

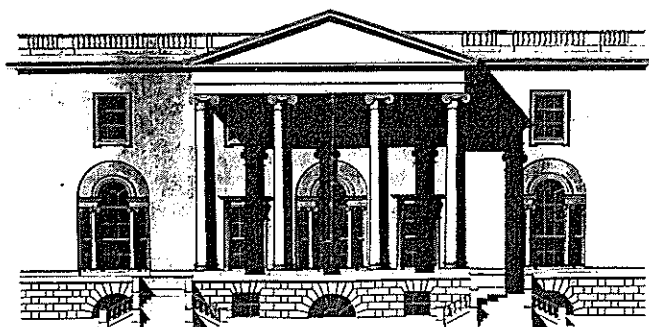
**DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST**

# **MIDDLETON HALL**

**INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS OF  
THE PROPOSED BOTANIC GARDEN**

**DAT Project Record 31018**

**PART 1**



**Client: Middleton Botanic Garden/Dyfed County Council**

**Report by: N D Ludlow**

**Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd**

**Shire Hall**

**Carmarthen Road**

**Llandeilo SA19 6AF**

SMR Amendments and Additions to Middleton Hall initial assessment

Project Record 31018

Amendments

- 31004 - Page 53. Site was double-numbered as 31003 in the report text but marked correctly as 31004 on the report map.
- 30998 - Page 45. Site was double-numbered as 30988 in the report text but marked correctly as 30998 on the report map.
- 9943 - Page 54. Site incorrectly listed as PRN 660 in report.

New PRN's

- 32474 - Pages 40-1. Building using part of orchard wall given separate PRN to orchard.

Jenny Hall, SMR Officer  
& Belinda Allen, SMR Assistant

21 February 1996

Correction, by hand, of typographical errors, before  
production of duplicate copies, for RCHMW and  
Carm's County Council in advance of implementation  
of planning consent D4/25993/008.

20/5/96  
H James.

# MIDDLETON HALL, LLANARTHNEY, CARMARTHENSHIRE

## INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSED BOTANIC GARDEN, SEPTEMBER 1995

DAT Project Record No. 31018

### PART 1

(See Part 2 for figures)

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## 1.0 SUMMARY

Middleton Hall and park, in the parish of Llanarthney, Carmarthenshire, are the site of a proposed National Botanic Park within which much redevelopment is anticipated.

The park is a historic landscape of great coherence and importance. However, the loss of the Hall itself leaves the landscape incomplete.

The hall was constructed 1793-95, possibly replacing an earlier mansion on the site, and the park was complete by 1815. The park was notable for the use of water features which in some aspects are ahead of their time. The underlying landscape remains remarkably intact, though superficially transformed during the past century.

The house survived a fire in 1931 to be demolished in the early 1950s, but the stable block, the folly ('Paxton's Tower') and some further ancillary buildings remain.

The whole provides an opportunity to examine, record and sympathetically restore components of the historic landscape within the framework of the proposed Botanic Garden.

## 2.0 INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Development proposals and commission

2.1.1. Middleton Park is subject to proposals to create a National Botanic Park, an institution dedicated to conserving threatened plant species. The proposed park will respect the aesthetic lying behind the creation of the 18th century park. The proposals have been initiated by the site owner, Dyfed County Council, and the Middleton Botanic Garden Committee.

2.1.2 The proposed Botanic Park will as far as possible reflect the concept and layout of the 18th century park and its establishment will involve the restoration of the former walled garden and water features. Both new and restored buildings are also proposed. Proposed new buildings include a great glasshouse, constructed over the formal lawns fronting the former mansion, others will partly utilise the walled garden and terraces. The four lakes will be restored through the repair of their dams and cascades. The 18th century parkland landscape will, across Middle Park, be restored through the reestablishment of native tree clumps. It is also anticipated that bio-tech industries will be attracted to the site. Most of the former park east of the lakes is unaffected by the proposals at this stage.

2.1.3. Such extensive proposals will have a significant impact on the archaeological resource. The resource not only comprises the built heritage and its below ground evidence, and the various man-made landscape features, but also includes the evidence of former horticultural and arboricultural activity.

2.1.4 The client, Middleton Botanic Garden, in conjunction with Dyfed County Council Planning Department, accordingly notified Dyfed Archaeological Trust of the proposals on 15 August 1995. A desk-top assessment of the archaeological implications of the proposals was commissioned from the Field Operations section of Dyfed Archaeological Trust on 24 August.

2.1.5 This report will summarise the history and landscape history of the site, describe the archaeological resource, and make recommendations for mitigatory measures.

2.1.6 Detailed planning proposals have not yet been submitted, but they exist in outline as a landscape master plan (see fig. 2). There are two main categories of impact:-

*Areas* of impact, often coherent units of archaeological resource

The *overall* impact on the historic parkland landscape as a whole

2.1.7 In the absence of detailed proposals, however, the recommended *response* to the impact can only, in the present study, be drafted in outline.

### 2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The area subject to this study comprises the former park curtilage of Middleton Hall, Llanarthney, Carmarthenshire (NGR SN 52 18), an area of 230 ha. Most of the site is under the single ownership of Dyfed County Council, but a Deer Farm now occupies the north-east of the site. The outlying folly ('Paxton's Tower') is owned by the National Trust.

2.2.2 It is the western half, the 120 ha of the park west of the stream that bisects it, that is subject to the intensive proposals. However, the archaeological resource within this western half will be assessed in terms of its relationship with the park as a coherent landscape unit, and detached elements of the park.

2.2.3 A wide range of documentary, map and pictorial sources were examined in order to correctly identify the elements of the archaeological resource, and to correctly place them within the park landscape and the historic landscape as a whole. A full list of sources consulted is given in section 10.0.

2.2.4 The park area was fieldwalked and any previously unrecorded features, built and earth-work, were subject to initial recording. The condition of previously recorded features was noted.

2.2.5 The historic landscape as a whole was assessed in terms of its importance as an archaeological resource, and individual elements of the historic landscape assessed in terms of their relative importance.

2.2.6 It is on the basis of 2.2.2 - 2.2.5 (*above*) that recommendations are made within this report for suitable responses to the archaeological impact.

2.2.8 The previously commissioned landscape assessment has been used as the basis of the current study (Gallagher, C., n.d., *Middleton, Dyfed: Historic Landscape Assessment - Proposed Botanic Garden and Country Park*). The current study follows the same division of the park into landscape areas as defined in the landscape assessment. These are:-

The western area - the walled gardens area and site of proposed botanic gardens

The eastern area - including Pond Du, the lower lake and areas in between, the Pont Felin Gat area, and the Afon Gwynon valley eastwards to the former fishpond, including the ponds, cascades and bridges

Parkland and woodland west of the above, as far as the public road, and south as far as the former Hall site

The remainder of the park west of the public road

The site of the Hall and immediate environs, including areas to the east and north, the gardens as far east as Pond Du and the field south as far as Bryn-cadw and Waun-las ponds

Bryn-cadw and Waun-las Ponds

Southern and western areas of the park

The south and east of the park

## 2.3 Categorisation of sites

2.3.1. All sites identified within this report have been allocated a category. The allocation of a site to a category defines the archaeological significance of that site. The categories are listed below.

*Category A* - Sites of national importance

*Category B* - Sites of regional or county importance

*Category C* - Sites of district or local importance

*Category D* - Minor or damaged sites.

*Category E* - Sites needing further investigation

## 2.4 Acknowledgements

2.4.1. This report was prepared by N D Ludlow of Dyfed Archaeological Trust.

2.4.2. Acknowledgements to William Wilkins, Project Director, Middleton Botanic Garden, and Jason Evans, Dyfed County Council, for providing much of the research material, in particular the landscape assessment that was used as the basis of this study.

2.4.3 Acknowledgements to Dr Elizabeth Whittle of Cadw for making available the results of the Middleton Garden survey (Stokes, J., 1995, 'Middleton Hall Site Dossier', *Cadw/Icomos Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Interest in Wales*). Also acknowledged are Jane and Ivor Stokes for additional information.



## **3.0 PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

### **3.1 Geology**

3.1.1. The solid geology beneath Middleton Park comprises, for the most part, Devonian Old Red Sandstone of the Downton Series (Raglan Marl Group), steeply inclined to the south. An unconformity runs SW - NE across the north west area of the site, Ordovician shales of the Arenig and Llanvirn Series, following a similar dip, rising from beneath the sandstones to the north west.

3.1.2 Drift geology comprises glacial boulder clays that overlie both the sandstones and the shales through most of the park. Sandstone outcrops in the east of the site, and shales likewise in the north west corner.

### **3.2 Topography**

3.2.1. Middleton Park lies in the incised plateau to the south of the River Tywi, the park following an oval outline bisected into two roughly equal halves by a central north-south valley. This valley is occupied by two streams. The first flows into the valley from the west, turning northwards to flow through before joining the westward flowing Afon Gwynon at the north end of the park. The second stream enters the park from the east to flow southwards, defining the park's eastern boundary. It turns east, and then south to flow through the central valley, and then out of the park curtilage to join the Gwendraeth Fach. The natural topography of the first stream was altered by the creation of a series of lakes along it when the park was laid out.

3.2.2 The park west of the central valley is a fairly low-lying area of gentle relief, 50-80m above sea level, divided into three hillocks by tributaries of the first stream. At the point the stream enters the park is a marshy drainage basin for the stream headwaters. It is on the central of these hillocks that the hall stood.

3.2.3 East of the central valley the ground rises more steeply to 120m before falling away eastwards to the second stream. A marshy area in the far south of the park is a drainage basin where tributaries join the stream. An isolated knoll beyond the park curtilage, 170m high, is occupied by the folly.

3.2.4 The underlying sandstones render the bulk of the park area relatively fertile despite the glacial drift.

## 4.0 SITE HISTORY

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The Middleton Park that we see today is largely the creation of William Paxton, owner of the estate 1789-1824. There had been a mansion at Middleton since at least the mid 17th century but Paxton, through the celebrated architect Samuel Pepys Cockerell, constructed an entirely new Hall in the neo-classical style 1793-95. At the same time, under the landscape designer <sup>an unknown</sup> ~~the~~, an extensive formal park of 230 ha/568 acres was laid out around the Hall and was complete by 1815.

4.1.2 The park was unique for its time in its extensive use of water features. Much of their design can be attributed to James Grier, Paxton's engineer, though the hand of Cockerell himself may be involved; the two worked together on Tenby baths. The lakes and cascades that surrounded Middleton anticipated later developments in landscape design, and were on a massive scale. Most of the water features and other park landscape elements were maintained until the early years of this century.

4.1.3 The Hall was gutted by fire in 1931. Since that time the parkland has deteriorated and is now largely rough pasture. The water features have silted and none retain any standing bodies of water. The Hall itself was finally demolished in the early 1950s. However, the underlying landscape remains largely unchanged and is still easily traceable on the ground.

### 4.2 Earlier history

4.2.1 The park area contains archaeological features that may relate to prehistoric and medieval use of the site; these will be discussed below, 5.1. The earliest documented settlement of the site is in the mid 17th century when Henry Middleton is said to have built the first mansion. In 1670 the mansion (and/or a possible associated settlement) contained 17 hearths (Jones, 1987, 132).

4.2.2 Earthworks possibly relating to this earlier mansion have been surveyed east of the later Hall (Gallagher - see 5.1, below). The fields named 'Warren' on the tithe map for Llanarthney parish of 1849, to the north of this site, and an associated pond said to be the fishpond, may relate to this earlier mansion.

4.2.3 The Middleton family contributed a number of High Sheriffs of the county before the estate passed to the Gwyn family around 1740. Due to debt the estate passed into receivership in 1776, and in 1789 was sold to William Paxton (Jones, 1987, 132).

### 4.3 Middleton Hall

4.3.1 William (later Sir William) Paxton was a retired nabob of the East India Company. His political ambitions led him to establish a home in the county. His politics failed but he remained at Middleton until his death in 1824.

4.3.2 In 1793 he began construction of Middleton Hall. The celebrated architect Samuel Pepys Cockerell was commissioned to undertake the design. The two may have known each other; Cockerell's brother, Charles, was a colleague of Paxton's with the East India Company (Crimmin, 1967, 9). S P Cockerell also completed Admiralty House, and designed Daylesford and Sezincote Houses, Gloucs. (Crimmin, 1967, 7). In 1805 Cockerell, under Paxton, also designed Tenby baths with the assistance of Paxton's agent and engineer, James Grier (*The Cambrian*, 1814).

4.3.3 The Hall was complete by 1795. It was a quadrangular block of stuccoed brick, a technique somewhat ahead of its time. Somewhat eclectic in style, the house was broadly neo-Palladian following the conventions of design of the period (Crimmin, 1967, 13). Contemporary accounts describe it as 'one of the best built and most magnificent houses in Wales', of 'Asiatic pomp and splendour'. A detached single storey servants block lay immediately to the north-west.

4.3.4 Extensive domestic buildings were simultaneously constructed further to the north-west, including a stable/offices block with a great bell, conservatories, and, somewhat later, a farm complex (later Graig Farm). The home farm lay outside the park curtilage and was the residence of Paxton's agent, James Grier (Kuiters, 1992, 61). Grier's hydraulic engineering skills were employed in the extensive drainage programme pursued by Paxton, again ahead of its time; the house was amply supplied with cisterns, WCs, and bathrooms, water being supplied by a 'spring in the park, conveyed by pipes... to the house, offices, stable and bath' (Sale catalogue, 1824).

4.3.5 The Hall was auctioned on Paxton's death in 1824 and was purchased by Edward Hamlin Adams. An eccentric, he allowed the estate to run down on the one hand, while embellishing the hall on the other. On his death in 1842 the estate passed to his son Edward Abadam, who added a wing connecting the servants' quarters to the house (Lloyd, 1987, 58). The Abadam family remained in possession until the early years of the 20th century when it passed to the Hughes family. It was used temporarily by the Bishops of St Davids in 1903. The Hughes' remained until 1919 when the estate changed hands for the last time, being sold to Col. W H Jones.

