

ENGINE SHED

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SCOTLAND'S BUILDING CONSERVATION CENTRE

SLATER

ROOF

SLATES

SLATERS AXE



THE ENGINE SHED



What was the Engine Shed used for?

The stone building that is now the Engine Shed was once part of a large military base between the River Forth and the trainline in Stirling. It was built sometime around 1900 for sorting and moving military supplies around Scotland.

The Engine Shed opened in 2017 as Scotland's Building Conservation Centre. Two modern wings were added on either side of the original building for offices and laboratories, education and meeting spaces, and a shop and café. The original stone shed was restored using traditional materials and is now a public space with exhibitions, an auditorium, and activities.

What is the Engine Shed roof made from?

The roof is covered with slate, a type of stone that is waterproof and splits easily into thin layers. Slate can be cut into rectangular shapes by a slater with a special tool called a slater's axe. The slater cuts the slate to the correct size, and these are layered onto the roof and nailed securely in place. The slates are nailed onto wooden boards called sarking boards using copper nails.

Visiting the Engine Shed

The Engine Shed is run by Historic Environment Scotland, the lead public body set up to investigate, care for and protect promote Scotland's historic environment. We are passionate about our built heritage and have an extensive outreach and education programme to enthuse and engage people of all ages.

We hope you enjoy using this resource! If you have any feedback for us, please e-mail us at technicaleducation@hes.scot.