

## Arncliffe



Shire Oak Road, Headingley, LS6

### **Why is it important?**

Arncliffe is a Grade II listed building built in 1893 by Francis Bedford for James Bedford. It is an early building by the important Leeds partnership, for Francis Bedford's family. James Bedford was a manufacturing chemist with premises on Kirkstall Road and he formerly lived at No. 7A Woodhouse Cliff. The dining room decoration in Arncliffe is thought to be based on the Plantin house in Antwerp.

### **Building Description**

The building is Jacobean and local C17 vernacular style, constructed in local hard red brick in English bond formation with dressed stone details and a sandstone slab roof. It is a 2 storey building with attics and cellars. The canted front creates a 'butterfly' plan with rear L-plan single storey service wing over basement. All windows are wooden frames, with the ground-floor windows being plate glass and the first floor left retains leaded lights. The original square-section drain pipes remain with '1893' on heads. To the rear there is a central entrance and a basement entrance to right with a stair window above left, a canted window to the right of centre and 2 dormer windows.

Internally much of the original detailing survives although the house is divided into flats. Important features include entrance hall with paneling and light fittings, top glazed double doors with carved half-columns opening into stair hall, Tudor fireplace and plaster frieze of roses. On the ground floor the dining room has original paneling, wooden fire surround with attached columns, encased beamed ceiling, 2 large paneled doors with C17-style iron fittings. Overall a very complete survival of a middle class villa of the 1890s, well built and of design quality.

### **Current State**

The property is currently let as students flats. There is evidence of a general deterioration to the site since the date of the last survey. The site is overgrown with vegetation in parts, with overflowing dustbins and rubbish strewn about. Some fall pipes are broken, causing damage to brickwork etc. It was not possible to view the interior.

### **Current Owner**

The building is currently owned by Leeds Properties.

<http://www.flickr.com/groups/1444801@N25/pool/tags/arncliffe/>

