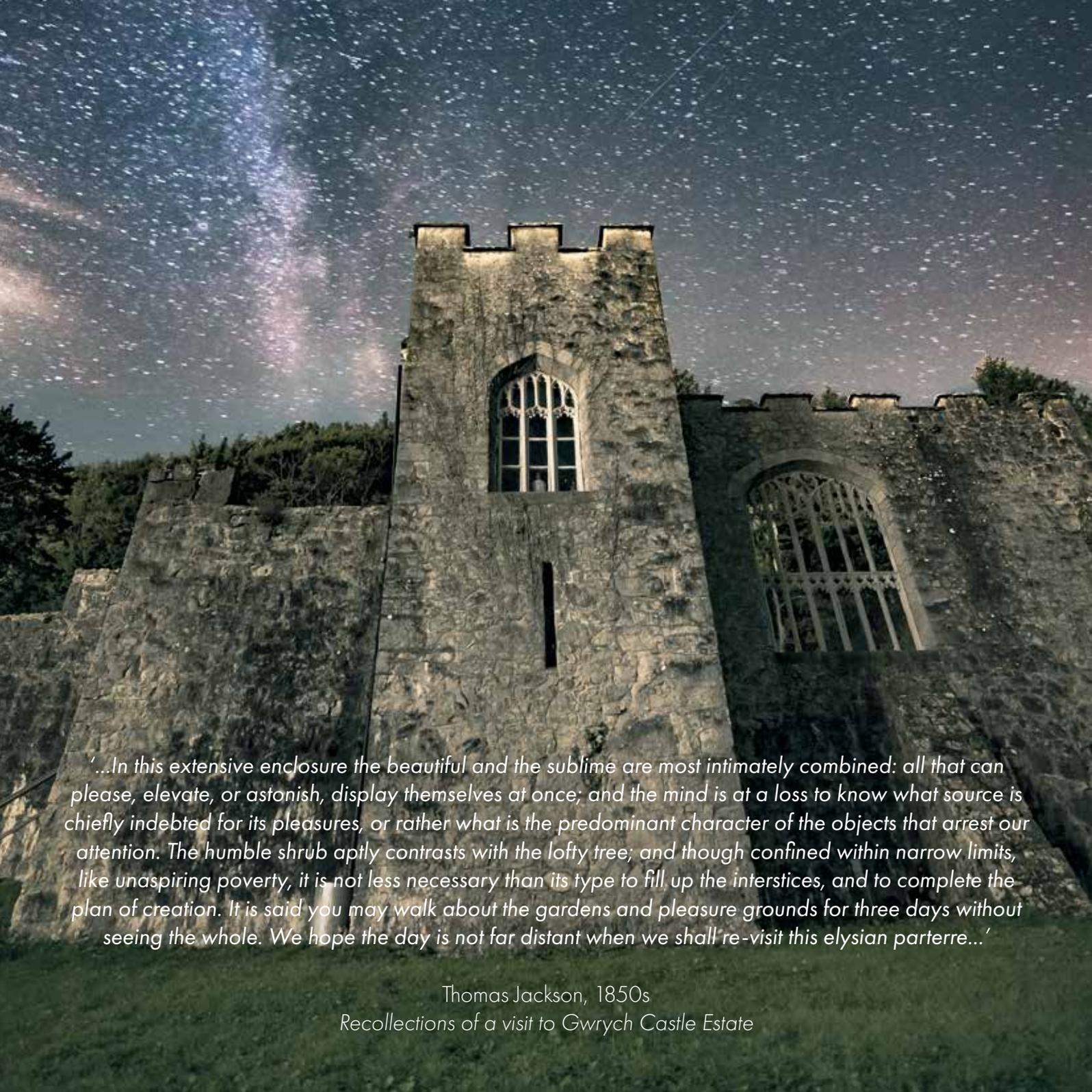




GWRYCH CASTLE

OUR VISION - CASE FOR SUPPORT

RESTORE • ENHANCE • INSPIRE



'...In this extensive enclosure the beautiful and the sublime are most intimately combined: all that can please, elevate, or astonish, display themselves at once; and the mind is at a loss to know what source is chiefly indebted for its pleasures, or rather what is the predominant character of the objects that arrest our attention. The humble shrub aptly contrasts with the lofty tree; and though confined within narrow limits, like unassuming poverty, it is not less necessary than its type to fill up the interstices, and to complete the plan of creation. It is said you may walk about the gardens and pleasure grounds for three days without seeing the whole. We hope the day is not far distant when we shall re-visit this elysian parterre...'

