

**CADW/ICOMOS REGISTER OF LANDSCAPES, PARKS AND GARDENS
OF SPECIAL HISTORIC INTEREST IN WALES**

SITE DOSSIER

Site Name Glynllifon

Ref No PGW (Gd) 39 (GWY)

OS Map 123

Grid Ref SH 457 554

Former County Gwynedd

Unitary Authority Gwynedd

Community Council Llandwrog

Designations Listed buildings: House Grade II*; park wall, two bridges on river south of house, stables, entrance arch and two lodges, Fort Williamsburg, Mausoleum and Plas Newydd all separately listed Grade II. Fort Belan and its dock are both Grade II*. Much of Llandwrog village is listed Grade II. SSSI: Parts of the house, for roosts of lesser horseshoe bat.

Site Evaluation Grade I

Primary reasons for grading An outstanding, extensive eighteenth- and nineteenth-century park and pleasure ground with a complete enclosing wall, containing landscaping, planting and many decorative features, including a vista with fountains focused on a cascade, grottoes and intricate water features. Buildings include a hermitage, fort and mausoleum. The nineteenth-century layout is largely preserved, with some elements of the earlier design surviving, and the site is well documented.

Type of Site Landscape park with woodland and ornamental buildings, pleasure grounds with water features and other decorative elements, walled kitchen gardens.

Main Phases of Construction Eighteenth century; nineteenth century.

Visited by/date Margaret Mason/7th Feb, 6th Dec 1996, June 1997.

PRESENT MANAGEMENT

OWNERSHIP Public Private

PUBLIC ACCESS Yes No Partial

VISITOR FACILITIES, SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS

Cafe, car park and lavatories near walled gardens. Various trails have been laid out, at least one with elements of modern sculpture. Modern view point near car park. Open-air theatre. Craft workshops offering goods for sale.

USE OF GARDEN No garden Private Open to public
Institutional Other There is no ornamental garden as such, though there are pleasure grounds near the house and in the Llifon valley; the public is free to wander around these. The walled gardens are let to various tenants; Antur Fachwen encourage visitors to the kitchen garden, and while the rest are not officially open, in practice the public can easily visit them.

USE OF PARK No park Private Open to public: total/partial
The park is open, but as areas of it are actively farmed the public is directed into the woodland and garden areas. The arrangements may change. Institutional Other

LAND USE Agricultural (mostly grazing), managed woodland, recreational, market garden.

SURVIVAL OF SITE Excellent Good Partial Poor Very
partial Fragment only

Comments: Most of the statuary etc. has gone or been moved and some of the extensive network of paths has become lost; one of the fountains near the house has been completely removed and another damaged. However, most of the layout remains as it was and the majority of the buildings, grottoes and other features survives. There is also still some planting, and the park wall survives complete.

CONDITION OF SITE Very good Good Fair Poor Very poor
(traditional maintenance) Agricultural (see above) Neglected
(overgrown/trees) Ruinous Abandoned Restoration in hand

Comments: Unfortunately the very fragmented ownership/occupation situation and the lack of public money available for upkeep has meant that the site is not well managed and has become rather run-down. Some of the activities taking

place on the site are not compatible with preservation or good management. Much of the woodland has been planted over with commercial conifers, to the detriment of any surviving original planting. Attempts are currently being made to sell the house, and as a recent abortive attempt to sell to a developer proves, as much of the land as is necessary to clinch the sale will go with it, and any purchaser will be accepted - no safeguards for the future of the site, other than continued use by the college, were sought.

HOUSE

Name Glynllifon

Grid Ref SH 457 554

Brief description The house, which lies towards the centre of the eighteenth-century park, and in the north-west part of the enlarged nineteenth-century one, was built in 1836-48 and is at least the fourth house on the same site, previous rebuildings being recorded for 1751 and about 1600. Small parts of the 1751 house, described by Evans in 1812 as 'a moderate-sized brick mansion having a colonnaded vestibule for its principal entrance' are preserved, notably the vestibule mentioned which now forms the kitchen entrance. The range on the north side of the kitchen court also survives from the 1751 house, and has a rainwater head bearing this date. A watercolour of the 1751 house done from memory shortly after its destruction also shows the older house, which was attached to it and perished with it.

The brick house burned down in 1836 and was replaced immediately by the present classical stone house, which was originally square but was extended to the west in 1890. The architect was Edward Haycock of Shrewsbury, and some of his letters and plans concerning Glynllifon are extant. The main part of the house has three storeys, with the main entrance on the south front through an arcaded porch, which carries a pedimented loggia with six classical marble columns. This loggia is accessible from the main room on the first floor and extends upwards to roof height. There is a parapet along the roof of the house either side of the pediment over the loggia, ornamented with life-size statues.

All the windows are sashes with moulded architraves, and on the main block those at first-floor level have pediments, echoing the main pediment over the loggia. The extension is two-storey but well matched with the rest of the house, and forms the south range of the kitchen court. The north front, which is against a steep slope behind, is also mostly of 1890. There is a large conservatory at first-floor level on the north-east corner, accessible from outside by a long flight of stone steps, which has part of the exposed rock face to the north incorporated for use as a fernery.

OUTBUILDINGS

Name Game larder and ice-house

Grid Ref SH 457 464

Date, style and brief description Three designs were submitted for this by E W Townly in 1795, but none were used. The building may not in the end have been constructed at this time, as an estate map of the first half of the nineteenth century shows an ice-house in the side of the Llifon valley, at a little distance from the house. This may have been superseded by the present building and was turned into a grotto later in the century.

The present building was originally in a courtyard at the rear of the house, but 1890s extensions covered the courtyard and the game larder is now reached from the house. The ice-house, which presumably once had a separate entrance, was destroyed by work for the new dining room at the same period.

There is a short passage leading to the circular game larder which is about 4.2 m in diameter and 5.2 m high at the apex. It has a lime-washed brick dome. There is a circular hole in the floor which led to the former ice-pit. There are three windows in the thick walls, and the room is lined with slate shelves, the top one having iron hooks. There is a large metal ventilator in the roof. It is stone-built and stuccoed on the outside.

Name Stable block

Grid Ref SH 456 554

Date/style, and brief description The stable block, dated 1849 and therefore built immediately after the house was completed, lies to the south-west and is in the form of a square of two-storey buildings surrounding a yard. There is an extension on the south-west corner which has been recently further extended. There is a walled area north and north-east of the stable block which links it to the kitchen court; a drive passes under an arch into this, through it, and under another arch into the kitchen court.

The stone-built stable block has a main entrance through an archway in the centre of the east side, surmounted by a cupola with clock and weather-vane. It has sash windows similar to those of the house, and the buildings are rendered and slate-roofed. The block replaces an earlier L-shaped stable-block to the south-east of the house which was probably built soon after the 1751 house and, like it, was destroyed in the fire of 1836; the stables which preceded the L-shaped block were on a site closer to that of the 1849 block, a little to the north-east but on the same side of the house.

Name Workshops

Grid Ref SH 455 557

Date/style, and brief description Surrounding a yard to the north-west of the stables, south of the central walled garden, is a square of buildings now used as craft workshops which once provided almost all the services needed by the estate. There was a gas works, tannery, smithy, cart sheds, slate mill and, outside the square to the west, a timber mill. A large barn or shed in the centre of the yard has recently been demolished.

The buildings are all stone-built with red brick arches and other detail, and have recently been restored.

Name Watermill

Grid Ref SH 455 553

Date/style, and brief description The mill is situated to the south-west of the house, and is shown on the early Ordnance Survey maps and an estate map drawn in the 1820s and altered in the 1840s, but not on an earlier one, probably of the 1750s. The workshops appear to be too far away to have utilised power from it. The children's boating pool next to the stables is also the mill pool.

The building is of stone with a slate roof, and was served by a system of stone-built leats. It has been converted for college use.

THE PARK

Central Grid Ref SH 460 550

Date/style The large, squarish park is walled all round and includes open areas, woodland and various buildings, and is crossed by the Afon Llifon from north to south-west. The present extent of the park dates from the 1820s when the wall was originally built; before this the park was smaller, not extending so far to the south or east. It may have been laid out by Sir John Wynn, the father of the 1st Lord Newborough, who rebuilt the house in 1751.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION, HISTORY AND LAYOUT

Glynllifon Park lies close to the west coast of Gwynedd, only 1 km from the sea at the south-west corner, on ground rising gently to the east. It is roughly square in shape, although the south-west corner is elongated, and the house lies towards the north-west corner, reflecting the original smaller size of the park. The villages of Groeslon, Llandwrog and Penygroes surround it; Llandwrog is a 'model' estate village, less than 1 km from the house, and has an unusually grand church with a tall spire (built 1860, architect Henry Kennedy). There are houses in the village dating from the eighteenth century, but they are mostly of the early to middle nineteenth century and must have been built by the 3rd Lord Newborough.

The park is surrounded by a continuous high stone wall, about 10 km long, in good repair. It occupies almost the maximum possible space between the A499 Caernarfon-Pwllheli road, the two side-roads linking this with the Caernarfon-Porthmadog road at Groeslon and Penygroes, and the disused railway line west of the latter. This line is one of the earliest in Britain, and is of about the same age as the park wall. The road from Penygroes to the main road, the western part of which follows the park wall closely, may post-date the wall; it did not exist in 1818.

There are lodges at entrances to the north (called East Lodge), north-west, west, south-west and east (called Upper Lodge). The last is derelict but the rest are in good condition. All entrances have arches in the wall, the main 'triumphal' arch at the Grand Lodge on the west being surmounted by a lion (moved from near the stables in the late nineteenth century) and the Wynn family symbol, eagles.

The park includes large areas of woodland and farmland, which are interspersed with each other to give several discrete areas of each. There is a broad swathe of woodland along the eastern edge

of the park, with farmland within it running up to the Llifon valley and the woods south of the house; in 1824 and 1828 part of this farmland, just north of Fort Williamsburg, was a deer park, and contained a deer barn. North of the house, close to the farm buildings, is another block of farmland, with woods beyond it along the western edge. South of the house the pattern is more fragmented, with smaller areas of farmland and strips and blocks of woodland, possibly originally shooting coverts, including narrow strips along most of the southern part of the western edge. Much of the woodland has now been planted over with commercial conifers, and most of the original timber has been felled, though there are some survivors. There are also ponds and reservoirs dotted about the park, some for agricultural purposes and some to feed the water features in the pleasure grounds.

The farmland was clearly once mostly parkland but is losing its character with the passage of time - park trees die and are not replaced. However, some trees, including ancient oaks obviously much older than the park wall, and groups of beeches of around the same age as the wall, do survive. Several of the drives and tracks crossing the park had avenues of trees, of which some survivors can still be seen. The exotic and ornamental trees are concentrated in the Llifon valley, the areas near the house and the nursery.

The house faces south; there is now no significant view in this direction, but in 1918 wide vistas were open through the trees and pleasant distant views of Yr Eifl (the Rivals), now only visible from further south in the park, could presumably be seen. The Grand Lodge to the west is sited so that as one leaves the park through it, the Iron Age hillfort of Dinas Dinlle on the edge of the sea is framed in the arch; from other points in the park, including Fort Williamsburg and the Mausoleum, there are views over the mountains of Snowdonia. The Afon Llifon flows through the park from north to south-west, passing immediately to the south of the house, where it has been canalised; this and the northern part of its route is included in the pleasure grounds.

The park is likely to have been originally laid out around the middle of the eighteenth century by Sir John Wynn, when he built his 'moderate-sized brick mansion' in 1751. An original (1632) house of the Glynnnes (who took their surname from their property, but lost it around 1700 when the heiress married Thomas Wynn of Boduan) is Plas Newydd, near the south-west corner of the park; but this was not included in the park belonging to the house on the present site until the 1820s. There was a pre-1600 house on the site of the present Glynllifon mansion, but there is no indication of what grounds were associated with it; this presumably belonged to a different branch of the family.

An estate map, undated but belonging to the decade 1751-1761 (it shows the 1751 house but not Fort Williamsburg, built 1761) makes clear that the park was already well planted with woods, and there were avenues along some of the drives and tracks; but the layout of the pleasure grounds near the house was very different from what can be seen today. There was evidently a deliberate redesign, which seems to have been begun by the 1st Lord Newborough, and continued by the second and third.

