

Historic Environment Stewardship

Lecture 1

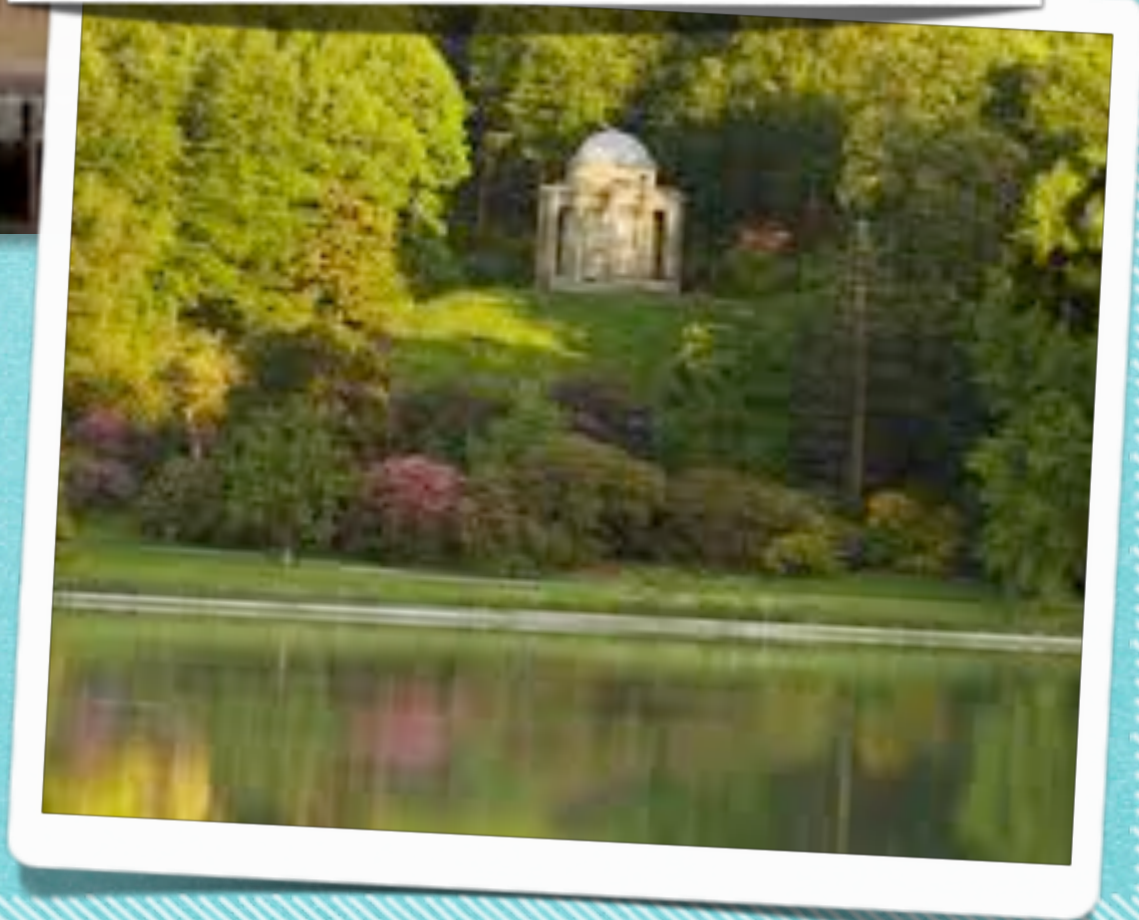
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