

## LLANERCHAERON

**Ref number** PGW (Dy) 51 (CER)

**OS Map** 158

**Grid ref** SN 4810 6018

**Former county** Dyfed

**Unitary authority** Ceredigion

**Community council** Ciliau Aeron

**Designations** Listed buildings:**DESIGNATIONS** The house Grade I; Service Court Grade I; Billiard Room Grade II\*; Potting shed Grade II; Garden house Grade II; Walled garden Grade II; St Non's Church Grade II; Abermydr Lodge Grade II

**Site evaluation** **Grade II** **SITE EVALUATION** **Grade II**

**Primary reasons for grading** **Primary reasons for grading** The modest, picturesque, park and gardens at Llanerchaeron have essentially changed little since they were laid out at the turn of the nineteenth century, although they suffered from some neglect earlier in this century. To the east of the house are two walled gardens and a splendid farm complex.

**Type of site** **TYPE OF SITE** Picturesque parkland; wooded pleasure grounds with walks and lake; kitchen garden

**Main phases of construction** **MAIN PHASES OF CONSTRUCTION** The present landscape was probably completed by 1803. There have been minor alterations since that time.

### Site description

Llanerchaeron house is set within the wide, misfit valley of the river Aeron some three km to the south-east of Aberaeron. The house is surrounded by pleasure grounds and, to the south-west, parkland bordered by trees. To the north, beyond the river Aeron, the slopes of the valley are covered by mature and semi-mature trees.

Llanerchaeron is described by Suggett (1995) as a 'box villa' and it incorporated the stone extension to the hall house which was added by either Llewellyn or John Parry sometime before 1690. The house is a two-storeyed, hipped slate roof, rendered block with a recessed entrance portico to the front (south-east) side. The entrance is flanked by four fluted pillars, which stand to c 3 m. Above the pillars is a small balcony, to the front of which is a balustrade of cut or moulded stone. To either side of the entrance are Venetian windows; the one to the north having recently being restored by the National Trust. These

windows have central sash panels of twelve lights with two panels of four lights to either side. Above the main panel is a semi-circular fan light, surrounding which is decorative moulding. The other ground-floor windows echo this design. To the north-west are further Venetian windows and to the south, the five square-topped windows of twelve lights, have been set into round-topped recesses. The upper windows, again of twelve lights are all square-topped and sash. Rising above the roof and recently repaired are a series of rendered chimney stacks with three and four pots. Set centrally below the roof line is a pyramidal lantern or sky-light. The whole structure, now painted in the original ochre colour, has a feeling of restrained symmetry. To the north-east of the house is the Servant's wing and Service Courtyard.

The first family noted at Llanerchaeron is the Gwynne family who sold the 'plas' or mansion and some 500 acres to Llewellyn Parry in 1634. Little or nothing is known of this early house but the fact that it is referred to as a 'plas' may suggest a building of some status. Evans, (1998), suggests that it was a hall house, subsequently demolished prior to 1795. Llewellyn Parry married Jane Lloyd and their son, John, inherited the estate in 1667. In 1670, the house was assessed as containing six hearths, compared with Nanteos where there were two, indicating a grand, if not a great house. Either John or his father added a stone wing to the wooden hall house. Some sources suggest that when John Parry died in 1690, he left the estate to his daughter, Anne. However, Evans (1996), states that the estate was left to his elder son, Stephen. Stephen married Anne Lloyd. They had two daughters, Mary and Anne named after Stephen's sisters. Family tragedies and the early death of John's presumed heir in 1736, his grandson, meant that the estate passed to John Lewis, who was also a grandchild of John Parry. John Lewis married twice, firstly to Magdalen Jenkins and subsequently to Elizabeth Griffies. John Lewis had stipulated that the eldest of his sons, Hugh, should inherit Llanerchaeron. However, his early death meant that John (II) inherited both Llanerchaeron and Verdre. In 1749, John married Elizabeth Johnes of Dolaucothi; this union produced eight children and William, the second son, eventually inherited the estate.