4.3.6 On 31 October 1931, the Hall was consumed by fire. Though the shell survived, the fixtures, fittings, decorative plasterwork, timberwork etc. were all destroyed. It was finally demolished in the early 1950s.

## **4.4 Middleton Park**

4.4.1 The 568 acre park as it exists today had been laid out by 1815 (Horner) and further outlying farms were amassed into the estate throughout the 19th century. How much of Paxton's park was purchased from the Middleton estate in 1789, and how much was acquired by him before 1815, is not known.

4.4.2 The park and its landscape features was integral to the overall landscape design of Hall and estate and can be assumed to have been, in essence, the idea of S P Cockerell. The designer of the park is not known; Cockerell had worked closely at several sites with the landscape designer John Davenport, including Daylesford, Gloucs. (Colvin, forthcoming), and it has been suggested that the detailed landscape design of Middleton Park may be Davenport's. However, this is a subject of much contention and other names that have been suggested are

4.4.3 The engineering design behind the lakes, cascades and other water features was, however, the work of Paxton's agent and engineer James Grier (*The Cambrian*, 1814). Grier also assisted Cockerell, under Paxton's patronage, in the design of Tenby Town Baths in 1805.

4.4.4 The estate was noted for its chalybeate springs (Carlisle, 1811; Lewis, 1833) and the Paxton tradition of advanced hydraulics was further represented by the establishment of at least two bath-houses in the park (RCAHMW, 1987), presumably by Cockerell and Grier. The intention was to accomodate visitors. Both bath-houses were demolished by 1840 (Lloyd-Fern, n.d., 11)

4.4.5 The outlying folly, 'Paxton's Tower', was designed by Cockerell in memory of Lord Nelson in 1805. Nelson had visited Paxton at Carmarthen (Crimmins, 1967, 16).

4.4.6 The estate was visited by the artist and surveyor Thomas Horner before 1815. He produced a series of views of the park. These have been lost, excepting the overall aerial view which is an invaluable source and proves the design to have been largely complete by 1815. The sale catalogue and plan of 1824 are meanwhile an invaluable account of the Hall and park as completed by Paxton.

4.4.7 The Abadam family allowed the park to become generally run down by 1848, according to their agent Thomas Cooke. Consistent with the family's eccentricity, while some of the buildings fell into disrepair, others were built or rebuilt. In 1841 Edward Adams is supposed to have built a black marble bridge over one of the lakes (Lloyd, 1987, 58; Lloyd-Fern, n.d., 16) but there is neither map nor field evidence for this.

4.4.7 By the time of the tithe survey of 1849 much of the park was being leased out to tenant farmers and will by now then have taken on a distinctly agricultural appearance.

4.4.9 The decay of the park was a continuous process and by 1907 the lakes were partly silted (OS second edition). The absentee landlordism of the Hughes family, and the fire of 1931 conspired to put a stop to any real maintenance. The park was purchased by the then Carmarthen County Council in the late 1930s. Their successor, Dyfed County Council, sold or let out some of the land and remaining buildings and were responsible for initiating a number of maintenance and restoration schemes, under the Manpower Services Commission, during the 1980s.

## 5.0 SUMMARY OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 In a landscape such as Middleton Park the archaeological resource exists in two forms:-

The overall landscape as a coherent archaeological unit

Individual sites and features within the landscape

5.1.2 The overall landscape. It must be emphasised that the archaeological resource at Middleton is primarily the overall landscape. The intention of the designer of the house and park was that they should be seen together as a coherent whole. The park was planned as a series of vistas both from, but primarily to, the Hall. The outlying folly is of particular importance in this respect. Individual features in the park landscape cannot be treated in isolation. However, all sites and features relate to their particular landscapes and thus the same approach applies to features that pre-date the park.

5.1.3 Individual sites and features. The archaeological resource includes elements that both pre-date and post-date the park features and include prehistoric, medieval and 18th century field systems, and earthworks possibly relating to this earlier mansion. The park itself, while a compact and integrated piece of landscape, contains many elements. The visual heritage is represented by the seven lakes - Brickfield Pond, Bryn-cadw Pond, Waun-las Pond, Pond du, the Lower Pond, the Reservoir and the Fishpond, following the north-south stream and the Afon Gwynon downstream - which, along with the former Hall, dominated the landscape. The complex of water features, with their cascades, dams and bridges, was complete by 1815 (Horner). The former outbuildings, and much of the built heritage associated with the water management survive to various degrees. Earthwork features, including the drives and elements of landscape design, can be identified in the field while elements of the landscape itself in the form of tree clumps survives. Much of the park was already in use for agricultural purposes by the mid-19th century and this represents the main use of the site today. The pattern of field boundaries is largely 20th century, as are four of the five farms on the site.

5.1.4 An extensive programme of works on the site was commissioned by Dyfed County Council in the 1980s and undertaken via the Manpower Services Commission. The works included the excavation and/or restoration of much of the built heritage on the site (see 6.1). Apparently little prior recording was performed, and the sympathy of the restoration work has been questioned (Gallagher). At the same time, a small Country Park was established at the northern end of the site, north of the Afon Gwynon.

5.1.5 There is only the one Listed Building, Grade II, in the park - the stable block (PRN 30970). The folly (PRN 660) beyond is also a Listed Building, Grade II.

5.1.6 In the survey below, 5.1.2 - 5.1.10, the park is divided into the areas noted in 2.2.8.

5.1.7 See Appendix One for detailed descriptions of the archaeological resource.

## 5.2 The western area (fig. 2)

(The walled gardens area and site of proposed botanic gardens)

### *Introduction*

5.2.1 A discrete landscape division of the park, occupied by structures relating to the economic and domestic management of the estate. The area gently slopes downhill towards the level drainage basin, the confluence of a number of small brooks with the stream through the park, that lies to the south. However, the western side of the area occupies a steeper slope down to the south-east.

5.2.2 This is an area of intensive past use of the site. A third of the built heritage of Middleton Park lay within this area, and nearly all of it that survives today lies here. The domestic complex forms a complete grouping with no major losses since the Tithe survey of 1849 and is an important group of estate buildings in terms of both coherence and aesthetics. Earthwork features relate to the buildings or form a part of other landscape features, others relate to land-use pre-dating the park.

### *Earlier features*

5.2.3 On the hillside north-west of the walled garden are earthworks (PRN 30974) possibly representing ridge-and-furrow ploughing - evidence for medieval land use at Middleton Hall.

5.2.4 Mineral extraction was carried out in this area before (?and during) the park's existence. North-west of the walled garden is an 18th century sandstone quarry (PRN 30976). At the southern end of the site was a further quarry (PRN 22124) possibly being exploited in the 19th century.

5.2.5 The field south-west of the walled garden was named Brick Field, and it has been suggested that the clay for the bricks used in the construction of Middleton Hall itself came from this source (PRN 30977).

### *The Parish boundary*

5.2.6 The boundary between Llanarthney and Llanddarog parishes lies to the south of this area. For the most part it was followed by the park boundary (and perimeter road) except to the east of the drive where, however, the present field boundaries follow it.

### *The park boundary, drive and Lodge*

5.2.7 The park boundary (PRN 30967) crosses this area but has been partially removed by a quarry (PRN 22124). It survives as an earthwork where it deviates from the parish boundary.

5.2.8 The unclassified public road was formerly the main north-south drive through the park. It has a Thorn/Hornbeam hedge either side (Gallagher). By 1824 a further terrace drive/path had been established in this area (Sale plan), branching off from this access road south-west of the walled garden, to lead, via a hairpin, north-east to Graig farm and the stables. The terrace survives in the field.

5.2.9 A lodge (PRN 30972) was formerly situated at the south end of the drive at its junction with the B4310. One of the three former lodges, built by 1815 (Horner).

### *The Walled Garden, Stables and Graig Farm*

5.2.10 The main built feature within this area is the double-walled garden and hothouse (PRN 30968). Adjoining the walled garden to the north-east is the orchard (PRN 30969). These buildings, along with the stable/office block (PRN 30970) further to the north, were all originally the work of S P Cockerell but added to later in the 19th century. An ice-house lies to the south west of the walled garden (PRN 17533). The stables are a Listed Building, Grade II.

5.2.11 Graig Farm (PRN 30971) was not established until the second decade of the 19th century (Sale plan, 1824). The farm yard was laid out, and the cottages to the north-west and behind the stable block (30970) added, prior to 1886 (OS first edition).

### *Park landscape features*

5.2.12 South-west of the walled garden is the marshy remnant of Brickfield Pond (PRN 30973) - the proposed Pwll yr Ardd - the first (and highest) of the ornamental lakes. The north-south drive runs over the eastern dam as a bridge (PRN 31003). The dams survive as earthworks.

5.2.13 The pattern of field boundaries is the feature most altered since the early 19th century. The area was unenclosed until the later 19th century and dotted by copses of trees (Horner, 1825; Sale plan, 1824; Tithe map, 1849). Where trees survive they are Oak, Thorn and Hornbeam (Gallagher).

5.2.14 The boundaries that exist today were largely established by 1886 (OS first edition), and only one, north-west of Graig Farm (dividing OS field no. 8823) has since gone; an earthwork bank still remains. The western area is now a patchwork of large, regular enclosures of grazing.

## **5.3 The eastern area (fig. 2)**

(including Pond Du, the lower lake and areas in between, the Pont Felin Gat area, and the Afon Gwynon valley eastwards to the former fishpond, including the ponds, cascades and bridges)

### *Introduction*

5.3.1 Again a discrete landscape division of the park, representing the northern part of the bed of the stream through the park, and the western valley of the Afon Gwynon. The stream bed is largely level from east to west but slopes downhill to the north, the stream flowing from south to north before joining the east-west flowing Afon Gwynon in a steep sided valley in the northern part of this area.

5.3.2 Most of the park landscape features and surviving built heritage not within the western area (above) lie within this area. There were three lakes in this area, and several cascades and bridges. The design may, at least in part, be that of a hydro-engineer, James Grier (*The Cambrian*, 1814). The water features were complete by 1815 (Horner), and shown largely unchanged in all plans until silted in the 20th century (OS second edition, 1907). The dams have now been breached, and the banks degraded, and the area is now one of marsh and wooded carr.

#### *Earlier features*

5.3.3 A large part of the area to the north and east of Pond du is named 'The Warren' (PRN 30995) on the Tithe schedule (1849) suggesting medieval/early post-medieval use of the site.

5.3.4 The former quarry (PRN 30996) between Pond du and the Lower Pond, now overgrown, is probably 18th century.

#### *The park boundary and drives*

5.3.5 This area takes in much of the park northern boundary (part of PRN 30967). Here it is largely represented by a masonry wall. An unclassified road runs around the perimeter of most of the park and in this area are two fine masonry bridges which carry it over the Afon Gwynon - Pont Felin-gat (PRN 16928) and Pont Pant-wgan (PRN 16929).

#### *Park landscape features - west*

5.3.6 The uppermost pond in this area was Pond du (PRN 30978) - the proposed Llyn Fawr - the fourth and largest of the series of ornamental lakes along the stream. It is fed from the south by Waun-las Pond, while the long eastern channel is retained by a long, massive earthwork dam that still survives. The pathway around the lake survives as an earthwork on the west. Degradation of the outflows has led to extensive silting at its southern end and colonisation by trees. Until 1964 (OS 1:50000) a footbridge (PRN 30983) crossed the eastern arm.

5.3.7 Pond du exits into the Lower Pond (PRN 30979) via two outfalls. An overflow stream still leads from the eastern inlet to the Lower Pond and formerly formed a small pond in its own right (Horner, 1815 *et al.*). The spectacular cascade leading from the west end (PRN 30980) continues as a channel to the confluence with the Afon Gwynon and thence to the Lower Pond. A bridge, for which there appears to be no field evidence (PRN 30993) crossed the Gwynon where it enters the Lower Pond until 1964 (OS 1:50000).

5.3.8 The Lower Pond (PRN 30979) - the proposed Llyn Felin-gat - is retained by a dam (PRN 30998) along its northern edge, which still survives but in poor condition. The Gwynon exits to flow northwards out of the park beneath Pont Felin-gat (PRN 16928). The lake is now choked and the Gwynon has cut down through its own silt and the dam.

#### *Park landscape features - east*

5.3.9 The uppermost lake on the Gwynon is the Fishpond (PRN 30981) - the proposed Llyn Gwynon - towards the east end of the park. It is retained by a dam at its west end that still survives, and formerly carried a bridge, beneath which water exits via a double weir (PRN 30982). The term 'fishpond' carries implications that it may pre-date the park but the lake appears not to be shown by Horner (1815). It is choked with silt.



5.3.10 West of the Fishpond the valley of the Gwynon becomes very steep sided and densely wooded. The scarp edge is surrounded by a hedgebank not shown on maps earlier than the Tithe (1849). The Reservoir (PRN 30986) - the proposed Pwll y Rhaeadr, shown by Horner (1815), was the lake that supplied the waterfall (PRN 30990).

5.3.11 There were three bridges in this area. The easternmost (PRN 30987) is first shown on the Tithe map (1849) and is a fine masonry structure that still carries a trackway. The remains of a masonry building (PRN 30992) lie alongside the southern part of this trackway. The middle bridge (PRN 30988) is shown on the Sale plan of 1824 and earthworks and a timber remain, just west of the spectacular masonry-faced waterfall (PRN 30990) designed by Grier. The western bridge (PRN 30991) is first shown on the Tithe map (1849); it was replaced in the later 19th century by the recently rebuilt bridge slightly further west (PRN 30989), but an abutment survives. The former path around the perimeter of this area does not survive in the field, but the paths which lead along the banks and to the bridges and still occupy upstanding earthworks.

5.3.12 The southern part of this area was formerly planted with ornamental copses and belts of Beech and Oak, with some Cherry and Laurel. The Gwynon valley was intensely wooded, much of it native although some planting was undertaken. Nearly the entire area has been colonised by Willow, Hazel and Alder and Rhododendron is spreading - it is now overgrown marsh and carr.

