



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.

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### Sker House, Kenfig, Porthcawl, Bridgend

Noted as one of the major Elizabethan houses of South Wales Sker House was originally one of five medieval farms built by the monks of Neath Abbey, who established a grange there between 1173 and 1178. Substantial areas of medieval masonry in its walls suggest Sker House began as one of the grange's structures but was later remodelled after the Dissolution of the Monasteries by its new owners, the Turbervills. The property is built of local sandstone rubble with ashlar detailing and slate roofs. The mid 16<sup>th</sup> century remodelling provided a grand first floor hall with a dais at the northern end, two three-storey wings on the eastern front and several tall stone chimney stacks. Sker House was intact until the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century but by the time the last tenants left in 1973 the south-west wing had collapsed and the whole building was sorely in need of repair.



Before restoration



Completed project

Before work could start, the Buildings At Risk Trust had to tackle the complex ownership of the house and the relocation of the working farm that surrounded it. Restoration eventually started in 1999 but suffered from serious delays when the previous contractor went into receivership. The official opening ceremony took place in September 2003 and a buyer for the house was found shortly afterwards. The new owner is required to open Sker House to the public by appointment for a maximum of 28 days a year for a period of 10 years. The trust has a country-wide remit and has tackled several challenging projects in the past. The AHF assistance helped to overcome the considerable difficulties faced as the restoration progressed over several years.

**Organisation:** Buildings At Risk Trust  
**Listed Grade I**  
**Architectural Heritage Fund assistance:** Loan: £252,000 in 1999  
£203,000 Supplemental Loan in 2002  
£105,000 Refundable Working Capital Grant in 2002

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Please contact us if you require further information.

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