

# Heritage Masonry

## Training & Assessment

# NVQ3



Canolfan Tywi Centre

### About the Tywi Centre

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The Tywi Centre is a CITB Approved Training Organisation, recognised for delivering high-quality, industry-standard heritage construction training. We're passionate about traditional building skills and are here to help you gain nationally recognised qualifications in heritage masonry.

🌐 [www.tywicentre.org.uk](http://www.tywicentre.org.uk)

This course blends 20 days of hands-on training with up to 18 months of on-site assessment, leading to a Level 3 NVQ in Heritage Masonry – the recognised benchmark for professionals working on traditional and historic buildings.

### What is the NVQ3 in Heritage Masonry?

The NVQ Level 3 in Heritage Masonry is your gateway to becoming a recognised specialist in the conservation, repair, and restoration of historic and traditional buildings. Designed for experienced bricklayers and masons, this prestigious qualification builds on your existing skills and takes them to the next level – giving you the expertise to work on some of the nation's most treasured structures.

Through 20 days of intensive, hands-on training and up to 18 months of tailored on-site assessment, you'll gain the advanced knowledge, techniques, and professional recognition that set you apart in the heritage construction industry.

By completing this course, you'll earn the NVQ Level 3 in Heritage Masonry – the industry's gold standard and a powerful mark of quality for clients, employers, and heritage organisations alike.

## Flexible Training Options

Choose a route that suits you:

1. Training Only – Perfect if you want to build your skills but aren't ready for assessment.
2. Assessment Only – If you already have the skills and experience and need the qualification.
3. Training + Assessment – Get fully prepared, then achieve your NVQ.
4. Train Now, Assess Later – Build confidence first, then complete your NVQ when ready.



### Training Dates (2026 – Provisional)

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Training is delivered in 4 one-week blocks across the year:

- March
- May
- August
- September

 Each day runs from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

## Who is Eligible?

Ideally, you'll have an NVQ Level 2 in Brickwork or masonry or extensive on-site experience. Not sure if you're ready? We'll help with an Initial Assessment to review your skills and work history.

## Course Costs

Option	Includes	Cost
Training Only	20 days training (off-site)	£3,500
Assessment Only (OSAT)	18-month on-site assessment with an assessor	£2,500
Training + Assessment	20 days training + 18 months assessment	£6,000

## Funding Available

CITB-Registered Company? You could receive:

- Full training and assessment funding
- Travel and accommodation support
- Short course and completion grants

**Not eligible for CITB?** Self-funding is possible with flexible instalments available.

## Summary of Training Modules/ standards (20 days total)

- **L3 Award in Repair & Maintenance of Traditional (pre 1919) Buildings (3 Days)**

Understand why older buildings matter and how to care for them using the right methods and materials.

- **Identifying Materials- heritage Masonry (2 Days)**

Learn the differences between lime types, aggregates, and breathable materials.

- **Recognising Defects in Stonework (1 Day)**

Explore causes of damage and how to spot and fix structural issues.

- **Specialist Techniques in Stonemasonry (1 Day)**

Develop skills in reading drawings, setting out, and using heritage tools.

- **Stonework Conservation, Repair & Maintenance (3 Days)**

Practice conservation strategies using real-life case studies.

- **Complex Masonry Projects (10 Days)**

Get practical experience in repairs, foundations, arches, and more.

## Assessment Overview

Assessments are based on **real site work**. You'll build a portfolio of:

- **Assessor Observations**
- **Photos, Videos, Written Reports**
- **Expert Witness Testimony**

You'll cover:

- Conservation/restoration
- Complex stonework
- Safe working practices
- Heritage materials (especially lime mortar)

For full details of assessment requirements: [NVQ3 Qualification Information](#)

You'll have **up to 18 months** – or finish sooner if you're ready.

## Details of Stonemasonry Training Modules

The following modules will be covered during the 20 days of training:

### L3 Award in Repair and Maintenance of Traditional (pre 1919) Buildings -3 days

This accredited 2-day course is an essential addition to the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) portfolio for professionals in the construction and heritage construction

industries. It combines theoretical knowledge with practical examples and demonstrations to equip participants with the core competencies required for working on traditional (pre-1919) buildings. The course focuses on understanding materials, methods, legislation, and safe practices critical to preserving historic structures.

### Key Topics Covered:

1. **Value of Traditional Buildings** – Understanding their historical significance, performance characteristics, and their role in sustainable practices.
2. **Legislation and Guidance** – Overview of legal and policy frameworks guiding repair and maintenance.
3. **Traditional Methods and Materials** – Emphasis on using appropriate techniques like lime work and avoiding incompatible repairs.
4. **Condition Assessment and Planning** – Techniques to assess, research, and plan effective conservation strategies.
5. **Safe Working Practices** – Ensuring safety while preserving original building fabric and knowing when to seek expert advice.

### Knowledge and identification of materials – 2 days

Understanding the use, composition and application of lime and clay mortars is central to successful maintenance and repair of traditional buildings. With a wide range of lime products available on the market, this module will provide a solid understanding of different types of lime and their appropriate use. It will also cover the selection of aggregates as this is vital in determining the appearance and performance of traditional lime and clay mortars. This course will also help you to determine the appropriate mix of lime binders and additives and assessing the appropriate combination to suit the task.

The content of the course will include:

- The range of stone and brick used in heritage work
- Lime mortars and the lime cycle
- Use of earth and clay
- Lime wash
- Lime putty
- Roman Cement
- Aggregates and pozzolans
- Modern breathable materials
- Storing materials
- Salvaging re-usable materials

### Defect recognition, causes and effect for heritage stonemasonry- 1 day

For buildings which have been standing for 100 years or more, wear and tear, patina and features out of plumb can all contribute to their historic character. However, understanding when a character trait becomes more of a defect and consequentially a risk to the stability and sustainability of the building, is something that is essential for a stonemason to appreciate. This module will investigate damage caused to a building through weathering, chemical attack and movement and discuss appropriate interventions to prevent further decay.