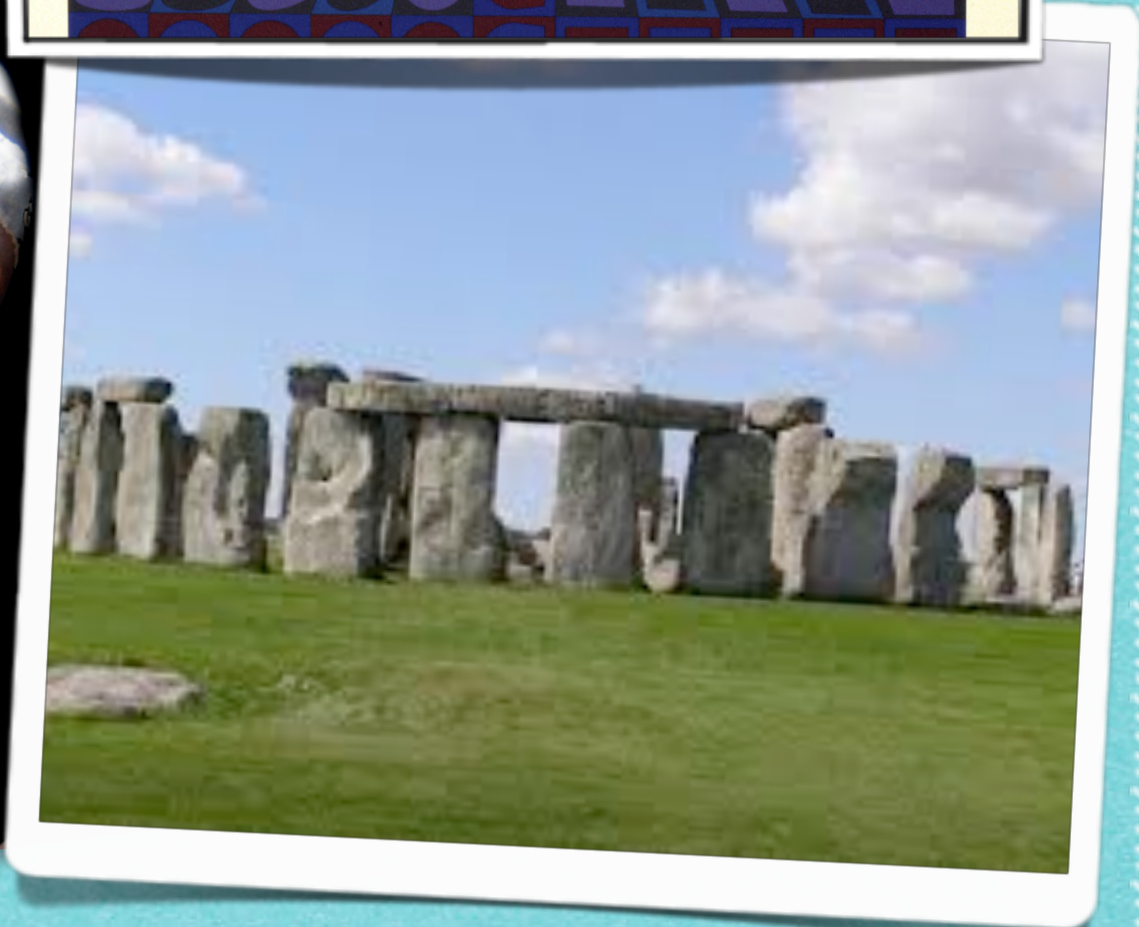
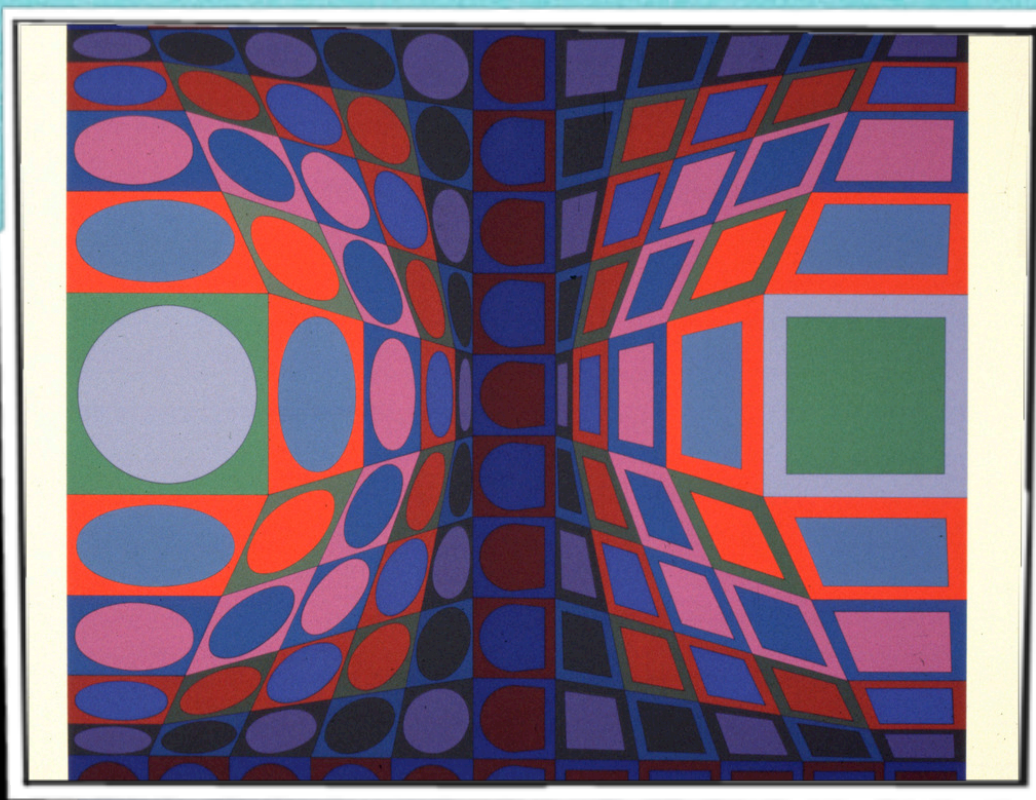
What is 'heritage'?

