



Carpenter Oak & Woodland
Traditional & Contemporary Timber Frames

Conservation and Restoration Services





Conservation and Restoration

Carpenter Oak & Woodland is one of very few companies with the expertise to handle the restoration and conservation of important timber-framed buildings.

Protecting the UK's unique heritage in timber-framed buildings is a key part of our business.

Whether it is the conservation (preservation of as much of the original historic fabric as possible) or restoration (sympathetic replacement of missing structure to match the original as closely as possible) of timber-framed buildings we have skills and experience to deliver projects successfully.

All sizes of project

We've won awards and acclaim for high-profile projects, such as the restoration of the roofs at Windsor Castle and Stirling Castle and worked on unusual and challenging projects, such as the restoration of Shackleton's huts in Antarctica. We also conserve and restore many more humble but equally important buildings – including houses and barns.

Safe hands

Carpenter Oak & Woodland have an unrivalled history in the field of conservation and restoration of timber structures, and as such have a keen sense of responsibility to the appropriate preservation of our heritage assets. As such we are widely regarded as by industry professionals as

being the 'safe pair of hands' that these buildings demand.

As well as the delivery of high quality repairs and restorations through our highly knowledgeable and skilled crafts people, we also provide advice on:

- vernacular building styles and methods of construction appropriate to each building,
- timber history, condition, structural performance and repair methodology,
- different conservation approaches and the appropriateness of each in specific circumstances,
- liaison with local conservation officers and other interested parties

We can undertake detailed condition and repair strategy reports at an early stage which give greater cost and methodology certainty, and are often pivotal in gaining planning approval for building works.

We work with many of the UK's leading heritage bodies including Historic Scotland, The National Trust, English Heritage and Landmark Trust.





Major restoration

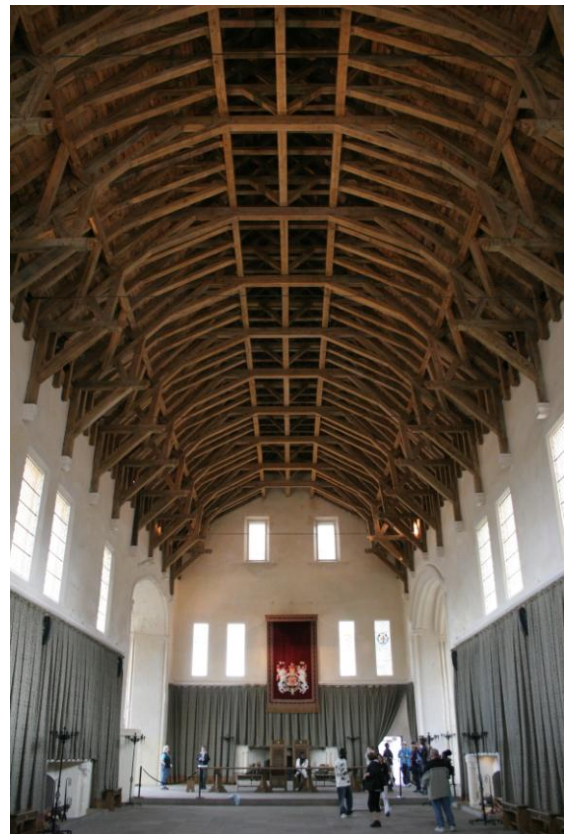
Stirling Castle, Stirlingshire

Stirling Castle's Great Hall is the largest ever built in Scotland and was intended for great celebrations and occasions of state. When the military left the premises in 1964, the work began to restore it as the designers originally intended in 1500.

Engaged by Historic Scotland, this was a major restoration project. In 2000 we provided a new rood screen, doors and external staircase, however the rebuilding of the vast mediaeval roof is what really stands out. The images here hardly do justice to the scale and complexity of this beautiful hammer-beam roof structure.

The setting out of the roof was inevitably complicated by the fact that the west wall of the Hall was so severely out of alignment. The west side of every truss, therefore, had to be set out individually to match the curve in the wall-head; the angle of every joint was also slightly altered as the pitch changed to meet the wall head.

RIBA award winner



Sympathetic conservation

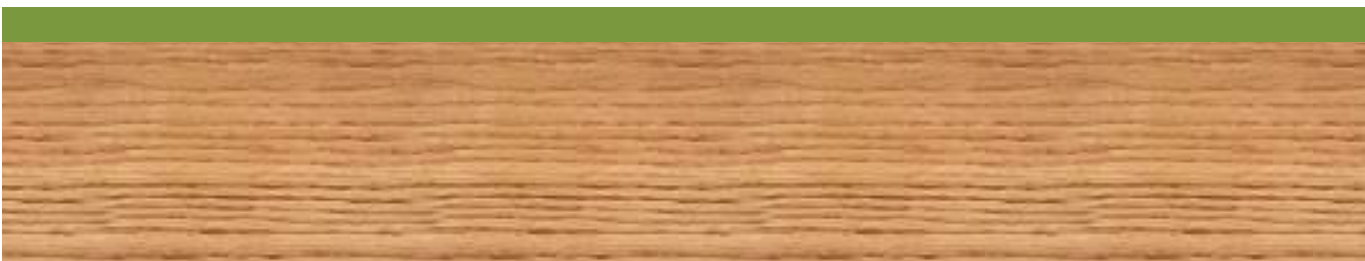
Dolbelydr, Denbighshire

Dolbelydr is a 16th Century house in a remote location near St. Asaph, in the ownership of the Landmark Trust. The house is both historically important and a fine example of the vernacular building which dominated the domestic architecture of North Walian lesser gentry in the Tudor period. It is perhaps best known as the home of the grammarian and physician Henry Salesbury, where he wrote the first Welsh grammar book, the *Grammatica Britannica* in 1593, and therefore Dolbelydr could be considered the home of the modern Welsh language.

