ROB BURNS

CV

BA Archaeology- University of Newcastle upon Tyne- 1979

Master of Civic Design (Urban Design Module)- University of Liverpool- 1992

I started a career in Archaeology in 1979 as a member of the Libyan Valleys survey team, working in North Africa and the Middle East, carrying out extensive archaeological surveys. After returning to the UK, I became the English Heritage Guardianship Archaeologist for properties in care for Northumbria, undertaking photogrammetric surveys, recording, interpretation, and excavations at a series of castles, a Priory and historic fortified farmhouse in Northumberland.

In 1988 I joined Wirral Borough Council as the Historic Conservation Officer, managing a small team responsible for providing heritage advice, and landscaping.

I joined English Heritage in 1999, working in the north-west regional team, as a Historic Areas Advisor. In addition to regional casework, I had the national remit for design issues, working jointly with the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment on a series of guidance documents which covered the historic built environment, including tall buildings and housing, in addition to being a CABE enabler. I was the heritage advisor for the national Pathfinder housing projects, advising Ministers. Representation on design panels has continued, and I am currently a member of the north west regional design review panel, Places Matter, and an enabler.

I joined Liverpool City Council in 2006 as the Urban Design and Heritage Manager, with a team covering multiple disciplines. This enabled me to work on strategic projects, including the Stirling Prize nominated masterplan for Liverpool 1, and the regeneration of the waterfront with a new Arena, museum and commercial and residential buildings on the waterfront, within the Liverpool World Heritage Site. I worked collaboratively on the new Everyman Theatre on the city, which won the Stirling Prize in 2014, as well as other key projects.

In 2016 I formed my own company, engaged in heritage and urban design projects, working alongside both public and private sector clients. Previous projects include conservation management plans (grade II\* Coal Exchange, Cardiff is one example), heritage assessments for development projects (e.g. tall building developments in Liverpool and Manchester), housing guidance and design (e.g current project for Wirral MBC), Strategic Frameworks and Supplementary Planning Documents (e.g Lancaster Canal Quarter, Cavern Quarter, Liverpool), strategic masterplanning (e.g Liverpool Waters, Liverpool), the running of RIBA accredited design competitions (e.g Wolverhampton Interchange project), design and heritage policy writing (e.g Wirral Local Plan); townscape and visual impact assessments (e.g Ironville in the Derwent Valley World Heritage Site). Current projects include the co-ordination of a series of masterplans for Wirral, the production of a design and public realm guide, and providing heritage advice for a number of development proposals.

I have spoken on the approach to new design in historic areas at international conferences in China, Portugal, France, Norway, Denmark, Germany as well as within the UK, and I have also worked on projects advising and mentoring local government officials on new design within the heritage context in Shanghai and Suzhou in China, Portmore in Jamaica, Nicossia in Cyprus, Dortmund in Germany and Stavanger in Norway.

I have been an expert witness at Public Inquiries, representing both public and private sectors clients, with the most recent in Preston on a proposal for a new mosque within a rural area, in August of this year. The previous Inquiry to this was held in May this year relating to a new development impacting on the setting of a listed building, whilst in October of 2021 I provided heritage evidence at the Thornton Manor Public Inquiry relating to the impacts on the setting of heritage assets.