Write down what 'heritage' means to you.



What is 'heritage'?







**What is the 'Historic
Environment'?**

CADW state: "The historic environment is central to Wales's culture and its character contributes to our sense of place and cultural identity."

What is the 'Historic Environment'?

CADW state: "It enhances quality of life and adds local distinctiveness. It is an important economic and social asset. It is vital that the historic environment is appreciated, protected and made accessible for present and future generations."

Why is the Historic Environment important?

HERITAGE STUDIES

- ▶ Heritage Studies
 - ▶ a distinct interdisciplinary subject
 - ▶ previously studies tended to focus on architectural or archaeological preservation of monuments and sites

From historic buildings to historic environments

- ▶ "Moving out from specific sites and buildings to their interrelated contexts of urban and rural settlement, natural and semi-natural habitats, together with the visual aspects of townscape and landscape" (Baker 2013, 3)

Heritage Studies

- ▶ In response to social changes instigated by modernisation and globalisation
- ▶ Aims to Protect 'natural' environments, archaeology, traditional buildings, creative and technological practices that have come under threat due to these changes

Staiff et al (2012)

- ▶ Heritage studies acknowledges that 'heritage' is a social and political construct
- ▶ Encompasses places, artefacts, cultural expressions inherited from the past
- ▶ These things (places, artefacts, expressions) have the capacity to "reflect and validate our identity as nations, communities, families, even individuals".
- ▶ These elements are due respect and protection

Heritage

- ▶ Selection process
- ▶ Often government-initiated
- ▶ Supported by official regulation

Layers of meanings

- ▶ Many layers of meanings to heritage sites
- ▶ Heritage protection not only top-down intervention, communities (local communities communities of interest) can mobilise and inform interventions and should be a part of such processes.

Politics of Heritage

- ▶ Heritage is not simply something that is engaged with
- ▶ it is produced and consumed

