

PLAS NEWYDD

Ref No	PGW (Gd) 33 (ANG)
OS Map	114
Grid Ref	SH 521 696
Former County	Gwynedd
Unitary Authority	Isle of Anglesey
Community Council	Llanfairpwllgwyngyll

Designations Listed buildings: house Grade I, stable block Grade II*, dairy, boat house, farm buildings, main lodge and entrance arch, garden walls and apple store all Grade II; Scheduled Ancient Monuments: Plas Newydd burial chamber AN 005 and Bryn yr Hen Bobl burial chamber AN 006; Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; Environmentally Sensitive Area.

Site Evaluation **Grade I**

Primary reasons for grading Outstanding park landscaped at turn of eighteenth and nineteenth centuries with input from Humphry Repton (Red Book extant), extensive waterside site in superb location with panoramic views.

Type of Site Landscaped park, woodland, waterside features, terraced garden, extensive kitchen garden.

Main Phases of Construction 1798 - 1810; early twentieth century.

SITE DESCRIPTION

Plas Newydd occupies a lovely site on the west shore of the Menai Strait, with a view over the water to Vaynol Park and beyond to the mountains of Snowdonia. The long facade of pale stone set in green lawns is visible from many points on the mainland and from Britannia Bridge, and is a significant local landmark. The house is large, of ashlar masonry, in a modified Gothic style, and has three floors with almost equally large sash windows, the roof hidden behind a parapet. There are two polygonal bays, one on the south-east corner and one towards the southern end of the main east facade.

The house has been frequently rebuilt and altered. The original core is a sixteenth-century hall-house. In the mid eighteenth century a semi-circular turret in the centre of the east front and an octagonal tower at the south-east corner were added; in the 1780s the facade was made symmetrical by adding the matching tower at the north-east corner. Some internal alterations were also made. Towards the end of the century James Wyatt and Joseph Potter were employed to undertake a more thorough remodelling in Gothic style, which, including new outbuildings and redesigning of

the park and gardens, continued well into the nineteenth century. The main improvements to the house included a new west front, new interiors and a chapel and domestic offices on the north end, replacing the stables; a new stable block was built a short distance away.

The house remained more or less unchanged after this until the 1930s (apart from the conversion about 1900 of the chapel into a theatre), when H. S. Goodhart-Rendel was employed to modernise the exterior and remodel the north wing. He removed the battlements from the parapets and shortened two tall turrets on the east front, altered all the windows (mainly from Gothic styles to sashes) and transformed the north wing, destroying the chapel/theatre but creating a long dining room which was decorated by Rex Whistler with probably his best-known mural. Whistler also designed the screen wall at right-angles to the west front, intended to shelter the entrance.

The main building stone used in the house is grey marble from the nearby Moelfre quarries close to Red Wharf Bay. This gives the house a pale colour which makes it conspicuous from the other side of the strait, despite its situation low down, near the water. It also provides a perfect background for the vivid autumn colour of the distinctive Virginia creeper which now clothes the house.

The stables were originally attached to the north end of the house, but were demolished to make way for the new chapel and range of offices erected there between 1799 and 1809. The new block, a short distance to the north, was designed in 1797 by Joseph Potter, probably based on James Wyatt's ideas. In the grand Gothic style, built of the same limestone ashlar masonry as the house, the two-storey stable block has a central arch and turreted pavilions; it accommodated 14 horses and includes a coach house for two carriages. It is now let to Cheshire County Council and used by the Conway Centre, an outward bound school, which was built to replace the training ship HMS *Conway*, formerly moored in the Strait off Plas Newydd, which sank in the 1950s.

The rear of the building, where the land slopes away downhill, is massively buttressed, and there are lean-to storage sheds between the buttresses. A more substantial stone and slate lean-to on the north end is now the gardeners' office and bothy, and there is a small modern greenhouse near this.

The dairy, at a distance from the house to the west, was built as part of the major scheme of improvements carried out in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. It was probably designed by Joseph Potter and built in about 1810; an octagonal design by the same architect dated 1794 was never built. The dairy is single-storey, stone-built with a slate roof, has three wings around a central yard, and had a tiled milking parlour with two small castellated cupolas for air vents. The cast-iron latticed windows are Gothic in style. It is now used as tea rooms, lavatories and shop for National Trust visitors.

The first house on the site was built by the Griffiths of Penrhyn, who owned Plas Newydd from about 1470. From the Griffiths the estate descended by marriage to the Bagenal and Bayly families, and it was Sir Nicholas Bayly, Bt, who extended the

original house in the early 1750s. Sir Nicholas's son, Henry, was also, through his mother, Lord Paget of Beaudesert, and in 1784 he was created Lord Uxbridge. He began to build at Plas Newydd, using a relatively unknown architect, John Cooper of Beaumaris, very soon after he inherited it, in 1783. When his fortunes had been enormously boosted by the revenues of copper mining at Parys Mountain, as well as his coal revenues from Staffordshire, he began a programme of comprehensive improvements which embraced the park as well as the house. He employed two architects, the well-known local man James Wyatt and Joseph Potter from Lichfield, who between them completely refurbished the house, inside and out, and built new stables, dairy and main lodge.

Lord Uxbridge had been relying on his friend and neighbour, Colonel Peacocke of Plas Llanfair, for advice on the park and garden, and had certainly planted some trees (Col. Peacocke reported in 1792 that the 'new plantation' was finished), but he now employed Humphry Repton, undoubtedly the foremost landscape designer of the day. Repton produced his 'Red Book' for Plas Newydd in 1799, and although the plates are missing, from the text it is possible to see that much of what he suggested was carried out, although not all of it.

