

BATTLE McCARTHY©

Consulting Engineers & Landscape Architects



PROJECT:
Lowther Castle

CLIENT:
North West Development Agency

ARCHITECTS:
Sheppard Robson

BM SERVICES:
Buildings Services Engineering, Sustainable
Masterplanning, Building Simulation

VALUE:
£16m

SIZE:
76,000 m²

DESIGN BRIEF

Lowther Castle and Gardens lies at the heart of the Cumbria region. Over the past 50 years, the Grade II listed Castle has fallen into ruin. The architect's transformational project of the site engages local people with leading experts, to restore 500 acres of historic parkland. The project includes complete conservation of the castle ruins, restoration of the gardens and the building of contemporary cultural, creative and educational facilities

DESIGN INITIATIVES/ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN

The Project has a variety of features but at its core will be the renovated gardens, the ruined castle and its panoramic central tower. The Project will have a free-to-access visitor centre with shops and restaurants in the former stables. There will be a gallery and exhibition space in the restored east wing of the castle. A dual purpose education and function room will be built on the first floor of the stables. An adventure play area will be created in the east woods. A series of striking new gardens, including a kitchen garden, will be planted inside the Castle walls. The renovation of the gardens will be a continuous process of change and renewal.

The £16m project plans to be carbon neutral and will be implemented over three years. The first phase is planned to open in Summer 2009. In the following years there will be new features added as the Project develops. The process of transformation will itself be part of the appeal and by 2012 the Castle and its Gardens will attract 160,000 visitors a year and provide 27 full time jobs within the attraction as well as supporting many more across Cumbria.

Lowther Gardens and Castle has been identified as a major project by Cumbria Vision in its Economic Plan and is a priority project for Cumbria Tourism. The proposal is aligned to the NWDA's Regional Economic Strategy in which improving tourism is a strategic priority. Because of the many economic, social, environmental, heritage and strategic benefits the Project will generate, funding for the capital costs will be sought from a range of public sector agencies.

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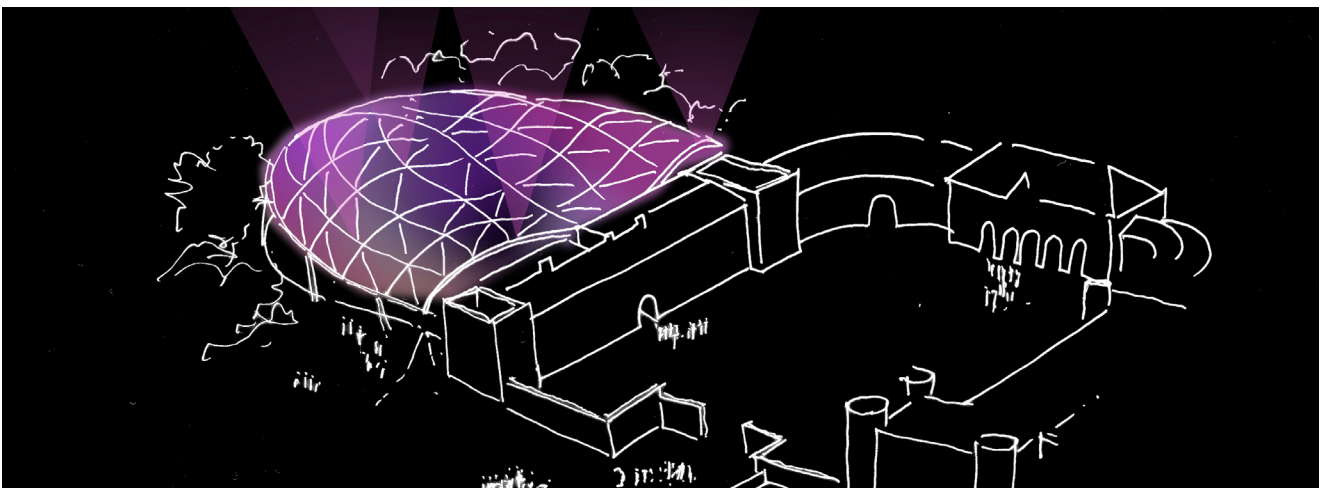
Gallery Space



Lowther Castle, Day View



Lowther Castle, Night View



Amphitheatre