

PENRHYN CASTLE

Ref No	PGW (Gd) 40 (GWY)
OS Map	115
Grid Ref	SH 602 719
Former County	Gwynedd
Unitary Authority	Gwynedd
Community Council	Llandegai

Designations Listed buildings: House Grade I, chapel Grade II, Grand Lodge, Port Lodge and Tal-y-Cafn Lodge Grade II, flower garden walls Grade II, Capel Ogwen Grade II, Port House and cottage (Port Penrhyn) Grade II.
The Spinnies is a local nature reserve.

Site Evaluation **Grade II***

Primary reasons for grading The park retains much of its nineteenth-century character and the gardens, which have an exceptional collection of woody plants, are well preserved. The setting, and relationship of the house with the park and landscape, is outstanding. The structure and layout of the kitchen gardens, although they are disused, is interesting and remains in reasonable condition.

Type of Site Landscape park, woodland, terraced garden, walled kitchen gardens, lawns.

Main Phases of Construction Nineteenth century

SITE DESCRIPTION

The present house, built in 1822-38 for George Hay Dawkins Pennant and designed by Thomas Hopper, is a gigantic neo-Norman extravaganza with keep, courtyards, barbican and towers, built of stone from Anglesey (probably Penmon, although Mona has also been suggested). It is Hopper's greatest achievement in the neo-Norman style, and one of the most complete and lasting examples of this style in Britain. The interiors preserve the Norman integrity, but show other influences, especially Eastern, and the exterior borrows castellation and stylistic details from later periods. The detail of Norman decoration on arches and interiors, however, is notable. The house remains very little changed and has been in the hands of the National Trust since 1951, open to the public since 1952.

The present house replaces a late eighteenth-century Gothic 'castle' (a licence to castellate was granted during the Wars of the Roses) of yellow brick, on the same site, designed by

Samuel Wyatt, which probably retained the plan and part of the chapel of the previous medieval house. The latter was described by Edmund Hyde Hall as 'a gateway, a chapel, a tower and a vast hall', and shown in a drawing, probably by Moses Griffith, published by the Royal Commission in the Caernarvonshire *Inventory*, but wrongly dated to 1790 - the Wyatt house had been built by 1780. The Wyatt house, described by Thomas Pennant, Hyde Hall ('a handsome light-coloured edifice of brick, built castlewise and ornamented with battlements and a double tower') and other tourists, has been almost swallowed up but the great hall survives in the present drawing-room. It was enlarged about 1800, and its short life is probably explained by the considerable profits from the Penrhyn slate quarries during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, which made the extravagant new house possible. This new house was sited and built so that it was visible from the quarries, and indeed from most parts of the estate and surrounding area, emphasising the local dominance of the family.

Most of the outbuildings are attached to the house and form part of one continuous, if rambling, complex of buildings. Some are mentioned here as particularly worthy of note.

The Ice Tower, on the north corner of a courtyard to the east of the stables, is part of the complex of buildings, and was included in Hopper's original plans. The name derives from the ice-house in the basement, which remained in use until the early twentieth century.

The ice-house has been described as 'the most elaborate of all Welsh ice-houses', and consists of a conical, brick-lined chamber, reaching 5 m below ground level and 2.5 m above it. It is 3 m in diameter at ground level and 1 m at the base, and is reached by a passage 2.5 m long at ground level, with two doors, through which ice was brought in. A floor in the chamber at the level of the passage floor has now gone, and a wooden bung in the floor above has been replaced by a grating to allow a view of the chamber from this level. There was a gantry over the hole formerly filled by the bung, for the lifting out of ice, and the pulley wheel of this survives. The brick sides of the underground part of the chamber are covered in hooks from which bundles of straw were hung for insulation. According to an article in the *Gardener's Chronicle* (January 1914), the ice-house was also used to store fruit, keeping for example Cox's Orange Pippin in good condition until May.

There is a second, inaccessible, ice-house in the park at SH 597 723, which probably belonged to the villa in the grounds, Lime Grove.

The stables, on the northern end of the castle, are an integral part of Hopper's building. They consist of a double row of stalls, with tack rooms, stores and grooms' quarters, along the west side of a large cobbled yard, with a covered ride (now glassed in and used as a railway museum) on the east side. The main entrance to the yard is on the north, with a clock over the arch, and the carriage sheds opposite, on the south side of the yard, are now also part of the railway museum. The clock over the entrance was made by William Platt of Stockport in 1795, and originally had only one face, the second face and motion works, possibly made by James Condliffe of Liverpool, being added when the clock was moved to its present position (possibly from the Wyatt stables). The stalls remain in place, with their original cobbled floors. The passageways have slate slab flooring, roughened to provide a grip for horses. The drain covers

are of perforated slate and the partitions are wooden, all well preserved.