#### *Bath-houses and wells*

5.3.13 What is thought to represent one of the two bath-houses known to have existed at Middleton (PRN 30984) was excavated in 1987 (RCAHMW, 1987) close by the south-west corner of Pond du. The second bath-house (PRN 31020) is to the east of Pont Felin-gat in 1830 (Index to the Tithe) but is not evident in the field. The baths were apparently also designed by James Grier (*The Cambrian*, 1814).

5.3.14 A recently restored 'holy' well (PRN 31021) near Pont Felin-gat may be on the site of a medieval well. An ornamental spring head, again restored, lies near the south end of Pond du (PRN 30985).

### **5.4 Parkland and woodland west of the above (fig. 2)**

(as far as the public road, and south as far as the former Hall site)

#### *Introduction*

5.4.1 Not so much a distinct landscape unit, but one well-defined by water to the east, the main north-south drive to the west and north, and the Hall site to the south. It was an area of parkland, now pasture, occupying a gentle eastern slope bisected by a tributary of the stream through the park into the proposed North and Middle Parks.

#### *Earlier features*

5.4.2 The north-west hedgebank of the proposed Middle Park is broad, and ditched, and may

thus pre-date the park. Earthworks of further former boundaries, which apparently pre-date the park, can be seen in both fields (part of PRN 30997) and continues westwards.

### *Park landscape features*

5.4.3 Prior to 1849 (Horner, 1815; Sale plan, 1824) the area appears to have been unenclosed, divided only by the tributary which extended south-west, towards the house, as a wooded area comprising Oak standards and Hornbeam coppice (Gallagher). The area was open grassland, formerly landscaped, with copses and standards (mainly Horse Chestnut and Oak pollards), from the establishment of the park onwards. However, the Tithe map shows that by 1849 at least this field was being leased to tenant farmers, and the hedgebanks that exist today had largely been established.

5.4.4 The series of paths across this area also survive as earthworks. The name 'Building Bank' given to the southern half (the proposed Middle Park) on the Tithe schedule (1849) appears to relate to its proximity to the Hall.

5.4.5 Land use in this area today is rough grazing. Some hedgelines have been altered during the 20th century. A new NW-SE running boundary divides the proposed North and Middle Parks.

## **5.5 The remainder of the park west of the public road (fig. 2)**

### *Introduction*

5.5.1 Not so much a distinctive landscape unit, but a continuation of the area described above. The park boundary fringes the area on the north and west, while the main north-south drive forms its east side, and to the south it is joined by the enclosures north of the stable block and Graig Farm. The area slopes towards the north-west and comprises one field of grazing, the proposed Trial Ground.

### *The park boundary and drives*

5.5.2 Part of the park boundary borders this area as a substantial bank. The present line of the boundary here was established after 1815 (Horner) when no bank appears to have been present, and the unclassified road running beyond the perimeter did not exist. Both were established by 1824 (Sale plan).

5.5.3 The main north-south drive enters the park from the perimeter road at the northern corner of this area, at North Lodge (PRN 24243). One of the two survivals of the three former lodges, possibly designed by Cockerell and built by 1815 (Horner).

5.5.4 Between 1824 (Sale plan) and 1849 (Tithe map) the drive was planted as a tree-lined avenue. The hedgelines were narrowed this century, and the trees were removed, but some still survive at North Lodge. Part of the former south-east bank can be seen as an earthwork.

### *Park landscape features*

5.5.5 The area still comprises a single large field, the proposed Trial Ground. It always comprised open grassland, formerly landscaped, but the copses and standards shown until 1907 (OS second edition) have gone. The Tithe map shows that by 1849 at least this field was being leased to tenant farmers. The path within the perimeter of the field still survives as an earthwork. The wooded area in the far north of this area is reverting to Alder carr.

## **5.6 The site of the Hall and immediate environs (fig. 2)**

(including areas to the east and north, the gardens as far east as Pond Du and the field south as far as Bryn-cadw and Waun-las ponds)

### *Introduction*

5.6.1 Although a peripheral area of the park, this area was its visual and functional focus, and was formerly dominated by the Hall and servants' block. The Hall occupies a low knoll sloping downhill in all directions.

5.6.2 Though some buildings remain, this is the area of the park most altered from its early 19th century appearance. The loss of the House as a visual centrepiece has altered the entire coherence of the park. However, one end of the servants' block survives, the ground plan of the Hall exists below ground, and features visible either as upstanding earthworks define most of the former landscape elements in this area.

### *Earlier features*

5.6.3 During construction of the Hall a bronze spear-head (PRN 31000) was unearthed (Burke, 1855, 179). Its whereabouts are unknown.

### *The Hall, servants' block, lawns and drive*

5.6.4 In the centre of the area lay Middleton Hall (PRN 6759), built 1792-95 and designed by Cockerell. It was demolished in the early 1950s, but much of the debris was left on site and used to backfill the half-basement. The half-basement itself was apparently not disturbed - ground investigation in August 1995 demonstrated that its structural components, in this case a possible pier, are still intact. The complete basement plan may lie below-ground. The site is now heavily overgrown with nettles, etc, and has been subject to some further dumping.

5.6.5 The formerly detached servants' block to the west of the Hall survives in an altered form as 'Trawscoed'. It was contemporary with the Hall (part of PRN 6759) and also designed by Cockerell.

5.6.6 Middleton Hall was amply supplied with cisterns, WCs, and bathrooms, water being supplied by a 'spring in the park' (PRN 31011) and 'conveyed by pipes' (Sale catalogue, 1824). Their exact course is unknown, and they constitute an archaeological resource in their own right.

5.6.7 The present-day east-west track through the site follows the line of the former main east-west drive through the park which after 1830 (Index to the Tithe) led from Allt-goch Lodge (PRN 16934) to the stable/offices block (30970) past the south-west front of the Hall. A further drive proceeded from the stables to the servants' block through a grand arch and, from the 1850s, a walled garden (OS first edition, 1886).

5.6.8 The area south-west of the house site was laid out as a formal lawn between 1849 and 1853 (Augustus Butler, 1853). This is represented on the ground today as an oval area defined by earthworks representing former paths. Shallow linear depressions mark the line of four paths that met at right-angles at a fountain (PRN 30999) in the centre of the lawn. The area is now rough pasture.

5.6.9 A path, still represented by a depression, leads from the lawn path to the main east-west drive and continues around the Hall as an upstanding boundary, within which lay the flowerbeds. The entire area was dumped upon with debris during the demolition of the Hall and is now overgrown with nettles.

5.6.10 South of the formal lawn the ground slopes down to Bryn-cadw pond. A further drive led south from the east-west drive to cross the bridge between Bryn-cadw and Waun-las ponds. Earthworks for a smaller path to Bryn-cadw pond are visible in the south-west corner of this area. The area was largely left unplanted.

## 5.7 Bryn-cadw and Waun-las Ponds (fig. 2)

### *Introduction*

5.7.1 Again a discrete landscape division of the park, representing the southern part of the bed of the stream flowing from west to east through the area. The course of the stream was formerly dammed to create the middle two of the seven lakes in the park. The dams have now been breached, and the banks degraded, and the area is now one of wooded marsh.

### *Park landscape features*

5.7.2 Bryn-cadw Pond (PRN 31001) ran east-west and was fed at its west end from Brickfield Pond (PRN 30973). It supplied Waun-las Pond (PRN 31002) via a masonry sluice in a massive earthwork retaining dam at its east end carrying a bridge (PRN 31005). This bridge is depicted as a long balustraded structure in 1815, its driveway continuing southwards as the 'Swansea Approach' (Horner) but the existing bridge is small. Bryn-cadw Pond's banks were not planted with tree belts (Horner, 1815), evidently to maximise the view to and from the Hall. It appears not to have silted as badly as other lakes (Gallagher) but is still colonised by Willow and Alder.

5.7.3 Waun-las Pond (PRN 31002) ran north-south. The dam at its north end supplying Pond du (PRN 30978) is also a substantial affair with a masonry sluice in the bridge (PRN 31005) over which the main east-west route through the park ran after 1830 (Index to the Tithe). The western arm of Waun-las Pond, leading from Bryn-cadw, was substantially tree-lined in 1815 (Horner). The entire lake is colonised by Willow and Alder. The large earthwork built against the south face of the dam to Pond du is apparently a dump of building debris from the Hall, more specifically the north-eastern portico, deposited here during the 1950s demolition.

## 5.8 Southern and western areas of the park (fig. 2)

### *Introduction*

5.8.1 A distinct topographical unit (Horner's 'South Park'), this triangular area comprises the hillock in the south of the park, rising to 82m, and a level area, now marsh, to the east. It is defined by a brook to the west and south (followed by the park boundary), Waun-las pond and the main north-south drive to the north and west, and by the park boundary to the east. The level area represents the course of the second park stream where it turns south to flow through the central valley. At this point several tributaries join the stream. The area is now a pattern of fields of rough pasture, and marsh.

### *Earlier features*

5.8.2 Earthworks representing field boundaries that pre-date the park (part of PRN 30997) run north-south just east of the north-south drive.

### *Parish boundary*

5.8.3 The boundary between Llanarthney and Llanddarog parishes crosses the southern part of the area in but is not represented by any physical feature and none is marked on the map sources. Instead, one - formerly two - Oaks stand on the the boundary as markers.

### *The park boundary*

5.8.4 The park boundary forms two sides of this area. To the south-east it lies beyond the parish boundary. The unclassified road runs right round the outside of the perimeter.

### *Gorsdu (?Home) Farm*

5.8.5 The OS original surveyors' drawing (1813) shows a small farm complex and yard, 'Gorsdu' (PRN 31007), adjacent to the park western boundary here. It was probably the original Home Farm but had gone by 1849 (Tithe map). The present farm 'Gorswen', on the same site, was not constructed until the later 20th century (RAF aerial photograph 106G/UK/1400/3274, 1946).

### *Park landscape features*

5.8.6 This was an unenclosed area of the park until the mid 19th century (Horner, 1815; Sale plan, 1824). It comprised open grassland, formerly landscaped, but the copses and standards have largely gone.

5.8.7 Physical evidence for drives and pathways is limited to a slight earthwork representing the drive that crossed the bridge between Bryn-cadw and Waun-las Ponds (PRN 31005). It shows up well on aerial photographs (RAF 106G/UK/1400/3274, 1946) but might be expected to be a stronger feature in the field - prior to 1824 this was the main 'Swansea Approach' (Horner, 1815). His drawing does not extend far enough southwards to indicate if any lodge was present, but if so, it was gone by 1849 (Tithe map).

5.8.8 The Tithe map shows that by 1849 number of boundaries had been introduced, the main one being the long east-west hedgebank that still exists dividing, among others, OS field nos. 2552 and 3666. By this time this area was being leased to tenant farmers, only the planted trees - presumably fenced off - lying in Abadam hands.

5.8.9 Further boundaries were added piecemeal throughout the 19th century but the patchwork of small fields that exists today was developed after 1907 (OS second edition). Land use in this area today is pasture; there are a few surviving clumps of Oak and Beech.

## **5.9 The south and east of the park (fig. 2)**

### *Introduction*

5.9.1 A distinct topographical unit (Horner's 'East Park'), this is a very large area, the half of the park curtilage that lies east of the central valley. The central valley and the Afon Gwynon define the west and north sides of the block, and it is almost separated from the massif which continues to the east by the second stream which rises near the north end and flows southwards to form the park's eastern boundary, before turning east. The main trend in the relief is a fairly steep easterly uphill slope, rising to 125m.

5.9.2 The area is now occupied by large regular fields of farm- and woodland. However,

different parts of the area have been used for different purposes through its history, and features are represented from a number of different periods.

#### *Earlier features*

5.9.3 Just south of Waun-las Farm is an area of low north-south earthworks probably representing medieval ridge-and-furrow (PRN 31008).

5.9.4 A massive earthwork lies north of Waun-las Farm (PRN 31009) and includes well-defined platforms and enclosures. The site has been interpreted as the earlier mansion house site (PRN 4750).

5.9.5 Adjacent to a small brook to the east are earthworks, now supporting a hedge, that probably represent a pond and dam (PRN 31010), perhaps a fishpond. They may be associated with possible former mansion site PRN 31009.

5.9.6 Physical evidence for a complex of field boundaries (part of PRN 30997) survives on the ground in the area of Waun-las farm lying beneath the present boundaries.

5.9.7 The south-eastern quarter of the site was intensively quarried (PRN 31006) probably during the 18th century.

#### *The park boundary and drives*

5.9.8 The park boundary forms the entire eastern side of this area. The unclassified road continues right round the outside of the perimeter.

5.9.9 Physical evidence remains in the field for the parkland drives and pathways in this area. The main east-west drive through this area to Allt-goch Lodge (PRN 16934) was established after 1830 (Index to the Tithe) and is still partly in use as a trackway. The driveway north to the bridge over the Gwynon (PRN 30987) is likewise still in use. The path that ran within the perimeter of the park curtilage on this side is obscure.

5.9.10 Allt-goch lodge (PRN 16934) lies at the eastern entrance to the park. One of the three former lodges, it is later than the others, established between 1830 (Index to the Tithe) and 1849 (Tithe map).

#### *Park landscape features*

5.9.11 Horner (1815) and the sale plan (1824) depict an expanse of open parkland. Many of the copses and standards, of Oak and Beech, survive. Allt-goch and Clearbrook Woods, along the eastern fringe of the site, was present from the first and are probably a strip of remnant woodland along the stream bank.

5.9.12 A masonry well-head building (PRN 31011), shown on the Tithe map (1849), represents the water supply for the Hall and outbuildings. A number of bridges formerly lay over the brooks in this area (PRNs 31004, 31013, 31014 and 31015) but had gone by 1907 (OS second edition). There is now no field evidence for the small complex of buildings (PRN

31012), just west of Allt-goch Lodge, shown on the Tithe map (1849) but gone by 1907 (OS second edition).

