

# Damp, masonry decay & sustainability CONFERENCE



Historic England



2.00-3.45pm online on three consecutive Thursdays:  
19 & 26 November & 3 December 2020

Free to attend for IHBC members and other conservation professionals

Moisture is a key factor in almost all forms of decay, and damp fabric increases heat loss. However, identifying its source can be complicated as moisture is so mobile. It can condense from humid air onto cold surfaces and it can spread through a structure by capillary action and gravity. Understanding these mechanisms and their consequences is vital, particularly now that we are increasing insulation levels in historic buildings and restricting ventilation. Getting it wrong can be disastrous.

Speakers include leading conservation specialists Marianne Suhr and Tim Floyd; Robyn Pender, Alison Henry and others from Historic England; Roger Curtis from Historic Environment Scotland and Bath Abbey project architect Alex Morris.

Papers will include:

- Latest research from Historic England
- Planning for climate change and the need for increased resilience
- The science of moisture movement and the misdiagnosis of damp
- Best practice for damp survey and investigation.
- Role of lime mortars in keeping building fabric dry
- Risk of moisture accumulation owing to insulation and solid floors

This is the first of two events organised by the IHBC South West branch and Historic England. The second, to be held in March 2021, will focus on timber structures.



Further information and  
booking details:

- [Day 1](#), 19 November
- [Day 2](#), 26 November
- [Day 3](#), 3 December

# Damp, masonry decay & sustainability CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

## DAY 1, 19 November

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- 2.00 pm Welcome by the afternoon's chair - Alison Henry, Head of Building Conservation & Geospatial Survey, Historic England
- 2.05 pm **Reflections on damp:** An overview of decay mechanisms, health/comfort issues, heat loss and sustainability - Marianne Suhr, Old House Consultancy
- 2.30 pm **Rising damp?** The science of how moisture moves through a building and its fabric, and why misdiagnosis is rife - Robyn Pender, Historic England
- 2.55 pm **Climate change adaptation:** Traditional details for shedding rainwater and the role of historic renders and finishes - Roger Curtis, Historic Environment Scotland
- 3.20 pm Questions for the panel
- 3.45 pm Close

## DAY 2, 26 November

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- 2.00 pm Welcome by the afternoon's chair - Jonathan Taylor, IHBC South West Branch
- 2.05 pm **Damp measurement and monitoring:** the non-destructive investigation and modelling of moisture in masonry walls - Tim Floyd, FloydConsult
- 2.30 pm **The need for old buildings to sweat:** the role of lime mortars and coatings in dissipating moisture - Alison Henry, Historic England
- 2.55 pm **Damp Towers Project update:** Options for reducing damp penetration in solid masonry walls in exposed locations - Nicki Lauder, Historic England
- 3.20 pm Questions for the panel
- 3.45 pm Close

## DAY 3, 3 December

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- 2.00 pm Welcome by the afternoon's chair – Maureen Pearce, IHBC South West Branch
- 2.05 pm **Solid wall insulation:** Assessing and mitigating the risk of moisture accumulation from retrofit - Soki Rhee-Duverne Historic England
- 2.30 pm **Moisture movement beneath solid floors:** research into the effect of floor slab material on soil moisture and damp in walls - Kevin Briggs, University of Bath
- 2.55 pm **The Bath Abbey project:** an overview of the scheme, its heat source, and the practicalities of adapting a Grade I listed abbey - Alex Morris, Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios
- 3.20 pm Questions for the panel
- 3.45 pm Close