The 1st Lord Newborough, Thomas John Wynn, son of Sir John, was made a baron in 1776, and was beset by money troubles, which began with difficulties over paying the legacies under his father's will. He was at one time imprisoned for debt, and spent some years in Italy after the death of his first wife (where his son died and he married a much younger, Italian, second wife). However, before he left Wales he enthusiastically improved his park, which contributed to his money problems. In about 1761 he built Fort Williamsburg, with additions in 1773-76; this is a small fort in the middle of the park, which was equipped with cannon and was to all intents and purposes a functioning military establishment, although the position is far from strategic (unlike its sister, Fort Belan, on the Menai Strait, also built by the 1st Lord Newborough, and said to have cost £30,000). In 1762 Lord Newborough (then Sir Thomas) raised the Caernarvonshire Militia, and in 1797, after his return from Italy, the 'Loyal Newborough Volunteer Infantry'. There were also 'the Garrison at Fort Williamsburg' and a 'Sisterhood' associated with it, formed in 1761, clearly intended mostly for fun.

The 1st Lord Newborough also built the Grand Lodge to the west of the house (actually two lodges joined by a triumphal arch), but after his return to Wales in the early 1790s he seems to have done little further, probably due to continuing shortage of funds, though he did order a vine house in 1793, and plans for an elaborate ice-house, which was, however, never built, are dated 1795. The Revd J. Evans described the park, early in the nineteenth century, as 'spacious' but exhibiting little 'variety or artificial decoration'.

The 2nd Lord Newborough, also Thomas John, was the 1st Lord Newborough's son by his second wife, Maria Stella Petronilla. Though he was a minor when he inherited Glynllifon and died young in 1832, he enjoyed a colourful lifestyle which earned him a reputation as a womaniser and involved him in a scandal, and he made improvements to the house, park and estate. These included enlarging the park southwards and building the present wall, nearly seven miles (10 km) long, around it. He had made the Grand Tour and brought back paintings and antiques from Italy and

elsewhere, and may well therefore be responsible for the rather Italianate water features created in the park; he certainly built the Hermitage, a folly on the side of the Afon Llifon valley, which at one time had a resident hermit and was later used as a chapel for the pets' cemetery nearby.

Other improvements undertaken by the 2nd Lord Newborough include the mausoleum, near the south-east corner of the park, which he began, and the first two of the walled kitchen gardens, which were begun around 1820. The mausoleum was unfinished at his death, and although the 3rd Lord Newborough continued the work it remains unfinished, as funds had to be diverted to rebuilding the house after the fire of 1836. The 2nd Lord Newborough probably also erected the Cromlech, a mock-druidical sanctuary, to the south of the house, and certainly canalised the river across the lawn in front of the house; he must also have altered the course of the river to the east of the house, and was probably responsible for the waterworks in the Llifon valley.

The 2nd Lord Newborough's brother, Spencer Bulkeley, the 3rd Lord Newborough, having to cope with the huge expense of rebuilding the house, had to be more circumspect in his expenditure on the grounds. He built the grottoes, however, and constructed the three fountains in the eighteenth-century vista on the east side of the house. He also added urns and statues to the terrace running along the back of the house and above part of the vista to the east; clearly there was a wish to maintain suitable surroundings for the grand new house. He also had five children, of whom he was fond, for whom he built the Children's Mill, a small boat house on the river south of the stable-block. Both brothers planted extensively.

In 1888 Glynllifon, but not the title, was inherited by the Hon. F G Wynn, second son of Spencer Bulkeley, whose heir had predeceased him, leaving a son who was only a child. Freddie Wynn had been running the estate for his father, and had a deep love for his home, so the family possessions were divided between him and his young nephew in such a way as to ensure he retained control of Glynllifon and Boduan. He was unmarried at the age of 35, so his father expected that the estate would eventually be reunited, as indeed it was.

F G Wynn had an interest in the plant-hunting expeditions then in their heyday, and he planted many exotic trees, some of which survive, and masses of ferns, which he especially loved. He also maintained elaborate topiary. He had a special interest in eagles, a family symbol, and kept a pair in the eagle house (next to the palm house, which he also created, in the southern part of the eastern walled garden), as well as laying out a pebble mosaic of an eagle on the island in the Llifon.

Following F G Wynn's death in 1932 the fortunes of Glynllifon declined, although the park wall was repaired in 1935, and the estate was eventually sold to a timber merchant in 1948. He was no doubt responsible for the plantations of softwoods which now cover parts of the park. In 1954 the house and park were sold to Caernarvonshire County Council, and have very recently been sold again, to a private owner, although the stable buildings remain part of Coleg Meirion-Dwyfor.

Change resulting from these relatively recent events has been limited, although most of the statuary has gone (some, however, has found a new home in the kitchen garden), and of the three fountains one has completely disappeared, while only the pool of a second remains. Two of the walled gardens are now paddocks, although the third is still in use as a productive kitchen garden. The nursery has become a private garden and the summer-house within it has been converted to a house. Lodges and houses in the park are in separate ownership and one new entrance has been made through the wall; a second may be new, or an enlargement of a smaller entrance. However, most of the water features, grottoes, buildings and follies remain, generally in good condition, and part of the network of paths survives and is still used.

STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS

Drives, tracks and paths

There are several drives and the park is criss-crossed by an extensive network of tracks and paths. Many of these remain in use for practical purposes or by walkers, although only the main west drive now gives access to the house. This falls within the pleasure grounds, but most of the other drives lie wholly or mostly in the park.

North drive

The north drive is the most recent, as it did not exist in 1900. It is now, however, only used as a farm/forestry track, and the northernmost part is completely disused.

The construction of this drive seems to have been part of a larger scheme of improvements in the north-west corner of the park, undertaken at some time between 1900 and 1918, also including the building of the north lodge and the creation of three ponds. The southern part of the drive utilised a pre-existing track leading to three small quarries in the side of the hill to the east, and it was driven northwards from these, through a plantation. The track already had a curve in it, switching from one side to the other of the rather damp bottom

along which it runs, and the two southernmost of the three ponds were made in this bottom so that this curve is between them, separating them from each other. The ponds probably assisted drainage, but seem to have been chiefly designed to enhance the route of the drive.

The drive came to the north-east corner of the walled gardens, then turned west, then south again, and ran down the pre-existing track between the central and eastern gardens to join the west drive near the stables. The surface is now muddy except for this last stretch, but hard - probably stony - underneath.

South-west drive

The south-west drive enters the park at the extreme south-west corner, through the gate by Cae-maen-llwyd Lodge. The old gate was just north of the lodge and the drive led off the main Caernarfon-Pwllheli road, but since 1918 a new entrance has been made right in the corner, south of the lodge, and the drive now passes through what used to be the lodge garden, leaving the road at the junction with the side road to Penygroes.

The drive then runs almost due west for some distance, before sweeping round to the north and approaching the house from the south, through the plantations, and eventually crossing the eastern bridge over the Llifon immediately in front of the house.

A loop off this drive to the west led to Plas Newydd and then curved back eastwards north of the Plas to meet up with the main branch again. This has now been superseded as Plas Newydd has a new private drive from a recent opening in the park wall just north of Cae-maen-llwyd Lodge.

The drive, including most of the Plas Newydd loop, remains in use by farm vehicles and for access to various parts of the park, including Wood Cottage, the former keeper's cottage. It has a stony surface (as has the new drive to Plas Newydd) for most of its length but parts are tarmac-surfaced. Originally it was largely unfenced, but much of it now has post-and-wire fencing; some trees remain from former avenues on parts of the route, especially in the southern part of the park. These would mostly have been planted about 1830, following the expansion of the park southwards and the building of the wall in 1828.

South-east drive

The south-east drive is from the Upper Lodge gateway, near the south-east corner of the park, and runs straight, slightly south of west, for about 0.7 km, through woodland - the Coch Rhwd plantation. It then turns north-west, and shortly afterwards forks, one branch continuing more or less westwards past the nursery to meet up with the south-west drive at the same point

that the Plas Newydd loop rejoins it; the other branch runs north-westward and meets the south-west drive further north. The southern branch runs along the side of a steep valley, again through woodland, and is levelled into the slope, but the northern branch crosses open parkland. There is an iron gate, hung on square, stone-built gateposts, across this branch shortly after the fork, where it enters the open park.

The drive had an avenue of trees (almost continuous in 1918) from the gate to the junction of the northern route with the south-west drive. None of the trees are left on the straight stretch in the plantation, but a few have survived on the parkland stretch. The surface is stony, with patches of slate waste, and the drive is still in use, for access and for farm traffic. It is, and was, mostly unfenced. Parts of the route may follow an old public road which was stopped up in 1843.

Other tracks

There is a tarmac-surfaced track off to the north-east just within the main gates, which leads round to a modern, gravelled, public car park, with a coach park beyond. This has been made out of part of the west drive plantation.

There is a track along the west and north sides of the walled gardens, which is a continuation of the track off the west drive to the car park. This has a rough, stony surface. A grassy track, becoming muddy over a hard surface, leads northwards off it into the woodland in the north-west corner of the park; this is apparently not on the same line as one shown on the 1918 map, and seems to be a recent forestry track also used by horses. It links up with a system of modern forestry tracks. The old tracks towards the east of the wooded area survive, at least partially, however, and also form part of the system of forestry tracks, including the former north drive.

There is a tarmac track from the back of the walled gardens round to the farm. This continues past the farm and up to the north-east corner of the park, walled most of the way; it crosses the Llifon valley on a high, arched stone bridge. It may be contemporary with, or later than, the east drive, which runs under the same bridge.

At the point where the south drive forks, at the edge of the pleasure grounds, another, initially gravel-surfaced, track leads off to the west. It crosses the river on a stone bridge and then swings northwards again, rejoining the main drive immediately inside the main gate (it is disused at the gate end). It retains a significant number of trees of the avenue which flanked the easternmost stretch. This seems to be a survivor of an older drive layout, shown on a map of 1818; a similar, but not

symmetrical, curve to the north at that time made a loop of drives on the west, but this must have had to be altered when the kitchen gardens were built, the northern part of the loop being pushed further south and becoming the present west drive.

There were short walled tracks leading off the southern branch of the south-east drive to the north and east corners of the nursery, but these are disused and have been overplanted. The curving wall of the eastern one can still be seen.

Paths

There are numerous footpaths all over the park, some of which are clearly old although others are more recent; some old ones have become disused, but on the whole the network remains serviceable. Few retain any surface, if they ever had one, but some are clearly levelled into slopes, or edged with stone.

One which leads away from the main entrance to the nursery crosses the south-east drive and descends into the valley of the small stream to the north. It is levelled into the slope, and crossed the stream on a fairly substantial stone bridge, which has, however, now collapsed. Beyond this it forks, leading past the former kennels northwards, and to join the south-west drive westwards. These stretches are less well defined, but the latter can be followed through.

The footpaths across the park to the fort are now fenced on both sides, as are many of the drives and tracks, whereas very few were fenced in 1918 or earlier. This is a response to the more intensive agriculture now practised in the park.

WATER FEATURES

Ponds and reservoirs

There are several ponds and reservoirs around the park, many of them connected with the water supply to the various waterworks, and others farm ponds. The triangular pond, almost a small lake (over an acre in extent), near the north lodge is neither of these, but has a boat house and was presumably created for sporting and recreational purposes. It was made between 1900 and 1918, and is probably contemporary with the lodge and drive. The boat house, at the south corner, is stone-built with a slate roof, but is now derelict; there is ornamental planting around it.

To the south of this are the remains of two further ponds; these were made at around the same time but seem to have been shallower and have now silted up and grown over to some extent. The former north drive runs east of the northern one, then crosses between

them and runs west of the southern one; they seem to have had no particular purpose other than to beautify this route.

The subsidiary stream which runs alongside the south-east drive and past the nursery has been dammed to create a pond a short distance to the east of the nursery. This is surrounded by woodland, with some ornamental planting, though the pond-edge plants are wild. There is a waterfall just below the pond which is clearly audible but no longer visible, due to thick undergrowth; it may or may not once have been visible from the south-east drive. The pond is shown on an estate map of 1828.