The content of the course will include: Identify damage and inappropriate materials

- Staining and salt activity
- Weathering
- Structural issues
- Inappropriate interventions
- Decaying/ rusting ironwork

- Site visit to illustrate defects

### Specialist Techniques for stonemasonry – 1 day

Understanding plans, drawings and specifications is essential in ensuring that repair work is undertaken according to the requirements of a contract. This module will enable learners to interpret drawings accurately in preparation for any new or repair work to masonry structures.

The content of the course will include:

- Reading from plans and specifications
- Disseminating information, identifying discrepancies and the procedures for further actions
- Scale drawings
- Setting out datums and complicated stonemasonry structures
- Measuring tools and instruments old and new.

### Stonework conservation, repair and maintenance- 3 days

This module will support learners in the understanding of Conservation philosophies and principles and SPAB principles. Using an existing stone structure as a case study, learners will practice producing Heritage Impact assessments, Conservation management plans, Risk Assessments and method statements.

### Setting out and erecting complex stone masonry structures- 10 days

On completion of this module learners should be competent to undertake repairs to historic stone walls using methods appropriate to the original wall construction. It will include repairs and fixing on rubble, semi-dressed and dressed walls.

The module will include a practical project giving the learner experience in producing projecting courses using stone and mortars; stabilising a section of stone wall using simple mechanical repairs and alterations; Identification of existing repair joints age-related nature.

The course content will include:

- Recognition of historical significance
- Carrying out reversible alterations and impact assessments
- Choosing the correct joint for repairs, minimum intervention.
- Recognising previous interventions
- Tools of the trade
- Types of shoring
- Types of foundation
- Construction joints used in masonry structures
- Different types of walling construction
- Projecting courses, arches and steps
- Consolidation
- Grouting
- Resins, reinforcements fixing, support fixing and reconstituted stone
- Fixing structural anchors
- Tamping and pointing
- Cutting out defective mortar

## Details of the NVQ3 Assessment

### What level of skill and knowledge do I need to be able to access the level 3 NVQ?

Before you can access the NVQ3 you would ideally have an NVQ2 in the same trade. However, very often, people have learnt their trade on-site.

The best way to find out if the NVQ3 is the right level for you is to arrange an Initial assessment of prior learning or knowledge with a qualified assessor. During this assessment, you will discuss your previous work experience, any training you have completed and how site ready you are.

### How does the assessment process work?

As the learner works on site, as normal, they will need to gather evidence of tasks that are relevant to the NVQ3 Units. Evidence can include assessor observations. This is when the assessor visits you on site as you are working on relevant tasks. Other evidence can include written reports, videos of you working and expert witness testimony.

### How do I know what tasks are appropriate?

You will be provided with full details of the evidence that you will need to provide during your induction. Your assessor will discuss each unit in your qualification to ensure that you are able to provide the evidence required.

The assessor will be looking for evidence of a candidate's own work, and that it has been carried out to the appropriate standard. You will need to evidence product, performance and knowledge in relation to the qualification.

### How long is the assessment process- can I complete in less than 18 months?

You will be expected to complete your assessment within 18-months of starting the training. If you can complete all the tasks and demonstrate competency of knowledge in less than 18-months, you can complete sooner. If you are not able to complete within the 18 months due to unforeseen circumstances, it is possible to apply for an extension.

### Can any of my prior learning or experience count towards my NVQ3 qualification?

There are circumstances where very recent learning can be transferable. It is worth discussing your individual experience with Tom.

### Do I have to attend all 20 days of training?

If you are following the Specialist Applied Skills Programme, you are required to attend all 20 days of training.

### What happens if my employer doesn't have enough appropriate work?

Before registering you onto the qualification, we will discuss your future work plan the learner and the employer. If the situation occurs that a learner is not getting the relevant work for assessment, we are able to support you to find opportunities with other companies.

## Additional Information

### Learning needs:

As part of the registration programme, learners will be asked about their learning support needs. If these are disclosed, we will act appropriately to cater for the learner.

#### Insurance:

The employer of the learner confirms that the firm's public liability, professional indemnity and employers' liability insurance all extend to the learner's involvement in the training and assessment programme.

#### Certificate:

The issue of the NVQ certificate is from the awarding body and may take 3 months from the end of the assessment period to arrive with the learner.

#### Complaints:

Your usual contact will try to resolve your complaint wherever they can. This may be Helena Burke (Heritage Skills and Projects Officer) or Tom Duxbury (NVQ3 Trainer and Assessor). If your issue cannot be resolved and relates to your training and assessment, you can contact NSAC either by email at: [enquiry.NSAC@citb.co.uk](mailto:enquiry.NSAC@citb.co.uk) or by telephone 0300 456 5561. If your complaint relates to the administration at the Tywi Centre and cannot be resolved by your usual contact, you can follow Carmarthenshire County Council's complaint procedure either by email: [complaints@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:complaints@carmarthenshire.gov.uk) or phone 01267 224631.

#### Equal Opportunities Policy

We are committed to providing equal opportunities for all learners seeking to gain our awards. Our policy is to ensure that learners are treated as individuals and no learner receives less favourable treatment than any other on the grounds of race, colour, nationality, ethnic origin, gender, marital status, religion, sexuality, political belief or disability. A further aim is that no learner is disadvantaged by any conditions or procedures that cannot be justified as relevant to assessment.

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