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## **TIR GOFAL MANAGEMENT PLAN: HERITAGE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION (HE2)**

**Prepared for:  
The National Botanic Gardens of Wales**



**Tir Gofal Reference No  
W/12/0588**

**ACA Report No. 2006/61  
Project Record No. 39850**

**Prepared by Alice Pyper**

**Documents enclosed:**

**Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments and ICOMOS. 1998. Register of Landscapes of Outstanding  
Historic Interest In Wales: Middleton Hall; PGW (Dy) 4 (CAM)**

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## **A) INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES**

### **2. Historic landscape character & archaeological and historical content**

#### **HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER**

The National Botanic Gardens lie in the community of Llanarthney, Carmarthenshire.

The location of the National Botanic Gardens has been established on the site of the former mansion house of Middleton Hall and its associated parkland. The parkland and gardens have subsequently been included, at Grade II, within the Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales (Cadw; ICOMOS 2002). The registered parkland extends to about 586 acres and is roughly divided into the area which is now occupied by the National Botanic Gardens of Wales; an area of amenity woodland walks to the north, accessible from Pont Felin-gat; and the farmed land which lies largely to the east of the former lakes. It is the farm and the area of amenity woodland which form the subject of this report.

The main landscaping phase of the environs of Middleton Hall were largely carried out in the late 18th /early 19th centuries, with the extensive formal park having been laid out by 1815. The overall designer of the park is not known and a number of theories have been proposed within various extensive studies and descriptions of the park (Cadw 2002, Gallagher 1997, Ludlow 1995). One of the defining characteristics of the parkland landscape is the use of water features such as great lakes, waterfalls and cascades which were employed to grand effect. Elsewhere the landscape has been group planted with deciduous trees and fine specimen trees scattered throughout. The parkland landscape however, should be viewed as a coherent whole, it was designed as a series of vistas to be viewed from Middleton Hall and to provide a suitable environment for the setting of the great house. Some of these features have subsequently disappeared and lakes have silted up - a process, which in some cases, began very early on.

More recently in the 20th century the parkland has been farmed, with the introduction of new field boundaries which include extensive deer fencing.

#### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC CONTENT**

This landscape also has evidence of activity prior to the development of the great park and there are suggestions of earlier processes at work, including a circular enclosure which may be the remains of a small defended homestead of Iron Age date (PRN 56608). It would appear that this has been later reused to create a landscape feature and was planted with a group of trees. Elsewhere evidence of earlier field boundaries have been identified (PRN 49598) which bear no relation to the parkland layout and which must predate its creation. The earliest documented settlement is an earlier mansion house which was built by Henry Middleton in the mid 17th century, the site of which is still visible as low earthworks on the east side of the valley (PRN 31,009). A possible fishpond may be associated with this former habitation (PRN 31010).

However, the majority of individual historic features listed in the gazetteer below relate to the parkland landscaping; they include trackways and paths allowing access and enjoyment of the designed landscape (PRNs 56606-7, 56610) and predominantly the complex water features including cascades, waterfalls, ornamental lakes and bridges. However, as expressed above, the individual features cannot be viewed or treated separately but must be considered in the context of a designed landscape (PRN 3412).

## **KEY OBJECTIVE**

The key management objective for the historic environment of this holding is the conservation and maintenance of the registered parkland. The complex of water features including the cascades, lakes and waterfalls are undoubtedly of great historical importance which would benefit from a programme of repairs, consolidation and restoration work, in conjunction with a detailed archaeological survey. However, a project such as this would be too vast to be considered within the scope of the Tir Gofal scheme.

However, opportunities may be present, through the Tir Gofal scheme, which allow the repair or restoration of other significant aspects of the park. It is recommended in this report that the restoration of parkland should be considered through tree planting, which would allow the regeneration and maintenance of the parkland character which is provided by scattered specimen trees and clustered groups. Should any of these options be considered, further consultation will be necessary with the Inspector for Historic Parks and Gardens at Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments. In addition the repair of the well head (PRN 31011) has also been identified as a possible subject for restoration.

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## B2) HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT FEATURES

All known historic environment features are marked on Map 1 of this agreement

These are divided into three types:

- i) Archaeological and Historic Features: Archaeological sites, earthwork monuments, ruined structures and individual historic garden features.
- ii) Traditional Buildings: Structures built before 1918 using traditional materials and methods of construction.
- iii) Historic Parks and Gardens: Discrete areas of land laid out in an ornamental way for the pleasure of the owner.

All historic environment features have been allocated categories of importance:

Site Status A: Sites and Monuments of National Importance.

Site Status B: Sites/Features of Regional Importance.

Site Status C: Sites/Features of Local Importance.

Site Status D: Minor and damaged sites.

Site Status U: Sites requiring further investigation.

### General requirements

Historic earthworks, stone structures, archaeological sites, traditional buildings, parks and gardens must all be retained and protected against damage. The management of these features must comply with the following general requirements.

- Do not remove any material from archaeological sites or historic features, or deposit spoil, farm waste or rubbish.
- Ensure contractors and all other workers on the farm are aware of the historic environment features and comply with the requirements of this agreement. They should take appropriate measures to avoid accidental damage.
- Do not carry out any excavation, erect any new structure or plant any trees without the prior approval of the Project Officer.
- Do not site new fencing or vehicular tracks on archaeological or historic sites without the prior approval of the Project Officer.
- Ensure that the use of metal detectors and the reporting of discoveries complies with the Treasure Act 1996 and associated codes of practice. The Portable Antiquities Scheme website (<http://www.finds.org.uk>) provides valuable guidance and information.
- Please report all discoveries of archaeological interest to Cambria Archaeology (01558 823131). This enables them to maintain an up-to-date record of archaeological discoveries.

**"Scheduled" Ancient Monuments (SAMs) have statutory protection and consent from Cadw may be required for works to these monuments. Consult the Project Officer for advice.**

**"Listed Buildings" also have statutory protection and permission from the Local**

**Planning Authority may be required for some works. This also applies to buildings within the curtilage of a listed building. Consult the Project Officer for Advice**

In addition to these general requirements you must comply with the specific sets of prescriptions set out below:

## i) ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC FEATURES:

Archaeological sites, earthwork monuments, ruined structures and individual historic garden features.

### Location and description:

A search of the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) held by the Cambria Archaeology has identified the following sites and monuments which are indicated on Map 1.

Other sites may be known to the landowner and these should be identified to the Project Officer who will pass the information to Cambria Archaeology.

|   | Name (& PRN)                            | Period/Site type                     | NGR               | Status   | SAM/listing | Management required |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------|----------|-------------|---------------------|
| 1 | <b>MIDDLETON HALL</b><br><u>(31011)</u> | <b>Medieval?; Post Medieval well</b> | <b>SN53071804</b> | <b>B</b> |             | <b>Specific</b>     |

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. 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.). The end wall is stone faced with brick arches over the doorway and the barrel vaulted top. Ash trees have seeded in the top of vault and brick have been pushed out from the face. Fortunately this damage has been arrested recently by the trees being felled and the roots left in place. *Visited 22/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)*



*The barrel vaulted well – head, fortunately recent work by the farmer has arrested the damage being caused by tree roots. It would be beneficial to continue this work and carry out some consolidation work of the structure.*

|  |   |                                      |                   |          |  |                |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------|----------|--|----------------|
|  | <b>MIDDLETON HALL</b><br><u>(30978)</u> | <b>Post Medieval ornamental lake</b> | <b>SN52511858</b> | <b>B</b> |  | <b>Generic</b> |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------|----------|--|----------------|

