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Clayfest Tour Day 2019, 23 June



Clayfest Partners

ebuki FOSTERING EARTH BUILDING IN THE UK AND IRELAND

 Centre for Alternative Technology
Canolfan y Dechnoleg Amgen



Clayfest Earth builds- Self propelled tour- Sunday 23rd June 10am start SUBJECT TO CHANGES

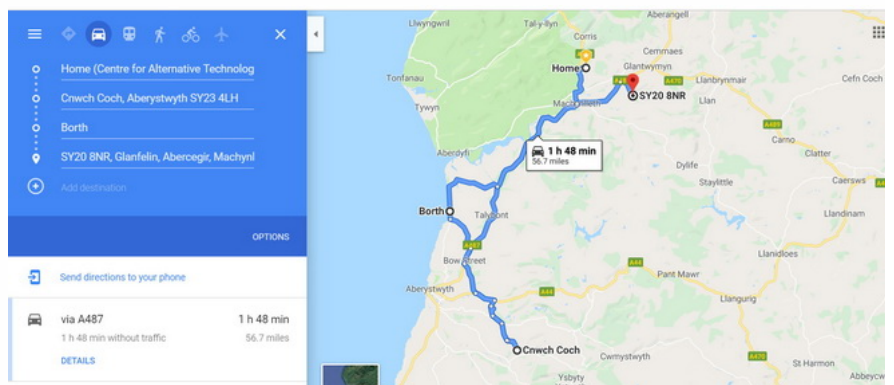
Sunday 23 June

10:00am - 6:00pm

Earthen Building UK and Ireland (EBUKI) would like to say a huge thank you to all of our hosts.

The tour is a self-drive tour, as in it is up to you to drive yourself to each of the properties. **Car-pooling is recommended.** If you are attending the Clay Day or Conference, **check the noticeboard** at the registration desk for lift shares.

There is a main tour this year but for brave souls who may feel they know the CAT site there is an alternative end point, see the bottom this page...



The Properties

No. 1 Llwyn Celyn (Holly Copse), Cnwch Coch, SY23 4LQ
10:30am - 11:30

At Cnwch Coch (pronounce KnooKh CorKh) we will meet Fiona, the proud owner of an earth cottage that is in need of sympathetic renovation. This village also has a few earth cottages, all cement rendered and in various states of repair. This should take about an hour.



No. 2 **Borth**, 12.30pm - 2.00pm

We will meet at the Lifeboat station car park 1874 High St, Borth SY24 5LJ



Borth has some cottages near the southern end had compacted earth walls which are still there beneath a cement render finish, such as today's Journeys End and West Winds. Apparently there were others in a ruined state opposite Wesley Chapel on the sea side in the 1920s. Intriguingly earth walled houses were obviously preferred by some despite being at risk from sea damage, probably because they were warmer to live in than the stone walled ones. It was a well understood building technique bought by those who had moved from the surrounding high ground onto the Morfa. Often wall construction was a combination of both materials, stone and earth. One such

earth walled cottage can be seen in the background of the photograph captioned Native Captains, Borth, on the site of today's Glan yr Aig. It is interesting to note that D.W. Morgan refers to Borth cottages as; "white-washed wattle tenements" (Morgan, 1948, p.196) and another author commenting on an 1834 depiction of Aberdyfi says that the wattle walled cottages there were buttressed by having large slabs of stone laid against them (Lewis, 2001, p.2). One speculates that if wattle dwellings had to be supported in the sheltered environs of Aberdyfi, then surely wattle cottages at Borth would have been short lived considering their vulnerable position at the sea edge.

For more on Borth take a look [here](#)



Optional Lunch Break on the beach or in a Borth tea shop depending on weather

No. 3 Caban Seren, Abercegir, SY208NR 2.30pm - 3.30pm

Heading back to Machynlleth, and heading North for 5 miles, we come to Steph Robinsons experimental Myscanthus (elephant grass straw) house, which has a significant amount of earth render, as it was truly laid on thick, by friends and locals.



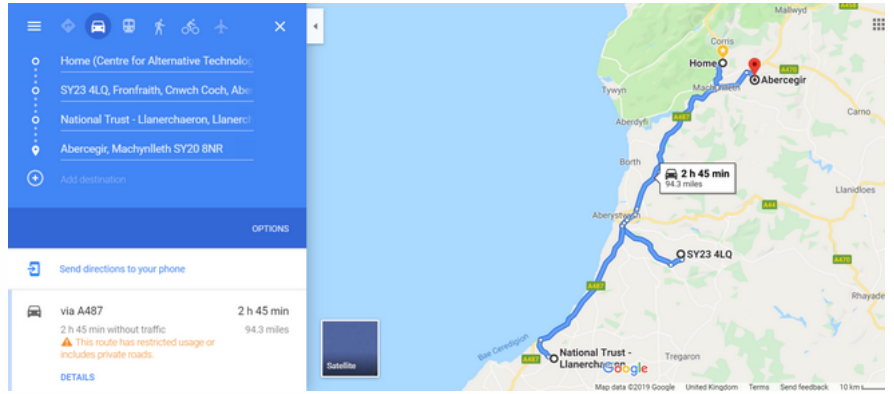
No.4 CAT, 3.45pm - 5.00pm

CAT has many earth buildings, some big some small, some plastered some structural. This is a chance to hear a bit more about them, when and how they were built, with what techniques and by whom



