

CWF HOF Craft Training Project Phase 1

Student Blog Report for HOF: Lewis Jones

From January to March 2021, since the funding from the [Hamish Ogston Foundation](#) enabled me to return to Worcester Cathedral, I have been engaged in the conservation of the library roof and windows on the south side of the cathedral.

The beginning of this project involved a lot of conservation work on the outside nave wall above the library. There were a lot of stones that needed replacing on the flying buttress, and a lot of the ashlar on the wall itself were falling apart also.

Due to certain restrictions, we were required to only conserve the stones on the wall (this involved a lot of defrassing and re-pointing of joints), with a few replacements where necessary. This part of the project has been ongoing for the full 4 months as we had to stop and start to allow the lead workers to strip and replace the lead roofing. In the meantime, we also had work to do on some south facing windows in the library.

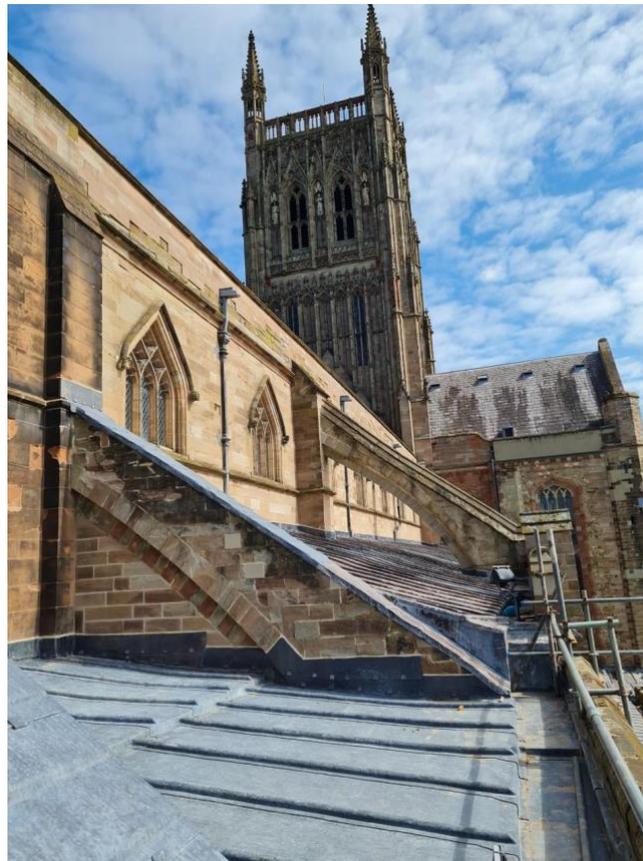


Figure 1. Worcester Cathedral Library Roof

I had to make a simple mould for the angle of some window cill inserts, which could be used by other team members to match up to the rest of the window cills. Thankfully,

they were mostly uniform in the angle, so this was relatively simple. Only a handful of cills needed these inserts, so that part of the job went quickly. Most of the work on the outside after this was basically the same as on the wall of the nave; repointing where needed, a handful of replacements, and defrassing.

After a while, I was placed inside to repoint the window surrounds, and the joints around the windows themselves after the glaziers had replaced the old ones. This was a fantastic experience using plastic repair as I haven't had much opportunity to use it. When wet it has a thicker consistency than regular lime mortar, but it dries into a super hard substance. I learnt a bit about contouring this to match pre-existing shapes and angles of inside window cills.

The funding provided by the Hamish Ogston Foundation means that I can continue my work at the cathedral for a while and learn more valuable skills, for which I am very grateful for. Hot lime, and carving, are both on the list over the next few months for me to try my hand at, and I'm really very excited!"

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