

Knockando Wool Mill

Knockando

Morayshire

Listing: Category A

Date built: circa 1784

In the heart of Spey Valley amid the distilleries of the whisky trail lies an 'A' Listed woollen mill that has been working continuously for the past 200 years. The mill is overflowing with Dickensian machinery that can transform fleece into a finished blanket or length of tweed for the local gamekeepers. Knockando Wool Mill is of international importance as it is one of only a handful of integrated mills local mills of this type left in the whole of Europe.

It is still working today, thanks to Hugh Jones, who has spent the last 30 years learning the skills and keeping the complex machinery running. But the building that houses all these machines is falling down around his ears, the mill's roof is collapsing and the main beams are giving way.

Estimated funds required for restoration: £2.5 million

Proposed use post restoration: Working wool mill with visitor and training facilities. The plan is to use the original mill and extended site as a training and visitor centre, which keeps alive the traditional skills of weaving and crafting. A small newly built mill would provide income to sustain the site.

Hall of Clestrain
Orphir
Orkney

Listing: Category A
Date built: 1769/70

In a remote and beautiful part of Orkney is a splendid 'A' Listed Georgian mansion overlooking the Hills of Hoy and Scapa Flow.

Rich landowner Patrick Honeyman wanted a house that would reflect his wealth and status and he looked to the Georgian elegance of Edinburgh for the inspiration when building the Hall of Clestrain in 1769.

The Hall was once home to Arctic explorer John Rae, who found the last link of the legendary Northwest passage and discovered the fate of the Franklin expedition.

In the 19th century, three-quarters of the Hudson Bay Company's workforce were Orcadian and John Rae learnt his survival skills as a boy in the hills and waters around his home in Orphir.

Today the building is a tragic shell; but there are tantalising glimpses of its former splendour – a section of banister, a Georgian doorframe and the grand stone staircase.

Estimated funds required for restoration: £3 to 3.5 million

Proposed use post restoration: The Island's first boat museum. The house will be restored to its Georgian splendour, both internally and externally and the museum overlay (display cases, education room, research room etc) installed. A new building will be erected for the boats and road access provided.

SOUTH EAST

Archbishops Palace

Market Place

Charing

Kent

Listing: Grade 1 and Scheduled Ancient Monument

Date built: 12th Century (earliest elements built), 13th & 14th Centuries (majority of palace built)

A great medieval complex of buildings built to serve the second most powerful man in the land, the Archbishop of Canterbury. Constructed in the 'gothic' style with the earliest parts dating back to the 12th century, this was the 'must have' design choice for church buildings of the time. Henry VIII got his hands on the palace when he dissolved the monasteries, and later in 1629 it left royal ownership to become a simple farm.

This complex served as administrative offices as well as the place where the rich archbishop would throw lavish banquets to entertain VIPs. And the scale of entertainment was immense. For one visit lasting just 2 days, staff laid on hay for 80 horses, 428 loaves of bread, 15 gallons of wine and 160 gallons of beer. And this was just one of the seventeen palaces the Archbishop owned in Kent alone.

Estimated funds required for restoration:

Strawberry Hill
Waldegrave Road
Twickenham
Middlesex

Listing: Grade 1

Date built: between 1748 and 1766

A world famous house that changed the course of architectural history and which is listed by the World Monuments Fund as one of the one hundred most endangered sites. Located in the leafy London suburb of Twickenham, Strawberry Hill is the Gothic palace designed by Horace Walpole, the youngest son of Sir Robert Walpole, Britain's first prime minister.

In 1698, Strawberry Hill was a modest house but between 1747 and 1792 Horace Walpole, a high society and influential trendsetter, transformed it into a breathtaking Gothic fantasy.

It became the tourist attraction of the day with its pinnacles, stained glass windows, bookcases and fireplaces all based on designs from ancient tombs and cathedrals that had not been fashionable for hundreds of years. It was a stark contrast to the symmetrical Georgian Palladian mansions of the day.

