

BODORGAN

Ref No PGW (Gd) 44 (ANG)

OS Map 114

Grid Ref SH 386 674

Former County Gwynedd

Unitary Authority Isle of Anglesey

Community Council Bodorgan

Designations Listed Buildings (house Grade II; dovecote Grade II; barn Grade II). Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Environmentally Sensitive Area.

Site Evaluation Grade II*

Primary reasons for grading A site in a magnificent coastal position, which retains many of its original characteristics, having well preserved formal terraces; deer park still in use; substantial remains of extensive and once well known walled kitchen gardens; other, less formal, designed garden areas which have partially survived, including some planting; woodland and shooting coverts; large circular brick dovecote and other buildings of interest.

Type of Site Formal terraced garden, deer park, walled kitchen gardens, informal lawn/shrubbery areas, woodland.

Main Phases of Construction 1779-82; mid nineteenth century.

SITE DESCRIPTION

Bodorgan is located in the south-west of Anglesey, on rising ground north-west of the Malltraeth inlet and facing south-east over it. The situation gives excellent views towards Snowdon, and the proximity of the sea ensures a mild climate, but the site is exposed to the prevailing south-west winds. The main block of the house is an elegant, neo-classical mansion built of smooth ashlar masonry in a pale, yellowish stone, with a slate roof. The main east front has nine bays, the central three on a semi-circular bow with a domed roof. The entrance is on the north front, with a portico in the centre.

The house is flanked on the north and south by two curved, single-storey wings, built of poorer quality stone which has weathered badly. That to the north bounds the entrance forecourt on the west and was originally an orangery. It has a decorative facade, including half-columns and bas-relief over the two doors. There are also four alcoves on the wall, presumably for statues, but now empty. The southern extension has two open-fronted loggias, one of which was at one time used as an aviary. They are linked to the house by walling, and matching blank arcading runs along the front (east side) of the original south wing, which projected much less far. Hidden

behind this extensive facade is a long range of domestic offices, running east-west.

Bodorgan has an ancient history. In the mediaeval period it was an estate of the bishops of Bangor. In the sixteenth century, probably when Rowland Meyrick was Bishop of Bangor (1559-66), it became demesne land of the Meyrick family, who have played a prominent role in Anglesey affairs and remained in possession ever since. There was a substantial Tudor house on the site of the present one. This is depicted, together with extensive formal gardens, on the 1724 estate map by Lewis Morris. The present house was built in 1779-82 for Owen Putland Meyrick by the architect John Cooper. Owen Putland Meyrick had inherited as a minor in 1770. Cooper had come to Anglesey in 1776 as an assistant and clerk of works to Samuel Wyatt, who had been engaged to remodel Baron Hill for Lord Bulkeley. Bodorgan was Cooper's first independent commission as an architect and it bears some resemblances to Baron Hill, although on a smaller scale and without its octagonal wings and height. The old Bodorgan Hall was demolished in 1779, some of the stone being used to build the detached laundry and brewhouse behind the house. A quarry was opened near the sea for the new building and the stone was found to be of extremely good quality. Various outbuildings, including a poultry court, were built at the same time.

The house largely retains its late eighteenth-century appearance although some alterations were made in the mid nineteenth century by Owen Fuller Meyrick (died 1876), grandson of Owen Putland Meyrick. He inherited the estate in 1825 and reorganised the approach and gardens, moving the main entrance from the centre of the east front to the north side of the house, where the porch and forecourt were built. The two curving wings were added and the garden terraces made.

To the north of the house is a roughly rectangular stable-yard, now mostly turfed but with a wide gravel path along the line of the former drive on the north side. There are also small areas of cobbling, in the north-east corner, and hard brick (set on edge), in front of the coach house on the east. Along the west side of the yard is a barn which has now been re-roofed and converted into a modern estate office; on the north is a range of carriage houses/cart sheds; to the east is an older coach house with an arch in the corner leading to tack rooms and grooms' rooms; and on the south is a row of stables. In the north-east corner is a gateway where the former drive, curving round from the house, came in. In the junction of the drive from the stable-yard and the main drive there is a huge lime, with a similar-sized pine opposite, at the end of the ha-ha.