Roughly 'L' shaped, fourth and largest of the series. Dam at southern end retaining higher Waun-las pond, northern end retained by dam, earthwork has survived. Horner (1815) depicts existing shape of lake with a subsidiary lake midway along eastern section, however on the Sale Plan (1824) it is only marked as an inlet. Path on eastern side of lake no longer evident, western section survives as earthwork set back from original lake edge, pronounced leading towards bath house (30984). Water remains in northern section, silted and colonised by trees. Pond du exits into the Lower Pond (30979) via two outfalls. One represents the natural stream valley (Horner, 1815; Sale Plan, 1824; Tithe map, 1849) the main outfall was via the extreme north east end and the channel was retained by a long earthwork dam leading to cascade (30980). NDL 1995



Due to breaches in the dam walls at the north end the lake water levels are currently low and quite choked with vegetation. *Visited 22/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)*



*A view looking south across the ornamental lake, which shows the accumulation of vegetation*

**MIDDLETON HALL**  
**(30979)**

**Post Medieval**  
**ornamental lake**

**SN52701875 B**

**Generic**

The Lower Pond (Horners 'Lower Lake' 1815) occupies an artificial basin retained by masonry dam (30998), the Gwynnon formerly flowed out of the park beneath Pont Felin Gat (16928). An overflow channel exits west from the pond to the Gwynnon shown in 1907 (Ordnance Survey second edition) and still surviving as a shallow, rather irregular ditch. The pond is termed 'Gate Mill Pond' in the Tithe survey of 1849; there is no evidence of a former mill, but name may refer to Paxtons corn mill at Hoel-Fawr though this was supplied by a separate millrace. There is no evidence for the paths around the lake shown on the Tithe map (1849). The lake had begun to silt by 1907 (Ordnance Survey second edition), now completely choked and planted with Ash. The Gwynnon has cut through the silt which now stands 1m higher than the stream bed, and broken through the dam. NDL 1995 The condition of the lake in 2006 remains much as described in 1995. *Visited 22/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)*

**MIDDLETON HALL**  
**(30980)**

**Post Medieval**  
**cascade**

**SN52831868 A**

**Generic**

The cascade leading from Pond Du to the confluence with the Gwynnon was dry when visited, 7/9/95. It may also be attributed to Grier. It was restored under MSC without prior recording. Southern half sympathetically restored to three limestone rubble tiers, each 2m high and floored with large regular slate slabs, between a downhill sloping limestone rubble parapet. The uppermost level now floored with concrete and crossed by a timber bridge. The lower northern half is a shallow curving chute with two low steps, floored with concrete in which limestone slabs have been set. NDL 1995 Condition in 2006 was much as described as that in 1995. *Visited 22/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)*



*The restored dry cascade*

**MIDDLETON HALL**      **Post Medieval**      **SN53061869**      **B**      **Generic**  
(30981)      **ornamental lake**

The Fishpond was the first and highest pond along the Afon Gwynon at least from 1824 (Sale Plan), not shown by Horner but may be at the edge of the drawing. It is retained by a dam at its west end that still survives and through which water exits via double weir (30982). 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 (Ordnance Survey second edition), been completely choked with silts. The condition in 2006 is much as described above in 1995. *Visited 22/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)*

**MIDDLETON HALL**      **Post Medieval**      **SN53131866**      **A**      **Generic**  
(30982)      **cascade**

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. A possible bridge is marked on the Sale Plan (1824) and the Tithe map (1849).NDL 1995 The cascade underwent restoration some years ago unfortunately repointed in cement. However, some cracking is now visible within the wall below the cascade and the retaining walls to either side are undermined. *Visited 22/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)*

**MIDDLETON HALL**      **Post Medieval**      **SN52711858**      **C**      **Generic**  
(30983)      **footbridge**

A footbridge is shown crossing the long eastern channel of Pond du in all sources from 1815 (Horner) to 1964(Ordnance Survey). It has now gone, but was probably of timber.NDL 1995. The site of this footbridge was not identified on the farm visit in 2006. *Visited 22/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)*

**MIDDLETON HALL**      **Post Medieval**      **SN52541862**      **B**      **Generic**  
(30985)      **spring**

An ornamental masonry spring/grotto, rebuilt in 1980s under the MSC. Unfortunately there was no record made of the structure prior to the rebuild. It now features a concrete gargoyle, *insitu* or re-used?, beneath a 2-centered stone arch reached by a shallow flight of steps down at either end. NDL 1995 The condition of this grotto in 2006 is much as described above in 1995. *Visited 22/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)*



|  |  |                     |                |
|--|--|---------------------|----------------|
| <b>MIDDLETON HALL</b><br><b><u>(30986)</u></b> | <b>Post Medieval</b><br><b>reservoir</b> | <b>SN53011868 B</b> | <b>Generic</b> |
|--|--|---------------------|----------------|

Pond supplying the waterfall (30990) and retained by its dam. Shown by Horner (1815) who terms it as the 'reservoir', called the 'Lower Warren Pond' in 1849 (Tithe map). Coeval with the waterfall. Formerly with a regular oval outline, now marsh. NDL 1995 When visited in 2006 the pond was choked with silt and populated with trees and scrub. *Visited 22/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)*



*The waterfall and pond beyond which has become engulfed in vegetation.*

|  |                                       |                     |                |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| <b>MIDDLETON HALL</b><br><b><u>(30987)</u></b> | <b>Post Medieval</b><br><b>bridge</b> | <b>SN53101869 A</b> | <b>Generic</b> |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|

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. There are 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. NDL 1995. When visited in 2006 the restored bridge was in a stable condition. *Visited 22/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)*

|  |                                       |                     |                |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| <b>MIDDLETON HALL</b><br><b><u>(30988)</u></b> | <b>Post Medieval</b><br><b>bridge</b> | <b>SN52961870 C</b> | <b>Generic</b> |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|

A bridge illustrated in the Sale plan of 1824 at a sharp angle to the Gwynon and is suggested in 1907 (2nd 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. 1995 Not identified on the farm visit in 2006.

|  |   |                     |                |
|--|---|---------------------|----------------|
| <b>MIDDLETON HALL</b><br><b><u>(30989)</u></b> | <b>Post Medieval</b><br><b>footbridge</b> | <b>SN52841870 C</b> | <b>Generic</b> |
|--|---|---------------------|----------------|

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. NDL 1995 *Visited 22/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)*

|  |   |                     |                |
|--|---|---------------------|----------------|
| <b>MIDDLETON HALL</b><br><b><u>(30990)</u></b> | <b>Post Medieval</b><br><b>water garden</b> | <b>SN52951872 A</b> | <b>Generic</b> |
|--|---|---------------------|----------------|

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. NDL 1995. The waterfall appears in 2006 much as it has been described in 1995. The pond behind it is silted up and brambles and self seeded trees have colonised the south side of it. *Visited 22/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)*



*The early 19<sup>th</sup> century waterfall – subsequently restored in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century*

**MIDDLETON HALL**      **Post Medieval**      **SN52861870**      **C**      **Generic**  
(30991)      **bridge**

Bridge first shown on the Tithe map (1849) but replaced in the 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. The condition of the bridge abutment in 2006 is much as described in 1995. *Visited 22/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)*

**MIDDLETON HALL**      **Post Medieval**      **SN53061867**      **B**      **Generic**  
(30992)      **cottage?**

The south-east corner of a mixed rubble and mortar building are present on the eastern side of the trackway leading 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? NDL 1995 The walls of this building are still in situ and are 0.35 m thick. A mature beech tree now grows within the angle of the building. *Visited 22/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)*

**MIDDLETON HALL**      **Post Medieval**      **SN52761872**      **C**      **Generic**  
(30993)      **bridge**

A bridge crossing the Gwynon where it formerly entered the Lower Pond is shown from Horner (1815) to the Ordnance Survey 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. NDL 1995 When visited in 2006 the bridge abutments were identified as stone built piers on either side of the river standing to a height of 0.6m and c 2 m wide. *Visited 22/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)*

**MIDDLETON HALL**      **Post Medieval**      **SN52671884**      **C**      **Generic**  
(30994)      **bridge**

A bridge is shown north of the Lower Pond on the 1964 Ordnance Survey 1:50000. Two slight masonry abutments remain. NDL 1995 The bridge abutments were not identified on the farm visit in 2006.

