

Northumberland

# A splendid Grade II listed, historic landmark with castellated tower set within 32 acres of private grounds 



## Features:

## Reception hall

Drawing room with side bar Garden/ceremony room
Dining room with private dining area
Breakfast room
Marquee
Catering kitchen and ancillary services Refrigeration room
Laundry

Safe
Well

18 Bedrooms over three floors (all en suite)

3 Further flats and a house

Workshop
Terraced lawned garden
Woodland grounds bordered by a stream
Lake and pasture/grazing land
Single bank fishing rights on 3 miles of river
Parking
Greenhouse and polytunnel



Property
Otterburn Castle can trace its origins as far back as 1076 when Robert D'Umphraville, cousin to William the Conqueror, was given the land in appreciation of his services. A later survey, commissioned in 1308 , shows the existence of a pele tower on the site, which is believed to have been built after 1245. The same structure is later referred to by Froissart in his account of the battle of Otterburn in 1388, when the English army suffered a bloody defeat at the hands of the Scottish, led by the Earl of Douglas who tried to take the tower.

In 1415 at the beginning of the reign of Henry V, Otterburn Tower had passed to Sir Robert De Umphraville and was most likely used as a hunting lodge. Then by the 16 th century (during the reign of Henry VIII) the Hall family was in residence. Very little is known about how they became custodians, though John Hall is noted as a Sequester under Cromwell and became Commissioner for Enclosure in 1552. He was also named as a 'pensioner of the crown'. The most infamous member of the Hall family was 'Mad Jack Ha' who features in Harrison Ainsworth's novel 'Preston Fight' for his part in the 1715 Jacobite rising. He was convicted for his 'crimes' and after being reprieved five times, was eventually hanged at Tyburn on 12 July 1716.

Sadly there is very little left of the pele tower. However, the Grade II listed castellated tower that we see today incorporates a Tudor-arched entry and was built in 1830 by Thomas James on the foundations of the original structure using some of the original stones. This was extended in 1904 by F.W. Rich for Howard Pease.



Otterburn Castle is currently run as a successful country house hotel and retains many of its historic fittings and striking architectural details. These include stone-mullioned windows, oak wall panelling, magnificent fireplaces and intricate plasterwork.

The stately reception hall has a carved staircase and timber panelling which creates an impressive sense of theatre upon arrival. Similarly, the principal reception rooms provide significant spaces for entertaining, being beautifully proportioned and full of character.

The drawing room which opens off the main hall is cosy and inviting with its fireplace and timber floors. There are dual-aspect views through full-length shuttered windows, attractive plasterwork to the ceiling and an adjoining room which is currently used as a side bar.

The stately garden room is light and airy with pale walls and an impressive bay window, as well as an ornate Florentine marble fireplace. This features paired Ionic columns and a frieze of a she-wolf suckling Romulus and Remus. The room is currently used for ceremonies and can seat 120 guests comfortably, or 40-60 for formal dining.

Everything about the timber-panelled dining room is grand - from the imposing stone-mullioned window with stainedglass roundels, to the immense fireplace with its intricately carved mantle bearing the Pease family crest. The room incorporates a private area for a more intimate dining experience.

Like the dining room, the breakfast area has timber panelling to the walls and fireplace, however, the overall ambiance has a much lighter feel. In addition to the two large timber sash windows looking out to the front of the property, there is also an arrow-slit window high up on one of the walls.

The former stable block is now used as workshop and storage areas.

For larger gatherings, there is a marquee with its own private bar which has panoramic views of the garden and can cater for up to 150 guests.

The service areas are situated away from the formal rooms and include a fully equipped catering kitchen with ancillary areas and a laundry room.

The 18 bedrooms are arranged over three floors and are all very different in character. There are two rooms on the ground floor and a further two are situated in the tower. The majority of rooms are located on the first floor and these include the bridal suite which occupies what was once the original library. This is accessed by its own private staircase and boasts a wealth of period details. These include an impressive inglenook fireplace with a segmental arch above which are five painted panels depicting scenes from the Battle of Otterburn. All rooms have en suite facilities.

There is further staff accommodation which comprises three flats and one house.



Garden $\begin{gathered}\text { Grounds }\end{gathered}$
Otterburn Castle sits within 32-acres of formal gardens, mature woodland and parkland which provides a very picturesque backdrop to this impressive property. A private drive leads up from the main road to a large parking area. This is bordered by terraced formal lawns.

There is a pretty woodland walk which follows the course of a small stream and culminates at a tranquil lake. Along the way, it passes the water wheel that once pumped water for the garden's ornamental fountains.

The estate is also comprised of pasture land currently rented out to a local farmer. This could provide an opportunity for development, subject to the necessary planning consents.

About 32 acres.

## Location

Otterburn Castle is located within the quiet village of Otterburn, a vibrant community which has a general store and a pub. The village sits within the Northumberland National Park, right at the heart of the picturesque Redesdale Valley and close to the World Heritage Site of Hadrian's Wall.

The historic town of Bellingham is the closest town for shopping and amenities. Known as the gateway to Keilder Water \& Forest, it nestles on the banks of the North Tyne and is a well-known stopover point for the Pennine Way, the Pennine Cycle Way and the Reivers Coast to Coast cycle route. It offers a variety of shops, pubs and eating places, as well as banks, a library, a garage, a fitness centre, an 18 -hole golf course and public transport links.

Local Authorities:
Northumberland County Council County Hall
Morpeth
NE61 2EF
Rating: The property is subject to business rates. Further details are available from the agents.

Planning: Otterburn Castle currently has a planning use class of C 1

Services: Mains electricity and drainage are connected to the property. Water is via a spring. Biomass central heating.

Commercial EPC rating: A
Rights of Way: there is a public footpath crossing the land - please refer to the agents for further details.

Directions: Driving into the village of Otterburn from the north, the gates to the castle are on the right.

Tenure: Freehold
Guide price: $£ 3,000,000$

Flat 1 internal area $417 \mathrm{sq} \mathrm{ft}(39 \mathrm{sq} \mathrm{m})$
Annexe internal area $1,052 \mathrm{sq} \mathrm{ft}(98 \mathrm{sq} \mathrm{m})$
Flat 2 internal area $952 \mathrm{sq} \mathrm{ft}(89 \mathrm{sq} \mathrm{m})$
Quoted Area Excludes 'Porch \& Owners Flat'
For identification purposes only.


The position \& size of doors, windows, appliances and other features are approximate only (C) ehouse. Unauthorised reproduction prohibited. Drawing ref. dig/8294689/SHO

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