

OVERTON, ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD

Ref No PGW (C) 8

OS Map 117

Grid Ref SJ 373 418

Former County Clwyd

Unitary Authority Wrexham

Community Council Overton

Designations Listed building: St Mary's Church, Overton Grade A
Conservation Area (Overton)

Site Evaluation Grade II

Primary reasons for grading

Churchyard with obvious designed element. Very ancient yews, described as one of the Seven Wonders of Wales.

Type of site Churchyard

Main Phases of Construction

Probably a site of christian worship from the seventh century. The first stone church was probably built at the end of the twelfth century. It is quite likely that some of the planting dates from that time.

SITE DESCRIPTION

It is thought that the first stone church was built on this site at the end of the twelfth century. At the end of the fourteenth century a larger church was built on the same site. At the end of the fifteenth century the nave was demolished and a larger one built. The Hanoverian chancel was added in 1710. The north aisle was widened in 1819 and given a separate flat roof. In the same year a vestry was built on the south side of the tower. The south aisle was built in 1855 and given a pitched roof. There was extensive restoration and improvement in the late nineteenth century. The church is built of red sandstone.

The churchyard is enclosed by a red sandstone wall, with pitched coping stones. The wall is approximately 1 m in height. The main entrance to the churchyard is from the west off the main street of Overton, through a pair of double iron gates of simple vertical uprights. The wall on this side is 0.5m high, topped by iron railings of about the same height. The gates have plain stone gateposts with black metal lanterns on top. On entering the churchyard one is immediately faced with the tower of St Mary's, but the main entrance is to the left of the tower. The pathway branches to right and left. Taking the right turn the path cuts the first corner of the churchyard but halfway along the width of the south wall the path runs along the wall until it reaches the east gate. The gates are of oak. The path also continues to the left curving around the church, leaving a large area to the right for graves. The path curves around the church to the left and makes contact with the wall in its last quarter, before coming to a small entrance at the corner of the west and north wall.

There are 21 yews planted around the perimeter of the churchyard. They are of varying age, the oldest probably being by the north entrance and

heavily propped. It is quite likely that it could date from the twelfth century when the first church was built. The yews along the east wall are fairly uniform in age.

Except for the pathways and the apron of tarmac in front of the tower and the church entrance, the churchyard is grassed.

Sources

Secondary

Hubbard, E., Clwyd (1986), pp. 410-11.

HAFODUNOS

Ref No PGW (C) 9

OS Map 116

Grid Ref SH 867 670

Former County Clwyd

Unitary Authority Colwyn BC

Community Council Llangernyw

Designations Listed building: Hafodunos Hall Grade II*; Lodge to Hafodunos Grade II
Landscape Heritage Site Policy RL10

Site Evaluation Grade II

Primary reasons for grading

Good example of nineteenth-century garden and collection of trees and shrubs, with picturesque woodland walks in neighbouring valleys.

Type of site

Terraced garden; informal garden with collection of coniferous and deciduous trees and shrubs; picturesque walks.

Main Phases of Construction

1861 onwards

SITE DESCRIPTION

Hafodunos is a large Victorian mansion situated on a south-east-facing slope in rolling countryside to the south-west of Llangernyw. There is the mention of a mansion house and outbuildings at Hafodunos in a grant dated 1615, but little is known of this earlier period. However it is known that there was some type of religious house here and part of it remains. It is thought that it was a rest house, as Hafodunos means the house of one night.

The house was bought in 1861 by Samuel Sandbach and rebuilt for his son Henry Sandbach in 1861-66 by Sir Gilbert Scott. It is built of diapered brickwork in 'Venetian' style, with five bays, two main storeys and an attic storey, and a steeply pitched slate roof. The south front has a projecting bay on the right, the left hand side having an oriel window. The whole house is heavily dressed with stone. Of particular note are the foliated stone pillars on the windows. On the right is a top lit octagonal billiard room. On the north-east corner of house is a clock tower. The topmost section has been removed but is lying on the drive verge.

On the west end of the house is an extensive conservatory which was added in 1883 by Messenger & Co under the direction of J. Oldrid Scott. The main section has a barrel hipped roof and leading off this area at right angles is a four gabled section. There is extensive use of patterned window frames and stained glass.

The stable yard is of the same build as the house joined on to the west end of the house. However a timber building has been built in front of it which protrudes on to the south front terrace. The coach house is now

used as a kitchen. The yard flooring is composed of setts with a central drain.