**MIDDLETON HALL**      **Medieval; Post**      **SN52701865**      **U**      **Generic**  
(30995)      **Medieval rabbit**  
                          **warren**

Field name on Tithe schedule, 1849, corresponding to Ordnance Survey field no.7370. No physical evidence

for warren has been observed in the field, in an area heavily overgrown, but proper field survey may locate surviving earthworks. Ridge and furrow has been observed within the park (30974), and there is a possible fishpond nearby (31010). NDL 1995 No further light was shed on the whereabouts of a warren when this area was visited in 2006, however this location is still very overgrown. *Visited 22/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)*

**MIDDLETON HALL**      **Post Medieval**      **SN52571867**      **C**      **Generic**  
(30996)      **quarry**

Former quarry, in shale, now overgrown. It does not appear to be marked on any maps and probably pre-dates the park-?18th century. Not visited on farm survey in 2006.

**MIDDLETON HALL**      **Post Medieval field**      **SN52901790**      **U**      **Generic**  
(30997)      **system**

Field boundaries no map evidence nor correspond to later park layout. Represent regular pattern of small enclosed fields, believed to be of 17th-18th century. Effaced when park laid out, survive as slight earthworks some pronounced on AP's. This area was not visited on the farm survey in 2006.

**MIDDLETON HALL**      **Post Medieval dam**      **SN52701880**      **A**      **Generic**  
(30998)

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. When visited in 2006 the dam was in a similar condition to that described above in 1995. *Visited 22/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)*

**MIDDLETON HALL**      **Post Medieval**      **SN52591810**      **C**      **Generic**  
(31004)      **bridge**

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. The site of this bridge was not established with certainty, but an area of scattered stone on either side of the stream may be the remains of an abutment. *Visited 22/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)*

**MIDDLETON HALL**      **Medieval? ridge**      **SN527179**      **U**      **Generic**  
(31008)      **and furrow**

An area of low north-south earthworks which may represent medieval ridge-and-furrow. Not visited 7/9/95. NDL 1995 This site is recorded in an area of woodland which was not visited during the farm survey in 2006.

**MIDDLETON HALL**      **Medieval?; Post**      **SN52601823**      **A**      **Generic**  
(31009)      **Medieval mansion**

Complex of earthworks. Massive earthwork platform, defined by scarps substantially raised on the downslope side. The complex can be seen to lie beneath a park pathway, and has been interpreted as being the earlier mansion site (4570; Lloyd-Fern et. al), known only from documentary sources. The field name in the Tithe survey does not suggest any former function 'Lower Walks'. However a Farthing of 1773 was found here associated with an area of mortar. NDL 1995 This extensive area of earthworks occupies the area to the north of Waun-las and between the stream and the field boundary. The earthworks are up to 0.5m in profile in an area of pasture. The 1st edition shows that this area was planted with specimen trees however none remain. This archaeologically highly sensitive area is in stable condition at present and will remain so as long as no development or ground intrusive activities of any kind take place. *Visited 22/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)*



*The site of the former mansion can be identified by low earthworks shown in the photograph above, looking west.*

|  |  |                 |          |                |
|--|--|-----------------|----------|----------------|
| <b>MIDDLETON HALL</b><br><b><u>(31010)</u></b> | <b>Post Medieval</b><br><b>fishpond?</b> | <b>SN530183</b> | <b>C</b> | <b>Generic</b> |
|--|--|-----------------|----------|----------------|

Large rectangular depression, possible earthworks for a dam in the brook and overflow channel at its west end. They pre-date the park and are shown in none of the map sources. Possibly associated with the previous mansion site (31009). The earthworks now support a hedge. Visited in 2006. The site of the alleged fishpond is wooded. *Visited 22/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)*

|  |   |                   |          |                |
|--|---|-------------------|----------|----------------|
| <b>MIDDLETON HALL</b><br><b><u>(31012)</u></b> | <b>Post Medieval</b><br><b>building</b> | <b>SN53231794</b> | <b>U</b> | <b>Generic</b> |
|--|---|-------------------|----------|----------------|

A small group of buildings, just west of Allt-goch Lodge, is shown on the Tithe map (1849) but had gone by 1907 (Ordnance Survey second edition). There is now no field evidence for this complex. The site of these buildings is now on the boundary of woodland and pasture. There is no visible trace of these buildings within the field itself. *Visited 22/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)*

|  |                                       |                   |          |                |
|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------|----------|----------------|
| <b>MIDDLETON HALL</b><br><b><u>(31013)</u></b> | <b>Post Medieval</b><br><b>bridge</b> | <b>SN52561748</b> | <b>C</b> | <b>Generic</b> |
|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------|----------|----------------|

The Tithe map shows a bridge over the eastern stream, west of Bryn-crwys Farm. This had gone by 1907 (Ordnance Survey second edition). Archaeological evidence for the abutments and piers may remain. Site not visited 7/9/95 NDL 1995. When the site of this bridge was visited in 2006 there were no upstanding remains, but a concentration of rubble in the eroded stream bank, might suggest the position of one of the former abutments. *Visited 22/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)*

|  |                                       |                   |          |                |
|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------|----------|----------------|
| <b>MIDDLETON HALL</b><br><b><u>(31014)</u></b> | <b>Post Medieval</b><br><b>bridge</b> | <b>SN52791812</b> | <b>C</b> | <b>Generic</b> |
|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------|----------|----------------|

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 (Ordnance Survey second edition). Nothing is visible in the field, but the banks are overgrown with Willow and archaeological evidence for the abutments may remain. NDL 1995 The site of this bridge was not identified on the 2006 farm visit and the streamside was largely colonised with bramble. *Visited 22/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)*

|  |   |                   |          |                |
|--|---|-------------------|----------|----------------|
| <b>MIDDLETON HALL</b><br><b><u>(31015)</u></b> | <b>Post Medieval</b><br><b>footbridge</b> | <b>SN52881816</b> | <b>C</b> | <b>Generic</b> |
|--|---|-------------------|----------|----------------|

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 (Ordnance Survey Second Edition). Nothing is visible in the field, but the banks are overgrown with Willow and archaeological evidence for the abutments may remain. The site of this footbridge was not identified on the 2006 farm visit and the streamside was largely colonised with bramble.



Visited 22/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)

**MIDDLETON HALL**      **Medieval? quarry**      **SN529179**      **C**      **Generic**  
(31016)

An area of small quarries. The quarry sites are shown as wooded areas on the Tithe map (1849). The quarrying probably pre-dates the laying of the park. NDL 1995 The quarries are unfenced and populated with trees as has been the case since the tithe survey was recorded. Visited 22/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)

**MIDDLETON HALL**      **Post Medieval bath**      **SN52711884**      **U**      **Generic**  
(31020)      **house**

A building of some description is marked at this location on the 1824 Sale plan and the site is labelled as 'Bath' on the Ordnance Survey Index to the Tithe of c.1830. There is no field evidence for the building. NDL 1995. Site not visited on farm survey in 2006.