There is a string of reservoirs in the edge of the parkland along the south-east side of the Llifon valley, which were part of the complicated gravity-feed system that operated the various water features. These seem to date from before 1828.

The Afon Llifon is an important natural water feature, particularly in the pleasure grounds, but it also crosses the park, where it was bridged in several places. There is a tributary stream running alongside the south-east drive in a pretty little valley which has small waterfalls, some of which may be artificial, and ornamental planting, as well as bridges.

BUILT FEATURES

Lodges and gates

Grand Lodge

This is in fact two lodges, linked by a 'triumphal arch' across the drive. The arch is in classical style, with a sculpted lion flanked by eagles, and the lodges are pedimented, of two storeys, rendered, with slate roofs and sash windows. Both lodges have been extended and now unfortunately no longer match exactly.

Although the arch is dated 1900, this date must refer to refurbishment by F G Wynn, as there are earlier photographs in existence showing it complete with lion and eagles. The 1st Lord Newborough designed the arch and lodges, and to him must be given the credit for the well-chosen position, with the Iron Age hillfort of Dinas Dinlle framed by the arch. This arrangement seems to have been preferred to aligning the gate with the drive, which was laid out in a loop, approaching the gate from south-east and north-east. The lodge had not been built when the 1750s estate map was made but was probably erected soon after.

There are double iron gates with a pedestrian gate either side under the arch, and the lodges are colonnaded on the drive side. Each has a small garden, now laid out dissimilarly, though

clearly at one time, like the lodges, they would have matched.

Mount Pleasant Lodge

Mount Pleasant Lodge seems not to have been a lodge in the usual sense, i.e. guarding a gated vehicular access to the park. The current entrance consists of iron gates set in an opening made in the wall, which give access only to the lodge, now a private house; there apparently was never a track or path leading to the lodge within the park, and presumably there was only a pedestrian access from the road, if any. The main road has been widened and levelled so that the lodge is now above its level, reached by a remnant stretch of the old road. It appears to be an estate cottage, and was built between 1824 and 1828.

Cae-maen-llwyd Lodge

North of the lodge there is a pointed arch in the wall like that at the north lodge, with the original iron gates, painted black. This is now disused and a new entrance has been made at the corner of the park, south of the lodge, also with iron gates.

The lodge is single-storey, stone-built with a slate roof, and has recently been refurbished and extended. It has hexagonal stone chimney-stacks, and stood in its own small garden, with some box hedging, but this has been cut across by the new drive. It was built between 1828 and 1840, possibly replacing an older, very small lodge to the north of the original arch.

Upper Lodge

The lodge is ruined and completely overgrown, but had three small rooms and an attic, the two rooms on the drive side (one of which was the kitchen - the small range is still in situ) having large windows. There was a small lean-to extension on the north, and a stone- and quartz-edged path ran northwards along the west side, to a small gate into the former garden, now planted over with conifers like the rest of the drive plantation.

The gateway is imposing, with a pointed arch surmounted by a double-headed eagle on the outside. Other family symbols are on the inside of the arch. The wall is built of dressed stone for a short distance either side of the gateway, and the heavy iron gates are still in place.

The lodge was built before 1824 and is thus the oldest of the lodges. Although the park wall was not then built, it is possible that the gateway existed, with the stretch of wall either side which is built of dressed stone. This possibility is reinforced by the fact that the lodge appears to have been built up against this wall.

East lodge

The east lodge has an entrance with a pointed arch, as at north and south-west, but the arch itself is of brick instead of stone like the others. The iron gates are painted green. The lodge is L-shaped, built of roughly-dressed stone and is two-storeyed with a slate roof and brick chimney. It was built between 1828 and about 1840. It has its own small garden and is privately owned.

North Lodge

The north lodge remains in the possession of the estate and is used as the local estate office. There is a pointed arch in the wall, different from those at east and south-west in that it has a recessed second arch under the main arch. The lodge is single-storey and has two verandah porches on rustic wooden pillar supports on the drive side, with a hipped gable between; it has latticed windows and a central stone chimney-stack. The roof is slated and the building is presumably of stone, but is pebbledashed.

This lodge and the drive it served did not exist in 1900, but had been built by 1918. The arch is not obviously inserted, but the style of all three similar arches, set in a protruding section of wall, would allow for apparently seamless insertion. Interestingly, a plan of 1824 shows a lodge and entrance a little to the south-west of this lodge, but these had gone by 1828 and there was then no entrance in this corner until the present north lodge was built.

Fort Williamsburg SH 461 551

The stone-built fort lies in open parkland to the south-east of the house, about 500 m away. It is square in plan with angle bastions, and in one of the corners there is a tower, painted white. In 1918 there was an open vista through the trees which would have given a view of it from the house, with Snowdonia behind, but this has now grown over. The fort was built in 1761, with additions in 1773-76; further additions which must have been made between 1832 and 1840 are indicated on an estate map. It is defended by ditches on the outside, and there are gates on three sides, that on the north having an ornamental gatehouse, with a pebble floor laid in geometric patterns incorporating medallions with hearts and flowers. There is a bridge over the ditch at this gate, as also on the east.

The south-east corner contains a square headquarters building and barracks, also known as the 'summer pavilion', and along the south side is a row of rather grand kennels. The plans for these are extant, but undated. In the north-west corner is the hexagonal castellated tower, reached by a short underground passage. This is thought to be the latest building on the site. It shows up well from many parts of the park, and beyond.

The fort was armed and garrisoned and could have been defended if the need had ever arisen. However, the position was clearly chosen not for defence but because it has some of the best views in the park, to Yr Eifl one way and Snowdon the other. The whole enterprise was chiefly intended for the amusement of the 1st Lord Newborough, his family and guests, the fort providing a focus for recreation in the park. There was a pheasantry immediately to the south of it, but some farm buildings have now been sited very close on this side.

Mausoleum SH 466 547

This circular stone building, on a wooded rise in parkland in the south-eastern part of the park, about 1 km from the house, was begun by the 2nd Lord Newborough in 1826. It was unfinished at his death in 1832, and the 3rd Lord Newborough continued the work, but stopped when it became necessary to divert funds to the rebuilding of the house. The planned second-floor chapel was never built, and the building was never used as a mausoleum.

It is in the form of a truncated cone, about 18 or 19 m high and 16 m in diameter, built of shaped, coursed masonry with dressed stone door and window surrounds. Inside there are brick-lined, cruciform chambers on both ground and first floors, with intersecting barrel vaults and no windows; on the second floor there is an octagonal room with a groined vault and four windows. The upper floors are reached by stairs within the thickness of the wall, from an entrance lobby, and there is a passage, also within the wall, from the lobby to the ground floor room.

On the estate map of 1828 the mausoleum is labelled 'tower', and a path or track is shown leading to it from the south-east drive. This was still in use in the early twentieth century, but has now been abandoned.

Fountain

On the loop of the south-west drive which passes Plas Newydd, just before it rejoins the drive, is a small, stone-built feature marked as 'fountain' on the 1918 Ordnance Survey map. It is extremely overgrown and impossible to see properly, but seems to consist of a small, square stone structure - apparently not a building as there seems to be no way in - with a further curve of walling on the east side with stone seating. There is a small, hooded stone basin, and there are some quartz pebbles around.

Bridges

South-west of the house, not far from Plas Newydd, there is a massively-built, rough, dry-stone bridge over the Llifon which probably pre-dates the park as it does not seem to relate to the system of tracks and footpaths. It is probably on the line of

the old road across the park which was stopped up in 1843, but is too narrow to carry vehicles and any such traffic using the road would have had to cross the river by the ford beside it. The bridge looks as if it is very old, but may have been partly reconstructed, as the footway consists of large slate slabs, with dry-stone parapets built on top of them.

There is a stone bridge south-west of the house, carrying a loop of former driveway over the Llifon. A close view of this could not be obtained but it appears well-built, with low stone parapets. The remains of another stone bridge, now destroyed, can be seen at about SH 451 547.

A simple stone bridge without parapets carries the south-east drive over the tributary stream near the nursery.

Kennels

A small, levelled enclosure with a retaining wall within the wood called Coed y Kennel contains an L-shaped block of slate-roofed stone buildings with a corrugated iron structure to the west of them. These buildings were formerly kennels but have now been converted, with brickwork, for farm use - there are cattle stalls with hay racks.

Internal boundaries

Boundaries within the park are now largely post-and-wire fences, but the park is characterised by older enclosure divisions consisting of walls which are built like a ha-ha. When these surround plantations they tend to be above the level of the ground, with sometimes a slight ditch on the field side, and the ground level within the woodland is usually higher; when they divide fields they are sunken, with a deep ditch one side. There is a good example of the latter type south-west of the house, centred at about SH 450 547. This example is in the part of the park which was enclosed in about 1828, but is shown (as 'sunk fence') on a plan of Glynllifon demesne dated 1824, which does not show the park wall. The woodland area within which the nursery was built (around 1828) was also defined by one of these walls, which was superseded on the west by the nursery wall, so the latter is evidently more recent.

Although not all of the ha-ha type walls are in a direct line of sight from the house or any particular viewpoint, they were clearly used around enclosures in order to give the illusion of large, unbroken expanses of parkland, even before the park was enclosed. There were far fewer fences of any sort in the nineteenth century than today; of what there were, others were marked on the 1824 map as 'iron fence'. A few lengths of this has survived, but it has mostly been superseded by post-and-wire.

Other

On the east edge of the field south of the pond with boat house near the north lodge there are the remains of a small ruined stone building cut into the slope. It may only have been a field shelter, but the fact that it was dug well into the slope and surrounded by rhododendrons may suggest some other use. It was built before 1900, and therefore antedates the north lodge and drive.

PLANTED COMPONENTS

Avenues and other drive planting

The avenues on parts of the south-west drive would have been planted around 1830, and some trees survive, including oak and beech. The avenue along most of the south-east drive may have been planted earlier, as the Upper Lodge, and presumably this drive, which leads from it, existed before the park wall was built in 1828; this may be one reason why the trees have not survived. There is, however, a short avenue of Irish yews, with rhododendrons between them, leading from the railway line to the Upper Lodge gate. The trees are now quite imposing but the area was shown as shrubbery on the 1918 map. There are also outgrown laurels, rhododendron and box near the lodge, on the inside of the gates.

One of the best-preserved stretches of avenue is on the loop of former drive which swings south-east from the main gate and joins the south-west drive just south of the pleasure grounds. The trees include oak and ash.

Although the north drive now runs through conifer plantations, some planted undergrowth from earlier woodland survives. There is bamboo by the northern of the two ponds beside the drive; cypresses and rhododendrons other than *R. ponticum* by the boat house on the large pond in the north-west corner of the park; laurels along the east side of the drive near the two ponds, and rhododendron on the edge of the field on the west side. Even under thickly planted conifers, some rhododendron also survives beside the drive further to the south.

Parkland trees

Almost the whole park was thickly dotted with specimen trees, all deciduous, and there were also small copses and plantations. The only area which had none was the piece of land north of the farm, which still has a more overtly agricultural character than the rest of the park. The number of these trees is now very much reduced, but they are still distributed in much the same way.

The planted parkland trees in the southern area mostly date from after the wall was built in 1828, and include some fine groups of beeches. There are also oaks of the same age, and some much older, which must clearly pre-date the park.

There are old beeches, planted singly and in groups, near the fort. Other parkland trees also survive in the northern part of the park, especially south of the plantations south of the house.

Woodland

The woodland is mostly concentrated in the north-west, south-west and eastern parts of the park, although there is an almost continuous narrow strip around the edges. The largest plantation is in the north-east corner and along the east side; there is an open area which contains the mausoleum, and south of this another large plantation flanking the south-east drive. None of this is shown on the 2-in. manuscript map for the Ordnance Survey 1-in First Edition, drawn in 1818, but by 1828 it had been planted from the north-east corner as far as the south side of the drive, though south of this was still open in the 1840s. Although the whole area was mixed woodland in 1918, this southern part had more conifers than the rest, and may have been planted relatively late as a source of timber.

