

DETAILS OF BUILDINGS

SCOTLAND

Portencross Castle

Portencross

Ayrshire

Listing: Category A

Date built: 14th Century

In the 14th Century the Clyde estuary was the M6 into the heart of Scotland. To protect this crucial waterway, two castles were constructed at its mouth (legend has it that they were constructed by two giants). Portencross Castle became an important site for Robert Stewart, who ruled this part of the Western Isles. On the unexpected death of his uncle, King David II in 1371, Robert Stewart, grandson of Robert the Bruce became King Robert II of Scotland and the first Stewart King (the longest lasting Royal lineage culminating with King Charles I & II).

Today this historic castle is about to collapse. The imposing barrel vaulted ceiling of the Great Hall is incredibly vulnerable; the mortar has all seeped out and if just one of the key centre stones falls, the whole ceiling will collapse.

Estimated funds required for restoration: £820,000

Proposed use post restoration: The castle would be opened for public use.

The Cap House (attic) would be rebuilt from scratch - the solid floors on the ground and first floor will be re-flagstoned. The cellar would be turned into a public interpretation of the castle and the interior of the castle will be open to the public for the first time.

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. A room will be dedicated to John Rae and another space for 40 of Orkney's most historic boats.

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: £3 million

Proposed use post restoration: The plan following restoration is to open the Palace complex to the public. Provisions will be made for the Parish Council to take up residence in one of the outbuildings and the Great Hall will be used for a variety of uses including a music venue, a restaurant and would also be made available for parish meetings.

The total cost needed for full restoration is £5.7million, however for approximately £3 million from *Restoration* they will be able to do the main conservation work. This would stop the North face of the Great Hall from falling down, rebuild the West range and get the whole complex ready to be converted to its end use.

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 building. Key rooms which have been neglected for many years would be restored. These include: the Great North Bedchamber, the Blue Bedchamber, Walpole's Entrance Hall and The Long Gallery.

The goal for Strawberry Hill is to properly open the house to the public as the attraction it deserves to be. A major educational programme and museum will be based at the house that will chart Walpole's achievements, collections and his legacy.

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 token of love. Built in 1784, Severndroog Castle is a dedication of a grieving widow to her dead, swashbuckling husband. It is a lasting reminder of the daring rags to riches tale of a courageous seafarer, Sir William James.

Sir William started life as the humble son of a Welsh miller. Aged 12, he went to sea as a deckhand and at 18, he was in command of his own ship. In the employ of the East India Company, he became commodore and command in chief of the company's fleet protecting their ships from pirates. His most famous battle was at Severndroog, just off the Bombay coast, where he defeated the pirates.

He returned home to a hero's welcome and settled down to married life. But tragedy was to strike. At the age of 57, he died suddenly from a stroke in the middle of his only daughter's wedding festivities. Severndroog Castle is his lasting memorial.

Estimated funds required for restoration: £700,000

Proposed use post restoration: Upon winning *Restoration* the aim is to re-open the public viewing gallery at the top of the castle, allowing people to once again enjoy one of the greatest views of London and its surrounding counties. Plans for an end use for the rest of the building are still under discussion.

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 UK, lies the ancient ruins of a castle that claims to be one of the most heavily besieged in Wales, it has been abandoned, destroyed and rebuilt at various times during its colourful life.

Now in a dilapidated state, Cardigan Castle, the first Welsh-built stone castle, was the site of frequent battles between Welsh princes and ambitious Norman invaders, Henry VII stayed there during his march to Bosworth in 1485. He then gifted the castle to Catherine of Aragon as a dowry when she married his son. And in 1645 during the English Civil War it was attacked again by Cromwell's soldiers and fell once more.

It is also the birthplace of Europe's largest cultural festival. The castle was once the stronghold of Wales' most prominent rulers, Rhys ap Gruffydd (Lord Rhys), and he established the National Eisteddfod in 1176 when he held a huge medieval house-warming party.

In 1808, an impressive Georgian mansion was built on the site incorporating one of the medieval castle towers into its structure. It was sold in the 1940s to its last private owner but is now it was in public hands with the council purchasing the site in April 2003.

The council and campaigners have high hopes that once restored, with grand Georgian house and regency gardens intact within a medieval walled site, that it will attract high numbers of tourists and will help Cardigan become the same lively and vibrant town it once was.

Estimated funds required for restoration: £3.5 million

Proposed use post restoration: Interpretation centre/exhibition space for Wales' National Eisteddfod within the house and performance space for concerts and events in the grounds/gardens. They want to restore the hanging gardens in the grounds and draw tourists back to Cardigan. Plans also to make use of the outbuildings by turning into commercial outlets and/or holiday accommodation.