**MIDDLETON HALL**      **Medieval?; Post**      **SN52701882**      **A**      **Generic**  
(31021)      **Medieval holy well**

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. NDL 1995. The well remains in a stable condition although a little overgrown with brambles at the time of the visit in 2006. Visited 22/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)

(56603)      **Post Medieval;**      **SN5266218378**      **U**      **Generic**  
      **Modern**  
      **earthwork**

A circular depression, marked on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1906 but not on the 1st edition of 1888 (Carm sheet 40.11). The feature is approximately 18-20 m in diameter and c 2m deep. Trees stumps are found within the feature, but mostly not *in situ* and probably result from field clearance in the past. Scrub and thorn trees have now populated the banks. The bottom of the feature is flat but rough and poached. The banks are steep with a sharp break of slope and more gentle at the lower break of slope. An 'entrance' is located in the SW quarter of the feature with a linear depression leading from it to the pond below, this follows a line of sight to the location of Middleton hall. It is thought locally to be a horse training or lunging arena. Visited 22/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)



*The circular depression with a linear entrance in the southwest.*

(56604)      **Modern? quarry?**      **SN5262718302**      **C**      **Generic**  
      **extraction pit?**

Irregular depression in the hillslope, up to 2 m deep. Populated by young thorn trees and a very large lime tree lies to the northeast. Some upcast on N edge. Not recorded on 1st or 2nd edition Ordnance Survey. Visited 22/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)



(56606)

**Unknown  
trackway?**

**SN5273817662 C**

**Generic**

A linear depression appears to run in a north-northwest to south-southwest direction approximately 0.5m deep which may be a former trackway. However, there is no track recorded in this location by the tithe survey or the 1st and 2nd editions of the Ordnance Survey. *Visited 22/03/2009 (Alice Pyper)*

(56607)

**Unknown  
trackway?**

**SN5281217651 C**

**Generic**

A linear depression running southwest to northeast, which may be a former trackway although no tracks are shown in this location on the tithe and 1st & 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps. Up to 1m depth in places and c 4 m wide. Self seeded trees including thorn populate this feature. *Visited 22/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)*



*A linear depression of unknown origin but possibly a trackway.*

(56608)

**Unknown  
defended  
enclosure?**

**SN5296217730 A**

**Generic**

Circular or slightly elliptical enclosure c. 40m in diameter consisting of a low bank and outer ditch with some upcast on the lower slopes. Ditch c 0.2 m deep and banks 0.2 m high. Situated on a gentle south facing slope. Identified by the RCAHMW in aerial reconnaissance. Shown as a clump of planted trees on the tithe map which would have been visible from Middleton hall. A couple of relic tree stumps survive within the earthwork and interior is generally quite rough, which in common with the rest of the field, is semi-improved. It is possible that this feature has its origins in the Prehistoric period when farmsteads and small community groups were centred on a defended enclosure. It is possible that the existing feature was then reused to plant trees in a clump (a characteristic of the Middleton parkland landscape) and thus provide a landscape feature. *Visited 22/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)*



*The ranging pole is positioned in the outer ditch of what may be a prehistoric defended enclosure.*

(56609)                      **Unknown field      SN5294917795   U                      Generic**  
                                 **system?; drainage**  
                                 **system?**

System of linear earthworks mostly running down the slope, may be relic field boundaries or may be drainage channels. Rushes are growing within the depressions. *Visited 22/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)*

(56610)                      **Unknown                      SN5340418247   C                      Generic**  
                                 **trackway**

A linear earthwork running west-southwest by east-northeast and skirts around the contour before ascending towards the road. Terraced into the slope. It is likely that this is the remains of a path shown on the tithe survey. *Visited 22/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)*



*A former trackway shown on the tithe survey survives only as a low earthwork terrace in the hillslope.*

(56611)                      **Post Medieval                      SN5250918587   C                      Generic**  
                                 **culvert**

A stone vaulted culvert is exposed at the base of the dam where it has been breached at the northwest end of the ornamental lake PRN 30978. *Visited 22/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)*

## **Historic Environment Objectives:**

The purpose of the management is to:

- Ensure the survival of visible features.
- Ensure archaeological deposits beneath the ground surface are not disturbed.
- Prevent progressive degradation by adopting sustainable farming practices.

In order to achieve this you will need to observe the following:

### **Generic Management Prescriptions** - see also General Requirements - Section B2

1. Maintain the agreed stocking level to encourage a sound grass sward or low growing vegetation, without poaching or causing erosion.
2. Do not install new drains or underground services.
3. Locate feeding and watering stations away from archaeological and historic features.
4. Avoid using heavy machinery on sites or close to archaeological and historic features, especially in wet weather.
5. Do not plough archaeological or historic features, or cultivate so close as to cut into the remains. A minimum buffer zone of 2m is advised. In the case of monuments already under cultivation and where the agreement does not exclude the monument from cultivation, ensure that the depth of cultivation is not increased.
6. Remove any dead and unstable trees from the vicinity of archaeological and historic features with care, leaving roots to rot in situ. Ensure that machinery does not cause further disturbance. Agree with the Project Officer a suitable method for repairing any damage caused, for example, by wind-throw.
7. Control scrub on archaeological and historic features by cutting. Roots must be left in the ground and must not be pulled or dug out. Treatment with an approved herbicide may, exceptionally, be permitted in agreement with the Project Officer. (Capital Works Option).
8. Do not burn materials on site.
9. Ensure that rabbits are kept under control, but not by excavating within an archaeological or historic feature.
10. Consult your Project Officer a suitable method for repairing any damage caused by burrowing animals. (Capital Works Option)

### **Specific Management Requirements for individual archaeological and historic features.**

The following individual sites and monuments are subject to specific management prescriptions which are in addition to and (in the case of conflict) take precedence over the generic requirements:

**Site 1 on MAP 1**

**MIDDLETON HALL (31011)**

**SN53071804**

*In addition to the Generic Management Prescriptions listed above the following management is recommended.*


Appropriate action has recently been taken by the farmer to arrest the damaging root action by the ash trees. However, some consolidation should now take place to stabilise and repair the structure. Advice should be sought from a building conservation professional.

## ii) TRADITIONAL BUILDINGS:

### Location and Description:

Traditional buildings are those built before c.1918 using traditional materials and methods of construction, to serve the needs of customary farming practices. Typically, they will use locally available materials and skills, though mass-produced materials (bricks, corrugated iron) may sometimes be locally characteristic.

The following traditional buildings have been identified:

| Name (& PRN)   | Period/Site type        | NGR                 | Status   | SAM/listing | Management required |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------|----------|-------------|---------------------|
| <b>WAUN LAS (<a href="#">56605</a>)</b>  | <b>Modern farmstead</b> | <b>SN5272318092</b> | <b>B</b> |             | <b>Generic</b>      |
| <p>Waun Las is a largely brick built farmstead, of 1930-40s origin. Rendered farmhouse. Single storey cow shed with a two storey stable/granary at one end and an adjoining outbuilding at the other. Roofed in slate except for corrugated box sheeting roof on low building. Corrugated iron hay barn. Mirrored layout to the farmstead at Pant Wgan (PRN 56612). Farmstead currently uninhabited. <i>Visited 22/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)</i></p> |                         |                     |          |             |                     |
|    |                         |                     |          |             |                     |
| <p><i>The 20<sup>th</sup> century farmstead of Waun-las is currently uninhabited.</i></p>  |                         |                     |          |             |                     |
| <b>PANT WGAN (<a href="#">56612</a>)</b>   | <b>Modern farmstead</b> | <b>SN5343818668</b> | <b>B</b> |             | <b>Generic</b>      |
| <p>Pant Wgan is a brick built farmstead, of 1930-40s origin and of the same plan (though in reverse) as Waun Las (PRN 56605). <i>Visited 22/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)</i></p>  |                         |                     |          |             |                     |

### Historic Environment Objectives:

The purpose of the management is to:

- Promote the survival of traditional buildings on the farm
- Prevent progressive decay of traditional buildings through neglect.
- Promote the sympathetic use of traditional buildings within sustainable farming practice.