The oldest building in the group is the rubble-built barn, part of the 1779-82 improvements. By 1841 the range of stone-built stables and the coach house to the east had been added. The north range is in quite a different style, the west end being stone with brick edging and the rest fine masonry in the same stone as the house; this had been built by the mid 1840s when the tithe map was drawn although it is not shown on the 1840-41 map, so it can be quite closely dated. The difference in style suggests that the coach house and stables were built some time earlier.

North-west of the stable-yard there are several buildings ranged round a triangular, gravelled yard. The main range on the south is disused; there are two small barns

on the west and the north end of the north-east side, the latter now used as garages; kennels along the north-east side and more buildings in the east corner. The latter used to adjoin the rear of the north range of the stable-yard, but part has now been demolished, leaving a gap. These buildings are nineteenth-century. They do not appear on the first edition 1-in. Ordnance Survey map of 1840-41, but by the time of the tithe map a few years later some had appeared, and the layout was complete by 1850. The kennels date to 1891-1922 and replaced earlier ones to the west. A cottage with its own small garden is situated on the west side of the drive, which passes the west end of the group of farm buildings and leads round to the back of the house. It is not shown on the 1840-41 map or the tithe map, but had appeared by 1891.

At the extreme south-west corner of the house (part of the nineteenth-century additions) is a hexagonal game larder in the same stone as the house, with a pointed slate roof. South of the house is a long, narrow range of domestic offices, including laundry, bakery and brewery, some of which have now been converted to residential use. They are built of a grey stone dissimilar to that of the house and are slate-roofed. At an angle to this range, to the north-west, is a stone shed or barn, across a small, sloping gravelled yard.

A fine, eighteenth-century, brick dovecote stands in a small rectangular area south of the stable-yard, probably once another yard; there are ruined buildings against the north wall, which is the rear wall of the south range of the stable-yard. There is a tile-lined ditch along the south side of the area, with a little sunken brick tank near the south-east corner.

The west boundary of this area is a mortared stone wall, with a square-headed doorway with a new concrete lintel. There is another small yard with outbuildings west of this.

The south boundary is a low mortared wall, with a small gate giving access to a wooded area with a path leading to the back of the house.

The sawmill is situated in the woods to the north of the house, reached by a track off the main drive. It is a large stone building with various additions at different angles; the roofs are slate, with roof-lights. It was built between about 1845 and 1891.

The park occupies a roughly rectangular area of ground sloping south-eastwards down towards the Malltraeth estuary. It is bounded by minor roads and a stone field wall on the south-west. The house lies in the centre of the park, near the southern end of the central band of woodland, which occupies a low ridge. There are fine views from the house and garden out over the park to the estuary and Snowdonia beyond. The site is exposed, however, and the westernmost belt of woodland, which also curves round to the south, is a very necessary shelter belt. The woods of the central belt also surround the house, as those of the eastern belt do the kitchen garden.

The deer park is a long, narrow area occupying the open strip between the central and eastern bands of woodland, and thus lying between the house and the eastern garden area. Only the southern half of it, in front of the house, contains parkland trees, mainly oak and sycamore. A large enclosure to the south, beyond the end of the central woodland belt but with two further woods on its southern boundary, used to be part of the deer park but is now open pasture, as is the southern end of the park

beyond, which was not part of the deer park. The same is true of the area to the north, which may also at one time have been part of the deer park.

The open areas of parkland other than the deer park (mainly a band to the west of the house) are now farmland; the deer park is still used as such. From the 1st edition 1-in. Ordnance Survey map, it appears that parkland planting once extended further north, but by 1891 there were few trees outside the area where they are now concentrated. One clump of trees in this area was named the 'Family Group'.

The main area of woodland is along the central ridge, on which the house is situated, and this extends northwards as far as the hamlet of Hermon, flanking the road between the Lower Lodge and the Front Lodge, which was straightened between 1841 and 1891 (the woods either side no doubt being planted at the same time). The woods contain a mixture of trees of all ages and include some fine specimens. The area east of the walled garden has species such as yew, lime, sycamore, holm oak and beech, with rhododendrons beneath. Further east are some stands of beech and conifers, with sycamore and many large pines (*Pinus radiata*) to their east. To the south of the walled garden is further open woodland with mature beeches and other trees, including conifers. Along the shore are further very large *Pinus radiata* and one old Monterey cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*). The mature trees were mostly planted in the mid nineteenth century.

