

## Introduction to Practical Building Conservation

6–11 May 2024

### Program

Most days begin with coffee at 8.30am in the Nigel Peck Centre at Woolmers Estate. There's an informal talk before morning tea, a demonstration or site inspection before lunch, followed by practical work or more demonstrations and site inspections in the afternoon. In the late afternoon we adjourn to the Servants' Kitchen for discussion and review of the day's topic. The weather may force changes to the program – be prepared.

**Monday 6 May: Introductions, site inspection, paint stripping** (David, Anthony, Christian, Mat)

After introductions, a tour of the Woolmers Estate will introduce the site and the range of conservation works that the Longford Academy has undertaken. Later in the day we focus on paint stripping including selection of chemical strippers and the use of high temperature steam cleaning.

**Tuesday 7 May: Dealing with damp – salt attack and rising/falling damp** (David, Christian, Ray)

This day covers understanding dampness and the deterioration of masonry due to salt attack, diagnosing damp, the use and misuse of moisture meters, managing salt damp, salt removal by poulticing and captive-head washing, site inspections of damp treatments and demonstration of captive-head washing.

**Wednesday 8 May: Lime 1: quicklime and putty mortars, repointing** (David, Ray, Richard)

Lime-based mortars and plasters are the focus of this two-day workshop. Topics covered on day one include lime putty and quicklime binders, what makes a good sand, mortar mix proportions, sand-slaking (hot-mixing) quicklime mortars, repointing mortar joints. Practical work includes hot-mixing of mortars, slaking quicklime to make lime putty and repointing mortar joints.

**Thursday 9 May: Lime 2: lime plasters, plastering and limewashes** (Ray, Richard, David)

Lime plasters, their materials, preparation and use, lime plastering, the importance of good curing. Making and colouring limewashes, practical limewashing. The use of limewater for consolidating weak masonry. Sheltercoats for masonry and renders.

**Friday 10 May: Preservation and repair of structural timber and joinery** (Gary)

The wonderful 1820s woolshed at Woolmers sets the scene for this day which focuses on the investigation, deterioration, preservation and approaches to repair of structural timber. What to do when fungal rot decays the main sill beams that support a large building? What are the clues that tell of decay to a hidden beam? Site inspections include the marvellous joinery of Woolmers Cottage.

**Saturday 11 May: Roofing – repair and conservation** (Greg)

Roofing materials, including corrugated galvanised iron. Corrosion of galvanised iron and approaches to its preservation, repair and replacement. Demonstrations of traditional galvanised steel fabrication using solid riveting and soldering. Site inspection at Brickendon discussing the wide and often unique range of existing and replacement roof types and materials.