In order to achieve this you will need to observe the following:

### **Generic Management Prescriptions - see also General Requirements section B2**

1. Those traditional buildings in a weatherproof and a structurally sound condition must be maintained in a weatherproof condition.
2. Those traditional buildings or parts of traditional buildings that have not been previously modified must be maintained using traditional materials and methods of construction.
3. Characteristics and features which reflect history and function of the traditional buildings identified in this agreement must not be removed.
4. Wherever practicable, repair original features rather than replace them. (Capital Works Option)
5. Repairs should be unobtrusive and make use of appropriate traditional materials and methods of construction. (Capital Works Option)
6. When repair is not possible, replacement features must be modelled on the originals, using the same materials and methods of construction. (Capital Works Option)
7. Ensure the retention and sympathetic repair of historic coverings and finishes such as lime-wash, lime-render or weather-boarding. The appropriate traditional materials must be used. (Capital Works Option)
8. Do not disturb protected species (such as bats or barn owls) that use the building. If these species are present you will need a licence from CCW to carry out any work on the building.

### **iii) HISTORIC PARKS AND GARDENS:**

#### **Location and Description:**

A historic park or garden is a discrete area of land laid out in an ornamental way, originally for the pleasure and use of its owner. A sub-category of park is the deer park, laid out for management and containment of deer.

Historic parks of national importance are included on the Cadw/ICOMOS Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales. There are also many non-registered parks of lesser quality but which, nevertheless, form an important component in the historic environment and require appropriate management.

The following parks and gardens have been identified:

| <b>Name (&amp; PRN)</b> | <b>Period/Site type</b> | <b>NGR</b> | <b>Status</b> | <b>SAM/listing</b> | <b>Management required</b> |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| <hr/>                   |                         |            |               |                    |                            |



|   |  |                                     |                              |                 |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| 2 | <b>MIDDLETON HALL</b><br><b>(3412)</b> | <b>Post Medieval</b><br><b>park</b> | <b>SN5267217923 A PGW II</b> | <b>Specific</b> |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|

The section of parkland on the east side of the string of ponds/ornamental lakes was visited in 2006 as part of a Tir Gofal consultation. These west facing slopes provided a view of the landscape from the house and were an important visual setting. The gentle valley sides are shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map dotted with specimen trees and planted clumps. Some of these visual features have since been lost although this is by no means a tree-less landscape - many of the slopes are wooded and numbers of mature specimen trees survive. There is potential therefore for some parkland tree planting to be carried out in order to replace those trees or clumps which have been lost or, which are declining in old age. *Visited 22/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)*

## **Historic Environment Objectives:**

The purpose of the management is to:

- Maintain or restore the historic configuration and visual character of the historic garden or parkland.
- Ensure the long-term preservation of features associated with the historic garden or parkland.

In order to achieve this you will need to observe the following:

## **Generic Management prescriptions**

1. Original features identified in the agreement must be retained and maintained. Repairs (including repairs to walling and fences) should be unobtrusive and make use of appropriate traditional materials and methods of construction. (Capital Works Option)
2. When repair is not possible, replacement features must be modelled on originals, using the same materials and methods of construction. (Capital Works Option)
3. Drives and historic tracks together with associated walling, revetment and bridges identified in the agreement must be maintained and, where necessary, restored using appropriate traditional materials and methods of construction. (Capital Works Option).
4. New tracks should not be created.

## **Specific Management Requirements for individual Park and Garden features:**

The following individual features are subject to specific management prescriptions which are in addition to and (in the case of conflict) take precedence over these generic requirements:

|                        |                              |                     |
|------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Site 2 on MAP 1</b> | <b>MIDDLETON HALL (3412)</b> | <b>SN5267217923</b> |
|------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|

*In addition to the Generic Management Prescriptions listed above the following management is recommended.*

The section of parkland on the east side of the string of ponds was visited in 2006 as part of a Tir Gofal consultation. These west facing slopes provided a view of the landscape from the house and were an important visual setting for Middleton Hall.

The gentle valley sides are shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map dotted with specimen trees and planted clumps. Some of these visual features have since been lost although this is by no means a tree-less landscape - many of the slopes are wooded and numbers of mature specimen trees survive.

There is potential, therefore, for some parkland tree planting to be carried out in order to replace those trees or clumps which have been lost or which are declining in old age. The Tir Gofal scheme may present an excellent opportunity for some tree planting to be carried out. As this is a registered parkland, any proposals concerning the restoration of the parkland features should be undertaken in consultation with Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments.

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*AP - 24/05/2006 ( 12:32:20 ) - HTML file produced for Tir Gofal HE2 report, Cambria Archaeology Project record number 39850.*

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*This HE2 report supercedes the information given in the HE1 report for this farm.*

*Sources consulted:*

**Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments and ICOMOS. 1998. Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest In Wales: Middleton Hall**

**Gallagher, C. 1997. Middleton, Dyfed. Historic Landscape Assessment - Proposed Botanic Garden and Country Park**

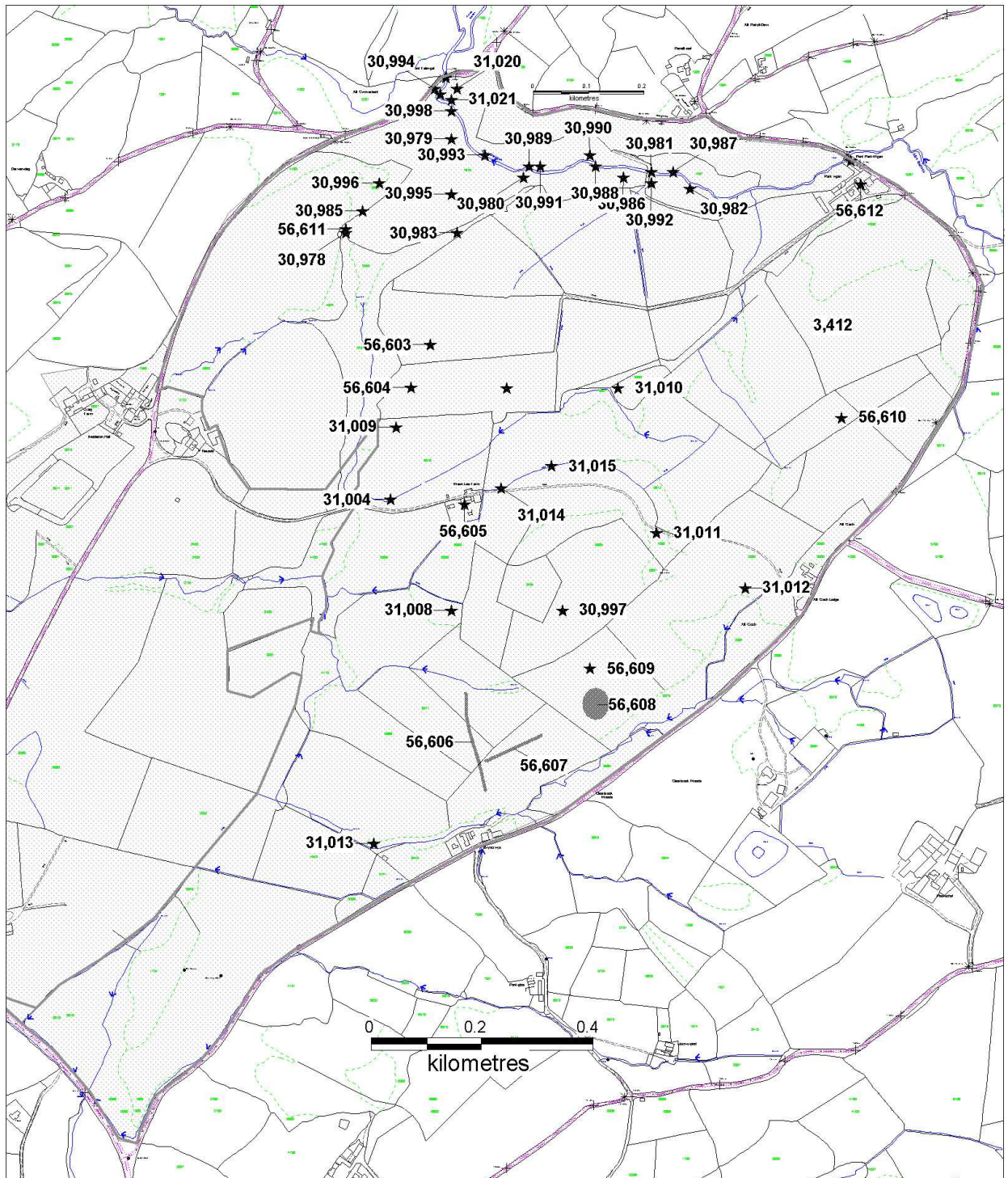
**Ludlow, N 1995 Middleton Hall - Initial Assessment of the Archaeological Implications of the Proposed Botanic Garden Vol 1 & 2. ACA Report**