The eastern woodland belt is now used as shooting coverts. On a rocky outcrop a semi-circular platform was constructed in the early nineteenth century and a Napoleonic cannon was placed on it. The outcrop became known, as it still is, as Bryn Cannon, and the platform was called the 'Battery'.

There are three lodges. Lower Lodge is probably contemporary with the Back Lodge, being in similar style with bay windows and the entrance in an angle. The roof is of fish-scale slates and the roof over the door is supported on four slender pillars. It has a tall, triple, brick-built central chimney, and is now called Sarn Lodge. Until some time after 1922 there was a gate at Lower Lodge, but this has now gone and the road is publicly adopted. It was straightened at some time between 1840/41 and 1891.

The main drive continues the line of this road, running almost due south, but gently curving, from Front Lodge for about 1 km. Front Lodge is the oldest lodge, appearing on the 1818 map and stylistically it appears to be of the early nineteenth century. It is a low, square, single-storey building with two central stone chimney-stacks and a shallow-pitched slate roof, which extends well beyond the building and is supported on pillars to give a verandah on three sides. The gateposts are undoubtedly of the same date, square-sectioned and built of dressed stone with very shallow pyramidal caps. There is a dwarf wall of similar dressed stone with two piers like the gateposts either side of the entrance, topped with iron railings, and the gates are also iron, with a rounded top. The drive runs through woods all the way, with ornamental plantings, including rhododendrons (*R. ponticum*), beside it, especially towards the southern end. The woods contain some fine mature specimen trees, including beech, lime, sycamore, yew and other conifers including monkey puzzle. At the south end the drive is flanked on the east by a stone ha-ha bounding the deer park. The drive comes

up to the house with a smooth curve, and here it is wide and has a grass verge leading to the edge of the ha-ha, with small guns at intervals.

About two-thirds of the way to the house, the main drive crosses another drive leading from the farm buildings in a curve round to the north and east, across the deer park to the eastern band of woodland and the walled garden. This existed in 1840-41 but not 1818. In the woods north of the walled garden this drive meets another track at a T-junction; northwards this leads to the former orchard and out into the farmland beyond and to the south it runs past the walled garden, Garden Cottage and the boat house and bath house to link up with the Lime Walk, and then turning westwards, following a new route parallel with the Lime Walk. In 1818 the part of this which runs along the coast existed, as a track from a house (now gone), Bryn Cyn, to the southern exit from the park, and in 1840-41 the rest of the route had been added, but on a different line to the present one (which was first shown in 1891), meeting up with the track crossing the deer park further to the south.

The Lime Walk itself runs from a point almost opposite the bath house to the edge of the deer park, where there is a gate; formerly the path continued across the park and through Rookery Wood back towards the house, but this is now disused. In 1818 the route divided near the house; the back branch had already disappeared by 1840-41. The name Lime Walk Covert appears on the 1891 map, but by 1922 the same area is called Glan-y-Don Covert. The gate at the edge of the deer park had a 'gate house' in 1818 (which appears to be approximately on the site of the bath house), and there was a track continuing southwards to Porth-y-Felin.

The rear drive runs south-eastwards from the Back Lodge to the farm area, and then south to approach the back of the house. Back Lodge is single-storey and slate-roofed, with a central chimney and two others. Like the Front Lodge, it is painted black and white, but it is built in a later nineteenth-century style, appearing on the map of 1891 but not those of the 1840s. At the entrance is a wide iron gate hung on small, simple pointed stone gateposts, with a pedestrian gate on the lodge side. This drive is shown on the 1840-41 map but did not exist in 1818.

There are a few buildings in the park, all of utilitarian original purpose. On the shore next to the slipway is a nineteenth-century building, Garden Cottage, which served as the head gardener's house. It is single-storey, the garden side whitewashed, the seaward side faced with pebbles. The garden wall on the sea side has four gun emplacements, said to date from the Napoleonic wars. Near the sea wall, south of the kitchen garden, is a small, recently pebble-dashed, disused building dating to 1825, that formerly served as a bath house. Nearby, south of Garden Cottage, is a twentieth-century boathouse.