The north-eastern area retains some of the original mixed woodland, but the southern plantation, including the part north of the drive, is now completely given over to commercial conifers. The strip along either side of the drive formerly occupied by the avenue is now planted, within the confines of the plantation, with young beech, oak, birch, willow and sweet chestnut.

Around the nursery and Plas Newydd are older areas of woodland, shown on the 1818 map. These too have now partly been made into conifer plantations, though a few older trees (including beeches) and some of the planted undergrowth, including rhododendron, laurel, two types of bamboo, *Leycestria formosa* and holly, survive. An area flanking the south-west drive has recently been clear-felled and replanted with conifers.

The area of woodland in the north-west corner of the park was also shown on the 1818 map, and at that time covered the site of the kitchen gardens. In 1918 this was mixed woodland, and although part of it was called 'Nursery Fawr' the area does not seem to be shown as a nursery on any extant map. If it was one, this function had clearly been transferred to the walled nursery to the south by 1918. The plantation is now divided into areas of young deciduous and older coniferous woodland,

and a small part is once again in use as a nursery. The undergrowth is natural, except close to the kitchen gardens.

Most of the woodland is currently fairly intensively managed for timber, and the survival rate of old trees is poor. Large areas of commercial conifers have been planted without regard for pre-existing planting or features.

BUILDINGS WITHIN THE PARK

Plas Newydd SH 450 54

Built in 1632 by Thomas Glynne, this house was reduced to ruins by the later nineteenth century, and was still indicated as being in this condition on the 25-in. Ordnance Survey map of 1918. This map was surveyed in 1887 and updated in 1914, but the house was restored, by F G Wynn, between these dates, so it seems that the Ordnance Survey omitted to note this when the map was updated.

The house is stone-built with a slate roof and has three storeys and attics, with a projecting porch and a tall, projecting chimney. It was added to as well as restored, and has a range of gothic-style outbuildings dating from the same period as the restoration, although the core of the buildings may be older. There is a small bothy with a belfry, and in the yard a stone water tank.

The house was included within the park when the latter was enlarged in about 1828, and it has garden features of its own. It is enclosed within a square wall and partly surrounded by a straight-sided, stone-built moat over 1 m deep, with two bridges (this pre-dates the restoration), and there are terrace banks to the south-west, outside the wall, which may well relate to an early garden. Above these is a walled track or path, levelled into the slope, which stops at a field boundary at the edge of the woodland belonging to the house. In the south-east wall, near the south corner, is an alcove with a small well, originally providing the house water supply but also intended to be decorative. There is a standing stone in the woodland to the south-east of the house, outside the wall, probably fake and intended as a garden feature. To the west is a large recent pond with an island, and to the south a small triangular pond, now silted up, with bamboo around it.

Most of the mature trees around the house have been felled, but there are some oaks to the west. The rhododendron underplanting survives in the small areas of woodland around the house, and there are also laburnums. The most interesting planted feature, however, is a large, square block of closely-planted rows of yews

which are pleached to form arches at right angles, giving a criss-cross network of paths underneath. The plinths of some statues or sundials, which must have formed focal points, survive. The yews are neglected and have grown too tall above the arches, but restoration is now under way. Given the slow growth rate of yews it seems likely that this feature must pre-date the restoration of the late nineteenth century, and self-sown seedling trees which have been felled indicate that it is at least a hundred years old; it may be much older than that. However, it is not indicated on any extant map up to 1918.

There are also yews, once balls and now being clipped again, along the moated sides of the square enclosure, but most of the rest of the planting is modern. Some of the garden features may be very early, perhaps contemporary with the building of the original house (the terraces, for example), and the moat has evidently undergone some restoration, and may have a longer history than appears to be the case.

To the north-east of the house is a level rectangular area near the river, on the edge of a wooded area but clear of trees, which is locally called the 'old orchard'. On the hillside above this, to the south-east of it, is a wood called 'Gwinllan Cefn-y-maes' ('gwinllan' means 'vineyard'). Both of these names probably relate to original features associated with Plas Newydd.

Wood Cottage

This house, formerly the keeper's cottage, is located in the southern part of the park, south-west of the nursery and south-east of Plas Newydd. It is now privately owned as a separate dwelling.

BOUNDARIES

The park boundary is a continuous stone wall, mostly in good condition though there is at least one breach on the east side, by the railway; a recent breach on the west, by the main road, was swiftly repaired. It is very much overgrown with ivy in many places. It was originally built in the 1820s and may have been raised when the new house was built, in the 1830s or 40s; the southern stretch especially shows clear signs of having been doubled in height. It was repaired in 1935.

The wall is mortared, varying between 2.5 and 4 m high, and built of stone chosen and shaped to present a smooth face, roughly coursed in some places. It has a pointed coping rather like a pitched roof, of stone. There are four pre-1900 entrances, plus two square-headed pedestrian doors, one in the north wall and one

in the south. A fifth lodge and gates were added between 1900 and 1918. The south-west entrance was modified after 1918, the arch becoming disused and a new opening being made in the corner, on the other side of the lodge; and a new entrance has recently been made just north of this to give separate access to Plas Newydd. The entrance by Mount Pleasant Lodge north of this is also not original, and has been made or enlarged fairly recently, but not neatly finished as the Plas Newydd entrance has. A gap was made in the wall for extra access when the National Eisteddfod was held at Glynllifon in 1990, which was subsequently used by the North Wales Agricultural Show, but has now been closed. The river leaves the park under the wall and under a road bridge (Pont Plas Newydd) near the south-west corner of the park.

EXTERNAL FEATURES

Fort Belan SH 441 609

This sister fort to Williamsburg lies outside the park, about 6 km to the north on the sandy promontory which almost reaches across to Abermenai Point on the Anglesey side of the Menai Strait. It was begun in 1775 in response to the American War of Independence, and is the only purpose-built British defence relating to this war. It was re-garrisoned following the French invasion of Wales in 1797, by the Loyal Newborough Volunteers, who were maintained at Lord Newborough's expense.

The fort is basically rectangular, with salients to north and south and small circular projections with sentry boxes to south-west and south-east, the main entrance being in the centre of the south side. It is defended by ramparts, with a wall-walk, 3.5 m high, and has an inner castellated wall. There are gun emplacements to north and south. Built against the wall of the inner enclosure on all sides but the north are single-storey buildings, which may be later. The fort was extensively altered and added to in 1824, when the dock was also built; it has since been modernised and converted for residential use.

A tidal dock was part of the original scheme, but was not built until 1824-26. It is surrounded by a perimeter wall and attached to the fort by another wall. Within the perimeter wall, on all sides but the open east, are single-storey stone buildings with red brick dressings, including stores, boat houses, forge, paint stores and a cottage. One of the buildings is a chain furnace, which is said to be the only remaining example in the world. The dock itself is narrow, with a wide quay to the south, and has battered stone walls with concrete copings, and stone steps down at the west end.

ESSENTIAL SETTING, VIEWPOINTS AND CONTINUATIONS OF FEATURES BEYOND THE PARK, EYECATCHERS ETC.

The park is largely self-contained within its woods and wall, but there are views from it (especially from significant points such as the fort) to the south, towards Yr Eifl, the triple hill at the neck of Llyn, and to the east, over Snowdonia. Ingenious use has been made of the hillfort of Dinas Dinlle, a significant feature on the coastline about 2 km from the park wall, as an eye-catcher when looking out through the main entrance, under the triumphal arch. This, and the farmland in between, together with the estate village of Llandwrog, forms the essential setting.

At the main entrance to the park, on the west, there is a wide, walled splay in front of the gates and lodges. In 1828 further oval areas at each side formed part of the layout, so that it was a semi-circle; this was mirrored by a similar semi-circle on the opposite side of the road, with a gate on the edge of the road and a narrower track leading through it, opposite the drive. By 1918 the layout at the main gates had been altered to be more or less as it now is, but the semi-circle opposite survived, and the track led off to the west to meet the Dinas Dinlle road near a house called Henryd. Part of the route had an avenue of trees.

The semi-circle is now lost but the gate, framing Dinas Dinlle hillfort in the same way as the main archway to the park does, survives, and it is possible to see where the other end of the track came out, near Henryd.

LAND USE

Agricultural (college farm and private farmers), managed and decorative woodland, horse management, market garden, private gardens, recreational.

ELEMENTS OF BOTANICAL OR OTHER NATURE CONSERVATION INTEREST

The house is an SSSI because of the roosts it provides for the endangered lesser horseshoe bat; it supports one of the most important breeding colonies in Europe. The park provides a suitable environment for the bats to feed, and the woodland and small river must offer excellent habitats for wild birds and animals, although the wild flora is limited.

SURVIVAL OF INDIVIDUAL COMPONENTS

Structural components: many
Water features: most
Built components: most
Planted components: some

THE PLEASURE GARDEN OR GROUNDS

Grid Ref SH 457 553

Date/style The existing pleasure grounds were laid out by the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Lords Newborough in the second half of the eighteenth century and the first half of the nineteenth. Most of the surviving features can be fairly securely ascribed to either the 2nd or 3rd baron, in the nineteenth century, but the 1st Lord Newborough altered the previous layout of the park and is therefore also likely to have been responsible for initiating the redesigning of the pleasure grounds.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION, HISTORY AND LAYOUT

The pleasure grounds consist of lawns near the house, crossed by the Afon Llifon, which has been canalised; a vista to the east with a lime avenue and fountains; a terrace behind the house with paths connecting with the path system in the Llifon valley, itself a major part of the pleasure grounds; and plantations still containing several paths to the north, south and west. There are also small garden areas near the stable block and Children's Mill. Ornamentation has been concentrated on the Afon Llifon valley, north-east of the house, which contains grottoes, a hermitage, and numerous water features.

There is little doubt that the three walled gardens, which were linked by a tunnel to allow viewing dry-shod and without having to come into contact with the gardeners, and the nursery, which had decorative features including a pool and summer-house (and, during F G Wynn's period of ownership, fantastic topiary) were considered part of the ornamental garden. Further, it is clear from the number of paths laid out and the number of features, as well as from records of activities associated with Fort Williamsburg, that the park itself, despite its size, was extensively used for recreation. It is therefore in a sense an artificial distinction to separate out 'pleasure grounds', but there is a difference in the treatment of certain areas which makes the distinction possible.

The layout of the grounds and nearer parts of the park at a point near the middle of the eighteenth century is shown on an estate map drawn between 1751 and 1761. The wooded slope behind the house had a complex arrangement of linking straight paths above the long terrace at the back of the house, which already existed and had a better view than at present as the house was much smaller. The broad vista to the east of the house was also already in existence at this time, with its avenue of limes. South of the house, on the far side of the river, was a large,

almost square enclosure full of deciduous trees, with eight paths radiating from an off-centre open circle. Next to this, on the east, was a kitchen garden divided into six squares, and, to the north-east of it, an irregularly-shaped orchard. Corner to corner with the kitchen garden, to the south-east, was a vineyard.

From this map it appears that the river was originally canalised to run down the middle of the vista, and was moved further south later on. Another interesting feature is what looks like a leat coming off the Llifon north-east of the house, running parallel with but higher than the river to the house end of the vista, then disappearing under two or three small terraces immediately north-east of the house, and reappearing the other side to run along the main terrace. The dry channel of this survives along the back of part of the terrace.

A plan of the area close to the house, again undated but apparently earlier than the 1750s map, as the stables are shown to the west of the house, shows a most interesting feature between the terrace and the back of the house. There appears to be another walk, parallel with the terrace walk, with a central section which describes a series of perfectly even, sinuous 'S' curves. In front of this section is what looks like a hedge, and at the back, accessible from it, is a small, open-fronted building, containing three circles at the back which may have been statues or possibly seats.

There is no indication of this feature on the 1750s or 1828 maps, and after 1836 the area was swallowed up in the expansion of the house, so nothing remains on the ground.

The 1st Lord Newborough seems to have concentrated mostly on the park, but as his taste clearly ran to the expansive and informal he may well have been responsible for clearing most of the layout shown on the 1750s map. He may not have removed the kitchen garden, however, as the three large walled gardens which replaced it were not built until after his death.

