

Transmitter Block Restoration Project Newsletter June 2016



Bawdsey Radar

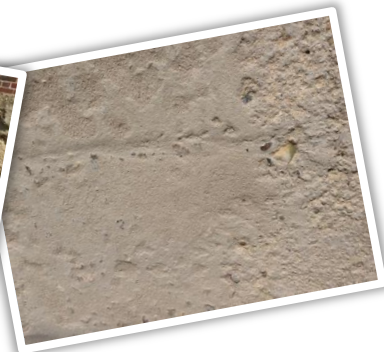
The World's First Operational Radar Station



The block awaiting restoration



Historic England and Suffolk Coastal Planning visit to inspect the concrete samples



Sample repair on the blast wall

It's been a busy six months since the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) granted £1.4 million to Bawdsey Radar Trust towards the restoration of the Transmitter Block and the creation of a new exhibition for it. Many thanks are due to HLF, Historic England, Garfield Weston, Suffolk Coastal District Council, other smaller grant giving bodies and many generous personal donors that have made it possible for the project to proceed.

Since January a team of consultants, trustees and volunteers has arranged for ecological, armament and asbestos surveys. These surveys as expected presented very few problems and these have been successfully dealt with. In preparation for the start of the works much time has been spent reviewing the detail of the restoration work and Bawdsey Radar is now ready to appoint contractors to undertake the work.

After a long search, investigation into concrete repairs and a full tender process, the Trust has selected Concrete Renovations of Cambridge to undertake the restoration of the blast walls. Concrete Renovations has carried out sample repairs on the blast walls for Historic England and Suffolk Coastal Planning to approve. Full repairs will involve the removal of loose concrete, treatment of the steel cage with rust inhibitors and then the building up of the concrete to match the surrounding finish. Once repaired the whole

wall will be treated with a rust inhibitor, which will stop further damage occurring.



Sir Peter Luff, Chair of the Heritage Lottery Fund England, visited the Transmitter Block on the 4th of May to see it before its restoration and we hope he will be able to come back when the fully restored and exhibited block opens in September 2017.

As you can see, the walls are now in a sorry state so the restoration project has started just in time!

Working with the exhibition designers Bawdsey Radar has reviewed the proposed exhibition, the storylines and interactive displays and is currently undertaking detailed research for the display panels. A fully detailed exhibition plan will be ready for the end of September this year.

What Next?

- In July & August we will be tendering and appointing a main contractor to undertake the main building restoration.
- The Transmitter Block will close to the public on the 29th August and over the first 2 weeks of September will be emptied ready for works to commence.
- The empty block will open to visitors free of charge on the 11th September for the Heritage Open Weekend.
- Works on the Transmitter Block and blast walls will commence in October 2017.
- Work will commence with specialist exhibition designers to develop a working Goniometer and other exhibits.

Don't forget to follow us on YouTube and see the video diary for the project. We are also on Twitter and Facebook.

For more information, or if you wish to get involved in this project, please contact Graham Randall (project@bawdseyradar.org.uk)