The land around Hafodunos is not laid out strictly as a park. There are some mature oaks in the field north-east of the house, otherwise little parkland planting seems to have been carried out. The emphasis appears to have been on the woodland areas which break up this linear tract of land running south-west from the house. The drive is situated along this length of land, and has monkey puzzles lining parts of it. The drive from the west is now unused and the estate is entered from the north-east lodge.

It is known that an older garden was attached to the previous house, but the layout of the garden today, except for the walled garden, is of nineteenth-century date. The ornamental planting is mostly of the nineteenth century and relates to the time when the Sandbach family came into possession of Hafodunos in 1831, and planting continued into the turn of the century. Much of the planting was carried out by Henry Robertson Sandbach in the latter half of the nineteenth century with help from J.D. Hooker, and many of the plant introductions are thought to have been suggested by him.

The pleasure garden at Hafodunos falls into two distinct areas. The first area is the terraces and borders immediately to the south of the house, the second being the woodland walks of the Nant Rhan-hir to the south-east of the house.

Looking south from the terrace of the house the ground drops gently to a tributary of the Elwy and then rise into a bank on the south-west which has a walk along the top with glimpsed views back to the house. Apart from the terrace and borders the whole area is luxuriantly planted with rhododendrons and other shrubs as well as a collection of exotic conifers.

The stream and woodland walks which lie to the south-east of this area are reached by informal walks, now heavily overgrown, from the terraced garden. Two stone bridges cross the stream of the Nant Rhan-hir, making a small circuit walk. A path leads north-eastwards along the valley side to the walled garden. This area of woodland is also planted with exotic species.

The walled garden, dating to the late eighteenth or nineteenth century, is aligned north-west/south-east and is situated on two slopes running down to a stream, which flows through the centre of the walled garden and then continues into the pleasure garden. The stream is bridged with slab stones in two places. On the south side of the stream a wall divides the garden into two. The south side of the garden still retains a good quantity of fruit trees. The glass house range and potting sheds survive in derelict state on the south-facing wall. The south-facing end of the garden is divided up by strips of yew hedging running north-west/south-east.

Sources

Primary

National Library of Wales:

Watercolour by Moses Griffith, c. 1805, of house in its setting (original drawings vol. 27, no. 57).

Secondary

Journal of Horticulture and Cottage Gardener N.S. 38, 19 January 1899, pp. 45-46.

Dixon, R., and Muthesius S., Victorian Architecture (1978), p. 266.
Bean, W.J., Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles.
Hubbard, E., Clwyd (1986), pp. 217-18.

COED COCH

Ref No PGW (C) 10

OS Map 116

Grid Ref SH 885 743

Former County Clwyd

Unitary Authority Colwyn BC

Community Council Betws-yn-Rhos

Designations Listed building: Coed Coch Grade II
Landscape Heritage Site, Policy RL10

Site Evaluation Grade II

Primary reasons for grading

Fine small eighteenth and nineteenth century landscape park, with artificial lake, surviving in its entirety. Pleasure grounds with nineteenth-century tree planting.

Type of site

Landscape park; informal pleasure grounds

Main phases of construction

Eighteenth and nineteenth century

SITE DESCRIPTION

Coed Coch is ostensibly an eighteenth and nineteenth century building, with a foundation stone in the cellar of 1804 and the inscription 'Johannes et Maria Wynne, 30 die Maii A.D. 1804'. However Edward LLuyd, in 1699, mentions Coed Coch as one of the principal houses of the district: 'Y Koed Koch Ycha', the home of 'John Wynne, gent'. Whether the Ycha refers to this site or another is not certain, although the site is slightly elevated from the surrounding countryside.

The main block of the present house as seen from the rear is a seven bay stone house under a shallow hipped slate roof. This part is thought to date from about 1790. Henry Hakewill is thought to have been the main architect. Some records suggest that the present building was started in 1713, with extensions in 1814 and 1848. There was originally a Greek Doric portico placed diagonally on the corner of the house. This was done away with apparently in the twentieth century and the corner filled in making a circular entrance hall. This can clearly be seen from the outside where there is a mismatch of stone. A sandstone porch with columns and a flat roof with balustrading were added at the same time, perhaps using the columns from the original entrance to the house. A large single-storey room on the west is apparently a twentieth-century addition. It has a semi-circular bay window with pitch roof.

The stableyard is built of stone around a cobbled courtyard. The main entrance was at the east end with three archways which appear to have been filled in at a later stage. A clock tower sits above the main entrance. The entrance is now to the west. Part of the coach house buildings were made into a chapel when Coed Coch was Heronwater School, by Gerald R. Beech and J. Quentin Hughes in 1962. To the rear of the

house is a small single-storey outbuilding with Gothic windows and a rustic verandah. There is also a square stone game larder.

