

Croft Barn

The owners of White Castle Vineyard, Robb and Nicola Merchant, approached the Village Alive Trust in 2013 seeking help with the conservation of Croft barn, which is on their property. It was unused, covered in ivy and the walls were deteriorating. The Barn is Listed Grade II* as of outstanding architectural and historical significance.

First surveyed and recorded by Fox and Raglan in the 1960s, the barn is of cruck-frame and box-frame structure with undaubed oak lattice ventilation. Emergency work to support the structure was started and grants sought for its preservation and new use as a learning space.

The main restoration took place from March 2015 to June 2016 funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Cadw Welsh Heritage, the Village Alive Trust and the owners.

Village Alive Trust

The Trust started in June 2004, as a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity, in response to the economic and social strains following the Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak the previous year. Support from the European Union and the Welsh Assembly Government has enabled the Trust to work alongside owners of important vernacular buildings in north Monmouthshire to conserve and provide community access.

To date the Trust with its partners has conserved:

- Cwm Farm Cider House, Llangattock Lingoed Listed Grade II*
- New Inn Well House, Cross Ash Listed Grade II*
- Great Trerhew Barn, Llanvetherine Listed Grade II*
- Pigscotts at White Castle Farm, Llanvetherine Listed Grade II
- Croft Barn, Llanvetherine Listed Grade II*

and undertaken other smaller projects.

The Trust also records Oral Histories associated with these buildings and farming practice; has annual Open Days for visitors to see the buildings and learn about their heritage value.

See www.villagealivetrust.org.uk for further information.

Facilities @ Croft Barn

The Barn has a disabled toilet and small servery. It can seat 40 people at round tables and up to 60 theatre style. It opens on the north side to a footpath into White Castle Vineyard. Tours of the vineyard and wine-tasting can be arranged with the owners. There is level access into the barn and safe, off-road car parking with space for a coach to offload.