Thomas Jackson, 1850s
Recollections of a visit to Gwrych Castle Estate

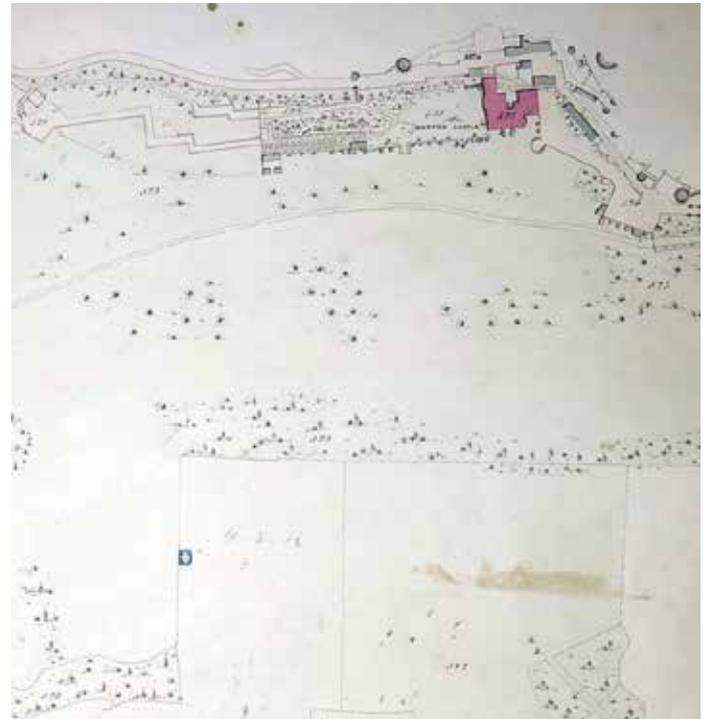
A LANDSCAPE OF IDEAS

Gwrych Castle and its Designed Landscape

Situated between the town of Abergele and the village of Llanddulas, Gwrych Castle and its designed landscape nestle in the wooded hillside overlooking the Irish Sea.

Designed by Lloyd Hesketh Bamford-Hesketh and built between 1810 and 1822, Gwrych Castle embodies the ideals of the Romantic Movement set within a picturesque yet ancient inspired landscape.

While the Grade I listed house is unquestionably one of the finest examples of castellated mansion in Britain, the designed landscape, begun in the early 1700s by the Lloyds of Gwrych, is of outstanding importance too, as one of the great achievements of the picturesque in Wales. From the caves at Cefn-yr-Ogof to Lady Emily's Tower, and from the Nant-y-Bella bridge to the Iron Age hillforts of Tan-y-Gopa and Pen-y-Corddyn Mawr, numerous fascinating built and natural structures provide focal points within a magical wooded setting, originally conceived as a place of peaceful enjoyment.



AN AMBITIOUS UNDERTAKING

Gwrych Castle Preservation Trust

Following years of neglect, asset-stripping and vandalism, the once magnificent Gwrych Castle was reduced to a roofless shell and has been in a state of ruin for the past twenty-five years. In 1997, in response to devastating fires and the eviction of New Age Travellers, the Gwrych Castle Preservation Trust was founded with a stated remit to restore and protect Gwrych Castle and its designed landscape for the benefit of the public. Today, the Trust dedicates its efforts to opening up opportunities for a diverse range of visitors to connect with the designed landscape and its magnificent built heritage through a series of restoration projects.

Gwrych Castle Restoration 2018-2028

In June 2018, Gwrych Castle was purchased by the Gwrych Castle Preservation Trust for the benefit of the nation. A ten year programme of works which will see the castle and outbuildings conserved and restored is underway. It will deliver a wealth of educational and training benefits in partnership with local and national organisations. The restoration of the castle is the core of our work.

- Since 2014, we have had 100,000 visitors to the castle and gardens
- 5000 plants have been planted in the castle gardens and parkland
 - 5 acres of historic landscape has been restored
- More than 500 people have attended volunteering opportunities and training in the use of traditional building materials and conservation by our dedicated team
 - 6 new jobs have been created directly by the trust
- 30 local businesses have been employed as contractors since 2018

Today, the main castle is a ruin in need of extensive conservation and consolidation. The works done externally to make safe the castle, has enabled us to welcome visitors and provide meaningful interpretation of this significant symbol of Welsh heritage. The next ten years will see the castle restored.