The stables belonging to the previous house, designed by Samuel Wyatt, were on a similar scale and are mentioned by several late-eighteenth-century tourists as having been slate-hung. They probably lay under the present stables, but Wyatt plans showing them elsewhere, notably to the west of the house, probably their original position, also exist.

The former laundry is situated near the kitchen gardens, to the north of the house, and appears to be more or less on the site of the gardener's cottage shown on a map redrawn perhaps in about 1820 from an estate map of 1804. However, the present building probably has no connection with the cottage. The laundry was in situ by 1889 but stylistically appears to date from earlier in the nineteenth century.

It is built of dressed stone with a slate roof, and is a large building, now converted into three houses. The original windows were sashes, and some casements appear to have been inserted later; some of the largest windows have been reduced in size. There is a large, roughly semi-circular drying green behind, part of which is still used as such, and some of the slate posts used for the washing lines are still in use. The size of the whole set-up is a telling indication of the amount of washing generated by the estate.

There was probably a park associated with the eighteenth-century house, and possibly with the preceding medieval one. An estate map of 1768 has names such as 'Park y Moch', but the layout it shows is of formal gardens and orchards surrounded by small, irregular, mostly wooded enclosures. It is not until 1804 (redrawn c. 1820) that a map shows a layout which includes obvious designed parkland, and the large park which now surrounds the castle clearly has its origins in the later eighteenth century, around the time the Wyatt house was built. It would therefore have been laid out by Richard Pennant, 1st Baron Penrhyn. The area shown on the 1804 map is only slightly smaller than the present park, not extending beyond the Afon Ogwen to the east, and there were minor differences in outline and more in internal layout, with tracks and buildings differently sited, more field boundaries and less woodland. From its distribution, however, it can be seen that the existing woodland formed the basis for extended plantations later on. The enlargement and alterations to the layout were for the most part the work of George Hay Dawkins Pennant, builder of the present house.

The park, which is roughly circular in shape, with the house almost at the centre, occupies an area between the mouths of the Afon Cegin and the Afon Ogwen at the extreme west of the north coast of north Wales. It is a well chosen site, with the ground rising towards the centre of the park and levelling out into a flat-topped ridge with a couple of knolls, offering an imposing position for the house with exceptional views, although it is very exposed to the wind.

The long axis of the house is north - south, with the main entrance and 'barbican' terrace on the east side, which has the best views, towards Penmaenmawr and the Carneddii. From the top of the keep and towers almost the whole of the park is visible, although the area of the home farm, to the south-west, is screened by trees. The shallowness of the soil on top of the hill, together with the wind, has made it difficult for the National Trust to establish trees in

this area, so that there is little protection for other plants, and the area around the castle remains mostly open lawn as originally designed, with garden areas at a little distance and the park surrounding the whole.

Woods have been planted along the sea edge and alongside most of the drives as well as for screening and shelter purposes. The home farm is to the south-west of the house, moved from a site to the north, and there is farmed parkland around it; areas of more ornamental parkland lie to either side of the Afon Ogwen to the north-east, east and south-east. One nineteenth-century print shows deer in the park, but there does not seem to have been an area designated as deer park. The remains of the extensive kitchen gardens, surrounded by woodland, lie in the park, north of the house.

The whole park is walled, with several entrances and three imposing lodges contemporary with and in similar style to the neo-Norman castle. The sea forms the northern boundary of the park, and the wall on this side is a retaining sea wall, with an artificial mole which once had bathing huts and hot and cold baths. Thomas Roscoe, writing in 1838, was obviously suitably impressed: '...the effect, as you approach, is at once picturesque and imposing.' He also mentions the lodges, gateways and wall, which he says is seven miles in circumference, as well as the baths and 'elegant' chapel; the park is 'In point of situation unrivalled...'

Along the western edge of the park are the remains of an incline and tramway which carried slate from the quarries near Bethesda (which paid for the house) to the purpose-built Port Penrhyn at the north-west corner of the park.

The medieval house on the site, which belonged to an established Welsh family, related to the Tudors, which took the name of Griffith. The Griffiths eventually sold the estate to Archbishop John Williams of York, a prominent local figure, who left it to his nephew, and it later passed through the female line to the wife of Richard Pennant.

Pennant was a wealthy and astute man; his wife brought him only part of the estate, but he bought the rest, and was also responsible for developing the slate quarries and building the first road up Nant Ffrancon. He was created an Irish peer, Baron Penrhyn of Penrhyn, Co. Louth, in 1783, but brought his suitably Welsh-sounding title to his Welsh estate. He had a new house built by Samuel Wyatt, which was completed before 1780 and was faced with yellow brick; the extensive stables were slate-hung. Wyatt also built a villa (the original Lime Grove) and some cottages on the estate, none of which appear to survive.

