



ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RETROFIT OF PRE-1919 TRADITIONAL BUILDINGS CASE STUDY – FLEXIBLE FUND

Project Summary	To pilot a SQA Level 3 Award in Energy Efficiency and Retrofit of Pre-1919 Traditional Buildings, in partnership, specifically for SME builders.
Organisation:	Federation of Master Builders
CITB Reference:	FMB 16.04
Project Funding:	£49,950
Partners	National Construction College (NCC) The National Trust Edwards Hart Consulting Ltd
Timeframe:	January 2016 to December 2016
Fit with CITB Strategic Priorities	The main priorities of this project were to: (1) Reduce skills gaps of current workforce (2) Increase access to the right training (3) Increase the value-add per employee
Date of Case Study:	May 2017



CONTEXT

The Federation of Master Builders (FMB) is a trade association, with over 75 years' experience in the UK construction industry, representing thousands of firms. The FMB is independent and non-profit making, lobbying for members' interests at both the national and local level, championing continuous improvement in building standards.

The National Trust is a charity which aims to preserve the nation's heritage and open spaces for everyone to enjoy. Its income comes from membership fees, donations and legacies, and revenue raised from commercial operations.

Edward Hart Consulting Ltd. specialises in older buildings and heritage and provides training to develop courses and qualifications. They are the only training provider approved by the National Construction College (NCC) and the SQA awarding body to deliver the award at this stage. John Edwards is a Chartered Construction Manager, Chartered Building Surveyor, and Chartered Environmentalist, qualified in education.

AIMS

The aims of the project were to:

- Pilot a new SQA Level 3 Award in Energy Efficiency and Retrofit of Pre-1919 Traditional Buildings specifically aimed at SME builders carrying out refurbishment works on older buildings with two days of training.
- Train a total of 100 individuals (2 people from 50 SMEs)

IMPLEMENTATION

FMB, Edward Hart Consulting Ltd and the National Trust provided ten SQA Level 3 Awards in Energy Efficiency and Retrofit of Pre-1919 Traditional Building courses, specifically designed for SME builders.



Marketing and promotional materials, such as sales team briefings, website pages, printed flyers and email flyers, were produced to attract SME builders. Advertising in ‘*Master Builder*’ magazine and ‘*Professional Builder*’ magazine was also used. Training venues were provided for free by the National Trust without charge, and offered a unique setting to deliver the course.

There were 10 workshops at which face-to-face, interactive training was delivered over two days. 100 individuals took part, with 99 achieving the qualification and one individual still working towards the qualification. Many individuals came on their own, resulting in more organisations than planned being involved.

“This was an innovative project delivering state of the art knowledge to specialists in the heritage building sector, alongside general builders looking to extend their expertise in relation to older buildings. We hope to see more builders taking advantage of this course in the future.”

Hayley Ellis, Project Manager, FMB

REVIEW

The partnership between FMB and the National Trust was beneficial as the National Trust provided training venues at no charge. The courses were filled, but FMB would have liked to have seen a greater level of interest from FMB members, as this would help them develop sustainable training programmes for the future. The FMB is working on the feasibility of incentivising FMB members to take up the training; consideration will be given to providing the course in ‘bite-size’ chunks in the future. The course itself continues to be delivered via a partnership with the CIOB (Chartered Institute of Building).



OUTCOMES

99 awards were completed with one delegate still working towards the qualification. One individual per SME organisation attended resulting in double the number of organisations being involved in training than planned. This is positive as it increases capability in a greater number of SMEs. It is assumed that awareness has increased amongst trainees, knowledge has improved and some progress has been made towards closing the skills gap.

IMPACT

This is a useful project in the context of the Bonfield Review, which addresses the issue of the low level of knowledge in the industry in relation to energy efficient retrofit for different types of buildings.

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