The most important change Repton made was to redesign the drive and plant more trees between the house and the stables, so that on approaching the house it was not possible to see both buildings at once, lest the splendid new stables overshadow the house. He also began the plantations all along the road on the west side, which effectively screen almost the entire park from it. The home farm was moved at his suggestion further away from the house to the south-west, next to the orchard and what appears to have been the main kitchen garden, and although Repton originally intended to retain the smaller walled garden north of the house in its old position and decorate the gardener's cottage, which was visible from the drive, with Gothic additions and a corner tower, as well as climbing plants, this too was eventually moved to the same place. The improvements to the gardener's cottage were, however, made by Potter in 1819 and it became known as Druid Lodge.

One of the suggestions which, sadly, was not realised was for a hexagonal conservatory with removable sides at the south end of the house; this is shown in the single known illustration from the 'Red Book', which was, luckily, reproduced elsewhere.

Some trees planted at Repton's instigation between 1799 and 1804 survive, including beech, sycamore, oak and lime; some older oaks survive from the original natural woodland. Most of the rest of the fully mature trees were planted by the 1st Marquess after 1815.

Colonel Peacocke continued to advise on and supervise the various works at Plas Newydd, so cannot have been too much put out by Repton's comment on the work to date, that 'they have proceeded too hastily ... in grubbing hedges and pulling down cottages ... where plantations ought to be encouraged to soften a bleak country and shelter the ground from violent winds'.

In 1812 Lord Uxbridge's son Henry William inherited Plas Newydd, continuing with

the planned improvements. Three years later he lost his leg at the Battle of Waterloo, where his heroism as second-in-command to Wellington earned him the title of Marquess of Anglesey. He seems to have lived at Plas Newydd for a while and planted numbers of trees in the park, but later he lived mostly at his Staffordshire house, Beaudesert, and kept Plas Newydd closed up or let.

By 1845 Plas Newydd had been neglected for more than 20 years. It was then leased to Thomas Assheton Smith of Vaynol for seven years, at the end of which term he did not renew because, he said, his wife was 'never healthy on this side of the water'. The Dowager Lady Willoughby de Broke took it instead.

The 1st Marquess lived to be eighty-six, and had eighteen children from his two marriages. When he died in 1854 his eldest son, Henry, became the 2nd Marquess, succeeded in turn by his own son Henry. The latter died without issue, and the 4th Marquess was his half-brother, who appears to have been extremely eccentric, and whose son, the 5th Marquess, was even more so. The 5th Marquess succeeded in 1898, when only 23, and was dead by 1905; but he had at least spent time at Plas Newydd, which had continued to be let by his predecessors, who preferred to live at Beaudesert or in London. The 5th Marquess was an enthusiast of amateur dramatics, and made the only major change to Plas Newydd for years when he turned the chapel into a private theatre. Though enormously rich, he was also extravagant and died with huge debts, despite having sold 17,000 lots of his possessions in the previous year.

The 6th Marquess was the 5th's cousin, and being ten years younger also succeeded to the estate as a young man. After Beaudesert burned down in the 1930s, Plas Newydd became the family's main home, and the 5th Marquess embarked on the first improvements to the house for almost a century. He also created the gardens - before his time the only garden area was on the site of the present formal terraced garden.

The present Marquess, the 7th, inherited in 1947, and had to begin by dealing with the neglect of the war years. Aided and abetted by gardening friends (following his marriage in 1948, the 2nd Lord Aberconway sent him lorryloads of rhododendrons from Bodnant, complete with gardeners to plant them, each spring for three years, by way of a wedding present) he repaired the damage and went on to improve the park and garden. In 1976 he presented Plas Newydd to the National Trust along with the gardens, woods and parkland, 169 acres in all. The gardeners working at Plas Newydd are now employed by the Trust, but Lord Anglesey, who still lives in the house, retains a keen interest and takes an active part in the management, design and planning of the park and garden undertaken by the Trust.

The park occupies a long, narrow strip along the western edge of the Menai Strait, and the house is located roughly centrally, but down near the water's edge to take advantage of the view and what shelter there is, as the site is extremely exposed. The presence of the Menai Strait, however, means that the winters are very mild; there is also a range of soil types, despite the underlying limestone, varying from acid conglomerate at the north end of the garden through neutral clay to acid greensand at the south end, and so with shelter from the wind many different plants, including

calcifuges, can be grown.

The north drive, now tarmacked, was originally the main approach to the house, and accordingly received more attention during Lord Uxbridge's improvements than any other. The entrance was moved to the extreme north corner of the park, from a point a little to the south-west; the old lodge (on the opposite side of the road) at this entrance became a school and then Victoria Cottages, as it is still known. The new entrance has a Gothic gate screen, designed by Joseph Potter in about 1804 or 1805. This is a battlemented and turreted arch, otherwise quite simple in design, with smaller arches over pedestrian gateways either side, of the same grey stone as the lodge. The tall gates are no longer in place. The lodge is two-storeyed and battlemented, and the main block is semi-octagonal, echoing the shape of the towers on the house and similar to West Lodge (II).

