

National Trust Press Release

Images © National Trust

Wray Castle restoration project underway to secure historic landmark's future.

A major restoration project is now underway at the National Trust's Wray Castle, a beloved Victorian Gothic landmark on the western shores of Windermere. The project marks a significant step in preserving the castle's legacy and reimagining its future as a vibrant, family-friendly destination.

 **Seasonal outdoor events** – including waymarked trails, grounds tours, summer play programme, and guided walks – are open as normal.

 **Parkland, lakeshore walks, car park, and toilets** are open daily from **8am to 8pm**.

 **Joey's Café** continues to serve visitors from **9:30am to 4:30pm** – perfect for a lakeside treat.

 A **new outdoor photography exhibition** is also set to open in September **2025** – stay tuned!

The castle itself is currently closed for the conservation work including urgent repairs to the roof, rewiring, fire protection upgrades, and improvements to security and environmental systems, also:

 **Glasshouse restoration** – Work is underway to carefully restore part of the estate's historic glasshouse, preserving its original character while making it more resilient for the future.

 **Footman's Lodge** – This charming building, part of the impressive porte-cochere (carriage porch) at Wray has been lovingly restored thanks to a kind donation, revealing a glimpse into the estate's working past.

 **Floor survey** – Dynamic floor load testing has given a clear picture of how much weight each room can safely support, vital information for the placing of heavy museum displays.

 **Surface Water Mapping** - Biodegradable dye tests traced rainwater flow from Wray Castle's roof to support upcoming sewage system upgrades.

 **Roof Condition Survey** - A detailed roof survey has revealed drainage and maintenance challenges, guiding future conservation and exhibition planning.

"This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to give Wray Castle the care and attention it deserves," said Laura Lee, General Manager for the South Lakes. "While the castle building is closed, the wider estate remains open and welcoming, with plenty for visitors to enjoy throughout the year."

The long-term vision is to reopen Wray Castle as a flexible gallery and exhibition space, with aspirations to house the National Trust's Beatrix Potter watercolour collection. Beatrix Potter's connection to Wray Castle dates back to 1882, when her family holidayed there—an experience that sparked her lifelong love of the Lake District.

For the latest updates on the restoration see

 <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/lake-district/wray/wray-refurbishment-project>

For visitor information, please visit:

 www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wray