It was William Lewis who commissioned John Nash to design a new mansion for the family at Llanerchaeron, as his relatives at Hafod, Nanteos and Dolaucothi had already done. Evans (1996) mentions that documentation for this building work was scarce, but that when repairs were being carried out to the roof in 1995, the builders came across two papers which confirm Nash's association with Llanerchaeron. The first is a bill for glass dated 20<sup>th</sup> March 1795, which was addressed to Major William Lewis, written and signed by John Nash. The other, a letter from a wine merchant in Carmarthen, concludes that he was glad to hear that that building was nearing a conclusion. It is also believed that Nash was involved in the rebuilding or refurbishment of the church and that an agent of his was responsible for the farm buildings to the east of the house

John and Eliza were the children of William Lewis and Corbetta Williama Powell. The estate passed to Eliza, who married William Lewes and it was their great grandson, John Powell Ponsonby who left the estate to the National Trust in 1989.

Contemporary with the main house and abutting it is the rectangular block of the servants' wing. Although of two storeys, the roof lines are lower than the main house, but the double pitched roofs are again of slate. The rubble walls may once have been rendered and painted as the house, but now the stone is exposed. The ground floor rooms would

have been kitchens, maid's and housekeeper's rooms and the butler's pantry. Upstairs were bedrooms and bathrooms, although one of the two bathrooms may have been for the use of the main house.

The service court, to the north of the house, is described by Suggett as 'plain but delightful with a covered way at the perimeter of the central cobbled yard providing access to the dairy, cheese-room, game-larder and (on the other side) laundry, boot-room and brew-house. It is difficult to assess the originality of Nash's assured handling of the planning of the services, but the inspiration was Italianesque and presumably derived from the loggia'd courtyards of the Palladian villa'. After a period of neglect, the single-storeyed service courtyard is presently being restored so that the corrugated iron, which still roofs part of the complex, will be replaced with slate. The rectangular courtyard is enclosed by the offices described above and the northern elevation of the servant's quarters. The covered perimeter walkway has been reinstated and the rendering is being replaced on the walls. The same careful symmetry of design is found within this courtyard, with the round topped doors and windows being placed at regular intervals with the east and west wings being mirror images of each other. To the north is a round-topped pedestrian arched access, which includes a delicate iron fan light. The centre of the courtyard is presently down to grass, although it may once may have been cobbled. This enclosed area, away from the household, would have been an excellent drying ground but there is no direct evidence for this use.

Standing on its own to the north-east of the service courtyard is the single-storeyed billiard room. This square rubble built building with hipped slate roof and external porch, was erected much later than the house in 1843. The room is lit, not only by the side windows, but also by a clerestory or clearstory window in the centre of the roof. The builder was the estate mason, David Morgan, and his design reflects elements found in Nash's building. The round-topped sash windows to the front (north) side are set within round topped recesses and there is a semi-circular fan light over the porch door.

Across the drive from and to the north of the billiard room is a roughly coursed rectangular building with slate roof. The original function of this building is not known, but, as it lacks any evidence of domestic occupation, the National Trust believe that it served as a wood shed.

To the east of the house and associated with the walled garden is a further, impressive, complex of utilitarian buildings which will be mentioned, but not fully described, within that garden area

The park and gardens at Llanerchaeron enjoy the low lying flat land of the valley of the river Aeron as it meanders towards Aberaeron. The flat, gently rolling landscape around Llanerchaeron is in contrast with much of the surrounding countryside. During restoration and renovation work within the gardens, both Dr John Savidge and members of the National Trust have encountered a variety of soils including, towards the lake, heavy clays. It has been suggested by Dr Savidge and others, that this variation is as a result of deposition within the valley during the later phases of the last Ice Age. Most of the land associated with the park and gardens is at about 45 m AOD, with the southernmost parkland rising to about 47 m. Little is presently known of any gardens or the land-use contemporary with the earlier houses, although the inventories reproduced by Evans (1996)

give some idea of the activities of the early Llanerchaeron. The National Trust has also recently discovered a possible cobbled yard within the park to the north of the house.