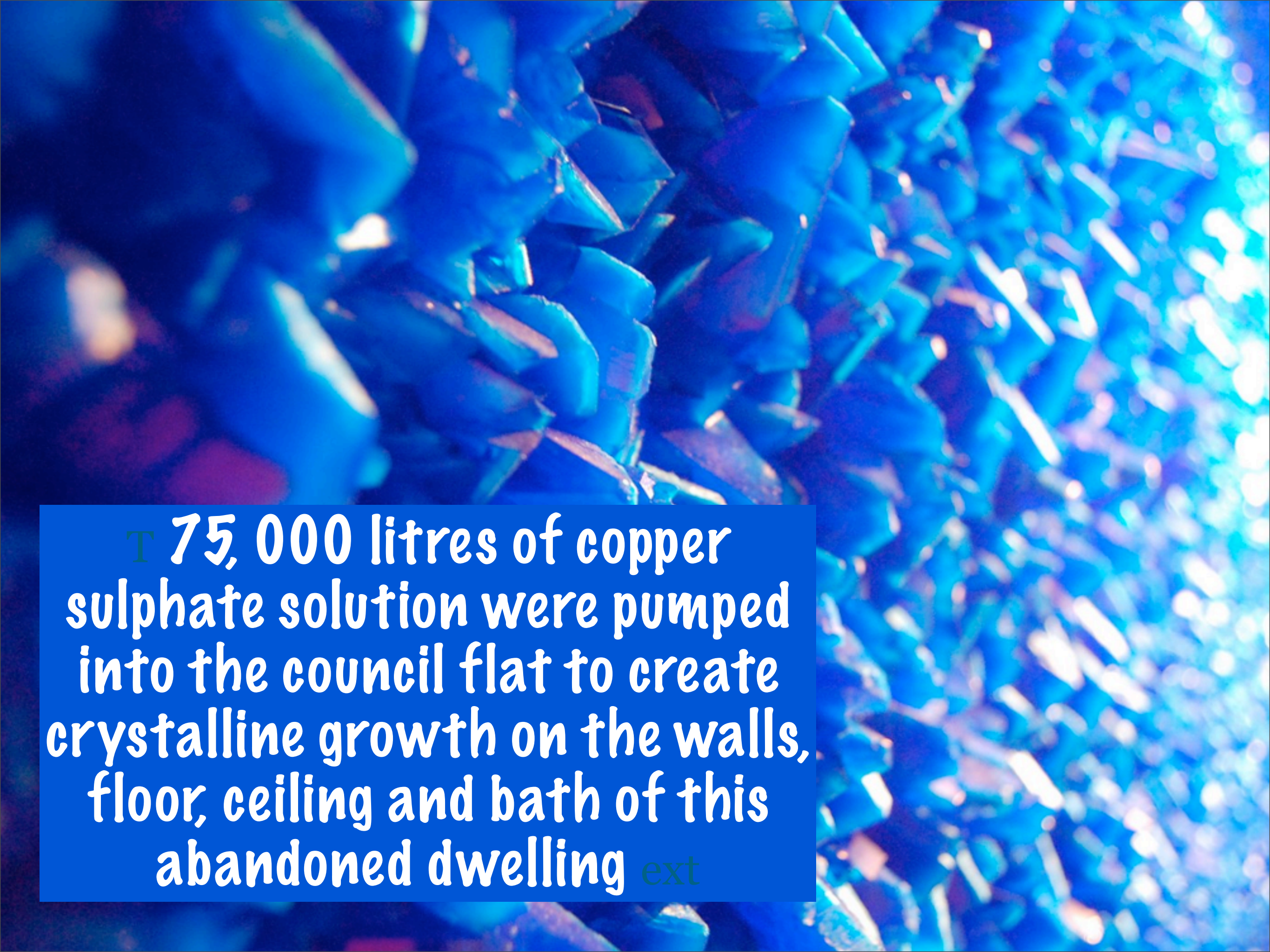
Debating Heritage

► CASE STUDY 1: SEIZURE/ROGER HIORNS

“Seizure”

Text





T 75, 000 litres of copper sulphate solution were pumped into the council flat to create crystalline growth on the walls, floor, ceiling and bath of this abandoned dwelling **ext**

An aerial photograph of a large, dark-hulled shipwrecked on a sandy beach. The ship is oriented horizontally, with its bow pointing towards the right. The hull is dark, and the deck area is lighter. Several people are visible on the beach near the ship, providing a sense of scale. The background shows a line of trees and a clear sky. The foreground is a wide expanse of sand.

