



## **Design & Access Statement and Heritage Assessment**

Proposed Demolition of Brick Walls, Walled Garden

Croft Castle, Herefordshire HR6 9PW

August 2016



*Figure 1. Croft Castle East front.*

## **1. Introduction**

1.1 This statement accompanies a listed building application for partial demolition of surviving lean-to buildings in the Walled Garden at Croft Castle, Herefordshire

1.2 This statement sets out information in relation to the heritage and landscape assets and the impact of development on them, in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) and having regard to guidance from Historic England.

## **2. Context**

2.1 Croft Castle is a Grade I Mansion dating to the early 14<sup>th</sup> Century - one of the Welsh Marches castles between Leominster to the south and Ludlow to the north. The Kitchen Garden is an early C19 brick-walled kitchen garden lying approximately 50m north of the Castle, and rises gently from south to north.

2.2 The Statement of Significance for Croft Castle and the listing descriptions for the garden and castle sites are included in the Appendix, at the end.

2.3 Croft Castle is open to visitors throughout the year by the National Trust and currently there are over 80,000 visitors a year. The Estate is open from February to the end of October every day, with winter opening generally only at weekends, but our season continues to extend and we continue to provide increased access to parts of the Estate, with extended footpaths etc.

## **3.0 The Walled Garden**

3.1 The Walled Garden is an important and popular part of the Castle and provides both setting, strong visual appeal and historical context to the development of the country house, which is Croft Castle. From the listing description: 'The main compartment is c 120m east/west and c 80m north/south; incorporated in the north wall, which is c 4m tall, is a gardener's house of the mid C19 (post 1839). The interior of the garden is largely given over to lawns and fruit, and a vineyard was established in 1979. At the same time as the North Forecourt Garden was laid out a rose garden was laid out in the southern half of the garden, and Irish Juniper planted either side of the main east/west axial path across the garden. The walled garden was in traditional productive use until at least 1937. By 1957 it was a potato patch. North of the kitchen garden is a large greenhouse, probably of the early C20'.



*Figure 2: View into Top Walled Garden , from Main Walled Garden*

3.2 North of the walled garden, through a large brick arch in the high wall (see Figure 2), is a separate 'working' area of the garden which consists of a large glasshouse, probably of the early C20, and associated gardener's 19<sup>th</sup> century lean-to structures and bothies. These lean-tos lie against the south side of the garden wall and are constructed of mid orange bricks, in English Garden Wall bond, some with slate roofs and some with corrugated iron roofing. The National Trust has gradually bought these buildings back into productive use, by sympathetic 'light touch' conservation in order to retain their historical context and simplicity, but also to allow them to be used once again for their original intention as gardener's bothies and garden storage buildings.





*Figure 3: Lean-tos – east of arch, on south side of the wall, at the top of the main walled garden – recently re-roofed*

3.3 The first building to the west of the archway (north side) was a narrow boiler house (which once served the now demolished glasshouse) and has a single brick arch above the door and a lower slate roof. The building in the far south-west corner, which is immediately adjacent Garden Cottage, is the original 19<sup>th</sup> Century washhouse for the cottage, and still has the brick boiler and chimney stack in the corner.



*Figure 4: Lean-tos – west of arch, on south side of the wall, at the top of the main walled garden – boiler house in foreground and wash house in background*

## **5. National planning policy**

### **a) General approach**

5.1 The National Planning Policy Framework sets out the government's policies for planning. Paragraph 6 states that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. Paragraph 7 sets out the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental.

5.2 Paragraph 14 states that for decision-taking the presumption in favour of sustainable development means approving development proposals that accord with the development plan without delay; and where the development plan is absent, silent or relevant policies are out-of-date, granting permission unless:

- any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in this Framework taken as a whole; or
- specific policies in this Framework indicate development should be restricted.

