

Vernacular Architecture Group
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Call for Papers

Pioneers in vernacular architecture: examining the legacy of *English Vernacular Houses*, *Houses of the Welsh Countryside* and other early scholars.

College Court, University of Leicester – 4 and 5 January 2025

Next year will mark the 50th anniversary of the publication of two seminal works in vernacular architectural studies – Eric Mercer’s *English Vernacular Houses* and Peter Smith’s *Houses of the Welsh Countryside* which were both published in 1975. The first day of the conference will examine the context for the writing and publication of these two volumes, and the impact and legacy of their work. The second day will broaden out the discussion to include other scholars of the period, particularly those who were working beyond the academic or institutional mainstream, and move onto consider the implications of their research for the future of the study of vernacular architecture.

We welcome papers looking at the impact and legacy of the work of Mercer and Smith and/or the work of other, perhaps less well-known, scholars of the period. This might examine the context to their work, themes or ideas emerging from it or assess their impact and legacy on the study of vernacular architecture. Papers considering other geographical areas, beyond England and Wales, are welcome.

This conference will take place in person, but contributions from speakers presenting remotely may also be considered. Submissions are encouraged from academics, students, and non-academics alike. Free places are available for speakers. A small number of bursaries are also available for students or early-career professionals to enable their attendance at the conference.

Abstracts of no more than 250 words should be emailed to president@vag.org.uk by 31 August 2024.