

BRYN IORCYN

Ref No PGW (C) 6
OS Map 117
Grid Ref SJ 301 569
County Flintshire
District Flintshire

Community Council Hope

Designations Listed building: Bryn Iorcyn Grade II

Site Evaluation Grade II

Primary reasons for grading

Well preserved example of utilitarian gardens and corresponding farm buildings attached to seventeenth-century manor house; associated woodlands with old coppice.

Type of site

Walled gardens, incorporating a dovecote

Main Phases of Construction

Seventeenth century

SITE DESCRIPTION

The estate of Bryn Iorcyn belonged to the Young family and then passed to the Shipley Conwys of Bodrhyddan by marriage. The house is situated on the eastern side of Hope Mountain. The manor house was originally a medieval timber-framed hall house within which are three crucks. The hall was encased in stone in the seventeenth century, the result being a two-storey H-plan house. The porch is situated in the angle of the north and east wing and this extends northwards to form another wing which accommodates a staircase.

There are stone mullioned windows with diamond leaded lights some of which have recently been renewed. The roof is slate with stone ridge tiles and flat stone copings on the gable ends which are kneelered. The chimneys are diagonally set, one set being in the gable end of the eastern wing. The other gable ends are finished with a small square pillar and ogee shaped finial in stone.

Stone pig sties are situated only a couple of metres away from the house on the west side, with a small paved and walled yard in the front, facing the house. There are four sties in a row with a dividing wall between the yards. One has a loft which may have been used to house poultry. The sties would appear to be of the same date as the house.

To the west of the pigsties are the former servants' quarters, now converted into a house, known as The Malt Kiln. They are built of stone under a slate roof. To the

west of the house is a large well preserved L-shaped range of stone barns with slate roofs. Other outbuildings include a bull pen and cart shed, the latter now converted into a house. To the north-west of the house are a small pond and adjacent well.

A large field lies to the east and north of the house, with a few trees around the edges. There is mixed woodland to the north, east and west. Within the woodland are some coppiced and pollarded trees, mostly beech, with some oak and sycamore. A straight drive, flanked at the entrance by three stone pillars topped by ball finials, runs from the Bryn Yorkyn road to the house.

The gardens consist of a series of walled enclosures, shown as orchards on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (1870s). There were two to the north of the house, but the dividing wall is no longer extant. Where the dividing wall joined the outer wall there is now a recess backed by large slabs of slate. This area has been further modified with the conversion of an old building in the south-east corner into a double garage and the addition of a car sweep made up with reconstituted stone paviors and brick. A small circular hole in the east wall gives a view out of the garden to Caergwrle Castle.

To the east of the house and south of the above is another walled enclosure with gravel drive, lawn and informal flower and shrub borders around the perimeter. The drive enters the enclosure from the south, through dressed stone gate piers topped by ball finials. Incorporated into the walls are a large dovecote and smaller outhouse both contemporary with the house. The square dovecote is built of stone with a hipped slate roof and arched doorways on the east and west sides.

To the south of the house and west of the above is a walled garden with narrow borders around the edges and central concrete path leading to the front door. At the entrance are dressed stone gate piers with ball finials. A door in the wall leads to the garden to the east. Another small walled enclosure leads off to the west linking the previous enclosure with the pigsties. This was recently put up by the present owners. Between the house and pigpen are small narrow stone edged beds and a cobbled path.

Sources

Primary

Map of the Bryn Iorcyn estate, October 1852. Bodrhyddan MSS 1891, Bangor University.

Secondary

Hubbard, E., Clwyd (1986), p. 335.

William, E., Traditional Farm Buildings in North-East Wales 1550-1900.