On the northern edge of the southernmost covert in the park is a roofless brick building named 'Rob Roy'. It stands in a quarter-acre, high-walled enclosure and is thought to have been used to hold a 'carted' stag prior to its release for stag-hunting. When caught it would be returned to 'Rob Roy'.

The history of the park at Bodorgan can be traced from the early eighteenth century onwards. During the early eighteenth century, when Owen Meyrick was in possession

of the estate, the estate's lands on Anglesey grew enormously through inheritance. Owen Meyrick then continued to build them up through purchase. However, the 1724 estate map shows that although the old Hall had splendid formal gardens at this time there was little sign of a park, the main landscaping outside the gardens being a row of trees to the west and an avenue further south. There was a building on the shore, but whether this was a boat house or bath house is not certain.

The next evidence for the development of the park comes in a map dating to 1776, which is pasted into the 1724 bound volume by Lewis Morris. This depicts a transitional phase, with both existing and projected features. It shows a new farmyard and stables and the outline of the new house, with a sweep in front of it. The map was later altered to show the new drive. A picture of the house, dating to before 1840, shows the sweep in front of the east side of the house, with the park, with deer, in front. It also shows a large glasshouse, since gone, to the north of the house. An estate map of 1840-50 by J.R. Haslam shows the park and includes the bath house, 'Rob Roy', the 'Battery' and a building to the east of the house by a 'spring' which has since gone.

The 1st edition 1-in. Ordnance Survey map, although at a small scale, clearly shows the layout of drives in 1840-41, the house before it was enlarged, the outbuildings existing at that time, the kitchen garden, the layout of woods at the time, the deer park, and names one lodge (the Front), the 'Battery', the bath house and a store house (where Garden Cottage now is). The 2-in manuscript map from which this map was drawn, dated 1818, shows less woodland and fewer drives, and the kitchen garden does not appear to be present. At this time there was a 'gate house' on the site of the bath house. The tithe map is undated but was drawn only a few years after the 1-in. 1st edition, and although much less informative shows some extra buildings.

The 6-in. map of 1891 shows the changes made by Owen Fuller Meyrick before 1876. Towards the end of his life the estate was further enlarged with the purchase, in 1865 and 1871, of land from the Hughes family of Kinnel, who had bought the Bodowen estate from the Owens in 1815. The land was in the parishes of Llangadwaladr and Aberffraw and included Bodowen itself, now a ruin, to the south of Bodorgan. This enabled the park to be extended southwards to include Bodowen land. More woods had been planted by 1891, particularly to the north and south-west; the house had been enlarged and more buildings, including the Back and Lower lodges, had appeared; the gardens had expanded and the layout of roads and drives had been changed. Garden Cottage had been built or enlarged and the bath house was called Glan-y-Don. There was an orchard and the estate even had its own gas works.

The 25-in. map of 1922 shows remarkably few changes since 1891, though the gas works had disappeared, and the modern 6-in. map shows few since 1922, except for the addition of the boat house near Glan-y-Don and the disappearance of the orchard and nursery and much of the glass from the kitchen gardens.

The gardens are unusual in that they are in two parts, and do not surround the house. In front of the house is a series of three shallow formal terraces, from which there is a fine view of the park and Snowdonia. They are enclosed by stone balustrading

which, with the supporting walls, separates the terraces from the deer park on north and east and the lawn on the south. The upper terrace is gravelled, with a small raised paved area in front of the French windows in the middle of the house, reached by stone steps either side. There is a balustrade along the front of this paved area, over the formal pool on the next terrace down.

Dressed stone steps lead down to the middle terrace at either end, and either side of the pool, the latter have balustrading on the pool side. There is a gravelled area in front of the pool, and either side of this an area of grass, sloping alongside the steps and level at the bottom. The different areas are divided by dressed stone edging. This, and the balustrading, has square bases at intervals, some of which might have held urns or figures.

The pool is small and rectangular with dressed stone edging. Set in the wall at the back is an elaborate carved shell with a dolphin's head fountain in the centre. There is a low, solid stone parapet along the front, and a square bed at either end containing a bay bush.