Walpole's Strawberry Hill led to a Gothic revival in this country, which in turn led to great buildings such as the Houses of Parliament.

Estimated funds required for restoration: £5.5 million

Proposed use post restoration: The priority is to strengthen the fabric of this fragile Es

Severndroog Castle
Shooters Hill
Greenwich
London

Listing: Grade 2*

Date built: 1784

Standing 63ft tall on top of one of the highest points of south-east London and commanding spectacular views across the capital, this triangular and rare Georgian folly was erected as a

WALES

Cardigan Castle

Cardigan

West Wales

Listing: Grade 1/Grade 2*

Date Built: 1171

At the head of the River Teifi in Cardigan West Wales, once one of the busiest seaports in the

Workingman's Institute and Memorial Hall, Newbridge
Newbridge, Gwent
South Wales

Listing: Grade 2

Date Institute Built: 1908

Date Memorial Hall Built: 1924

One of the defining sights of Industrial Wales along with the pit head gear of its collieries are the Workingmen's Institutes and Memorial Halls. Back when South Wales had a huge coal industry to boast about and villages ordered their days by the sound of the shift change hooters, these buildings were at the centre of the communities they served.

Most were built after the introduction of the Miners Welfare Fund which was set up in 1920 but this Institute at Newbridge, built in 1908, was unusually paid for by the miners themselves. The group of miners boldly established their own welfare scheme and out of subs levied from their weekly wages, built a hall that provided educational, leisure and cultural amenities for times above ground. Placing much importance on education and self-improvement these halls contained libraries and reading rooms as well as areas for social interaction such as billiard rooms and social clubs. Interestingly, alcohol was never an option in the early days with provisions only for soft drinks.

In 1924 when the cinema was becoming a popular form of entertainment, the Newbridge miners took out a further mortgage and built the Memorial Hall. It contained a beautiful art deco cinema, wonderful theatre and well used dancehall with the "finest sprung floor in the Valleys." The buildings were then the heart of the community with people coming from all over to attend the dances and various events.

Estimated funds required for restoration: £2.94 million

Proposed use post restoration: Both buildings will be restored to provide new and much needed community spaces for the people of Newbridge. The Memorial Hall will house the restored cinema; theatre and dancehall for community events, screenings and dances etc. The Institute will provide space for other local events such as being a rehearsal space for the local colliery brass bands, ladies choir, local bands and amateur dramatic groups etc. There are also plans to use the space to tell the history of Newbridge mining and the buildings.

Llanfyllin Union Workhouse
Powys
Mid Wales

SOUTH WEST

Castle House

Bridgwater

Somerset

Listing: Grade 2*

Date built: 1851

For the past century some of the world's most challenging and controversial buildings have been made from concrete. It changed the way architects work, it made almost anything possible. Although concrete has been around since Ancient Egypt, it wasn't until 1824 that the concrete revolution really began in Britain when Portland Cement was patented and one man, John Board, a successful brick maker in Bridgwater, Somerset, saw the opportunities it could provide.

In 1851 the inhabitants of his home town were in for a surprise. He was one of the first people to use concrete in a domestic setting when he built Castle House. A rare surviving example, this visionary dwelling was a showcase for his pioneering pre-cast and reinforced concrete products. Concrete was used in virtually every aspect of construction, including moulded skirting boards, staircases, balustrades, mock beams, window mullions and gargoyles.

Estimated funds required for restoration: £1 million

Proposed use post restoration: Complete repair and refurbishment of Castle House for use

South Caradon Mine
Near Liskeard
Cornwall

Listing: Scheduled Ancient Monument
Date built: 1836

Shaped by its industrial history, Cornwall's last mine shut only six years ago. All that now remains are the monolithic mine buildings, which are a testament to the county's past.

One of the largest and longest running copper mines in Cornwall was at South Caradon and it has remained virtually untouched since its closure in 1890. It stretched over nearly two square miles, underground tunnels extended for 38 miles and 4 miles of tramways crossed the hillsides bringing coal to the 6 engine houses and taking away thousands of tonnes of extracted ore.

