“The Three Historic House Hotels of the National Trust, luxury hotels, proud of their past and careful of their present.”

Sir Simon Jenkins, Chairman of the National Trust 2008-2014.

In September 2008 Historic House Hotels Ltd and its interest in all its properties were given to the National Trust to ensure their long-term protection.

The company had been founded over forty years ago to acquire and rescue run-down country houses, then to restore and convert them to hotels combining historically accurate standards with the provision of contemporary comfort for guests. Each building is at least 300 years old, and there are few hotels of such charm and historic interest as Hartwell House, Bodysgallen Hall and Middlethorpe Hall.

In the past, each has been home to remarkable people. At Hartwell House (leasehold until 2111 from the Ernest Cook Trust), the exiled King Louis XVIII of France lived for five years with his Queen and members of his Court. Bodysgallen Hall was the home of the Mostyn family, who have featured prominently in Welsh history, and Middlethorpe Hall was once occupied by the 18th century bluestocking and diarist, Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, who declared it a ‘very pretty place’.

The houses certainly provide greater comfort than that enjoyed by the previous occupants, as we have also sought to be faithful to the original atmosphere and style of each.
Guests can enjoy restorative pleasure in the superbly appointed Spas, where swimming pools, gymnasium and state-of-the-art beauty treatments await.

All three hotels have outstanding restaurants and serve delicious food, sourced locally and using seasonal produce grown on the hotels’ estates, for menus that are mainly British, with a few light continental inspirations.
Hartwell House & Spa
The Hotel with Royal History

Hartwell House is one of the Stately Homes of England, just forty miles north west of London. Its most famous resident was Louis XVIII, exiled King of France, who lived there with his Court for five years. Situated in 90 acres of landscaped parkland, Hartwell House provides a delightful country house setting, adding lustre to every social occasion.

The impressive house, which has both Jacobean and Georgian facades, contains beautiful rooms with rococo ceilings, antique furniture and paintings, yet with every contemporary comfort.

The three dining rooms provide some of the finest cooking in the home counties, and the wine list has been selected with skill and care.

There are 30 superbly appointed bedrooms and suites in the main house. In addition, there are a further 10 suites and 6 bedrooms in Hartwell Court, located near to the house.

Hartwell House is easily reached by train or car, and Heathrow Airport is just an hour’s drive away. Oxford, its colleges, museums and art galleries, are only 20 miles down the road and just a little further is Blenheim Palace.

The Vale of Aylesbury is one of the most beautiful parts of Buckinghamshire, endowed with several grand properties, including Waddesdon Manor, home of the Rothschild family, Claydon House and Stowe Landscape Garden with its many temples and follies.
The Spa at Hartwell House

The Hartwell Spa is housed in a splendid building of classical design and contains a generous sized swimming pool, spa bath, steam room, saunas and well-equipped gymnasium.

The Spa has four beauty salons with qualified therapists offering a wide range of treatments using Aromatherapy Associates’, Environ and Jessica products. In the gallery overlooking the pool is the Spa Café and Bar, an informal restaurant serving drinks and light meals throughout the day.

There are two all-weather tennis courts nearby in the gardens.

Bodysgallen Hall & Spa

From the Mountains to the Sea” – “O’r Môr I’r Mynydd”

Standing in over 200 acres of its own parkland to the south of Llandudno, with spectacular views across its gardens to Conwy Castle and Snowdonia, Bodysgallen Hall provides all that is best in country house hospitality.

The beautiful garden includes a rare 17th century parterre of box hedges filled with sweet scented herbs, a rockery with a cascade, a walled rose garden and several follies.

The 17th Century Hall has been skilfully and sympathetically restored. Two of the finest rooms, dating back to 1620, are the large entrance hall and first floor drawing room, both with oak panelling, splendid fireplaces and stone mullioned windows.

The hotel restaurant holds 3AA rosettes, serving imaginative food prepared by the Head Chef using fresh estate grown and local produce whenever available.

There are fifteen extremely comfortable bedrooms in the Main Hall including four principal suites, each individually decorated.

There are also sixteen cottages situated in the grounds, providing self-contained accommodation for guests preferring a greater degree of privacy.

Bodysgallen lies at the heart of so much history that it would take several visits to see it all. National Trust properties at Plas Newydd on Anglesey, Penrhyn Castle and the beautiful gardens at Bodnant, Castles at Conwy, Caernarfon, Harlech and Beaumaris are within easy reach and must not be missed.
The Spa at Bodysgallen Hall

Bodysgallen’s health and fitness Spa has won several accolades, and contains a large swimming pool, spa bath, steam room, sauna, indoor and outdoor relaxation areas and club room where light meals and drinks are served.

The superb gymnasium has all the latest cardio-vascular equipment and a fully qualified fitness instructor on duty to help and advise.

The Spa has five beauty treatment rooms with qualified therapists trained in Aromatherapy Associates, Environ and CACI products, who ensure that guests leave feeling refreshed and invigorated.
Middlethorpe Hall & Spa

The only country house hotel in the City of York

Standing in 20 acres of its own award winning gardens in historic York, this glorious William and Mary house was formerly the home of the famous 18th century traveller and diarist, Lady Mary Wortley Montagu. It is an ideal base for exploring the treasures of the North of England such as Castle Howard, the ruined medieval abbeys and the famed Yorkshire Dales.

The panelled dining rooms overlooking the gardens and the finely proportioned drawing rooms are filled with fine antique furniture and paintings. There are two rooms available for private luncheon and dinner parties.

The Middlethorpe Chef and his skilled team are famed for producing superb modern English food with an emphasis on local and seasonal produce, incorporating fresh fruit, vegetables and herbs from the gardens.

There are ten luxuriously appointed bedrooms in the main Hall, and a further sixteen bedrooms and suites in the 18th century Courtyard adjacent to the Hall. In addition, there are two cottage suites in the grounds, providing self-contained accommodation for guests who wish for more privacy.

Overlooking York racecourse, Middlethorpe is an obvious choice for the racegoer. York itself contains some of the most beautiful urban architecture in the British Isles, including the Minster, The Treasurer’s House, Fairfax House, and the medieval street of The Shambles. Further afield, Yorkshire is full of romantic and historic places, such as the ruined abbeys of Fountains, Rievaulx and Jervaulx, country houses like Castle Howard, Newby, Sledmere and Beningbrough, charming towns like Richmond, Helmsley, Whitby and Scarborough.
The Spa at Middlethorpe Hall

The health and fitness Spa is situated in a subtly extended pair of Edwardian cottages opposite the hall. There is an indoor swimming pool, as well as a spa bath, steam room, sauna and club room and a well equipped gym.

Experienced therapists offer a wide range of treatments using Aromatherapy Associates’ and Jessica products. There is also a programme of health and beauty days and half days for those who wish to take greatest advantage of this amenity.

Conferences, Meetings, Wedding and Civil Ceremonies and Private Dining

All three Historic House Hotels possess superb facilities for weddings, civil ceremonies, private dining and conferences in converted buildings close to each hotel.
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