

Explore Wepre Park *Darganfod* Parc Gwepra



Welcome to Wepre Park

Welcome to Wepre Park, a fabulous park with a rich heritage and something for everyone to enjoy. Call in at the Visitor Centre with lively exhibitions and a welcoming café. Underneath are the original cellars of Wepre Old Hall, built in 1788 by Edward Jones on the site of an earlier manor house. The formal gardens of Wepre Hall are planted much as they would have been in 1870.



Close by is the Waterfall, built to power a turbine to generate electricity for the Old Hall. Rosie Pool was dug in the late 18th century to provide fresh fish for the table in the Hall as well as for sport.

The ancient woodlands of Wepre are a delight to explore at any time of year, full of birdsong and the sound of Wepre Brook tumbling over the rocks. At the far end stands Ewloe Castle, built by the Welsh Prince Llewelyn in defiance of the English who enclosed the woods as a private hunting forest in 1255.

Essential things to do at Wepre

- Have fun in the playground or skatepark
- Sit and relax in the formal gardens
- Listen to the water cascading over the waterfall
- Stroll through the splendid woodlands
- Look out from the tower of Ewloe Castle



The Story of Wepre Park

Wepre is listed twice in the Domesday Book when it was owned by St Werburg's Abbey in Chester.

In 1157 Henry II led a huge army into Wales to fight Owain Gwynedd. Henry himself led a small group through Ewloe Woods, hoping to surprise Owain's army at Basingwerk, but was ambushed by Owain's army and narrowly escaped being killed. Soon afterwards Henry II captured Rhuddlan Castle and so Owain surrendered his lands.

Almost 100 years later the Normans enclosed Ewloe as a private hunting forest, which enraged the Welsh. The powerful Welsh Prince of Gwynedd, Llywelyn ap Gruffudd, built Ewloe Castle as a statement of defiance but it fell to Edward I in 1277.

There was probably a house at Wepre from the 7th century and certainly by 1430 the sole heiress of the estate was Gwladys, remembered in the nearby hill Pen Gwladys. Her son Dafydd ap Edmund was a poet who won first prize at the Eisteddfod at Carmarthen in 1451 and went on to tutor many young poets including Tudor Aled, who wrote about St Winefride's Well.

During the Civil War the house belonged to Royalist supporters who supposedly hid Lord Petre in the cellar of Wepre Hall after the Battle of Rowton Moor in 1645. The Fitzherbert family lived at Wepre Hall for four generations from 1695 onwards.

Wepre Hall was bought Edward Jones, a local man who had made his money from lead in 1788. He demolished the old manor house and built a grand Georgian Hall with 9 bedrooms for himself and his family.





Wepre would have been a grand place to live with fine views across Maes Gweppra, the Great Lawn, to the Dee. Pheasantries were

built near the Hall and Wepre Woods were managed for game. Pont Aber was moved to its present location by Ewloe Castle, improving access to the Hall.

Edward's son, Major Trevor Owen Jones, inherited the estate in 1815 and made further improvements. Pen Gwladys Dairy Farm was built in 1815 and Wepre Lane, know locally as Major's Lane, opened in 1821.

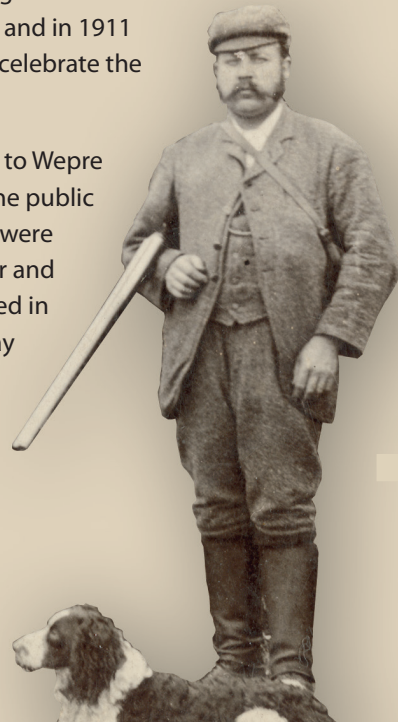
William Purser Freme, a Liverpool merchant, bought Wepre in January 1865. His son James was a keen game shooter and the official record for a 3 day shoot was 2,500 pheasant and wild duck. He built Rosie Pool for sport fishing and also laid out the formal gardens at the rear of the hall.

The Freme family owned Wepre until 1920. Fox hunts were held occasionally together with a large pheasant shoot 3 times a year but access to the estate continued to be by invitation only. For locals the highlight of the social calendar was the Tenants' Ball held each January and in 1911 Wepre was opened to the people of Connah's Quay to celebrate the Coronation of George V & Queen Mary.

