



HARLOW
CONSULTING

TRUSTED RESEARCH & INSIGHT

Heritage Building Skills Programme

Final evaluation report for
Historic England – Appendix 3

Authors:
Brennan, J., Moore, E.

Appendix 3: Overview of Summer School host sites

Wentworth Woodhouse, South Yorkshire

Wentworth Woodhouse is a Grade I-listed stately home in Wentworth, South Yorkshire, renowned as one of the largest private residences in the United Kingdom, with over 300 rooms and approximately 250,000 square feet of floorspace. The estate originated as a Jacobean house but was rebuilt and vastly expanded in the 18th century by Thomas Watson-Wentworth.

Today, Wentworth Woodhouse is owned by the Wentworth Woodhouse Preservation Trust, which is undertaking one of the UK's most ambitious heritage restoration projects. Efforts continue to restore and repurpose the building for sustainable public use while preserving its architectural and historical significance.¹ Wentworth Woodhouse aims to have a measurable impact on local people and communities, for example, the creation of jobs and provision of access to green spaces.²

St John the Evangelist, Lancaster

St John the Evangelist's Church in Lancaster is a Georgian-style Anglican church built between 1754 and 1755, with a Neoclassical tower added in 1784. The interior retains significant Georgian features, including galleries, box pews, and an 1780s organ casing crafted by local cabinet makers Gillow's. Historically, the church served Lancaster's merchant community.

Although closed and underused due to structural deterioration following flooding in 2015, ongoing conservation efforts aim to secure a sustainable new use for this important landmark. The church is Grade II* listed and is under the care of the Churches Conservation Trust.³

Hopwood Hall, Greater Manchester

Hopwood Hall is a Grade II*-listed historic house in Middleton, Greater Manchester, with origins dating back to around 1426. It was the ancestral seat of the Hopwood family, who held the estate from at least the 12th century. Architecturally, the hall evolved over several centuries. Its core includes early timber-framed structures from the 15th and 16th centuries, while most visible elements today reflect 17th- and 18th-century expansions.^{4,5}

Following the death of its heirs in World War I and decades of neglect, Hopwood Hall fell into severe disrepair by the late 20th century. Since 2018, maintenance and restoration efforts have been undertaken by the Hopwood Foundation, Historic England and Rochdale Council. Historic England and Rochdale Council are currently jointly funding the renovation of the roof.

¹ <https://wentworthwoodhouse.org.uk/our-story/>

² <https://wentworthwoodhouse.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Changing-Lives.pdf>

³ [Church of St John the Evangelist, Lancaster - Churches Conservation Trust](#)

⁴ <https://hopwoodxiv.com/history/>

⁵ [Hopwood Hall, Non-Civil Parish - 1068466 | Historic England](#)