There are four main elements to this site - the parkland, walled gardens, pleasure grounds and woodlands across the river.

There are some 61 acres of park at Llanerchaeron, most of which are down to grass and grazed. Associated particularly with the eastern and southern boundaries are deliberately planted 'scallops' of trees, which serve to break and soften the margins of the park. These features, which are separated from the open park by degraded earth and stone banks, are probably part of the original design, as they appear on the Tithe Award Survey. By 1889 these 'scallops' are shown to be planted with a mix of mature trees. Regrettably these plantings have been neglected and the mature Scots pine, chestnut, sycamore and oak are now becoming sparse and senile. The open parkland is now broken by a self-sown scrub hedge of willow and alder which is associated with a leat. However, the deliberately planted clumps at SN 4786 6017 and SN 4803 5982 remain, although the former has become congested with self sown oaks and ash and the later has become degraded by neglect and grazing animals. Enclosed within a former meander bend of a tributary to the river Aeron, which runs along the west side of the park, is a fine stand of beech, but this area, again, is becoming congested with self-sown saplings. Other specimen trees within the park include a lime to the south of St. Non's church, which may be the one represented on the 1889 survey.

No general description of the park at Llanerchaeron would be complete without reference to the significance of the church within this designed landscape. The small church, with its distinctive tower and cupola was redesigned by Nash; it was initially erected as a chapel of ease for the family before coming into common use. Thomas Lloyd, writing in 1990 states of the planned picturesque disposition of the buildings at Llanaeron (*sic*) that: 'First and foremost, there is the church, unattributed and undated but clearly Regency, Picturesque – and Nash. Meyrick indicates that it was rebuilt about the same time as the house (he published in 1809). Its proximity to the house but juxtaposition of style leave one in no doubt what is intended. For here is a scene from the canvas of Poussin or Claude, cool, Italian Palladianism in the house and rugged stone gothic half hidden in the adjacent clump: the classic language of architectural symbolism then in the height of fashion'. Lloyd then goes on to speculate whether this 'looking out beyond the house' of architect and client could indicate that this might be Nash's very first planned park. Whoever was the designer, it is clear that the landscape and the buildings within it at Llanerchaeron were manipulated in a sophisticated way to achieve a picturesque quality, with particular views, the chief of which was that from the house to the church.

The Tithe Award Survey shows the church, as it is today, separated from the park, within a rectangular enclosure. On the west, south and east sides is a ha-ha, the stone walls towards the church, the slope to the ditch, which now appears somewhat silted, towards the park. To the north is the lane. The National Trust suggests that no graves were ever intended, but by 1889 the enclosure is referred to as a 'Grave Yard'.

There is now a hedge separating the park from the graveyard and lane, but, as far as can be judged from nineteenth-century illustrations, this is a recent development. The boundary may have originally been marked by the iron park railings which are still partially extant between the gardens associated with the house and the park. To the south-east,

separating the park from the pleasure gardens, is a further stretch of ha-ha. The ditch, to the park side, is now filled with water which drains from the leat. This is probably the result of tumbled masonry where the leat should enter the pleasure gardens, although there may once have been a sluice arrangement

There are two estate cottages which form important incidents in the picturesque landscape. Clwyd Ddu Lodge is a small single-storey cottage, which stands at the junction of the lane to Llanerchaeron, to the west of the house and the Aberaeron to Lampeter road. It has a pyramidal, pitched, slate roof with central, stone, chimney stack. The National Trust believes that it is late eighteenth-century in date and was built as a lodge. To the north-west is a modern, block, extension with flat roof.