The park at Coed Coch is a small landscape park lying to the south of the B5381, and bounded on all sides by lanes. The land is gently rolling lying in the folds of the surrounding hills. The ground rises gently towards the west where the house is situated on a small knoll. The River Dulas flows through the northern part of the park and pleasure grounds. To the south-east of the house is an artificial lake, with a planted island and a plain brick boathouse on the north shore. The drive sweeps gently through the park from the north-east boundary. The entrance has wrought iron gates flanked by stone gate piers erected in the early twentieth century. There is a small single-storey lodge. To the north of the house, built into a bank, is a turf-covered brick ice-house. A hexagonal two-storey tower, once the kennelman's cottage, and now ruinous, stands in a copse to the north of the ice-house, near the north boundary of the park. It may have been a converted folly tower, or have served a dual purpose. The park is separated from the pleasure grounds to the west of the house by a ha-ha.

The parkland planting is probably mid to late eighteenth-century in date, in the time of John Wynne of Trofarth and Coed Coch, who married Dorothy Wynne of Plas Ucha, Llanefydd in 1754. It consists mostly of scattered isolated oaks, with a few groups of beeches. There is some nineteenth-century perimeter planting of Scots pine, sycamore, oak, larch, beech, hazel and field maple along the east boundary.

The pleasure garden falls into two distinct physical areas. First is the area immediately surrounding the house which juts out to the west into the park and is separated from the park by the ha-ha. This area is informally planted with deciduous trees and has a circuit path. At the north end a path to the walled kitchen garden passes in a tunnel under the farm road. Secondly, to the south-west is an area of informally planted garden following the River Dulas, with informal paths winding through it. It is planted with specimen conifers underplanted with yew, holly, laurel and rhododendron. Most of the planting and certainly the layout of both areas dates from the nineteenth century except for some mature deciduous planting which dates from the eighteenth century. The area next to the house was laid out with formal rose beds but these are no longer extant. Part of this scheme was a paved sitting area, probably the foundations of a small building, and a small herbaceous border backed by the wall of the farm road.

The walled garden lies to the north of the gardens. It is comparatively small, with brick walls about 4m in height which are in a good state of repair. There is a small range of glasshouses on the south-facing wall. The garden is now used for pheasant rearing.

Sources

Primary

National Library of Wales:

Anon pencil drawing of house from across the lake, 1854 (drawings vol. 141, no. 14).

Late nineteenth-century photographs of Coed Coch.

Secondary

Article on Coed Coch prepared by the Llandudno and Colwyn Bay District Field Club Vol 24-27 (1951-56), pp. 16-21.

Hubbard, E., Clwyd (1986), pp. 206-07.

WHITEHURST

Ref No PGW (C) 11

OS Map 117

Grid Ref SJ 288 400

Former County Clwyd

Unitary Authority Glyndwr DC

Community Council Chirk

Designations Listed building Whitehurst House Grade II; Garden Walls Grade II

Site Evaluation Grade II*

Primary reasons for grading

Survival of seventeenth-century walled garden of Chirk Castle, including tiered curving fruit walls, gates, banqueting house and mount.

Type of site

Walled garden

Main phases of construction

Seventeenth century

SITE DESCRIPTION

Whitehurst House is a seventeenth-century two-storey brick and stone house under a slate roof. It is thought that when the house was first built it was of one storey only, the second storey and bay window on the south front being added in the eighteenth century. There is a two-storey bay window on the south end of the house with pitched and slated roof. Next to the house is a nineteenth-century house of brick with a double pitched slate roof.

The gardens are situated about two kilometres north of Chirk Castle, and lie adjacent to the A5. Because the gardens are in divided ownership there are two entrances. Access to Whitehurst House is directly off the A5 via a pair of plain black iron gates with tall panelled sandstone gate piers, probably late seventeenth-century in date. The piers were surmounted by elaborate stone urns topped by pyramids of fruit. These fell to the ground some time ago, and their fragments are now in store. The other entrance is to the south, also off the A5.

The gardens lie on sloping ground facing south. A roughly rectangular area is enclosed by stone walls on the south, west and most of the east sides, and by brick ones on the north and rest of the east sides, the north wall having an outer skin of stone. In the north wall is an oak studded door (a recent replacement for a similar door which was burnt) over which is a keystone carved with the initials 'R M' (Richard Myddleton) and the date '1765'.