The lower terrace is only two shallow steps down, but these steps run across the whole width of the terraces. There is a wide gravelled walk all round the edge of the terrace, including the back, with grass in the centre. The balustrading along the front walk curves outwards at either end and in the middle, and in each of the bays so created is a curved stone bench. The level of the walk is a little over a metre above the deer park.

The enclosed garden to the south has the same balustrading around it and it is contemporary, although its character is now different. There is a gravelled path all round and a slightly sunken grass rectangle in the middle, but around the edge of this are sloping borders, filled with shrubs and herbaceous plants.

On the west side of this garden are two similar, nineteenth-century, classical-style open-fronted loggias, used as a summer house and (formerly) an aviary. The summer house is well sited for the view. There is a small solid wood gate from this garden to the lawn area, similar to the one to the forecourt on the north.

Beyond the terraces, to the south, is a grass area with trees, once part of a wood, and there is another lawn with specimen trees to the north-west of the house, west of the stable-yard. Between these two areas, apart from the dovecote and some other buildings, is an area which ought, from its position, to be part of the garden but is in fact woodland very similar to that of the wooded parts of the park.

To the east, on the other side of the deer park, lie the extensive walled kitchen gardens, which appear to have been laid out between 1818 and 1840-41. Two later extensions may be of the mid to late nineteenth century. Near these was at one time an estate gas works, an area which seems later to have been taken into the garden.

A large area west of the kitchen garden, in the eastern belt of woodland, is known as the American garden. This appeared to be part of the parkland in 1840-41, but by 1891 had taken on its present layout. It is grass, planted with specimen trees,

including monkey puzzle, Indian bean (*Catalpa bignoniodes*), sweet chestnut, pines and other conifers, including *Cupressus macrocarpa* and groups of mature hybrid rhododendrons. There is a small circular pool with dressed stone edging, sloping cobbled sides and a simple spray fountain rising out of a pile of rocks in the centre. Three equally spaced square stone bases around it may have held figures or further waterworks. There is a wide variety of trees grown throughout the garden; Bodorgan has proved, despite the wind, to be an excellent site for tree growing, some of the mature trees having made magnificent specimens.

To the north of the American garden is an area of open woodland with thick undergrowth, very damp and containing two ponds, linked by a deep channel and with a raised path along the edge of the larger, which now hold little or no water. It is just possible to follow the path through here, but so overgrown that no details of the layout can be made out, though there is a now free-standing chimney just outside the second kitchen garden extension, which presumably belongs to the boiler house which once heated the glasshouse within the extension. There is also a ruined building, partly of dressed stone, attached to a curving stone wall on the north side of the second kitchen garden extension. There are other water channels, and the 1922 map shows a tank here. In 1891 there was an estate gas works somewhere in this area, so some or all of the features may be connected with this.

The gardens have been developed in three main phases. First, there were extensive formal gardens, shown on the 1724 estate map by Lewis Morris. In character these appear to date to the seventeenth century but may have had even earlier origins. They extended from the house down to the sea and to the south of the house. Immediately in front of the house was a terrace, with semi-circular steps on the central axis down to a cross 'Terras Walk', with further steps on the main axis below. The gardens were laid out in formal compartments, those in front of the house with paths around them and clipped or coniferous trees at intervals. The central, east-west, walk was flanked by formal groves and at the foot of the slope, by the sea, was a central oval bowling green. To the south of the house was a further formal garden and an orchard. To the north-east of the house was a building with an enclosure, probably of utilitarian purpose, to its west. All together, these gardens must have been among the finest seventeenth-century gardens in Wales.

The next phase of development came with the building of the new house in 1779-82. The 1776 map, which has proposals as well as existing features, shows the formal gardens entirely removed and the new informal layout, with a gravel sweep to the east of the new house, which is shown in outline only as it was not yet built. The building north-east of the house, shown on the 1724 map, is dotted in, probably recently or about to be demolished, and is labelled 'old stables'. It is clear from this map, from the J.R. Haslam map of 1840-50 and from the picture of the house dating to before 1840, that until the mid nineteenth century there were no terraces in front of the house, only a gravel sweep and then sloping grass.