The drive was realigned by Repton so that at the house end it swung out further to the west, in a wide loop, and approached the house from the south-west; together with added planting of trees between the house and the stables, this had the effect of giving a glimpse of the stables first, which were then lost to sight again before the house came into view. Repton's idea was that as the new stable block was extremely grandiose and the house not seen to best advantage from the drive, it was better not to allow the view of the stables to eclipse that of the house by being able to see them both at the same time. Practical considerations have unfortunately meant that this leisurely approach is no longer used, and part of the loop of drive has been taken up, the older, shorter route being used instead. The stables and school building, not present of course when this older route was originally laid out, are directly alongside it.

The northernmost part of the drive passes through woodland, of which only that very close to the gate had been planted by 1804; but by the 1840s there was more, and in 1898 it was described as mature, with natural undergrowth, sounding much as it looks today. This planting therefore can probably be ascribed to the first Marquess during his post-Waterloo improvements.

Most of the rest of the present route is through open parkland, which seems always to have been the case, except for the area immediately north of the stables, which was woodland from at least 1798; by 1918 it had, judging by the map, more the appearance of well-timbered parkland, and now has been mostly cleared to accommodate the school and its playing fields.

At the southern end the drive divides, one branch approaching the north end of the house directly, the other swinging out slightly to approach the west front. This division appears to date from between about 1845 and 1889.

There is a relatively short, tarmac drive approaching from the west, now used by the Conway Centre. At the entrance is a lodge, West Lodge (II), which appears to be named as 'Lodge' on the Ordnance Survey 1-in. map of 1840-41, but as it does not appear on the tithe map of slightly later date the word may be misplaced, and actually refer to Llwynon Lodge. By 1889, however, the lodge had definitely appeared. The lodge is a two-storey stone building similar in style to the north lodge.

The wall flanking the entrance opposite is castellated, with turreted piers. There do not appear ever to have been gates. The drive approaches the stable block directly, where it forms a T-junction with the route of the north drive currently in use. This already existed in 1798, but seems to have undergone several alterations. Until at least 1845 it ran along a route similar to, but slightly north of, its present one, crossing the loop of Repton's redesigned north drive when this was built; by 1889 it had been linked in to the loop, so that the approach from the west also took advantage of Repton's layout, and the stretch crossing the space between the new and old lines of the north drive had been removed. A narrower route, probably a footpath, crossed at a different angle, passing close to the burial chamber.

In 1918 this was still the same, so the present layout is probably post-war, following the building of the Conway Centre. The recent entrance and car park for National Trust visitors is just to the south.

There is a short, straight, tarmac drive which approaches the farm from the north-west, now shared by the nursery in the kitchen garden. This seems to be a fairly recent development, post-1891 at least, but pre-dates the National Trust's new entrance to the north.

The original rear drive, shown on the 1798 estate map, approaching the house from Farm Lodge via the farm, remains in use by farm and estate vehicles, and has a stony surface; it also serves Plas Llanedwen. Farm Lodge is shown on the 1804 estate map, and may pre-date the present north lodge as it is completely different in style, being a simple, single-storey, square building. The entrance gateposts are square and stone-built, with stone balls on top and there is a pair of modern wooden doors. There is a round window with a grille in the wall either side of the gateway, and the wall is lower in front of the window of the lodge, topped with an iron railing. The drive still follows the same route, but between the farm and the garden the woodland has been extended up to the north side of it and the open parkland restricted to the south, whereas until the end of the nineteenth century it ran through part of the parkland.

The drive runs along what is now the western edge of the garden and joins the present north drive just north of the house. Previously it crossed Repton's loop shortly after crossing the ha-ha; now the part of the loop north and west of this junction has been taken up, but the south-eastern part remains as a tarmac-surfaced path for visitors, as does the part of the farm drive within the ha-ha.

From West Lodge (I), or Church Lodge, there is a short, straight drive to the church, which has remained the same since at least 1804; in 1798, however, the approach curved to avoid an orchard and some small fields, and there was an alternative approach from almost due west. This is actually the southernmost lodge, guarding the drive to the church. It pre-dates the second West Lodge, and is built in identical style to the farm lodge, although it is not shown on the map of 1804. Either, therefore, it was built after this date copying the style of the earlier lodge, or both were built around 1804, in a simple style considered suitable for minor lodges. The gateway is exactly similar to that at Farm Lodge, except that there are no gates.

Lady Uxbridge's Walk, mentioned in Repton's Red Book as 'lately begun by the good

taste of Lady Uxbridge', and called by her name ever since, was, it is thought, originally intended to lead north from the house to the kitchen garden, but the latter was soon afterwards relocated to the south-west. The estate map of 1798 shows the walk running northwards to a point level with, but east of, the former kitchen garden, where a smaller cross-path leads westwards to the garden and zig-zags eastwards down to the shore. By 1804 the walk had been continued a little further north into a small new plantation where other paths had been laid out. It is not indicated at all on the tithe map of about 1845, although some other paths are shown, and the 1-in. Ordnance Survey map of 1840-41 appears to show one main walk, turning eastwards to follow the original zig-zag down to the sea.

By 1889, when the first edition of the 25-in. Ordnance Survey map was published, it is clear that the 1804 layout of paths had been abandoned, and the route seems to have become established more or less as it now is, with a turning to the east off the straight walk south of the original stopping point, which crosses the zig-zag path down to the shore and carries on to where the rhododendron garden now is, and beyond. The path to the former kitchen garden site turned off to the west further south than in 1798. The map shows a double line of trees, like an avenue, continuing the straight line of the first part of the walk, and by 1900 the walk had been extended a short distance towards this, and the paths to Druid Lodge (the former gardener's house, by the old kitchen garden) had been changed yet again. By 1918 the straight walk continued between the trees to join the north drive and the paths to Druid Lodge had reverted to the 1889 layout, with the exception of one new one which was retained. Most of the westward paths have now been blocked by the school building.

