

Broughton Hall and Rural Solutions

Short description of the project

In common with many historic houses, Broughton Hall near Skipton promotes itself as a venue for celebrations, conferences, dining, filming and holidays. However, it is also home to Rural Solutions, a unique consultancy. Rural Solutions was founded by Roger Tempest who, on inheriting the Broughton Hall Estate, set about its regeneration to improve the income flow of the Estate, parts of which date from the 16th century and prevent the deterioration of its historic fabric.

Over the years, redundant buildings have been re-developed into high specification offices, attracting investment and employment to the local rural economy and securing the future of the Estate.

Rural Solutions itself is a nationwide planning and development company, which specialises in rural development across all sectors. They pride themselves on using an 'entrepreneurial' approach to rural diversification, whilst assisting clients to optimise the value potential of their rural property. With a highly skilled team of expert professionals, they are well equipped to deal with a wide range of planning and development issues, either handling all aspects of a project or just part of it.

What would have happened without this project?

Across the UK, Historic Houses Association properties alone face a backlog of urgent repairs totalling £750m, more than double the figure in 2009, while the amount members are able to spend annually on repairs has fallen to £102m. So finding an economically viable use for a historic house is now, more than ever, the most effective way of conserving it. Roger Tempest saw Rural Solutions as the best way to 'stop the rot' of Broughton Hall's dwindling assets and inject vitality into the estate.

What has the project achieved, or difference has it made?

Roger Tempest says that Broughton Hall's rural setting, combined with free parking, security, peace and quiet, has attracted 40 companies employing 500 staff to a parish with 96 inhabitants.

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