5.3 Paragraph 17 sets out twelve core planning principles.

### **b) Heritage assets**

5.4 Chapter 12 of the NPPF sets out the government's objectives and planning policies for the historic environment.

5.5 Paragraph 128 requires applicants to provide a description of the significance of heritage assets affected by the proposals and the contribution of their setting to that significance. This should be proportionate to the importance of the heritage asset and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on the significance of the heritage asset.

5.6 Paragraph 131 states that local planning authorities should take account of the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation.

5.7 Paragraph 132 states that great weight should be given to the conservation of heritage assets. The more important the asset, the greater the weight should be. Significance can

be harmed through alteration of an asset or development within its setting. As assets are irreplaceable, any harm should require clear and convincing justification.

5.8 Paragraph 134 states that where a proposal would lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefit of the proposal, including securing its optimum viable use.

5.9 Paragraph 137 advises local planning authorities to look for opportunities for new development within the setting of heritage assets to enhance or better reveal their significance. Proposals that preserve those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to or better reveal the significance of the asset should be treated favourably.

5.10 Annex 2 defines setting as: “The surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral.”

### **c) Rural Economy**

5.11 Chapter 3 of the NPPF states that planning policies should support economic growth in rural areas. Local and neighbourhood plans should support the sustainable growth of business and enterprise and support sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments.

## **6. Historic England Guidance**

6.1 Good Practice Advice Note 2 (Managing Significance in Decision Taking in the Historic Environment) provides information to assist local planning authorities and others in implementing historic environment policy in the NPPF. Paragraph 3 emphasises that the information required should be no more than is necessary to reach an informed decision. Paragraph 4 sets out the importance of understanding the significance of heritage assets when designing proposals. Paragraph 6 sets out the importance of pre-application discussions. It also suggest that these discussions and applications can benefit from a structured approach but footnote 2 advises that where significance and/or impact are relatively low only a few paragraphs of information might be needed.

6.2 Good Practice Advice Note 3 (The Setting of Heritage Assets) also provides information to assist local planning authorities and others in implementing historic environment policy in the NPPF. Paragraph 2 emphasises that the information required should be no more than is necessary to reach an informed decision. Paragraph 9 advises that the importance of setting lies in what it contributes to the significance of a heritage asset. This depends on a wide range of physical elements within, as well as perceptual and associational attributes pertaining to, the heritage asset's surroundings. Paragraph 11 notes that protection of the setting of heritage assets need not prevent change. The guidance sets out a 5-step approach to assessment:

- identify which heritage assets and their settings are affected;
- assess whether, how and to what degree setting contributes to the significance of these assets;
- assess the effects of the development, whether beneficial or harmful, on that significance;
- explore ways to maximise enhancement and minimise harm;
- make and document the decision and monitor the outcomes.

## **7. Design Principles and Concepts**

7.1 It is intended to repair the original washhouse lean-to and boiler house buildings but the remaining walls of the long-since demolished glasshouse that stood between them, are in a dangerous condition, never having been constructed well originally. The one cross wall would have to be demolished and rebuilt, if it was to be retained, and with no useful function it is considered sensible to demolish it now. The low front wall that would have formed the plinth of the glasshouse is also beyond repair and the National Trust would like to remove it to allow for better interpretation of the two other buildings and for safety reasons.





*Figure 5: Walls to be demolished*



*Figure 6: Plinth wall with considerable lean – to be demolished*





*Figure 7: Cross wall to be demolished*



*Figure 8: Other side of Cross wall showing no tie-in*

## 8. Summary

8.1 The National Trust is the country's largest conservation organisation and is committed to conserving special places for ever for everyone but is also committed to enhancing public opportunities for access to the beautiful places we safeguard for the nation. In submitting this application the local planning authority is respectfully asked to take account of the Trust's careful consideration of all the issues involved in this proposal, and the needs of our operations, and approve this planning application.

