

Bull Hill House

The earliest part of Bull House is a 14th-century gatehouse for what was then a small priory owned by Malmesbury Abbey. An open hall of quite modest proportions was added in the 15th century, with a screens passage and stairs to an upper chamber. The priory was dissolved in 1536, and a new extension was added which retains Tudor panelling, coffered ceiling, plasterwork and fireplaces. Later additions were made in the 17th and 19th centuries, so the house today is an intriguing architectural tour through time.

It was left to the National Trust a few years ago but the NT decided it would not be suitable to open to the public, and put it up for sale. Although there was little furniture the one piece of interest was a complete truckle, or trundle bed, complete with its original wheels to fit underneath a larger bed.

The current owners are gradually revealing and restoring its history and structure. We were privileged to see it as a work in progress, and we wish them well in what has to be a labour of love.

David Dewing