To the west of the house, on the north side of the lane to Llanerchaeron, is a small, single-storey cottage, Abermydr. The National Trust suggest that this small, pink-washed cottage was designed either by John Nash or George Repton in a style and position to enhance the picturesque scene of the landscaped park. The building was originally thatched but now the slate roof is extended to the south to include a veranda. The cottage, which was originally an octagonal structure, was extended northwards in c 1840 and a further extension was added to the east by 1889. The roof is pitched at the western end and there are rendered chimney stacks at both ends. There is a dormer window within the roof towards the front (south) which is Gothic in design, as are many of the other windows, although not original. Within the gardens to the south-west of the cottage is a splendid London Plane (*Platanus x acerifolia*) and to the south-east a delicate wrought iron gate some 1.5 m high hangs from a new stone gate-pier.

The river Mydr forms the western boundary to the gardens of Abermydr cottage and a single span, stone bridge, Pont Mydr, carries the Llanerchaeron lane over the river. The bridge, which is just over 3 m tall from the river bed to the top of the solid stone parapet, is utilitarian in design, with no rustic or picturesque embellishments.

The Tithe Award Survey and Schedule of Apportionments of c 1840 refer to the two fields which form the park as 'Cae Dail'. These are field numbers 349 and 350 and are given as 21 acres 3 roods and 40 acres 3 roods and 30 perches respectively. The boundaries to the park are, to the south-east, a field boundary; to the south, the Lampeter to Aberaeron road; to the west the course and former course of a tributary of the Aeron river, the afon Mydr, and to the north the minor road or drive associated with the house.

In the fifty or so years between the survey undertaken for the Tithe Award and the First Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey map some, small changes had been made. By the late nineteenth century, the park is shown as three parcels, one, to the north-west is given as 39.585 acres (350) and field number 349 has been divided into two parcels of 10.132 and 12.124. There has also been a change in the water courses. The meander of the afon Mydr, to the west of St. Non's Church, is now represented as a relic course (although still the course of the parish boundary) and the river has been returned to a previous, straighter course. At the junction of the previous meander and the present course, the Ordnance Survey have recorded 'Def. This abbreviation stands for 'defaced' and relates to the parish boundary which is 'C.Tk.OCR' in other words, the physical marker, the river, has been defaced, but the course of the parish boundary is still the centre of the former river course. Surviving stonework to either side of the present river at this junction would suggest deliberate water management. Just over 1.5 acres is enclosed by the relic meander which is

still visible as a linear depression. In 1889 this area had been planted with trees and it remains so today.

As mentioned above, much of the drift geology at Llanerchaeron is clay. Other changes were made in the water management in these fifty years, possibly prompted by poor drainage. The Tithe Award Survey shows a leat or drain running from the afon Mydr, near to Llaethliw, which is to the south of the Lampeter to Aberaeron road. In *c* 1840, the leat, which was taken under the road and into the park, is shown as having two spurs running west across the park. The first, some 150 m from the road, is only a short spur and the water is, presumably, returned to the river as it heads west. The second spur may have had a more significant impact on the park landscape. This spur is shown branching from the main leat some 250 metres north from the road. Its north-westerly course takes it across the park (field number 350). Due south of St Non's church is a small fork heading due north. The main spur eventually empties into the meander, which was extant at that time. By 1889, these spurs from the main leat, like the meander, have been done away with and only the main leat remains.

With the exception of the above, very little of the park appears to have been altered since the turn of the last century.

The pleasure gardens, walled gardens, drives and the lake occupy some 12 acres around Llanerchaeron; with most of the garden area being to the east of the house. They were laid out at the same time as the house was rebuilt and were probably largely complete by 1803. To the north of the garden area is the Llanerchaeron lane with the remnants of the park fence and ha-ha surrounding the gardens to the south. The early maps indicate that the layout has changed little in 150 years. The 1889 survey shows mature trees to the small area to the west of the house with further plantings of trees, winding paths, walled gardens, associated buildings and the working, utilitarian buildings to the east. Small flower gardens were later established to the east and west of the house and, earlier in this century, a croquet lawn was levelled to the south. The flower gardens around the house were, apparently, bordered with white calcite or quartz boulders, which are just still visible. The garden to the west of the house was probably about 4 m wide whilst the one to the east seems to have been curved to accommodate the early twentieth century alterations to the service block. The croquet lawn to the south of the house juts into the parkland. It was constructed after 1919 and is now rough grass.