Alternative tour

For those of you that know CAT and feel a bit braver try the last site after Borth, see map and description below



No. 4a National Trust at Llanerchaeron, Llanerchaeron, SA48 8DG
2:45am - 4.00pm

Heading further South Through Aberaeron and to Llanerchaeron, a National Trust owned Plas (Mansion) with many renovated earth buildings. WE have been given permission to enter and see the buildings without paying an entrance fee (QUOTE: CLAYFEST), and there is an opportunity to look around and use the café too. Please be aware that these are rental properties, and as such, we are welcome to look, but not go inside, and there may or may not be a guide.



Wig Wen Fach

Wig-wen-fach, on the Llanerchaeron estate in Cardiganshire, is a precious survival of this vernacular building tradition. Latterly it provided cottage accommodation for farm workers on the estate, and was empty when bequeathed to the National Trust in 1989. The National Trust has made an enlightened decision not to modernise or develop the cottage but to preserve it as it is. There is an illuminating contrast for visitors to the estate between the splendid C18th mansion built by John Nash and the contemporary single-storey estate cottage.

Sustainable building

Wig-wen-fach preserves craft features that have largely disappeared elsewhere. The walls have generous quantities of clay and internally, the original plaster, the flagged floors, wickerwork partitions, fireplace hood, scarfed cruck-trusses, and underthatch survive. Wig-wen-fach preserves an early C19th craft interior. Cottages like these were 'home-made homes': they were often built by the people who lived in them using their traditionally-learned craft skills and as such the provide early examples of sustainable building that have lessons for us in the 21st century.



4b Pontbrenmydr

Pontbrenmydr is one of the last surviving Welsh Cloms, a 17th-century mud constructed cottage. This has been carefully restored with a modern twist. You'll still be able to appreciate its vernacular detail, with original cow stalls, cobbled stone floors and smoke-blackened oak trusses all preserved, while modern technologies such as the biomass pellet boiler and solar panels have been added.

WE WILL LET YOU KNOW WHETHER THIS IS VIEWABLE CLOSER TO THE DATE



No. 7 The Dunes 3:00pm - 5:00pm

Dee used to visit an old couple in their mudwall cottage in Co. Wexford in the 60s. She always loved the feel of the place, a sense of home that was bound up in the handmade walls. Her father said that, aged five, she announced she would live there some day. She bought the house in 2014. The Dunes is a single-storey five-bay house, built between 1841-1903, and only 70 paces from Curracloe Beach. Dee will be available to show you around, so you can discover the attraction of its mud walls and thatched roof for yourself.

Car Parking: Ample parking in Ballinesker car park and limited on-site parking.

Directions: GPS Coordinates and detailed directions will be provided 48 hours in advance of the tour.



No. 8. House at Kilmuckridge 3:30 - 5:30pm

Only one thatched house survives in the village of Kilmuckridge, Co. Wexford, located in a prominent position opposite the Catholic church. It is not known exactly when it was constructed, but it is shown on the Ordnance Survey map published in 1841 along with three other houses that clustered around the church and national school. The house was extended around 1860 and evidence of this, together with a change in orientation, was uncovered. The remains of a gabled windbreak on the south side showed that this was the original entrance. The changeover from the south to the north side probably came from a desire to face the church and national school and suggests that the house pre-dates the church (1796). The attic space originally extended only part-way, forming a small loft, the remainder being open from floor to thatch. The stairs were moved, the chimney canopy removed and the remainder of the attic space floored when a full-height extension was added to the west gable end, giving the present layout. The roof was re-thatched in the summer of 2014, using wheat straw grown with very low levels of



nitrate and baled with a specially designed baler that doesn't break the straw and maintains the necessary length. The existing thatch was stripped back to a sound base, new straw was pulled into bundles and then 'thrusted' into place.

Car Parking: Information to follow

Directions: GPS Coordinates and detailed directions will be provided 48 hours in advance of the tour.

No. 8 House in Ballyedmond 4:00pm - 6:00pm

Examination of old maps tells us that the House at Ballyedmond was standing in 1840, and who knows how much further back in time it stretches? The mud walls are battered, meaning they are sloped, being wider at the base than at the top. Some of these walls are rendered (plastered) with lime. Some have had limewash directly applied to the mud. The house has a high-pitched hipped roof, typical of this style, thatched in oat straw. Another characteristic of these buildings is the ratio of windows to wall – not much window, lots of wall. This house forms part of a picturesque village street with its mudwalled neighbours. Conservation architect, Úna Sugrue, will be available to show you around.

Car Parking: Parking is available along the green strip of grass in front of the house.

Directions: GPS Coordinates and detailed directions will be provided 48 hours in advance of the tour.



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For all tickets direct click [HERE](#)