

FOXHALL NEWYDD

Ref No	PGW (C) 32
OS Map	116
Grid Ref	SJ 029 675
County	Denbighshire
District	Denbighshire
Community Council	Henllan

Designations Listed building Foxhall Newydd Grade II
SAM New Foxhall Dovecot (De55); New Foxhall house (De54)

Site Evaluation Grade II

Primary reasons for grading

Earthwork remains of seventeenth-century formal garden

Type of Site

Garden enclosures, walled garden and semi-ancient woodland

Main Phases of Construction

Early seventeenth century

SITE DESCRIPTION

Foxhall Newydd was built by John Panton, Recorder of Denbigh in the early seventeenth century. It is thought to have been part of an ambitious project for a massive H-plan house, but only one wing was built. Although the house was reputed to have never been finished fragments of interior plasterwork have been found, suggesting a project that was well advanced.

The house is now a ruin, with only the stone exterior walls remaining. It was a tall three-storey house, with a basement and gable end windows. The windows are mullioned and transomed and on the north-west end there is some dressed stone quoin detailing, with moulded string coursing. There is a datestone of 1608 over a fireplace.

A walled garden is attached to the south-east side of the house. A roofless but once gabled stone dovecote is built into a wall of this garden. Doorway and window detailing have disappeared.

The house of Foxhall Newydd lies within an overmature mixed woodland of oak, ash, sycamore, holly, and gean. This wood, known as Foxhall Woods, and sometimes referred to as the Warren, appears to be a continuation of Coed Copsy which lies to the south-east of the site. Coed Copsy is recorded as being an example of semi-natural ancient woodland. The name Warren suggests that this may have been an area for raising rabbits. However the area is practically all solid limestone and would not have been conducive to burrowing.

There are the remains of a lane once bounded by stone walls in the Warren and it is possible that this may have been the approach to the house of Foxhall Newydd. It runs from the southern boundary of what was the pleasure garden south-east to the boundary wall of the Warren. Along the south-east side this is a very well built limestone wall, standing to about two metres, with large coping stones. A gateway entrance is recent. The wall continues to the north of the house becoming a retaining wall, possibly later in date, with a drop to a lane. The wall curves towards the walled garden and then gains height before joining up with the walled garden wall.

Shallow earthworks, probably the remains of a formal garden, are sited on the north-west side of the house. This area would almost certainly have been walled. The remains of walling can be seen on the north-west boundary, forming part of the lane wall already mentioned. Remnants of stone walling can also be seen on the north-west side of the pleasure garden area. What looks like the remains of shallow terracing can be seen to the north-east of the walled garden. In front of the house, on the north-east side, are two rows of four square raised earthworks, which could represent flower beds. A low mound is situated on the north-west side of the house, just outside the pleasure garden boundary. The whole area is now pasture.

To the south-east of the garden is a small rectangular area surrounded by uncoursed rubble walls c. 2.5 m high. Perimeter and cross paths were still visible in 1874 (Ordnance Survey map). Part is now occupied by a tennis court, and there are some old fruit trees remaining which relate to the nineteenth-century farmworkers' cottages behind Foxhall Newydd.

Sources

Secondary

Hubbard, E., Clwyd (1986), p. 181.