It is difficult to know exactly which of the surviving paths should be called Lady Uxbridge's Walk, and the name probably properly belongs to only the first, straight stretch; but it has become attached to the path to the rhododendron garden, which in fact was probably laid out well after the time of the Lady Uxbridge concerned.

Southwards, the walk continues in a straight line across the east front of the house. Here, and past the terraced garden, it is tarmac-surfaced, but the surface gradually deteriorates northwards and becomes grassed over on the track up to the drive and stony with some gravel on the path to the rhododendron garden.

The path to the rhododendron garden now turns off slightly further north than formerly, as the septic tank for the Conway Centre intervenes. It continues through the woods on the edge of the Strait, levelled into the slope where necessary and in some places revetted, walled or with stone edging, and in a good state of repair, as far as the rhododendron garden. It can, however, be traced further, eventually curving back past the rockery to come out at the North Lodge. It is likely that the walling and revetting relates to a period of repairs and improvements between 1900 and 1918, as the maps make clear that the two flights of steps up from the beach and the small pond which feeds the waterfall were built during this period, probably by the 6th Marquess.

There are several cross paths leading down towards the beach and up to join the drive, of which most are old, one to the west being the only obvious new creation.

Except near the house, there is no sea wall, unlike Vaynol on the opposite side of the Strait. However, going northwards from the house is a built-up walk which serves the same purpose. This consists of a stone-built raised causeway hugging the shore, which formerly carried a gravelled walk. The causeway protects the low cliff against which it is built from erosion by the water, but at high tide the walk is normally submerged, and thus little of the gravel surface has survived. The walk has now been restored.

The path is indicated on all the old maps from 1840 onwards, but does not seem to be shown on the estate map of 1804, thus probably dates from the early nineteenth century. In 1840 it began at the end of the zig-zag path to the beach which at that time appeared to be the only continuation of Lady Uxbridge's Walk, running north; by 1889 it continued southwards, to link up via some steps with the waterfront walk along the top of the marine wall by the house. The north end of the path is not clear from the small-scale 1840 map, but the 1889 map shows the path terminating at a rocky cliff, which presumably presented an impassable barrier; this is where it still ends, and steps (added to a pre-existing path some time between 1900 and 1918) from a point a little to the south go up to rejoin the main path to the rhododendron garden. The southern part of the walk was restored and reopened during 1997, so that the whole of the 1889 route has now been reopened. From the walk a view of Britannia Bridge (at one time of course Stephenson's famous Tubular Bridge) is obtained, and there is a view across to Vaynol all the way.

The main path south of the house runs, like Lady Uxbridge's walk to the north, along the edge of the Strait. The first part is within the garden, and after crossing the ha-ha it continues through woodland and out into the park, subsequently turning a little inland round the wooded site of a disused lime quarry to lead finally to the church, which lies within the park near the south end. The path first appears following this route on the 25-in Ordnance Survey map of 1889. Before that it curved up through the garden to the south-west of the house, joining the old rear drive from Farm Lodge, and was probably a ride or drive rather than a footpath. The present path must have been deliberately laid out, partly for recreational purposes and partly to give access to the church, between about 1845 and 1889.

There are other paths, now not much used and all of around the same date as the main one, linking this main path with the farm, Plas Llanedwen and the Farm Lodge track.

The estate map of 1798 shows very few trees in the northern part of the park. There were two small groups a short distance south of the northern boundary, and an irregular strip along the east above the Strait for about two-thirds of the distance between the house and the northern limit of the park. As a different convention is used for this area from that used for the plantations near the house, this may in fact have been more or less scrubby vegetation, or newly planted trees.

By 1804, after Repton had given his advice and realigned the drive, there was a good deal more woodland. A strip, widening considerably towards the centre, ran along the road side of the park (west), and there was a similar strip along the

northern boundary. The groups of trees were larger and there were more scattered trees in the parkland; a semi-formal plantation with paths had been made near the end of Lady Uxbridge's Walk.

Alongside the Strait and around Lady Uxbridge's Walk the older trees include lime, beech, sycamore, oak, horse chestnut and at least one holm oak (*Quercus ilex*), with younger Scots pines and others. Some of the limes and beeches are undoubtedly those planted by Repton, and others date from the time of the 1st Marquess, after the Battle of Waterloo. Both before and after the Second World War the woods were enriched with mostly evergreen trees planted by the 6th and 7th Marquesses, including Scots pine, Douglas fir and *Cupressus macrocarpa*.

Planting evidently continued, and by 1889 the whole of the northern part of the park, up to about a third of the way to the house, was wooded, except for the nursery area near the present Rhododendron Garden, and a small boggy rectangle west of the drive. By 1918 these too had been engulfed by the woodland. An article in the Journal of Horticulture and Cottage Gardener of 1878 mentions a vista cut through the woods so that the Marquess of Anglesey's column could be seen, but no location is given and it is not now apparent. The article also describes the woods flanking the north drive as having 'large and lofty trees' including birch and elm, with natural undergrowth.

The woods have now expanded even further, leaving only a relatively narrow strip of open parkland either side of the drive, at the expense of some of Repton's curving lines.

North of the rhododendron garden there are some sweet chestnuts, not seen elsewhere in the plantation. There are also large pines on the sea edge in this area, older than the Scots pines, and the undergrowth is basically natural, though with a little rhododendron which has probably invaded from elsewhere. Near the rock garden at the northern end the plantation has been invaded by a dwarf form of bamboo, and there are also smaller patches of a different, taller, kind.