The Designed Landscape Project 2018-2043

The built structures which are within this most important nineteenth century designed landscape are also the focus of our attention, with a twenty-five year plan to:

- Consolidate and repair these unique buildings and structures, creating a place of **inspiring heritage and natural bio-diversity**. The structures are a mixture of Grade I, Grade II* and Grade II listings
- Revive the ideals of the picturesque movement – **discovery, invention and exploration** – for a twenty-first century audience. The designed landscape is Grade II* listed

Deliver tangible benefits via Gwrych Castle Preservation Trust to the local community through the creation of **educational, training and employment opportunities** during the restoration project and beyond.



Inviting your support

Our ambitious undertaking will only succeed with the support of a variety of partners – from funders and donors to volunteers and conservationists – all of whom share our desire to restore this unique place of great intellectual and natural importance with visitors and supporters who will find value in a landscape of significant heritage, inspiring ideas and great natural beauty.

We invite you to join us on our ambitious undertaking.

BALANCING BEAUTY WITH PURPOSE

THE TANGIBLE BENEFITS OF RESTORATION

Gwrych Castle

One of the largest country houses in Britain, Gwrych Castle was one of the first attempts at replicating medieval architecture in a modern setting. Its dramatic siting above a former deer park and overlooking the Irish Sea and the Vale of Clwyd, creates one of the most breath-taking positions of a country house in Wales.

OUR AIM: Restoring the castle and outbuildings

It was built following Lloyd Hesketh Bamford Hesketh's grand tour of Europe and North Africa and his study of the Welsh castle of his native Wales. Erected as a monument to his mother, the heiress of the Lloyds of Gwrych, and of his Welsh ancestry, the buildings evoke the possibility that the castle might just have been built by medieval masons. Work has begun on restoring several of the outbuildings and carrying out emergency works inside the main house to prevent further collapse.

