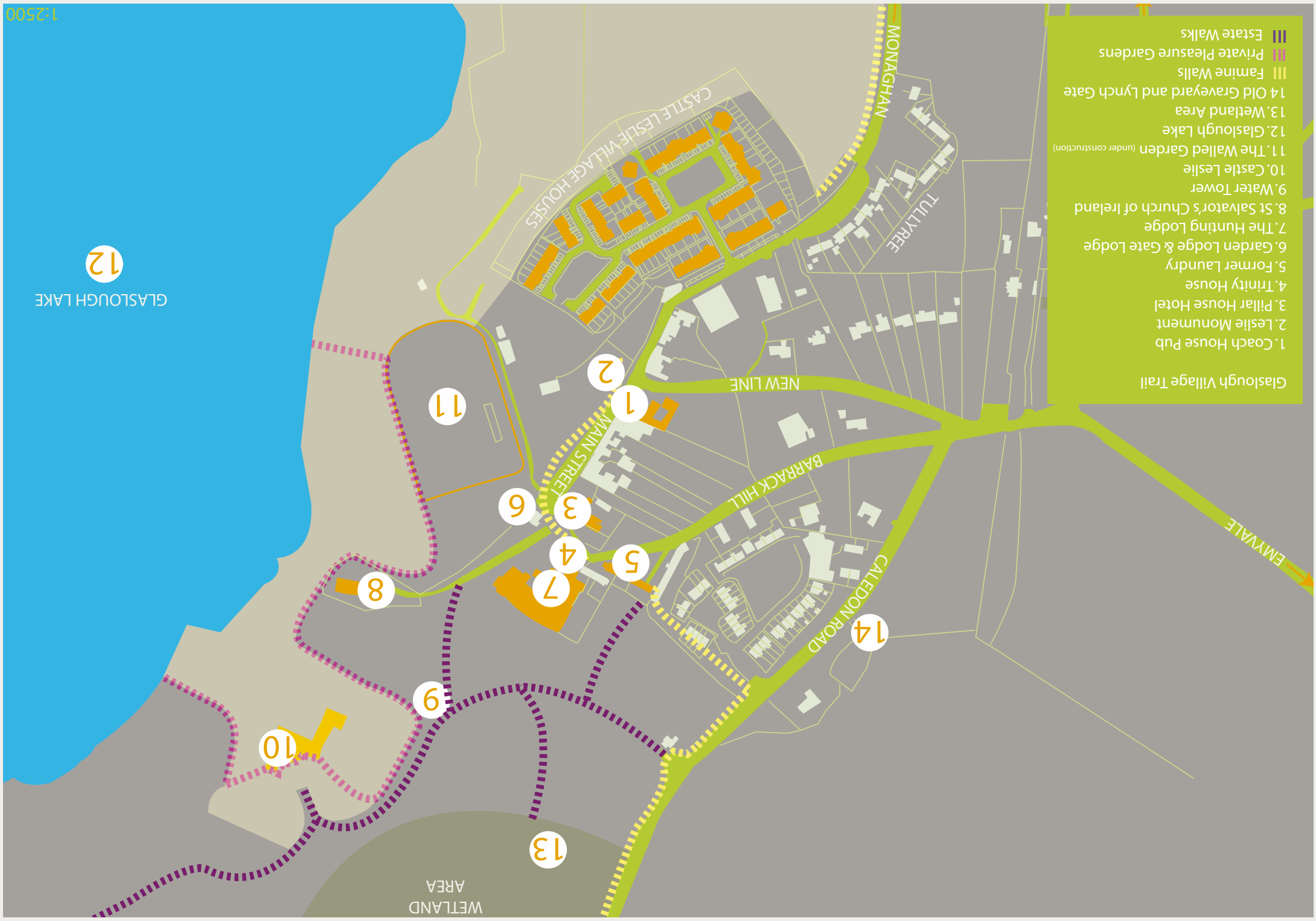


GLASLOUGH VILLAGE TRAIL

GLASLOUGH VILLAGE

Glaslough is a picturesque village with great historic and architectural interest. For the last 300 years the economic and social development of the village has been intimately associated with Castle Leslie Estate, home to the Leslie family. The name translates from Irish as the 'calm or green lake' in reference to the beautiful lake now situated within the Castle Leslie estate.

