

## LLANGEDWYN HALL

**Ref No** PGW(Po)1(POW)

**Former Ref No** PGW(C)12

**OS Map** 125

**Grid Ref** SJ 188 243

**Former county** Clwyd

**Unitary Authority** Powys

**Community Council** Llangedwyn

**Designations** Listed building: Llangedwyn Grade II

**Site Evaluation** Grade II\*

### **Primary reasons for grading**

A well preserved and rare early eighteenth-century grand formal terraced garden, retaining some of its original ornamental features, in a fine position overlooking the Tanat valley. Absence of later overlay makes this garden especially important.

### **Type of site**

Terraced formal garden with remains of ponds and other walling.

### **Main phases of construction**

Early eighteenth century, possibly finished 1728.

## **SITE DESCRIPTION**

Llangedwyn is an irregular mansion situated on the north side of the Tanat valley. From its main south front there are fine views out over the valley and down to the village church. The core of the house is a square C-plan block, the result of alterations and demolitions in the 1950s, which included the removal of the east wing. The house is rendered, with hipped gables and wooden cornice. The windows are sashed with dormers in the roof, the dormers themselves having pitched slate roofs. The front door was moved from the end of the central wing, now the east wing, to the east side of the east wing. The doorcase, which is in classic style with segmental pediment and Tuscan Doric columns, dates to about 1959. There is a sundial on the gable end of the east wing.

The majority of the house which survives today is thought to date from about 1718, although there may have been earlier remodelling of an essentially Elizabethan or Jacobean house by the Vaughan family. The third Sir Watkin inherited on the death of his father-in-law Sir Edward Vaughan in 1718.

A service wing extends north-west from the west wing of the house. There is a clock in the gable end of this building, by Joyce of Whitchurch (1857).

The stableyard lies to the west of the house and is in two sections, one an L-shaped block, and another a line of boxes further west. The present stableyard was built in 1906, according to the a date stone with the inscription LAWW 1906. It is of stone with black brick door and window surrounds. The stables have a pavement of granite setts outside the boxes. The centre of the stableyard is landscaped with grass and shrub planting. The present stableyard replaces an earlier one which was joined on to the extreme W wing of the house. To the north-west of the stableyard are some farm buildings, mostly of the same date and style as the stables. In a paddock to the east of the house is an octagonal stone building with a slate roof. It is divided into four loose-boxes for stallions. The field was originally divided into four enclosures, one for each loose-box.

The gardens were made at the same time as the house was remodelled in the early eighteenth century. A contemporary bird's-eye view painting shows the gardens in detail, and confirms the fact that they have survived in their original form, with hardly any later overlay. An estate map of 1741 also shows the gardens in the same layout, and gives details of their internal layout.

The main approach is from the road which runs along the south boundary of the garden. A straight drive flanked by rows of young limes leads to the former forecourt, now the Rose Garden, in front of the house. The present drive skirts the Rose Garden to the west and leads to the outbuildings and west end of the house.

The main terraces lie to the east of the house and face south-west towards the river Tanat, which has been canalized opposite the house and gardens to run parallel with the garden walls. There are three main levels to the garden, an upper, a middle and a lower. The top two terraces, a narrow upper terrace with a brick wall behind and a higher buttressed brick wall dropping to a wide lawn are still gardened. The lower terrace is now grazed, and until quite recently was used as the vegetable garden. The upper terrace walls are built in an L shape bounding the lawn below on the north and east sides. There are steps at each end of the terrace; those on the west end lead to a classical brick summerhouse. An inverted T-plan staircase leads from the summerhouse level to the upper level. Steps from the lawn lead up to the east terrace, where there was once a garden pavilion which is no longer extant. A cellar room belonging to this garden pavilion survives beneath the terrace. A door in the east perimeter wall, on the upper terrace, leads to the stallion paddock.

Immediately to the east of the house is a large gravel sweep. The wide lawn of the middle terrace lies further to the east. The majority of the lawn is taken up with two large circular stone ponds with central fountains fed from a small lake, the Briw, about 3 km away, above the garden.

The third level of the garden, c. 5 m. below the middle terrace, is broken up by two brick walls with strips of grass in between. The second strip is thought to have been occupied by a canal. The lowest area of grass was a bowling green with a canal on its

southern edge, known as the Eel Pond. This is now dried up. Access to this level is by a set of stone steps at the east end of the terrace.

The ground immediately to the north of the uppermost terraces rises steeply. It is planted with spring bulbs and azaleas, merging into the mixed deciduous woodland above of Warren Wood.

The Rose Garden is a small walled courtyard immediately to the south of the house. This was the original entrance court with an oval carriage turn. To its south was the drive flanked by an avenue of limes. The oval survives, but the lime avenue came to the end of its life in the 1970s and has been replanted. The forecourt and drive are aligned on the former central wing and main entrance, with semi-circular stone steps leading up to it. The southern wall and gate of the Rose Garden were inserted in about 1950.

Originally the present walled kitchen garden was part of the early eighteenth-century pleasure garden layout, with a central fountain and radiating pathways. It occupies a kite-shaped area to the west of the drive. Parts of this layout are still visible, including the area where the fountain was situated marked by a circle of trees. In the nineteenth century the garden was used for vegetables, with the installation of a large range of lean-to glasshouses on the west wall. Two nineteenth-century vegetable clamps remain at the north end of the garden. They are in the form brick tunnels covered with turf. The doorways are gothic in shape with a wooden door in the narrow end. The walls of the garden are of brick, about 2.5 m. high, with flat stone copings overhanging on the garden side. There are doors in the north-west and north-east corners.

## **Sources**

### **Primary**

A Pocket Book of Mapps of Demesne land belonging to Sir Watkin Williams Wynn Bt. By Thomas Badeslade, 1741. Clwyd Record Office (Ruthin): NTD/176.

National Library of Wales:

1872 watercolour drawing by S. Leighton of house from the terrace, and flower gardens (drawings vol. 340, loose).

### **Secondary**

The Garden, 10 Oct 1885, pp. 371, 77, 78.

'Llangedwyn Hall', Country Life, 28 Dec 1907, pp. 944-52.

Hubbard, E., Clwyd (1986), pp. 215-16.