**Ordnance Survey 1888 1st edition 1:2500 Carmarthenshire sheet 40.07**

**Ordnance Survey 1888 1st edition 1:2500 Carmarthenshire sheet 40.08**

**Ordnance Survey 1888 1st edition 1:2500 Carmarthenshire sheet 40.11**

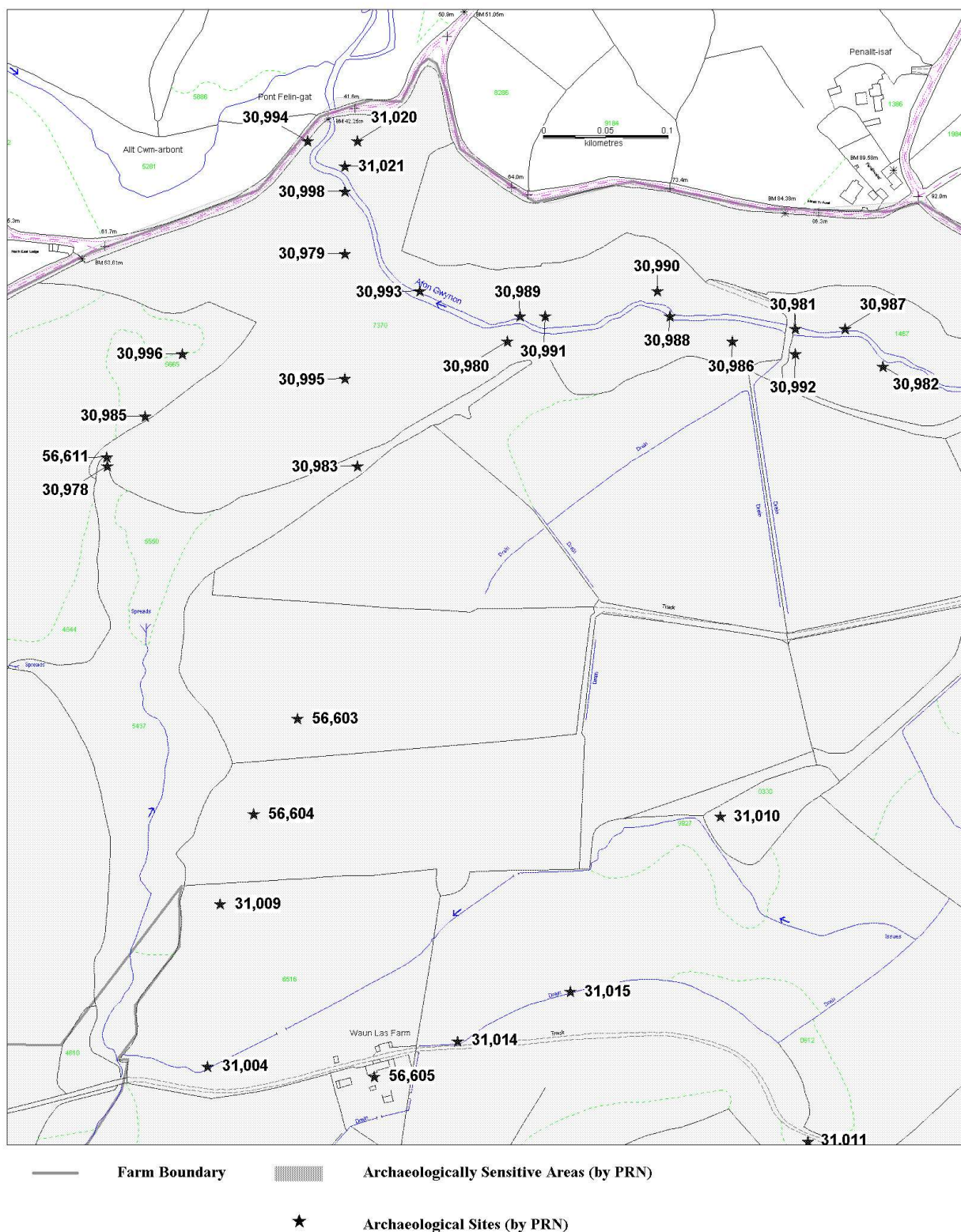
**Ordnance Survey 1887 1st edition 1:2500 Carmarthenshire sheet 40.12**



- |   |  |
|---|--|
|  Farm Boundary   |  Archaeologically Sensitive Areas (by PRN) |
|  Registered Park |  Archaeological Sites (by PRN)             |

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

**REGISTER ENTRY**

**MIDDLETON HALL**

|                          |                                   |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Ref number</b>        | <b>PGW (Dy) 4 (CAM)</b>           |
| <b>OS map</b>            | 159                               |
| <b>Grid ref</b>          | SN 5224 1820                      |
| <b>Former county</b>     | Dyfed                             |
| <b>Local authority</b>   | Carmarthenshire                   |
| <b>Community council</b> | Llanarthney                       |
| <b>Designations</b>      | Listed Building: Stables Grade II |
| <b>Site evaluation</b>   | <b>Grade II</b>                   |

**Primary reasons for grading** The survival of much of the structure of a late eighteenth-century landscaped park in fine rolling countryside, the main feature of which is a string of lakes. The house and pleasure garden have gone. Some ruined structures relate to the attempt by the park's creator, Sir William Paxton, to develop it as a spa. There is an unusual double-walled kitchen garden and a well preserved ice-house. The core of the park has now been converted into the National Botanic Garden of Wales.

**Type of site** Landscaped park with double walled garden, cascades, bridges and remains of extensive water features.

**Main phases of construction** 1785 - 1815; 1996 -

**Site description**

Middleton Hall is situated on rolling ground above the southern bluff of the Towy Valley, some 14 kilometres (8½ miles), south-east of Carmarthen. The land within the park, which consists of about 586 acres, lies between 61 m and 121 m. At present much of the land is used for grazing, but there is a small area set aside as an amenity woodland to the north, at Pont Felin-gat. The County Council has run employment training programmes in this area and many of the water features have been reconstructed, re-built or re-pointed. The core of the park, including the mansion site, stable block, pleasure garden site and walled kitchen garden, has been converted into the National Botanic Garden of Wales (henceforward Botanic Garden).



The first family of note were the Middletons who built a mansion near the site of the later Hall. Opinions differ as to whether they were connected with the more famous North Wales branch of the family. What is known is that Henry Middleton, who was High Sheriff in 1644, built the mansion that gave its name to the site and the mansion remained in the family until debts of some £36,909 instigated the sale in 1776. It is not clear whether the mansion had been rebuilt during this time as some reports refer to a 'Queen Anne' House. Sources are apt to differ as to when Middleton Hall was sold to William Paxton and the dates range from 1776, 1785 to 1789; in the case of the last two dates the occupier post 1776 is not given, although Jenkins refers to John Gawler owning the mansion in 1776. The character of William Paxton, later Sir William, may have some bearing upon his choice of architect for his new Hall and how his works were seen by commentators at the time.