The discovery of rich copper deposits in the South Caradon area in the early decades of the 19th century triggered an extraordinary burst of industrial activity that utterly transformed the appearance and economy of this area with up to 800 men, women and children working at South Caradon alone. But for the miner working underground there was a high price to pay

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MIDLANDS

Old Grammar School & Saracens Head

The Green

Kings Norton

Birmingham

Listing: Grade II*

Date built: c. 15th century

Kings Norton is a large multicultural district to the south of Birmingham with more than its fair share of tower blocks. Within the heart of the borough however, is an oasis of village life – ‘the Green’.

A number of buildings of historic interest surround the Green, in particular the Old Grammar School and the former Saracen's Head public house.

The 15th century timber-framed ‘Old Grammar School’ produced one of the Midland’s greatest teachers, a Puritan Mr Chips – the Rev Thomas Hall. He arrived in 1628 at the age of 19 and his time spanned one of the most dramatic periods in British history – the Civil War and later Restoration. He transformed an early ‘failing school’ to one that was famed throughout the land. His legacy to Birmingham also included one of the largest library collections in England and he even gave his life to the area. He was expelled following the Restoration. It broke his heart and he died a pauper.

The Saracen's Head is next door to the church is now the Parish Office and meeting room. It is said that up to the civil war, Kings Norton was predominantly Royalist and Queen Henrietta Maria, wife of Charles, came to the area leading a replacement army. The Queen is said to have slept in the Saracen’s. Following the visit, a room in the Saracen's Head became the ‘Queen's Room’.

Estimated funds required for restoration: £2 million

Proposed use post restoration: Both buildings will be restored. The Old Grammar School will be used as a learning centre for local schools and visitors to learn about the history of Kings Norton and education in the past. The Saracens Head will be used as a community space, parish offices and provide facilities for the school. It is also hoped it will hold an oral history archive for Kings Norton.

Newstead Abbey
Ravenshead
Nottinghamshire

Listing: Grade I
Date built: c.1165

Newstead Abbey, best known as the ancestral home of the poet Lord Byron, was originally an Augustinian priory founded by Henry II in about 1165. A small religious community existed there until Henry VIII dissolved the monastery in 1539. In the following year, Henry granted Newstead to the poet's ancestor, Sir John Byron, who converted the priory into a house for his family.

Sir John Byron and his successors kept much of the monastic structure and layout so that, to this day, the house retains its medieval character. The most famous survival is the west front of the church, which dates from the late 13th century, with its statue of St Mary, to whom the priory was dedicated.

Since then, the West Front, with its exquisite carvings of birds, animals and foliage, crowned by a statue of the Virgin, has come to be a powerful visual symbol of Newstead, and an internationally significant icon of the Romantic movement, uniquely important because of its strong associations with Byron's life and work. The poet dedicated a number of works to the ruin and featured it as 'Norman Abbey' in his magnum opus, *Don Juan*.

Estimated funds required for restoration: £1.1 million

Proposed use post restoration: The severe decay affecting the West Front of the Old Priory Church will be arrested and after a period of conservation health and safety barriers surrounding the site will be taken down. The West Front will then become the focal point of an international tourist attraction.

Bawdsey Transmitter Block
Bawdsey Manor
Bawdsey
Suffolk

Listing: Grade II*

Date built: Between 1937 and 1939

The T-Block is an overgrown and rather mysterious concrete building, found on the windswept grounds of an ostentatious Suffolk coastal mansion. Thirteen WW2 pillboxes encircle the site and at one time the surrounding land was heavily mined. Why? Because at the start of the last war this was one of the most important buildings in England and pivotal to our victory in the Battle of Britain. It is the world's first radar station.