## Statement of Significance

### Croft Castle

Croft Castle, Herefordshire is sited at the centre of 1,596 hectare estate lying 12kms south west of Ludlow. It was handed to the National Trust in 1957. Listed Grade I, the Castle was built by Sir Herbert Croft (1566-1629) and completed by circa 1616. Its turreted style is an early example of the romantic medieval revival which reflected the Elizabethan and Jacobean fascination with the chivalric past: other examples of this type include Lulworth Castle (1608) and Ruperra Castle (1626).

Croft Castle and estate is situated in some of Britain's most picturesque and tranquil countryside, set on a rise facing south towards the Black Mountains and affording magnificent views. The quietness and remoteness of the setting enhances the quality and interest of the property which also includes internationally important archaeology in the form of the Iron Age hill fort of Croft Ambrey. A Scheduled Ancient Monument, this is sited on a 300 metre-high limestone ridge to the north of the castle from which as many as fourteen of the old counties can be seen.

There have been Crofts at Croft since 1085 when the Domesday Book recorded one Bernard de Croft as the owner. The present castle is predated by two earlier buildings: the first, a fortified manor house, was constructed a little to the west of the present castle by the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. In the early 16<sup>th</sup> century this was demolished by Sir James Croft (c.1518-1590), Privy Councillor and Comptroller of the Household under Elizabeth I, and replaced by a second small Elizabethan mansion constructed probably of brick with elaborate gardens and terraces. His inventory describes a house with hall, upper and lower parlours, gallery and several bedchambers.

During the Civil War much of the third house on the site, the early 17<sup>th</sup> century Castle, was damaged by Irish mercenaries and all except the outer walls were dismantled by the Royalists to prevent it being garrisoned by the Parliamentarians. It was largely rebuilt in the 1660s by Herbert Croft (1603-91), Bishop of Hereford, whose fortunes had revived following the Restoration. His works also included the construction of a new north wing and the creation of formal approaches from the south and west.

The extensive landscape park, including many ancient oaks, has its origins in a medieval landscape of wood pasture which was overlaid with formal Elizabethan gardens and terraces. When the Castle was reconstructed in the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century the formal gardens were extended to the south and west. The Oaks and the avenues of Sweet Chestnuts, radiating north and west of the Castle were probably planted circa 1670 -1720 by Bishop Croft's son Sir Herbert Croft (1652-1720).

The 14<sup>th</sup> century church of St. Michael and All Angels, (Listed Grade I) belonging to the Parish of Yarpole, predates the present Castle but is situated within its curtilage. It houses a number of fine Croft family tombs dating from the early 16<sup>th</sup> century.

The church was remodelled in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries and has always formed part of the important view of the Castle from its eastern approach.

By 1746 Croft had to be sold to pay the debts of Sir Archer Croft (1683-1753) who had originally lost money as a speculator in the South Sea Bubble. The estate was purchased by Richard Knight (d.1765) of nearby Downton Castle, an iron magnate with family interests in Coalbrookdale Shropshire, for his daughter Elizabeth and her future husband Thomas Johnes I (c1721- 80). Following their marriage much of the Castle was remodelled by local architect Thomas Farnolls Pritchard (1723-77) from 1765 onwards in a Rococo-Gothick style. Elements from this period survive in the interiors in the form of plasterwork and carving, door-cases and chimney pieces.

The Stables and Coach-house to the north and east of the Castle (Listed Grade II) were probably re-constructed at this date, incorporating earlier buildings on the site and provided with Gothic detailing and crenellations.

Connections between the Knight and Johnes families, particularly Richard Payne Knight with his ideas on the Picturesque, encouraged the remodelling of the landscape between the mid-18<sup>th</sup> - early 19<sup>th</sup> century, firstly by Thomas Johnes II, Elizabeth and Thomas's son who built Hafod in Wales and was influenced by the ideas of his friend Uvedale Price. Somerset Davies, MP for Ludlow to whom the property was sold in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century was also influenced by the ideas of the Picturesque and brought these to bear in his remodelling of the landscape.