The southern plantations consist of mostly deciduous woodland, especially beech, oak and sycamore. In the area nearest the garden, along the edge of the strait, there are some large old oaks and beeches, some of the former pre-dating the creation of the park, and also recent plantings, including red oaks (*Quercus rubra*). The old 25-in. maps show that there were once coniferous trees as well in this area, but these have now gone.

The layout of the southern plantations was changed less by Repton, as there was already, in 1798, a strip of woodland along the road edge of the park, and some fairly large areas of woodland, providing a shelter belt, surrounded by the open parkland. The roadside strip was narrow, but other areas were laid out with curving boundaries, perhaps on the advice of Col. Peacock of Plas Llanfair.

Change since Repton's time also seems to have been limited, with only minor additions and losses to the woodland. A block of commercial softwoods has been added west of the farm drive, near the crossing with the track leading round to the

front of the kitchen garden, and some small groups of trees have disappeared from near the southern end of the park. The woodland was also brought up to the northern edge of the farm drive between Plas Llanedwen and the point where it turns northwards, at some time between 1889 and 1900. The presence of the farm in this part of the park has clearly restricted the scope for expanding the woodlands much further.

The estate map of 1798 suggests that of the area of open land within the park wall, slightly less than half was farmland and slightly more true open parkland, the latter extending quite widely to north and south of the house. The farmland surrounded the farm itself in a wide strip along the southern edge. The enclosure which contains the second burial chamber, Bryn yr Hen Bobl, was at the extreme of the parkland and no doubt exploited by the farm as grazing, but was planted with many trees even in 1798 and was clearly part of the designed landscape.

Since this time the area of parkland north of the house has been shrinking, and the area to the south has become absorbed into the farmland. The expansion of the woods to the north has reduced the parkland to a central strip, and some of this has now become playing fields; the rest retains its parkland character, however. The area immediately west of the house has been partly taken over by cricket pitch, tennis courts and National Trust car park, and is reduced more or less to a lawn; to the south-east some of it has been taken into the garden, and to the south-west it is now clearly farmed.

The cricket field, with wooden pavilion, to the west of the house was made by the 6th Marquess, after 1905 and before 1916. The row of *Cupressus macrocarpa* to the west was planted in the 1930s to give a dark background. The tennis courts were added later and are surrounded by tall hedges. Disused tennis courts lie to the north of the stable block.

The ha-ha is long and rather eccentric, as it takes a peculiar route and serves no apparent purpose. It is quite some distance from the house and not in the line of any view, and the wrong way round for keeping animals grazing the park out of the woods. It runs from the edge of the Strait up the line of the avenue at the south end of the garden, turns a right-angle to the north and runs along under the arboretum (it was removed here when the arboretum was made), then runs alongside the cricket pitch and Dairy Wood, with various bends and kinks. Because of the position of the old home farm the ha-ha seems unlikely to pre-date Repton's alterations, and it does not appear to have been part of his scheme. It must therefore be later, and may even have been made, or perhaps altered, by the 6th Marquess in the present century, as it appears to enclose the garden as he laid it out.

There are two Neolithic burial chambers within the park. One, on the lawn west of the house, has entirely lost its mound and appears as a picturesque group of stones; as such it was a great tourist attraction in the eighteenth century, and remains one to a certain extent today, but it is in the area not open to visitors, although it can be seen from several directions.

At the time that Repton was working on the park, one of the uprights collapsed

(Repton's remarks made at the time hint at vandalism), and he suggested that it should be replaced with a wedge of marble, inscribed so as to make it perfectly clear to future antiquaries that it was not an original part of the tomb. This suggestion was not adopted. A drawing by Moses Griffith shows the cromlech as it was before the partial collapse took place.

The other tomb retains its grass-covered mound, and is further from the house, to the south. Sir Henry Bayly, not realising the true nature of the mound, began work to level it, but stopped when he came across human bones. An entrance is visible on the east side of the mound.

There are several buildings within the park wall not directly connected with the house, including Llanedwen church and Plas Llanedwen, both of which pre-date the park and were enclosed by it. Plas Llanedwen seems to have been the gardener's house in 1878, when it was described as 'a fine old house', and possibly the residence of Morus Gruffydd, Beaumaris parliamentary representative during the reign of Edward VI; that is, the original Griffiths house. The home farm was built, of brick, in 1804, moved by Repton from a site not far from where the tennis courts now are, which he considered to be too near to the house. The 1798 and 1804 estate maps show a building already on the present site of the farm, which must have been either demolished or incorporated.

Druid Lodge was the gardener's cottage when part of the kitchen garden was north of the house, and Repton recommended that the cottage should be gothicised and given a corner tower, which was done by Potter in 1819. The house lies on a levelled platform cut into the slope near the edge of the Menai Strait, with sloping lawns leading down to a marine walk along the edge of the strait. The garden mostly occupies a wide strip along the water's edge to the south of the house, with the formal, terraced garden immediately to the north; further north are the outlying areas of the rhododendron garden and the rock garden.

In the 1878 article in the Journal of Horticulture and Cottage Gardener flower beds near the house were described as 'numerous and intricate'. They were enclosed by flat, very broad edgings of box in 'the old style'. There was a conservatory, and although small this was said to be literally crowded with plants; there was also a small greenhouse. Photographs showing the flower beds and conservatory at this period are kept at the house.

