



After utter devastation – Quadruga begins restoration at Carleton Hall, Holmrook, Cumbria.

In June 2008 a blaze ripped through the 200-year-old north wing extension of Carleton Hall, which is a Grade 11 Listed Building constructed in the 17th century. A large section of the building is now uninhabitable and it is estimated that due to the damage encountered, it will take in the region of 7 months to restore. Luckily the south wing was not severely affected by the fire, and despite considerable smoke damage, the owners Mr and Mrs Fisher have been occupying this area.

On the blaze Mr Fisher commented "We will be looking to restore the damaged section as best we can; we think the fire started in the library due to a faulty electrical appliance and because of all the large amount of books in that area, this allowed the fire to spread quickly".

RESTORATION AND CLEANING

Quadruga will commence the works by reinstating the roof structure which was completely destroyed by the fire.

In order to do so the internal floors will be reinstated to assist in providing a suitable internal working platform, from which the scaffold can be built off.

At the same time we will be constructing the new oak king post truss in a temporary tented workshop within the grounds of the building. Once the truss has been fabricated, the existing system scaffold and sheeting, presently in place to protect the building, will be removed. Independent scaffolding will then be erected to the perimeter of the north wing and a crane will be brought to site to lift the truss into place. The crane will then be utilised to lift and position the other oak roof components, such as the purlin's, brace's and rafter's all of which are extremely heavy when compared to today's more modern equivalents.

The roof structure will then be covered in Westmorland slate, which is the original material used on this roof and the remainder of the building. The cast iron rainwater disposal system which escaped relatively undamaged will also be repaired at this point.

The render to the external walls and chimneys, will be removed and various structural repairs undertaken, prior to being replaced in traditional materials. The sash windows to ground and first floor levels will also be replaced at this time.

Whilst this work is being completed, the task will begin of cleaning the building to better establish the full extent of the repairs required to the timbers, ornate plaster work, and marble fireplaces to the main house. The main house and north wing will then be totally rewired and the central heating system replaced and adapted to suit the period cast iron feature radiators, some of which will be replaced due to the damage suffered during the fire.

The plasterwork, the majority of which is particularly intricate will then be subject to a programme of complete restoration. All damaged timber and marble work will also be fully and sympathetically repaired/ restored, retaining as much as possible of the original materials as possible. Unfortunately some items, particularly doors, surrounds and window linings were completely destroyed and we are therefore producing replications from old photographs and sketches. Several areas of missing or broken plate glass will also be replaced with traditional materials.

Finally, both the main house and north wing will be subject to full internal and external decoration.

Quadruga is a company dedicated to preserving our heritage and with the team's combined talent, commitment and experience, the work they produce is of exceptional quality and to the highest standard.

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