The tradition of the Good Friday pilgrimage and picnic to Wepre Woods started in 1923 while Ewloe Castle opened to the public for the first time on October 22nd 1927. Wepre Woods were used by the armed forces during the Second World War and so was once again out of bounds until de-requisitioned in 1948. An official re-opening was held on Whit Monday and the Easter Walk was revived the following year.

Coronation day celebrations in 1953 included a procession from St Mark's Church up to Wepre where a sports day was held.

Today Wepre is home to a wealth of wildlife and is free for everyone to enjoy.



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| Wepre listed twice in the Domesday Book | 1068 | Gwepra yn cael ei gofnodi ddwywaith yn y Llyfr Domesday |
| Henry II ambushed at the Battle of Ewloe | 1157 | Ymosodwyd ar Harri'r II ym Mrwydr Ewloe |
| Ewloe Castle built | 1257 | Adeiladu Castell Ewloe |
| Gwladys was the sole heiress of the ancient manor house | 1430 | Gwladys oedd unig etifedd yr hen faenordy |
| Wepre owned by the Fitzherbert Family for 4 generations | 1695 | Gwepra ym meddiant y Teulu Fitzherbert am 4 cenhedlaeth |
| Classic Georgian house built by Edward Jones | 1788 | Edward Jones yn codi'r tŷ Sioraidd Clasurol |
| John Freme bought Wepre, developed it as a sporting estate | 1865 | John Freme yn prynu Gwepra a'i ddatblygu'n stad hela |
| Estate was sold, much of the land went for development | 1920 | Gwerthu'r Stad, a llawer o'r tiroedd yn mynd i adeiladu tai |
| Ewloe Castle opened to the public for the first time on 22nd October | 1927 | Castell Ewloe ar agor i'r cyhoedd am y tro cyntaf 22 Hydref |
| Connah's Quay UDC bought the Hall & Estate for £10,000 | 1943 | Cyngor Trefol Cei Connah yn prynu'r Plas a'r Stad am £10,000 |
| Hall demolished | 1960 | Hwalu Plas Gwepra |
| Wepre Park protected as part of the Connah's Quay Ponds & Woodlands SSSI | 2001 | Parc Gwepra yn cael ei ddiogelu yn rhan o SSSI Llynnoedd a Choedlannau Parc Cei Connah |
| Visitor Centre extended and gardens restored | 2015 | Ymestyn y Ganolfan Groeso ac adfer y gerddi |

Explore Wepre Park

Darganfod Parc Gwepra

Wepre Woodlands are the last remnants of the great hunting forest of Ewloe and so are exceptionally rich in wildlife including birds, badgers and bats.



Coediannu Gwepra. Un o weddillion olaf y fforest hela ac mae'n arbennig o gyfoethog o ran bywyd gwylt fel adar, moch daear ac ystumud.



Pont Aber was originally called Pont Saeson or English Bridge and was sited further up the Valley. It was moved here, and renamed around 1800 to improve access to the Hall.

Pont Aber. Pont Saeson oedd yr enw gwreiddiol, ac roedd hi'n uchaf i fyny'i dyffryn. Symudwyd hi yma tua 1800 i wella'r mynediad i'r Plas, a hannerwt.



Ewloe Castle or 'the Castle in the Woods' is a Welsh castle that was never intended to withstand a siege as the Welsh fought guerrilla style against the English invaders. The Welsh Tower was the castle keep, the final refuge should the castle fall.

Castell Ewloe Castell Cymryg yw Castell Ewloe, neu'r Castell yn y Coed. Ni chytliniwyd y castell i wrthsefylli gwarchae am mal afer y Cymry oedd lawyrdio yn null herffwrwy yn erbyn y Saeson. Tŵr y Cymry oedd gorthwr y castell, a'r lloches olaf petal y castell yn cael ei gipo.

Brewery Pond is fed by the spring that was used by Castle Hill Brewery that operated from 1844 - 1946, supplying pubs in Deeside, Harwarden, Mold and Buckley.

Pwll dŵr y bradg. Dŵr y ffynnon a ddefnyddiodd Castle Hill Brewery sy'n cyflenwi'r pwll dŵr. Bu'r bradg yn gweithredu o 1844 - 1946, yn cyflenwi tafarnau yng Nglanguna Dyffryn, Pen ar Las, y Wyllygrug, a Bwcle.

The **Waterfall** is actually a weir, built by John Freme to power a small hydroelectric plant to generate electricity for the Hall as mains electricity didn't reach Connah's Quay until 1925.

Y Rhaeadr. Coreo yr y rhaeadr mewn gwirionedd a Luniodd John Freme i yrru peirian trydan dŵr bach i gynhyrchu trydan y' Neuaidd am na ddaeth prif gyflenwad i Gei Connah tan 1925.