In 1936, the RAF bought Bawdsey Manor, an isolated Victorian pile on a particularly desolate part of the Suffolk Coast. In it they housed a remarkable group of boffins, including the physics genius Professor Robert Watson-Watt. Their task was to develop the nascent radio direction finding technology into an operational device that could detect approaching enemy aircraft from a great distance. Their invention – Radar – could do just that and Bawdsey became the first of a chain of Radar stations that surrounded the south-east of England. They located the enemy and directed our spitfires and hurricanes to the Luftwaffe formations before they reached the coast.

The work carried out here was so secret that the public only found out about it after the war. Even today, the story of Bawdsey, its Radar and the women who operated it is little known, despite it being of equal importance to the code-breakers of Bletchley Park.

Estimated funds required for restoration: £750,000

Proposed use post restoration: The Transmitter Block will be restored and made safe for the public. It will become a visitor centre telling the story of the pivotal role played by Bawdsey and radar in winning the Battle of Britain and how the development of radar there changed the world.

Gayle Mill

NORTHERN IRELAND

Armagh Gaol

Armagh

Listing: B+

Date built: Between 1780 and 1852

Armagh Gaol is Northern Ireland's oldest prison. It was built between 1780 and 1852 and was closed 18 years ago in 1986. The prison buildings span the history of incarceration in Ireland from the mid 18th century to the late 20th century.

In 1765 the Archbishop of the Church of Ireland was appointed to Armagh and set about improving the city with buildings designed by Northern Ireland's finest architects of the time – Francis Cooley and William Murray. Buildings such as the palace, library, courthouse and gaol turned Armagh into a fine Georgian town.

At one time, the prison was described as 'one of the most advanced houses of detention in the kingdom'. However, in the mid-1800s overcrowding became a problem with up to 10 prisoners sharing a cell. In 1920, the gaol was used for women and by the 1950s it housed no more than 12 female prisoners at a time mostly on charges of drunkenness, stealing and prostitution.

Finally, with onset of political unrest, Armagh Gaol became a place for holding female political prisoners. In 1986 the prison has outgrown its usefulness and was emptied of staff and inmates.

Estimated funds required for restoration: £3 million

Proposed use post restoration: The proposed end use for Armagh Gaol is to create, within the original 18C wing, a gaol museum to highlight the history of the prison. In addition this fully restored original wing will house the Armagh Tourist Information Office, which will establish the gaol as the natural first port of call on the tourist trail. There would also be (restricted) guided tours of the Victorian cell blocks.

Lock-Keeper's House
Newforge
Belfast

Listing: B1

Date built: Between 1827 and 1934

Built between 1827 and 1834, this now derelict cottage is the last remaining one in public ownership on the famous Lagan Navigation canal network. The cottage played a vital role in a water transport system, which served Northern Ireland.

The Lagan Navigation opened in 1763 and boosted industrial development and in particular, the economy of Lisburn. The chief cargos from Belfast were imported coal for the industries of the Lagan Valley which was mainly linen.

This simple, vernacular 2-storey house with 4 rooms is testimony to a way of life that is almost forgotten. The last lock-keeper took up his position in 1922 and he and his wife raised their family of 10 within these cottage's modest walls. All cooking was done on an open fire and the place for washing was outside. Water had to be fetched from a nearby farm.

In 1954 the Lagan Navigation Company was dissolved, it could not compete with modern transport. The lock-keeper bought the cottage and stayed there until his death willing it to one of his daughters who in turn sold it to the council so that it would stay in public hands.

Estimated funds required for restoration: £250,000

Proposed use post restoration: The proposed end use for the Lock-keeper's house is to create an interpretative exhibition within the fully restored cottage. The exhibition would preserve the industrial heritage of the Lagan Navigation and tell the story of the canal folk who worked it, including the last lock-keeper to live in the tiny cottage, George Kilpatrick and his 10 children. This would cost approx £250,000.

Playhouse Arts Centre
Derry
Londonderry

Listing: B1

Date Built: Between 1887 and 1911

Set on one of the oldest sites in Derry, nestled against the city walls, the Playhouse is situated in the former St Mary and St Joseph's school buildings, part of a complex originally owned by the Sister's of Mercy.