

Case Study

Salisbury Guildhall



Craftsmen in the
Conservation of
Historic Buildings

A programme of internal redecoration and later a programme of roof repairs and M&E installations to this Grade II civic building.



Salisbury Guildhall is a Grade II listed building managed by Salisbury Town Council. The brick and limestone building dates from 1794 with moulded features around the doors and windows and impressive porticos added between 1828 and 1889. Between Summer 2010 and Spring 2011 Ellis and Co completed a programme of internal reordering. In June 2016 we returned to take on an eight month programme of major repairs to the slate and lead roofs.

During the recent roof work, special photographic hording was commissioned to give a 'business as usual' feel to the building and the works were completed under cover. Two king post trussed roofs with slate coverings sit to the east and west with an expansive flat lead roof in central area over the main entrance. Leadwork was replaced including moulded details, access hatches and steps. We repaired and reglazed the two lantern rooflights. The slate roof was retiled using original slate where possible.



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Uncovering the roofs provided an opportunity to learn more about the construction of this historic building and SKF consulting were appointed review the building phases and inform the further repair work. Throughout the work samples of the materials used were approved by the Rodney Melville and Partners Chartered Architects.



Before and after slating, leadwork and glazing repairs

Brick supports for the bearings of the king post trusses were cleaned and consolidated. Ten common rafters that had dropped over the banqueting room were raised and secured. Common joists over the main entrance and decayed rafters on the north end of the roof were supplemented with new treated timber supports. During the works we installed protection to the ceiling of the Banqueting Hall to conserve any loose plasterwork from the original ceiling.

Asbestos roof slates were removed. We installed walkways in the ceiling voids, laid new lead on the roofs including detailed lead steps to the access hatch and introduced fall arrest, lightening conduction and bird management systems. We appointed subcontractors to install PV solar panels and an air conditioning system to manage humidity in the building. Our joiners repaired and redecorated the decayed rooflights, window cills and sashes and we redecorated the vaulted section of ceiling in the crown court.



An earlier phase of work between 2010 and 2011 saw internal repairs and refurbishment to provide new office accommodation, refurbished kitchen, toilets and M&E including heating and lighting. New flooring and carpets were laid throughout.



The entrance hall before (left) and after (right) conservation of the stair rails, redecoration and re-flooring and carpeting. Ironmongery was repaired throughout and a new steel staircase installed in the reordering of offices



New office space was created and the building was redecorated throughout including the Banqueting room before and after shown above.



The new office layout included installation of a steel framed staircase (left). Flooring was installed, walls repaired replastered and repainted throughout. The venue now provides a base for the council staff and council meetings and a fabulous venue for weddings and functions.