The 2nd Lord Newborough, although he died very young, made extensive improvements to the pleasure grounds as well as the park, and he laid out the first two new walled kitchen gardens (while scarcely out of his teens), which would have allowed the old garden and orchard to be removed. He also canalised and re-routed the Afon Llifon, so that it ran south of the main vista instead of along the middle of it, and ran straight across the lawn in front of the house; he must presumably also have built the two bridges carrying the drives. He it was, too, who realised the potential of the valley of the Afon Llifon and began improving it, building the hermitage and probably constructing the complicated water features and the

gravity-feed system which supplies them. He also made the island where the theatre now is, but most of the pools, and therefore presumably the weirs and waterfalls, in the main river were added by his brother. The 1st Lord Newborough was responsible for the creation of the walled nursery in the southern part of the park, built and laid out with a pool before 1828.

The estate map of 1828 was updated in 1840, and also has a few additions later than this marked on it. It is thus a useful record of the early alterations and improvements made by the 3rd Lord Newborough, between 1832 and 1840. Most of these were in fact probably undertaken before 1836, when the house burned down, and the rest about 1840, after the new house was largely built. They included the building of the east lodge, the westernmost walled garden, the summer-house in the nursery, the grottoes in the Llifon valley and the fountains in the vista, though only the first of these (the one nearest the house) had been built by the time the map ceased to be added to. All three were recorded by the Ordnance Survey in 1889. From other sources it is known that the 3rd Lord Newborough added urns and statues to the long terrace behind the house, and built the Children's Mill and boathouse on the river near the stables, utilising the mill pool as a boating pool.

The Hon. F G Wynn, in control from 1888, was a keen gardener and took a great deal of interest in the pleasure grounds, rather more from the plantsman's point of view. His structural developments were limited, but he added to the glass- and hothouses in the kitchen gardens, having a building converted to a palm house and building a peach house as well as extending the existing glasshouses. He probably also planted a maze in the south corner of the nursery, which is shown on the 1918 Ordnance Survey map, but no longer survives; contemporary photographs show that the nursery was at least partly treated as part of the pleasure grounds at this time. F G Wynn went in for complicated and unusual topiary, some of which can be seen in photographs, but sadly none of this has survived.

STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS

Paths and drives

The layout immediately in front of the house has changed little since 1918, when the main approach from the south came through the plantations, out on to the lawn, across the river to the south-east corner of the house, then swung round in a curve across the front of the house and continued to the stables. The drive from the west came past the south side of the stables, over the other bridge, and met the south drive just beyond. There is

a return loop to the stables close to the river to avoid then having to turn round; this has been straightened since 1918. The east drive was already disused by that date. All the drives in this area are tarmac-surfaced (except for a concrete-paved area immediately in front of the main entrance to the house), as is the west drive for the whole of its length. There is also a modern tarmac car park occupying the western end of the vista, on the east side of the house.

The west drive is the main approach and clearly has been since the Grand Lodge was built, at least, although it originally followed a different route (there was a curve running north-east and south-east from the gate; the line of the southern part can still be seen but the northern part was altered to follow the present line, and the original route is now under the kitchen gardens). It is the shortest route and, after entering through the imposing gateway, it runs, unfenced, through a plantation before coming into the forecourt on the west side of the stables, an area which used to be shrubberies. From here it swings round to the south of the stables, and it is only after passing them and the planting around them that the house comes into view, as the drive curves northwards and crosses the bridge. Going the other way down this drive, the view of Dinas Dinlle hillfort is obtained through the arch at the last moment as the drive swings round to the gate.

There is a yard area outside the eastern kitchen garden, on the south, where the north drive meets the west, and where a branch from the south drives also came in. From here there is a walled drive through into the kitchen courtyard of the house, under an archway; this runs parallel with and south of the walled track from the kitchen gardens. Because of this arrangement there is no separate rear or service drive. The ground level between the two tracks, and also between the southern one and the stable building, is raised, perhaps due to infilling from levelling for the house site. A disused iron footbridge crosses the 'sunken' drive, and part of the raised area between the tracks is used as small gardens for apartments in the house.

The east drive seems to have been fairly short-lived, or may in fact never have been used for vehicular traffic but just as a ride. It did not exist in the 1750s, and may have been constructed in the 1830s when the house and boundary wall were rebuilt; the East Lodge certainly dates from this time. The drive ran down the Llifon valley alongside the river, but where it went at the south-west end is not clear. It appears that it must have run either along the vista, which at least leads to the house, or on to and along the terrace, which is in itself a dead end. The latter seems more likely from the surviving evidence, as a very wide, well-made track levelled into the

slope meets up with the end of the terrace; but there was a fairly steep slope down to the river further east, and there is a column, not modern, in the middle of the track which would have made it impassable to vehicles. It seems that if this was the route of a drive it must have been disused fairly early on. It is shown as a footpath on the 1918 map, but is wider than the other footpaths.

Further up the valley the drive/ride retains its hard surface and is clearly levelled into the hillside in several places. It passes under a bridge carrying a farm road immediately beside the river, and here there is a parapet wall along the river edge about 0.6 m high, which has partially collapsed. There are further stretches of walling or revetting where necessary on the river side. The farm track which crosses on the bridge is of around the same date.

The main path network is in the Llifon valley, but there were also extensive systems of paths in the plantations south of the house and behind it, to the north. Most of the paths survive, the north plantation having fared worst.

In the valley there are main paths either side of the river, that on the north continuing from the walk along the northern side of the vista, and that on the south originally crossing the lawn and using a footbridge close to the otter pool. The bridge has now gone and the path continues along the south side of the river into the southern plantations, although it is also possible to cross into the vista by a surviving footbridge a short distance upstream. The east drive/ride is also still in use as a path. A path along the southern side of the vista, joining the northern one at the eastern end, is now disused. The two main paths and the ride or drive finally meet and become one about two-thirds of the way up the valley, just before the bridge carrying the farm road.

On the south-east side there is also a path at a higher level, which links up with the path system in the plantations south of the house, for the first third, eventually meeting up with the lower path. These are all well-made, level paths, cut into the slope and revetted where necessary, and there are also several minor and linking paths, especially in the side valleys of the hermitage and the miners' memorial, and towards the north-eastern end of the valley, some of which also have edging or revetting. Most of the paths are now thickly covered in pine needles, but some have a stony or gravelly surface underneath, and the main path north-west of the river is still gravelled for part of its length.

The path system was still growing between 1900 and 1918 as there

are more paths on the map of the latter date than the former. One new one was on the slope north of the vista, above the main path/former east drive. There have been more changes since in this area, where a new, zig-zag path climbs up from the vista just beyond the east end of the terrace, replacing the overgrown straight path down from the site of the statue, but not connecting with the terrace. This does, however, utilise parts of older paths, clear because they are levelled into the slope and the edges are defined by enormous rhododendron bushes.

In the plantations too most of the paths are covered in pine needles, which disguise their surfaces, but one at least, which is wide and runs eastwards, following the edge of the plantations opposite Fort Williamsburg, has a cobbled surface underneath more recent gravel. This seems to have been only a footpath in 1918, however, so the surface may be more recent than this. Other tracks may have a similar surface hidden by later deposits: as this one is steep, rain has washed off the gravel. A new path along the northern edge of the western part of the plantation is gravelled, as is the original path which crossed the same area to the south.

Vista

The vista was probably laid out soon after the previous house was built, in 1751. It utilises a straight stretch of the Llifon valley, where it approaches the house from the east and then levels out; originally the river ran down the middle of the vista, and there was a path and a row of limes each side. Later the river was moved to run to the south of the southern row of limes, where it could be heard but was out of sight, and a water feature was created at the end of the smooth grass corridor, which was probably levelled after the old river bed was filled in. Later still, three large fountains were added.

One of the fountains and the pool of a second survive, as does the cascade at the far end of the vista. The lime avenue is now incomplete, but some of the original trees do survive.

Terrace

The terrace north of the house extends from a point just east of the kitchen gardens to a point nearly half way along the north side of the vista. It is now very close to the back of the house and the western half of it at least must have had a much better view before the 1836 house was built.

The terrace is shown on the 1750s map, and at this time had a clear view to the south for most of its length. The house, near the centre, was certainly much smaller and probably lower than the present building and would not have presented much of an obstacle to the view. Since the stable block was built in 1849,

however, only the eastern part of the terrace has an unobstructed view, although the western part looks over a roofscape with many chimneys which emphasises the scale and grandeur of the house and its associated buildings.

In the 1750s the western part of the terrace looked over other terraces below, but later these were swept away to give an even slope down to the vista. A long flight of steps leads down at the north-east corner of the house, which is in fact a first-floor conservatory. Near the east end of the terrace a flight of steps leads down to a small level space where a statue once stood, and two sloping paths in opposite directions lead down from this to the vista. The eastern one is now disused and overgrown. Near the west end there is a link with the path system in the plantation above, to the north.

The plinths of the statue below the terrace on the east, and also one that stood at the extreme west end, are still in place, but the statues have been destroyed. The urns which stood along the edge of the terrace at the top of the slope east of the house have been moved, and some are now in the southern extension of the eastern kitchen garden. There are two octagonal stone bases and some squares on the terrace, not in situ, which may have belonged to the urns.

The terrace was gravelled, and some of this surface remains. The leat running along the back of it, shown on the 1750s map but not later ones, and therefore presumably disused by early in the nineteenth century, is still there, although dry. A short vista into the plantation to the north has closed up and the sundial that was in it has gone, but a marble plaque on the wall of the conservatory tells how to find Greenwich Mean Time from the sundial. Both ends of the vista are now overgrown, and the ornamental planting behind it is encroaching, but the main part between the access points near east and west ends is clear and is evidently used as a path.

Areas around house and stables

In front of the main entrance to the stable block is a small garden area with a formal pool. This is enclosed by the main facade of the stables on the west, the high wall linking the stable block with the house on the north, the river embankment on the south, and a slope up to the lawn in front of the house on the east. The driveway descends over the south end of this slope, and beyond this the slope is planted with trees and shrubs to form a division.

The area is mainly lawned but there is a large formal pool (now empty) along the east side, at the foot of the slope up to the

lawn in front of the house. It is long and narrow with rounded ends and a central semi-circular extension on the west, which contains the base for a fountain. There was another, smaller, round-ended pool on the same alignment south of the drive, backing on to the river embankment. The wall across the embankment end has a lion mask, from which no doubt water entered the pool. The current 25-in. map shows two further ponds near the larger one, one rectangular and one small and circular, but there is no sign of these on the ground, nor are they shown on the 1918 map.

The wall along the north side of this area, which has an arch through giving access from the kitchen area of the house, is very tall - around 6 m - and the south side of it has eyes and wires for climbers, though nothing now grows on it.

To the south of the river where it runs south of the stables, around the Children's Mill, is another garden area with informal planting and pathways. This may well have been laid out at the time the 'mill' was constructed to hide the play area from the drive and give it a 'secretive' feel.

Features in the Llifon valley

The whole valley, almost to the point where the river enters the park near the East Lodge, over 1 km from the Children's Mill, has been ornamented with water features, as well as the various grottoes and caves. It seems that the waterfalls in the side valleys and the island in the river were created by the 2nd Lord Newborough, whereas the third baron made most of the caves and grottoes, and the pools and waterfalls in the main river. Other, more recent, additions have also been made. The most logical way to discuss these is to take them in order, starting from the house and working up the valley.

The mill pool, although originally a utility feature, was pressed into service as the boating pool associated with the Children's Mill, which is in fact a boat house. This is south-west of the house, near the stable block.

Between this point and the grotto south of the vista, the river has been canalised and is smooth and slow-flowing, silently slipping between the wide lawns. Opposite the grotto is a stepped stone-built waterfall which, by contrast, creates a great deal of sound. Behind this was a pool, but this has now silted up and become overgrown to the point where it appears little wider than the ordinary width of the stream.

Above the former pool is another, low, waterfall, and immediately above this a higher fall. Further on, to the north-east, is an artificial stream coming in from the south-east, down which water

flows from a large reservoir on the edge of the park. In the stream is a series of waterfalls consisting of stone walls with steps below, and the main higher-level path on this side of the river crosses on a stone bridge. At the bottom the water pours over a structure of dressed stone with three round-headed arches; it is possible to walk through this and stand behind the waterfall. The water falls into a rectangular stone-edged tank with a central overflow, whence most of it runs into the river; some, however, feeds a leat which runs along the slope south-westwards to provide trickling water in the grotto south of the river.