The material itself is 'marginally' Toxic

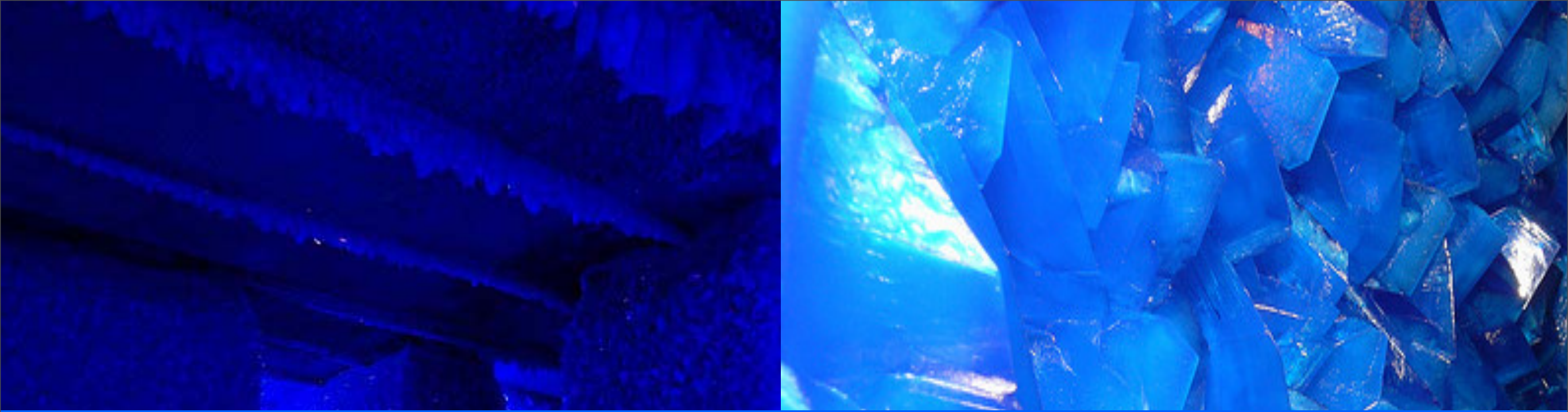


Considering the context

Abandoned council flat
> Someone's home

The artwork is alive!

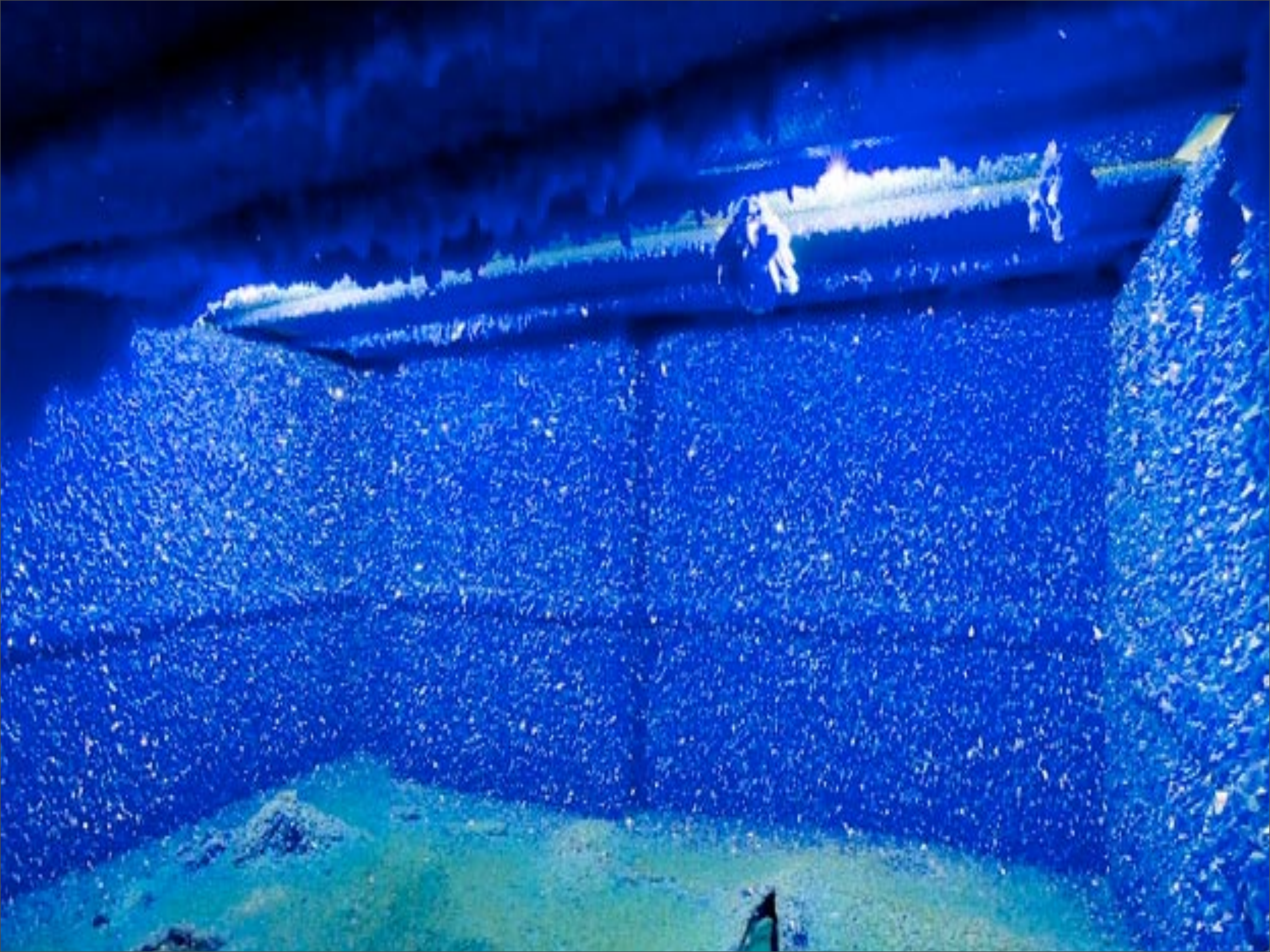
- ▶ The crystals keep growing!
- ▶ The whole piece was moved to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park
- ▶ Weighs 31,000 tonnes