Pleasure grounds and a circuit of walks and drives were created in Fishpool Valley. This natural valley with historic fishponds was re-fashioned with ornamental pools and cascades together with new features and buildings, including a grotto, seats, conduit, later pump house with Gothick detailing (Listed Grade II), an ice house and a lime kiln. A raised terrace on the south front of the Castle and a Gothick entrance archway, which straddles the approach drive, with its associated curtain wall north east of the castle were constructed in circa 1810.

Improvements carried out to the Home Farm complex and the conversion of large areas of wood pasture to hedged fields, indicate Somerset Davies' concerns for agricultural improvement. He shared these ideas with Uvedale Price who implemented similar practices on his own estate at Foxley. Following his death in 1817 his wife continued to live in the Castle until it was inherited by her grandson Edmund Hammond Kevill who took the name Kevill-Davies. It remained in the Kevill-Davies family until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century when it was leased to Major Evelyn Hammond Atherley by which time it was in a poor state of repair. Atherley commissioned a little-known Edwardian architect Henry Walter Sarel (1873-1941) to carry out repairs and remodelling in 1913. Sarel's work attempted to reintroduce a 17<sup>th</sup> century character to the Castle and many elements of Pritchard's playful Gothick work were sadly unpicked.

In 1923 the Trustees of the 11<sup>th</sup> Baronet, Sir James Croft made the decision to purchase the Castle back after a gap of more than 170 years. The only major alteration they made was the demolition of most of the 17<sup>th</sup> century north wing in 1937 to make the house more manageable. Sir James was killed in action in 1941 and Croft passed to a cousin Sir Henry Page Croft (1891- 1947) then Under Secretary of State in Churchill's war-time government. During the war the Castle was occupied as a convent school and only in 1946 did he begin the urgent task of mending the roof and reviving the shabby decoration. Following his death only a year later the Castle passed to his son Michael, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lord Croft ( 1916-97). Given the finances of the estate and the death duties incurred he proposed that the castle should be sold to his cousin Major Owen Croft (1880-1956) in the hope that he would have the resources to maintain it but following Major Owen Croft's death in 1956 it was again under threat. Through the combined efforts of the National Land Fund, the National Trust and most importantly many members of the Croft family, the property was secured for the Nation in 1957. The present Lord Croft and his cousin Mrs Caroline



Compton still occupy apartments in the Castle, maintaining a family presence which stretches back almost a millennium.

## Listing Descriptions

This garden or other land is registered under the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953 within the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens by English Heritage for its special historic interest.

**Name:** CROFT CASTLE

**List entry Number:** 1000878

### Location

The garden or other land may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County	District	District Type	Parish
	County of Herefordshire	Unitary Authority	Aymestrey
	County of Herefordshire	Unitary Authority	Croft and Yarpole
	County of Herefordshire	Unitary Authority	Lucton

National Park: Not applicable to this List entry.

**Grade:** II\*

**Date first registered:** 28-Feb-1986

**Date of most recent amendment:** Not applicable to this List entry.

### Legacy System Information

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

**Legacy System:** Parks and Gardens

**UID:** 1875

### Asset Groupings

This list entry does not comprise part of an Asset Grouping. Asset Groupings are not part of the official record but are added later for information.

### List entry Description

#### Summary of Garden

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

#### Reasons for Designation

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

#### History

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

#### Details

A landscape park with notable survivals of sweet chestnut plantings of probable C17 date associated with a country house.

## HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

The Croft family held Croft from the later C11 until the mid C18, several members gaining national prominence and office. In 1746 the mortgaged property was surrendered by Sir Archer Croft (d 1753), MP, to Richard Knight of Downton who had already acquired some parts of the Croft estate. Knight (d 1765) lived at Croft with his daughter Elizabeth and son-in-law Thomas Johnes, after whose death in 1780 Croft was sold in 1783 by their son Thomas Johnes II, the builder of Hafod, to Somerset Davies, the MP for Ludlow. In 1923 Croft was purchased from Davies' descendants by the trustees of Sir James Croft. The freehold was acquired by the National Trust in 1957.

