

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

SITE DOSSIER

**SITE NAME** Pant y Goitre

**REF. NO. PGW (Gt) 10**

OS MAP 161 GRID REF. SO 347086

FORMER COUNTY Gwent UNITARY AUTHORITY Monmouth B.C. COMMUNITY  
COUNCIL Llanover

DESIGNATIONS Listed building: Pant y Goitre House  
Grade II

National Park AONB SSSI NNR ESA GAM SAM CA

SITE EVALUATION Grade II

Primary reasons for grading

Well preserved small 18th-century landscape park; well-preserved  
curving orangery (1830s)

TYPE OF SITE

Late 18th-century landscape park; informal garden; walled kitchen  
garden

MAIN PHASES OF CONSTRUCTION

Late 18th century

VISITED BY/DATE Elisabeth Whittle/August/September 1990

## HOUSE

Name Pant y Goitre House

Grid ref SO 347086

Date/style 1726; 1776; 1880s/Queen Anne; Georgian

Brief description: main building periods, architects, style, present state

Pant y Goitre House is a large 18th-century house situated on a slight rise above the flood plain of the river Usk, which forms the N boundary of the park c. 400 m. to the N of the house. There was a mill on the site of the old stables in the 14th century, and the original name for the site was Felindre (mill town).

The present house had two main building phases: first in 1726 a red-brick Queen Anne house was built on the foundations of a 16th-century house. Part of this house forms the two-storey brick S end of the present house. The Queen Anne house was bought in 1770 by Thomas Hooper (in 1780 he was a local sheriff). He built the large 3-storey N block of the house in 1776 (architect Morris) in plain Georgian style. This was also red-brick (described as being so in 1796). In 1815 it was sold by his executors, and since then has had various owners. The original main front was on the W side of the house, and the drive led up to this entrance. When the porticos were added on the N and E sides in the 1880s the E side became the main front, and the drive was altered to arrive on this side. The curving orangery on the NW corner of the N block was also added in the 1830s. To the S of the house is the Coach House (restored and in separate ownership - private house) which probably dates from the earlier phase of the house in the early 18th century.

## OUTBUILDINGS

Name Coach House

Grid ref SO 374085

Date/style, and brief description

The former Coach House stands to the south of the house, on the west side of a small courtyard. It is a two-storey stone building contemporary with the house, and has been converted into a separate dwelling.

## THE PARK

Central grid ref SO 345087

Date/style

Last quarter of 18th century/landscape park

General description, history, and layout

The park of Pantygoitre is a small landscape park on rolling and level ground on the S side of the river Usk. Most of the park is open pasture, with isolated trees and some clumps. There are two areas of woodland - The Rookery in the NW corner of the park, on a steep slope above the river, and an area of mixed natural and planted woodland on the S side of the park, in which are a series of ponds which may be medieval in origin.

The park was probably landscaped by Thomas Hooper after he bought it in 1770, at the same time as the house was enlarged.

The original entrance, now disused, is off the B4598 Llanvihangel Gobion-Usk road, just S of the river. A winding drive, now grassed over, led from here to the W side of the house. When the portico and orangery were added the drive was altered to arrive at the E side of the house, now the main entrance, and was continued to another entrance to the park off the minor road to the S.

The park is separated from the garden on the W side of the house by a curving ha-ha. To the N there is only a fence, but this boundary may have originally been a ha-ha.

Late 18th-century prints of the house and grounds (Williams, History of Monmouthshire (1796)) show a small pavilion on a knoll to the W of the house, near the river. This has gone, but its site is visible as a small stone-strewn mound, with some signs of the footings of the structure. In spring it is marked by wild bulbs.

## STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS

### Ha-ha

To the W of the house, running NE-SW from a field boundary in the NE to the edge of the wood in the SW, a small, narrow silted-up ha-ha. No stonework visible.

### Drive

The original drive from the entrance near the river has completely gone, and is now grassed over. Its curving course is just discernible.

