

BELSAY AWAKES: Rejuvenation and Heritage Protection of a National Treasure

IHBC NORTH BRANCH: CPD EVENT 6TH NOVEMBER

IHBC North Branch is pleased to announce its autumn CPD event hosted by English Heritage at Belsay Hall, Castle and Gardens. The event will focus on the rejuvenation and safeguarding of Belsay Hall under the 'Belsay Awakes' project, a £9m renovation and reinvention initiative.

Completed in September 2023, the Belsay Awakes project by English Heritage was a significant conservation initiative aimed at revitalising the historic estate and gardens of Belsay Hall in Northumberland.

The project involved major conservation work to the hall and its roof, and the introduction of new visitor and education facilities, to include the Wild Man play area, and the adaptive reuse of the Coach House for new café. The project was supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and aimed to create a more inclusive and adventurous experience for visitors through the rejuvenation of the gardens with over 80,000 new plants and the enhancement of accessibility and community involvement.

The day enables participants to experience first hand the Charity's challenges and successful efforts to preserve and enhance Belsay's heritage for future generations.



EVENT DETAILS

THURSDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 2025

Programme:

09:30 Registration and coffee
10:00 IHBC Introduction
10:10 Melanie Hills English Heritage
11:10 Bryony Roff Spence and Dower / Xsite
12:10 Lunch
13:10 Leon Walsh Historic England
14:00 Close

The Venue: Belsay Hall, Castle and Gardens,
Belsay, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE20 0DX

Price: IHBC Members: £35 Non-members
£45; IHBC Students/Unwaged/Retired £0.

This includes lunch and refreshments

CONTENT

- Listed Buildings; Accessibility
- Landscape; Building Fabric; Funding
- Community engagement

KEY COMPETENCIES

- Philosophy and Practice
- Legislation and Policy
- Design and Technology

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SPEAKERS

We are pleased to have key personnel on the project to talk us through the challenges and changes on the site.

Melanie Hills

(Community Engagement Manager)

English Heritage,
 Belsay Hall, Castle & Gardens. Melanie has

worked at Belsay since 2019 and played a key role in the Belsay Awakes project. She will be our host for the day.

Bryony Roff (Project Architect) - Head of Conservation at Spence and Dower / Xsite. Bryony and her team were integral to the project. A particular challenge Bryony will address is how access for all was integrated successfully into this highly sensitive environment.

Leon Walsh (Head of Engineering at Historic England) Along with role in HE, Leon delivers structural inspection, monitoring and design services for the English Heritage Trust. He has over twenty years' experience as a Structural Engineer specialising in historic buildings within the private and public sector and will talk us through the fabric challenges presented by the project.

Join the IHBC North Branch for a training day with a difference!



GETTING THERE

Belsay Hall, Castle and Gardens, Belsay, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE20 0DX

By Car: Belsay Hall is located 14 miles north west of Newcastle Upon Tyne, approximately 25mins by car via the A696.

By Bus: Sadly the excellent free X75 service from Newcastle to Belsay only runs 19th April-25th Sept. Other route options may be available at: <https://travelinenortheast.info/plan-a-journey/>

Parking: Parking is available within the walled garden at Belsay Hall, which is well signed from Belsay village. <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/belsay-hall-castle-and-gardens/plan-your-visit/facilities/>

NB The day will include walking tours of the project so outdoor clothing and footwear appropriate to the conditions will be required.

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/belsay-hall-castle-and-gardens/>

RSVP

Places are limited, so please book early to avoid disappointment. To book a place: Please email: michael@atkinsonarchitecture.co.uk

Please confirm membership No. (if applicable) and any dietary requirements on booking.