This feature provides the focal point of the vista from the house; looking eastwards along the vista, the main fall with the smaller ones above, seen at an angle, gives the effect of a cascade. It is also successful as a water feature in its own right, when walking along both upper and lower paths on the south-east side of the river.

A few yards past this is the first of many tiny watercourses which run down this side of the valley, almost all stone-edged or culverted and with artificial waterfalls. Some may originally have been natural, but others probably served as overflows for the reservoirs and leats, as well as being decorative features in their own right. Not all of them carry water at present.

The next waterfall up on the main river is just above a bridge, which gives a good view of it, though the banks are overgrown. The fall is curved, about 2 m high, and below it there are artificial rapids.

Immediately above the fall is an overgrown boggy area with several water channels, which used to be the largest pool on the river. It had a tiny artificial island towards the north-east end, now indistinguishable.

The valley containing the hermitage next comes in from the east; this is a genuine tributary valley with a natural stream, but it has been much improved. There are several small stone bridges, one narrow but with a high arch, and the natural waterfalls have been encouraged. There is a path up the south side, and on the north side the hermitage overlooks the valley; there is also a pets' cemetery with water features fed from a pool on the edge of the park to the north-east. One of these features appears to be a small, shallow, round-ended canal. The area is surrounded by a ring of trees, now mostly dead due to the deep shade, around a large central yew; the tree circle appears to lie within the remains of a stone circle, but only a few stones are left if it was ever complete.

The gravestones have been removed and are kept in the fruit store near the eastern kitchen garden. The oldest noted is dated 1775 with the inscription 'Alas poor Canarilly', and is made of stone; the rest are all slate except for a few wooden ones and one marble example (with the initials F G W as well as the dog's name). The dates are between 1824 and 1913.

The main river above the the point where the side valley comes in is wide and shallow, though there is not really now a pool as shown on the 1918 map. There are one or two low weirs, and then an artificial island, which has retaining walls around it 0.8 - 1 m high. The island has now been incorporated in a modern stone-built outdoor theatre, the stage being on the island and the seating on the slope on the east side of the valley (covering the path, but it is possible to walk through between the two levels of seating). A late original feature on the island is the pattern laid out in coloured pebbles near the centre; this consists of a cross in red, black and white squares with an eagle in the middle, and is certain to have been added by F G Wynn. It is a little overgrown with grass but can be seen.

There is a modern picnic area on the west side of the river opposite the island. Upstream there continue to be small steps in the river to create sound, and a little further on there is another small valley on the east, with a stream bed which used to be supplied with water from a pond on the edge of the park. There are two small stone bridges across the stream bed, which had several falls in a cascade or staircase, but water no longer flows over this. There is now some modern sculpture in and around the pond at the top. On the north side of the valley is the miners' memorial, a slate slab dated 1993 bearing the following inscription (in English and Welsh):

'This tribute is dedicated by the Transport and General Workers' Union Wales to North Wales slate quarrymen, their families, novelists and poets who, between them, interwove the language, history and culture of ths part of Wales. Through dignity in their work they gave of themselves so that others may understand. George Wright 15-7-1993.'

On the south side, next to a small path cutting across, is a small, round cave, with a millstone in the floor surrounded by a pattern of black, red and white pebbles. The pebbles link it to the eagle design on the island and F G Wynn, but the cave was present in 1828, and must originally have been created by the 2nd Lord Newborough. There is part of a circular wooden seat still inside. Looking out from the cave there would have been a pleasant view over the valley, but it is now all planted over with commercial conifers.

Above this on the main river there is a two-part fall at the lower end of a small pool; walling in the side of the river's course, which now passes over stonier ground, shows that it is still not natural. There is a final waterfall above the bridge where the former east drive crosses the river for the last time. Beyond this the drive/ride is fenced across as part of the East Lodge garden.

Plantations to south of lawn

South of the river, in front of the house, in the area which contained, in the 1750s, the kitchen garden, vineyard and a plantation with radiating walks, is now an area of less formal plantations with the remains of a path system. There is a low hill to the west which partially obscures the view, and as a wide view could not be obtained, the response in 1918 was to have vistas through areas planted with trees. The widest of these, aligned due south, seemed at that date only to be open as far as the drive which comes up from the south through these plantations; previously it must surely have been open to the park and the view beyond. A narrower vista to the south-west remained open to the park, and one to the south-east gave a view of the fort. All of these are now closed off by trees and undergrowth.

The path system was concentrated in the eastern part of the area, which is fairly level but rises to the east; the hill on the west had only one path crossing it. The area on the east had six or seven interconnecting paths (including a formal long oval in the south-east corner), two of which eventually led off to join the paths in the Llifon valley to the north-east.

There also seemed to be a distinct difference in the planting of the east and west areas. The former seems to have consisted of smallish open areas divided up by the paths, planted only around the edges, chiefly with conifers. The central southern triangle consisted of mixed woodland, and the hill to the west had more open woodland with shrubby undergrowth.

This difference is to some extent maintained, with far more conifers planted in the eastern half, although much of this area is now covered with commercial plantations. Most of the paths on the east survive, as does the original path on the west, but a new path has also been made on the west. There is a dip and an oval hollow on the top of the hill in this western area, which appear to be artificial but have no obvious purpose. There is a small modern picnic area with tables close to the drive on the east, and a seat made out of an old tree stump.

Plantation north of terrace

North of the house and terrace is a plantation, on a south-facing

slope leading up to the farm, which in the 1750s was known as Cae Meirch (presumably its field name before it became a plantation) and was later called Coed y Terrace. There was a complex system of short, straight paths in this area in the 1750s, creating a layout divided into triangles; by the end of the following century this had been modified to give more continuous, curving paths, and there was a short vista with a sundial northwards from the rear of the house. There remained, however, over 1 km of paths in a relatively small area, suggesting this plantation was important for recreation.

Many of the paths have now grown over, but some survive on their 1918 routes, and even retain stony or gravelly surfaces. There are also some new stretches. Frequent little stream beds with artificial waterfalls, and the remains of decorative planting, can be seen. Near the centre of the area is an oval pool, brick-built with straight sides about 1.5 m below ground level, and a stone parapet about 1 m high, into which water pours from the top of a vertical iron pipe 4 or 5 m high. This is presumably supplied from the gravity-feed system which operates other water features, and the water appears to reach this height under its own pressure; there is no obvious purpose for the arrangement other than to create sound, which it does most successfully.

Part of the plantation to the east has been cleared and is utilised by the farm. In the south-west corner, near the west end of the terrace, is an area with different planting; on the northern edge of this is a compound which has been cleared from the plantation and now contains a caravan belonging to the local authority. Within the 'different' area is a dump of building materials which seem to be from the walled gardens, including pieces of wall coping and some of the slate tubs from the palm house, broken. There was access from this area (now disused and blocked up) to the rockery north of the palm house, as well as a door into the palm house itself, and there also appears to be a large area encircled by a box-edged path, but this is so overgrown that access could not be gained. A roughly circular open area defined by a boundary is shown on the 1918 map, and also in 1900, although it then appeared to contain a few coniferous trees.

Tennis court

An area towards the western end of the vista, just beyond the car park, is used in summer as a tennis and badminton court. This was created by the college, but required no landscaping, the vista being already flat. It replaces a previous tennis court, also fairly recent, nearer the house, part of the site of which is now included in the car park.

BUILT COMPONENTS

Children's Mill

This small, mid nineteenth-century structure of coloured brick is actually a boat house built against the weir of the mill pool, with an additional little tower. There is also a footbridge over the weir so that the 'mill' could be reached by a path along the embankment on the north side of the river, now no longer in use. The building is scaled down for children's use and was built for the five children of the 3rd Lord Newborough.

Bridges

There was a very large number of bridges in the pleasure grounds, from simple slate slab footbridges over minor streams to the two dressed stone bridges over the river in front of the house. Several of the wooden footbridges have now disappeared but there are still numerous surviving examples.

Stone bridges in front of house

The two matched stone bridges in front of the house must have been built when the river was canalised across the lawn by the 2nd Lord Newborough. They are flat, with single low arches, and low parapets with decorative coping, triangular in section with a raised central ridge. The parapets finish at either end by spiralling round like a snail. There is some damage to the coping and some is missing, while other sections have been replaced.

Stone bridges on higher stretches of Llifon

Further up the river there are stone bridges where the east drive and major paths cross. One, below what was formerly the largest pool on the river, just south-west of the hermitage, has stone-built parapets 0.5 m high and carries a stony track of vehicle width. This does not appear to go anywhere but the bridge looks as though it is probably post-1918 as the bridge shown on the map of that date appears to be only a small footbridge. The bridge has an excellent view of the rapids and waterfall at the lower end of the pool.

Further up the valley, a little way north of the miners' memorial, the east drive crosses the river on what appears to be a stone bridge (it has concrete-topped stone parapets 0.5 m high), but as it is not arched but flat it may be on a base of iron girders. North of this a high stone bridge with a wide round-headed arch carries a farm road over the river and the east drive together, and north again the drive crosses back on another stone bridge, with 0.4 m stone-built parapets.

Wooden footbridges on Llifon

Two bridges crossing the river near the house, presumably wooden,

have now disappeared, leaving just one a little to the east of the site of the middle fountain. This has decorative green-painted iron railings, and would have had a good view of the waterfall opposite the grotto, but there is now too much growth alongside the river.

Above what used to be the largest pool on the river, near the hermitage, is a footbridge with red-painted iron parapets which is dated 1840. A second similar bridge with the same date is further upstream, north of the island.

There are several modern footbridges across the river, generally made of wood and metal with slate slabs to walk on. Some of these are on the sites of old bridges (e.g. the one which crosses to the island), while others are completely new (e.g. the one which crosses the river south of the island).

There are also numerous small stone and slate slab footbridges crossing the tributary streams and water channels on the south-east side of the valley. The most noteworthy of these is a narrow stone bridge with a high arch which spans the stream near the hermitage; this has a most attractive framing effect looking up the tributary valley.

Otter pool

Near the river at the west end of the vista is a small, circular brick-built pool which used to be the home of a tame otter. The otter was kept on a collar and light chain and could get to the river and on to the lawn. His name was Thomas and his gravestone is with the other pets' gravestones in the former fruit store.

The pool is just over 3 m in diameter and has straight sides about 1 m deep. There is a stone coping, flush with the lawn, around the top edge. Four broken pieces of brick pillar lie in the pool, probably the remains of the plinth for the statue it contained (the figure has gone) and the supports for the ramp which allowed the otter to get in and out of the water.

Theatre

There is a modern open-air theatre in the Llifon valley, utilising the island created by the 2nd Lord Newborough. Although this has changed the look and atmosphere of the spot, it actually fits in rather well, and it is a pity it is very little used.

The stage, a semi-circle of slate slabs, is on the east side of the island, backed by pleached yew arches on the west side; large stepping stones in the water are also presumably for the actors' use. There are further stepping-stones, reached by slate steps, at a crossing point higher up for getting from the island to the

seating, which is on the east side of the valley, in two tiers.

The upper tier is of stone and the lower of slate. Between the two at either end is a fireplace, presumably either for barbecues or for keeping warm, or both. South of the theatre there are steps up from the path across the footbridge below the island - these, like the bridge, are modern.

Hermitage

This is known from accounts to have been built by the 2nd Lord Newborough, and there is a sketch for it on paper with an 1825 watermark. It is octagonal, gothic in style, with windows in various shapes, some of coloured glass, and has recently been re-roofed in slate, though internally it is still in need of refurbishment.

The roof is supported at the corners on unshaped half tree-trunks, giving a rustic look. Originally a hermit was employed to sit in it, but he was sacked for drinking; later it was used as a chapel for the nearby pets' cemetery.

Grottoes

There are several caves and grottoes of varying sizes and designs in the Llifon valley. The three most important examples are close to the house, two cut into the rock on the steep northern side of the main vista, and the third half on the surface, half underground on the south side, which slopes more gently but is still rocky.

