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NORTH of ENGLAND CIVIC TRUST

Press Release

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‘Topping out’ ceremony marks a major step forward for ‘at risk’ corn mill

Warwick Bridge Corn Mill, Carlisle, Cumbria, CA4 8RE

North of England Civic Trust (NECT) is celebrating the ‘topping out’ of the drying kiln roof at the grade II* Warwick Bridge Corn Mill. Funded by Historic England, a programme of repairs has been carried out over the summer which has focused upon the most urgent works needed to stabilise the building and make the structure water-tight. The drying kiln roof had been covered in plastic sheeting for almost 20 years which was letting water into the building, causing damage to the fabric below. The roof has now been stripped back and repaired, keeping as much of the historic timber as possible and adding new timbers where necessary. The reinstatement of the Oak Louvre on the ridge of the drying kiln roof marks a significant step forward in the overall project and means that we are one step closer to being able to say that the structure is ‘water-tight’; for the first time in several decades.

The mill has appeared on Historic England’s ‘Heritage at Risk’ register since 1999, due to the importance of the building, its contents and its deteriorating condition. NECT has been working to secure the future of the site for over 10 years, so this event is a very proud moment for all the team involved.

The Grade II* listed mill was constructed in 1839 as part of the Corby Castle estate. The mill was last worked in 1989 and has lain empty ever since; however, thanks to the last miller, Mr Willis, the mill is a time capsule of days gone by, with 5 sets of millstones, sack hoists, pulleys, flour bagging machines and the all-important waterwheel surviving in situ. NECT acquired the site in 2015, following a successful application to the Heritage Lottery Fund and were able to complete these essential repairs to the building thanks to a grant from Historic England.

The main phase of the project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Funded is anticipated to begin in early 2017 and will see both the buildings and machinery refurbished to create a working watermill complete with an artisan bakery on site. NECT is very grateful for the support of all its funders and the on-going assistance of Warwick Bridge Local History Group, Warwick Bridge Primary School, Carlisle City Council and local residents.

“In order to complete the project we still have match funding to find”, says Rose Lord, NECT’s project manager, “we are working hard to bridge the gap and would be delighted to hear from local organisations and businesses interesting in sponsoring this unique and hugely important local heritage project. We have set up a donation page for people to help support our project; any donation, large or small will help us secure the future of this remarkable building for future generations;
<https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/northofenglandcivictrust>”

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North of England Civic Trust

www.nect.org.uk

For 50 years NECT has been active in conservation and regeneration across Cumbria, the North East of England and North Yorkshire. As a civic trust we champion public involvement in the processes that shape the environment, often working with local groups and volunteers. As a building preservation trust, we tackle dereliction on the high street and in the countryside, from modest local landmarks to the rescue of nationally important heritage on the brink of being lost. As a consultancy, we provide independent expert advice to all those who need it, brokering solutions to sensitive development issues and securing the resources needed to convert liabilities into assets.

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