## PLANTED COMPONENTS

Most of the park is open pasture, grazed by sheep and cows.

There are two woods: the Rookery in the NW corner, next to the river Usk, and an area of woodland on the S side of the park, to the W of the house.

The Rookery: a semi-natural mainly deciduous wood on a steep slope above the river. Some coniferous planting within it, including a large cypress and yew on the NE side near the E corner.

The wood on the S side: part natural (mainly deciduous), part planted with conifers. Within are several ponds.

The park contains numerous individual isolated trees and several clumps, all of which are in the western half of the park. N of S wood is a clump of three Scots pines (1 dead) and an oak. To its E is a single large oak. S of the Rookery is a clump of two oaks, and to its E two Scots pines. Nearby are dead stumps and dead Scots pines. To the E is a clump of two large limes very close together, to the SE of which is a fallen mature lime. At the E end of the Rookery is a large

plane. There are further large beech and oak trees to the W of the garden.

In the field to the N of the house are some large isolated trees, including oak, lime, wellingtonia, and other conifers.

In the field to the E of the B4598, which is level pastureland, are a few isolated oaks and limes.

Some of the oaks may well pre-date the formation of the park, and one in particular, on the W side of the field to the N of the house, is very aged and decrepid.

#### WATER FEATURES

The river Usk, which forms the N boundary of the park, could be said to be an integral part of it.

The part of the park to the W of the house is particularly well fed by springs, and there are two ponds in the wood on the S side of the park. These are straight-edged, stone-lined, with a dam between them. There is a stone-lined stepped channel in the middle of the dam between the two. At the lower end, on the edge of the wood, the water runs into a channel which crosses the park S-N to the SE end of the Rookery. It follows the contour of the hill in a curving line, with a built-up bank on its lower side. When it enters the Rookery it turns sharply E and continues downhill in a deep channel, ending in a ditch at the bottom of the slope at the edge of the wood. The position of the mill is not known, but it could have been in this vicinity. At present there is no water in the channel, but in winter and exceptionally wet weather it fills up.

#### BUILT FEATURES

On field boundary in western part of park, which is now a fence, there is an old iron park gate.

Iron fencing along the S side of the Rookery wood.

On the line of an old field boundary across the W half of the park (shown on 1880s OS map) which has now gone there are a pair of iron gate posts.

At the original park entrance (where there was originally a lodge, now gone), there are curving iron railings either side of the former entrance. These stand on a low stone plinth and terminate at their outer ends in square stone piers. At the entrance are ironwork gate piers. The main iron gates have been removed but the small side gates on either side are still in place.

At the entrance to the SE of the house are square plain gate piers and iron railings on a stone plinth on either side.

#### BOUNDARIES

N side: river Usk

All other sides: field boundaries; garden boundaries near house

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

Essential setting: the river Usk and pasture fields to the N; pasture fields to the W and E.

Views: from the house there are two directions in which there are views of the park: to the north, (A on map) across the park and river to the water meadows beyond; and to the west (B on map) to the rising ground of the park, with the Rookery and the woodland to the south flanking the open ground in the middle.

LAND-USE

Permanent pasture  
Managed and unmanaged woodland

ELEMENTS OF BOTANICAL OR OTHER NATURE CONSERVATION INTEREST

None known

SURVIVAL OF INDIVIDUAL COMPONENTS

Parkland: all  
Individual trees and clumps: most  
Woodland: most  
Built features: Lodge gone; park railings: some; entrance gates: removed but survive (at the Coach House)

## THE PLEASURE GARDEN

Grid ref SO 347086

Date/style 19th/20th century/informal

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION AND LAYOUT

The garden lies to the N, E and W of the house. To the W it is bounded by a curving ha-ha, and to the N and E by a curving fence. All except a narrow strip on the S side of the garden to the W of the house, which is fenced off from the main part and is in separate ownership, is laid out informally, with spacious lawns, specimen trees, including cedar and wellingtonia, and clumps of shrubs (mostly rhododendrons). A few of the trees may date from the laying out of the park and garden at the end of the 18th century, but most must be later in date. Apart from the curving drive up to the house from the SE, and a raised grass walk in the south part of the W side of the garden (next to the walled kitchen garden) there are no structural features. The main built feature in the garden is the orangery at the N end of the W side of the house. This dates from the 1830s, and has recently been renovated. It is a curving structure, with glass walls and pitched roof, and doors opening into the house and garden.

### STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS

#### Drive

A gravel drive from the entrance off a minor road to the SE of the house. This curves round up to the E side of the house.

#### Grass terrace

In the S part of the W side of the garden (in separate ownership from the rest) is a wide grass terrace, raised c. 1 m. above the ground to the N. It runs parallel with the N wall of the kitchen garden, from the W side of the old part of the house (S end). There used to be a gravel path along it, but this has been grassed over.

### BUILT COMPONENTS

#### The orangery

This is a large curving wooden-framed glasshouse built in the 1830s, and recently restored. It extends into the garden, curving northwards, from the north-west corner of the house. It has a pitched glass roof, and the walls are divided into rectangular window bays. Inside, the walls have wooden latticework around the windows and doors, and the floor is stone flagged.

#### Drains

Beneath the garden to the W of the house are a number of stone-lined drains. These are well-built and mostly still operational. The position of some of them is known.

### ARCHITECTURAL ORNAMENTS

None

### PLANTED COMPONENTS

The garden is largely laid out as spacious lawns, with specimen trees and clumps of shrubs.

On the E side of the house there are a number of large mature trees, including a cedar (next to the drive), a copper beech and a wellingtonia. There are also clumps of rhododendrons.

To the N of the house is a sloping lawn down to the park.

To the E of the house there are further large mature trees, including a huge cedar, a large birch (planted c. 1950), two wellingtonias, and a large London plane. Here there are further clumps of rhododendrons.

Reconstructions of original planted features  
None

Special collections of garden plants  
None

Documented living plants  
None

Other  
None

ESSENTIAL SETTING AND VIEWS BEYOND THE SITE  
Essential setting: park to W and N of garden  
Views: N and W

ANY SPECIAL FEATURES  
None

SURVIVAL OF INDIVIDUAL COMPONENTS

Structural components: all  
Built components: conservatory survives complete  
Planted components: some trees and long-lived shrubs

UTILITARIAN GARDENS

NAME Kitchen garden

Grid ref SO 347085

Date/style Pre 1880s/walled

DESCRIPTION

A large rectangular walled garden to the SW of the house. The walls are c. 3 m. high and are built of brick. The E wall is buttressed on the inside. There are entrance doors in the W and N sides, with a blocked entrance on the E side. On the outside of the W wall is a line of old iron posts parallel to the wall, which may have been part of a frame of some kind.

The interior of the garden is rough grass, with no features such as paths visible. No planting survives. In the middle is the skeleton of a modern greenhouse, and in the NE quadrant is a free-standing rectangular brick and glass greenhouse in poor condition (but still with most of its glass). Next to it (to its W) is a brick building with two sloping slate roofs meeting in a valley in the middle.



## SOURCES

### Primary

National Library of Wales:

'Plan of Pant y Goitre Demesne' 1837 (Maps vol. 65 map 9)

Tour: Mrs A.L. Lewis, 1889 (Drawings vol. 306 f.15 v.)

Drawings: E.A. Nichols, 1828, 'View from the Park', and house and lawn  
(Drawings vol. 403 f.19; 24)

### Secondary

Bradney, J., A History of Monmouthshire, part II (19)

Williams, D., A History of Monmouthshire (1796)

To be appended: 1:10,000 map of site, marked with boundaries,  
viewpoints etc.; colour photographs of site, photocopies of relevant  
material, where available. \_\_\_\_\_