

Carlisle Cathedral: South Porch repairs (1 of 2 projects funded)

Awarded £195,000 in July 2014

The need

This application was to carry out conservation and consolidation works on the richly carved South Porch archway, which is built from local sandstone. The stiff leaf carving of the porch was in a softer version of this stone, and had weathered very badly, making it unsafe. It was netted to prevent falls of stone fragments. The label stops and capitals also needed re-carving or replacing. The erosion of the stone was allowing water to penetrate into the main body of the doorway, exacerbating the deterioration.

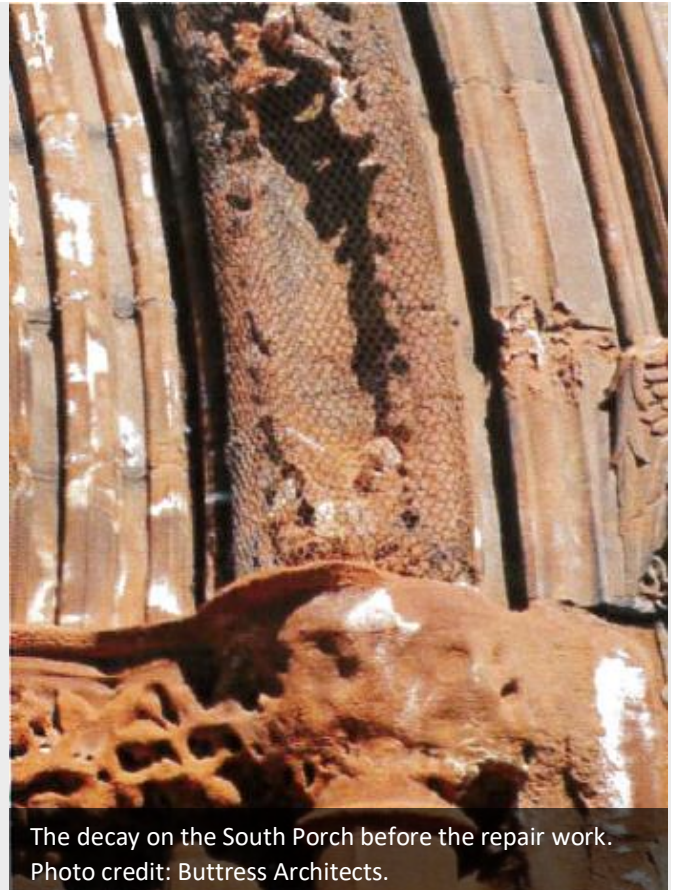
Outcomes

The porch has been made waterproof as a result of the work and as a result the decay to the masonry has been arrested. The delicate stone carvings, which had been almost totally lost, have been replaced resulting in a much more inviting entrance to the Cathedral. The stonework also won an award for Craftsmanship in the Natural Stone Awards 2016.

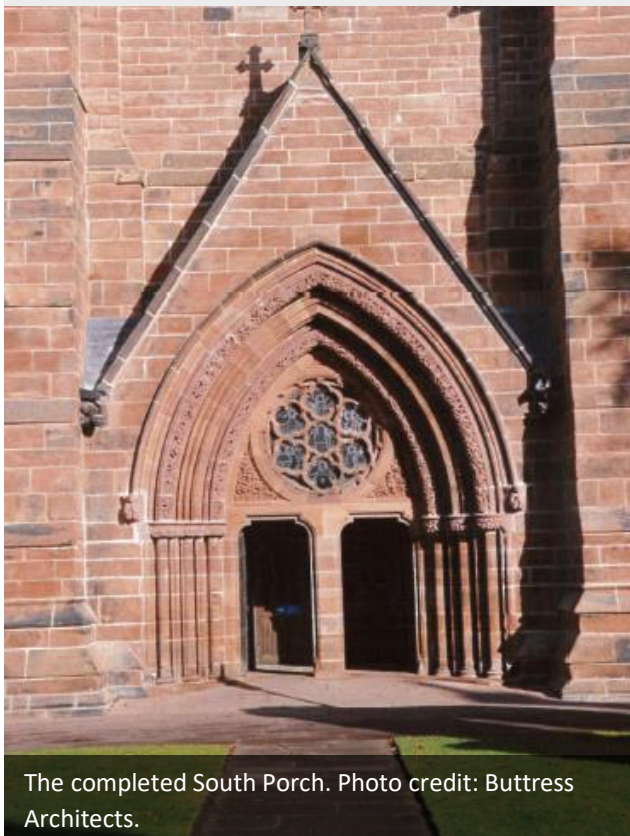
Economic and social impact

Jobs in the traditional building technique of stonemasonry, including an apprentice stonemason, were supported during the project.

The repair works across the two First World War projects have helped the Cathedral to achieve a better environment to welcome and serve worshippers and visitors.



The decay on the South Porch before the repair work.
Photo credit: Buttress Architects.



The completed South Porch. Photo credit: Buttress Architects.

Works completed and timescale

Lambert Walker Ltd were commissioned to carry out repairs to the stonework of the south porch. Restoration works began in Spring 2015 and were complete in the Autumn of 2015. The works included the removal of decayed sections, replacement of old stone with newly carved and cut stone and the installation of a new damp-proof lead membrane.

