

# SNOWDONIA DENDROCHRONOLOGY PROJECT

## GATWS PARC,

Llanfrothen, Gwynedd

NGR 26294 34402

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 possible that the gatehouse belongs to this **early C17 phase**, although it may have undergone some **later C17 alteration**, including the insertion of the attic dormers. The gatehouse would have been the porter's private accommodation and appears always to have been storeyed with one room to each floor, the upper one open to the roof; a blocked first-floor hill-slope entrance probably relates to a later (C18 or C19) loading bay.

Interior: Single-room floors, the upper open to the roof. 2-bay pegged oak collar truss roof with original purlins.

#### Dendrochronology results: Parc Gatws, Gatehouse

W principal rafter

E principal rafter

Felling dates

(Winter 1617/18)

Winter 1617/18

#### 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)

(a) Principal house (House 4) (SH 6268 4395)

(b) Subsidiary house (House 3) (SH 6273 4396)

(c) Gatehouse : Gatws (SH 6282 4402)

Felling dates

Summer 1660; Spring 1668; Winter 1669/70.

Winter 1654/5

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 of the Parc estate: SEE Parc 4 for details**

1500s -1699 Anwyl family of Parc

1699-1734 Catherine Anwyl, (d 1726) Plas Newydd, daughter of Owen Anwyl married Sir Griffith Williams (d 1734)

1734- Sir Robert Williams

c1740-1746 Ann Williams married Sir Thomas Prendergast

1746-1758 Sir Tomas Prendergast **sold** the Parc estate to Sir Thomas Mostyn, 4<sup>th</sup> Bart.

1758-1796 Parc estate inherited by Sir Roger Mostyn, 5<sup>th</sup> Bart.

1796-1831 *Parc inherited by Sir Thomas Mostyn, the 6<sup>th</sup> Bart; d 1831.*

1798 Land Tax: Included with Parc (Dolgellau IR/23/118)

1831 The Parc estate passed to his sister Elizabeth who in 1794 had married Sir Edward Pryce Lloyd (1768-1854), Pengwern, created Baron Mostyn in 1831.

1832 July 11 Catalogue of sale of Park estate **CHECK**

Gattws Parc – not shown on plan; let with Park to Edmund Jones.

1834-1942 Hugh Reveley Esq, Brynwgwin bought the Parc estate from Baron Mostyn.

1840 tithe schedule – included with Parc

1932 May 24: Park Estate Sale Catalogue, NO plans. (Dolgellau Z/F/60)

Parc farm, with its sub-tenancies of Beudy-Newydd, Bwlchllaindir & Gatws, are in the occupation of Richard Prichard as principal tenant. 380 acres. £224 p.a,

1936 Oct 14: Parc & Croesor Estates (Dolgellau Z/F/62 & Z/F/63)  
Lot 2 Parc farm Messrs R A & E A Williams 380 acres £70  
Bwlchllaindir (disused) Rowland A Williams £25 + Llety sheepwalk  
Gatws Mr J W Wyllie £5 p.a. + rates

1938 Rentals from Brondanw estate, 1920 onwards: P Park (Dolgellau ZM/3119)  
24. Gattws J W Wyllie £5 + rates

1942 Jan 21: Park & Croesor Estates (Dolgellau Z/F/64)  
Park farm: Messrs R A & D C Williams £65  
Bwlchllaindir Rowland A Williams £25 + 100 sheep on Llety sheepwalk  
Gatws J W Wyllie £5 + rates  
1942 the Reveley family sold the Park estate to Clough Williams-Ellis, of Plas Brondanw.

1938 tenant + 1941 properties owned :  
Park etc, Coedty (Evan J Evans). Penrallt (Reps of Robert J Roberts), Croesor Fawr (Robert Roberts + N W Roberts), Croesor Uchaf (W G Owen + D Davis), Garreghylltrem, Beudy Newydd, Gelli, **Gate House**, Tan y bryn, Bwlchllaindir, Fronwen, ¼ Brynhyfryd, 1/3 Caerffynnon, Moelwyn, Bryn Croesor, Ceunant y Parc. (Merioneth Archives Z/M/3119/4)

#### **TENANTS:**

*(1766 Jul baptism of Jane, daughter of Pierce Samuel & Margaret, Vottu Garreg Fawr) (LF records)*

1770 Dec 2: baptism of Samuel, son of Pierce Samuel, Park Gatehouse, labourer & Margaret (LF records)

*1773 baptism of John, son of Pierce Samuel & Margaret, Gelli (LF records)*

*1776 baptism of Griffith, son of Pierce Samuel & Margaret, Gelli (LF records)*

*1778 Jul baptism of Catherine, daughter of Pierce Samuel & Margaret, Gelli (LF records)*

Evan Edwards, Gatws Parc (c1759-1823) married Ann Owen (c1759-1830) & had Edward 1782; Owen 1784; John Evans. Maesgwrllyn 1785-1869; Eleanor 1789-1835; Thomas 1792; William 1795-1846; Edward 1801. (CTGriffith 2 [252])

1822 Apr 10: burial of Evan Edwards, Gatehouse Park, aged 64 years. (LF records)

1835 Dec 8: burial of Eleanor Evans, Gatehouse y Park, aged 47 years (LF records)

1840 tithe map & schedule – included with Parc

1841 census look again

1851 census

1861 census

1871 census

1874 Oct 15: death of Owen Jones, Gatehouse, aged 54 yrs. (Ramth MI 237)

1881 census

1884 Mar 17: death of Hugh, son of Griffith & Mary Thomas, Gatehouse Park, aged 4½ months (Ramoth MI 239)

1896 Jul 31: death at Bwlchllaindir of Mary, daughter of Griffith & Mary Thomas, aged 9 months. (Ramoth MI 239)

1901 May 15: death of Annie at Bwlchllaindir, daughter of Griffith & Mary Roberts, aged 19 yrs. (Ramoth MI 239)

1891 census

1897 Aug 21: death of Laura Jones, widow of Owen Jones, aged 77 yrs. (Ramoth MI 237)

1901 census

1911 Aug 4: death of Ann, wife of William Davies, Gatehouse, aged 71 yrs. (Ramoth MI 247)

1925 Aug 24: death of William Davies, aged 71 yrs, (Ramoth MI 247)

1912 Jan 14: death of Samuel Jones aged 63 (Ramoth MI 073) Gatehouse Park

1918 Nov 15: death of Blodwen Jones, his daughter, aged 19 (Ramoth MI 173)

1944 Mar 8: death of Catherine Jones, aged 85, wife of Samuel Jones (Ramoth MI 073)

1957 Aug 28: Elizabeth C Lloyd (niece) aged 44 – accident. (Ramoth MI 073)

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? – 2005 Robin Aherne.

Check local memories; Parc estate sale catalogues and rentals etc

Researched by Margaret Dunn

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