

intelligent architecture



Acanthus
Clews
architects



Bilton Grange

Restoration of A W N Pugin Staircase

In 1846, when the owner of Bilton Grange, decided to extend his Georgian farmhouse, he engaged the services of the celebrated Victorian architect AWN Pugin who designed a number of outstanding features including the magnificent oak staircase. Shortly after the work was completed Bilton Grange became a boys boarding school. A hundred years of small boys thundering up and down the staircase resulted in it becoming structurally unsafe.

Acanthus Clews task was to make the staircase safe whilst restoring it to its original appearance. Within a conservation strategy of minimum intervention the work included repair and cleaning plus restoring the panelling and carved mythological animal newels. An additional decorative flourish involved hanging the stairwell with hand-printed wallpaper from an original block designed by AWN Pugin.