The tour will visit The National Botanic Garden of Wales (the Garden) and its Regency restoration project that is due to commence construction in May 2018. The tour will leave the university at 13:00 and return by 17:00.

The Garden is situated at Llanarthne in the historic Tywi Valley, Carmarthenshire. It is a registered charity and opened to the public in May 2000, as one of three Millennium projects in Wales. The parkland belongs to the historic estate of the Middleton Family, who settled in the area in the late 16th Century. The grounds and gardens at the centre of the estate were formally laid out in the 17th century, but transformed by Sir William Paxton in late 18th century. His grand vision for the estate led to commission and design a new grand Hall and to create gardens and landscape in an elaborate design of interconnecting lakes, ponds and streams, dams, sluice, bridges and cascades. It is an embodiment of the old and the new, with surviving 18th century features, set alongside the futuristic, iconic single span glass house designed by Foster and Partners. The Great Glasshouse has become an international landmark for Wales and the garden is recognised as a national asset for the people of Wales.

Paxton’s landscape fell into disrepair over the course of early 20th century. Today, plans to restore parts of the landscape are commencing. This includes work to be undertaken at two reservoirs namely Llyn Mawr and Llyn Felin Gat. The reconstruction of Llyn Mawr is subject to the provisions of the Reservoirs Act 1975 and the works that are due to be undertaken here will have a Construction Engineer appointed to them. Works included in the reconstruction are repairing the dam, restoring the existing masonry cascade and re-profiling of the silt bed. Llyn Felin Gat does not come within the ambit of the Reservoirs Act, however the appointed ARPE will, nevertheless, have similar, but non-statutory responsibilities for this reservoir. Work here will include spillway reconstruction and re-profiling of the silt bed.

The proposed construction period for the works is May 2018 to March 2020.