At the same time as building the house, Lord Penrhyn must have been improving his grounds, and possibly laying out his park. Colt Hoare in 1797 mentions 'many young plantations' and walks by the river, and a map copied from an estate map of 1804 shows parkland, woodland, a garden and the mole where the baths were later installed. It is not certain, however, that all of these features were present in 1804. Several commentators, including Bingley and Loudon, remarked on the many and various ways, some novel, in which slate was put to use on the estate, but unfortunately only a few of the slate features have survived.

George Hay Dawkins Pennant, a cousin of the childless Lord Penrhyn, inherited the estate in 1808, and, either not caring for the quite new yellow brick house or wishing to build something he felt was more in keeping with his wealth and status, swept most of it away and employed Thomas Hopper to build the neo-Norman castle which survives, very little changed, to the present day. This house, begun in 1822, took the best part of two decades to complete, and meanwhile Dawkins Pennant was busy improving the park and building elsewhere on the estate. Pont Penrhyn, over the Afon Cegin near the port, bears his initials and the date 1820; the two existing lodges were demolished and others built, on different sites, in a style commensurate with that of the castle; the home farm was moved to a site further from the house; the park was extended beyond the Afon Ogwen to the east; and the drives were reorganised. A completely new main drive was laid out, approaching from the south and incorporating most of the old drive to the church, with a new lodge at the entrance designed on the grand scale, to be entirely in keeping with the new house. The park wall was also built at this time, and extensive new plantings were made.

Dawkins Pennant had no sons, and the estate went to his elder daughter and her husband, Edward Gordon Douglas, who took the name Pennant as Dawkins had done. Douglas Pennant was MP for Caernarvonshire and Lord Lieutenant for many years, and was eventually created Baron Penrhyn of Llandegai, in 1865. He made few alterations to the house, but planted trees extensively, including many exotic species, in the park, woods and lawns. Queen Victoria visited Penrhyn in 1859 and planted a *Sequoiadendron giganteum* in the lawn to the west of the castle, where it remains, identified by a plaque. From 1880 Angus Webster, a Scottish forester of distinction, was employed to supervise plantings, and was responsible for trying out many species of conifer then new to Britain although now widely used in commercial forestry. It was Douglas Pennant, too, who first employed Walter Speed as gardener; remaining in post under two more Lords Penryhn, Speed made Penrhyn's gardens famous, particularly for the quality and variety of fruit and vegetables he produced.

The second Baron Penrhyn, who succeeded in 1886, was chiefly concerned with the quarries, where his handling of the problems caused by declining demand for slate and increasing unrest amongst the workmen, which manifested itself in long and bitter strikes, caused him financial loss and personal unpopularity. He was a sportsman rather than a gardener and does not seem to have taken a great deal of interest in his park, although Speed and Webster continued in his employment, and some improvements were made to the garden. His son, Edward, likewise seems to have been more concerned with other matters. A description of the park in 1902 by the socialist Charles S Harper, who had nothing good to say about Lord Penrhyn or his castle, nevertheless paints an evocative picture of a beautiful landscape: '...a lovely scene of dense woodlands falling towards a blue expanse of sea, with an island and a lighthouse and white-winged yachts.'

The fourth Lord Penrhyn, Hugh Napier (second son of the third, his elder brother having been killed in the First World War), who came into possession of the estate in 1927, was, like his wife, Sybil, a gardening enthusiast. Lord Penrhyn created the Rhododendron Walk, Lady Penrhyn completely remodelled the flower garden, and they were responsible for more plantings of exotic trees and shrubs in the park and garden.

The Second World War took its toll, and the park and garden never regained their former splendour. When the fourth Lord Penrhyn died in 1949 the estate passed to his niece, Lady Janet Pelham, who took the name of Douglas Pennant. Shortly afterwards the great house and part of the immediate grounds were conveyed to the National Trust through the Treasury, although the family still live on the estate and own much of the park.

The main entrance, to the south of the castle, is imposing. The Grand Lodge stands astride the gateway, the drive passing through a heavily ornamented round-headed arch with double wooden doors. Flanking the arch are four round, battlemented turrets. For a short distance either side of the lodge, the park wall is of dressed stone, taller and with a dressed stone coping, before reverting to the rougher style with blocks of slate on edge used for most of its length. There is also dressed stone coping around areas of lawn either side of the drive in front of the lodge, formerly topped with railings. Two large mature Douglas firs, possibly dating to soon after 1846, are planted within these areas of lawn. The tarmac drive winds northwards through woods for c. 1 km, swinging round to approach the house from the east. As it approaches the castle the drive is rock-cut where it climbs the rise on which the castle is built. The route is the same as that shown on the first edition 25-inch Ordnance Survey map (1889), but was created when the present house was built, curving to the east round the village of Llandegai and its church. In the early nineteenth century the main approach was from the south-west, from an entrance near where the home farm now is. A ride to the church then took a similar route to the northern part of the present drive.