THE LESLIE FAMILY

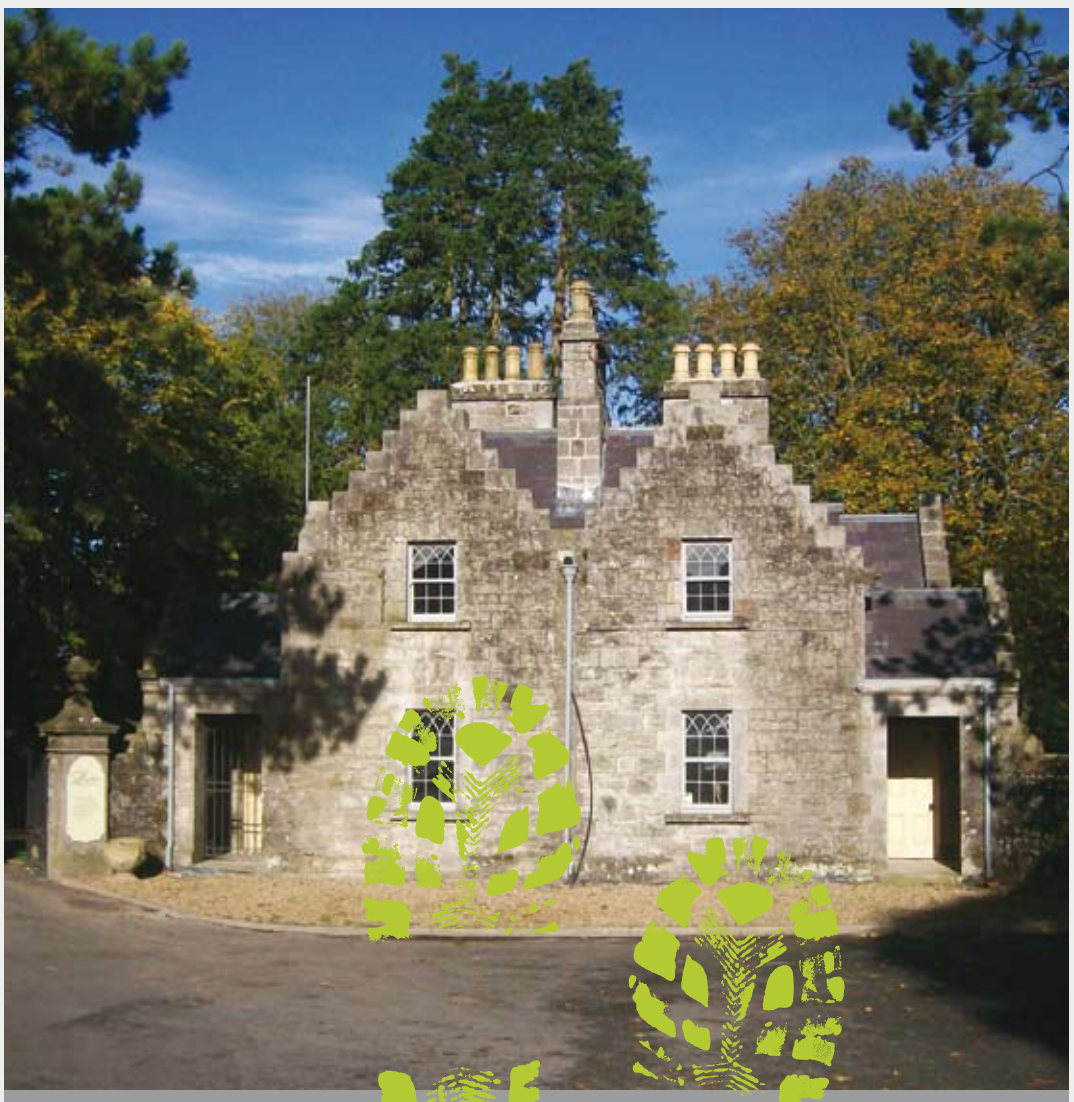
The Leslie family motto 'Grip Fast' was bestowed on the family by Queen Margaret of Scotland. The story goes that a young Hungarian Bartholomew Leslie rescued the Queen from a river by asking her to 'grip fast the buckle on his belt'. This motto has endured ever since.

The first member of the Leslie family to arrive in North Monaghan was John Leslie also known as the 'Fighting Bishop'. John Leslie purchased the land around Glaslough from Sir Thomas Ridgeway 'Treasurer of Arms to the English Throne in Ireland'. Prior to this the land belonged to the McKenna and McMahon families and both these family names are still important today. After his arrival he extended the castle and built a new church called St Salvators to replace the older 5th century Church at Donagh Old Graveyard. John left the Estate to his son who died young after which it passed to his brother Robert and then to his children Robert Henry and 'Vinegar Jane'. In their day all three were great friends of Jonathan Swift who often wrote about Castle Leslie and its colourful owners. It was not always complimentary.