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

Listing: Grade 2

Date Built: 1838

Back in the 1830s, a grim fate awaited those who fell on hard times. “Abandon hope, all ye who enter here” was one of the slogans attached to the newly introduced workhouses. Llanfyllin Workhouse is an early example of a building that was created as part of a government drive to reduce the tax burden needed to look after society’s poor. And society in Wales at that time was changing from rural and agricultural to industrial, the population was increasing and poverty was rife.

A board of guardians was responsible for running the workhouse and a “master” put in place to look after the “inmates”. Each was run to a different degree of severity. Rules were strict, “inmates” dealt with harshly and there was strict segregation of men, women and children. It was difficult for people to leave the workhouse once they had entered.

Built by well-known local architect Thomas Penson, the Llanfyllin Workhouse is impressive architecturally and one of the few remaining examples of its type. The interior courtyards were built roughly from local stone but an outwardly grand façade was built on to the front.

Estimated funds required for restoration: £3.5 million

Proposed use post restoration: The building is large enough to offer a number of options for the community. It could be used as a craft and antique centre with up to 200 individual units for local craft workers and artists. There are also plans to house a museum within space telling the history of the community, the building and the workhouse system. It could incorporate a large hall for concerts, community events, performance and exhibition space, trade fairs etc. A tourist information centre and restaurant facilities also could be housed within the building.

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 as three residential flats owned by local housing association SHAL.

Sherborne House
Sherborne
Dorset

Listing: Grade 1*
Date built: 1720

Boasting guests such as Charles Dickens who gave his second public reading of A Christmas Carol at this house and with a magnificent Baroque stairwell mural painted by Sir James Thornhill, whose other works include the Dome of St. Paul's Cathedral in London, this grand Palladian town residence was built in 1720 to impress the young twenty-three-year-old wife of octogenarian landowner, Henry Seymour Portman.

It was designed to be a 'halfway house' between his two estates and no expense was spared.

By the mid 19th century, the house was the country retreat of Charles William Macready, a renowned Shakespearian actor, and it wasn't long before the house was at the centre of Sherborne's cultural life.

Most recently the building has been home to Lord Digby's School for girls closed in 1992.

Estimated funds required for restoration: £3 million

Proposed use post restoration: Although overall costs of completely restoring Sherborne House total £4 million; £3 million would carry out repairs on the house, conserve the Thornhill mural & restore the house to allow full public access to a new regional arts centre.

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 – they'd be very lucky to reach the age of 40.

Estimated funds required for restoration: £1.2 million

Proposed use post restoration: Consolidation of ruins to enable the stabilisation of all upstanding buildings, the survey of all mine shafts as well as public footpaths & cycle tracks to be put in place across the site.

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.

NORTH

Manor Lodge

**115 Manor Lane
Sheffield S2 1UH
South Yorkshire**

Listing: Grade 2*

Date built: 1574

It was in this 16th century country house that Elizabeth 1 entrusted her loyal servant the Earl of Shrewsbury and his wife Bess (later of Hardwick) with the task of imprisoning Mary Queen of Scots. No dungeons for Mary, she arrived with over 50 servants and the Earl and Bess ended up looking after her for 14 years, ruining their marriage and making a serious dent in their fortune. Sheffield Manor Lodge was, in its day, one of the most important residences in England. Now four centuries on, it finds itself surrounded by an inner city housing estate.

Today the Manor Lodge is largely a ruin, but the remains of a long gallery, an exquisite chimney with accompanying fireplaces used as guest accommodation, and vast cellars for food and wine can all still clearly be seen. Most outstanding though is the Turret House, built as a gatehouse and hunting tower. Constructed during Mary's "imprisonment" it has a turret built in the French style, believed to be from Mary's influence, having spent her childhood in France. Also a banqueting room with decorative plaster ceiling designed by Bess and Mary with emblems containing hidden secrets.

Estimated funds required for restoration: £3.7m

Proposed use post restoration: Manor Lodge needs a total of £10.8m to realise its plans for restoration and development of the wider site. However it's the £3.7m that is needed for the Scheduled Ancient Monument (ruins) and Grade II* listed Turret House which is the focus for *Restoration*.

Manor Lodge will be open to the public with regular guided tours and will tell the history of Sheffield through the 8 centuries of Manor Lodge's own history. The money would go towards the restoration of the Turret House, making the ruins more accessible to the public and interpretation of the ruins. A new entrance and visitor's centre is planned, and most dramatically they are planning to build an upper level walkway along the remains of the 'Long Gallery' giving the visitor the chance to look towards Sheffield as the Elizabethans did.