It would seem that Sir William, a Scottish born nabob who retired from his post at the Mint in Calcutta in 1785, was an ambitious man, socially, politically and financially. As Vlitos suggests, his move to Middleton may have been prompted by all these ambitions. Had Milford Haven been developed as Nelson had planned, Sir William might have increased his wealth still further. He was an astute man of affairs, who could afford to impress and to hire the best architect of the day. Samuel Pepys Cockerell had many impressive commissions to his name, so it was that Sir William engaged Cockerell to undertake works in Tenby and his own mansion at Middleton. Indeed, Sir William was one of the few patrons of Cockerell in Wales, and it is tempting to suggest that he was one of only a handful who could afford to employ him at the time.

After the death of Sir William Paxton in 1824, Edward Hamlyn Adams, a Jamaican merchant, acquired Middleton and extended it further. The surname Abadam was adopted by his heir and it is still used by some family members. It is difficult to trace all the features listed in the Sale Particulars, dated 19 August 1824. Where, for example, is the Home Farm, reputed to be the original mansion? Local sources suggest that it was the residence now known as Clear Brook; however, Jones states that this rather fine house was built in the middle of the nineteenth century and mentions no precursors. It is also outside the immediate park surrounding the Hall and the sales details clearly state that it was 'within the park'. Possibly it was Gorsdu, later re-named Gorswen. Neither does it warrant recording on Horner's plan of 1 September 1815, although many features of note are recorded in the comments that accompany his 'views'.

When built, the house was an impressive structure, but some accounts of the time are ambiguous in their praise. Lipscombe in his account of his Welsh Tours, undertaken in 1799 and published in 1802, referred to Middleton as 'one of the best built and most magnificent houses in Wales'. Skrine, writing of his two successive tours in 1798, admires the architecture but does not favour the setting 'the splendid modern seat of Sir William Paxton, which far eclipses the proudest of the Cambrian mansions in Asiatic pomp and splendour; this house may be justly admired for the exterior beauty of its figure, as well as for its internal elegance and decoration ...yet does a vast pile of Portland stone curiously chiselled and finished in the highest style of Grecian taste appear to me to be somewhat inconsonant with the more imposing, though simple majesty, of the surrounding country. Neither did its situation please me, confined by a narrow and ill planted park, and perched on the summit of one of the great boundaries of the vale of Towy, too high to command its beauties.... We returned from Middleton Hall with pleasure to resume our progress in the charming vale below.' Skrine's description of the mansion is inaccurate; had he looked more closely or spoken with family members he would have known that the Hall was stuccoed brick with projections of Bath stone, an architectural device later favoured by John Nash.

Barber, in his account of his tour through South Wales and Monmouthshire, published in 1803, is most dismissive 'Did not visit Middleton Hall, the latter place built a few years since by Mr Paxton, formerly a banker at Bengal, I understand to be the most splendid specimen of modern architecture in Wales, but, unfortunate in its situation, it is already neglected'. That the hall was irrefutably grand, can be seen from the details of the sale, following the death of Sir William, but it was obviously not to everyone's taste.

Crimmin (1967) describes the house as follows: 'The Hall was a quadrangular block of stuccoed brick with projections of Bath stone. Though there was a growing convention that brick should be given a covering of stucco, this was a fairly early use of a material not generally employed until popularised by John Nash in the first decade of the nineteenth century. The west or entrance front at Middleton was plain, showing little ornament, apart from the dressed stone block of the ground floor. There were semi-circular headed window recesses in the slightly projecting wings, while a simple porch, partially supported by two stylised columns standing half way up the steps, led to the doorway. All the windows were of the plain sash type, but on the first floor ornamental balustrading emphasised the moulding.

The eastern front was more impressive, with a large, four columned portico of Ionic design, rising from the first floor terrace to the height of the second floor and supporting a triangular pediment. The heavily rusticated terrace which overlooked an ornamental lake, was reached by a double flight of steps. The three main first floor windows were of the Venetian type already used by Cockerell at the Admiralty. They consisted of three lights, divided by small Ionic columns and placed in semi-circular headed recesses. A wide cornice was surmounted by a decorative balustrade which encircled the roof, partly masking the chimneys. The basement contained the servants' quarters and cellars, while extensive domestic buildings and stables, clearly seen in Augustus Butler's lithographs (*circa* 1853) and also displaying neo-classical features, were at the north end of the house, partly masked by plantations, close to the gardens and the hot houses. These buildings, though a storey lower than the main block, achieved unity with it by a continuation of the balustrade around the roof and of the moulding above the ground floor windows, and by the use of a simplified pediment and pilasters.'

By the 1930s, when in the ownership of Colonel W.N.Jones, the house had fallen into decline and on 10 November 1931 fire destroyed all but part of the west wing.

What remains of the house has now been incorporated into the Botanic Garden. The footprint of the mansion is traced in stone on a lawn, to the east of which a mound, called Paxton's View, has been created and a large, metal sculpture, 'Pi', placed on top. To the west is the only part of the house still standing, a section of the west wing, originally the servants' block. The exterior of this has been restored to its original appearance and it is now a lifelong learning centre, called Principality House. Attached, to its west, is an oval walled enclosure, with a round-arched gateway at its west end. This former service court has now been converted into the 'Wallace Garden', named after the naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace, which is concerned with the history of plant breeding and genetics.

In addition to the house, Cockerell also designed the stable block and Paxton's Tower, (see PGW(Dy)49(CAM)) both of which survive, but with some alteration.

The stable block (1793-95) was designed to complement the neo-classical mansion. It is built as a partial courtyard with the round-arched entrance facing the original site of the Hall. This entrance stands higher than the rest of the block. The main block stands to two storeys and is rendered, like the arched entrance. The roofs, which are slated, project slightly and are hipped at each end. Now called Middleton Court, the stable block has been converted from dwellings into visitor facilities. Glazed wings link the separate buildings but the central court remains open. To the south the open space between the stable block and a

stone barn has been paved and terraced as a circulation and performance area, named Millennium Square. The barn has been converted to house a display on herbal medicine and the physicians of Myddfai.

Excavations at Waun Las suggest that the Middleton family's house was due east of Paxton's, on the other side of the lakes. The new site was in an elevated position above three small valleys. When the landscaping of the park was complete the lakes, walks and bridges could be seen from the house and conversely, from the park there would have been fine views of the mansion. From both there was also the distant prospect of Nelson's (later Paxton's) Tower, designed by Cockerell in about 1808, on the prominent hill to the north of the park.

There is no evidence for a particular landscaper at Middleton Hall but the work may have been overseen by James Grier, who was Sir William Paxton's agent. In his obituary of 17<sup>th</sup> December 1814 his skill with the theodolite is mentioned. A set of views was painted by Thomas Hornor. The overview of the park is dated 1<sup>st</sup> September 1815. It shows the lakes, bridges, walled garden and some plantings. The remainder of the paintings are not at present available for study but there is an available text referring to them.

The use of water was on a grand scale, with the lakes of varying size occupying the valley floors. One of the lakes, adjacent to the walled garden, silted up relatively quickly, between the tithe survey of 1847 and the survey of 1886. In all, there were probably seven bridges crossing these artificial lakes, ranging in style from the grand balustraded crossing of the Swansea entrance that is shown on Hornor's plan (1815), to the more humble stone bridge above the cascade that was removed in the early 1990s. These bridges were linked by either drives or 'green paths' (Hornor) many of which can still be traced today.

Throughout the park specimen trees remain, including a fine group planting of oak, ash and beech above the relatively recent farm of Wâun Las, which does not appear on maps until after the 1905 survey.

Originally, entrance to the park was via one of four drives, with entrances on the south, south-east, north and north-east boundaries. Two lodges are shown on the early maps, the North Lodge (Middleton Lodge) and Allt Goch Lodge, on the south-east boundary. Both remain, as private houses. The two 'South Drives' (Hornor) actually ran south-west/north-east across the western side of the park, meeting at the entrance to the Hall and the stable block. During the twentieth century these drives were used as the public road through the park but this was closed as part of the development of the Botanic Garden. The middle section has been entirely removed; a short stretch, now maintenance access, remains at the southern end, between the entrance and bridge between Pwll yr Ardd and Llyn Uchaf. The north-east drive was referred to on Hornor's plan as the 'Swansea Approach'. It had already become a footpath by 1886. Today the route is still evident, echoed by field boundaries to the south and embanked paths and parch marks to the north. The drive from the house site to the east has long fallen into disuse. It is now a track leading to the lake-side walks and Wâun Las Farm. From the farm towards the lodge this drive is still mostly visible, although grass covered.