Taylor's Wood is a good place to spot odd coal pits, dug by hand in the early 1800s.

Taylor's Woods. Lle gwych i weld yr hen byllau gloy a gloddwyd gyda rhawiau o ddechrau'r 1800au ymlaen.



Look out for the bright blue flash of a kingfisher or a distinctive dipper along Wepre Brook or New Inn Brook.

Edrychwch am flach drydanol glas y dorlan neu sîp nodweddiadol bronwen y dŵr ar hyd Nant Gwepra.

Red Rocks are made of HOLLIN Rock - a warm, red sandstone greatly valued for building. Look carefully and you can see the sweeping curves of the river preserved in the rock, formed around 320 million years ago.

Gwmaed y **Creigiâu Cochion** o Graig Hollin sydd yn dywodfaen coch, cynnes a ddefnyddir i adeiladu. Edrychwch yn ofalus a gallwch weld olion troadau'r afon yn y graig. Ffurfwyd y rhan tua 320 miliwn o flynyddoedd yn ôl.



The Dell is a pretty meadow full of wildflowers in the summer months. **Y Glyn.** Dyna ddiol handu o fiodau gwylt yn yr haf.



The Pet Cemetery is a legacy of John Freme, a keen sportsman and enthusiastic dog breeder.

Mynwent anifeiliaid anwes. Adelladwyd gan John Freme - heilwr brwd ac yn fagwr cwn.

Rosie Pool was created for sport fishing and today is managed by Connah's Quay Angling Club. Carp rest beneath the surface while mallard and moorhen raise their young here in the summer.



Rosie Pool. Crëwyd y llyn i bysgota hamdden. Erbyn hyn, Clwb Pysgota Cei Connah's yn ei reoli. Gorweddai'r carpedd ar wyneb y dŵr tra bot hysgaden wen a'r lâr ddir yn masgu cwion yma yn yr haf.

Old Hall Gardens were laid out by the Freme family around 1800 with formal lawns, paths, beds and features such as the lily pond.



Geoddi'r Hen Blas. Llanodd y Teulu Freme y geoddi tua 1800 gyda lawntiau ffurfiol, llwybrau, gwelyau a nodweddion fel pwll dŵr lili.

Wepre Park Visitor Centre stands on the site of at least two halls and still has the original cellars where the Royalist Lord Petre hid from Cromwell's army after the Battle of Rowton Moor in 1645.



Canolfan Gweso Parc Gwepra. Saif ar safle dydd neuadd o leiaf ac mae'r seileri gwreiddiol yn dal yma lle cuddiodd y Brenhinwr yr Arglwydd Petre o fyddin Cromwell yn dilyn brwydr Rowton Moor yn 1645.

An Oasis for Wildlife Wepre is rich in wildlife including badgers and great crested newts that are protected by law. It is part of the Connah's Quay Ponds & Woodlands SSSI which ensures that the rich habitats and wildlife of Wepre will remain undisturbed both now and in the future.

Gwerddon i fywyd gwylt Mae Gwepre yn gyfngor o fywyd gwylt gan gynnwys moch daear a'r fadfall y twyni a ddiogelwyd diwy gyfaith. Mae'n rhan o'r SSSI Llynedd a Choediannu Parc Cei Connah gan sicrhau y bydd cynefinoedd cyfoethg a bywyd gwylt Gwepre yn aros hec ymyrraeth yn awr ac i dyfodol.



Flintshire Countryside Service

Wepre Park is managed by Flintshire Countryside Service who organise a variety of guided walks, talks and activities throughout the year. Educational visits can also be arranged, please contact the Rangers for details.

Wepre Park Visitor Centre is open everyday.

☎ 01352 703900

✉ countryside@flintshire.gov.uk

www.flintshire.gov.uk



Gwasanaeth Cefn Gwlad Sir y Fflint

Rheolir Parc Gwepra gan Wasanaeth Cefn Gwlad Sir y Fflint sy'n trefnu nifer o deithiau gydag arweinydd, sgysiaua, a gweithgareddau gydol y flwyddyn. Mae modd trefnu ymweliad addysgol hefyd. Cysylltwch â'r Gwarchodwyr i gael gwybod mwy.

Mae Canolfan Groes Parc Gwepra ar agor yn ddyddiol.

☎ 01352 703900

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Useful contacts / Cysylltiadau hwylus

Sports Pavilion – contact Deeside Leisure Centre /
Pafiliwn chwaraeon – cysylltwch â Chanolfan
Hamdden Glannau Dyfrdwy ar
☎ 01352 704200

Connah's Quay Angling Club - day tickets available /
Clwb Pysgota Cei Connah – tocyn dydd ar gael
☎ 01244 813674

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