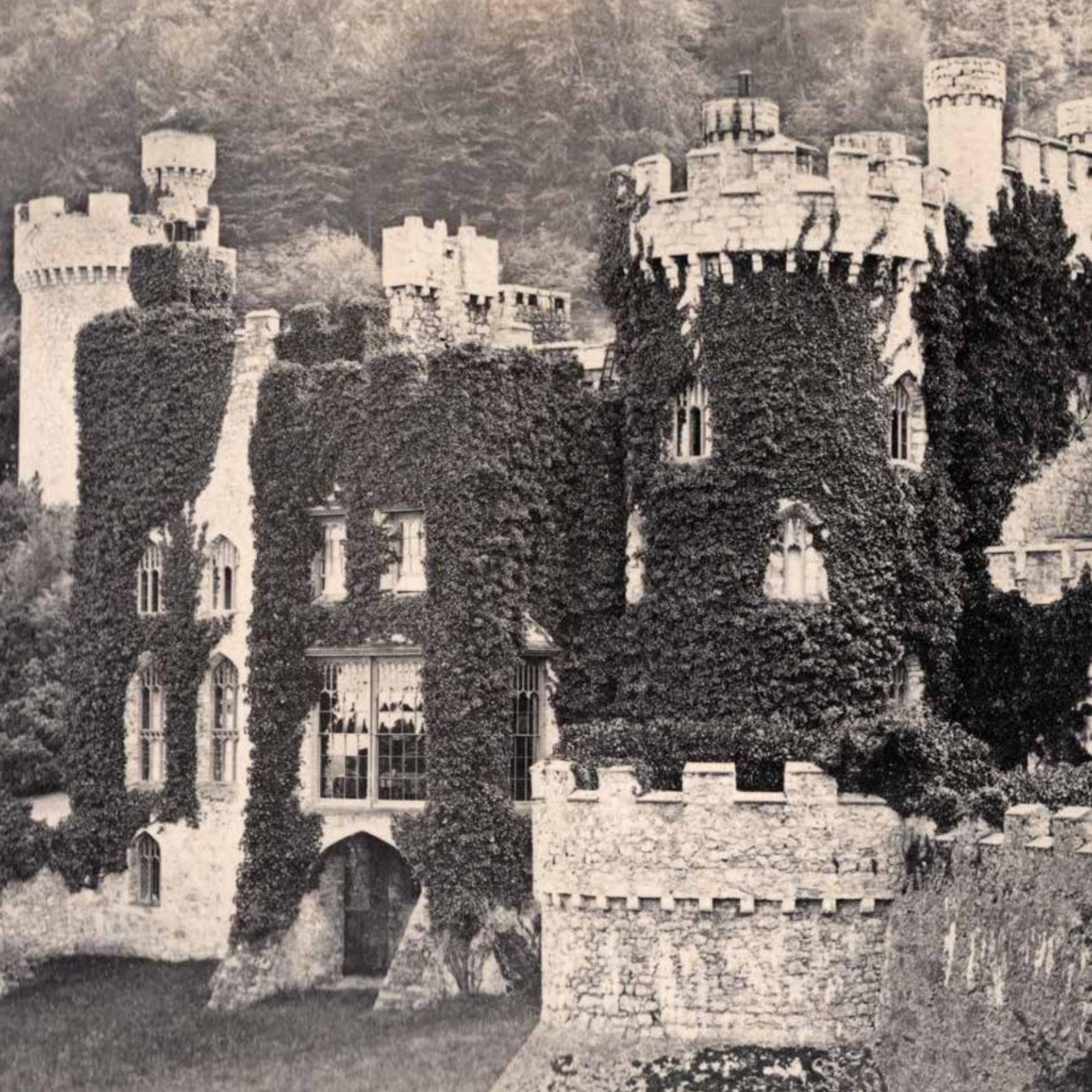


Formal Gardens

The formal terrace, aligned east-west, was designed by Lloyd Hesketh Bamford-Hesketh in the 1830s and was inspired by Queen Eleanor's garden at Conwy Castle.

OUR AIM: Recreate the formal gardens and to rebuild the conservatory

The garden was destroyed in 1971/2 when a jousting tilt yard was formed in the space. Since 2014, the Trust has recreated the central raised beds which are constructed out of handmade nineteenth-century Welsh bricks and radiate from the central pool. Lloyd also incorporated into his design that the garden be viewed by moonlight so the planting featured many white and silver plants. Our next big project will be to rebuild the 1830s conservatory for use as flexible space.



Pathways and Parkland

In the nineteenth century, visitors to Gwrych Castle said that it would take three whole days to do all of the walks in and around the castle grounds. There were six driveways which entered the estate.

OUR AIM: to restore nine miles of historic pathways, staircases and viewing platforms and to reintroduce Lloyd's planting scheme

The planting undertaken by Lloyd Hesketh Bamford-Hesketh was greatly diminished post-World War II. Working with the woodland tenant, Natural Resources Wales, Gwrych Castle Preservation Trust has adopted a programme of planting deciduous trees in the designed landscape to restore and enhance key habitats and reinstate Lloyd's original planting of beech, oak and ash. Lloyd also introduced a variety of evergreens, in particular yews and pines, to the hillside to evoke the views he saw on his European grand tour. For a period of fifty years, Lloyd planted continuously and extensively across the estate. Our team welcomes the help of volunteers to plant trees, remove sycamore saplings, clear paths and undertake conservation projects so that everyone can enjoy the on-going restoration of this designed landscape.



Tan-yr-Ogo Gate Lodge

Originally conceived to celebrate the battle of Waterloo in 1815 and directly inspired by the walls of Conwy Castle, Tan-yr-Ogo was the ceremonial entrance into the Gwrych Castle Estate. The gate lodge is currently not open to the public due to its derelict state and is in need of extensive repair.

OUR AIM: Preserving a monument to history and memory

Lloyd decided to record the other principal battles that had traditionally taken place in the vicinity. The tablets detail Welsh history between the mid-eleventh century and 1399. They are placed in order with the oldest event on the left and the most recent on the right. This was an important action by Lloyd to cement his family's history in the locality.

Nant-y-Bella Bridge

Positioned on the axis of the Nant-y-Bella drive way and the driveway to the formal gardens, the bridge was one of the earliest structures built by Lloyd Hesketh Bamford-Hesketh to cross the rivulet of Y Fron. Currently the bridge is unsafe and not accessible to the public.

OUR AIM: Restoring the historic bridge to form part of the visitor's experience

The bridge provides the principal access to the estate from Tan-Y-Gopa Road and the Nant-y-Bella gate lodge. This will provide a viewing platform for visitors for the valley of Y Fron.

Lady Emily's Tower

Located on a cliff-edge to the north-west of the castle, Lady Emily's Tower is now in a dangerous state of disrepair and is at risk of collapse. The tower was built as a centrepiece to the designed landscape.

