

CHEDHAM'S YARD

Location: Wellesbourne, Warwickshire, United Kingdom

Client: Wellesbourne Parish Council

Services: Options Appraisal/ Feasibility Study



Acorn provides development options that help Chedham's Yard win funding from the BBC's Restoration Village 2006

Project Objectives:

- William 'Bill' Chedham did his final day's work as a wheelwright and blacksmith in the 1970's. Since then his traditional wheelwrights workshop and tools have remained untouched.
- In 2002 Wellesbourne Parish Council bought Chedham's Yard on the basis they would create a living, working environment that preserved the Yard's atmosphere and enabled a wider community to access, understand and enjoy the historic craft.

Our Recommendations:

- The SWOT analysis we conducted, with heritage specialists PLB, highlighted the need for a Conservation Statement to record and catalogue the contents of the workshop; the need for community support to take the project forward; the limited access for large numbers of visitors yet the need for the site to generate income.
- We conducted an interpretive, education and market appraisal so that we could identify four feasible options for the future of Chedham's Yard: the options ranged from minimal intervention but using the site for research; relocation to a more accessible site; creation of a heritage attraction and/or re-using the site for contemporary blacksmith's workshops and training.
- The local community provided enormous support for the project, which was entered for, and won, the BBC's Restoration Village programme in 2006. The Yard's contents are now being catalogued and it is planned to develop it as a working museum with a working blacksmith employed to operate from the site, to provide training and act as an educational resource for local schools. All of these ideas were suggested in Acorn's options appraisal.