5.9.13 The Tithe map shows that by 1849 at least this area was being leased to tenant farmers, only the planted trees - presumably fenced off - lying in Abadam hands. An east-west boundary had also been introduced, cutting off the northern third, which still exists as the present Deer Farm boundary.

5.9.14 Further boundaries were added piecemeal throughout the 19th century, but the patchwork of small fields of rough grazing that exists today was developed after 1907 (OS second edition). Three small farm complexes now exist in this area, Waun-las, Pant-wgan and Bryn-crwys. All are 20th century, established after 1907 (OS second edition; RAF aerial photograph 106G/UK/1400/3274, 1946). A Deer Farm now occupies the northern third of the area.

## **5.10 Outlying parkland areas**

5.10.1 This section is a very brief summary of the estate core that lay outside the park curtilage. The estate was sustained by a series of farms let out to tenants, and some small industry. Within this area is also a further landscape feature - the folly.

5.10.2 The sale plan of 1824 shows that 20 farms immediately surrounding Middleton, had been amassed into the estate. They represented 2650 acres of farmland. This was predominantly pasture.

5.10.3 By 1824 a woollen mill was situated at Penallt (PRN 31017). Further to the north at Heol-fawr was the estate corn mill (PRN 16923), still operational in 1907 (OS second edition). Both building and leat still remain.

5.10.4 At the summit of the wooded scarp at the northern end of the estate, at a height of 175m stands the folly (PRN 660), 'Paxton's Tower, built by S P Cockerell to the memory of Nelson. It served as a view to and from the parkland at Middleton. Now owned by the National Trust. Listed Building, Grade II.



## **6.0 CLASSIFICATION OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESORCE**

### **6.1 Classes of archaeological resource**

The sites and features within the Middleton landscape fall into four classes according to the nature of their generic type and/or preservation:-

Built heritage - The hall and estate buildings, bridges, garden features

Earthwork features - ponds, dams, terraces, field boundaries etc.

Land use - individual elements of designed landscape that cannot be placed in any other category eg. planted copses. Quarries, ploughing features etc. have also been placed in this category.

Other - sites of environmental evidence, findspots etc. The lakes and ponds at Middleton all contain potential environmental evidence within the silts for the history of the watercourses.

This classification will be followed in Appendix One (Detailed Descriptions of Sites)

### **6.2 Summary of the standing built heritage**

#### **6.2.1 Condition good**

Stables/offices (30970) - Grade II Listed Building. Occupied; maintained.

Servants' block (6759) - occupied; maintained.

Graig Farm 30971 - occupied; maintained.

North Lodge (24243) - occupied; maintained.

Folly (660) - maintained.

Brickfield Pond bridge (30973) - in use; maintained.

Footbridge (30989) - rebuilt.

Gwynon bridge (30987) - in use; restored.

Ice house (17533) - restored.

Cascade (30980) - restored.

Ornamental spring (30985) - restored.

Well (31021) - restored.

Fishpond double weir (30982) - restored.

Waterfall (30990) - partly restored.

### 6.2.2 Condition fair

Servants' block walled garden (6759) - in use; maintained.

Orchard and barn/carhouse (30969) - in use; partly restored.

Walled garden (30968) - partly restored.

Pont Felin-gat (16928) - in use; maintained.

Pont Pant-wgan (16929) - in use; maintained.

Boundary wall (30967) - maintained.

Waun-las Pond Bridge (31006) - in use.

Well-head building (31011) - in use.

### 6.2.3 Condition poor

Bryn-cadw Pond Bridge (31005) - disused; unrestored

Lower pond dam (30998) - disused; unrestored

(Nb The walled garden, stable and farm complex, though in varying conditions, form a complete grouping which all survive. There appear to have been no losses since the Tithe survey of 1849 and the arrangements are remarkably little altered from that date. An important group of domestic estate buildings in terms of both coherence and aesthetics.)

## 6.3 Categorisation of sites

6.2.1 This section lists the sites by category. The categories define the appropriate level of archaeological response during subsequent phases of works.

6.2.2 In the list below, only sites which are not allocated either to Category B are listed.

### 6.2.3 *Category A - Sites of national importance*

Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings and sites which meet the criteria for scheduling or listing. it is recommended that category A sites will remain *in situ*.

Stable/offices block 30970

The folly 660

#### 6.2.4 *Category B - Sites of regional or county importance*

Sites which do not quite meet the criteria for scheduling or listing, but which are of particular importance to the region. Preservation *in situ* shall be the preferred option for category B sites, but where damage or destruction is unavoidable appropriate action will be undertaken.

All sites other than those listed

#### 6.2.5 *Category C - Sites of district or local importance*

Sites which are of not sufficient importance to justify preservation if threatened. Category C sites merit adequate recording prior to damage or destruction.

Ridge and furrow 30974 and 31008

#### 6.2.6 *Category D - Minor or damaged sites.*

Sites of minor importance or so badly damaged that too little remains to justify their inclusion within a higher category. For category D sites, rapid recording, either in advance of or during construction, should be sufficient.

Field boundaries 30977

Quarries 30976, 22124, 31016, 30996 and 30997

Bridge abutments 30991, 30993, 30994 and 31004

Building remains 30992

#### 6.2.7 *Category E - Sites needing further investigation*

Sites whose importance cannot be determined without further investigation in order to assign them to categories A - D. These sites will be subject to field evaluation.

Building site 31012

Bridge sites 30983, 31013, 31014, and 31015

?Warren 30995

## 7.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

### 7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 The proposed Botanic Garden offers an opportunity for the intensive survey, recording and restoration of landscape and landscape features not normally afforded to historic parks and gardens. The centrepiece of the park was the Hall itself, the focal point of all vistas. Its loss, far from being a handicap to the proposed Botanic Garden, can be viewed as affording justification to the proposed alterations to the parkland landscape.

7.1.2 The opportunities for future Heritage Management as a part of the Landscape Master Plan may be addressed at this stage. This falls into two areas:-

Restoration, consolidation and maintenance of the archaeological resource

The correct interpretation and presentation of the archaeological resource

Both areas offer exciting opportunities for increasing the attraction of the Botanic Garden as a visitor centre.

7.1.3 Middleton Park forms part of the Cadw/ICOMOS/Countryside Commission for Wales Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales, compiled by Dr E Whittle. The register is advisory only and has no statutory powers and entails no additional planning controls. The main aim is to provide information on historic parks and gardens to aid their protection and conservation and enable owners, planning authorities and statutory bodies to make informed decisions about sites on the register. It is therefore recommended that Cadw's views are sought. The Towy Valley *in toto* has been recommended for inclusion within the register; the recommendation is currently out for consultation.

7.1.4 Detailed planning proposals have not yet been submitted, but they exist in outline as the Landscape Master Plan (see fig. 11.2 and section 2.1, above). There are two main categories of impact:-

The overall impact on the historic parkland landscape as a coherent archaeological unit.

In the absence of detailed plans it will not be consistently possible in this report to target specific *sites* of impact. Where this is not possible, *areas* of impact, often coherent units of archaeological resource, will be indicated.

7.1.5 The overall impact. The landscaped effect of vistas over the sheets of water, the copses and belts of planted trees, which was the overriding *raison d'être* of the park and an important visual resource, has been lost but can to some extent be restored. However, any development of the site must pay due respect to the ethos of the park design, which must be treated as an important component of the archaeological resource as any other. In addition, all archaeological sites and features relate to their particular landscapes and the overall approach applies to both park features and those that pre-date the park.

7.1.6 Individual areas of impact. Sections 7.2 - 7.10 below will follow the same sequence of divisions as elsewhere in this report, and treat them as areas of impact. These are more-or-less coherent units of archaeological resource. All sites of impact are taken from the Landscape Master Plan, reproduced as fig. 11.2 in this report.

7.1.7 Recommended response. All archaeological building recording must conform to the standards outlined in RCHME, 1990, *Recording Historic Buildings: A Descriptive Specification*. All archaeological excavation recording must conform to the standards outlined in English Heritage, 1991, *Management of Archaeological Projects* and Institute of Field Archaeologists, *Standard Guidance for Archaeological Field evaluations*. The work must be performed by a professional archaeological organisation.

7.1.8 Restoration and consolidation of much of the built heritage is anticipated in the Landscape Master Plan. All masonry work must conform to the standards outlined in English Heritage, Practical Building Conservation Vol. 1 *Stone Masonry*, Vol. 2 *Brick, Terracotta and Earth* and Vol. 3 *Mortars, Plasters and Renders*.

7.1.9. It is assumed in this report that information regarding Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Tree Preservation Orders etc will form part of the environmental assessment.

## **7.2 The western area**

7.2.1 This is an area subject to intensive proposals. It is the proposed site of the botanic gardens, restaurant, laboratories and other developments many of which will make use of existing buildings.

### **7.2.2 The Car Park and Drives**

#### *Proposal*

Affected site - 30967.

A car park will be laid out just beyond the park boundary bank (PRN 30967). Two wide driveways will be laid through the boundary bank, and a Garden Centre constructed over it. (However, an area of the boundary here has been lost through quarrying, PRN 22124.)

#### *Recommended response*

The boundary bank will be adequately recorded both before and during the construction of the driveways and Garden Centre. The Garden centre will be located in such a position that the majority of the bank here can be retained.

The proposed gatehouse does not appear to affect any known archaeology.

### **7.2.3 Pwll yr Ardd and the Bioverse building**

#### *Proposal*

Affected sites - 30973, 31003

Pwll yr Ardd will be adapted from the former Brickfield Pond (PRN 30973). The Landscape Master Plan indicates that the lake will be cleaned out and its outline and banks somewhat altered. The Bioverse building will be partly located in a reclaimed area of Brickfield Pond.

#### *Recommended response*

The earthworks, dams, sluices and former bridges of of Brickfield pond will be fully surveyed prior to any development. Surviving features will be recorded and where possible, restored and incorporated into the proposals. Areas of below ground evidence will be subject to preliminary

controlled evaluation excavation. The lake will be cored, and the silts sampled for environmental evidence.

#### 7.2.4 The Rock Garden

##### *Proposal*

Affected site - 30974

The hillside west of the walled garden, which displays ridge-and-furrow (PRN 30974), will be landscaped as a rock garden.

##### *Recommended response*

The earthworks will be fully surveyed and recorded prior to any landscaping and areas may be subject to a watching brief during development.

#### 7.2.5 The Walled Botanic Garden, Welsh Orchard and Picnic Barn

##### *Proposal*

Affected sites - 30968, 30969

The walled garden (PRN 30968) and orchard (30969) will be the site of a range of facilities including a Peach House. Restoration/consolidation of the existing built heritage is anticipated, and possibly new buildings will be erected.

##### *Recommended response*

The area will be fully surveyed prior to any development. All built heritage and earthworks will be fully recorded prior to restoration. Where groundworks are anticipated, those areas will be subject to preliminary controlled evaluation excavation (particularly within the orchard where evidence for glasshouses may exist).

Both the walled garden and orchard wall have been poorly restored in recent years. They will be properly restored, harmonious with the existing built heritage. This will involve raking out the existing pointing, and repointing.

All new building and restoration will be harmonious with the existing built heritage.

#### 7.2.6 Graig Farm Education Centre

##### *Proposal*

Affected site - 30971

Graig Farm (PRN 30971) will be the site of an education centre. Restoration/consolidation of the existing built heritage is anticipated, and possibly new buildings will be erected.

##### *Recommended response*

The area will be fully surveyed prior to any development. All built heritage and earthworks will be fully recorded prior to restoration. Where groundworks are anticipated, those areas will be subject to preliminary controlled trial excavation. All new building and restoration will be harmonious with the existing built heritage.

#### 7.2.7 Laboratories, Conference Centre and Restaurant

## *Proposal*

Affected site - 30970

The stable/offices block (PRN 30970) and an area to the north-west will be the site of laboratories, a conference centre and restaurant. Restoration/consolidation of the existing built heritage is anticipated, and new buildings will be erected.

## *Recommended response*

The area will be fully surveyed prior to any development. All built heritage and earthworks will be fully recorded prior to restoration. Where groundworks are anticipated, those areas will be subject to preliminary controlled evaluation excavation. All new building and restoration will be harmonious with the existing built heritage.

### 7.2.8 The surrounding landscape

## *Proposal*

Affected sites - 30997, driveways, plantations

New pathways will be laid west of the walled garden through former field boundaries (PRN 30997) and park driveways and paths.

Belts of trees will be planted in the western area of the park.

## *Recommended response*

The area will be fully surveyed prior to any development, and certain boundaries may be subject to a watching brief during development.

While it is not suggested that new plantations slavishly follow the original park landscape design, they will respect the ethos of the landscape as planned.

### 7.3 The eastern area

7.3.1 The area occupied by Pond du (PRN 30978), the Lower Pond (PRN 30979) and the Fishpond (PRN 30981), and associated water management works. One of the potential chief attractions of the Botanic Garden.

### 7.3.2 Llyn Mawr

## *Proposal*

Affected sites - 30978, 30983, 30984, 31006

Llyn Mawr will be restored from the former Pond du (PRN 30978). The Landscape Master Plan indicates that the lake will be cleaned out and restored. The dams and sluices will be restored. A 'Chinese Bridge' will be constructed over the eastern channel.

## *Recommended response*

The earthworks, dams, sluices and former bridges of of Pond du will be fully surveyed prior to any development. Surviving features will be recorded and where possible, restored and incorporated into the proposals, particularly the sluice (PRN 31006). Restoration will be harmonious with the existing built heritage. Areas of below ground evidence will be subject to preliminary controlled evaluation excavation. This particularly applies in the area of the proposed 'Chinese Bridge' which may lie on the site of the former footbridge (PRN 30983).

The lake will be cored, and the silts sampled for environmental evidence.

The site of the excavated bath-house (PRN 30984) does not appear to be affected by the proposal.