The area of flower beds, which lies just to the north of the house, was later terraced, and remains the only formal part of the garden. Its redesigning was one of the garden projects undertaken by the 6th Marquess, who was also responsible for laying out most of the rest of the garden during the early part of the present century. This consists of the 'West Indies' to the south; a 'camellia dell' in a disused quarry; an avenue across the south end of the garden; small areas with lawn and shrubs to the south-west and west of the house; the rhododendron garden and rock garden to the north. The latest addition is an arboretum west of the 'West Indies' which has southern hemisphere trees (species of *Eucalyptus* and *Nothofagus*) planted in a grid pattern, with a wild flower meadow beneath.

Alongside the water's edge there are various features. Immediately below the east front of the house is a gravelled walk with a parapet, which is shown in Moses Griffith's drawing of the house in 1776 and was thus probably built by Sir Nicholas Bayly, perhaps during the 1750s when he added to the house. The main marine wall, supporting this walk, must be of the same date, but may have been rebuilt later when the landing stage was added. It is a substantial stone wall with a built-in boat house at the southern end. Further south there is a small harbour, shown clearly on the estate map of 1798; it was altered in the 1890s, and a swimming pool has since been added on the north side. The underground dock, reached by steps near the south end of the marine walk, may also be of the 1890s, or earlier. Late nineteenth century improvements would have been made by the eccentric 4th Marquess, who revelled in the spurious title Vice-Admiral of North Wales and kept his yacht moored off Plas Newydd.

There are three main walks within the garden. These are the marine walk along the waterside immediately east of the house, below the sloping lawn, which dates probably from the 1750s; the walk leading southwards and eventually out of the garden into the park, en route for the church; and the east-west walk at the southern end of the garden within the shelter-belt avenue. The third of these is relatively recent, and an older path leads off the main southwards walk towards the kitchen garden, now crossing the avenue walk at the west end. All of these except the gravelled marine walk are tarmac-surfaced.

A small gravel path leads down to the formal terraced garden between the house and stables, replacing an older one along the south side of the stables. There is also a network of narrow gravelled paths in the camellia dell.

The 25-in. Ordnance Survey map of 1889 shows paths on the lawn to the east of the house, not shown in earlier drawings and now gone. At the north end of the lawn the curving path of 1889 has been replaced with a straight path with steps, linking the terraced garden with the marine and beach walks.

The flowerbeds described in the 1878 article in the Journal of Horticulture and Cottage Gardener were said to be on the lawn 'sloping from the terrace before the mansion-front', but the engraving illustrating them shows the area which is now the terraced formal garden, north of the house. The conservatory, shown in the engraving, was on a raised platform on the top, western, edge of the area, and was built by the 5th Marquess, or just possibly the 4th, in the later nineteenth century. It was small but contained two tanks with water lilies, palm trees and many other plants. It was removed when the terraces were laid out and its site is now occupied by a trellised arbour with climbing plants and a small pool.

This is still the only formal part of the garden, and was terraced by the 6th Marquess, in the 1920s it is believed, but some changes to the plan had already been made by 1916. The terraces are on three levels, and were originally laid out with large rectangular beds of tea roses; the 6th Marquess began the Mediterranean style which is retained today by planting tall, slim cypresses around an Italian stone well-head, and clipped bays along the upper terrace. He also laid crazy paving paths, and used wooden tubs with clipped bay trees. There is an album of photographs of

the garden at this time in the possession of Lady Anglesey.

Neglected during the Second World War, the garden was rescued by the 7th Marquess, who reduced the rose beds and introduced two mixed borders in the 1950s. Herbaceous borders were replaced with shrubs, and a specifically Italian style was aimed at. The garden is now undergoing further changes, prompted by necessary practical works to improve drainage, and is becoming more eastern Mediterranean in flavour, though some features, including the statue of Mercury and the antique Italian stone seats, are being retained. Four lead urns copied from Knole and some Greek-style pithoi have been added.

The trelliswork arbour on the site of the former conservatory is set in a length of castellated stone wall and extends out into the lawn behind in the centre. There is a tufa lump planted with ferns in a small pool with cobbled surround, and the arbour is clothed in climbers. The rest of the raised area formerly occupied by the conservatory is gravelled and has blank arches against the wall, two either side of the arbour, and an arch out to a gravel walk to the north. This leads out of the north-west corner of the garden, down outside the hedge, and in again at a lower level.

There are seats at either end of the gravelled area, and a large trough on a stone-built plinth in the centre. A low parapet runs along the front, with a central entrance; outside this is a small paved area with steps leading down to the top terrace on the north and south.

On the top terrace, flanking the central raised area with the pavilion, are wide, sloping, box-edged borders with two Italian stone bench seats in recesses either side. The path leading to the north-west corner of the garden runs along the top of the northern border. The main part of the terrace is lawned, with a low parapet wall, carrying ten pithoi.

Again there is a small paved area on the eastern edge of the terrace, with steps leading down on north and south to the middle terrace. On the retaining wall of this area is an alcove with a panther mask water-spout and new small borders either side. The middle terrace also has wide borders against the back wall, currently being replanted, and is mostly lawned, with a central, apsidal, stone-edged pool, also very recent. The water from the panther mask runs along a tiny stone-edged rill into the pool, which has a simple spray fountain.

At the south end of this terrace is a statue of Mercury, beyond an apsidal hedge and backed by further dark hedging. There are hedges along the edge of the terrace as well, with borders within. Again there is a central stone paved area on the east edge, with steps to north and south; the four lead urns are at the corners of this area. There are iron railings beside the steps.