Both of the caverns cut into the rock are now closed. The one nearer the house has a large, level, circular forecourt cut into the valley side, surrounded by a stone retaining wall which reaches a considerable height at the back. Through this a doorway led into the cliff-side, but this has now been permanently blocked with large slate slabs.

At the eastern end of the vista, near the third fountain, is another cavern, closed off by a gate reached via a rockwork path leading from the path along the length of the vista. Beyond the gate a rock-cut passage leads to a chamber containing a pool, eerily lit with blue light through a stained-glass window in the roof. There were plaster figures inside, including a nymph who poured water into the pool. This is a clever conversion of an old ice-house, carried out by the 3rd Lord Newborough.

The grotto on the other side of the vista, south of the river, is different in character and perhaps was also a fernery, at least during F G Wynn's time, given his particular interest in ferns. It is very complex, with an underground chamber reached by a narrow passage, an arched stone bridge which carries the main

path along the south side of the river, and two small rooms cut into the rock face. There is also an irregular open area at a lower level, with another small chamber opening off it, which is reached by a few steps down at the east end, under a small gothic arch in a stone wall. A similar arch a little higher up leads up to the rest of the features.

The two chambers cut into the rock face are interconnecting, the one without an external door lit by a gothic window, and both have stone mushroom-shaped tables. Beyond them, to the west, a similar doorway leads to a brick-walled passage about 5.5 m long with floor and roof of slate slabs. The rectangular chamber at the end also has slate slab flooring, and a window with an iron grille at the west end; at the east end is a small square extension which is lit from above. The walls are rendered and were probably whitewashed.

The lower area is overgrown but probably had small water channels or trickles, the water from which collected in the hollow at the bottom and emptied into the river. The small chamber at the western end is unroofed and is reached via an antechamber with another small gothic arched doorway; there is a brick supporting pillar under the roof between the two. There are further arches and niches, now inaccessible, to the west, and a fountain is shown at the western end on the 1918 map.

The scale and intricate detail of this, in contrast to the cavern the other side of the river, suggest that one of its original purposes might have been for children to play in. As it was built by the 3rd Lord Newborough, who was fond of his children, this is a real possibility.

Cromlech SH 457 552

The 'cromlech' consists of an artificial burial chamber, without mound, with a rock-edged hollow immediately to the north of it, which was probably once a pool. There is no sign of a path leading to it but there is ornamental planting around. A very large boulder lies recumbent in the former pool. A broken shallow stone basin lies nearby.

The description of this in the RCAHMW Inventory does not accord with what can now be seen. There seems no sign of any artificial cave, nor the upright stones mentioned, but the boulder in the former pool may be one of these. The grid reference given by the RCAHMW is also incorrect (there is nothing at the point indicated).

A much smaller and probably modern cromlech lies beside the drive a little to the north. Both are located in the area of plantations to the south of the river in front of the house.

Steps

The main flights of steps in the pleasure grounds are associated with the terrace. The main route down from it is via a long, wide flight of dressed stone steps along the east side of the house from the north-east corner. Further east there are steps down from the terrace to a half-way stage where there was a statue, with sloping paths below this; and up from the same point to a path leading through the plantation to the north, to the farm. Both these flights are wide and made of concrete.

At the north end of the planted bank which divides the lawn in front of the house from the small garden area with pools by the stables is a gap, through which concrete steps ascend to lawn level. A short flight at right angles leads actually on to the lawn; these are of dressed stone with brick risers.

In the Llifon valley there are modern slate slab steps up to the theatre, and wooden steps in places on steeper paths. Small flights of older, informal slate slab and stone steps occur in places, for instance near the small cave close to the miners' memorial. A fairly long flight of rough stone steps up to the path to the fort, just north-east of the fernery grotto, is shown on the 1918 map, although the path did not then exist; the steps appear to have stopped at the leat carrying water to the grotto, although there was a small footbridge over it. They led from a footbridge over the main river which has now gone.

ARCHITECTURAL ORNAMENTS

Fountains

Of the original three fountains in the main vista, one remains complete and the pool of the one nearest the house survives, although the fountain itself (a figure of Neptune) has been destroyed. The central fountain has been completely demolished and the basin filled in. From old photographs, it appeared to have had small urns around the low parapet and no central figure, but a single water jet.

The surviving pool in the car park is about 6 m in diameter, with straight concrete sides about 1 m high and a brick floor. It is sunken, with only a rounded coping about 0.4 m high by way of a parapet. The tripartite brick base for the fountain is still in situ, concreted above the water line, and with pipework still in place. There is now a small heap of stones concreted on to the centre of this base.

The fountain at the eastern end of the vista is shallower and has a sloping-sided, concrete-lined pool with a stone surround, which

still holds a little water. The fountain itself consists of three shallow basins one on top of the other, decreasing in size with increasing height; below the lowest are three fairly small dolphins around the stone base, and the whole is supported on a tripartite brick plinth. The basins and dolphins are probably of cast concrete.

In the north-west corner of the lawn, in front of the west wing of the house, is a small circular pool with a fountain. The pool is about 4m across and 0.8 m deep, straight-sided, built of yellow brick with concrete coping. The fountain is a flat, open urn about 1.5 m in diameter, on a squat, fluted base on a stone or mock stone plinth. The pool is now empty, but below the former water level there is an open brickwork support for the plinth.

Statuary

There is now no statuary left in the pleasure grounds, although some pieces have found their way into the eastern walled garden and others, in pieces, are stored until they can be repaired.

The plinths for two large figures, a stag and a huntress, remain at either end of the terrace behind the house. The stag was at the west end and the huntress near the east, at the top of the two sloping paths leading down to the vista. These statues remained in place until after Glynllifon became a college, when they were pushed over by students. The plinths are of decorated dressed stone. There is also a brick plinth which must once have held an urn or small figure near the hermitage and pets' cemetery.

The lion which is now over the main entrance to the park used to be above the arch in the wall which links the stables to the house, just to the north-east of the former. It was moved to the main entrance late in the nineteenth century, as there are extant photographs from that period showing it in both positions.

There is nothing over the archway by the stables now, but a gothic drinking-fountain is tucked into the corner between the archway and the stable building. It does not appear to be in situ and may have come from inside the stable-yard.

Seats

There is a modern seat on the new path running along the northern edge of the west part of the plantation south of the house, which is placed to give a view of the house. There are occasional seats beside the paths in the Llifon valley - one quite near the top has a stone-built base with a wood slice on the top as a seat; another, some way downstream, is similar but has two separate stone-built pillars to support it. All these are

modern.

Other

At one time several pieces of modern sculpture were displayed near the car park and tea rooms and along the walk on the north-west side of the river. Most of these have now been removed, but at least one wooden sculpture (in the walk) and one metal one (between car park and tea rooms) remained at the time of the last visit. Also near the tea rooms is a modern structure which is somewhere between a viewing mount and a prehistoric tomb; this is rather interesting and quite in keeping with the older features of Glynllifon, but is badly sited, with the view cut off by trees. Near the miners' memorial about half way up the Llifon valley there are still some modern works of art at the top of a small side valley; the pool which fed the waterworks here now has a large bronze arm reaching out of it, and nearby is a polished stone column with a design of classical jugs on the top. Round the top of the original features here, a stream with a series of small waterfalls, there is a structure which seems to be intended to look like part of a house; it has murals and the word 'chwalfa' in large concrete letters next to it.

In the kitchen courtyard is a Victorian lamp stand like a street lamp, painted white. There is also an ornate wrought-iron bracket, which probably once held a lamp, fixed to the wall over the steps which lead up from the garden area in front of the stables to the main lawn.

In the middle of the wide path east of the end of the terrace, possibly the former east drive, there is a classical column topped with an oval stone ball. It looks as though it should have been an eyecatcher from somewhere, but due to the growth of the trees it is now invisible except from the path itself.

PLANTED COMPONENTS

Lime avenue

The lime avenue along the vista was probably originally planted soon after 1751, but trees have obviously been replaced at different times and there are specimens of many different ages, some quite young. Even so the avenue is far from complete. The surviving old trees are exceptionally beautiful, having grown in this sheltered spot to be very tall but without great girths, so that they remain slender and graceful.

Llifon valley

On the north-east side of the valley just beyond the end of the terrace is mature deciduous planting, including some very large

beeches which may be almost as old as the limes, with rhododendron underplanting. Further to the north and east the valley side has been planted over with commercial conifers, though a few of the old deciduous trees survive. There are some large exotic conifers beside the river, including *Sequoiadendron giganteum*, and also masses of bamboo; new planting (not quite in keeping) includes hazel, oak, willow and lime. The south side of the valley is also densely planted with commercial conifers, and rhododendron and laurel undergrowth only survives in the open valley bottom. Where there is less dense, fairly young, mixed woodland further up the valley these evergreens, and bamboo, are more widespread. There are dense plantations of conifers again at the extreme north-east end of the valley, and some big box bushes by the gate to the East Lodge garden, as well as much laurel.

In the pets' cemetery there is a central English yew surrounded by a ring of Irish yews, most of which have been killed by the now very dense shade. There are also other conifers and a yew-edged path, and some box by the hermitage. The understorey includes numbers of ferns. The lower part of the tributary valley in which this is situated is open, with natural undergrowth, but the upper part is thickly planted with conifers.

Plantations to the south

The western half of this area of plantations retains some deciduous woodland, but there are no trees which appear likely to be survivors from the formal 1750s plantation, which was in this area. Towards the northern, lawn, edge there is some fairly recent planting including a monkey puzzle, a grove of beeches, some dwarf conifers (which are, however, now quite mature and so fairly large), and a small plantation of young Norway spruce, some of which have been cut and evidently sold as Christmas trees. Some of the rhododendron and laurel underplanting also survives around the edges of the area, and in the centre, on the top of the hill. Elsewhere the undergrowth is natural.

To the south of the old path crossing the centre of this area the planting is almost exclusively commercial conifers - a few deciduous trees do survive, however, whereas there are none in the eastern half of the plantations. There are also some non-commercial conifers such as yew and cypress on the west.

The eastern half of the plantations is almost entirely planted over with commercial conifers, but nearer the lawn some more exotic species survive, including monkey puzzle, holm oak and cypress. The undergrowth is all natural this side, evergreens clearly never having been planted here, except around the

cromlech, where there are also ferns. The plantations are, here as elsewhere, commercially managed.

In the southern part of the plantations, a clearing on the west side of the south drive has young trees, mostly birch and wild cherry, planted in 1992-93 to celebrate the births of local babies (a scheme briefly operated by the council). There is a notice to this effect, and a modern birdwatching hide.

Plantation to north

In the 1750s this area was already a plantation, the trees being mostly conifers except near the south-west corner which appeared to be a small area of orchard and garden. Deciduous woodland with undergrowth is indicated on the Ordnance Survey map of 1900, and by 1918 conifers had been planted again to give mixed woodland. The area is now a commercial plantation of conifers, but some of the undergrowth of laurel and rhododendron survives. The south-west corner, near the end of the terrace, has a box-encircled feature, and nearby camellias and other shrubs; there is an Irish yew by the entrance archway at the extreme south-west.

Area around house and stables

There are several Irish yews by the western bridge over the Llifon south of the house, and on the river embankment by the stables. Smaller specimens are planted along the slope between the area with the pool in front of the stables, and the north-western end of the lawn, helping to divide the two areas. English yews grow alongside the short drive down to the stables.

As well as the yews, on the slope down from the lawn there are camellias, holly (including a yellow-berried variety) and cypress.

At the back of the terrace, some broad-leaved trees survive on the edge of the conifer plantation, including holly, holm oak, and several deciduous varieties. There are also Irish yews. Shrubs along the edge of the terrace include rhododendrons, *Viburnum tinus*, corokia and laurel. Self-sown saplings occur on the terrace as well as within the planted areas. On the slope below the terrace, east of the house, there are heathers and azaleas, some of the latter very old.

Lawn

In the extreme north-west corner of the lawn, close to the house, are two large deciduous magnolias, probably *Magnolia x soulangiana*, whose branches sweep the ground. Apart from these there is no planting on the lawn, except for a few small shrubs near the otter pool and some pampas grass and bamboo near the river in the same area.

Reconstructions of original planted features

None

Special collections of garden plants

None now, although at one time there was an important collection of ferns.