### 7.3.3 Llyn Gwynon

#### *Proposal*

Affected sites - 30981, 30982, 30986

Llyn Gwynon will be adapted from the former Fishpond (PRN 30981). The Landscape Master Plan indicates that the lake will be cleaned out and restored. The dams and sluices will be restored.

#### *Recommended response*

The earthworks, dams, sluices and former bridges of the Fishpond will be fully surveyed prior to any development. Surviving features will be recorded and where possible, restored and incorporated into the proposals. Areas of below ground evidence will be subject to preliminary controlled evaluation excavation.

The sluice (PRN 30982) has been poorly restored in recent years. It will be properly restored, harmonious with the existing built heritage. This will involve raking out the existing pointing, and repointing, and perhaps reexamination.

The lake will be cored, and the silts sampled for environmental evidence.

The cleaning out will be monitored and the lake bottom examined for evidence of its past use. Survey, recording and some excavation may then be necessary.

### 7.3.4 Pwll y Rhaeadr

#### *Proposal*

Affected sites - 30986, 30987, 30990

Pwll y Rhaeadr will be adapted from the former Reservoir (PRN 30986). The Landscape Master Plan indicates that the pond will be cleaned out and restored, and its outline and banks somewhat altered.

#### *Recommended response*

The former pond will be fully surveyed prior to any development, for any evidence of dams and sluices. If present, such features will be recorded and where possible, restored and incorporated into the proposals. Areas of below ground evidence will be subject to preliminary controlled evaluation excavation.

The area will be cored, and the silts sampled for environmental evidence.

Both the nearby waterfall (PRN 30990) and bridge (PRN 30988) have been poorly restored in recent years. They will be properly restored, harmonious with the existing built heritage. This will involve raking out the existing pointing, and repointing.

### 7.3.5 Llyn Felin-gat

#### *Proposal*

Affected sites - 30979, 30993, 30994, 30998

Llyn Felin-gat will be restored from the former Lower Pond (PRN 30979). The Landscape Master Plan indicates that the lake will be cleaned out and restored. The dams and sluices will be restored. A new eastern bridge will be built on the site of PRN 30993.

#### *Recommended response*



The earthworks, dams, sluices, overflow channel and former bridges of the Lower Pond will be fully surveyed prior to any development. Surviving features will be recorded and where possible, restored and incorporated into the proposals. Areas of below ground evidence will be subject to preliminary controlled evaluation excavation, particularly in the area of the former bridges (PRN 30993 and 30994).

The dam and sluice (PRN 30998) are in a very poor condition. They will be properly restored, harmonious with the existing built heritage.

The lake will be cored, and the silts sampled for environmental evidence.

### 7.3.6 The surrounding landscape

#### *Proposal*

Affected sites - 30967, 30980, 30985, 30988, 30992, 30995, 31021, driveways, plantations  
New pathways will be laid through former field boundaries (PRN 30997) and park driveways and paths.

The surrounding features and woodland landscape will be consolidated and maintained.

#### *Recommended response*

The area will be fully surveyed prior to any development, and certain boundaries may be subject to a watching brief during development. In particular, the exact site of bath house (PRN 31020) is unknown.

The site of bridge 30988 will be subject to preliminary controlled evaluation excavation.

The cascade (PRN 30992) has been poorly restored in recent years. It will be properly restored, harmonious with the existing built heritage. This will involve raking out the existing pointing, and repointing, and perhaps resurvey.

The authenticity of the restoration of the spring (PRN 30985) has been questioned. It shall be properly examined, and restored harmonious with the existing built heritage.

The remains of the small building will be surveyed, and subject to preliminary controlled evaluation excavation if affected by the proposals.

The area will be surveyed for archaeological evidence for the former bridges (PRNs 30986 and 30991).

The necessity for any new breaches through the boundary wall (PRN 30967) will be carefully considered.

While no new tree plantation is anticipated within this area, the threat from *Rhododendron* spread may be addressed.

The well (PRN 30121) and the Warren (PRN 30995) do not appear to be affected by the proposals.

(Pont Felin-gat (PRN 16018) and Pont Pant-wgan (PRN 16929) have been sympathetically maintained.)

## 7.4 Parkland and woodland west of the above

### 7.4.1 North and Middle Park landscapes

#### *Proposal*

Affected sites - 30997, driveways, plantations

New pathways will be laid through former field boundaries (PRN 30997) and park driveways and paths.

Belts of trees will be planted.

#### *Recommended response*

The area will be fully surveyed prior to any development, and certain boundaries may be subject to a watching brief during development.  
While it is not suggested that new plantations slavishly follow the original park landscape design, they will respect the ethos of the landscape as planned.

## **7.5 The remainder of the park west of the public road**

### **7.5.1 The Trial Ground landscape and North Lodge**

#### *Proposal*

Affected sites - 24243, 30997, driveways, plantations  
Glasshouses will be erected within this area. Belts of trees will be planted.

#### *Recommended response*

If North Lodge (PRN 24243) is to be included within the proposals, its use may be addressed. It is an ideal site for an initial interpretation centre.  
The area will be fully surveyed prior to any development, and certain boundaries may be subject to a watching brief during development.  
The necessity for any new breaches through the boundary wall (PRN 30967) will be carefully considered.  
While it is not suggested that new plantations slavishly follow the original park landscape design, they will respect the ethos of the landscape as planned.

## **7.6 The site of the Hall and immediate environs**

7.6.1 This is an area subject to intensive proposals. It is the proposed site of the great glass-house, a 'prestige' building and other developments some of which will make use of existing buildings.

### **7.6.2 The Prestige Building.**

#### *Proposal*

Affected site - 6759  
The site of the former Hall (PRN 6759) will be the site of a 'prestige' building, anticipated to comprise a range of facilities including an auditorium, and art gallery. Restoration/consolidation of the existing built heritage is anticipated.

#### *Recommended response*

The area will be fully surveyed prior to any development. All built heritage and earthworks will be fully recorded prior to restoration.  
The area of proposed groundworks will be subject to preliminary controlled evaluation excavation. The below-ground Hall cellar might be incorporated into the overall design. Materials salvaged from the Hall demolition debris might be utilised.  
This is an area within which evidence for the 18th century water supply will be most concentrated.

### **7.6.3 The Administrative Centre**

#### *Proposal*

Affected sites - walled garden west of Hall 6759

It is proposed that the walled garden east of the Hall servants' block will be the site of the administrative building. The Landscape Master Plan suggests that the oval garden wall itself will be roofed over.

#### *Recommended response*

The area will be fully surveyed prior to any development. All built heritage and earthworks will be fully recorded prior to restoration.

Any proposed groundworks will be subject to preliminary controlled evaluation excavation.

The garden wall will be properly restored, harmonious with the existing built heritage. All new building will be harmonious with the existing built heritage.

### **7.6.4 The Glass House, terrace walks, waterfalls and spinney**

#### *Proposal*

Affected sites - 30999, formal lawn of Hall 6759

It is proposed that a great glass house will be erected over the formal lawn fronting the Hall. It will be associated with a series of terrace walks laid concentrically around the slope down to Bryn-cadw and Waun-las Ponds, over a series of waterfalls flowing from the glass house. A spinney will be planted east of the glass house.

#### *Recommended response*

The area will be fully surveyed prior to any development and all earthworks will be fully recorded. Certain boundaries may be subject to a watching brief during development.

The opportunity to maintain or reflect the arrangement of the formal paths, and centrepiece fountain (PRN 30999), might be taken.

While it is not suggested that new plantations slavishly follow the original park landscape design, they will respect the ethos of the landscape as planned.

### **7.7 Bryn-cadw and Waun-las Ponds**

7.7.1 The area occupied by Bryn-cadw Pond (PRN 31001) and Waun-las Pond (PRN 31002), and associated water management works. One of the potential chief attractions of the Botanic Garden.

#### **7.7.2 Llyn Uchaf**

#### *Proposal*

Affected sites - 31001, 31005

Llyn Uchaf will be restored from the former Bryn-cadw Pond (PRN 31001). The Landscape Master Plan indicates that the lake will be cleaned out and restored. The dams and sluices will be restored.

#### *Recommended response*

The earthworks, dams, sluices and former bridges of Bryn-cadw Pond will be fully surveyed prior to any development. Surviving features will be recorded and where possible, restored and incorporated into the proposals, particularly the sluice (PRN 31005). Restoration will be harmonious with the existing built heritage. Areas of below ground evidence will be subject to preliminary controlled evaluation excavation.

The lake will be cored, and the silts sampled for environmental evidence.

### 7.7.3 Llyn Canol

#### *Proposal*

Affected sites - 31002

Llyn Canol will be restored from the former Waun-las Pond (PRN 31002). The Landscape Master Plan indicates that the lake will be cleaned out and restored. The dams and sluices will be restored.

#### *Recommended response*

The earthworks, dams, sluices and former bridges of Waun-las Pond will be fully surveyed prior to any development. Surviving features will be recorded and where possible, restored and incorporated into the proposals, particularly the sluice (PRN 31006). Restoration will be harmonious with the existing built heritage. Areas of below ground evidence will be subject to preliminary controlled evaluation excavation.

The lake will be cored, and the silts sampled for environmental evidence.

An area of dumping at the north end of the lake is thought to represent demolition debris from the Hall. This will be subject to a small sample excavation.

## 7.8 Southern and western areas of the park

7.8.1 The northern half of the South Park is the proposed site of a large Arboretum containing a variety of microclimates and a building, the Pavilion of the Continents. The southern and eastern parts of this area at present lie outside the Landscape Master Plan but are noted as sites for a possible country hotel, biotec industries and for future expansion.

### 7.8.2 The South Park Arboretum landscape

#### *Proposal*

Affected sites - 30997, driveways, plantations

A Pavilion of the Continents will be constructed.

New pathways will be laid through former field boundaries (PRN 30997) and park driveways and paths.

Belts of trees will be planted.

#### *Recommended response*

The area will be fully surveyed prior to any development, and certain boundaries may be subject to a watching brief during development.

While it is not suggested that new plantations slavishly follow the original park landscape design, they will respect the ethos of the landscape as planned.

## 7.9 The south and east of the park

7.9.1 Most of this area at present lie outside the Landscape Master Plan. A strip along the eastern side of Pond du will be subject to new plantation.

### 7.9.2 The landscape east of Pond du

### *Proposal*

Affected sites - 30997, unexamined depression on OS, driveways, plantations  
New pathways will be laid through former field boundaries (PRN 30997) and park driveways and paths.  
Belts of trees will be planted.

### *Recommended response*

The area will be fully surveyed prior to any development, and certain boundaries may be subject to a watching brief during development.  
While it is not suggested that new plantations slavishly follow the original park landscape design, they will respect the ethos of the landscape as planned.

7.9.3 The results of this assessment should be taken into consideration as and when future expansion into this area is anticipated.

## 8.0 LIST OF SOURCES CONSULTED

### DATABASES

Dyfed Sites and Monuments Record (maintained by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo)

National Monuments Record (maintained by Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales, Crown Buildings, Plas Crug, Aberystwyth)

### MANUSCRIPT MAPS AND PLANS

Carmarthenshire Record Office, Acc. 4195, *Middleton Hall Estate in the Parishes of Llanarthney and Llanddarog*, 1824.

National Library of Wales, Ordnance Survey, Original Survey Drawings Sheet 188, 2" to the mile (1813, revised 1827)

National Library of Wales, 'The Parish of Llanarthney', Tithe Map and Apportionment, 1849.

Richardson, G., 1809, *Plans and Elevations of Middleton Hall in Carmarthenshire*, S P Cockrell, Architect.

### PRINTED MAPS

Ordnance Survey, Index to the Tithe Survey, Sheet 41.

Ordnance Survey, 1:2500, First Edition, Carmarthenshire Sheets XL.7, XL.8, XL.11, XL.12 (1886).

Ordnance Survey, 1:5000, Second Edition, Carmarthenshire Sheets XL NE, XL SE (1907).

### PRINTS, PHOTOGRAPHS etc

Augustus Butler, 1853, *Middleton Hall (front view), the seat of Edward Abadam esq.*

Augustus Butler, 1853, *Middleton Hall (back view), the seat of Edward Abadam esq.*

Augustus Butler, 1853, *Tower to the Memory of Lord Viscount Nelson in Middleton Hall Park, Carmarthenshire.*

Horner, T., 1815, *Illustrations of the Scenery of Middleton Hall, the Seat of Sir William Paxton.*

Photos of Middleton Hall before and after fire, from album in possession of Gwynne Lawrence, London.

A number of untitled, unattributed and unprovenanced views and photos of house and garden features.

### AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS

OS 72/414/222-223 (1972)

OS 72/414/236-237 (1972)

RAF 106G/UK/1400/3274-3277 (1946)

#### SALE CATALOGUES, etc

Catalogue and plan of August, 1824.

Copy of front page of catalogue of March, 1825.

#### MANUSCRIPTS

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#### PUBLISHED WORKS

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Colvin, H. M., forthcoming, *Dictionary of British Architects*.

Crimmin, P. K., 1967, 'Samuel Pepys Cockerell; His Work in West Wales, 1793-1810', *The Carmarthenshire Historian*, vol. I.

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Lewis, S., 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales*.

Lloyd, J. E., *History of Carmarthenshire*, vol. II, 56-59, copy.

Lloyd, T., 1989, *The Lost Houses of Wales*.

Lloyd-Fern, S., n.d., *Middleton Hall Estate Guidebook*.

Lloyd-Fern, S., and Davies, P., 1987, 'Middleton Hall Ice House', *Archaeol. in Wales*, 27.

Peake, D., n.d., *Sezincote Guide*.

RCAHMW, 1987, *The Bath House, Middleton Hall Estate: Interim Report*.

Rees, T., 1815, *The Beauties of England and Wales*, vol. XVIII.

#### PRESS CUTTINGS

Carmarthen Journal, July 1985 - Article on Middleton Hall.

The Cambrian, December 1814 - Copy of Article on James Grier

Times, May 1903 - Copy of Article on Middleton Hall.

