# Ormiston Castle presents rare blend of 19th-century grandeur with modern-day panic room



Nestled in the picturesque countryside of West Lothian, Ormiston Castle has recently hit the market, offering a rare opportunity to own a 19th-century Scottish baronial estate for £3.8 million. A mere half-hour drive from Edinburgh, the six-bedroom castle is set on an expansive 15 acres, combining historical charm with modern luxury in a fashionable locale that is drawing attention from affluent buyers.

Recently featured on Channel 4’s "Britain's Most Expensive Houses," Ormiston Castle presents a wealth of intriguing features that encapsulate the allure of high-end property. Real estate expert Mark Coulter guided viewers through an exclusive tour, showcasing the castle's impressive renovations and period elements. Among its unique amenities is an ultra-secure 'panic room' artfully concealed behind a bookshelf, designed for emergencies. This secret room is connected to a sophisticated security system, allowing residents to stay connected and secure in uncertain situations. Coulter elaborated on its function, stating, “This is a panic room... you can control the whole house.”

While some of these features may seem extravagant, they are increasingly in demand among buyers seeking luxury that also prioritises safety. The rising prevalence of panic rooms reflects broader trends towards security in high-value real estate, particularly for those with public profiles or means to warrant additional protection. However, the unconventional design choice left some visitors puzzled, with journalist Kirsty McLuckie joking that she may prefer a retreat from uninteresting guests rather than an intruder.

In addition to the panic room, Ormiston Castle is replete with luxurious amenities designed for comfort and entertainment. The property boasts a grand principal suite spanning an entire wing, replete with its own living area, dressing room, and sumptuous marble bathroom. For socialising, a bar and a cinema room enhance the entertainment options, another testament to the property’s capacity for lavish gatherings. The dining room is equally impressive, capable of hosting dinner parties for ten, encapsulating the opulence that potential buyers might expect.

Outside, the estate is complemented by a full equestrian complex, a tennis court, and beautifully landscaped gardens, all meticulously developed with an investment of £150,000 in recent planting. These outdoor features not only enhance the aesthetic appeal of the property but also underscore its suitability for an array of leisure activities, appealing to families or those seeking a retreat from urban life.

Owner Juliet Bentley, who purchased the castle for £1.65 million in 2020, has invested substantially in renovations—reportedly over £3.7 million—to ensure that the property blends modern functionality with its historical roots. She installed eye-catching Murano glass chandeliers, costing £100,000 each, and expressed satisfaction with the enhancements, stating, “It’s like a brand new house but with all original features,” highlighting the delicate balance between preserving heritage and embracing modernity.

For comparison, the property represents a significant investment in the context of today’s real estate market, particularly when juxtaposed against other luxurious listings in the UK. Recently, a London penthouse priced at £80 million was noted for its extravagant features, further indicating the competitive atmosphere of high-end property sales across the country. Such listings often attract international interest, though many upscale properties, like those in Knightsbridge, are likely to serve as second homes for wealthy buyers, sitting largely unoccupied for extended periods.