Documented living plants

None

Other (including elements of nature conservation interest)

Nothing noted, and the dense coniferous plantations do not make good habitats, although the more open areas and especially the wet areas around the river are valuable from this point of view. The house is an SSSI because of its colony of lesser horseshoe bats.

ESSENTIAL SETTING AND VIEWS BEYOND THE SITE

There are at present no views from the pleasure grounds beyond the park, which therefore forms the essential setting.

ANY SPECIAL FEATURES

None

SURVIVAL OF INDIVIDUAL COMPONENTS

Structural components: many
Built components: many
Architectural ornaments: few
Planted components: some

UTILITARIAN GARDENS

NAME Kitchen gardens

Grid Ref SH 455 555

Date/style The first two walled kitchen gardens were built by the 2nd Lord Newborough, the easternmost being completed before 1824 and the central one before 1828. The westernmost was added by the 3rd Lord Newborough by about 1840. A plaque over the entrance to the east garden (a copy of the original) has the inscription 'This walled garden was made by Sir John Wynn Bart in the year 1761'. This is doubly misleading as the original plaque must have been on the eighteenth-century walled garden south of the house, and the date is wrong, as Sir Thomas Wynn, son of Sir John and later Lord Newborough, was the baronet in 1761. It should probably be 1751, the year the house was built.

DESCRIPTION

There are three walled kitchen gardens, two nearly square to the west, and a longer, narrower one to the east. The former two are now used as paddocks, and nothing remains but the walls, but the latter is in use as a market garden and is being partially restored.

The westernmost garden was an orchard, divided into quadrants and with entrances on the west (now with a larger one close by), north-east and east (with sloping sides, from the middle garden). The mortared stone wall is about 2 m high with coping similar to that of the park wall. There is no sign on the ground of the original layout, and the garden is now divided into a riding arena and paddock, with a small garden belonging to the former gardener's house in the north-west corner. Some pieces of broken rope-twist edging used as hard core on the track west of this garden probably came from inside.

The gardener's house is fairly large, stone-built with a central three-storey block and two-storey wings north and south. There are also lean-to extensions on the east (brick) and west (stone). The garden (east) side, clearly the front, is rendered and marked with lines to look like ashlar masonry, and has drip-mouldings over the windows. The roof is slated, and there are two large stone chimney-stacks. The central door on the west side has been blocked up. Stylistically the house appears to be of the early nineteenth century, and as it is built into the garden wall at the north-west corner it is probably contemporary with the western garden, built between 1832 and 1840. Plans dated 1911 must refer to refurbishment. Decorative planting around the

house, outside the walled gardens, is not all recent.

The stone wall dividing the west from the central garden has a flat slate coping. The other walls of the central garden, which slopes down from west to east, are brick. Presumably the original west wall of this garden was also brick, and was demolished when the western garden was built. The central garden was probably used for vegetables, and was also laid out in quadrants, with entrances in all four sides, and a sundial in the centre (now in the east garden). There was also an extra north-south path crossing the north-west quadrant at one time. There is now no sign of the layout, and the entrance on the north has been enlarged. Outside this wall are modern timber stable buildings.

The easternmost garden contained all the glass, and was used for soft fruit, flowers for the house, peaches and nectarines, vines, melons, mushrooms and all the exotic crops. The entrances were in the north-east and north-west corners and at the ends of the cross-path as well as from the extension to the south; there is also a disused door in the south-east corner. The remains of the boiler house, including the chimney, are against the outside of the north wall. Attached to the outside at the north-east corner is a short length of stone walling with slate coping which has three brick arches, a wide central one flanked by two smaller ones; access to the paths in the plantation to the east was through this wall, but the path now skirts it. A plaque states that the piece of walling commemorates Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee in 1897. The area in front of it is now used as a hard core dump.

All the gardens had fruit trees on the walls, and labels recently removed showed that in the east garden pears were grown on the east wall, morello cherries on the south wall and vines on the open part of the north wall. Some of the pears were grown as cordons. The main part of this eastern garden was divided into four, but far from evenly, the southern two sections being about three times as long as the northern two. There was a small glasshouse along the outer side of each of the smaller northern sections, the one on the west being the melon pit, but the other, although the same size, not sunken. The melon pit has had the woodwork and glass renewed, but retains the original ironwork, pipework, slate flooring and humidity trays for the top of the hot pipes, though the slate steps have been replaced with concrete. This glasshouse was built by Foster & Pearson Ltd of Beeston, Notts.

The rest of the glass was in extensions of the garden to north and south; on the north, not divided by a wall but at a slightly higher level, with a yellow brick retaining wall, were a peach

house against the north wall, a plum house against the west and several free-standing glasshouses. The earliest of these was a conservatory running north-south, built in 1856 (the boiler-house outside the north wall provided heating for this); two years later two separate vine houses were added running east-west, and in 1890 the three were joined to make one T-shaped glasshouse. Another north-south glasshouse on the east side may have been added around this time, and the peach house was built in 1889. In front of this were some frames, and east of the T-shaped glasshouse, a mushroom house. Surviving plans for glasshouses include several by Ewing, head gardener at Bodorgan, who invented and patented glass walls, but these do not seem to have been tried at Glynllifon.

In the southern extension there were three glasshouses, two leaning against the outside of the south wall of the garden; these were propagating and forcing houses and also produced carnations and pot plants for the house. They were probably built in about 1824. In the same area were extensive frames, and to the south a range of potting sheds, offices and stores, with a boiler house; a square of buildings backing on to these to the south was originally the stables for the horses used in park and garden and is now the machine shop. The entrance to this area is through the brick wall on the west, and also from the small area to the south-east which has a palm house, converted from an older building in 1897; palms and citrus trees were grown in large slate tubs, and could be put outside during the summer. There was a balcony, from which the palms and other plants could be viewed from above, which was reached via the rockery to the east of the palm house, and there was a fountain in the centre of the house. The boiler house was underground, beneath one corner of the palm house. On the south end of the palm house is a small extension, used by F G Wynn as an eagle house, but which was originally probably a fernery. On the north side of this area is the bothy. The layout of beds in this area is recent.

The main entrance to the area containing the palm house is through a wide, shallow brick arch in the stone wall, which still has iron gates in situ; a large closed urn with swags stands on the coping of the wall over the arch. There is also an outer wall, an extension of the wall of a track leading to the kitchen area of the house (which is thus closed off from everywhere except the kitchen gardens, and the plantation behind the house which also has an access point from the track); this must have been the route by which produce was brought to the house. The main entrance through this has iron urns over the arch, and there are pineapples over the entrance to the main garden.

An unusual feature is the tunnel connecting the walled gardens, designed to allow the family and their guests to inspect them

with minimum effort. This is currently blocked up and inaccessible, however, as it is collapsing.

Unfortunately little of the glass remains. The layout of the gardens has been altered to suit their present use, and temporary buildings erected within the east garden; statuary from elsewhere in the garden is dotted about. The glasshouses and frames in the southern extension survive, and the peach house was restored in 1991. It still has all its original ironwork. The foundations of some other buildings can be picked out, and part of the mushroom house is still standing (containing firebricks stamped W Hancock & Co). One fruit tree remains on the west wall of the east garden, but many of the wires are still in situ.

The bothy, potting sheds and other buildings mostly survive, and the racks of the former fruit store (which are original) are loaded with objects found in the walled gardens and elsewhere, such as clay pots, rhubarb forcing bells, lead labels, the old gravestones from the pets' cemetery, signposts from around the park and many other fascinating items. The palm house now has a modern, light-excluding roof and the large window at the end has been bricked up; it is used as a store. Some of the large slate tubs used for the trees survive, and the original slate staging is still inside, but the fountain has gone and the pool is covered by slate slabs in the floor. The eagle house retains its brick shelter, water tank and stone food trough. A standard lamp with a glass globe in this area is one of four originals.

In the corner of this area a small store room, overhung by a large *Fatsia japonica*, contains broken statuary and urns rescued from around the garden, including part of the nymph from the grotto. Some urns, possibly those from the terrace, have been repaired and are displayed near the palm house. There are also two smaller than life size concrete classical female figures, one in reasonable condition and the other damaged, but there seems to be no record of where these came from.

The rockery area north of the palm house used to be reached from the plantation behind, but is now inaccessible and overgrown, although some of the planting looks fairly recent. There is a hedge of *Lonicera nitida* along the bottom, dividing it from the palm house enclosure.

NAME Nursery

Grid Ref SH 458 545

Date/style The nursery is rectangular and surrounded by a dry-stone wall. It was built between 1824 and 1828.

DESCRIPTION

[Access could not be gained to the nursery, which is now the garden of a private house whose owner is a little reclusive. The following description therefore is based on maps, what can be seen from the outside, and a conversation with a gardener.]

The nursery is a large rectangle of the better part of eight acres, aligned north-east - south-west, enclosed within a dry-stone wall about 2 m high. It was built by the 2nd Lord Newborough, at about the same time as the first two kitchen gardens. The wall has a coping rather like that of the park wall, made of triangular stones.

The main entrance, with double wrought-iron gates hung on square-sectioned, stone-built posts, is on the north-east side, and there is also a visible wooden door in the long north-west wall. Outside this there is a mound covered with fairly young trees, but there is nothing on old or modern maps to indicate what it might be. There seem to have been other entrances as well, notably at the north and east corners, but these are hidden by vegetation. In 1918 the internal layout consisted of a perimeter path and a central, longitudinal, path, with two cross-paths dividing the area roughly into thirds. A circular path lay over the north-eastern cross-path, which did not cross the centre of the circle but was interrupted by it; the longitudinal path did cross the circle, but as the latter was off-centre it ran towards the south-east side of it. In the centre of the circle was an oval pool and on the north-eastern edge what looks like a hexagonal summer-house with a small conservatory attached. The pool seems to have been an original feature but the summer-house was added by the 3rd Lord Newborough before about 1840.

The thirds of the nursery were further subdivided by fences or hedges, to give overall sixteen separate plots. The one in the south corner was occupied by a maze in 1918. This was no doubt added after the nursery ceased to be strictly functional, but the early date of the summer-house suggests that the nursery formed part of the ornamental grounds in the time of the 3rd Lord Newborough as well as during the tenure of the Hon. F G Wynn. Photographs from the latter period show that the nursery then contained topiary (including such extraordinary shapes as a harp and a teapot) and much ornamental planting.

The pool, central path and cross-paths still survive (the paths mostly unsurfaced, though the central one is stony near the gate), and the summer-house has been converted into a private

dwelling, Pwll Crwn. The maze and the subdivisions have not survived, but much of the planting has. The area around the circular feature contains many varieties of rhododendron, and exotic trees, but elsewhere rows of trees planted very close together are clearly outgrown nursery stock. Some areas are now completely overgrown and inaccessible, but elsewhere laurel, which is widespread, has been cleared.

There is also planting outside the nursery on the north-east, between the wall and the south-east drive, which passes close to it. This includes rows of yews which may be either outgrown nursery stock, or planted young trees which were intended to be pleached like the 'arbour' at Plas Newydd. There is also bamboo and a mature holm oak.

The owner of the house (Pwll Crwn) possesses photographs of the nursery dating from the early nineteenth century, and there are others in the county archives.

Sources

Primary

Information from Dr Sheila Roberts, Plas Newydd

Information from gardener at the nursery

Information from various members of college staff, especially Mr Wil Balham

Estate map, about 1751: County Archives, Caernarfon XM/MAPS/463

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Ordnance Survey 2-in. manuscript map for 1-in. first edition, 1818: University College of North Wales Archives, Bangor

'Webbs Plan of Glynllivon Demesne with sundry improvements', 1824: County Archives, Caernarfon, XD2A/857

1828-40, anon. estate map: County Archives, Caernarfon, XD2A/858

Plans of gardener's house, 1911: County Archives, Caernarfon, XD2A/1596

Numerous photographs, letters, drawings and plans: County Archives, Caernarfon (including XD2A and garden archive, XD92).

NB The archives relating to the park and garden at Glynllifon were extensively studied by Ms Penny Hume in the early 1990s. She later wrote a thesis based on her work which must be an important source for Glynllifon, although I have not been able to obtain a copy. (Exeter University?)

Secondary

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