Western Mail, February 1931 - Copy of Article on Middleton Hall.

Western Mail, October 1994 - Article on Thomas Horner.

Western Mail, n.d. - Article on Middleton Hall.



## **APPENDIX ONE**

### **DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS OF SITES**

The numbers (DAT PRNs) given to the individual sites are the Primary Record Numbers allocated them in the Dyfed Sites and Monuments Record.

The individual sites and features within the landscape have been allocated to four classes as per 6.1 above:-

Built heritage - The hall and estate buildings, bridges, garden features

Earthwork features - ponds, dams, terraces, field boundaries etc.

Land use - individual elements of designed landscape that cannot be placed in any other category eg. planted copses. Quarries etc. have also been placed in this category.

Other - findspots etc.

Middleton Park was fieldwalked 7 September 1995. Sites not visited will be noted.

#### **1 - The overall area**

3412 (SN 52 18). Middleton Park.

Overall record number for park.

30967 (SN 52 18). Middleton Park Boundary. (Earthwork and structure)

The park boundary in the western area is represented by a large hedgebank and ditch supporting Willow, Hazel and Ash. The northern section from west of the lodge (SN 5222 1876) to the crossroads at SN 5315 1879 is mortared rubble walling. The eastern line has been partly lost, and at the south end is represented by a brook. Elsewhere the boundary is a bank, with and intermittent ditch.

Unclassified roads run most of the way round the outside of the perimeter of the park boundary. Not all of the present banks may belong to the original boundary, particularly where they run alongside roads which may have been widened.

4750 (SN 52 18). Middleton Old Hall. (Documents)

The precursor of the present Hall, occupied from at least the mid 17th century until the new Hall was built 1792-95, and known from documents (Jones, 1987, 132). The exact site is unknown, but is thought to be represented by earthworks (31009).

30997 (SN 52 18). Field System. (Earthwork)

A system of former field boundaries occurs throughout the park. They are not shown on any maps from 1815 to the present and respect neither the park nor present layouts. They appear to represent a regular pattern of small enclosed fields and probably represent 17th-18th century

enclosure of the land. Effaced when the park was laid out, they survive as slight earthworks. Some of these are very pronounced on aerial photographs (RAF 106G/UK/1400/3275, 1946).

## 2 - The western area

### *Built heritage*

#### 30968 (SN 519 181). The Walled Garden. (Structure)

The Walled Garden was established by 1815 (Horner, 1815) to a design by S P Cockerell. The double-walled layout is shown in the Horner drawing of that year much as it is today.

The present inner wall is mostly intact and of brick, up to 2m high in places. The bricks are of a mellow red coarse fabric, some frogged, similar to those found in the demolition debris of the Hall (6759). Entrances in north-west, north-east and south-west walls through semicircular headed doorways.

However, this may not be the inner wall depicted in 1815; footings for a wall lie just inside the north-east wall and may represent an earlier wall. Moreover, the present building against the north wall incorporates masonry from an earlier building (shown in 1815) whose south face was rebuilt in brick using the depressed arches characteristic of post-Cockerell work at Middleton (see below). This building represents the proposed Peach House but is in very poor repair. The roof is a lean-to against the external face of the inner wall.

The remnants of a low wall some 3.3m south-east of the building, parallel to it and occupying its western half, may be a dwarf wall for a glass-house. A building is shown in this location from the first.

A few apple trees and *Prunus* sp. are still present within the garden. There is now no field evidence for the formal paths, and the central feature depicted in 1886 (OS first edition). It is now rough pasture.

The outer wall is of limestone rubble, in poor repair but up to 2.5m high in places. Between 1815 and 1824 (sale plan) it was demolished to the north-east to be continued around the orchard (30969). To the north, between it and the inner wall is a formal path between revetted banks. There are two connecting walls between the inner and outer wall.

The small walled herb-garden at the north-west corner is first depicted in 1886 (OS first edition).

The walled garden was subject to some restoration in the 1980s.

#### 30969 (SN 520 182) The Orchard. (Earthworks and structure)

The Orchard adjoins the walled garden to the north-east and is of a similar date. It was not enclosed until 1824 (Sale plan) but trees are shown in 1815 and 1824. It is marked as an orchard in the Tithe apportionment of 1849. In plan it appears to have altered little since this time. A path is shown running SW-NE through the enclosure and this survives as an earthwork feature, as do the low banks for the two side walls. However, there are now no trees. Glass-houses may have occupied some of the interior.

By 1849 the north-east side had also been walled off; this wall is of limestone and sandstone. A long unrendered sandstone building forms part of the wall. Characteristic of a barn or cart-

= prn 32474.

shed, the building has a slate hip-roofed loft over a ground floor with a number of doorways to the north-east, two of them wide and below the depressed arches characteristic of post-Cockerell work at Middleton. The upper floor openings may be original; however there appear to be no original openings onto the orchard. The building is still in use.

### 30970 (SN 5212 1827). The Stable/Offices Block. (Structure)

#### Listed Building Grade II

A group of buildings of two phases. The offices represent the most substantial survival from Cockerell's buildings. They comprise three wings around a courtyard entered via a gatehouse in the south-east wing facing the Hall. This facade is most imposing. The gatehouse is aisled and has a slate gable roof, below which is a frieze above the semicircular-headed entry. The side wings project slightly either side, with slate hipped roofs. The whole is of two storeys, divided by a string course, while the square-headed windows have Gibbs surrounds - both features are characteristic of Cockerell's work at Middleton. Circular ports light the upper area of the gatehouse aisles. Rendered throughout. The building is labelled 'stables' by Horner (1815).

The present stable block was constructed on the north-west side of the courtyard was added between 1849 (Tithe map) and 1853 (Butler), by Edward Adam during his building campaign of the 1850s (see 6759). An unrendered sandstone building, it has a loft beneath a slate gable roof, originally lit only by circular ports - the square windows are later. The main floor is lit by a variety of square openings with raised surrounds, and entered through a large doorway beneath a depressed arch characteristic of post-Cockerell work at Middleton. The stable contained stalls for 22 horses, two large coach houses and a harness room (Lloyd-Fern, n.d., 19). The elaborate bell cupola shown by Butler (1853) has gone.

There has been little building here since the mid 19th century but the buildings have been subdivided into apartments, still occupied. The back yards behind the apartments represent the only significant addition.

### 17533 (SN 519 181) The Ice House. (Structure)

The Ice House is listed in the sale catalogue of 1824. It still survives and was excavated in 1987 (Lloyd-Fern and Davies, 1987) and was restored under the MSC. It comprises a brick-lined domed chamber, semi-sunken into the terraced hillside, reached along a brick-lined vaulted passage. In this condition, a fairly uncommon survivor of the class.

### 30971 (SN 5203 1828). Graig Farm. (Structure)

Graig Farm is not shown by Horner (1815), not having been established until the second decade of the 19th century. It is mentioned (but not by name) in the sale catalogue of 1824 and shown on the plan.

The farmhouse is the earliest surviving structure. Apparently this began as a barn/carhouse like the orchard building (30969) to which it is very similar. It too is a long two-storey (largely) unrendered sandstone building with four large openings below the depressed arches characteristic of post-Cockerell work at Middleton. These are now variously blocked or converted. The upper floor openings may be original; the slate gable roof and chimneys are not. The building is still occupied.

There was some later building, the farm yard being laid out prior to 1886 (OS first edition), a period from which many of the surviving farmyard buildings date.

30972 (SN 5186 1760). South Lodge. (Documents)

A lodge was formerly situated at the south end of the main north-south drive through the park at its junction with the B4310. Shown in 1815 (Horner), it had gone by 1907 (OS second edition). One of the three former lodges and presumably of a similar design to the contemporary North Lodge (24243), possibly designed by Cockerell.

31003 (SN 5202 1796). Bridge. (Structure)

Masonry bridge in dam between Brickfield Pond (30973) and Bryn-cadw Pond (31001). Probably contemporary with the establishment of the park and lakes and carries the main north-south drive, now tarmacked, over the substantial dam. The present bridge is short (c.7.5m) and fairly narrow with low rubble (0.5m) parapets with concrete coping. The arch and sluice are overgrown and were not examined.

*Earthwork features*

30973 (SN 520 179). Brickfield Pond. (Earthwork and structure)

Brickfield Pond (Horner's 'Upper South Pond') was the first (and highest) of the series of ornamental lakes along the course of the former stream through the site. They were all complete by 1815 and like the rest, Brickfield Pond is shown by Horner. It was created by damming the stream; the dam to the north-east, and that to the south east which carries the former main north-south drive through the park as a bridge (PRN 31003). Further dams for subsidiary streams were present in the south-west and north-west corners (Horner, 1815), but these had gone by 1849 (Tithe map). Brickfield Pond silted rapidly and Horner himself (1815) shows an island. It was dry by 1886 (OS first edition) when the area is shown as woodland.

*Land use*

30974 (SN 519 182). ?Ridge and Furrow. (Earthwork)

Earthworks of uncertain origin but probably representing ridge-and-furrow ploughing from the medieval period. This suggests settlement in the vicinity of Middleton Hall during the middle ages. Very pronounced on aerial photographs (RAF 106G/UK/1400/3274, 1946).

(not visited 7/9/95)

30975 (SN 519 180). Little Orchard. (Documents)

Name marked on the Tithe Map of 1849. Now part of the larger Brick Field (30977), its north-eastern boundary survives as an earthwork.

30976. (SN 5182 1817). Quarry. (Earthwork)

Sandstone quarry apparently disused by 1815; it is not shown by Horner, 1815. Such small scale quarries were generally 18th century workings.

(not visited 7/9/95)

22124 (SN 517 178). Quarry. (Earthwork)

Quarry, in existence by 1849 (Tithe map) and apparently being exploited later in the century.  
(not visited 7/9/95)

30977 (SN 518 179). Brickfield. (Documents)

Large field named Brick Field on the Tithe map (1849). It has been suggested that the clay for the bricks used in the construction of Middleton Hall itself came from this source. Small buildings, of uncertain function, are shown at both ends of Brick Field in 1849 (Tithe map).

#### *Other*

Water supplied by a 'spring in the park' (31011) was 'conveyed by pipes... to the offices, stable and bath' (Sale catalogue, 1824), representative of the hydraulic ingenuity of Paxton and Grier. The pipelines will be particularly concentrated below-ground in this area. Their exact course is unknown, and they constitute an archaeological resource in their own right.

(not observed 7/9/95)

### **3 - The eastern area**

#### *Built heritage*

30983 (SN 5274 1859). Footbridge. (Documents)

A footbridge is shown crossing the long eastern channel of Pond du in all sources from 1815 (Horner) to 1964 (OS). It has now gone, but was probably of timber. Archaeological evidence for the abutments and piers may remain.

(not visited 7/9/95)

30984 (SN 5248 1811). Bath House. (Structure)

On the 1824 sale plan a building is marked as lying in a former copse by the south-west corner of Pond du. The site was excavated in 1987 and thought to be one of the two bath-houses known to have existed at Middleton. An interim report can be found in RCAHMS, 1987. The site is overgrown and nothing is now visible on the ground.

Middleton was renowned for its chalybeate springs (Carlisle, 1811; Lewis, 1833 *et al.*). These baths were apparently designed by James Grier, who worked with Cockerell at Tenby Baths and was probably responsible for the water features (*The Cambrian*, 1814).

30985 (SN 5255 1863). Ornamental Spring. (Structure)

An ornamental masonry spring/grotto, rebuilt in the 1980s under the MSC. Unfortunately no record was made of the structure prior to the rebuild. It now features a concrete gargoyle, *in situ* or re-used?, beneath a 2-centred stone arch reached by a shallow flight of steps down at either end.

30980 (SN 5283 1867). Cascade. (Structure)

The cascade leading from Pond du to the confluence with the Gwynon is an elaborate masonry construction, though dry 7/9/95. It may also be attributed to Grier. It was restored under the MSC in the 1980s, apparently without prior recording.

The main (southern) half is fairly sympathetically restored and now consists of three limestone rubble tiers, each 2m high and floored with large regular slate slabs, between a downhill sloping limestone rubble parapet. The uppermost level, however, is now floored with concrete and crossed by a timber bridge. The lower, northern half is less sympathetic, being a shallow, curving chute with two low steps, floored with concrete in which limestone slabs have been set.

16928 (SN 5269 1886). Pont Felin-gat Bridge. (Structure)

Pont Felin-gat carries the unclassified road around the perimeter of the park. This bridge is clearly shown as an elaborate masonry structure by Horner (1815), and survives more-or-less unaltered as a substantial, and decorative, single-arch masonry structure of squared limestone blocks. Between a pair of clasping piers at either end is a low round arch with a Gibbs surround, characteristic of Cockerell's work at Middleton. The spandrels display moulded sunken medallions. A string-course lies between the arch and the solid parapet. Sympathetically re-pointed in the 1980s.

16929 (SN 5342 1871). Pont Pant-wgan Bridge. (Structure)

Horner's drawing (1815) does not extend this far east and Pont Pant-wgan is first shown in 1824 (Sale plan). It is a substantial masonry structure, well maintained, being stylistically similar to Pont Felin-gat (16928) but on a smaller scale. It lacks the piers, string-course and medallions, and the parapets are low, but the low round arch has the Gibbs surround. Also attributable to Cockerell.

30982 (SN 5313 1868). Fishpond Bridge and Cascade. (Structure)

The Fishpond (30981) was retained by an earthen dam at its west end that still survives. Water exits through the dam via a double-weir of massive and complex construction. Neither pond nor weir are shown by Horner (1815) but may be just off the edge of the drawing; the pond was present by 1824 (Sale plan). Dam and weir have been restored in recent years, but apparently without prior recording.

The sluice is now a wide (4m), limestone-lined channel with a low (0.5m) weir at the east end. Water flows over this and then through a circular opening in a low (1.5m) dam, the drop in level being 1m. It then flows between walls, 2m high, with a northward curve. A socket for a timber is present in the north wall.