This is the only drive now in use to reach the house. However, most of the route of the former drive from the south-west is preserved, partly as footpath across the park, and partly as a cobbled causeway alongside the walled garden; the last stretch to the house has, however, been removed.

In 1804 the park boundary appears to have been further in than at present, and a lodge is shown nearer the house than the site to which the home farm was moved. The modern main road did not exist and it appears that the lane from which the old drive branched off, and which is partly preserved as a farm track within the park, was at that time a public road to Port Penrhyn. The southern part of this lane, visible as a raised line in the turf, has been made to link up with the causewayed stretch of the old drive near the walled garden; a track curves off it to the east to rejoin the main drive south of the house (this is gravelled within the National Trust's land). The northern part has been realigned to join the modern road via the home farm entrance. North of the point where it crossed the old rear drive it has been abandoned.

Another drive, scarcely practical as an approach and presumably laid out mainly as a pleasure drive, enters the park to the south, east of the Afon Ogwen. The lodge is stone-built, in a style which blends with the house and is quite similar to the Port Lodge. It is at a little distance from the gates and there are separate piers; the arch is round-headed although the stonework above it rises to a point; and the wall is higher, of dressed stone and with a stone coping for a short distance either side of the arch. The double doors are similar to those at the Port Lodge. Outside there is a dressed stone strip at ground level which once carried railings, now gone.

The drive runs along the east side of the Afon Ogwen to link up with an older track running east-west to the north of the house. This hard-surfaced track was the original rear drive, running from Port Penrhyn to a back lodge and the home farm in its old position north of the house, and then on to the mouth of the Ogwen, where it apparently stopped. Its route has been slightly altered, but remains overall much as it was, and it has been linked to the tarmac-surfaced drive by a bridge over the river, which was realigned at this point at some time between 1804 and 1840. These are still in use as farm tracks.

Another drive from Port Penrhyn was added, presumably at the same time, curving round the kitchen gardens to approach from the north, where it links up with the track to the mole where the ruins of the bathing huts are. This also survives as a farm/forestry track. Port lodge, at the entrance, consists of a square, battlemented tower, with a pointed arch over double wooden doors and a smaller tower the other side. The original cobbles of the drive survive under the arch.

The old rear drive appears on the 1804/1820s estate map, as does the track leading to the bathing place; although there were no bathing huts at this time, the mole had already been constructed. There are also various linking tracks within the park, mostly hard-surfaced although sometimes grassed over, and still in use.

The woodland is mainly concentrated around the edges of the park and alongside the main drive, the largest block being to the north of the walled gardens. The distribution is similar to that shown on the 1889 map, but the woodlands have shrunk a little, and also changed in character, a greater emphasis now being placed on commercial conifers. More woodland still remains, however, than is indicated on the estate map of 1804/1820, although the core areas are the same. The broad strip of mixed woodland along the eastern edge of the park must have been added after the park was enlarged by Dawkins Pennant.

Most of the woodland is commercially managed and part of the area of the walled gardens is used in connection with this. Some parts of the woodland, however, are less actively managed and are full of regenerating native hardwoods and thick undergrowth.

The open parkland is farmed, but for the most part this amounts to grazing and management has probably not changed a great deal since the nineteenth century. Thomas Pennant (in 1773) described Penrhyn as 'once beautifully embosomed with venerable oaks', and there are still a few survivors of these. There are some very large stumps to be seen in the parkland, some of which also probably belong to more recently planted but shorter-lived trees. There are relatively few remaining parkland trees, and no young ones. Deciduous trees, which include ash and lime as well as oak, are generally planted singly, though there are a few groups, and most of the remaining conifers (of which there are now very few) are in groups.

There is a small pond in the parkland to the north-east of the house. This was created, between 1889 and 1914, to attract wild duck; it has fairly recently been cleared out and some new trees planted in the copse surrounding it. It is walled on all sides but the west, with a grass bank on

the outside of the dam walls.

The mole with the bathing huts is overgrown, but clearly originally had a path along the centre with species roses, and an outer row of tamarisks (and a few oaks) to provide shelter, either side. These seem to have stood up to the ravages of the weather better than the bathing huts, and the tamarisks are practically trees, though not all of the roses have survived. There was no planting on the mole when the large, classical bath building was illustrated (early nineteenth century?), and the existing planting is probably therefore contemporary with the later brick bathing huts of which parts remain.