The lowest terrace is crossed by the beginning of Lady Uxbridge's Walk, here gravel-surfaced. On the east side of this is a grass strip and then a fuchsia hedge, with trees beyond, which are now beginning to impinge on the view of the strait from the highest level. West of the path there are wide shrub borders surrounded by grass.

The rhododendron garden, which lies over a kilometre north of the house, was begun in the 1930s, on a woodland site of about five acres, partly overlying a former nursery which is shown on the 1889 map. The ridging evident in the woods just south of the rhododendron garden is probably to do with this former use. The woods were cleared, leaving a few of the better trees to provide the framework of the garden, and shelter. Some trees, chiefly Scots pines, but also birches, Douglas firs, oaks, *Sequoiadendron giganteum* and other choice conifers were left to provide shelter. These were then underplanted with a mixture of rare species.

This garden was begun early in the twentieth century at the instigation of the 11th Lord Digby, an acquaintance of the 6th Marquess, who was a patron of Chinese and Himalayan plant-collecting expeditions. He advised growing tender species of rhododendron, which he could see would succeed in a natural setting, without the protection of walls, in this particular site which, unlike other parts of the garden, has acid soil and is extremely sheltered.

The garden was neglected during the Second World War, and rescued by the present Marquess afterwards, from 1948 onwards, with the encouragement of the 2nd Lord Aberconway, who backed up his advice with practical help in the form of presents of rhododendrons from Bodnant. The layout is informal, with many small grassy paths and, as the site is damp, ditches and small water channels, crossed by small wooden plank bridges. An open area separates the rhododendron garden from the north drive.

The 'West Indies', based on a large area of lawn, was created from part of the park to the south of the house by the 6th Marquess, in the 1920s or 30s. The reason for the unusual name has long since been forgotten, but the name is established. A few large parkland trees were retained, and amongst these the 6th Marquess laid out large island beds of flowering shrubs and planted flowering trees. The first camellias came from the Beaudesert conservatories before 1914, but the main plantings were made in the 1920s and 30s. These were reclaimed from a state of neglect and added to by the 7th Marquess after the Second World War.

The camellia dell is a former greensand quarry, which offers shelter and suitable soil. It is small, but seems larger than it is because of the winding, narrow paths and steps which are hidden from each other by hedges. On the edge of it, to the south, is an oak, with a seat encircling the trunk, which is said to be 350 to 400 years old, and is split, but still flourishing. To the north is a group of limes which may be a relic of Repton's planting.

Near the south-east corner of the area is a small semi-circular viewpoint on the edge of the strait, retained by a wall and surfaced with grass. There is also, further north-west, a large tree house built in the 1970s for the youngest daughter of the 7th Marquess.

The avenue was planted in c. 1930 for shelter. This was originally a triple avenue of trees, consisting of alternate lilacs and laburnums within *Chamaecyparis pisifera* 'Squarrosa', and yews on the outside. The lilacs and laburnums were removed in the 1950s when the taller conifers had grown sufficiently to deprive them of light,

leaving the wide grass verges either side of the path. The tarmac walk runs from a junction of paths and tracks at its west end in a straight line towards the Menai Strait.

There is a triangular lawn between the stables, the drive leading to the north end of the house and the hedge backing the terraced garden. This has scattered trees and shrubs, but was once more densely planted with trees as part of Repton's plan to separate the views of house and stables from the drive. These trees were still present in 1916 but have since died or been felled.

The lawn to the east of the house, sloping down to the marine walk, is shown in Moses Griffith's 1776 drawing, then as now unbroken by any paths or planting, although paths are shown on the 1889 map. The lawn immediately south of the house, really a continuation of the east lawn, separated only by a path, is also clear of plantings and always seems to have been, although the southernmost part of it was turned into shrubbery some time between 1889 and 1916. Repton's illustration of the projected conservatory on the south end of the house shows part of this lawn as planted with trees and shrubs, but there is no evidence that these ever were planted, and the conservatory was not built.

The larger areas of lawn to the west of the house blend seamlessly into the parkland. There were formerly numbers of trees on these lawns, as shown on the old maps, Griffith's drawing of the cromlech, and so on, but these have gradually disappeared and the areas have become more like lawn and less like parkland. A drawing by Rex Whistler in 1939 shows the area south of the cromlech looking almost exactly as it does now, bare of trees, crossed by the drive to the main entrance and a path, and with part of the area to the south-west divided off by hedges. This part remains mostly lawn, but has some plantings of shrubs and a paved path with shallow steps leading back to the west.

The rock garden lies at the northern extreme of the park. The idea for it came following the collapse of a dam in 1911; there was no need to repair the dam as it related to some extinct slate works, and the break created a waterfall and scattered rocks around the stream bed. The 6th Marquess constructed two wooden bridges (now gone), pathways and steps, and planted rock plants, tender shrubs and exotic trees.

Like the rest of the park and garden, the rock garden inevitably suffered neglect during the Second World War; it was so overgrown by 1948 that it was decided not to attempt recovery, and it was allowed to continue reverting to woodland. The National Trust is now considering restoration. Some paths, stone-edged in places, and steps do remain, along with the now rather romantic ruins of structures connected with the former slate works and the remains of some planting; the waterfall is still impressive and the rocks are mossy and have had time to acquire a natural look.

