

# FORFAR ACADEMY

## USE AND ADAPTION OF LISTED SCHOOLS



HISTORIC  
ENVIRONMENT  
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### Forfar Academy

**A 200-year-old school building in Forfar town centre is transformed, thanks to the Council's own intervention, to provide much-needed affordable homes.**

Chapel Park Primary School (former Academy) is a category B listed building. It was designed in 1815 by local Angus architect David Logan in the newly fashionable Greek Revival style, with pedimented porches, Doric columns and tall parapets. School buildings were often designed using the Greek style to emphasise the link with classical education.

In the late 1800s two set back wings were added, and it was extended again in the 1920s. A prominent building in the town centre, it remained in educational use right up until 2007 – firstly as a secondary school, and latterly as a primary school.

The primary school closed its doors for the final time in 2007 after changes to the school's catchment area. Unfortunately, there was no plan in place to reuse the building, and it was put on the market, attracting little interest.

Angus Council knew there was a very high local demand for affordable homes, with their current waiting list of over 3000. The Council decided to transform the school themselves into housing for social rent, with the Scottish Government and



View of the internal renovations of Forfar Academy during the works © Angus Council

the Housing Revenue Account helping pay for the project.

The work to transform the school began in May 2016 and was completed in 2018. The school site was transformed into 29 high quality affordable homes, including 18 one-bedroom flats, 6 two-bedroom flats, 1 three-bedroom flat and 4 five-bedroom townhouses.

A key element of this project was community engagement. The Council prioritised homes for existing social housing tenants who scored highly.



Above: View of the front elevation of the converted academy.  
Below: View of the converted school annex.  
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Above: View of the new townhouses.  
Below: Rear elevation of the townhouses.  
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They allocated tenants their new properties at an early stage in the process, and consulted and worked with them closely, fostering a sense of ownership in the project. They also created their own tenants' association. When they moved in during August 2018, thanks to the continuous consultation process, there was 100% occupancy.

The original 1815 Academy building had the most architectural and historic interest, and the outside of the building has been mostly unchanged. The interior of the building has been comprehensively altered to meet the requirements of residential use. A mix of property types is provided on the site from flats to new-build townhouses.

The crisp brick of the new townhouses helps to give them a separate visual character from the stone school, but without being a harsh contrast.

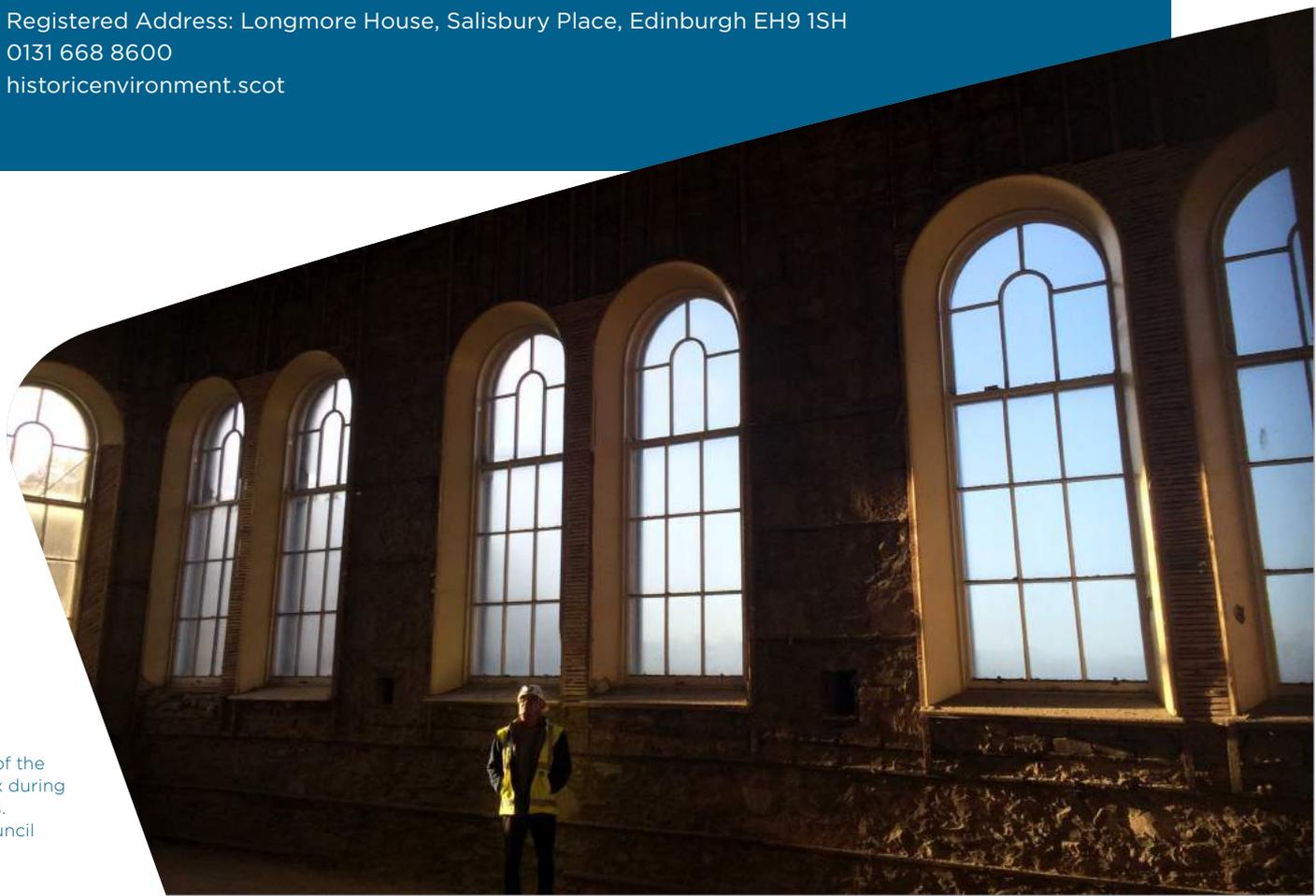
An important historic building in Forfar's town centre has now been secured for the future, with the added benefit of providing much-needed affordable homes. The project, with its focus on engagement, has helped build a new community and promoted town centre living with tenants who take pride in their homes.

**OGL**

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Internal view of the converted annex during the works.  
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