Penrhyn, formerly the gardener's house, which lies north of the house at the south-east corner of the kitchen garden, appears to belong to the early nineteenth century, and was probably built by Dawkins Pennant as part of his scheme of improvements, although the kitchen gardens do not appear to have been laid out by him in their present position. There is a small building further to the north (annotated 'Gardener's Cottage' in a modern hand) on the 1804/1820 map, which appears to be where the laundry building now is. The laundry is stylistically quite similar to Penrhyn, so they may be contemporary, and Penrhyn may have been built to replace the gardener's cottage if it was swallowed up by the laundry. Penrhyn is now the Douglas Pennant family home, and was extended by the addition of wings either side in 1956.

It is a two-storey house of dressed stone, with a slate roof and sash windows. The two projecting wings have been built in similar style. The southern part of the kitchen garden has been converted into a private garden for Penrhyn.

There is a group of houses near the walled garden. On the east side is Maes y Gerddi, a two-storey building with a slate-hung upper storey, dating to 1889-1914, that was formerly the bothy and now two houses. Contemporary with it, and similar in style, is the present gardener's house, Drws y Coed. Y Berllan may be the oldest house of the group, if it corresponds with Tyddyn Canol, shown on the map of 1804/1820. This appears to be on the site now occupied by Y Berllan, but has certainly been remodelled or rebuilt before 1889. The present house is of two storeys and is rubble-built with a slate roof. There is some well preserved cobbling around Y Berllan, and the garden is made out of part of the drying green.

When the park was extended eastwards, to include a strip east of the Afon Ogwen, a gamekeeper's house, kennels and some cottages were built around the site of the original Capel Ogwen, which had formerly been in the centre of a long, looping meander of the river. The house may incorporate part of the original chapel building, and had been erected by 1889, although the chapel is still shown on the map of 1804/1820. The house is two-storey, with brick chimneys and a slate roof, partly slate-hung and partly rendered.

The garden appears rather understated, consisting mostly of informal lawns, planted with specimen trees and shrubs, around the castle, with wooded areas and shrubberies at a little distance, to the south of the castle and on a knoll to the north-west. The lawn west of the house has traditionally been an area for planting specimen conifers, some of which survive (including one planted by Queen Victoria in 1859), and other young exotic conifers have been added. The

formal walled terraced garden and the kitchen gardens are well hidden, and apart from trees most of the best plantings, other than recent ones, are at a distance from the house.

It appears that both the walled kitchen gardens and the terraced flower garden are of later date than the house, and it must be assumed that the taste of Dawkins Pennant, who was probably responsible for most of the design, ran to landscape rather than flowers and shrubs. It is probable that the open spaces round the castle were intended to show it off to best advantage from all sides, make the most of the scenery, and increase the authenticity of the neo-Norman building. Indeed, this was specifically stated by one disgruntled visitor (Lord Hatherton of Teddesley), who complained that trees blocked the views from the windows, but around the castle was only '...a space of grass....But not a single flower is to be seen; because forsooth there were none around castles 500 years ago!' Later there was more planting around the castle, as is clear from contemporary descriptions, but today there is once again 'a space of grass'.

An estate map of 1768 shows formal gardens surrounding the old house, which must have been to some extent cleared when the Wyatt house, with its extensive stables, was built. There was also an irregularly-shaped garden area approximately on the site of the present terraced flower garden, and in 1804, or at the time the map of that date was copied, this had become a rectangular walled garden, probably a kitchen garden of the late eighteenth century replacing one removed when the Wyatt house was built.

It is difficult to separate the idea of the much larger later walled kitchen gardens from Walter Speed, who made them famous, but there seems to be no record of whether gardener or garden came first, though it is known that Walter Speed began work for Lord Penrhyn in 1863, and the kitchen gardens had not been laid out by 1840. It is very tempting, therefore, to see Speed, who enjoyed flower as well as vegetable gardening, as instrumental in creating the large new kitchen gardens, and transforming the favoured site of the redundant smaller garden into a formal ornamental garden. This was later enlarged by the addition of a bog garden below the lower terrace, and altered by Sybil, Lady Penrhyn, in the 1920s and 30s. Her husband, the 4th Baron Penrhyn, was responsible for planting the Rhododendron Walk.

Since the house and garden have been in the hands of the National Trust, there has been much new planting, and some new paths have been laid out for the convenience of visitors. There is probably much more in the way of flowering shrubs, and a greater variety of trees, on the lawns and in the open areas than there was in the early nineteenth century, but the character of the garden has not been changed, and descriptions of the garden in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries mention massed flowering hardy shrubs, bulbs, woodland flowers and coniferous trees, suggesting that by that time it must have looked much as it does today. There were, however, clearly more flowers and shrubs in the immediate area of the house than before or since, and contemporary illustrations show all the buildings clothed in ivy and creepers, whereas now there is Virginia creeper only on part of the house itself.