The terraces were built in the mid nineteenth century, after the mid 1840s (they are not shown on the 1840-41 Ordnance Survey map or on the tithe map), by Owen Fuller Meyrick. They were contemporary with the alterations to the house and the moving of the front door to the north front. The American Garden was developed at the same

time and many of the trees in the gardens and grounds date to this period. Since that time there has been very little alteration to the gardens.

The walled kitchen gardens are extensive. The main compartment is a sub-square area of around two acres, across the deer park from the house, very close to the Malltraeth estuary and hidden amongst trees. The south and east corners are rounded, and the west corner is a strange shape, with an S-curve in the wall. This area is shown on the 1st edition 1-in Ordnance Survey map of 1840-41.

By 1891 two additional areas, to the north and north-east, had been added, and the amount of glass had increased enormously, from one house in 1840-41 to six or seven, plus frames, at the later date. By 1922 there was a gardener's house, and the total area of kitchen gardens was more than three and a half acres. The layout of the main area seems to have remained the same throughout.

A good deal of all this can still be seen. The hand-made brick walls of the main area are around 3 m high on the south, rising to about 4 m on both sides further north; they have a flat stone coping. There are flat brick buttresses on the outside on the west. The walls of the additional area to the north are clearly newer, with a machined slate coping, and there is another original wall cutting a strip off the south-east end of the garden (the brick is the same as the main walls, and the division is shown on the 1840-41 map).

There are entrances, with wooden doors, into the garden just south of this dividing wall near the east corner, and north of it on the west, just south of the west corner. The latter was probably at the end of the cross-path shown on all the maps, of which no sign remains; an opposite doorway in the north-east wall has been bricked up. There was also a shorter path at right angles, running from the original glasshouse in the centre of the north wall as far as the cross-wall to the south, but again no sign of it remains.

There is a wide entrance with double wooden doors through the newer wall just north of the north corner of the main part of the garden. This gives on to a gravel path leading to the original glasshouse. East of this, the old north wall has been demolished, and replaced with a long, brick frame; a space between the end of this and the original north corner gives access to the main part of the garden. There are also wide archways through the south-eastern dividing wall at either end.

Most of the glass was in the newer, northern, extensions, including probably the glass walls which are mentioned in gardening articles from 1854 onwards, suggesting that the first extension at any rate was created well before 1891. The second extension also has a brick wall but it seems slightly different from that of the first, so they may be of different dates, although the machined slate coping is similar. A doorway in the north wall of the first extension comes into the second about half way along the south-west side, where the wall kinks round the corner of the first extension. There are also a large and a small doorway in the south-east wall of the second extension.

The bases and some superstructure of a wide range of glasshouses and frames, some

obviously modern but others much older, survive. Against the dividing wall across the south-east of the garden, reached by a door through the wall, is a very long, narrow glasshouse, quite modern, but replacing one described in the *Cottage Gardener* (1854), which was used as a peach house.

The oldest glasshouse is the vine house in the centre of the original north wall, still containing vines growing in a raised border along the whitewashed rear wall, and with rods and ventilators. On the back of this is a row of sheds with a fruit store and a gardeners' room with a fireplace; there is an archway through this row giving access to the glasshouse.

North-west of the path running along behind the sheds, in the first extension, are two long, narrow, sunken heated glasshouses, with derelict glass and timber superstructure in situ. Beyond these are another two, shorter and wider and in better condition, having perhaps been more recently re-glazed. They have ventilation systems, and one of them contains a fine slate work bench. North-west of these was the largest glasshouse, now gone. It occupied a raised area which is reached by dressed stone steps at either side, and it is shown on the 1891 and 1922 maps, with a central bow and also an extension through the line of the wall to the rear. The second extension to the north-east had a glasshouse along the north-west wall with five rows of frames and sunken glasshouses in front of it, of which the front two rows are modern.

The walled gardens were well known in the Victorian period and were particularly noted for their glass walls, an invention of Mr Ewing, head gardener in the 1850s. The most likely location of these glass walls is in the first extension, just south of the sunken glasshouses. There is a detailed description and approving critique of the walls in the *Cottage Gardener* article of 1854. They consisted of two perpendicular glass walls eleven feet (about 3.3 m) high, supported on pillars and about twenty inches (about 0.5 m) apart, with a glass roof. Every other light was made to open, which was done by turning a rod with cranks attached to it. They were used for growing peaches, nectarines, apricots and figs.

