

SNOWDONIA DENDROCHRONOLOGY PROJECT

MIDDLE PARC (2 & 3),

Llanfrothen, Gwynedd

NGR 26272 34396

Grade II*

HOUSE HISTORY

From CADW Listing schedule:

Seat of the Anwyls, one of the notable families of Meirionydd in the Tudor & Stuart periods. A junior branch of the Clennau family, they were settled at Parc by at least the mid C16 and possibly earlier. Robert ap Morris (d. 1576) was responsible for the first of a series of unit-planned ranges, which by the late C17 comprised a large complex of 4 domestic blocks and a gatehouse, as well as associated stable and agricultural ranges. It is likely that the primary house was rebuilt or remodelled during this period and that the second, third and fourth ranges (Parc 2, 3 & 4) were also fully or partly his work.

Of these the first two houses were long ago demolished and now only traces remain. These are incorporated in the N most section of the two conjoined ranges which now comprise Middle Parc; the SW gable of the second house survives and retains its (now altered) fireplace newel stair.

The northern section of Middle Parc is a much-altered link-block between the second and third houses, the latter being represented by the main section to the SW. Both blocks have elegant cylindrical chimneys which, if original (ie late C16 or C17) would be unparalleled in north Wales vernacular. It is however possible that these are additions of the second-quarter or mid C19, and are "Tudorbethan" cosmetic alterations. Both blocks were altered by Sir Clough Williams-Ellis, owner of the Brondanw estate who converted the buildings for modern use after the last war (1945). The interior was not inspected in 1998.

Dendrochronology results: Parc Hendy (Parc 3) old house	Felling dates
Transverse beam in GF S room	Winter 1654/5
Upper lintel over stairs	After 1594

Y Parc (Park), Llanfrothen, Gwynedd (NPRN 404989)

Parc (Park) is the classic unit-system grouping described by Hemp and Gresham in *Archaeologia Cambrensis* 97 (1943), 97-112. Sampling was undertaken to establish the relative phasing of the group as a preliminary to future reinterpretation. As it stands (using Hemp and Gresham's numbering) the buildings in chronological sequence are: House 1 (sixteenth century, demolished); the Gatehouse (1617/18); House 3 (1654/5), set corner to corner with House 2 (ruined and earlier); House 4 with the date inscription 1671 (last tree-ring date 1669/70). (RCAHMW Review 2006-7, p 58-9)

Llanfrothen, Y Parc (Park)	Felling dates
(a) Principal house (House 4) (SH 6268 4395)	Summer 1660; Spring 1668; Winter 1669/70.
(b) Subsidiary house (House 3) (SH 6273 4396)	Winter 1654/5
(c) Gatehouse : Gatws (SH 6282 4402)	Winter 1617/18

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Parc, Croesor, Llanfrothen, Gwynedd. NGR 26272 34396 Grade II*.

This group of stone-walled storeyed houses, gatehouse and barns was the seat of the Anwyl family, prominent during Tudor and Stuart periods. It is situated on elevated ground at 120m above O.D. above the steep valley not far from the former estuary shore-line.

The first house, now demolished, was thought to have been built by Robert ap Moris (d 1576). His grandson William Lewis Anwyl (died 1641) had greatly extended Parc before his death.

1618 Parc Gatws contains principal rafters felled in winter 1617/18.

Only stone traces of Parc 2 remain, appearing to be conjoined with

1655 Parc 3 (Parc Hendy). In this later building the upper lintel over stairs was felled after 1594 and the ground floor transverse beam in winter 1654/5. Katherine Anwyl may have had house 3 built / modernised, possibly completing a plan of her late husband Robert Anwyl who had died young in 1653.

Owners: The family was originally from Clenennau

SEE Parc 4 Main house for details.

c1520s The 3rd son of Clenennau - **Robert ap Morris** (born c1500- d 1576) – moved to Llanfrothen & built house 1 (now demolished). He was a patron of William Llyn, C16 poet. He married Lowry, d of Lewis ap Ifan ap Dafydd of Pengwern.

1576 **Lewis Anwyl** (d 1605) His brothers were called Roberts. Huw Machno was his house poet. His will (PCC 77 Hayes) enumerates various properties held by him in Caernarfon & Merioneth.

1605 **William Lewis Anwyl** (JP, Deputy Sheriff of Merioneth, d 1642) in 1593 married Elizabeth, d & h of Edward Herbert ap John ap Sir Richard Herbert, Kt, of Cemaes, Montgomeryshire. They had 16 children. ?built house 2 (now ruinous)

William Lewis Anwyl was the first of the family to hold the office of High Sheriff (Meirionydd 1610 & 1623, and Caernarfonshire 1636). He is known to have greatly extended Parc in the early C17 and in his will (d 1641) mentions the newly built house. A **cywydd** by the poet Huw Machno speaks of “his new house of great construction” as well as mentioning gardens, orchards, walls, parks and “fair towers”. It is likely that the primary house was rebuilt or remodelled during this period and that the second, third and fourth ranges (Parc 2, 3 & 4) were also fully or partly his work.

1596 1st son Lewis lived in Cemaes; d 1642 before his father; High Sheriff of Montgomeryshire.

1642 2nd son inherited Parc: **Robert Anwyl**, already a prosperous merchant who did not expect to inherit the estate. High Sheriff of Montgomeryshire in the 1650. A Royalist who lent the King £300 – fined £1,000, married Catherine, d of Royalist Sir John Owen of Clenneney. Died 1653, leaving her with two young sons, Lewis & Owen.

Researched by Margaret Dunn,
17 May 2008