



CORBEL

UGBROOKE HOUSE



Ugbrooke house suffered significant water damage caused by melt water from heavy snow entering the building over its roof valley cover flashings. Corbel were appointed to carefully open up the various rooms affected to provide natural ventilation to enable their repair and nullify against any longer term effects of trapped moisture. Following this process plasterwork was consolidated to ceiling roses and cornices and fine decoration works were carried out to the walls and ceilings. The decorations encompassed silk wall hangings, wall papering and breathable paint coatings. All works were carried out to a tight timeframe to ensure the rooms were available for the estates pre-booked engagements.

Location: Ugbrooke House, Chudleigh

Client: Clifford family

Contract period: 2018

Contract Administrator: Ford George



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Ugbrooke House has a fascinating history covering 900 years, originally featuring in the Domesday book of 1086, and today it remains the private home of the Clifford family. It exhibits a variety of alterations made over the years, particularly these made by Robert Adam when he and Capability Brown were commissioned by the 4th Lord Clifford (Hugh, 1726-1783) to re model the house, grounds and garden in the mid-18th Century.

As one of the earliest examples of Adam's castle style, the house has a thoroughly varied past, journeying through periods of stately grandeur and desperate troughs of disrepair. Requisitioned as a school during the Second World War, then serving as a refuge for the Polish Army, the house was subsequently relegated to a grain store.

However, it was rescued in 1957 by the 13th Lord and Lady Clifford who painstakingly restored it back into a family home. Lady Clifford, wife of the 14th Lord Clifford, used her extensive interior design skills from her professional life to transform each room into elegantly appointed, luxurious spaces. The Honourable Alexander Clifford, the current custodian of the family seat, continues the work of the 13th and 14th Lord and Lady Clifford to maintain and enhance this beautiful home. Recent challenges include the discovery of dry rot, followed by water ingress from melting snow, requiring the restoration of nine rooms.

At Ugbrooke, Capability Brown dammed the Ug brook, thereby creating two large lakes. He then set out the tree plantations to create the natural landscape, favouring English Oak, Turkey Oak, Spanish Chestnut and Holm Oak, among others. Today the areas surrounding the main house remain as per Capability Brown's original plans, with the present Clifford family continuing to plant according to Brown's vision.