

Casework: Midlands and eastern England

mindset was a key element for the Corah name; the company maintained several sports teams and was a major employer of women in the early twentieth century.

The firm closed in the 1990s and a planning application now seeks to demolish the factory almost entirely, save only for its two iconic chimneys. The building is locally listed and in our view the demolition is unjustified: the factory is dilapidated but not beyond reasonable repair. We have recommended further reassessment of the site and a new approach to preservation and we have highlighted that amended plans now produced for the scheme do not adequately reduce the harm. Corah's building is a crucial part of Leicester that must not be lost. **ro**

Cransford Hall, Saxmundham, Suffolk

Grade II, c.1904

The Edwardian age was a propitious period for building country houses, both modest and grand, whether for weekend retreats, lavish entertaining, or to establish or reinforce status (and the list could continue).

Cransford Hall in Suffolk is a good example of a local family upgrading to a home more suited to its social position. In the early nineteenth century, the hall had been a farmhouse; in the 1830s, it was rebuilt as a 'genteel villa residence'; in the 1850s, the Corrett family moved into it; and around 1904, the second generation built on a large scale.

The result is a handsome Jacobethan house in brick and stone, its long garden front a restful sight, with gabled windows and prominent chimneys. Inside are attractive interiors (although James Lees-Nelson in the *Buildings of England* might think them more like a gentlemen's club than a private residence), with fine woodwork, rich Jacobean fire surrounds, decorative plasterwork and a massive wooden staircase.

The house became a school building around 1960, later a home, and then once more, a home. It was on the market in 2010 when we became aware of it and secured Grade II listing on account of its quality, character and well-preserved condition. Our application was agreed in 2011.

Cransford Hall is one of those fairly substantial buildings of quality



Above: Handsome Jacobethan Cransford Hall, Suffolk, of around 1904, for which we have secured Grade II listing (Jackson-Stops).

Below: Bodley's 1895 library at Christ's College, Cambridge, subject of our ongoing discussions with the college (John Sutton, geographer, creative commons).

where no record of the architect seems to exist. **tw**

Christ's College Library, Cambridge Grade I, G.F. Bodley, 1895

Education has been a central tenet of the College's identity since it was founded in 1437 as a means to train teachers for grammar schools. Bodley's fine college library has been closed for 30 years but current proposals are to integrate it with new library facilities, reflecting the college's respect for, and wish to celebrate, its Victorian architecture.

Considered in isolation, the design of the new library can be broadly accepted but its proximity to Bodley's building has proved a predominant

point of contention for us. Bodley's library has an unmistakable human scale that makes it an enjoyable building to experience and the scale, design and massing of the new library considered in proximity to the old failed to correspond to this human scale. As part of ongoing discussions we have put forward detailed suggestions, taking reference from the refined Gothic Revival sensibility of Bodley's library, which would modify the impact of the proposed scale and massing of the new library. Our input is not aimed merely at ensuring the survival of these buildings, but also safeguarding their future through enhancement and sympathetic development. **ml**

