

Cestyll Garden

Open Day 2026



Date

Friday 5th June 2026

Time

The garden will be open from 10:15 to 15:00. Visitors are advised to arrive at the meeting point from 10:00 onwards.

Location

All visitors are to meet at the Great British Energy - Nuclear site car park where there is ample car parking. The car park is shown on the map adjacent.

Postcode LL67 0AA

what3words: ///balanced.victory.snuck

Additional Information

There will be a shuttle bus service to take visitors to and from the car park and garden, though visitors are also able to walk the short distance if they would like to.

The garden will be closed at 15:00 with the last shuttle service departing shortly before this.

Visitors are advised to bring their own refreshments.

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	Rhybudd Dwr Tyfn		Caution Deep Water
	Cadwch Allan		Keep Out
	Dim Nofio		No swimming
	Bydd rhaid i plant fod o dan oruchwyliaeth pob amser.		Please ensure children are supervised at all times.

Please be aware that this is a historic garden with uneven surfaces, steps, low branches and other natural features. Visitors enter at their own risk and are responsible for taking reasonable care for their own safety. While we have taken reasonable steps to make the garden safe, the owners cannot accept liability for loss, damage or injury except where required by law.



Cestyll Garden

Cestyll Garden lies just along the coast from the Wylfa nuclear site, overlooking Porth y Felin between Cemaes and Cemlyn Bays. It has been owned and maintained by the power station's owners since 1983 and by NDA since 2004. Traversed by the Afon Cafnan and divided by streams and bridges, it is essentially a rock garden featuring a large variety of unusual plants.



Cestyll to visitors twice a year which continued until 1961 when the garden was inherited by Lady Astor of Hever.

The garden was originally part of Cestyll House which was bought in 1918 by the Hon. William Walter Vivian of Glyn Bangor as a gift for his niece, the Hon. Violet Vivian, daughter of Lord Vivian of Bodmin, Cornwall.

Shaping the Garden's History

Violet Vivian used Cestyll as a summer home initially but she took a great interest in the garden.

In 1922 she began to develop the beautiful natural setting of the fall of the Afon Cafnan to the sea. At a much later stage, a fir tree plantation was created to provide a wind break and soil was carried to the rock escarpment on the west side of the garden where up to 3,000 annual plants were planted each season.

In October 1991, Cestyll House had deteriorated beyond repair and it was demolished. However the results of the landscape gardening, conceived mostly by Violet Vivian, can still be seen today.

Who was Violet Vivian?

The Hon. Violet Vivian was a Maid of Honour to Queen Alexandra between 1901 and 1925. She was on particularly friendly terms with Princess Victoria and as a result of this association, there were many Royal visits to Cestyll.

It was Princess Victoria who designed the south west corner of Cestyll, which included the splendid white rhododendron.

Violet Vivian started the tradition of opening



A Heritage Garden in a Changing Landscape

The garden has a deep connection to the local community. NDA have been a steward of the garden for over 20 years and remain committed to maintaining the garden as a heritage asset.

Following a period of maintenance the NDA intends to continue the tradition, opening the garden each year for visitors, originally set by Violet Vivian.

The Old Watermill

Cestyll is also home to an old water mill owned by the National Trust. Known as Felin Cafnan, the mill is unusual in that the race water flows over the top of the mill wheel when in operation and is diverted under the wheel when not required. The building and machinery is dated circa 1840 but evidence suggests that a water mill had been operating on this site since possibly the 13th Century.

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