

Case Study

Halsway Manor, National Centre for Folk Arts, Crowcombe

HLF funded programme of repairs and redecoration.



This Grade II listed manor house, features in the Domesday book and is home to the National Centre for Folk Arts - a residential centre concentrating on the folk heritage of England. Ellis and Co were appointed principle contractor to repair and conserve the manor's historic fabric, including repairing the roofs, windows and doors, upgrading the dated electrical and water systems, and redecorating. The red sandstone façade retains some Tudor detailing. The interior is elegantly decorated with original detailing alongside 1920s and modern additions. The repair work was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), Country Houses Association and public donation.



Externally we re-slatted the roof and repaired the chimneys and cast iron rainwater goods. Ladder brackets were installed for future access. Masonry repairs were undertaken including the removal of cement fills, repair of stone surrounds and stitching repairs. Doors and windows were repaired and redecorated. Glazing repairs were undertaken on broken panes.

Internally drainage works were necessary to re-route ground water flowing under the basements. New heating, lighting and fire alarms were installed.

Internal decoration to the rooms including replastering and repainting. A new internal fire door was created in the Ellis and Co workshops. A small amount of asbestos found on site was removed by a specialist subcontractor.

Repairs, conservation and upgrading of services were carried out under instruction from Jonathan Rhind Architects. The works took place between April 2018 and September 2018. The contract value was £304k funded by the HLF, the Historic Houses Association and public donation.

“This project will ensure the manor and its library collection will be available for future generations to enjoy, providing opportunities for countless people to learn about our diverse folk heritage.” Crispian Cook, CEO.



*Top Row: Chimney repair inspection, cast iron rainwater goods, detail of carved masonry.
Mid row: Halsway façade after, window repaired, boiler room prepared for installation.
Bottom row: Ballroom before decoration, after decoration, and the bar after refurbishment.*