There is a substantial cutting in the steep southern bank, at the top of which lies the track. The bridge shown here from 1815 to 1849 (Tithe map) may then have been at a much higher level than the dam, and of timber, the weirs acting partly as supports.

30987 (SN 5305 1868). Bridge. (Structure)

The substantial masonry bridge that still carries a trackway over the Gwynon is shown by Horner (1815) and has all the Cockerell *motifs*. It was restored in the 1980s under the MSC apparently without prior recording.

Two sloping piers lie at either end of a low rounded arch with a Gibbs surround. A string course lies above the arch. There are now no parapets between the piers but their former presence is suggested by drainage channels from the roadway, and parapets continue for some distance north of the piers. Limestone rubble throughout.

30988 (SN 5295 1869). Bridge. (Documents and earthworks)

A bridge here, at a sharp angle to the Gwynon, is shown on the Sale plan of 1824 and is suggested in 1907 (OS second edition). It has now gone but the cuttings for the tracks leading to it from either side are clear. A surviving timber set horizontally into the north bank reflects the angle of the former bridge, from which it doubtless is derived.

30989 (SN 5283 1869). Footbridge. (Structure)

Footbridge constructed in the later 19th century to replace an earlier bridge (30991) slightly further east. Completely rebuilt under the MSC in the 1980s and now comprising a timber walkway on limestone rubble abutments.

30990 (SN 5299 1869). Waterfall. (Structure)

A masonry-faced waterfall supplied by the former Reservoir (30986). Doubtless part of Grier's original work it is marked as 'Cascade' on the Horner drawing (1815). Partly restored in the 1980s but largely original fabric.

It is a curving limestone rubble dam, 5m high and over 2m wide, and vertical, down which the Gwynon falls onto rocks below. There are the remains of a slight parapet on the downstream side.

30991 (SN 5284 1869). Bridge. (Documents and structure)

Bridge first shown on the Tithe map (1849) but replaced in the later 19th century by 30989 built slightly further west. The overgrown northern abutment for this earlier bridge can still be seen as a small open-ended rectangular structure of limestone (?and brick). The bridge was probably of timber.

30992 (SN 5305 1865). Building. (Structure)

The south-east corner of a mixed rubble and mortar building are present on the eastern side of the trackway leading south from bridge (30987) and aligned to the track. The walls now stand to 0.3m, the eastern limb being 3m in length and the southern 1m. Not shown on any of the map sources. Function - unknown; cottage? pre-dates park?

30993 (SN 5277 1872). Bridge. (Documents and structure)

A bridge crossing the Gwynon where it formerly entered the Lower Pond is shown from Horner (1815) to the OS 1:5000 of 1964. All that is visible in the field is an arrangement of cobbles on the eastern bank which may represent the abutment for a timber bridge.

~~30998~~

~~30988~~ (SN 5270 1880). Dam. (Structure)

Massive limestone rubble dam of Lower Pond (30979). In very poor condition, overgrown,

and not restored; originally over 2m high and c.1m wide. Sluice not seen - the Gwynon has cut a new channel through the lower pond area, through the eastern quarter of the dam and has taken away its abutment. It now flows along the north (downstream) face of the dam where it is currently being retained by gabions.

30994 (SN 5268 1882). Bridge. (Documents and structure)

A bridge is shown north of the lower pond on the 1964 OS 1:50000. Two slight masonry abutments remain.

31020 (SN 527 188). Bath House. (Documents)

A building of some description is marked in this location on the 1824 sale plan and the site is labelled 'Bath' on the OS *Index to the Tithe* of c.1830. There is no field evidence for the building.

31021 (SN 5271 1883). Well. (Structure)

A 'holy' well rebuilt under the MSC in the 1980s; possibly the site of a medieval well. Now of limestone rubble.; steps lead down to the spring.

*Earthwork features*

30978 (SN 52 18). Pond du. (Earthwork and structure)

Pond du (Horner's 'Large Lake') was a large, roughly 'L' shaped lake. It was the fourth and largest of the series of ornamental lakes, and in common with all of them is shown by Horner (1815). Forming its south end is the dam that retains the higher Waun-las pond, while the northern limb is retained by a long, massive earthwork dam that still survives.

Horner (1815) depicts the lake in the form that is shown unaltered in later sources, with the exception of showing a subsidiary lake leading off to the east mid-way along the eastern side of Pond du; by 1824 (Sale plan) this is shown as just the southern of the two eastern inlets that remain today. Also shown in the same sources is a more-or-less continuous pathway around the pond. That on the western side is some distance from the former shore and survives as an earthwork feature particularly pronounced in the offshoot that led to the former bath-house 30984. There is no field evidence for the path which followed the eastern shore of the lake.

The lake still contains water at its north end but degradation of the outflows has led to extensive silting at its southern end and colonisation by trees.

Pond du exits into the Lower Pond (30979) via two outfalls. An overflow stream still leading from the north-west corner to the Lower Pond represents the natural stream valley. Although steep-sided, it apparently formed a small pond in its own right (Horner, 1815; Sale plan, 1824; Tithe map, 1849). The sluice is overgrown and not seen 7/9/95. The main outfall was via the extreme north-east end, where a channel retained by a long earthwork dam, in good condition but with no evident masonry, leads to the cascade (30980). The cascade leads to the confluence with the Afon Gwynon, and thence to the Lower Pond.

30981 (SN 532 186). The Fishpond. (Earthwork and structure)

The Fishpond was the first and highest pond along the Afon Gwynon, at least from 1824 (Sale plan): it is not shown by Horner (1815) but may lie just off the edge of the drawing. It is re-



tained by a dam at its west end that still survives and through which water exits via double weir (30982).

The term 'fishpond' carries implications that it may pre-date the park, but evidence for this is unprovenanced. It may post-date 1815, while the Tithe map (1849) terms it 'Upper Warren Pond'. The slight earthworks visible within the pond may, however, be traces of compartments.

The pond has, since at least 1907 (OS second edition), been completely choked with silt.

#### 30986 (SN 5302 1870). The Reservoir. (Earthwork)

Pond supplying the waterfall (30990) and retained by its dam. Shown by Horner (1815) who terms it 'the Reservoir'; called 'Lower Warren Pond' in 1849 (Tithe map). Coeval with the waterfall. Formerly with a regular oval outline, now marsh.

#### 30979 (SN 527 187). The Lower Pond. (Earthwork and structure)

The Lower Pond (Horner's 'Lower Lake') occupies an artificial basin retained by masonry dam (30998) along its northern edge through which the Gwynon formerly exited to flow northwards out of the park beneath Pont Felin-gat (16928). An overflow channel exits west from the pond to the Gwynon, shown in 1907 (OS second edition) and still surviving as a shallow, rather irregular ditch.

The pond is termed 'Gate Mill Pond' (ie. 'Felin-gat') in the Tithe survey of 1849; there is no evidence for a former mill nearby but the name may refer to Paxton's corn mill at Heol-fawr to the north - though this was supplied by a separate millrace.

There is no field evidence for the paths around the lake shown on the Tithe map (1849).

The lake had begun to silt by 1907 (OS second edition) when a small island is shown; it is now completely choked and planted with Ash. The Gwynon has cut downwards through the silt, which now stands 1m higher than the stream bed, and broken through the dam.

### *Land use*

#### 30995 (SN 52 18). The Warren. (Documents)

Field name on Tithe schedule, 1849, corresponding to OS field no. 7370. No physical evidence for a warren has been observed in the field, in an area heavily overgrown, but proper field survey may locate surviving earthworks. Such a feature would relate to medieval or early post-medieval use of the site, but ridge and furrow has been observed in the park (30974), and there is a possible early fishpond nearby (31010).

#### 30996 (SN 5257 1867). Quarry. (Earthwork)

Former quarry, in shale, now overgrown. It does not appear to be marked on any maps and probably pre-dates the park - ?18th century.

## **4 - Parkland and woodland west of the above**

None.

## 5 - The remainder of the park west of the public road

### *Built heritage*

24243 (5247 1878). North Lodge. (Structure)

North Lodge was in existence by 1815 (Horner). It may thus have been designed by Cockerell but displays none of his characteristic *motifs*. Extended to the west in the 1960s (owner, *pers. comm.*), it may have been much altered. It is a single storey building whose two original bays lay at an obtuse angle to each other. The eastern bay has broad chamfered corners. The boundary wall (30967) still leads westwards away from the lodge; the gate area has gone.

All openings are square-headed, but lack Gibbs surrounds and no string course is present. Instead, the windows have rather ornate raised surrounds with a decorative pattern. Rendered throughout, with a slate gable roof and tall brick chimneys.

One of the two survivals from the three former lodges.

## 6 - The site of the Hall and immediate environs

### *Built heritage*

6759 (SN 522 181) Middleton Hall. (Documents and structure)

The former Middleton Hall has been described elsewhere (Crimmin, 1967, 10-15; Jones, 1987, 132-4; Lloyd, 1986, 58 *et al.*, see also Butler views, 1853) but a summary of the building is provided here. The arrangement of the formal lawns and drives, however, will also be described in some detail.

The Hall was built 1792-95. It was a double-pile quadrangular block with two storeys over a half-basement, of stuccoed brick - a technique rather ahead of its time. The half-basement was faced with Bath stone, and moulded detail was in the same material. Somewhat eclectic in style, the house was broadly neo-Palladian following the conventions of design of the period.

The show front was to the north-east, with a grand entrance through an elaborate portico reached by two tiers of steps. The pedimented portico was supported on four Ionic columns. The entry was through a 'Serliana' doorway flanked by square-headed windows. The windows either side were in 'Serliana' openings. The south-west front faced the (later) formal lawns and the second entry here was approached up a flight of steps and through a recessed porch featuring a semicircular-headed doorway flanked by, on either side, an Ionic column and square pilaster. Either side of the entry were two square headed windows, and at each end was a slightly projecting wing with a 'Serliana' window.

The side walls were pierced only by windows, all square-headed. The middle ground floor window in either face lay below a pediment. All first floor openings were square-headed, beneath a level balustrade, while the half-basement openings were alternately semicircular- and square-headed. All windows were plain sashes.

There were seven chambers and a stairwell on the ground floor, and six chambers (and the stairwell) on the second floor, though the latter were subdivided. No contemporary plans exist of the basement layout.

The Hall was destroyed by fire in 1931. It was demolished in the early 1950s, but much of the debris was left on site and used to backfill the half-basement. The basement itself was apparently not disturbed - ground investigation in August 1995 demonstrated that its structural components, in this case a possible pier, are still intact. The complete basement plan may lie below-ground. Bricks, of a coarse, mellow red fabric, some of them frogged, lay within the debris and probably represent original fabric. The site is now heavily overgrown with nettles, etc, and has been subject to some further dumping.

The detached servants' block was not demolished and still lies to the north-west (as 'Trawscoed'), although much altered. It was contemporary with the Hall and of similar design, and also of two storeys but with much lower ceilings. The decoration included the characteristic Cockerell *motifs* - Gibbs surrounds and a string-course. There was no basement, so the roof line was considerably lower. The entrances were to the north-west through the surviving semicircular headed doorway which led towards the stable/offices, while the large semicircular headed entry on the south-east, towards the Hall, has been blocked. The side walls are divided into two bays by an offset (shown as a pilaster buttress by Butler, 1853); all windows were plain sashes beneath square heads save the middle window in each ground floor wall which was semicircular headed in a similar recess, and now blocked. The first floor windows were all square-headed beneath a balustrade; the present windows are later, the walls have been heightened and the balustrade has gone. The slate hipped roof has had an attic added, and the chimneys are later. Rendered throughout. Still occupied, and in good condition.

Between 1849 (Tithe map) and 1858 (Butler) a wing was added to connect the servants' quarters to the Hall, stylistically rather crude. It was a three-bay building with solid porticoes to the north-east and south-west, each with a squat semicircular-headed door flanked by a square-headed window. The three first floor windows in each wall were square-headed beneath a balustrade. The building was demolished along with the Hall and this area is now occupied by the backyards for 'Trawscoed'.

30999 (SN 5222 1812). Fountain. (Documents and earthwork)

The ornamental fountain that occupied the centre of the formal lawn south of the hall has now gone, but the outline of the surrounding circular path survives as an earthwork depression. Butler (1853) shows a representation of Triton kneeling on a shell-motif pedestal. Water was again supplied by the spring in the park and the pipelines will be particularly concentrated below-ground in the vicinity of the fountain.

### *Earthwork features*

(6759 cont'd)

The Hall and servants' block lay, until the mid 19th century, towards the northern end of a large oval scarped area with a long axis trending SW-NE (Horner, 1815; Sale plan, 1824; Tithe map, 1849). This 'enclosure' was initially informally laid out, with a plantation of trees either side of its southern boundary, though some formal planning was already evident to the west of the servants' block (see below, 5.6.5), and by 1849 (Tithe map) a series of meandering informal paths had been laid out south of the Hall.

A drive proceeded from the west door of the servants' block towards the stable/office block from the first (Horner, 1815). This formed the main entrance into the large 'enclosure'. At the stable end of the drive was a large entrance arch, 4m high and of squared sandstone blocks, marked on the Tithe map (1849) and still surviving, though ivied. The drive lay within a marked depression, forming a large oval area with a long axis NW-SE but narrowing at either end, leading to the servants' block. By 1886 (OS first edition) this oval area was surrounded by

the limestone rubble wall, 2.5m high, that is still present today. Butler's view of 1853 telescopes this area and the drive is not clearly shown, but the wall was probably constructed in the building campaign of the 1850s. Within it were planted trees and flowerbeds.

The area south-west of the house site was, between 1849 and 1853 (Augustus Butler, 1853), laid out as a formal lawn, effacing the earlier layout. This is represented on the ground today as an oval area, with a long axis NW-SE, defined by a shallow depression to the north-east where the ground slopes uphill (now occupied by the east-west track through the site), and by a double scarp to the south-west where it slopes downhill. Paths formerly ran within both, connecting with the path around the drive, and with the main access through the site. Shallow linear depressions, and parchmarks, mark the line of the four paths that met at right-angles in the centre of the area, where a circular path surrounds the former fountain (30999). The area is now rough pasture, but gravel path make-up is still visible just below the turf. The laying out of this lawn coincides with the construction of the wing connecting the servants' block with the Hall (see below, 5.6.11).