Gayle Mill
Gayle Mill
Gayle
North Yorkshire
DL8 3SD

Listing: Grade 2*
Date built: 1784

Gayle Mill is a C18th water powered cotton mill and is located in the charming village of Gayle in the Yorkshire Dales. It was built in 1776 at the dawn of the industrial revolution by landowner Oswald Routh who wanted to capitalise on the vast fortunes being made in the cotton industry. Powered by a water wheel from the local beck (river) the mill has a sophisticated system of aqueducts and millpond that are still in place. During the early C19th the mill was converted to a woollen mill selling thread to village knitters who had a reputation at the time for producing fine quality socks for soldiers fighting in the Napoleonic wars.

In 1878 the mill's water wheel was removed and replaced by the revolutionary Thompson Water Turbine. At the vanguard of technological innovation in its day, every modern turbine including nuclear ones are descendents of the Thompson. Gayle mill's is the last one remaining in its original location. In 1890 a Gilkes Turbine was installed to generate electricity for the mill and village, again putting the mill at the forefront of technology - the village was not put on the national grid until 1948. In latter years it operated as a sawmill providing cradle to grave wooden fittings for the local community, and has been left untouched since its closure in 1988.

Estimated funds required for restoration: £250,000

Proposed use post restoration: The funds raised would be used to restore the water power system, the historic turbines and all the building work associated with them, thereby bringing the mill back to working order. Once the mill is in working order, they plan to provide training in timberwork and training in forest management as part of an accredited course. They will also make timber products to be sold to the local park authorities in the Yorkshire Dales. Gayle Mill will also be run as a visitor attraction with demonstrations of the Victorian machinery, still in situ in the mill. There is a possibility that the power generated from Gayle Mill could once more provide power to the village.

Lion Salt Works
Ollershaw Lane
Marston, Northwich
Cheshire

Listing: Scheduled Ancient Monument

Date built: 1894-1958 (built in stages)

This unique relic is a monument to an industry which gave the northwest its economic life-blood and was a direct descendant of the massive chemical industry, such as ICI, prevalent in the area today.

It's the Lion Salt Works – the last remaining pan salt works in Britain using traditional technique; unchanged since the Romans used this method 2000 years ago. The Works is one of only 3 left in the western world. Its buildings are characterised by attractive timber framed structures - constructed to counter the effects of salt mining subsidence in the area.

Located beside the Trent and Mersey canal the Works exported salt throughout the British Empire, often leading to claims of exploitation and oppression from the colonies, most famously illustrated by Mahatma Gandhi's 1930's salt marches.

Five generations of the Thompson family ran the business from the 19th century to its closure just under twenty years ago in 1986.

Estimated funds required for restoration: £3 million

Proposed use post restoration: The Lion Salt Works are working on a two-phase plan. The £3 million (2/3 of the total money required) they are hoping for from *Restoration* would pay for the restoration of the historical aspects of the site including all the buildings and would include the adaptation of parts of the site for retail ventures. The final 1/3 (£1.5 million) would fund the restoration of the original salt pan process, bringing the site up to current food production health and safety standards and creating new jobs.

The site will be restored as a working museum open to the public that will illustrate the salt industry and its processes. Other buildings will house a restaurant, café and shop. The site will also house a working salt pan which will both demonstrate the process and create a marketable product.

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.

The building stands above just about all other buildings in the city walls and tells the story of the first convent to be set up in Northern Ireland after the reformation. It also bears witness to the work of the nuns that ran it and the important role they played for many years in Derry's Catholic education.

The sisters were established with the aim of going out to help the poor and the sick. This was a shift from previous practice of convents keeping themselves isolated from the community. In 1847 the site was gifted to the sisters who set up and ran a private boarding school for girls the funds from which financed free schools for the poor.

Schooling on the site came to an end in 1981. Eleven years later, in 1992, the playhouse was established and has grown into one of Northern Ireland's most diverse and busiest arts centre with strong community support. The playhouse is committed to cross community work and provides a radical and neutral space for learning and entertainment through the arts. It also houses the Lillyput Theatre Company, the first special needs theatre group in Northern Ireland.

Estimated funds required for restoration: £2.2 million

Proposed use post restoration: The proposed end use for the Playhouse is its continuation as a thriving Arts Centre. Although currently being well used, the buildings are deteriorating at an alarming rate and will inevitably become unsafe as they have had a hundred years of wear and tear with little or no up keep. The project will include fully restoring the buildings from heating and plumbing and making the roof secure once more, to creating a state of the art dance studio and refurbishing the theatre.