



**National
Trust**

Seonag.porter@nationaltrust.org.uk

13 January 2025

Dear Ann,

I am writing to you to let you know of the National Trust's plans for a restoration project of the castle at Wray from 2025.

The building has been deteriorating over recent years and we now need to invest in the castle and estate to ensure their long-term future as a vibrant and attractive visitor offer. During this period, we'll undertake full surveys of the castle, including electrical, roof, historical and archaeological as well as investing in a new sewerage treatment plant and adventure playground.

We have already begun the first stage of the restoration process in the glasshouse (outside the castle in the top car park) where National Trust specialists have restored the building and windows. As the project progresses, the glasshouse will be used as a space to give visitors and residents detailed information on the refurbishment.

The Wray Estate will remain open in 2025, and to compensate for the castle's closure, there will be more outdoor events for visitors in the form of Easter trails and Summer of Play activities for families, outdoor photography exhibitions, guided tours, and we're working towards e-bike hire. We're also adding to the path network to extend walking routes and Joey's café, the toilets and car park will remain open year-round.

We remain committed to enabling visitors to get around the west shore in sustainable ways. This includes continuing to support Windermere Lake Cruise sailings to the jetty at the double boathouse, the passenger ferry from Bowness to Ash Landing and working with bus operators to maintain and expand the Hawkshead bus service.

Our long-term ambition for Wray is for it to become a vibrant gallery space which can host touring exhibitions, as well as becoming home to the National Trust's collection of original Beatrix Potter artwork. We have trialled opening as an exhibition space in 2024, working with the Royal Geographical Society and Mountain Heritage Trust to deliver the successful 'Other Everests' exhibition.

If you would like to visit the Estate at Wray to talk about the plans for the castle, we would be delighted to welcome you, please contact us at wraycastle@nationaltrust.org.uk. Although we're still scoping out the timeline of the works needed, we plan to reopen the castle as a

National Trust
Boon Crag
South Lakes
Coniston
Cumbria LA21 8AQ

www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Patron: His Majesty The King
Regional Advisory Group Chair: Janet Dugdale
Director of Region: Mike Innerdale

Registered office:
Heelis, Kemble Drive, Swindon
Wiltshire SN2 2NA
Registered charity number 205846

new exhibition space by 2028.

We will keep you updated on our plans and the work as it progresses, but please get in touch with us in the meantime if you have any questions.

Warm regards,

Seonag Porter

Volunteering & Community Officer

South Lakes Properties

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Cont/d