Our involvement in this project included the provision of advice to the team of professionals, and ranged from the conservation of the structural timber frame to the repair of the joinery.

As with any building of this degree of historical importance it was paramount that we retained as much of the historical fabric as possible. Every repair had to be carefully considered and expertly executed.

This project has won numerous awards, including the Conservation category at the Wood Awards, and the RICS Award for building conservation.





Challenging working environment

Shackleton and Scott huts, Antarctica

Prefabricated in England for quick construction, these 'kit' structures at Cape Royds and Cape Evans are on the World Monuments Watch List.

Carpenter Oak & Woodland have, for several expeditions, supplied expert conservators to the repair of these remarkable buildings. Under the auspices of the Antarctica Heritage Trust, work was carried out during the 'summer' seasons – a remarkably tight window of two months when it is possible to get in and out and repairs made.

The work is meticulous, not only in the execution of the repairs to the structures, but in the recording of repairs and artifacts (including a gramophone needle!) discovered during the conservation work. More importantly, working the hours required to maximise the access in the most inhospitable environment imaginable, required not only our renowned skills but an exceptional level of passion for this unique project.





Innovative solutions

The Commandery, Wiltshire

It is thought that the original hospice built by the Knights Hospitaller at Ansty was replaced by a large building, probably a banqueting house, in 1596. Despite a fire in 1922 which destroyed the roof, the building was reconstructed in 2001 including the restoration of the vaulted roof which won a Civic Trust award in 2002.

The oak structure includes striking shallow arch brace trusses and is approximately 30 meters long and 6m wide with the ridge rising 6m above the wall plate. Compared to trusses with a tie beam, arch braced trusses are prone to spread, pushing the walls out. When a new building is commissioned, this can be overcome by designing in adjacent braced structures, or buttresses as restraints to the walls, or alternatively steel can be selectively inserted to minimise the effect.

In the case of this structure, providing new buttressing was clearly not an option, meaning that the threat to the ancient walls was significant. As a result, having constructed these trusses, the bases were rested on specially designed Teflon pads to allow a certain amount of settling in without asking the walls to move to accommodate excessive outward forces.

Civis Trust award winner.



The Team

With over 20 years in conservation and restoration of period timber frames Carpenter Oak & Woodland have developed a considerable skills base. Our teams of Conservation Framers are led by Senior Conservation Framers who have worked on the preservation of some of the UK's most important timber-framed buildings including Windsor and Stirling Castles and St James Priory, Bristol. The key management players for our conservation projects are:

Piers Sweetingham Msc Con Hist Bldg – Conservation Project Manager



After successfully running his own cabinet making and furniture restoration business in Highgate, London, Piers moved to the West Country in 1997. With twenty three years in the field of conservation he joined Carpenter Oak & Woodland following the completion of a masters degree in building conservation. As a conservation project manager at Carpenter Oak & Woodland Piers is responsible for undertaking conservation surveys, pricing and the timely delivery of projects. He is a member of CIAT.

Tim Burrell – Managing Director



Tim joined Carpenter Oak & Woodland in 2002, attracted by his passion for timber framed buildings and the opportunity to lead the company in its desire to help conserve the UK's heritage in timber framing. Tim brings outstanding management experience to the team and likes to keep a watching brief on our conservation and restoration projects if for no other reason than the work is dear to his heart. While Tim would not profess to be an academic in the field he has studied the history of timber framing in UK fairly extensively and often brings fresh insight to our conservation projects. Tim's most recent project was the conservation of the New Inn at Stowe for the National Trust

Andy Parker – Commercial Director



Andy joined Carpenter Oak & Woodland in 2005, to help the company provide a greater focus on customer service, particularly in the conservation arena. Much of his working life has been spent in consultancy and management roles, where he has helped organisations to grow and better meet the needs of their customers. An avid lover of oak carpentry, Andy has also spent time in oak furniture restoration and conservation. Andy is widely acclaimed for his seminars and frequently delivers lectures on the conservation and restoration of period timber frames.

Key projects and awards

Stirling Castle – RIBA
Bursledon Windmill – Civic Trust
Commandery, Ansty – Civic Trust
Whitchurch Silk Mill – Civic Trust
Charlton Court Barn – Wood Awards (conservation)
Dolbelydr – Wood Awards (conservation)
Windsor Castle – Wood Awards (conservation)

For more information

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