The Cathedral

Carlisle Cathedral was founded as an Augustinian priory and became a Cathedral in 1133. Because all but two bays of its original seven-bay nave were destroyed during the English Civil War, it is now the second smallest of England's ancient cathedrals (after Oxford). Its notable features include some fine figurative stone carving, a set of medieval choir stalls and the largest window in the flowing Decorated Gothic style in England. Between 1853-70 Carlisle Cathedral was restored by Ewan Christian and it was at this time that the South Porch was created as the new principal entrance in the south wall of the south transept.

Carlisle Cathedral: Roof Repairs (2 of 2 projects funded)

Awarded £400,000 in July 2016

The need

This re-leading of the nave and nave aisle roofs had been identified as a priority in the 2014 Quinquennial Inspection report. They were last replaced in 1934 and had reached the end of their lives, with slippage, cracking and failed patches to the lead sheeting. Without the roof repairs the building would not have remained watertight for much longer and that would have significantly compromised its ability to remain safe and open.

Outcomes

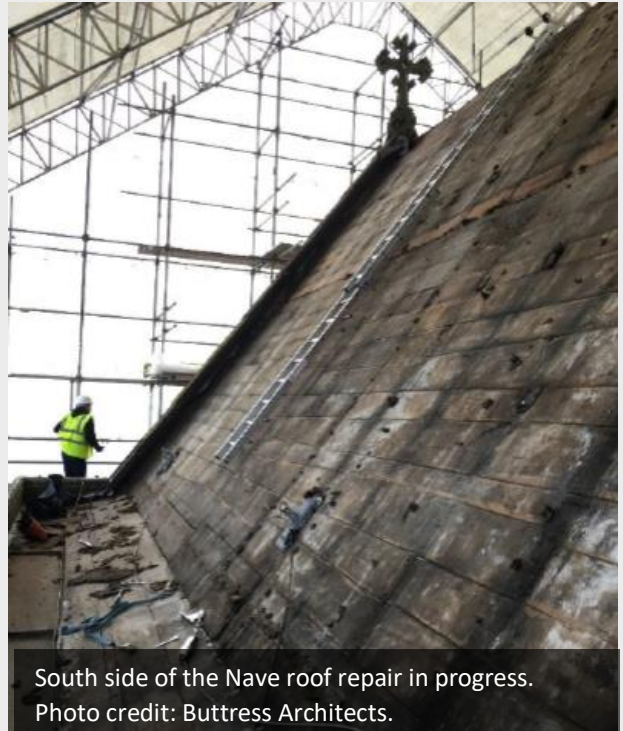
The repair works to the Nave, Nave Aisles and North Transept mean that the Cathedral is now waterproofed, which will prevent further water damage from occurring. The replacement of the old copper sheeting on the North Transept with new lead sheets unifies the appearance of the roofs of the cathedral and reduces noise in wet weather.

Economic and social impact

Jobs in traditional skills such as leadworking and joinery were supported during the project. The repair works across the two projects have helped the Cathedral to achieve a better environment to welcome and serve worshippers and visitors.

Works completed and timescale

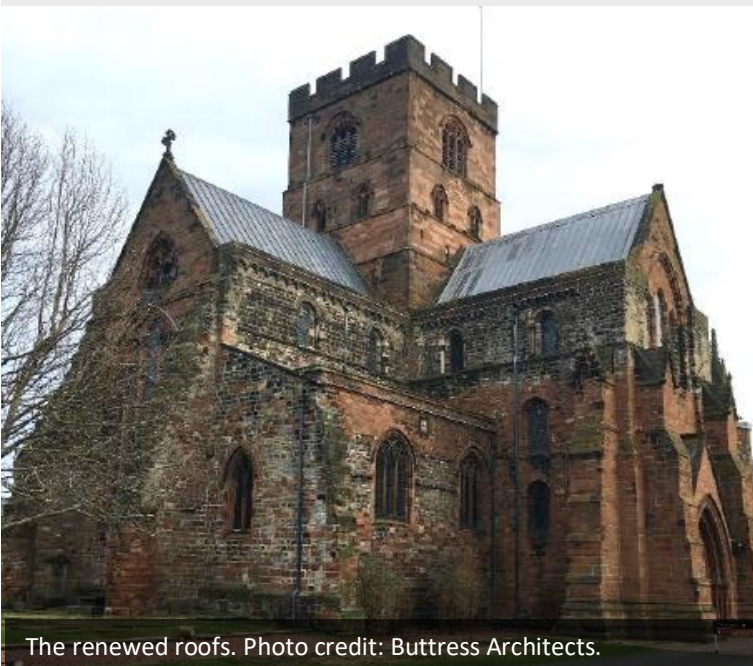
Manchester-based J Hempstock and Co Ltd were contracted to carry out the specialist leadwork. The contract commenced in September 2016, with an anticipated completion date of January 2017. Tenders for the project awarded £400,000 in July 2016 came in significantly under budget, due partly to a crash-pad safety system that had been included in the estimates turning out not to be required. An agreed extension of the project scope to include re-roofing the copper roof of the North Transept in lead (leaks and damage to this roof had become apparent in the past three years) extended the project to December 2017. The works included repairs to the high roof and aisle roofs, replacement of copper sheeting with new lead sheets and reforming of guttering. The total claimed for the combined roof works was £359,000; the remaining underspend was passed back for re-allocation by the Fund's Expert Panel.



South side of the Nave roof repair in progress.
Photo credit: Buttress Architects.

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The renewed roofs. Photo credit: Buttress Architects.