

Case Study



Craig y Nos Castle: Safe access in a heritage environment

Ipsum Group

Overview of Works

Craig y Nos Castle, a Grade II listed landmark in Swansea, required a specialist scaffold to support the installation of a new cable connection to its 50-metre rooftop mast. Due to the castle's steep elevations, narrow access points, and sensitive heritage architecture, a tailored access solution was essential. Openreach, a valued and long-term client of Ipsum, tasked our Infrastructure team with designing and delivering a method that enabled safe scaffold access without affecting the historic structure. From the initial request through to scaffold installation and final dismantle, we worked collaboratively with Openreach to ensure the access solution fully supported their programme.

Key challenges

The site presented several constraints, including working at significant height, navigating uneven and elevated terrain, and protecting listed stonework. Traditional MEWP access was unsuitable due to restricted entry points and the castle's layout. Maintaining safety while preventing any impact on the building's heritage features was central to the challenge. Alongside this, Openreach were kept informed of constraints so their installation could proceed smoothly once safe access was in place.

Outcome and benefits

The scaffold was completed safely, efficiently, and without any impact on the castle's historic fabric. The project showcases our ability to provide bespoke, safety-focused engineering solutions in complex and heritage-sensitive environments, while supporting partners such as Openreach across the full lifecycle of the works. At Craig y Nos Castle, our commitment to precision and protection ensured a successful outcome while preserving one of Wales' most iconic landmarks.

Our approach

A safety-led methodology underpinned the entire project. A full site assessment identified terrain risks, structural sensitivities, and the demands of height-based work. Led by Scaffolding Manager Richard Barlow, the team developed a bespoke access solution that provided a stable, controlled route to the mast. Protective measures safeguarded the stonework, and continuous supervision ensured strict adherence to work-at-height protocols. Each stage of the scaffold was delivered through controlled movement, rigorous checks, and full compliance with safety standards.