The north half of the interior is laid out in a series of terraces divided by four curving brick walls which were originally used for fruit growing. The walls survive, except part of the second wall going up the slope, only the west end of which is extant. Subsequent to their building a gateway and steps were inserted in the wall between the first

and second terraces. The wall over the gateway was rebuilt and a keystone carved with the initials 'T M' (Thomas Myddleton) and the date '1651' was added. It would appear that this is not in situ and has been moved from elsewhere in the garden. A banqueting house is built into the lowest wall on the west end. This is a late seventeenth-century or early eighteenth-century square brick building with a pyramidal slate roof. The entrance is directly on to the first floor. Against the top wall is the frame of a lean-to glasshouse in poor condition. The 1905 Ordnance Survey map shows a number of glasshouses at the west end of the terraces, but this one was not then in existence. Next to it are nineteenth-century lean-to brick buildings, probably built as potting sheds and for general storage.

The centre of the garden is a level area, part of which is overgrown and part of which is taken up by a playground. A slight depression may indicate the presence at one time of a pond, but there is no direct evidence for this. Near the boundary on the south side of the garden is a conical, flat-topped mount, the banks of which are planted with hazel coppice. It is surmounted by a yew tree.

Twelve semi-detached cottages are situated on the east boundary of the walled garden. They were built in the early twentieth century as miners' cottages.

The garden was built by the 2nd Sir Thomas Myddleton in the middle of the seventeenth century, confirmed by the 'T M 1651' keystone. It was both productive and ornamental. A note in the Chirk Castle Accounts (I, Note 117, p.36) describes it as a place where Sir Thomas Myddleton could entertain his friends, as it was convenient to those travelling north and south through the village, and thus they were saved nearly two miles journey to the castle. The accounts record purchases of plants for the garden, and the building of banqueting houses. The garden was described by Thomas Dineley in *The Beaufort Progress* (1684) as being an 'Admirable Walled GARDEN of Trees Plants Flowers and Herbs of the greatest rarity as well forreigne as of Great Britain, Orrenge and Lemon Trees the Sensitive Plant & c', where Sir Richard Myddleton entertained the 1st Duke of Beaufort to a collation of 'choice fruits and wines' in a banqueting house. The main evidence for its early appearance lies in the 1735 drawing by Thomas Badeslade of 'The West Prospect of Chirk Castle'. This shows the layout of the garden in some detail, including the curving terraces and the mount. The southern and eastern parts of the garden are shown as plantations, with rows of conifers along the west and north boundaries and across the centre. The mount is shown with radiating rides cut through plantations on its slopes, and a spiral ride up to the top, which is planted with a single conifer. The drawing shows a building, no longer extant, in the same wall as the present banqueting house but further to the east. Another building is shown above it on the second terrace. These are probably the banqueting houses mentioned in the accounts.

Immediately to the east of the walled garden and directly outside the boundary wall is the Black Park, the largest of the three parks belonging to the Chirk Castle estate. It was estimated that the park was 'in Circuyt ywo myles, in length half a myle and in breadth a quart of a myle'.

Sources

Primary

Thomas Badeslade drawing of the 'West Prospect of Chirk Castle', 1735; National Library of Wales.

Secondary

Dineley, T., The Beaufort Progress (1684).

Myddleton, W.M. (ed.), Chirk Castle Accounts 1605-66 (1908).

LLANGEDWYN HALL

Ref No PGW (C) 12

OS Map 125

Grid Ref SJ 188 243

Former County Clwyd

Unitary Authority Glyndwr DC

Community Council Llangedwyn

Designations Listed building: Llangedwyn Grade II

Site Evaluation Grade II*

Primary reasons for grading

A well preserved and rare early eighteenth-century grand formal terraced garden, retaining some of its original ornamental features, in a fine position overlooking the Tanat valley. Absence of later overlay makes this garden especially important.

Type of site

Terraced formal garden with remains of ponds and other walling.

Main phases of construction

Early eighteenth century, possibly finished 1728.

SITE DESCRIPTION

Llangedwyn is an irregular mansion situated on the north side of the Tanat valley. From its main south front there are fine views out over the valley and down to the village church. The core of the house is a square C-plan block, the result of alterations and demolitions in the 1950s, which included the removal of the east wing. The house is rendered, with hipped gables and wooden cornice. The windows are sashed with dormers in the roof, the dormers themselves having pitched slate roofs. The front door was moved from the end of the central wing, now the east wing, to the east side of the east wing. The doorcase, which is in classic style with segmental pediment and Tuscan Doric columns, dates to about 1959. There is a sundial on the gable end of the east wing.

The majority of the house which survives today is thought to date from about 1718, although there may have been earlier remodelling of an essentially Elizabethan or Jacobean house by the Vaughan family. The third Sir Watkin inherited on the death of his father-in-law Sir Edward Vaughan in 1718.