The chief glory of the garden was, and still is, its setting against the landscape of north Wales, and the uncluttered layout enhances this. Nevertheless, there is enough of interest to make the

garden more than just an extension of the surrounding countryside, and the change of scale from the wide open spaces around the house to the intimacy of the terraced garden is particularly pleasing.

There is now an extensive network of paths, in most cases gravelled, throughout the garden. Some of these paths are entirely new, but many follow routes shown on the 1889 map, or are linked into the network of older paths. Conversely, some of the original paths have gone out of use. On the 1804 map, there are paths to the west of the castle encircling an area of lawn which appears to have been walled or fenced off, and leading to the chapel. The layout of these remains much the same today, although the wall or fence disappeared between 1889 and 1914. By 1889, the path which later became the Rhododendron Walk had been laid out, together with paths on the slope leading up to the chapel from the south, paths in the woodland to the west of the walled garden and a path leading from the walled garden out on to the lawn west of the castle. There was also a path running all along the west side of the castle and cutting across south of the keep to join the main drive.

This layout was the same in 1914, but now the path across the south of the castle has been absorbed into the lawn (although there are wooden steps in a steep place under the keep), and a new path has been made leading south-east from the walled garden back to the main drive. The paths in the woodland west of the walled garden have been lost, this woodland now being commercially managed.

The barbican is a terrace on the south-east side of the castle, in front of the main entrance. Below is a steep drop to the drive and park. The terrace is partly grass and partly gravelled, with a wide slate-flagged path around the outer edge and dressed slate steps. There is a stone parapet about 1m high, which has curved stone coping and machicolations; the view over this, of park, coast and hills is spectacular, and was described with enthusiasm in an article in the *Gardeners' Chronicle* of July 1887.

The picturesquely ruined chapel to the west of the castle is now a garden feature, but was originally (from the fourteenth century) the family chapel. By the early nineteenth century (probably in the late eighteenth), before the present house with its integral chapel was built, it had already been moved from its original position near the house to 'a grove a few yards distant', but was clearly still in use. Disuse and partial destruction, probably deliberate, no doubt followed the construction of Hopper's house.

The chapel is now sited where it appears as a romantic ruin. Its stone walls are brick-lined, and there are memorials to five dogs, all with dates in the 1920s - 1940s, fixed to the wall. Old maps show an aviary nearby, described as 'being finished' in 1895, but there is now no sign of this. To the north-west of the chapel is a group of large old oaks and the slope below it is planted with Douglas firs, birch and strawberry trees (*Arbutus unedo*).

To the south of the house there is a south-facing slope which is informally planted with tree heathers, under mostly evergreen trees. The edges of the area are undefined.

The terraced flower garden, at some distance to the west of the house, on a fairly steep, south-west-facing slope, is bounded (except for the bog garden) with brick walls on all but its south-west side. It is on three levels. The narrow topmost level is very formal, with three pools, regular beds and a central loggia; the middle level is a wide, sloping lawn planted with trees and shrubs, and the lowest level is an informal bog garden. The upper two levels are terraced, with stone retaining walls.

The brick walls probably pre-date the garden and belong to the late eighteenth century, when this area was a kitchen garden. The terraces may have been made when the garden became ornamental, but as the terrace walls were not added until later, it is possible that earth terraces were used in the original walled garden to level it to some extent. The south-west wall has clearly been demolished (the ends remain), to open the garden on this side; this may have been done in the nineteenth century, or when the bog garden was added.

The garden was laid out as a flower garden in the second half of the nineteenth century, and was redesigned by Sybil, Lady Penrhyn in the 1920s and 30s. The top terrace originally had box-edged beds and a rose chain along the outer edge; Lady Penrhyn retained the formal character, but changed the layout of the beds and introduced the three pools. The bog garden has also been credited to Lady Penrhyn, but the area is shown as ornamental on the 1914 map, with steps leading down to it from the terraces, and is described as 'recently added' in a magazine article of 1892, although at this time it was a shrubbery, having been planted with '...a choice collection of the newer kinds of Japan[ese] and other hardy shrubs'. By 1914 it was described as a bog garden, providing '...a congenial home for *Gunnera manicata*, *Astilbe Davidiana*, and a great variety of Bamboos.' A photograph of it at about this time shows it much more densely planted than today. It was no doubt altered by Lady Penrhyn as part of her scheme of improvements in the terraced garden, but as her husband did not succeed to the estate until 1927 and she would not have been much more than a child when the bog garden was made, the original idea cannot have been hers.

