



Willersley Castle

Derbyshire Dales

Willersley Castle is located in the heart of the Derbyshire Dales; at the very gateway to the Peak District National Park. A three-hour drive from London and 40 minutes to East Midlands Airport.

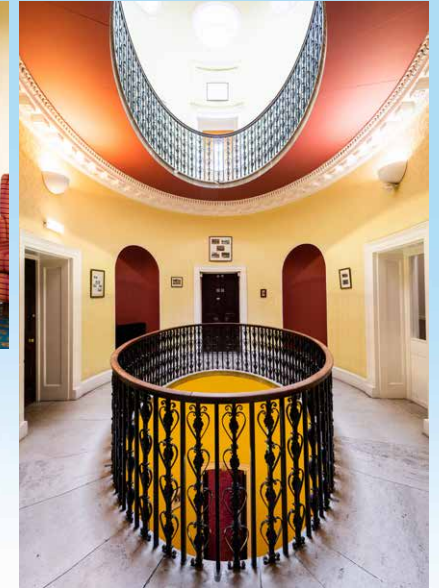


WILLERSLEY CASTLE stands nestled in wooded grounds and overlooking the stunning River Derwent Valley; right on the very edge of the Peak District National Park. A truly magnificent Grade II listed building, this late 18th-century mansion house forms part of the UNESCO Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site, and marks the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution. Surrounded by the stunning landscape of the Peak District, and an abundance of picturesque towns and villages - including the spa town of Matlock, on its doorstep - Willersley Castle has the perfect backdrop for its own spectacular setting. Boasting 60 acres of private grounds, a gate lodge, stable block, swimming pool and a natural source of much sought after Derbyshire Dales spring water; the property offers so much to experience and enjoy.

WILLERSLEY CASTLE HOTEL

Built on the slopes of Wild Cat Tor, resting 400ft above sea level, the previously named 'Willersley Hall' was once the home of Sir Richard Arkwright: eighteenth-century industrialist and inventor of the revolutionary water-powered cotton mills.

Thanks to this rich industrial heritage, the impressive architecture and interior of Willersley Castle still overflows with character and charm. Many original features remain, including Robert Adam fireplaces and the striking, dome-covered 'Well Gallery'.





THE HERITAGE

Built for Sir Richard Arkwright in 1786 (the year he was knighted), Willersley Castle provided a suitably prestigious 'seat' in which Sir Richard could reside in his later years. Unfortunately, he died before the building works were completed on the property and so was never able to enjoy this magnificent realisation of his ambition.

The London architect commissioned with the building of Willersley Castle, was William Thomas. Much influenced by the work of Robert Adam, Thomas' design for the build owes much to Adam's more contemporary styling, as used at Culzean Castle in Scotland.

The site itself, is a spectacular one. Situated on a rocky eminence the Castle looks out southwards down the Derwent Valley, towards the river; across picturesque rocky outcrops, and cleverly avoiding sight of the two nearby Arkwright cotton mills.

The Castle, nearing completion suffered a serious fire in 1791. Works stalled again in August 1792, when Sir Richard died. The Castle was eventually completed in a modified form under the guidance of local architect, Thomas Gardener of Uttoxeter.



Surrounding the property, rolling pleasure grounds were laid out by landscape designer, John Webb. He transformed the meadows that slope down to the River Derwent, into an Arcadian park, which housed a private chapel and a gothic gatehouse, adding further to the picturesque landscape. Nearby buildings were also modified to become sympathetic extras, including a medieval bridge chapel, a little fishing pavilion and a warehouse on the recently created Cromford Canal - this was given a crenellated tower to better fit into the contrived scene.

A large coach-house and stables complex was built north-east of the house and a farm and walled kitchen garden to the north-east of the park.

On completion of Gardner's work, Sir Richard's son Richard Arkwright II (1755 - 1843) and his family took up residence.

Further modifications to the property occurred at a later date, increasing residential accommodation - and therefore practical usage - to one of the service wings, which is how we see the Castle today.

The Castle remained used and lived in by the Arkwright family until the first world war broke out, during which time it became an auxiliary hospital. In 1927, having not returned post-war, the family sold the estate to Sir Albert Ball, who in turn immediately broke up the estate and sold Willersley Castle for its latest use, as a 'Methodist Guild Holiday Centre'.