## DESCRIPTION

**LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING** Croft Castle lies 12km south-west of Ludlow, the park being bounded to the south by the B4362 Ludlow to Presteigne road. To the south of the road the ground falls away to the River Lugg and Leominster, 8km to the south-east, while to the north it rises ever more steeply, up to the wooded slopes of Yatton Hill and the Iron Age hillfort of Croft Ambrey (scheduled ancient monument) which lie on the northern edge of the

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Listing Descriptions

The National Trust, Croft Castle, Herefordshire

park. To the west the park reaches almost to the River Lugg, while to the east it extends across the Fishpool Valley to abut Bircher Common. Croft Castle lies in the lower, southern part of the park adjoining the medieval parish church of St Michael. The area here registered is c 290ha.

**ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES** The main approach is from the east, the park being entered at the hamlet of Cock Gate on the B4362. The two-storey stone and timber-framed gate lodge is late C19 or early C20, although incorporating older building materials. About 100m to the north-west is a single-storey L-plan building with gothic detailing of early C19 style, in fact a disguised late C20 concrete block bungalow. The east drive, which runs along the west edge of the Fishpool Valley, is tree lined for the whole of its 1km length. The oldest trees lie along the central 600m, and are predominantly oaks. The first 200m of the drive past the lodge were planted with oaks in the late C20. As the drive approaches the Castle beech is the main species. The Cock Gate Drive was probably created c 1790, about the time the gothic curtain wall (listed grade II) at its end was built. A drive, present by c 1880, returns south to the B4362 from east of the pleasure grounds.

A single-storey, stone, gothic lodge of early C19 date at Lucton, 2km south-west of the Castle, marks the end of a former carriage drive which ran to Croft via a gothic bridge over Lucton Lane (demolished 1947 x 1958) and the Chestnut Avenue. The western section of the drive was also oak lined, and extensive replanting took place in the late C20. Lucton Drive was probably created after the Croft and Lucton estates were reunited c 1810.

**PRINCIPAL BUILDING** Croft Castle (listed grade I) is a large and irregular late C14 or early C15 castle with four corner towers. After slighting in the Civil War the Castle was rebuilt and extended with a north wing. About 1765 the Castle was extensively remodelled both internally and externally by Thomas Farnolls Pritchard (1723-77), its gothic appearance owing much to that phase of work. The north wing was demolished in 1937.

Some 30m east of the Castle is St Michael's church (listed grade I), while to its north-east are the late C18 stables (listed grade II) and early C19 Home Farm complexes.

**GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS** The grounds are entered via a crenellated gothic Curtain Wall with towers, probably of the 1790s, which straddles the approach drive from the east c 200m north-east of the Castle. From this a sandstone-rubble ha-ha (probably constructed slightly later, and possibly after 1825) runs south, defining both the grounds and the east side of an inner park which extends c 200m south and west of the Castle. A shrubbery runs along the north side of the drive once it passes the Curtain Wall, while to the south the East Lawn with occasional specimen trees extends to the church. West of the church, and extending along the south and west sides of the Castle is a terrace with a low crenellated wall (listed grade II), again of the 1790s. Behind, north of the Castle and linking it with the walled kitchen garden, is the North Forecourt Garden, laid out c 1960 in the area of the north range demolished in 1937. This comprises several compartments divided by terraces, and with beech and yew hedging, and with elaborately patterned brick and cobbled paths. Most of the gardens around the Castle were laid out after 1957 to designs by Graham Thomas, the exceptions being the North Forecourt Garden, by Mrs D Uhlman, who also laid out the pleasure garden aspects of the kitchen garden.