Another article, in the *Gardener's Chronicle* (1882), also mentions the glass walls, but the gardener by this time was a Mr Ellam, who evidently did not think much of his predecessor's invention, declaring them 'so cold and draughty that the trees do not ripen their wood in it even so well as they do out-of-doors'. Another article in the same publication, dated January 1892, vividly brings home the problems of the local climate: '...a furious wind blowing off the sea, with rain falling at intervals....pit and frame lights were made secure against the wind by being wedged or weighted down'. By this time the gardener had changed again and was now a Mr Gray, who was still using the glass walls but had embarked on improvements to one of them.

There were many other buildings in and around the garden in addition to the glasshouses. The tall chimney of the subterranean boiler-house is conspicuous in the first extension area. There is also a chimney part way along the north-east wall of the second extension area, but there does not seem to have been a building relating to it on this side of the wall. On the other side of the wall is a square, stone-walled enclosure around the gardener's house, a fairly large two-storey house, stone-built of

dressed masonry with a slate roof, which has its own private walled garden within the enclosing wall. There are also several outbuildings, including a range of brick sheds along the joint wall, which may have included another boiler house, and which pre-date the gardener's house; they seem to belong to the second extension area in the same way that the similar range, similarly positioned, does to the main garden. Some of the buildings in this range have been demolished, and the area of one at the south-east end is now occupied by two large slate water tanks. A narrow cobbled strip runs along in front of part of the range.

Along the south-east wall are a stone barn and another building, now a garage. Outside the north-east wall of the main garden area is another range of buildings, the southern part stone and the northern brick. They were probably originally potting and store sheds. At the northern end, in a small projection of the first extension area outside the curving corner of the main garden, is a tiny, high-walled triangular yard with more buildings, reached through a wide arch with double doors from the outside. There is also a bricked-up door in the north wall of this area. The range of buildings along the north-east side of the garden appears on the 1840-41 map.

Details of the original internal layout are now hard to find. The area south-east of the dividing wall was orchard in 1922, and had wall fruit at least in 1891, but is now rough grass with some trees. There are some older *Cryptomeria japonica* and other conifers parallel with the north-east wall. There are also the remains of some *Lonicera nitida* hedging, which seems to have been used instead of box.

In the first extension area there are some stone-covered drains and the northernmost part of this area, around the large but vanished glasshouse, seems to have been intended for show - there is dressed stone edging to raised borders and paths and similar coping on the walls, and the steps are made of dressed stone or slate. Surviving planting here includes more *Lonicera* and some myrtle, but both this and the second extension area are overgrown.

South-east of the gardener's house is a further small walled area, divided into three; the north-easternmost of the three sections is larger and was added after 1891. It also has gateposts and once had a gate, of which there is no evidence in the entrances to the other two sections. The mortared stone walls are about 2 m high and the gateways are wide. These may have been storage or compost compounds.

The orchard is some way north of the kitchen garden, at the northern end of the eastern belt of woodland, which has a sheltering arm extending past the orchard on the west. It is therefore open only on the north and east, directions from which wind is relatively rare at Bodorgan. The enclosing wall, now ruinous, is of mortared stone and is up to 2 m high. The interior is rough grass and no details of the layout remain. The wide entrance is towards the eastern end of the south side, and has square-sectioned dressed stone gateposts.

In 1891 the interior was divided into north-south strips, probably by fruit walls, but only the second strip from the east appeared to be planted. In 1922, apart from the addition of two water tanks along the centre line, the situation seems to have been exactly the same. The larger scale of this map allows the gaps in the walls for the

central path to be seen, but no planting is indicated except for fruit trees in the same strip as in 1891. This suggests that the planned orchard may in fact never have been fully planted. The dividing walls have now been removed. There were small buildings outside the centre of the south side and near the north-east corner. The remains of the former are visible.

In 1922 there was also a small area of orchard at the north-east end of the nursery in the central belt of woodland, north of the sawmill. It is difficult to tell from the 1891 map whether this then contained anything different from the rest of the area, and it may in fact all have been orchard at this time, but the north-eastern part was separated off.

Sources

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