The house is approached from the Llanerchaeron lane to its north. There are two recessed entrances to the drive to the east and west of the house from the lane. These entrances are very similar in construction, but not quite identical. At the entrance to each drive, the low stone wall of the recess (*c* 0.75m high) ends at a double set of rubble stone gate piers some 2 m high. Between the outer and inner piers and set on a low stone wall, are iron railings, with "Fleurs de Lys" to top and bottom and which are about a metre tall. Between the two inner piers hang the iron gates which, similarly decorated and dip towards the centre so that, when shut, they form a semi-circle; this is matched in the design of the ironwork below. All the piers are capped with stone slabs and the National Trust believes that they were once rendered and probably painted the same colour as the house. At the western side of the west entrance is a simple flight of three or four crude stone steps which may predate the stonework of the entrance. They are only about 40 cm wide and seem to give access to a former footpath across the park, recorded on the 1889 survey.

To the north, across the road from the entrances to the main drive (north of) and no longer used, is the entrance to a track which led to a ford across the river Aeron. Although no longer extant as a drive, but formerly an important route to the house from the north, this route crossed the river at SN 4795 6028. From the ford, the route followed a river terrace to the west before turning north up the step (on this side) scarp of the valley. This drive still apparently exists as an earthwork and the route is still marked by more mature oaks. The entrance to this track from the Llanerchaeron lane is again marked by a walled recessed entrance, the walls, although somewhat tumbled still standing to 0.75 – 1 m. The west wall of the drive also acts as a retaining wall between the drive and the river terrace.

The grounds to the east of the house have a canopy of mixed coniferous and deciduous trees, including beech, cedar and wellingtonia. Towards the lake are clumps of bamboo and the occasional holly. Two paths lead off the east drive. One leads towards the utilitarian complex to the north of the walled gardens; the other would seem to have been laid out as a circular walk which crossed the leat over a small bridge, followed the west wall of the walled gardens returning just to the east of the bridge. At SN 4801 6010 is a fork from this circular route. This path lead through what has been described as the Dutch garden to the lake. This path has all but disappeared but the circular path is still extant. Also extant, but possibly later in construction than the path is a 'rocky bank' or rock garden, which has been formed in a series of scallops to the west and north of the walled gardens. These banks are made from a variety of stones many of which are not local. Some are calcite, others are water worn (rounded) and from the holes within them, obviously marine. The crescent shaped bank to the north is the most complex, although possibly altered from the original design by recent clearance and planting work. This rock garden now appears as a series of small, irregular terraces with a stone retaining wall between each. Two mature beech trees grow on the top of the bank, which rises to *c* 2 m; these pre-date the building of the rock garden. The scallop bays to the west and abutting the wall of the walled gardens are just retained by a single line of stone and are no more than 30 cm above the level of the path.

The path to the lake, which runs to the south of the walled gardens is now, as mentioned above, very indistinct and goes through an area the National Trust describes as the 'Dutch' gardens. At the east entrance and attached to the east end of the walled garden wall is an ancient wooden (probably oak) gatepost standing to 1.75 m. It is topped with a wooden ball and most of the blue-green paint has now gone. The little private garden is now very overgrown with *Rhododendron ponticum*, but the edges of former borders, marked with calcite, and a small pond are still just visible.

To the south-east of the garden, within the pleasure grounds, is the lake. The leat, through the park and the rill which runs through the gardens are both associated with it. This oval lake, set to the south-east of the walled gardens and covering some 1.5 acres is again shown on the Tithe Award survey and is referred to as 'Pond' (parcel number 348). An oval-shaped island, towards the east of the lake, is also shown on this survey and later surveys. Around the lake is a path *c* 1.5 m wide; this now has large rhododendrons (*R. ponticum*) to either side. At the western end are the sluices which control the water levels and, originally the flow of water to the rill which bisects part of the pleasure garden. This western end is less curved in plan and there is masonry on the inner face. Set into this is a concrete and slate channel which is just under a metre wide and about 7 m long. At the