'Here I am in Castle Leslie
With rows and rows of books upon the shelves
Written by the Leslies
All about themselves'

Charles Powell Leslie inherited the Estate in 1743 and went on to become the MP for Monaghan in 1783. His son died young however his successor Charles Powell Leslie III undertook a series of improvements to the castle, and the village. Next in line was John Leslie, the first 'Baronet of Glaslough', who built the new castle in 1878. His successor Sir John Leslie was related by marriage to Lord Randolph Churchill and was succeeded by Shane Leslie in 1944 who transferred the Estate to John Norman Leslie the fourth Baronet. Following ill health he transferred the estate to his sister Anita, a strong character who was awarded two 'Croix's de Guerre' during the Second World War. She passed the Estate on to her younger brother Desmond an ex R.A.F. pilot and also author of the best selling book 'Flying Saucers have landed'! Desmond transferred ownership to his five children, one of whom, Samantha, now runs the Estate on behalf of the Trustees. For more historical information visit www.castleleslie.com

Castle Leslie is first and foremost a family home and, secondly, an equestrian centre, hotel and spa. Whilst open to everyone however visitors should note that this is also a working estate and access for walking is restricted. Please note that Castle Leslie accepts no liability for any injuries sustained whilst visiting the estate. All Visitors are advised to ask at the Hunting Lodge for details of current access.