Some 50m and 100m south of the Castle are two low, 75m long, east/west terraces, the latter more pronounced and with evidence of a central path leading back to the centre of the south front. A small pool lies further to the south, its dam on the same axis as the central path down the terraces. These remains presumably represent traces of formal gardens predating the mid C18 alterations at Croft. Although no plan of the gardens survives, later map evidence indicates that the pool once extended across the later dam and had a symmetrical, kidney-shaped plan, and that the line of the central axis was continued by a tree-lined southern drive. Immediately west of the terraces are the earthworks of a flight of ponds; again these may have been a part of the formal garden. The formal garden, perhaps laid out in the early C17, was presumably abandoned in the later C18 as more of a landscape park was created at Croft.

PARK Underlying much of the open parkland, and extending in all over an area of c 500m from north to south and 2km from east to west, is ridge and furrow. That presumably represents an arable field system put down to grass when the deer park was created.

The most notable elements of the park are the avenues of ancient sweet chestnut trees which radiate north and west of the Castle. That to the north, comprising several parallel lines of trees, begins 250m north-west of the Castle, its north end apparently aligned on Croft Ambrey hillfort, although terminating in an end group after c 500m. The Chestnut Avenue, in all c 1km long, begins c 200m south-west of the Castle, initially as a single line of trees but then becoming, after c 150m, a triple line. This runs west along a slight ridge, with extensive views to the south towards Leominster. Estimates of their age suggest the rows of sweet chestnuts were planted 1620 x 1680, roughly at the time suggested for the creation of the terraced gardens south of the Castle. Insofar as the layout of the chestnut plantings can be reconstructed, it comprised a main avenue, double in parts and with some clusters, continuing the main south axis of the gardens; a Western Avenue, with the still surviving Chestnut Avenue parallel and to the south of it; and running north from the Castle between four and seven parallel lines of trees. Explanation of the last planting is uncertain, although it has been suggested (Fretwell et al 1987) that it may be a schematic representation of a battle a member of the family fought in. The chestnuts were allowed to remain when the park was re-landscaped c 1800. About 1970 an avenue of limes c 350m long was planted north of, and parallel with, the Chestnut Avenue. The park contains many other mature trees including sweet chestnuts, and map and other sources indicate that at least some were elements of the pre mid C18 formal design. A layered lime on the East Lawn is said to be the last survivor of a lime avenue.

Running down the east side of the park is Fishpool Valley, a pronounced topographic feature, in the late C20 planted with commercial woodland and with re-engineered fishpools along its bottom. Enough remains, however, to suggest that in the late C18 the valley was adapted as a picturesque landscape, presumably with walks beside and around the chain of pools along the valley bottom. Towards the north end of the valley and on the east side of what was perhaps the uppermost pool is a grotto-like seat or shelter of rude stonework perhaps of the 1790s; this looks down the valley, to the south, with a squint through to a smaller alcove looking west across the valley. Several quarries are cut in this part of the valley, a C19 limekiln adjoining one. Towards the head of the valley is the mid C19 Keeper's Lodge, while half-way down the valley is a stone pumphouse (listed grade II) with gothic details, probably late C18. Little is revealed by the historical sources about the changes to the valley in the late C18 and early C19. In 1790 there were seven small pools down it with scattered trees to either side; the name Fishpool Valley was first used on a map of 1835 (Fretwell et al 1987).

Two other pools lie south of the Castle; the larger, 200m to its south, may have been enlarged in the C18 as a landscape feature.

The northern part of the park, between the end of the northern sweet chestnut avenue and Croft Ambrey hillfort, is commercial woodland managed by the Forestry Commission. A few oak pollards, estimated by the National Trust to be 500-600 years old, survive from an extensive area of wood pasture largely destroyed in 1927.

Within the interior of Croft Ambrey hillfort are up to ten pillow mounds, the remains of a rabbit warren of possible early post-medieval date. In the C19 there was a summerhouse on the Ambrey.

