



THE ARCHITECTURAL
HERITAGE FUND

CASE STUDY

The Architectural Heritage Fund has helped Building Preservation Trusts and other charities regenerate historic buildings, create community and education facilities, workspace and homes for nearly 30 years. We have provided grants, loans and advice on more than 750 projects to date. This is one of many examples.

North Lees Hall, Hathersage, Derbyshire

North Lees Hall is set amidst some of the most spectacular scenery of the Peak National Park. It has attracted many writers including Charlotte Brontë who immortalised it in the novel *Jane Eyre* as “Thornfield Hall”, home of Mr Rochester. The Hall was built in the early 1590s for William Jessop to a design attributed to Robert Smythson, the architect of Hardwick Hall. Built of coursed rubble gritstone, it comprises a four-storey Elizabethan tower, a lower two-storey wing to the east and, at the rear, a series of small farmyard structures. On the south side of the tower are three large rooms, one above the other. The ground and first floor rooms have richly ornamented plasterwork and at the junction of the Elizabethan and east wings a stair tower rises a storey higher and is crowned by a parapet with semi-circular battlements around the whole building.



In 1971 the estate was passed on to the Peak National Park. Although restored in the 1960s much still needed to be done when the Vivat Trust took on the lease in 1988. The first priority was to undertake essential work so that it could be let as holiday accommodation, but further deterioration has now forced it to address deferred problems. This phase of works has entailed replacement of the main and stair tower roofs, including the installation of a glazed cupola, together with the renewal and repair of all rainwater goods and repairs to the historic newel stair. Work was delayed for several weeks due to adverse weather, and the temporary roof was blown away on no less than three occasions, but the work needed to be carried out outside the main holiday season.

The AHF has supported many of the Vivat Trust's projects, and was able to provide a range of assistance to assist this refurbishment. Details of other holiday letting accommodation can be found on www.vivat.org.uk.

<p>Organisation: The Vivat Trust Listed Grade II*; Peak District National Park Conservation Area Architectural Heritage Fund assistance: £35,000 loan in 1991 £15,000 Refundable Project Development Grant in 2002 £4,000 Project Administration Grant in 2003 £13,000 Project Organiser Grant in 2002</p>

Please contact us if you require further information.

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