The site of the loggia on the top terrace was originally occupied by a conservatory, and the iron pergola which now runs over the walk along the top of the lower terrace wall was over the central path crossing the lower terrace. It was found, discarded in woodland, after the garden passed to the National Trust, and was re-erected in its present position; it is clothed with the same plant as formerly, *Fuchsia* 'Riccartonii'. Part must be new, however, as it is longer than it would have been in its original position. There was also a range of potting sheds against the wall outside the terraced garden near the west corner, of which some of the footings remain; these related to the eighteenth-century garden as at least part of the range is shown on the 1804/1820s map. There is another, later, building against the outside of the north-east wall, now used as a tool store.

The main entrance is via an iron gate near the east corner, which is flanked by dark hedges; this gate dates from the time of Sibyl, Lady Penrhyn, but the entrance itself is older. There are other entrances in the north-east wall north of the loggia (two) and in the north-west wall. There are steps from the upper to the lower terrace at either end and in the centre, with paths leading straight downwards from each flight; there are also paths across the top, bottom and

middle of the lower terrace. Steps from this to the bog garden lead down through the centre of the lower retaining wall.

The north and east corners of the garden, where the back wall meets the sides, are rounded, and there is a wide border within the back wall, interrupted by the loggia and spaces for seats. This is planted with shrubs, and there are climbers on the wall. The rest of the top terrace is gravelled, except for a narrow border along the front, which has no parapet. Set in the gravel are three lily pools, two rectangular with apses and the central one something like a shamrock shape. The outer two pools are surrounded by formal beds and the central one by an area of grass; all three have fountains. The terrace curves outwards around the central pool, but in fact this curve pre-dates the pool as it is shown in photographs of 1903 and 1914, and on the 1914 Ordnance Survey map (with a sundial in the centre), whereas the pools and present layout of beds were introduced by Lady Penrhyn in the present century. Apart from around the curve, there was no retaining wall for the top terrace until after 1914, only banks, so this wall must also have been built by Lady Penrhyn.

The middle terrace, unlike the one above, slopes, and is lawned, with gravel paths. There are borders down each side and under the retaining wall of the top terrace, but apart from these the planting is all of single or, occasionally, grouped trees and shrubs in the lawns. The main walk, with the fuchsia tunnel, is along the top of the lower retaining wall, with a low parapet; at the north-west end there is a viewing area over the bog garden.

The level bog garden below the lower terrace used to have a stream running across it from south-east to north-west; though shown on the first edition 25-inch Ordnance Survey map, this evidently required some work to keep it open and running. Lady Penrhyn installed a piped water supply in the 1930s, but this is no longer maintained and the stream shows only as a dip. The area remains damp, however, with a marshy area at the north-west end. Planting is informal, with trees and damp-loving species set in roughly-mown grass.

The walled kitchen gardens, which cover over six acres, lie to the north of the house, at the opposite end of the same low ridge. They are no longer used for the production of fruit and vegetables, but the walls largely survive and the gardens now have a variety of other uses. The area where most of the glasshouses were is now a yard used in connection with forestry on the estate, part of the rest of the main garden area is a conifer nursery, and other areas are used as gardens by the inhabitants of the several nearby houses. The southern extension now forms the garden of Penrhyn, the Douglas Pennant family house.

In 1889 the main part of the garden was divided into six unequal areas, of which one, in the north-west corner, was entirely given over to glasshouses. There was also a glasshouse along the north wall of the next section along. There were fruit trees on all the walls, lining the paths, and also free-standing. Along the south side of the two northern sections east of the glasshouse area was an unusual fruit wall, the western part of which survives, complete with wires both sides. It is made of thin slabs of slate slotted into metal uprights, and must have been wonderfully warm. It is about 2 m high and Morello cherries survive on the north side. The south side was used for pears, according to an article in the *Gardeners' Chronicle* of January

1914.

The southern area is probably more or less contemporary with the main garden, but the joints of the walls suggest, if anything, that the main area was built on to the southern part, rather than the other way round. It is therefore perhaps possible that Penrhyn and the southern part of the garden pre-date the main garden, and belonged together then as they do now. The southern area was also full of fruit trees, and had a range of glasshouses along the centre of the north wall. It was divided into two areas by a roughly central path and, like the main area, had paths all round the outside. On the back of the glasshouses, within the main garden, was a long range of potting sheds and stores, with boiler house. There also appears from the map to have been a range of buildings along the south side of the glasshouses, but these must have been either low storage structures or semi-subterranean, or they would have blocked the light. They and all the glass have gone, but the range at the back of the southern glasshouse remains, as does the range outside the west wall.

In 1914 the layout was the same, but the amount of glass had increased, with more greenhouses and extra frames in the north-western area, and even three frames in the next section and a very large one, or another glasshouse, outside the garden to the north.