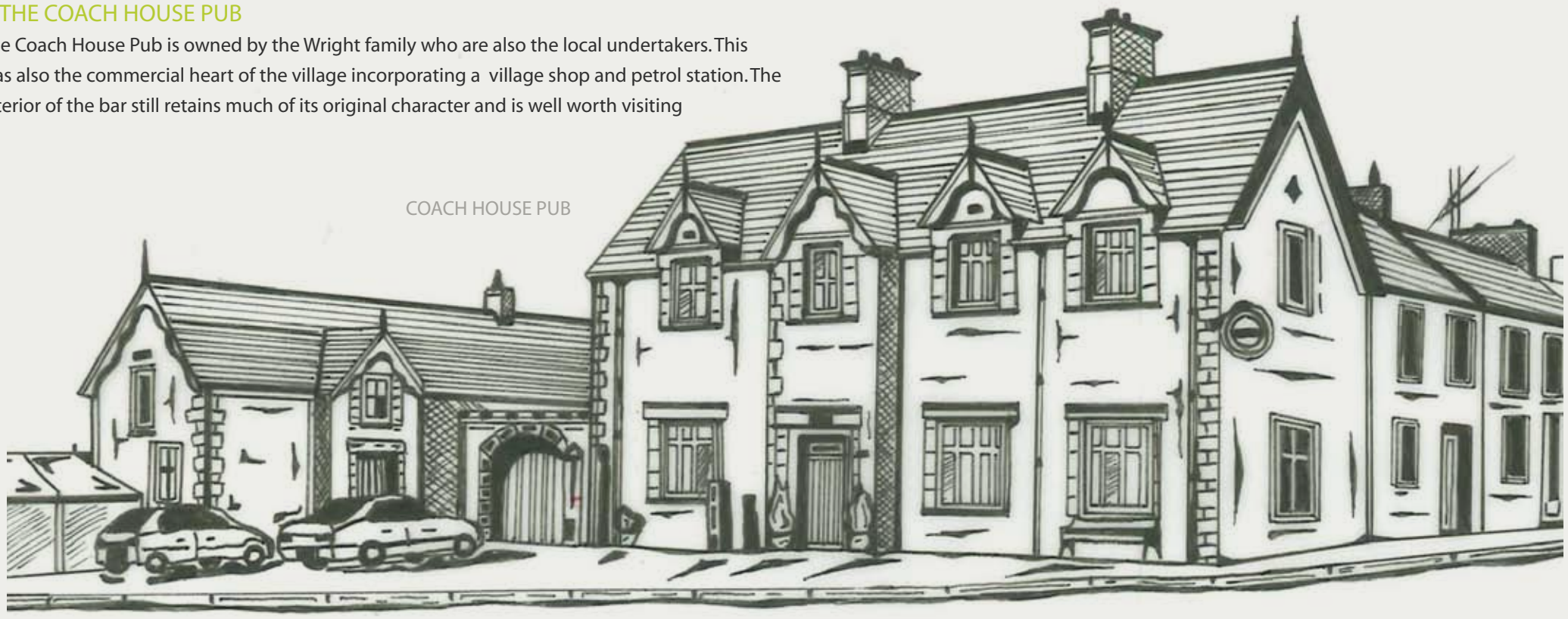


Glaslough
VILLAGE
BLACKWATER HERITAGE TRAIL

WITHIN THE VILLAGE

1. THE COACH HOUSE PUB

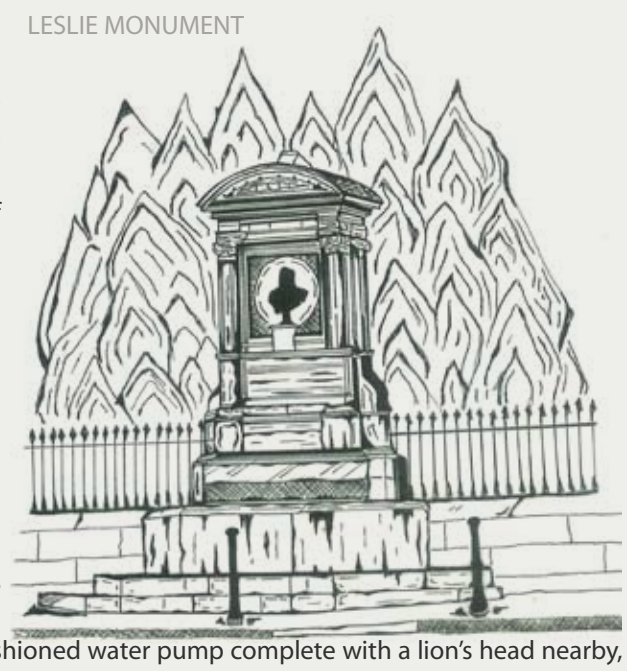
The Coach House Pub is owned by the Wright family who are also the local undertakers. This was also the commercial heart of the village incorporating a village shop and petrol station. The interior of the bar still retains much of its original character and is well worth visiting



COACH HOUSE PUB

2. LESLIE MONUMENT ON MAIN STREET

This was erected by tenants of the Leslie Estate in honour of Charles Powell Leslie MP 1821-1871 a progressive landlord who instigated works and famine relief projects during this period.



LESLIE MONUMENT

3. PILLAR HOUSE HOTEL

Situated close to the castle gates, this is a simple classical style building complete with front pediment, to form a vista from the walled garden.

4. TRINITY HOUSE

Trinity House on Barrack Hill was the location of the old R.I.C. (Royal Irish Constabulary) station. There is an old fashioned water pump complete with a lion's head nearby, built in 1841 as part of a first village water scheme.

5. FORMER LAUNDRY

The former laundry building was modelled on a similar facility developed by the Vanderbilts family in America. It was the first of its type in Ireland.

