

THE SUSTAINABLE WAY TO UPGRADE THE PICTURE LIGHTING AT CASTLE HOWARD

As part of the 21st Century Renaissance Project at Castle Howard, we were asked to sustainably upgrade the picture lighting in the Long Gallery. We worked with various designers & the Internal Curatorial Team at Castle Howard. This project covered many specialist skill sets to cover all aspects of the room, from gilding to curtains and electrical wiring to architectural joinery. All areas of renovation & restoration were expertly carried out on time to re-open at the end of April.

Our part of this project was to sustainably upgrade the existing picture lights from the old technology, which offered limited light coverage and poor distribution across the canvas. In many instances, the paintings were overlit at the top, with little or no light levels further down. Due to the size of the picture light heads, the light was unable to reach the edges of the canvases, and so the viewing experience was not what it could or should be.

We were asked to improve the light coverage, increase the detail and definition across the canvas and work with the existing picture light models, wherever possible, in their collection. This was not at all easy, and many would have walked away at this point, but we like a challenge!! The paintings ranged in size from an oval 12" x 18" painting through to large landscapes 64" x 84" and full-length portraits of 136" x 86".

Below, Castle Howard

The collection houses many famous artists and paintings, and a careful and considerate approach was required for each piece. To gain the correct lighting levels, the following key items had to be selected:

Colour Temperature

A warm white light, 2,700K

Colour Rendering

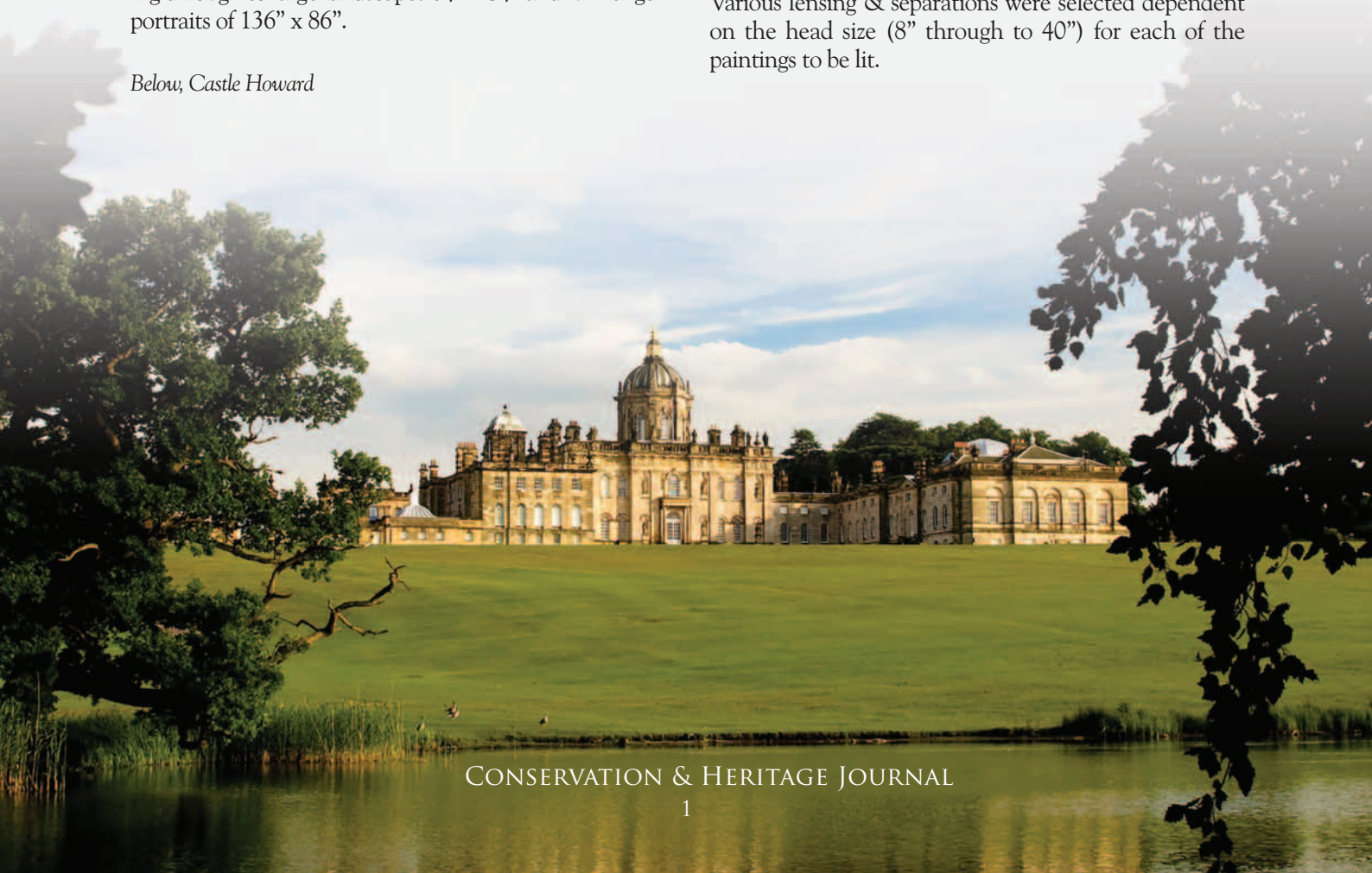
A high CRI was required to bring out the rich colours, definition & brush strokes in the paintings

Head Shape & Size

To work with the existing styles of picture light, which were Linolite and Allom & Heffer.

LED Lensing & Spacing

Various lensing & separations were selected dependent on the head size (8" through to 40") for each of the paintings to be lit.





Arm Position

Correctly sized arms were calculated, each with a swivel knuckle, to gain the desired head position and angle. It is important to shield the LED source so that no glare is observed when viewing the painting.

Lighting Levels

Each picture light was supplied with a dedicated dimmer to ensure correct levels are achieved.

Results

The lighting is *picture perfect*, and we were able to gain the required coverage on all paintings.

If you are ever in the North Yorkshire area, please do pay a visit to this iconic House & Gardens, I would thoroughly recommend it. If you would like to hear more about this project, please do make contact, I would be happy to expand on this for you.



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Trusted to light the finest of art



PICTURE PERFECT ART LIGHTING

Trusted to light the finest of art



11" X 15"



18" X 22"



60" X 80"



30" X 24" (Oval)



50" X 40"

Full canvas coverage whatever the size or shape

Picture Perfect results every time:

Full canvas coverage • Complete uniformity • Highest level of definition & resolution • No damaging UV • No damaging heat from the lamps •
Reduced running costs • Reduced maintenance costs

Over the years Iain has supported many heritage groups including:



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