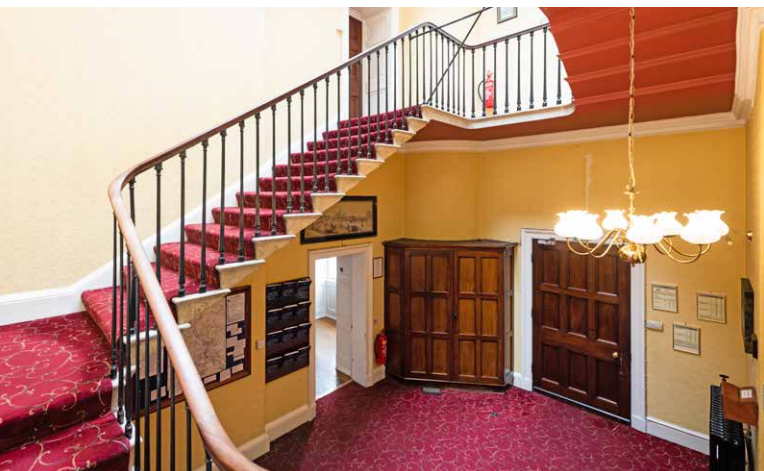




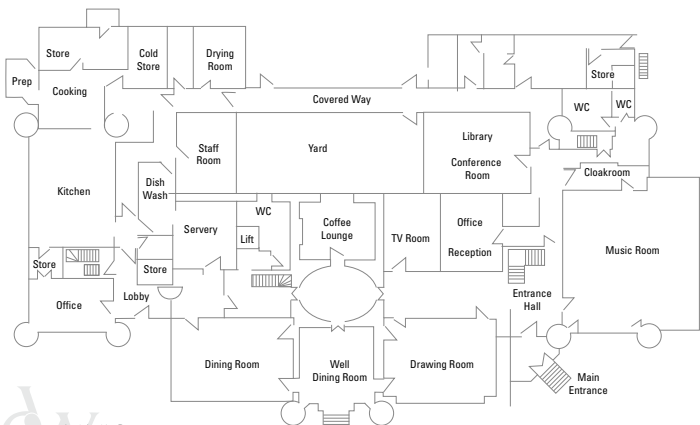
THE MEWS COACH-HOUSE



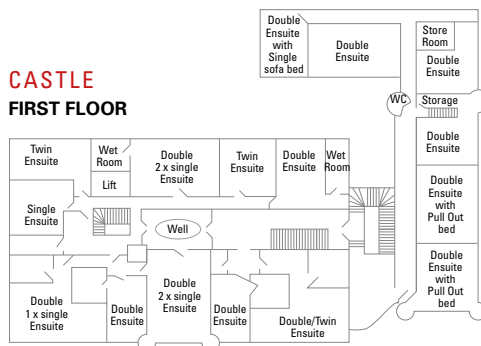
THE LODGE GATEHOUSE



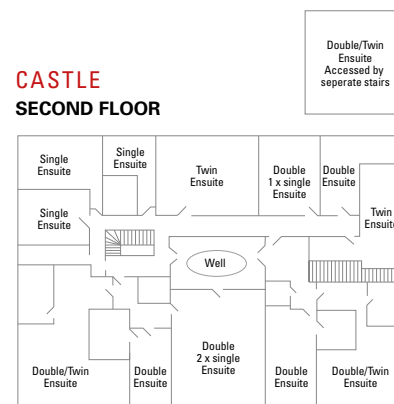
CASTLE
GROUND FLOOR



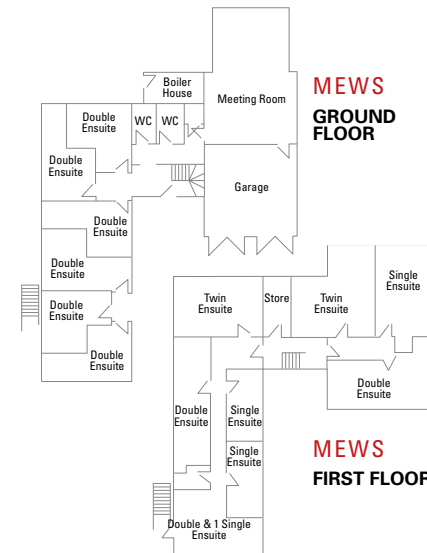
CASTLE
FIRST FLOOR



CASTLE
SECOND FLOOR



MEWS
GROUND FLOOR



MEWS
FIRST FLOOR

Indicative plans not to be relied on.

KEY FEATURES

- Substantial Castle Hotel approx. 30,000 sq. ft.
- Separate detached substantial renovated period Coach-house
- Separate Lodge Gatehouse
- Separate swimming pool and gym area, grass tennis courts.
- Private stretch of river with fishing rights
- Glorious land with private mature grounds and gardens, approx. 65 acres.
- Originally part of the Arkwright Estate Currently used as a hotel.
- Potential for change of use to a dwelling house, subject to planning.



All viewings by prior appointment.

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