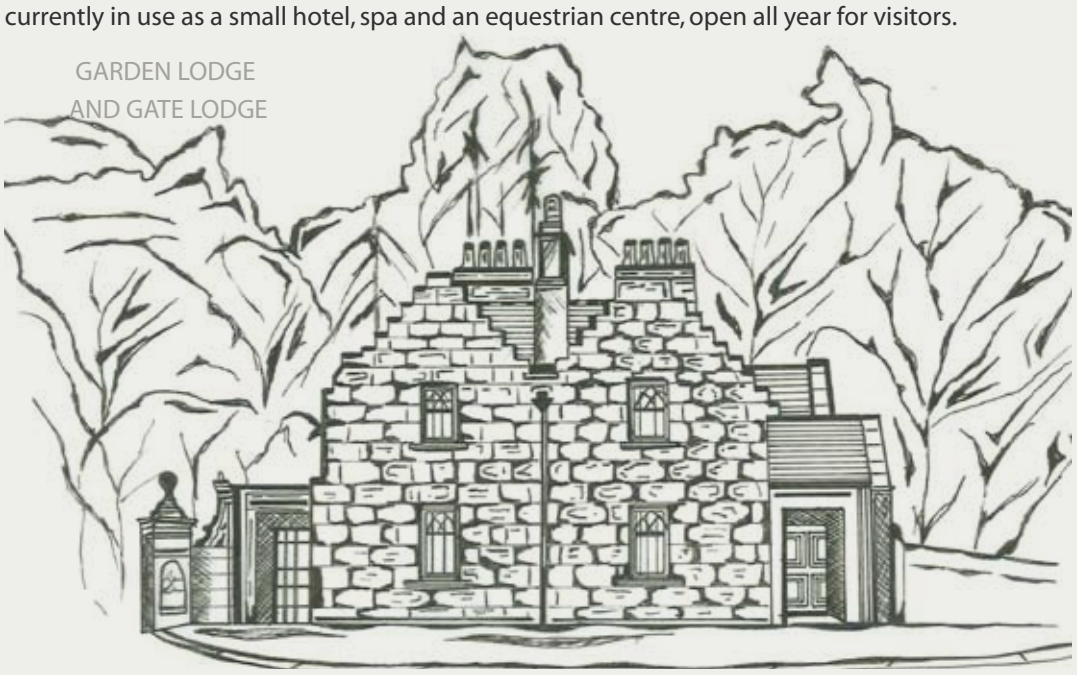
WITHIN THE ESTATE

6. GARDEN LODGE AND GATE LODGE

Between 1800 and 1878 Charles Powell Leslie was responsible for the erection of a series of gate lodges to the estate. One of the main entrances is known as the Garden Lodge and Gate Lodge and this was built in 1875. This impressive building was designed by Lanyon and Lynn and comprises a pair of semi detached two storey houses with single bays, side entrance bays and gables. The cast iron entrance gates to each side of the Lodge are flanked by piers with rusticated ball finials. This is also the head gardeners home.

7. THE HUNTING LODGE

The Hunting Lodge is located just inside the main entrance to the castle. Sometimes also referred to as the Agents House, this Scottish style building was built in 1868 by Charles Powell Leslie and includes a series of tall gables, chimneys and stone outhouses. The Hunting Lodge has a colourful past history, and was used at different times as a convent, night club and hippie commune! It is currently in use as a small hotel, spa and an equestrian centre, open all year for visitors.



GARDEN LODGE AND GATE LODGE

8. ST SALVATOR'S CHURCH OF IRELAND

St Salvator's Church of Ireland was built by John Leslie within the grounds of the estate to replace an earlier parish church at Donagh Old Graveyard dating back to the 5th century. St Salvator's church is the last resting place for most of the Leslie family and also where Sir Paul McCartney chose to marry Heather Mills in 2002. The guest list for this fairytale wedding was a virtual 'Who's Who' of the music world and one of the biggest social events the country has ever seen.

9. THE WATER TOWER

The Water Tower is a prominent feature with in the castle grounds. Built in the early 1800s over a deep well, a double handed pump pushed water to a tank at the top which gravity fed the old castle. It is also believed to be haunted.

10. CASTLE LESLIE

The original Glaslough House was built by Thomas Ridgeway in 1608, later rebuilt by John Leslie then further altered in 1720. It was designed by the Belfast architects Lynn and Lanyon as a three bay, four storey Victorian house in 'Scots Baronial' style using pink Dumfries sandstone and local grey limestone and also includes some fine interior detail including mosaic tiles, fireplaces and a stone staircase. Castle Leslie has great historic interest having hosted many well known guests over the years including The Duke of Wellington and Winston Churchill.

11. THE WALLED GARDEN

The Walled garden was built in 1850 and includes formal gardens, a series of glasshouses and wrought iron gates which open onto the lake. In its day the garden would have helped to supply home grown vegetables and flowers for the house. Although derelict, plans are currently under way to restore and open the gardens to the public.

12. GLASLOUGH LAKE

The 'magical green lake' is well stocked with roach and reputed to contain pike weighing up to 45lbs. It is this lake which gave the village its name and which attracted the McKenna family and later Sir John Ridgeway to build their castles at this site. Whilst visible from the entrance the lake is not accessible to the public.

13 WETLAND AREA

This important wetland area is situated on the banks of the Mountain River and within easy walking distance of the castle. There is access to a wetland area 7 ponds and over 25 species of flora and fauna. This area works as a treatment area for town and estate.

14 OLD GRAVEYARD AND LYNCH GATE

This graveyard was built when the graveyard at St Salvators became full and included a Linch Gate providing cover for those who came to bury their loved ones. Many people thought it was unlucky to have the first family burial in a new graveyard however Lady Constance was keen to open the graveyard before she returned to London. To allow this to a happen she oversaw a bizarre opening ceremony which included the burial of a leg donated by an unfortunate amputee from the nearby hospital!

Blackwater Regional Partnership

The Blackwater Regional Partnership is a Cross Border Joint Committee between Armagh City and District Council, Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council and Monaghan Borough Council aiming to develop and implement a sustainable integrated rural development strategy through a partnership approach and to encourage cross border co operation between the three Councils, the private and community sector.

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Blackwater Regional Partnership

Irish Central Border Area Network

INTERREG IIIA

Project part financed by the European Union