A path, still represented by a depression, connects the eastern end lawn path with the main east-west access, and initially (Tithe map) continued around the north side of the Hall. Probably between 1849 and 1853, while the rest of this area was being remodelled, the path was replaced by an upstanding boundary, still visible on the ground, within which probably lay a garden. The entire area was dumped upon with debris during the demolition of the Hall and is now overgrown with nettles.

#### *Other*

31000 (SN 522 181). Spearhead, bronze. (Documents)

During construction of the hall a bronze spear-head was unearthed (Burke, 1855, 179). Its whereabouts are unknown. It may indicate bronze age activity in the area.

(not observed 7/9/95)

Middleton Hall was amply supplied with cisterns, WCs, and bathrooms, water being supplied by spring (31011). The pipelines will be particularly concentrated below-ground in the vicinity of the Hall and servants' block and the fountain. Their exact course is unknown, and they constitute an archaeological resource in their own right.

(not observed 7/9/95)

### **7 - Bryn-cadw and Waun-las Ponds**

#### *Built heritage*

31005 (SN 5232 1796). Bridge. (Structure)

Masonry bridge and sluice in dam between Bryn-cadw Pond (31001) and Waun-las Pond (31002). Depicted as a long and elaborate balustraded structure, carrying the main 'Swansea Approach', in 1815 (Horner), distinctly at odds with the surviving arrangement, which may then be later.

The dam consists of a long earthwork bank with sloping sides 3m wide. The bridge itself is only c.1.7m wide between the parapets. It has largely collapsed, but still displays half of its low arch on the Waun-las Pond side. The span is c.2.5m m between the channel walls, and

c.4m from the present stream bed. The upstream side was a solid wall, now largely collapsed, containing the sluice which was formerly a circular opening low down in the wall. Limestone rubble throughout. The current water level in Bryn-cadw pond is 1m higher than in Waun-las.

#### 31006 (SN 5252 1808). Bridge. (Structure)

Masonry bridge in dam between Waun-las Pond (31002) and Pond du (30978). The dam is an earthen bank 5m wide. The bridge, of limestone rubble, is of equal width and displays a string course, Arch and sluice are overgrown and were not observed 7/9/95, but the sluice continues as a masonry-lined channel to the north and south. The structure may be contemporary with the establishment of park and lakes, but the present parapets are of breeze-block and deviate from the line of the original bridge. The water level is the same on both sides.

#### *Earthwork features*

#### 31001 (SN 521 179). Bryn-cadw Pond. (Earthwork)

Bryn-cadw Pond (Horner's 'South Lake') was a long narrow lake running east-west. It was fed at its west end from Brickfield Pond (30973) through a sluice in a substantial dam. Above this sluice is a bridge (31003) over which the main north-south drive through the park runs.

Bryn-cadw pond supplied Waun-las Pond (31002) below. Its banks were not planted with tree belts (Horner, 1815), evidently to maximise the view to and from the Hall. Horner also shows an island in the east end of the lake.

Largely still open in 1907 (OS second edition), Bryn-cadw Pond appears not to have silted as badly as other lakes (Gallagher) but is still colonised by Willow and Alder.

#### 31002 (SN 524 179). Waun-las Pond. (Earthwork)

Waun-las Pond (Horner's 'East Lake') was an irregular outlined lake running north-south, which supplied Pond du (30978) via the masonry sluice and bridge (31005).

The western arm of Waun-las Pond, leading from Bryn-cadw, was substantially tree-lined in 1815 (Horner) but the trees are not shown in 1849 (Tithe map). The southern arm is blind. This part of the lake was already silting by 1849 (Tithe map), when, in addition, the two lake-lets leading off to the south and separated by a dam or bridge, shown by Horner (1815), had gone. This end was more-or-less dry by 1907 (OS, second edition). The entire lake is colonised by Willow and Alder.

The large earthwork built against the south face of the dam to Pond du is apparently a dump of building debris from the Hall, more specifically the eastern portico, deposited here during the 1950s demolition.

### **8 - Southern and western areas of the park**

#### *Built heritage*

#### 31007 (SN 518 173). Farm. (Documents)

The OS original surveyors' drawing (1813) shows a small farm complex and yard, 'Gorsdu' adjacent to the park western boundary (the Horner plan of 1815 does not extend into the far south of this area. Also shown in 1830 (OS Index to the Tithe) the farm had gone by 1849

(Tithe map). It was probably the original Home Farm; Gorsdu is not mentioned under a separate name in the Sale catalogue of 1824, and later in the century the Abadams' agent, Thomas Cooke, was in residence at Derwendeg Farm outside the park curtilage.

The present farm 'Gorswen' on the same site, was not constructed until the later 20th century (OS 1:5000, 1964).

## 9 - The south and east of the park

### *Built heritage*

16934 (SN 5233 1793). Allt-goch Lodge. (Structure)

Allt-goch Lodge is one of the two survivors of the three former lodges, but is later than the others, established, like the drive and entry, between 1830 (Index to the Tithe) and 1849 (Tithe map).

It was a two-storey single-bay building with a gabled roof, with lean-two roofed aisles either side, to which an extension was later added. The facade displays semicircular headed doors into both aisles, with moulded stops. There is a 3-light window on the ground floor, and two 2-light windows in the sub-dormer first floor. All have moulded frames, probably original, and the barge-boards also display decorative moulding. Rubble (stone type?), colour-washed externally, with slated roofs.

The inturns in the boundary bank (30967) at the entrance here may be original - evidence for any gateposts has gone.

31009 (SN 526 182). ?Former mansion. (Earthworks)

A complex of earthworks. A massive earthwork platform is defined by scarps on its north, south and west sides, to be substantially raised on the latter (downslope) side. At the north end of the platform lies a low rectangular earthwork aligned east-west. Further banks to the east form small square enclosures. The complex can be seen to lie beneath a park pathway, and has been interpreted as being the earlier mansion house site (4570; Lloyd-Fern *et. al.*), known only from document sources. No element of the field name in the Tithe survey of 1849 - 'Lower Walks' - suggests the former function. However, the find here of a farthing of 1773 associated with an area of mortar is significant (3416).

31011 (SN 5307 1804). Well. (Structure)

A spring rising above Waun-las Farm.

The well-head lies beneath a low brick barrel-vaulted building partly set into the hillside. Entered through a low door in the limestone north (end) wall. The well is associated with a 20th century brick building to the east, - a pump-house? - and a large 20th century concrete storage tank to the north.

Undoubtedly the 'spring in the park' mentioned in the 1824 Sale catalogue which formerly supplied Middleton Hall and outbuildings (also owner, Waun-las Farm, *pers. comm.*).

31012 (SN 5323 1794). Buildings. (Documents)

A small group of buildings, just west of Allt-goch Lodge, is shown on the Tithe map (1849) but had gone by 1907 (OS second edition). There is now no field evidence for this complex.

31004

~~31003~~ (SN 5259 1810). Bridge. (Earthworks)

[double numbered.]

The earthwork abutments for a small (?timber) bridge over the brook west of Waun-las Farm. No bridge here is shown in any of the map sources.

31013 (SN 5256 1848). Bridge. (Documents)

The Tithe map (1849) shows a bridge over the eastern stream west of Bryn-crwys Farm. This had gone by 1907 (OS second edition). Archaeological evidence for the abutments and piers may remain.

(not visited 7/9/95)

31014 (SN 5279 1812). Bridge. (Documents)

The Tithe map (1849) shows a bridge over the small brook west of Waun-las Farm, crossed by the main east-west drive. This had gone by 1907 (OS second edition). Nothing is visible in the field, but the banks are overgrown with Willow and archaeological evidence for the abutments may remain.

31015 (SN 5288 1816). Bridge. (Documents)

The Tithe map (1849) shows a bridge over the small brook north of Waun-las Farm, crossed by a pathway. This had gone by 1907 (OS second edition). Nothing is visible in the field, but the banks are overgrown with Willow and archaeological evidence for the abutments may remain.

### *Earthwork features*

31010 (SN 530 183). Pond. (Earthworks)

A large rectangular depression, with what may be earthworks for a dam in the brook that flows through it, and an overflow channel, at its west end. The earthworks apparently represent a pond, perhaps a fishpond. They pre-date the park, and are shown in none of the map sources. They may be associated with possible former mansion site (31009). The earthworks now support a hedge.

(not visited 7/9/95)

(An earthwork depression shown on the current OS 1:2500 at SN 5267 1838 was not visited 7/9/95. Shows very clearly on aerial photographs (RAF 106G/UK/1400/3275-3276, 1946). The field name in the Tithe schedule - 'Wood' - is uninformative. Nothing is known of this earthwork)

### *Land use*

31008 (SN 527 179). Ridge-and-Furrow. (Earthwork)

An area of low north-south earthworks which may represent medieval ridge-and-furrow.

(not visited 7/9/95)

31016 (SN 529 179). Quarries. (Earthworks)

An area of several small quarries. The quarry sites are shown as wooded areas on the Tithe map (1849). The quarrying probably pre-dates the laying out of the park.

(not visited 7/9/95)

### *Other*

3416 (SN 528 183). Findspot

A George III farthing was found, associated with mortar, just east of possible former mansion earthworks (31009).

## **10 - Outlying parkland areas**

### *Built heritage*

16923 (SN 5299 1932). Heol-fawr Mill. (Structure)

Middleton Estate corn mill. Still operational in 1907 (OS second edition). Both building and leat still remain. The former has been recently rebuilt.

(not visited 7/9/95)

31017 (SN 531 188). Penallt Woollen Mill. (Documents)

Woollen mill established before 1824 (Sale plan), 'for carding and spinning', with 'an over-shot wheel'

(not visited 7/9/95)

9943

~~660~~ (SN 5416 1917). Paxton's Tower. (Structure)

Listed Building Grade II

At the summit of the wooded scarp at the northern end of the estate, at a height of 175m stands a folly. Known traditionally as 'Paxton's Tower' it was built after 1805 by S P Cockerell to the memory of Nelson. Its purpose as a landscape feature was, however, as both a viewpoint over the vistas of parkland and water at Middleton, and as a monument to be seen from the park.

The folly is a three storey building, triangular in plan with a circular turret at each angle, one of which housed the stair. The ground floor is open, with three full height two-centred arches and into which carriages could be driven. The second floor - 'a lofty and sumptuous banquet-room' - is lit by three lancets beneath a square-headed drip-mould in each wall. The



hexagonal third storey rises from within the second storey parapet, and was a 'prospect house' lit by three full-height lancet windows. The parapets are all machicolated.

The building has stylistic affinities with follies at Blaise Castle, Bristol, Broadway Tower, Gloucs., and Horton Tower, Dorset. Functionally, however, the building concept may be derived from Brislw Tower, Northumberland (c1781), Haldon Belvedere, Devon (1788) and the 18th century Ivy Tower, Neath (Crimmins, 1967, 16-18).

Now owned by the National Trust, the folly is in good condition. Currently undergoing restoration.

(not visited 7/9/95)

## **APPENDIX TWO**

### **The research archive**

The archive, indexed according to the National Monuments Record (NMR) material categories, is held by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Llandeilo, and contains the following:-

- A.** Copy of the final report
- B.** Field notes
- C.** Copies of planning specs.
- G.** Correspondence; list of references
- J.** Final drawings
- L.** General admin. notes
- M.** Project correspondence

There is no material for classes **D, E, F, H, I, K** and **N**.

THE BATH HOUSE. MIDDLETON HALL ESTATE.

INTERIM REPORT. 6th July 1987.

Using both documentary and field research, the location of one of the two bath houses at Middleton Hall was discovered in Spring 19987.

All that remained above ground was the upper surface of a red brick, being the top most portion of the main E-W wall.

The site was located by checking the 1825 sales map, where a black blob representing a rectangular building was noted at the approximate location, ie. on the west bank of Pond Du, at the extreme south end of the lake.

Clearance around the E-W wall revealed fragments of plaster remaining in situ on the walls. The remains suggest a plaster lined oblong pit, presumably the plunge bath, measuring 5ft (1.5m) in width. No other part of the building remains as intact or as prominent as this wall fragment. Excavations to a depth of less than 1ft uncovered numerous large fragments of bricks, and bricks bonded together by a crumbling white mortar. The south end of the building has not yet been located.

The most numerous finds have been pieces of plaster, which originally appear to have been painted grey(? Pink), then repainted in buff or fawn. The reverse of many of these fragments are indented with horizontal lines, suggesting that the upper part of the building was half-timbered with horizontal struts of wood, spaced in places as much as 6mm apart, and 4-5mm thick and 3-4mm wide. The length cannot now be determined.

The next most numerous finds are pieces of blue glazed ceramic tile, which probably lined the floor and walls of the plunge bath below water level (cf. Bath house in 'Life in the English Country House'). A few of the tiles are fairly intact, giving a measurement of 6cm, by about 9.5-10cm.

A few other decorated fragments of plaster have also come to light; lengths of string course projecting from a raised band, one piece appears to be the cornice from the top part of the wall.

Several stone slates have also been recovered along with fragments of timber. One fairly well preserved slate minus the top  $\frac{1}{4}$  measures 8cm x 16cm.

Also found a length of lead frame and small piece of window glass suggesting that the bath house had some windows.

SUMMARY.

The excavated part of the bath house suggests it to be a rectangular brick line pit, at least 3.8m/14ft long by 1.5m/5ft wide.

Probably the lower walls and floor were lined with blue tiles, while the upper part was half-timbered, perhaps presenting a timber face to the exterior, with delicate mouldings on the interior plaster surface. It had a slate roof.

The remains of the ancillary buildings (which undoubtedly

existed) have not yet been excavated, but presumably lay on the north or south side of the bath.