The arboretum is the most recent addition to the garden, having been decided on in 1977 and planted in 1981. It replaces an orchard planted during the Second World War on a strip of parkland between the farm drive and the ha-ha which defined the edge of the West Indies. The ha-ha was removed and the ditch filled in when the

arboretum was created, so there is now no break between it and the West Indies.

The arboretum contains about 500 trees, mostly species of *Eucalyptus* (especially *E. gunnii* and *E. urnigera*) and *Nothofagus*, chosen on the advice of the late Earl of Bradford. The trees, all southern hemisphere species, are planted on a grid, and apart from a few shrubs recently planted below, the ground is left as a wild flower meadow.

Some of the trees planted by Repton, now almost 200 years old and nearing the end of their lives, are still to be found in the garden. One beech lies towards the southern boundary of the 'West Indies'; a group of three beeches near the tennis courts, at the top of the stepped path down to the house, probably dates from Repton's time. The horse chestnut near the stables, close to the small gate leading down to the terraced garden and Lady Uxbridge's Walk, may also be of this date, and the sycamore between the house and terraced garden.

The slope behind the port, rising from the retaining wall, is planted with beech, lime and conifers; none of these seem exceptionally old, but the area is shown as wooded on the earliest maps. There is an oak tree perhaps a hundred years old growing practically out of the retaining wall below the southernmost viewpoint on the marine walk. Also in this area, on either side of the access to the port, there are plantings of conifers, including Monterey cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*) and pines, with rhododendrons and some young eucalyptus.

The walled gardens lie some distance to the south-west of the house and cover about 4 1/2 acres altogether, 2 1/2 being the former kitchen garden and 2 the former walled orchard. They were moved to their present position from a smaller site nearer the house early in the nineteenth century, at the same time as the farm was rebuilt here. There was, however, already a walled garden and, outside the wall, an orchard on the site, probably belonging to Plas Llanedwen, which became the gardener's house. The original orchard area appears to be woodland on the estate map of 1804, but on the 1-in. Ordnance Survey map of 1840-41, and on later maps, the orchard convention is used, and there are a few fruit trees in the area now. The original walled garden was an orchard by 1891, but did not become one until after 1840-41. The new garden was added on to the north-east end of this. The original walled garden is now a paddock, and the larger, newer part is let as a commercial nursery. Plas Llanedwen now has another garden area of its own, utilising the outside of the south-east wall of the older part of the garden, and some areas on the other side of the track leading to Farm Lodge.

The gardens were described in 1898 as 'productive, vigorous and well cultivated', but there were problems with the wind. The orchard trees were mostly apples, with plums, pears and cherries on the walls of the kitchen garden, as well as more apples. There was an ornamental ribbon border.

The walled orchard (that is, the older part of the garden, possibly dating from the seventeenth century) was divided into quadrants by paths (from 1798 at least), and the newer part into eighths; as neither part is completely symmetrical, these were slightly irregular. Little trace of this layout now remains, although in the grass

within the orchard linear bumps indicate the paths.

The walls of the older, orchard, area are stone with brick lining, in good condition except for the tile coping, and about 2.5 m high. The south-west wall is buttressed on the inside. There are entrances in the centre of the south-east wall; near the west corner in the north-west wall (wide enough for a vehicle, without gates, and not original); in the centre of the south-west wall, and near the east corner in the north-east wall, with a wooden door leading into the larger garden. The door in the middle of the north-east wall leads into a small, square two-storey building with a pyramidal slate roof crowned with a weather-vane. This is stone-built, but the side facing the older garden is brick-faced, and it looks as if it is contemporary with this garden; it is indicated on the 1789 estate map. There is now a door in the back wall leading into the larger garden.

Outside the east corner of this walled enclosure is a fairly large, rectangular two-storey building with a slate roof; it has windows on the upper floor and arches below, and the end facing the garden is again brick-faced although the building is stone. This too is shown on the 1798 map and appears to be an original garden building, probably of the seventeenth century but altered in the eighteenth. The upper floor was a fruit store and the lower probably a cart/equipment store. There is a door leading into it through the south-east garden wall.

The original orchard area to the south-west is not walled, but has a post-and-wire fence with a small iron gate. This is now grazed as one area with the paddock within the walls, but retains a few fruit trees.

The walls of the larger garden to the north-east are higher, about 3 m, and brick throughout, with slate coping. The east corner, which is less than 90 degrees, is curved. There is now an entrance in the north-west wall, towards the west corner, but originally the entrance from this side was through a potting shed against the outside of the wall. The original entrance in the centre of the north-east wall was enlarged by the 7th Marquess. There is an entrance through the centre of the south-east wall, and fruit trees were at one time grown on the outside of this.

Against the outside of the north-west wall is a range of mostly stone buildings, including potting sheds, the men's lunch room (with a fireplace), boiler house, office, joinery workshop, various stores and a brick building supporting a 5,000 gallon header tank for watering the garden. There are also larger underground tanks, which were supplied from a reservoir at Llwyn Onn, on the other side of the Brynsiencyn road. All these are shown on maps from 1891 onwards, though not on the map of 1804 which does show the garden extension. There was also a building within the garden which has since gone. This may have been a bothy which was replaced by the later single-storey, L-shaped stone building outside the garden near the north corner.

Within the garden, inside the north-west wall, were several glasshouses. The lean-to range along the wall is the oldest, but by 1918 all but one of the free-standing glasshouses to the south-east had been added, as well as several frames. These structures are now in varying condition - some have been almost completely

dismantled while others have been repaired and re-roofed with modern materials. All the bases survive, however.

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