



CASTLE LESLIE ESTATE

*A place of innovation, social enterprise,
and inspiration.*

Private and confidential

AN INVITATION TO INVEST IN SAFEGUARDING THE FUTURE OF CASTLE LESLIE ESTATE.



The Castle Leslie Estate located in Glaslough, Co. Monaghan is one of the last Historic Irish Estates still under the custodianship of its founding family. The Estate, spread over 1,000 acres, has always played a central role in the local community and is woven into the fabric of the region and its social history.

During the turbulent years of the Troubles, which severely impacted the Estate due to its Border location, necessitating the sale of much of the land and valuable contents, the current custodian, Sammy Leslie, at 24 took over the remnants in 1991. For over 30 years Sammy has worked tirelessly to reunite and rebuild the Estate, turning it into a vibrant economic driver that now delivers, in balance, multiple

benefits to the region, supporting over 200 jobs, almost 100 local businesses and contributing over €10 million to the local economy.

Through the establishment of the Leslie Foundation, Sammy is steadfastly committed to safeguarding and protecting the Estate for generations to come. She is determined that it continues to evolve as a beacon of hope, a pioneer of best practice, and a champion for climate justice. It is vital Castle Leslie Estate is a fully immersive experience where people come to stay, to learn, to heal, and to recharge in an environment that sparks innovation, champions equality and diversity and that is truly inclusive.

Following three years of research there are two distinct but intertwined bodies of work on the cusp of fruition, these are – Biodiversity and Neurodiversity.

Biodiversity

Nature Led Regeneration Rewilding Strategy

To date we have completed a detailed rewilding implementation strategy with pioneers in the field Dr Paul Jepson of Ecosulis, Wild Business and the Rare Breeds Trust. Alongside, this a complete suite ecological surveys were completed by Flynn Furney to allow us to quantify and qualify the impacts of our nature restoration. This will allow us to share detailed data, learnings and information with local, national and international entities. This scientifically structured approach will be the first of its kind in Ireland.

The results of these studies have identified Red list species including Corn Crane, Black-headed gull, Barn Owl, Northern Lapwing, Curlew, Yellowhammer, Grey wagtail, Whinchat, European Hedgehog, European otter and badger. There are also a significant number of Amber species, African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, Convention on Migratory species and EU Bird Directives.

This strategy interacts with the landscape, ecosystems, heritage, history, location and hospitality of the estate together with the visions, aspirations, expertise and enthusiasms of the Castle Leslie team, have shaped this rewilding vision and start up guide. It is a coproduction of people, place and nature.

In order to undertake a meaningful rewilding project, the purchase of this land is vital.



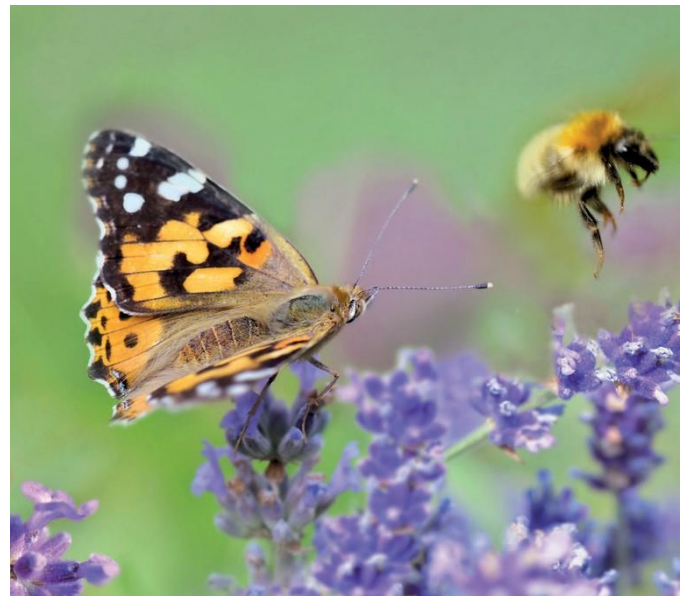
Neurodiversity

Equine assisted therapies, woodland therapeutic experiences and rural respite

We are working with the ground-breaking David Doyle, (who has more than 30 years' experience in the world of autism therapies) and alongside the world-renowned Rupert Isaacson (who developed the Horse Boy method which has revolutionised the treatment of autism spectrum disorders) with the aim of becoming one of the leading Equine assisted therapy centres as part of the All-Ireland respite project.

