

Case Study 176:

DRY ROT ERADICATION - CAPEL ABERFAN, ABERFAN

THE PROBLEM

Protectahome were approached to give expert advice and to provide a solution for Capel Aberfan, a typical Chapel in one of South Wales's mining communities. The building, constructed in 1876 of local stone and black ash mortar, had fallen into some disrepair.

Severe water ingress had caused rapid deterioration to the fabric of the building. Previous major refurbishment works undertaken by others had not addressed underlying problems and after completion of that work, outbreaks of Dry Rot became apparent.

Dry Rot can grow rapidly once established, breaking down and feeding off building timbers. This can lead to serious structural implications.

The Dry Rot Outbreak was a bitter disappointment to the people of Merthyr Tydfil as the building houses a commemorative organ dedicated to the Aberfan Disaster; a catastrophic event where a colliery spoil heap collapsed onto the local School and surrounding houses claiming many lives.

THE SOLUTION

Protectahome were employed to undertake a detailed destructive Survey to determine the full extent of the Dry Rot outbreak.

After removal of the wall plaster it was found that severe decay had taken place to concealed timbers such as window lintels and roof truss ends. The large arched stain glass windows, first floor balcony structure and wainscot panelling were also badly affected.

Protectahome's directly employed Operatives performed the opening up works and all defective timbers were removed and replaced with new treated timbers. Extensive Dry Rot Treatment was also completed. The property has now been fully restored and stands in it's former glory.

Protectahome were thanked for their expert advice and for the skill and care shown whilst carrying out the work to preserve this important local building.