The stone east wall of the main part of the garden is about 4.5 m high, with a long-and-short stone top course. The west wall, also stone, may be slightly higher, and has a slate coping. This wall especially is very overgrown with ivy. Some wall fruit remains. The main entrance to the garden is through this wall, and probably always was, though it may have been altered. It is currently in use by vehicles, and has large, square stone-built piers lower than the wall, though the gates have gone. The tarmac-surfaced drive to Maes-y-Gerddi crosses the garden from this entrance to the house, but follows the line of the former path, including the kink that it made round the slate fruit wall.

The north wall, also stone, is about 5 m high and retains some wires and even a few fruit trees at the eastern end. There is a doorway through at the end of the path dividing the north central and north-eastern sections, which retains the frame of a wooden door although the door has gone.

The sheds along the south wall of the main garden (which included the boiler house for the glasshouses on the other side of the wall, in the southern part) are of brick with slate roofs; the wall here is up to 5 m high with a flat slate coping. The iron weather-vane survives on the top of the wall. The buildings at the east end of the range, including the boiler house, appear to be older than the rest, being slightly wider and of a different, hand-made, brick. These buildings are all in reasonable condition and some contain modern-looking staging, suggesting that they have been used quite recently. The south side of the wall is covered with Virginia creeper, which has flowed over the roofs of the sheds.

The north-western section, which contained most of the glass, is walled all round, the south and east internal walls having originally been about 2 m high. They have since been raised with stone and concrete, and capped, and the entrance gateway has been widened. Other entrances, in

the east and north walls near the north-east corner, next to the boiler-house (which survives), have been blocked. The glasshouses were demolished after the Second World War, and many other internal alterations have taken place in the yard since then, including new building, but the site of at least one glasshouse can still be clearly seen. There is still some fruit on the outside of the south wall of the yard, east of the gateway.

The wall of the southern extension is stone, lined with brick on north and west sides, about 2 m high maximum, with a slate coping. There is a gateway through the south wall of the main garden into this area east of the range of brick buildings, with a modern wrought-iron gate; this entrance shows no sign of having been inserted and if the southern extension is not contemporary with the main garden, must have been an original entrance.

There is a corresponding way through on the west side, but this has been enlarged and a modern iron field gate inserted. The entrance through the south wall has also been enlarged, and now has decorative gates and piers topped with stone balls, being the main entrance to Penrhyn. The entrance through the west wall, however, originally apparently vehicle width, has been reduced to pedestrian size with breeze blocks, and now has a wooden door.

Most of the extensive range of buildings along the outside of the west wall of the main part of the garden survives, though there have been many alterations. North of the main entrance, there are stone buildings, then brick, ending with the garden horse's stable; south of the entrance a similar brick and stone range, partly derelict, ending with a recent (but disused) concrete-brick kennel with a yard enclosed by slate slabs on edge. The forestry office is at the north end of this range, with garages, and some derelict sheds towards the south end may have been pigsties or more kennels. Small yards, some in use, some not, are left where buildings have been demolished.

The path along the south edge of the main part of the garden, in front of the range of brick buildings, is grassed over but survives, and most of the rest of the former paths are the same. The north-south paths dividing the garden (two in the southern half and one in the northern) still have wires for espalier fruit trees alongside, and there are a few remaining espalier trees. The spaces between the paths are filled with Christmas trees and other young conifers, destined eventually for the commercial woodland; in the north-east section Maes-y-Gerddi has a small area of garden. The base of the former glasshouse along the north wall of the central northern section is also used as a vegetable plot, with the slate steps leading up to it still in situ. The plots were edged with box, mentioned in an article in the *Gardeners' Chronicle* of July 1887, but none of this remains.

The internal layout of the southern extension retains some of its original features despite being adapted as the garden of Penrhyn. The present, tarmac-surfaced, drive enters through the south wall following the line of a former path, and curves round to follow the main east - west path up to the house. The continuation of this path westwards, probably the original drive to the house, has been reduced in width and the part still in use crazy-paved with slate; the rest is grassed but still clearly visible. It leads to the partly-blocked entrance through the west wall.

The eastern half of the garden, nearest the house, is mainly lawn, with borders against the walls and climbers on them. The northern part of the western half contains two vegetable areas, utilising some of the old rhubarb forcers and other equipment, and there is an enormous fig tree on the wall in the north-west corner. South of the old drive is another area of conifer nursery, and between this and the new drive entrance is a hard tennis court, surrounded by some old apple and cherry trees which may be survivors, like the fig, from the garden's utilitarian days.

North of the main garden, outside the wall, is an overgrown strip of ground which once contained another glasshouse and seems at times to have been treated as an extension of the garden. There is a row of youngish trees in it now, and it is divided crossways by a row of yews and a slate fence. Viburnum and rhododendron is planted around the northern and western edges, and there is a bay tree on the corner by the stable. Beyond the slate fence, to the east, is more conifer nursery. North of this strip is a tarmac drive, serving the dwellings in the old laundry, which separates it from the drying green.

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