Our offer will be centred around the individual and family, enabling children and adults with autism and/or intellectual disability to meet, learn, play and express themselves in inclusive and accessibly natural environments.

To create this centre, a safe space, needs to be secured. The farmyard building, which forms part of this sale, is the ideal area for this providing a secure and purposefully designed space to undertake these life changing treatments and trainings.





Renewal and Regeneration

The Story So Far

The regeneration of Castle Leslie began in 1992 with a small number of local teenagers, a baker, and a grant of £5k from the County Enterprise Board, Sammy Leslie opened the tearooms in the leaky conservatory which was to be the first brave step to create the extraordinary environment that exists today. The growth and evolution of Castle Leslie has brought renewed prosperity to the village of Glaslough and tourism to North Monaghan but there is much more to achieve. The social enterprise model has been the cornerstone in building a 100-year plan, put in place to ensure everything is reinvested to support the legacy ambitions.

In 2000 the Castle Leslie Preservation Trust was established with the intention of working with values-aligned entities to preserve the buildings, collections, and archives. Its role is to ensure we deliver on our promises and do not deviate from our mission and responsibilities.

Innovation is central to our work and has been nurtured since 2006 in the Castle Leslie Innovation and Projects Hub.

In 2017, The Leslie Foundation was established. The Foundation is driven by a commitment to people, place, participation, planet, and peace, all anchored in an appreciation of our natural and historic capital – the richness of this land, the importance of built structures, invaluable heritage, and cultural diversity. It is instrumental in driving our ambitions for greater public benefit through the restoration of the Estate and the delivery of innovative ways to share these unique and important spaces. The trustees of the Foundation are committed to co-operation, collaboration and building a sense of pride of place for all the voices in our community, vital to both the longevity of the Estate and the prosperity of the village.

All of this is because of significant investment, sensitive and ongoing regeneration, and the dogged determination to build a strong social enterprise, reinvesting everything to support nature, heritage-led restoration on the estate and in diverse communities, delivering benefits for generations to come. Today, the Estate is a leader in the Irish hospitality sector and increasingly becoming an exemplar of a working estate that places nature recovery and the championing of diversity at the heart of everything it does.

We are at a critical juncture; time is of the essence.

To ensure the work of the last three decades has not been in vain, and in order to protect the unique biodiversity and opportunities for neurodiversity therapies, we must secure the 325 acre of agricultural land, native woodland, forestry, historic farm buildings and wetlands, all of which sit within the boundary of the Castle Leslie Estate.

An agreement is in place for Sammy Leslie, on behalf of the Castle Leslie Preservation Trust and the Leslie Foundation, to purchase these 325 acres. The first parcel, 86 acres of grazing land is due to close on the 30th March and €1.3million is required to complete this. The second parcel, consisting of 240 acres of woodlands and historic buildings needs to be completed by the 30th September at a cost of €2.2million.

Failure to close the first contract will terminate the second and the land will be sold to a third party on the open market.

Join us in Safeguarding the future of the Estate.

Today, we are inviting value-aligned philanthropists, green and social impact financiers to join us in securing the future of the Estate, for the benefit of future generations and the ongoing peace and future prosperity of the border region by becoming a strategic investment partner.



Castle Leslie Estate Map



Our Location



Leslie Foundation

The Leslie Foundation (registered charity no: 20151393) was established in 2017 to work towards a sustainable, shared future for the Estate, for the benefit of the public, the community of Glaslough and the border region. It aims to unlock ground-breaking environmental, culture and heritage-led, social and learning initiatives that focus on people, place, planet and peace and delivering innovative social, economic, and philanthropic benefits.

"With 1000 years of shared history, it is my great honour to be the one tasked with bringing a unique and important part of Ireland's living heritage through to the future. Like my father I strongly believe that we neither inherit nor own lands, we are just guardians doing our best for future generations. It is my hope that Castle Leslie Estate will continue to be a place of possibility and innovation, and one that provides many more years of employment for those who live locally while continuing to be a sanctuary for all who visit."

– Samantha (Sammy) Leslie, Custodian of the Estate

Contact

Sammy Leslie

Email: Sammy@castleleslie.com

Tel: +353 (0)872502300

Castle Leslie

Glaslough

County Monaghan

Ireland, H18 FY04

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