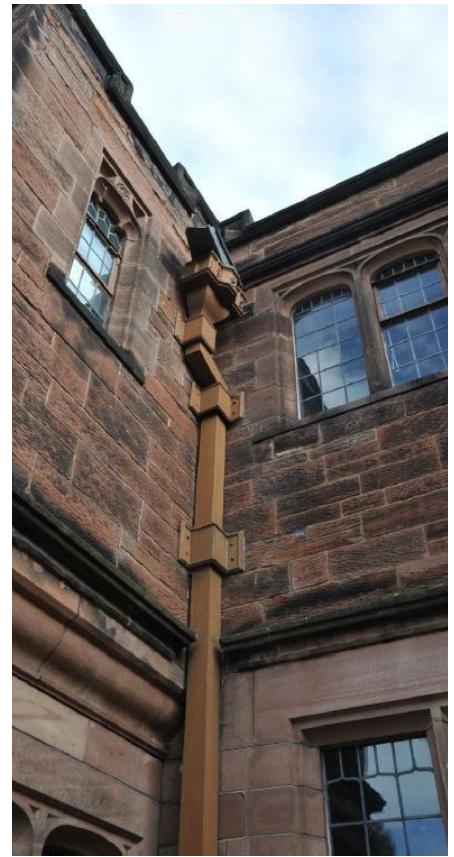




CASE STUDY: **CONSERVATION**
GLADSTONE LIBRARY, HAWARDEN



Conservation and Restoration

The deteriorating roof, subsiding porch and east wing gable require urgent work to keep the library open. This needs to be done with the utmost care not to disturb any existing features of the Grade I Listed library. A photographic survey has been carried out of the internal ceilings that could be affected by the renovation of the roof. The porch and cellar will be recorded with a level 2 survey by a registered archaeologist. Any materials that can be salvaged when a portion of the roof is removed will be reused when the building is restated.

A drone survey of the roof allowed a comprehensive review of the condition of the roof and the scope of work needed in repair. This was a safer and less destructive way of inspecting the building without having to climb onto otherwise fragile elements of the building.

Sustainability Overview

- Opportunity to add insulation and higher-graded windows to improve energy retention.
- Reuse and recycling of building materials.
- Use of local skilled tradesmen, with traditional skills.
- Directly and positively aiding the local community to ensure the future sustainability of the Library.



CASE STUDY: CONSERVATION

GLADSTONE LIBRARY, HAWARDEN

Name of Building

Gladstone Library, Hawarden

Planning Approved

???

Project Cost

£750,000

Building Type

Research Library

Location

Hawarden, Flintshire

Client

Gladstone's Library

Building Overview

Gladstone's Library is a Grade I Listed building in Hawarden, Flintshire. Founded by the 19th Century Prime Minister William Gladstone it is the UK's finest residential research library. This scheme is to help renovate the roof and stabilise the porch and the gable of the east wing. Built between 1899 and 1906 the library also includes residential accommodation allowing researchers to stay while studying the vast collection of books.

Designed by John Douglas and set back from the road in its walled garden the library is a major asset to Hawarden's Conservation Area and is of historical, social and architectural interest. The library draws in scholars from around the world to study thousands of books including Gladstone's private collection.

The proposed roof renovation will focus on the areas of worst condition and replace like for like and reuse as much material as possible. The drains below the porch and the east wing gable have deteriorated over time causing the structure to settle and create cracks along the mortar. The foundations and ground around the affected areas will be underpinned using ground injection stabilization provided by Geobear. The work proposed for the roof is an opportunity to improve the building's fabric by adding insulation where possible and upgrading the roof lights and deteriorated windows to higher-quality conservation versions. Some newer additions and repairs will be replaced with better conservation versions such as the plastic down pipes for cast iron versions and lead roofs instead of asphalt. Both the stabilization and roof repair are vital work to keep the library open to the public and provide a comfortable place to stay for the residents.

AGA also carried out a quinquennial survey of the library to scope out the existing conditions of the historic building and spot any work that is needed to keep the library open for many years to come. Drones were used to survey the roof and other hard-to-reach elements.

In Autumn 2021, AGA helped the library reopen its doors to the public by making internal changes such as creating more on-suite bathrooms, more public toilets and removing a step from the main corridor, safe in the knowledge that the Grade I Listed building could support their residents with better and more hygienic facilities..

