winckley Square, Preston
c.1950 (overleaf)

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