

AQUEDUCT COTTAGE

RESTORATION MEMORIES - March-October 2020 : Covid Lockdown

We had only got 3 months into the restoration by the time the first Covid lockdown struck at the beginning of March 2020.

Thankfully, our volunteers had managed to remove the 1 metre-thick pile of debris which had accumulated inside the cottage. Clearing the 30 tonnes of rubble, soil and tree roots was necessary before any structural repairs could begin.

Our builder, [Andrew Churchman Ltd](#) started work in January 2020. His first task was to underpin the front left corner of the cottage. A gaping hole was left from a large tree root removed that over the years had buried its way under the corner. All was going well until March 10th when Boris announced the start of the first Covid lockdown and life as we knew it came to a stop.

After some discussion with DWT and Andrew, a way was found to continue working on the restoration. Covid rules meant that Andrew had to furlough his staff, but he was allowed to work alone on the build if he was prepared...and that's what he did...with the occasional help of his son, Archie!

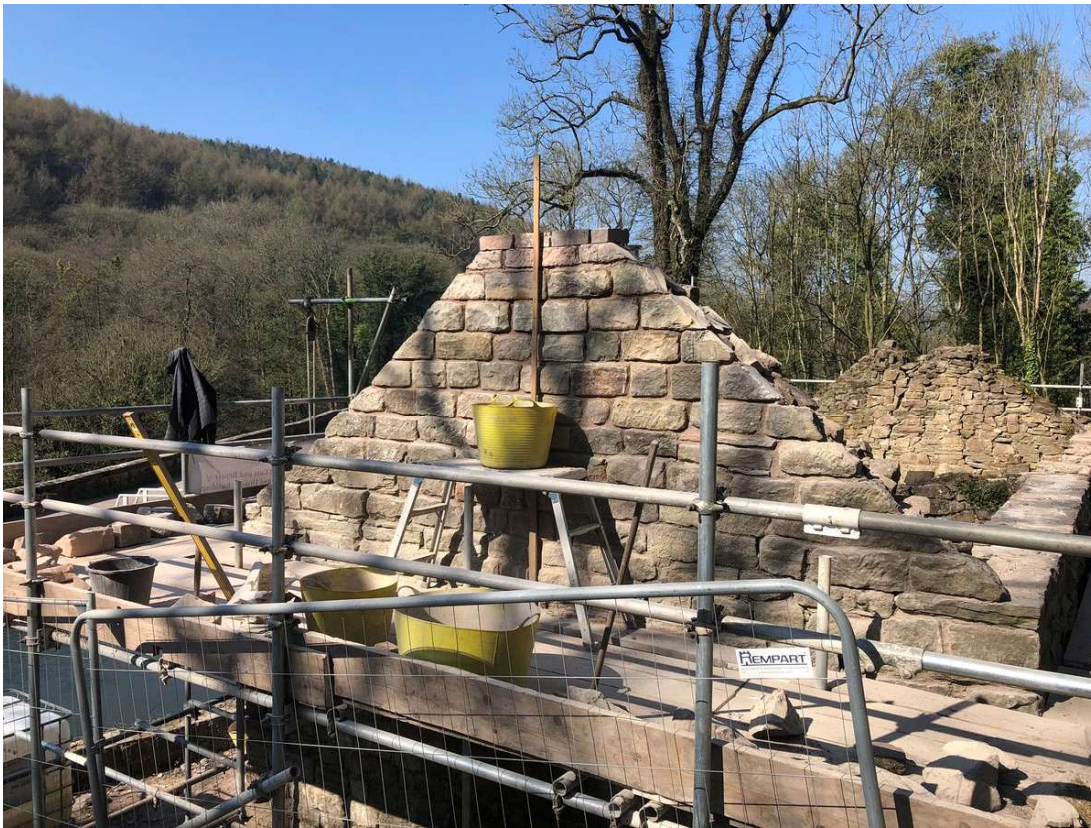
Progress on the stonework repairs continued during April and July 2020. The weather was good and Andrew remarked how special it was to be working in such a beautiful place. It was made all the more special because he was accompanied by the uninterrupted sound of the Derwent Valley wildlife, since there was no traffic on the A6!

By the time our volunteers were allowed back on site, on 6th October 2020, Andrew had finished the repairs to the walls. The cottage was now ready for the timber roof frame to be constructed. It was a great achievement and an important milestone for the project especially given the devastating impact on normal life by the pandemic.

Then, on 27th October the roof timbers famously arrived by boat and what a moment that was...but that's for another day!



Underpinning the cottage. The corner of the building was supported by several steel beams until a new foundation of stone was built.



Reclaimed stone matched to the original stone-work was used in the reconstruction of the gable ends.



The north gable end was in such a poor state the top half had to be dismantled.



The large crack in the north gable end before being dismantled.



Andrew's son lending a hand during the school holidays.



Under-pinning complete.

The top three courses of the front and rear walls were dismantled and rebuilt.





Part of the wall had to be removed to replace one or both of the oak lintels above the windows.



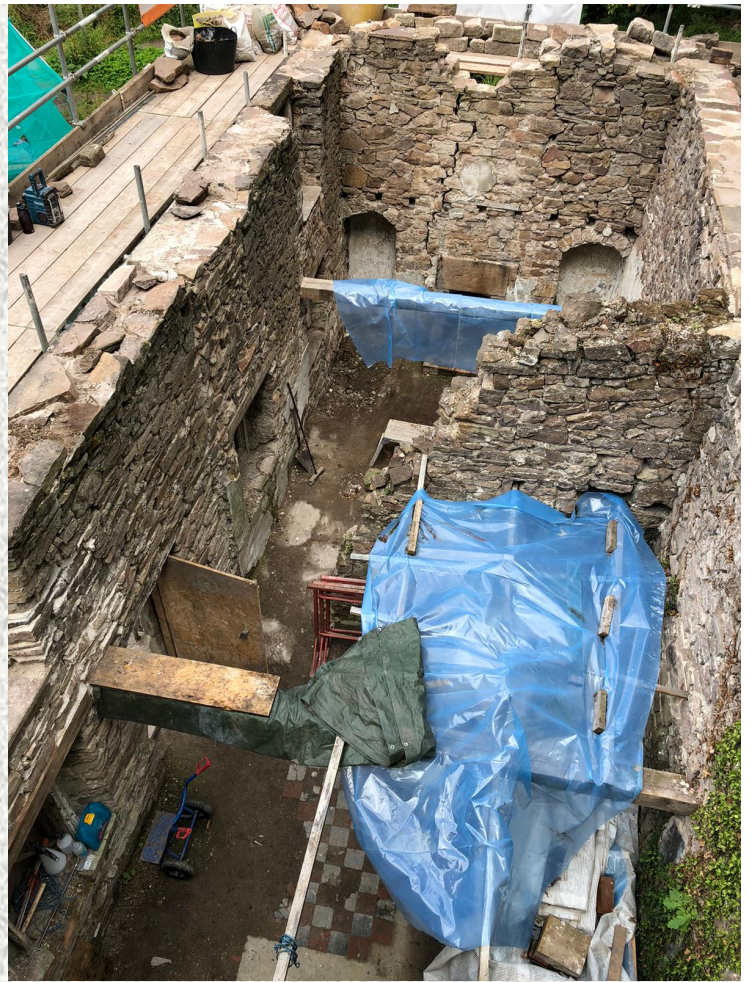
Reclaimed oak beams were used in the reconstruction.



Parlour window ready for replacement lintels. Note the inner and outer walls and "through" stones.



***One of the main beams
being brought to site.***



The two main beams installed.

