

Restoring History:

Reviving a Timeless Welcome - Lichgate Reinstatement

CASE STUDY



Introduction

The Lychgate welcomes visitors to Henry Workman's new church and dates back to 1872.

Charlton Lychgate is situated in Charlton village, in the Wychavon district of the county of Worcestershire. Charlton lies between the River Avon and Bredon Hill. Evesham is 3 miles to the east, and Pershore 5 miles to the west. Fladbury and Cropthorne are its neighbouring villages, both within a mile. Fladbury is just over the River Avon and Cropthorne up the hill.

Project

Following an unfortunate traffic incident, where a vehicle struck the lychgate, there was a need to rebuild the lychgate.

The lychgate comprised predominantly timber construction with a solid one brick thick dwarf wall to each side. There were two decorative gables with thirteen rafters in between and the roof area was boarded and had a plain tile covering with a decorative ridge. The entrance to the Lychgate had two waist height gates of a ranch type design.

The vehicle impact had destroyed the righthand side wall leaving the entire structure unstable. On inspection, it was also evident that the integrity of the frame had been affected and that an imminent collapse could occur.

Snape Contracting Services Ltd were appointed to fully rebuild this historic feature.

Timber Frame Specialist

Oak Frame Carpentry was set up in 1996 but the owner, Tim Potts, had been working with oak frames since his fascination with this type of construction began more than 30 years ago.

The director of the company, Tim Potts, sits on the board of the Carpenters' Fellowship and is one of the driving forces behind the CF Training and Standards Committee. The Committee successfully developed and launched new nationally recognised qualifications for oak framing - the first that have existed in modern times in this almost entirely unregulated industry.



Salvaged Brickwork

Bricks were salvaged from the old lychgate when it was demolished. This allowed us to use reclaimed bricks in the rebuild. By using these bricks we were able to maintain the historical authenticity of the structure, as the bricks retained the patina, texture, and character of the past.

Using reclaimed bricks was also an environmentally friendly choice. By reusing bricks from old buildings, we reduce the demand for new brick production, which requires significant energy and natural resources. This aligns with sustainable building practices and reduced the carbon footprint of this restoration project.

Subcontractor Quality Control

All works undertaken by our appointed subcontractor were subject to rigorous quality control. Our Contract Manager, Major Works Manager and Operations Director were all involved in overseeing this project and regularly undertook site visits to check on the quality of workmanship.

This approach to quality control is complemented by our rigorous subcontractor vetting and approval process which ensures that subcontractors have and maintain the relevant qualifications and experience to deliver works to the very highest standards.







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