A Wing of one of Staffordshire’s most historically important houses

Oriel House, Admaston, Rugeley, Staffordshire, WS15
Local Information

Oriel House is the west wing of Blithfield Hall; a Grade I Listed House which has been the home of the Bagot Family since the late 14th Century. In its beginnings, the house appeared as a fortress with a moat around the surroundings, it is thought the turreted gateway is one of the oldest castles in England. The present house is mainly Elizabethan with a Gothic facade added in the 1820’s to a design thought to be by John Buckler.

Over the years the house fell into disrepair before being sold by the fifth Baron Bagot in 1949, along with its 650 acre estate to South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, who built Blithfield reservoir which was completed in 1953 and opened by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

During the late 1940’s the house and 30 acres of land was repurchased by the sixth Baron Bagot and his wife Nancy, who began the enormous task of restoring the house and buildings with the assistance of a grant from the Historic Buildings Council. The sixth Baron died in 1961 and in 1986 the house was split into four separate houses.

Situated within the Staffordshire countryside, Oriel House is the west wing of Blithfield Hall, benefitting from a private sunny south west aspect and surrounded by parkland. Nearby Cannock Chase, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, is popular with walkers, riders and cyclists, and covers approximately 26 miles. There are a number of visitor centres, museums and waymarked paths, including the Heart of England Way and the Staffordshire Way.

The nearby Shugborough Estate sits on the edge of Cannock Chase, now owned by the National Trust and comprises a country house, model farm and kitchen garden and is popular with visitors.

The Blithfield Hall estate overlooks Blithfield Reservoir. The 790 acre reservoir is a premier fly fishing destination with excellent trout fishing from both bank and boats. There is direct access from the estate to the North Lake. The reservoir is also popular for walking and bird watching and hosts a sailing school with the local sailing club located in Abbots Bromley.

Abbots Bromley is a village of character and history well known for the horn dance held annually which begins at Abbots Bromley Church and continues to neighbouring farms, stopping at Blithfield Hall for lunch where they perform on the front lawn. Centred round the historic Butter Cross, the picturesque village has excellent amenities including shops, public houses, and schools including Abbots Bromley School for girls.
A larger range of shops and amenities can be found in Rugeley, Lichfield, Uttoxeter and Stafford. Nearby Golf clubs include The Manor, Ingestre and Uttoxeter Golf club. The village of Colton is approximately three miles away which has a church and a primary school, St Mary’s.

There are well regarded schools in both the state and private sector including Abbots Bromley School for girls, Stafford Grammar School, Bishton Hall Preparatory School, Denstone College, St Dominics Priory, King Edward VI High School and Yarlet Hall Preparatory school. The house is well situated for commuting by road and rail, with trains from Stafford station direct to London Euston, taking approximately 1 hour and 20 minutes, with access to the M6 and A50 for onward travel.

About this property

Laid out over three floors, the house has been restored in most parts to retain the essential character, whilst retaining most of the original features such as, large rooms with high ceilings and sash windows, decorative cornicing, dado railing, window shutters, ceiling rose, original fireplaces, oak flooring and wood panelling.

A glass panelled door opens into the reception hall with oak flooring, original fireplace with marble surround, a door to the Inner Hall and double doors to your left and right which provide access to the formal reception rooms and further living space.

The double aspect drawing room, which is thought to have once been a ballroom with its impressive full length sash window with working shutters provides views across Blithfield Reservoir and parkland. Along with its high ceiling with ceiling rose, the room provides an elegant entertaining space. An original fireplace with marble surround and gas inset is a feature of the room.

The L-shaped lounge could also be used as a family room and has three shuttered sash windows all of which look out to the front of the house. There is a large gas fireplace with marble surround in the centre of the room, and intricate moulding detail to the ceiling.

The modern kitchen, which is accessed via the L-shaped lounge, has built-in units, dishwasher and electric oven. Two large shuttered sash windows look out into the inner courtyard.

Double doors open from the L-shaped lounge into the dining room which has a gas fire with marble surround. To the front of the room a conservatory with French doors open onto the gardens which offer plenty of light.

The study which is currently being used as a further bedroom has a marble fireplace with gas inset, polished oak floors and dark oak panelling, and has the benefit of a cloakroom with WC and washbasin.
From the inner hall, an oak staircase rises to the first floor and the impressive 91ft long gallery landing with four sash windows overlooking the inner courtyard. A stained glass window at the end of the hallway is a particular feature along with a striking mural.

The master suite is double aspect with the focal point being the 'Oriel' window which was added approximately 150 years ago. The en suite bathroom has a free standing roll top bath, double sink vanity unit and a number of built in dresser units, cupboards and drawers.

There are a further three bedrooms on the first floor, two with en suite. The fifth and sixth bedroom and further bathroom can be found in the attic suite which is accessed via a door off the gallery landing.

Oriel House has extensive cellars which include a utility room, wine cellar and an attractive valued area which could be used as a party room.

Outside
Approached up a long shared private driveway through glorious parkland dotted with Oak trees, you are met with wonderful views across Blithfield Reservoir. The property is accessed through the original turreted archway to a sweeping gravel drive with ample parking, whilst the double garage is situated away from the house. Oriel House faces south west, benefiting from a sunny and bright aspect for most of the day, and enjoys privacy as the drive does not continue beyond the property. The grounds of Blithfield Hall are extensive and historic. Oriel House has access to the ancient woodland grounds known as The Grove, which extend to about 13 acres from the front of Oriel House.

Tenure
Freehold

Local Authority
East Staffordshire Borough Council

Viewing
All viewings will be accompanied and are strictly by prior arrangement through Savills Telford Office.
Telephone: 01952 239 500.
Admaston, Rugeley, Staffordshire, WS15
Gross Internal Area 9795 sq ft, 910 m²

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