It is assumed the park was created, c 1500, on land owned by the Crofts in Croft and Lucton parishes. At that time it was probably more extensive than later, certainly to the south where the area beyond the B4362 was enclosed by 1790. Other areas were added or returned to the park in the early C19: the area south of Cock Gate Drive after its creation c 1790, and the area around the Lucton Drive after its construction c 1810. The park at Croft saw at least limited landscaping in the



Picturesque style in the years either side of 1800, probably by Somerset Davies and possibly with some input from Richard Payne Knight. Fishpool Valley may, for a time, have been a significant part of the landscape. At about the same time new avenues were planted along the Lucton and Cock Gate drives.

**KITCHEN GARDEN** The early C19 brick-walled kitchen garden lies c 50m north of the Castle, and rises gently from south to north. The main compartment is c 120m east/west and c 80m north/south; incorporated in the north wall, which is c 4m tall, is a gardener's house of the mid C19 (post 1839). The interior of the garden is largely given over to lawns and fruit, and a vineyard was established in 1979. At the same time as the North Forecourt Garden was laid out a rose garden was laid out in the southern half of the garden, and Irish Juniper planted either side of the main east/west axial path across the garden. The walled garden was in traditional productive use until at least 1937. By 1957 it was a potato patch. North of the kitchen garden is a large greenhouse, probably of the early C20.

To the north of the track which bounds the slip along the north side of the kitchen garden is a compartment c 200m square, in the late C19 an orchard and still in the late C20 containing a few old apple trees.

**REFERENCES** Country Life, 107 (28 April 1950), pp 1206-10; (5 May 1950), pp 1292-6; no 53 (31 December 1996), pp 44-9 P Reid, Burke's and Savills Guide to Country Houses: Volume II, Herefordshire (1980), p 18 K Fretwell et al, Croft Castle Park and Garden Survey 1986-7, (National Trust 1987) Croft Castle, guidebook, (National Trust 1990)

Maps OS 6" to 1 mile: Herefordshire sheet 7 SW, 1st edition published 1891 OS 25" to 1 mile: Herefordshire sheet 7.13, 2nd edition published 1904

Archival items Estate Papers (Herefordshire Record Office): Estate sale particulars 1923 (AA3/9); Estate records (S33); c 1800 survey of estate (T74).

Description written: 1998 Register Inspector: PAS Edited: August 1999

#### **Selected Sources**

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details

National Grid Reference: SO 44548 65331

Site Map

## End of listing

**This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.**

**Name:** CROFT CASTLE

**List entry Number:** 1166451

Location

CROFT CASTLE, CROFT PARK

The building may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County	District	District Type	Parish
	County of Herefordshire	Unitary Authority	Croft and Yarpole

National Park: Not applicable to this List entry.

**Grade:** I

**Date first listed:** 08-Nov-1956

**Date of most recent amendment:** Not applicable to this List entry.

Legacy System Information

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

**Legacy System:** LBS

**UID:** 149429

Asset Groupings

This list entry does not comprise part of an Asset Grouping. Asset Groupings are not part of the official record but are added later for information.