A service wing extends north-west from the west wing of the house. There is a clock in the gable end of this building, by Joyce of Whitchurch (1857).

The stableyard lies to the west of the house and is in two sections, one an L-shaped block, and another a line of boxes further west. The present stableyard was built in 1906, according to the date stone with the inscription LAWW 1906. It is of stone with black brick door and window surrounds. The stables have a pavement of granite setts outside the boxes. The centre of the stableyard is landscaped with grass and shrub planting. The present stableyard replaces an earlier one which was

joined on to the extreme W wing of the house. To the north-west of the stableyard are some farm buildings, mostly of the same date and style as the stables. In a paddock to the east of the house is an octagonal stone building with a slate roof. It is divided into four loose-boxes for stallions. The field was originally divided into four enclosures, one for each loose-box.

The gardens were made at the same time as the house was remodelled in the early eighteenth century. A contemporary bird's-eye view painting shows the gardens in detail, and confirms the fact that they have survived in their original form, with hardly any later overlay. An estate map of 1741 also shows the gardens in the same layout, and gives details of their internal layout.

The main approach is from the road which runs along the south boundary of the garden. A straight drive flanked by rows of young limes leads to the former forecourt, now the Rose Garden, in front of the house. The present drive skirts the Rose Garden to the west and leads to the outbuildings and west end of the house.

The main terraces lie to the east of the house and face south-west towards the river Tanat, which has been canalized opposite the house and gardens to run parallel with the garden walls. There are three main levels to the garden, an upper, a middle and a lower. The top two terraces, a narrow upper terrace with a brick wall behind and a higher buttressed brick wall dropping to a wide lawn are still gardened. The lower terrace is now grazed, and until quite recently was used as the vegetable garden. The upper terrace walls are built in an L shape bounding the lawn below on the north and east sides. There are steps at each end of the terrace; those on the west end lead to a classical brick summerhouse. An inverted T-plan staircase leads from the summerhouse level to the upper level. Steps from the lawn lead up to the east terrace, where there was once a garden pavilion which is no longer extant. A cellar room belonging to this garden pavilion survives beneath the terrace. A door in the east perimeter wall, on the upper terrace, leads to the stallion paddock.

Immediately to the east of the house is a large gravel sweep. The wide lawn of the middle terrace lies further to the east. The majority of the lawn is taken up with two large circular stone ponds with central fountains fed from a small lake, the Briw, about 3 km away, above the garden.

The third level of the garden, c. 5 m. below the middle terrace, is broken up by two brick walls with strips of grass in between. The second strip is thought to have been occupied by a canal. The lowest area of grass was a bowling green with a canal on its southern edge, known as the Eel Pond. This is now dried up. Access to this level is by a set of stone steps at the east end of the terrace.

The ground immediately to the north of the uppermost terraces rises steeply. It is planted with spring bulbs and azaleas, merging into the mixed deciduous woodland above of Warren Wood.

The Rose Garden is a small walled courtyard immediately to the south of the house. This was the original entrance court with an oval carriage turn. To its south was the drive flanked by an avenue of limes. The oval survives, but the lime avenue came to the end of its life in the 1970s and has been replanted. The forecourt and drive are aligned on the former central wing and main entrance, with semi-circular stone steps leading up to it. The southern wall and gate of the Rose Garden were inserted in about 1950.

Originally the present walled kitchen garden was part of the early eighteenth-century pleasure garden layout, with a central fountain and radiating pathways. It occupies a kite-shaped area to the west of the drive. Parts of this layout are still visible, including the area where the fountain was situated marked by a circle of trees. In the nineteenth century the garden was used for vegetables, with the installation of a large range of lean-to glasshouses on the west wall. Two nineteenth-century vegetable clamps remain at the north end of the garden. They are in the form brick tunnels covered with turf. The doorways are gothic in shape with a wooden door in the narrow end. The walls of the garden are of brick, about 2.5 m. high, with flat stone copings overhanging on the garden side. There are doors in the north-west and north-east corners.

Sources

Primary

A Pocket Book of Mapps of Demesne land belonging to Sir Watkin Williams Wynn Bt. By Thomas Badeslade, 1741. Clwyd Record Office (Ruthin): NTD/176.

National Library of Wales:

1872 watercolour drawing by S. Leighton of house from the terrace, and flower gardens (drawings vol. 340, loose).

Secondary

The Garden, 10 Oct 1885, pp. 371, 77, 78.

'Llangedwyn Hall', Country Life, 28 Dec 1907, pp. 944-52.

Hubbard, E., Clwyd (1986), pp. 215-16.