Ormiston Castle, with its blend of history, luxury, and cutting-edge security, appeals not just as a residence, but as a lifestyle choice, offering its prospective owner an opportunity to enjoy the tranquillity of the countryside while remaining connected to Edinburgh’s vibrant city life.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-14756607/Incredible-six-bedroom-castle-surprising-room.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.struttandparker.com/properties/kirknewton-2)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-14756607/Incredible-six-bedroom-castle-surprising-room.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[3]](https://www.zoopla.co.uk/for-sale/details/70029956/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-14756607/Incredible-six-bedroom-castle-surprising-room.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[6]](https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/lifestyle/homes-and-gardens/look-inside-west-lothian-castle-dating-back-to-1851-with-cinema-bar-and-tennis-courts-on-sale-for-ps45m-4417679)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-14756607/Incredible-six-bedroom-castle-surprising-room.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[5]](https://news.stv.tv/east-central/baronial-scottish-ormiston-castle-dating-back-170-years-goes-on-sale-for-offers-over-4-5m)
* Paragraph 5 – [[2]](https://www.struttandparker.com/properties/kirknewton-2), [[4]](https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/23901650.castle-famous-bank-scotland-architect-sale/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-14756607/Incredible-six-bedroom-castle-surprising-room.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[5]](https://news.stv.tv/east-central/baronial-scottish-ormiston-castle-dating-back-170-years-goes-on-sale-for-offers-over-4-5m)
* Paragraph 7 – [[6]](https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/lifestyle/homes-and-gardens/look-inside-west-lothian-castle-dating-back-to-1851-with-cinema-bar-and-tennis-courts-on-sale-for-ps45m-4417679)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-14756607/Incredible-six-bedroom-castle-surprising-room.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.struttandparker.com/properties/kirknewton-2> - Ormiston Castle, a 19th-century Scots baronial property in Kirknewton, West Lothian, is listed for offers over £3.8 million. The six-bedroom castle has been extensively refurbished, blending historical character with modern amenities. The ground floor features five reception rooms, including two drawing rooms with original oak herringbone parquet floors and marble fireplaces. The kitchen boasts a Clive Christian design with a gas-fired four-oven Aga. The property includes a bar, wine cellar, and a traditional Highland-style pub. The estate spans 15 acres, offering equestrian facilities, paddocks, a tennis court, and extensive gardens with ample parking. The castle is located approximately 30 minutes from Edinburgh, providing a luxurious and secluded lifestyle. ([struttandparker.com](https://www.struttandparker.com/properties/kirknewton-2?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.zoopla.co.uk/for-sale/details/70029956/> - Ormiston Castle, a B-listed baronial house in Kirknewton, West Lothian, is on the market for offers over £3.8 million. The six-bedroom property has been fully refurbished, maintaining period features while incorporating modern amenities. The ground floor includes five reception rooms, a Clive Christian kitchen with a gas-fired four-oven Aga, and a traditional Highland-style pub. The first floor features a principal bedroom suite with a private sitting room, dressing room, and en-suite marble-tiled bathroom. The estate covers 15 acres, offering equestrian facilities, paddocks, a tennis court, and extensive gardens with ample parking. The property is approximately 30 minutes from Edinburgh, providing a luxurious and secluded lifestyle. ([zoopla.co.uk](https://www.zoopla.co.uk/for-sale/details/70029956/?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/23901650.castle-famous-bank-scotland-architect-sale/> - Ormiston Castle, a historic Scottish baronial-style castle designed by David Bryce, is on the market for over £4.5 million. Built in 1851 for Archibald Wilkie of Ormiston, the property has been fully refurbished while maintaining period features. The ground floor includes a reception room, dining room, living room, bedroom with en-suite shower room, kitchen/breakfast room, butler's kitchen, boot room, utility, and two cloakrooms. The first floor features five bedrooms, three with en-suite facilities, and a living room. The garden level includes a bar, wine cellar, plant room, and store. The estate spans 15 acres, offering equestrian facilities, paddocks, a tennis court, and extensive gardens with ample parking. The property is located approximately 30 minutes from Edinburgh. ([heraldscotland.com](https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/23901650.castle-famous-bank-scotland-architect-sale/?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://news.stv.tv/east-central/baronial-scottish-ormiston-castle-dating-back-170-years-goes-on-sale-for-offers-over-4-5m> - Ormiston Castle, a historic Scottish baronial-style castle dating back to 1851, is on the market for over £4.5 million. Designed by David Bryce, the property has been fully refurbished while maintaining period features. The ground floor includes a reception room, dining room, living room, bedroom with en-suite shower room, kitchen/breakfast room, butler's kitchen, boot room, utility, and two cloakrooms. The first floor features five bedrooms, three with en-suite facilities, and a living room. The garden level includes a bar, wine cellar, plant room, and store. The estate spans 15 acres, offering equestrian facilities, paddocks, a tennis court, and extensive gardens with ample parking. The property is located approximately 30 minutes from Edinburgh. ([news.stv.tv](https://news.stv.tv/east-central/baronial-scottish-ormiston-castle-dating-back-170-years-goes-on-sale-for-offers-over-4-5m?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/lifestyle/homes-and-gardens/look-inside-west-lothian-castle-dating-back-to-1851-with-cinema-bar-and-tennis-courts-on-sale-for-ps45m-4417679> - Ormiston Castle, a historic Scottish baronial-style castle dating back to 1851, is on the market for over £4.5 million. Designed by David Bryce, the property has been fully refurbished while maintaining period features. The ground floor includes a reception room, dining room, living room, bedroom with en-suite shower room, kitchen/breakfast room, butler's kitchen, boot room, utility, and two cloakrooms. The first floor features five bedrooms, three with en-suite facilities, and a living room. The garden level includes a bar, wine cellar, plant room, and store. The estate spans 15 acres, offering equestrian facilities, paddocks, a tennis court, and extensive gardens with ample parking. The property is located approximately 30 minutes from Edinburgh. ([edinburghnews.scotsman.com](https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/lifestyle/homes-and-gardens/look-inside-west-lothian-castle-dating-back-to-1851-with-cinema-bar-and-tennis-courts-on-sale-for-ps45m-4417679?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.onthemarket.com/details/13899809/> - Ormiston Castle, a B-listed baronial house in Kirknewton, West Lothian, is on the market for offers over £3.8 million. The six-bedroom property has been fully refurbished, maintaining period features while incorporating modern amenities. The ground floor includes five reception rooms, a Clive Christian kitchen with a gas-fired four-oven Aga, and a traditional Highland-style pub. The first floor features a principal bedroom suite with a private sitting room, dressing room, and en-suite marble-tiled bathroom. The estate covers 15 acres, offering equestrian facilities, paddocks, a tennis court, and extensive gardens with ample parking. The property is approximately 30 minutes from Edinburgh, providing a luxurious and secluded lifestyle. ([onthemarket.com](https://www.onthemarket.com/details/13899809/?utm_source=openai))