west end of this channel and now covered with a sheet of plywood, is a square, stone lined cavity into which a slate step has been inserted towards the top. At the base of the cavity are two culverts, one leads back towards the lake, the other towards the park. It would seem that the original intention was that when the lake was sufficiently full, water would flow along the channel from the lake, tumble into the cavity and from there it was directed, underground, into the ha-ha. Water could, presumably, still be channelled into the ha-ha when the water levels were lower by the use of sluice gates. These would allow the water to flow into the cavity from a deeper water level within the lake. At SN 4809 6005 the water entered the ha-ha; returning to the pleasure gardens and into the rill at SN 4798 6099. This arrangement is not shown on the early survey, but it appears on the 1889 map and subsequent surveys. The slate set into the cavity would ensure that there was the sound of tumbling water, when the lake was full. However, there may have been some further features around the cavity, which is about 3 m deep, to prevent accidents.

Today the lake appears as a badly silted depression, invaded by scrub willow, alder and moisture-loving plants. The island is still evident as a dry mound on which there are a mature Scots pine and less mature birch trees. To the east of the lake is more masonry, which could represent other water management features, and the rotten wooden piers of what was probably once a small jetty. No boat-house is recorded and no likely remains of such a structure were seen.

The little stone-lined rill which runs through the gardens to the west of the walled gardens does not seem to appear on the Tithe Award survey but it is recorded in 1889. The water enters the gardens on the south side, the flow of water formerly being controlled by the features described above. The channel is a constant 90 cm deep and 1.25 m wide, of undressed and uncoursed stone. At SN 4797 6017 the rill is crossed by a little bridge which carries the path from the house towards the walled gardens. This is a curious structure which stands, to the top of the small, solid parapet, 1.5 m above the bed of the rill. The single arch is made of brick but the arch is offset to the line of the rill and the eastern edge of the arch is hidden by the stone of the rill sides. This may be as the designer intended. However, it might suggest that the bridge was extant prior to or built after the creation of the rill. The rill ends close to the east drive and the water is then channelled underground by a square stone culvert; immediately to the south of the culvert is a flight of five stone steps, which lead down to the water level. The purpose of the rill was probably always mainly utilitarian; water from it was used for flushing lavatories and other utilitarian purposes within the house complex.

The two walled gardens, which were completed by 1803, are of the same size and form a rectangular block running east to west with the north and south walls being some 152.5 m long and the east and west walls being 45.75 m.

The west garden walls, which stand to over 3 m high, are built entirely of brick and the National Trust estimates that a total of 300,000 bricks were used in the construction of these gardens. From the west, this garden is entered through a doorway towards the north end of the west wall. The surrounding brickwork is set proud; the blue/green painted door and frame are believed to be original. Interestingly, the 1889 survey shows no path from the circular path to this entrance, neither does the Tithe Award Survey. The brick walls show signs of recent restoration work and all are topped with tiles. A broad, gravelled, path leads from this door straight to the door to the east garden. To the south of the path



are venerable fruit trees which, from their shape, were obviously once trained to espalier frames. The two main planting areas to this side of the path have low hedges of box and these low hedges also border the secondary, north – south path which has been constructed half way along the main east- west path. At the northern end of the secondary path is a circular feature, now a pond. The 1889 survey records this circular feature but refers to it as a sundial. Today this feature is a shallow, stone-lined pond, the total depth below the path being about 0.75 m. Around it are random stones, some calcite, which form a small informal rockery.