OUR AIM: Conserving a key 'eye-catcher' in the designed landscape

Designed by Lloyd Hesketh Bamford-Hesketh, for his wife Lady Emily and their children, between 1830 and 1840. It was designed both as a belvedere (a structure designed to provide a beautiful view) as well as a banqueting tower – a fine example of beauty meeting purpose.

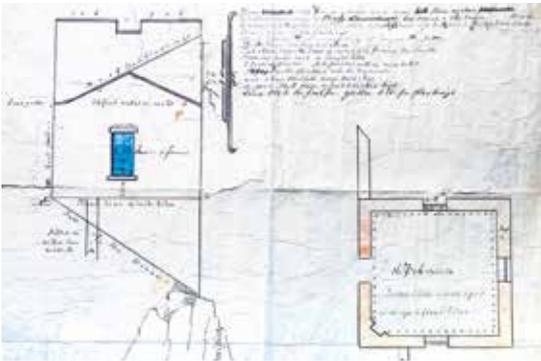
The views from the three windows of the tower show the relationship between land, sea and sky and how the Gwrych Castle Estate utilised all three as part of the picturesque experience.

Gamekeeper's Cottage

The vernacular cottage survives from the early-eighteenth century and nestles in the centre of the Castle Great Wood. It was last used in the mid-twentieth century to store potatoes.

OUR AIM: Rebuilding Lloyd's cottage orné

Lloyd preserved the cottage as part of his landscaping of the hillside. He enhanced the already picturesque cottage with a thatched roof and installed the gamekeeper who would show visitors around the parkland above the castle.



Cefn-yr-Ogof Caves

Cefn-yr-Ogof caves represent Lloyd's most remarkable undertaking, enhancing an already unusual topographical formation occurring naturally within the landscape with the spirit and philosophy of the picturesque movement. The caves are currently not open to the public.

OUR AIM: To return visitors to a unique picturesque experience

Restoring access to the caves via Lloyd's network of paths will enable visitors to walk in the footsteps of Lloyd Hesketh Bamford-Heskeths and his contemporaries, ascending along the paths and staircases into the darkness of the caves through to the harmony and light of the vista from the viewing platforms over Tan-yr-Ogo.

INVITING YOUR SUPPORT

HELP US PROTECT AND RESTORE THIS LANDSCAPE OF IDEAS

Your involvement and support can help us enormously as we continue our ambitious journey to reinstate and restore one of Wales's greatest trend-setting historic building and designed landscapes of the picturesque movement.

As a charity we rely on donations and, by supporting the Gwrych Castle Preservation Trust, you will be contributing to one of Wales's leading initiatives to restore the structures that enhance a landscape of significant heritage, inspiring ideas and great natural beauty.

Gwrych Castle and its designed landscape is designated as 'outstanding' in Cadw's Historic Parks and Gardens Register and your support will:

Contribute towards the preservation of the castle and built structures

Conserve and enhance the scenic value of the landscape

Assist with the ongoing nature conservation

Help us to research and share the stories of this place of outstanding historical value



Gwrych Castle and its designed landscape are outstanding, trend-setting, poetic and spiritual. Be a part of our ambitious journey and help us to preserve and restore this remarkable place.

THANKING OUR DONORS

Our work to restore and enhance Gwrych Castle and the built structures in the designed landscape is made possible by a range of grants and donations for which we are grateful:

National Heritage Memorial Fund
Richard Broyd Charitable Trust
Rhyl Flats Community Fund
Gwynt-y-Mor
Conwy Rural Development Partnership LEADER
Trusts and Foundations
Individual Donors
Donated services and volunteers
The Public

GCPT would like to thank Yellow Fly Design for the artwork, Andy Sayle for the use of inspirational images in this document to help GCPT secure support for the rescue of the estate.

OUR VISION

Our vision is to secure a vibrant and sustainable future for Gwrych Castle and the built structures within its designed landscape, making them appealing, accessible and inspiring places for new and existing audiences to visit, support and enjoy, now and for years to come.

Celebrating the ideals of the picturesque movement in the early-nineteenth century – discovery, invention and exploration – we will bring them vividly to life for our twenty-first century audiences through inspiring interpretation and activities that create fascinating links between house, landscape and people.

For further information or to offer your support, please contact the Trust:
www.gwrychcastle.co.uk

Gwrych Castle Preservation Trust is a charity registered in Wales (No. 1092035) and a Company Limited by Guarantee (No. 4331307)