List entry Description

Summary of Building

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

Reasons for Designation

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

History

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

Details

CROFT CP CROFT PARK SO 46 NW

2/26 Croft Castle

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Country house. Probably late C16 to early C17, extended late C17, remodelled c1765 by Thomas Farnolls Pritchard of Shrewsbury, and in 1913 by Walter Sarel. Coursed rubble externally, with brick to interior, and slate covered roofs. Roughly square plan with central courtyard and circular corner turrets, the centre of the east range inserted in C18. There are remnants of a late C17 range, extending north from the north-west corner (largely demolished in 1937). East (main) front: three storeys with early C20 concrete coped and crenellated parapet. Corners each have a round tower with corbelled top storey and crenellated parapet (this storey rebuilt C18). The windows are single-light with square heads and chamfered reveals. Central portion of elevation inserted in C18 flanked by two canted bay windows. Between these and corner turrets the ground and first floors each have stone cross-windows under square labels, the second floor with square-headed single-light windows under square heads. The canted bays have a pointed window on each side, each with label and Gothick sash. Second floor windows of smaller proportions. Between two bays there are three windows, two stone cross-windows flank a large C20 canted oriel with stone tile roof. The porch of 1913 has a Tudor arch under a square head and label carried across small side windows. This porch conceals the moulded four-centred arch of the C18 entrance. The chimney stacks are located between the windows in each side bay, each with two diamond-plan stone shafts. South front: corner turrets of three storeys, rest of two storeys with attic lit by windows in two gables, one placed at each end, the parapet is plain. Seven windows, all glazing bar sashes, the outer two and the central one with segmental heads. On the ground floor the two outer windows are tripartite. Central entrance has a moulded architrave. To left-hand corner a 2-light stone mullioned cellar window rises through the plinth. West front: corner turrets as before. Main elevation of two storeys with false second floor formed by C18 parapet with three blind 2-light stone mullioned windows under square labels. First floor has five glazing bar sashes. The outer windows on the ground floor are 2-light stone mullioned windows with square labels. The central entrance has a glazed door. Extending from left-hand corner is a brick wall with six stone cross windows, the remnants of a late C17 wing. North front: central three-storey square-plan tower, rest of two storeys. 3 + 1 + 2 windows with glazing bar sashes. Ground floor windows include stone cross windows. Cellar level has two entrances to left-hand corner (one to corner tower) with semi-elliptical heads. Base of central tower has a low segmental arch. Interior: entrance hall has a large inglenook of 1913 to the rear. The walls are lined with C17 square panelling. The east staircase to the rear of hall has an open well turned baluster and moulded handrail probably by Pritchard. Library ante room to south of hall is lit by one of the canted bays and contains four Gothick pier glasses (restored 1985). The rococo chimney piece on the west wall has been relocated; it was designed by Pritchard and executed by John Nelson and Alexander Van der Hagen (as were almost all the other chimney-pieces in the Castle). The fireplace is set with Sadler and Green Liverpool tiles. The library (south-east corner) has Gothick painted wooden bookcases of C18. Drawing room in south front has early C18 painted panelling, enrichments to the window surrounds and a bolection moulded fireplace. The Blue Room to the west has C17 square panelling painted in the C18 with trompe-d'oeil gilded rosettes. The chimney-piece is by Pritchard, and has been moved from the Oak Room. The pilasters of the overmantel have motifs with musical instruments comparable with those in the Oak Room's fine rococo plaster ceiling. The

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Listing Descriptions

The National Trust, Croft Castle, Herefordshire

Oak Room chimney-piece is of 1913 whilst the panelling of three tiers with applied mouldings is C18, originally painted. The Dining Room in the west range was remodelled in 19.13 in a Georgian style incorporating some 1760s carving. The screen columns at the north end and the elaborate Venetian window are of 1913. Between the Oak Room and the Dining Room lies the Gothick staircase by Pritchard. This has turned balusters, cluster column newels and a ramped handrail. The walls are decorated with Gothick plaster panels, with a niche in the west wall. Most of the main first floor rooms have Pritchard chimney-pieces and cornices. The most notable chimney-piece is that in the Ambassador's Room (over the entrance hall) decorated with a foliate motif within a lozenge. The White Bedroom on the south front has C17 panelling and a bolection moulded fireplace. The north bedroom has a C18 bed recess with central segmental vault. The staircase in the north-west corner has a moulded handrail over a solid C17 bolection moulded balustrade. The attics retain a number of C17 panelled doors. Croft Castle is a property in the care of the National Trust. (BoE, p 109; RCHM 3, pp 35-6; National Trust Guidebook 1986; Burke's and Saviles Guide To Country Houses, Volume II, Herefordshire, Shropshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire, 1980, pp 18-19).

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