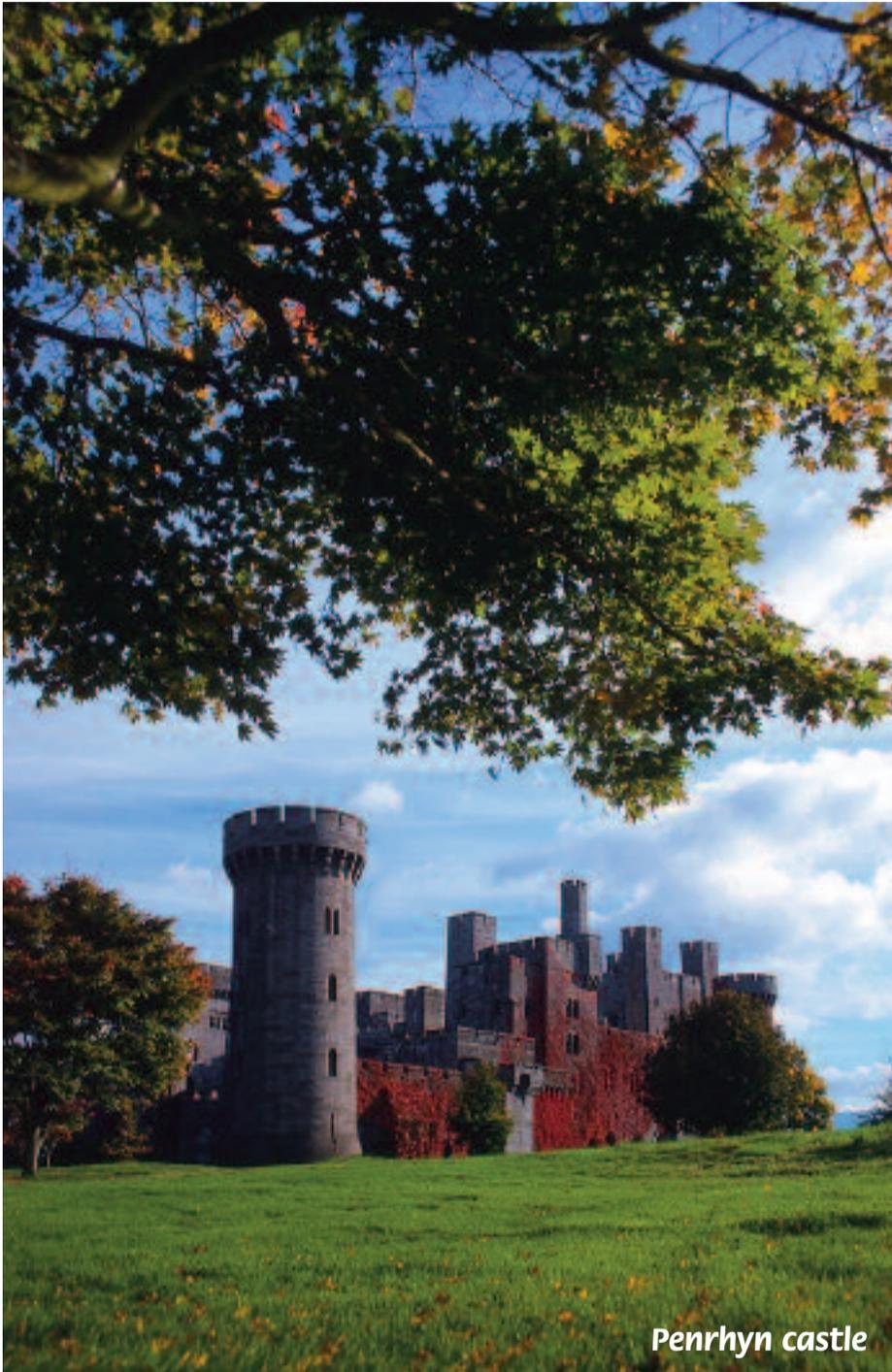


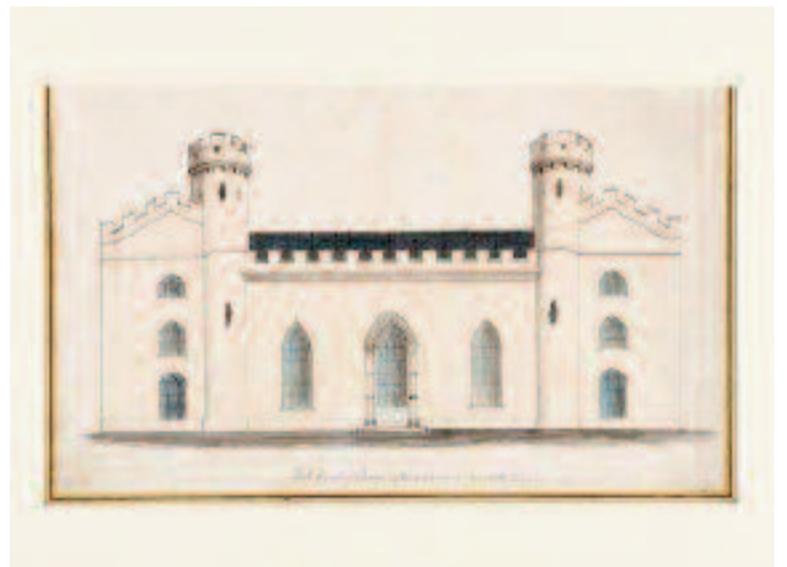
# The Penrhyn Estate

From as early as the 13th century, a prominent Welsh aristocratic family occupied the site where Penrhyn Castle now stands. This family also had close ties with the princes of Gwynedd. In the 14th century, Gwilym ap Gruffydd, who inherited the estate, sided with the Welsh prince Owain Glyndwr against the English crown. He therefore forfeited

his land. His misfortune would not last long, and soon after, he reacquired his lands and went on to expand the estate. He may have built the medieval hall at Penrhyn. The last of the Gruffydd line, Piers Griffith, was a notable pirate and Welsh poet, whose surviving poetry is all about the sea. He captured a Spanish ship loaded with olive oil and brought it back to Abercegin (later to become Port Penrhyn).



Penrhyn castle



The estate passed eventually to Richard Pennant (see no.3). In the 1820s Penrhyn Castle, ‘the most extraordinary fantasy castle built in Britain in the 19th century’, was built to show off the colossal wealth and power of the Penrhyn family. Today, the castle surrounds what remains of the medieval house.

## THE SLATE TRAIL

Follow ‘The Slate Trail’ along Lôn Las Ogwen, where you can find a series of information boards recounting the unique story of Ogwen slate, Penrhyn Quarry and the people involved in its production.