

**THE GREEN OAK CARPENTRY COMPANY LTD**  
**NOTES FOR THE REPAIR OF TIMBER FRAMED BUILDINGS.**

1. The first principle of conservation is to always try to keep as much of the existing timber as possible, as once removed it cannot be put back. The second is to let the building itself be the guide. By this we mean look carefully at all aspects of the building; joint types, timber selection and conversion, frame configuration, (e.g. truss type etc), carpenters marks and so on. Later interventions to the original structure are part of the storey of the building, and should not be removed without careful consideration.
2. It is important to understand the difficulty presented in making an accurate assessment of the extent of the repairs. The frames are often clad externally and sometimes internally and may be filled with equipment that makes full evaluation difficult. Contingency sums should be set aside to cover additional repairs identified when the scaffold has been assembled and a more thorough inspection of the building can be made.
3. Where scarf joints are made to repair part of an existing timber, e.g. post foot, the timber used shall be well air dried to below 22% MC where possible, though sometimes for large sections the availability of dry timber at or below 22% may be a problem and therefore part air dried timber will have to be acceptable. This we refer to as 'steady oak'. Timber patches and scarf repairs should be grain matched where practicable, to the existing piece to which it is being attached, e.g. boxed heart material for scarfing to a boxed heart beam and so on.
4. Where entire replacements are made the timber shall be new sawn beam grade oak of good quality and suitable for its intended use within the building.
5. Metal works and fixings shall be stainless or galvanised and shall be plugged to conceal where visible if required. If the repairs are not within the building shell then stainless steel is recommended). Internally fixings may also be RIO primed and painted black.
6. Occasionally we are required to finish strap work self-colour and with the fire scale left (if forged) which is acceptable if a coat of clear sealant is applied and it is accepted that some rust may occur. Fixings may require 'burning off' in the forge to remove any BZP coating.
7. Resin where used shall be a 2-pack WBP epoxy resin, (or similar,) and shall be used strictly in accordance with the manufacturers instructions. Some conservationists do not favour resins, however they do have some useful applications and should not in our view be ruled out entirely.
8. Where visual appearance is important and where specified, Rose-head nails may be used as an alternative to galvanised wire nails.
9. All timbers removed for later re-instatement shall be clearly marked with a Dymo label, securely fixed, and drawn and annotated to allow accurate relocation within the structure. Fallen timber should be marked and its location noted within the building before removal for later re-instatement.
10. Timbers removed from one part of the building should not be re-located elsewhere, as this confuses the archaeology of the building. Avoid the use of reclaimed timber as this creates a market for the demolition of historic structures.
11. Joints used in the restoration of a frame shall be the same or similar to those already in use in the building, (unless some particular reason prevents this.)
12. The original configuration of the frame shall be retained as much as possible. Where new work is carried out to extend or alter an existing timber frame then again the style and form of the frame, joint types etc., shall be the guiding principle.
13. A phrase frequently encountered is "honest repair", meaning that repairs or replacements should not be concealed or disguised in any way – future examination of our intervention will be seen as much a part of its ongoing history as that which came before. We must use our best endeavours to ensure that our work will always stand up to such scrutiny.