“Seizure was an aggressive, almost extraterrestrial presence, invading a domestic space.”

“A Cult Object” (Caroline Douglas, Head of the Arts Council Collection)





The biography or story of the 'object'

"Destined to be remembered as one of the truly worthwhile and significant moments of modern British art" (Jonathan Jones, The Guardian)





What can 'heritage' do?

- ▶ Give a sense of shared past to disparate communities or individuals
- ▶ Create jobs
- ▶ Actively used to foster respect for cultural and social diversity and challenge prejudice
- ▶ Can be used to shape public attitudes
- ▶ Connection between heritage and human rights

Heritage and Conservation

- ▶ “ Each is defined, conditioned, and propagated within specific systems of [...] legitimised and relational networks of knowledge and power” (Elżanowski, 2017).
- ▶ Heritage and heritage terminology is responsive, it changes with political changes, ideological changes

Changes in practices and the discourse

- ▶ "Care for the inherited past has become engaged with a much wider range of concerns through topics such as archaeological evolution of landscape, the attribution of historic value to buildings erected within living memory, and [...] devising financially affordable priorities for preservation" (Baker 2013, 4)

Armstrong-Fumero and Gutierrez, 2017

- ▶ Connections between place and people
- ▶ Processes "of cultural reproduction can be endangered when migration, displacement, or changes in property regimes limit communities' access to sites where they have important historical connections". (2017, 3)

Rights

- ▶ "The claims that contemporary stakeholders make on archaeological sites and related landscape features extend beyond the simple desire for conservation or site preservation and include the rights to visit, inhabit, and even alter the physical composition of these spaces" (Armstrong-Fumero and Gutierrez, 2017, 3).

Reading List

- ▶ Baker, D. 2013. 'Contexts for collaboration and conflict'. Managing historic sites and buildings: reconciling presentation and preservation

SUMMARY

- ▶ Today we have clarified some of the definitions used in this module
- ▶ We have started to think about the term 'heritage'
- ▶ We have discussed how the 'heritage discourse' has changed with the times

Blended Learning

- ▶ You will have a quiz to complete next Tuesday 4th December, it explores ideas discussed in Lectures 1 and 2.
- ▶ Also, you will be working in pairs on a UNESCO case study