The area to the north of the main path would seem to have been the section used very much for growing and displaying the more important, interesting and tender plants. The 1889 survey records a small square structure in the north-west corner; this has vanished and the area is now used to display roses which are planted within geometrically shaped beds surrounded, again, by low cut box hedges. These beds are thought to have been originally created towards the turn of the century and have recently been restored. The south-facing north wall was heated by a system of flues. No glass is shown on the early surveys to the western end of this wall, which might suggest that any covering was temporary or that it was used for more tender fruits. Five separate ranges of glass are shown on the early survey at the eastern end of this wall. Documentary evidence suggests that at least some glass was extant in 1860 when the areas of glass were extended and altered, (*pers comm* N Evans). Four areas were probably houses whilst the fifth may have been covered, heated raised beds. Two of the early, wooden, houses are still extant, one has been recently restored whilst the other is in an extremely poor condition. A modern concrete house replaced one of the former houses within the last few decades, now itself in poor condition, and the base of the fourth is still extant, as are the walls of the raised beds. Miss Nicky Evans of the National Trust has produced very detailed, isometric drawings of all these features, recording all fixtures and fittings, heating pipes, window openings and so on within the Boulton and Paul house and the others. Between the restored glass house and the ruinous house is a sundial, now set on a cast-iron base (which may be industrial or maritime in origin). It is possible that this may be that which stood on the site of the pond, and was removed to its present position when the pond was created, post 1889.

The east walled garden is entered by a door which is similar in construction to that into the west garden. The character and construction of this garden is different from the west garden. The north, brick, wall was, again, heated, although there is no evidence for glass. The most noticeable difference is that the south wall is of stone. It has been suggested that this indicates this east garden was more utilitarian in character. However, it may be that the colder stone wall increased the range of plant material grown within the garden. The stone wall rises to the same height as the brick wall, but it has been recently capped with cement, rather than stones, as was probably the case originally. As with the west garden, at the junction of a north-south subsidiary path and the main path is a circular feature. This is and probably always was, a pond. As with the previous pond, it is surrounded by random stones. Over the pond is an iron rose or growing arch now in poor condition. Again, the shape of the ancient fruit trees within this garden suggest that they were once attached to espalier frames and some of the paths are bordered with low, box, hedging. The ground to the north of the main path is under cultivation whilst that in the south of the garden is down to grass.

There is a substantial complex of buildings which abut these gardens to the north and although there may be some overlap of function they possibly can be viewed as consisting of three main elements. To the north-west is the stable and carriage range, to the north the garden range and to the north-east the farm range.

The stable and carriage range is a U-shaped stone building of one and two storeys, with a slate roof. It consists of the stables to the east, a central carriage or coach house and a western range of indeterminate function, now roofless. The National Trust suggest that the central and west range predate the rebuilding of the house and that they were gentrified in or after 1800. The courtyard enclosed by these buildings is set with pitched stones in herring-bone patterns which are not only decorative but help the water to run off rapidly.

To the south of the stable and carriage range is an area referred to as the frame yard or small frame yard. This area is enclosed to the south by an open lean-to (which utilises the north wall of the walled garden), to the north by the carriage range and, to the other sides, by a stone wall which stands to 1.5 m high. Within the enclosure are cold frames, the bases of former cold frames and stove pits associated with the walled garden and the carriage range.

Constructed as a lean-to against the north wall of the west walled garden is a potting shed. This single-storey rubble building has been altered during the course of its history. At some stage the roof has been raised and two, possibly three of the window openings to the north have been decreased in size. Within the floor is a mix of flag stones, pitched stones and brick. The potting shed abuts the 'Bailiff's' house or 'Garden' house which is to the east.

The Bailiff's house was apparently erected after much of the complex had been established, probably in 1863. It is of two storeys with hipped slate roof and three chimneys. To the east is the front door, set centrally, with sash windows of twelve lights to either side and three above. Large cracks have now appeared in the outer walls. The Bailiff's house abuts the single-storey range to the north which was used for cows and the heavy horses.

To the east of this complex is a further assemblage of buildings, again built around a courtyard. These buildings include a fine cart house with the granary above, the kennel block, stock sheds, the threshing barn and the boiler house complex. This boiler house produced the hot water to heat the glasshouses within the west walled garden. To the east again is the wheel pit which housed the water wheel. This wheel provided the power for many of the activities within the farm complex, the water coming from a header pond to the east of the lake and, originally, from the leat which crosses the park. Between the lane and farm buildings are limes, laurels and some beech.

## **Sources**

### **Primary**

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