Water was a key element in the Middleton Hall landscape, where a string of five lakes was created by damming streams in three small valleys to the south and east of the house. The lakes were all drained in the 1930s. Some features disappeared or fell into disuse during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, others remain only in silted areas where willows, flag iris and bulrush grow, and some have been reconstructed. The construction of the drives and, in particular, the bridges was an integral part of the water management within the park, and it is, therefore, extremely difficult to separate them. Two, possibly three, bridges masked walls, sluices and other devices that controlled the flow of water.

The overall aim would seem to be that whether walking or in a carriage the lakes were always full and there was the constant sound of running water.

The uppermost lake, at the western end of the valley south of the house, was named the Upper South Lake by Hornor. It was clearly shown on Hornor's plan as a triangular sheet of water adjacent to the walled garden, to the south-east of the ice-house. Between 1815 and 1824, this appears to have changed little; it also appears on the tithe survey of 1847, although possibly a little smaller. By 1886 it has disappeared and only the stream to the south of the area is shown. It was partially restored (all except the north-west arm) in the late 1990s as part of the development of the National Botanic Garden of Wales. It is now called Pwll yr Ardd. The lower end of the Broadwalk, the main axial path of the Botanic Garden, passes along the west side of the lake and a low stone bridge carries the walk over the stream flowing into it. Three wooden buildings, the Aqualab of the Botanic Garden, have been built on stilts over the south side of the lake. At its north end water flows into the next lake under a plain, flat bridge on the disused public road (former drive). The bridge has a single arch and high stone parapet walls. Hornor's plan shows a bridge here without parapets.

The next lake is now called Llyn Uchaf. It was 'South Lake' on Hornor's plan and was also known as Bryn-Cadw Pond. It is a linear sheet of water, covering nearly 2.5 acres, that fills the small valley to the south of the Hall. Hornor shows a small island in the south-east corner. A substantial body of water must have remained in this pond up to and after 1905, as it appears on the map of that date. By the early 1990s this had been reduced to a small stream; bulrush and flag iris covered silted areas around it indicated that soils in this area remained moist. The lake was restored as part of the development of the National Botanic Garden of Wales and already water-loving plants and wildlife are returning.

At the eastern end of this lake was a fine stone bridge. Shown on Hornor's plan as the most elaborate of all the bridges, this would appear to have been a sweeping, arched structure with balustrades at either side. Although this drive fell into disuse during the nineteenth century, it remained a footpath and access route probably until the beginning of the twentieth century. By the mid 1990s the arch had collapsed, but only in recent years, as the roots of the trees that were growing here still formed the shape of the arch. Below the bridge, in the stream bed, were slabs of dressed and cut masonry. A new bridge has been built for the Botanic Garden, with parapets of alternating stone piers and decorative iron railings. Water from the lake falls over a straight cascade above the bridge into a deep, stone-lined channel, under the bridge, where there is a small cascade, and down a further stretch of stone-lined channel into the natural stream bed.

Wâun-Las Pond, or the East Lake as Hornor called it, or Llyn Canol as it is now called, was a medium-sized inverted T-shaped pond to the east of Bryn-Cadw Pond. Until the mid 1990s it was silted up but it has now been restored as part of the development of the Botanic Garden. As with the other lakes, the area of water is shown on the maps as decreasing with time. Hornor shows a full T shape; by 1824 this would seem to have been reduced. By 1905 the pond covered some 4 acres and its shape had changed at its southern end. On recent surveys it is shown as little more than a stream. Local folk believe that the remains of the mansion, following the fire, were dumped in this lake.

The stream to the north of the East Lake, or Wâun-Las Pond, is crossed by the former drive to Wâun-Las Farm on a single-arched stone bridge. The bridge was rebuilt as part of the development of the Botanic Garden, with parapets of alternating stone piers and iron railings. The previous bridge, when viewed from the south-west, appeared to be built at an angle to the large, stone splays that led the water into Pond Ddu. On the eastern side of the bridge, a stone wall rose from the stream bed to near the height of the arch. This acted as a retaining wall for the water in Wâun-Las pond, but allowed sufficient water over the

sill into Pond Ddu. Now there is an angled cascade above the bridge from which water falls into a deep stone-lined channel, under the bridge, where again a small cascade has been made and then along another stone-lined channel before reaching the largest of the lakes, Pond Ddu (Llyn Mawr).

The Large Lake, or Pond Ddu, lies north of the bridge to Wâun-Las Farm, in the same north-south valley as Wâun-Las Pond. At present this lake is quite silted and overgrown, although still holding water at its north end. It is now much reduced from the 10 acres or so that it used to cover. There are plans to restore it as part of the Botanic Garden development. From the east side of this lake the back of the Hall, with its impressive portico, was clearly visible; it was this view that Hornor and Butler recorded. On the west side of the lake there were a bath house, a boat house and a garden. The water is retained at its northern end by a substantial earth bank or bund, in the centre of which is a concrete overflow pipe and sluice that have recently been installed. This has had the effect of draining the canal that leads off the lake to the north-east; the canal used to feed the cascades below it that are now usually dry.

Within the woods, to the north of Pond Ddu or Large Lake is another small sunken structure constructed of stone slabs. In the floor is a metal drain and the water should gush from a gargoye in the semi-circular stone recess. The mask is modern and was placed there during recent renovations.

At the north-east end of the canal leading off from Pond Ddu a series of artificial cascades tumbles down a steep slope, at the foot of which the water runs into the Afon Gwynon. The cascades were heavily rebuilt in the late twentieth century, with extensive use of concrete. However, the basic shape of the structure is original. The cascades consist of three large steps which decrease in height from the lowest step to the upper step, the water was retained to either side by stone walls. The upper step is about 1.7 m high, in the centre of which is a circular opening that is supposed to allow water from the canal that links the Pond Ddu with the cascades and, eventually, the Lower Lake. Above this opening is a modern mask, placed there during rebuilding works.

The water from the opening would cross the stone slab 'tread' to the middle step, which has a drop of about 1.8 m to the lowest step, again the 'tread' is of stone slabs. The lowest step drops some 2.3 m to the slabbed area beneath. From here the water runs in a rill, dropping two further, small, steps until it reaches the river and the area of the Lower Lake.

Until the early 1990s there was a slab stone bridge across the top of the cascades which afforded views down the falls and through to the valley beyond. It was replaced by a modern bridge by Dyfed County Council in the late twentieth century, although the original stones are still strewn around the surrounding area.

The Lower Lake was the most northerly of the sheets of water, above the bridge at Pont Felin-gât. Again, clearly shown on all the early surveys, although it is reduced in size, presumably because it was beginning to silt up by 1905. It used to cover nearly 2 acres and there was a island towards the western side. The dam must have been breached some time ago as the area is now tree covered.

Just south of Pont Felin-gât are the remains of a 'structure' and stone built walls on either side of the stream. Hornor's plan is of little help in this area, but his description might be: 'Lower Lake, which is happily formed in a sequestered and well wooded little valley. The harbour in the centre of the picture forms the point of view which is the subject of a succeeding drawing ... The Dell which commences by the bridge to the right, contains many characteristic beauties developed in the course of the walk ... the path by the smaller bridge to the left leads to the Chalybeate Spring and Bath'.



Hornor indicates three painting stations around the Lower Lake - 5, 6 and 8 - and it makes a considerable difference as to which description relates to which painting station. However, he has been thoughtful enough to record, in writing, that the Chalybeate Spring and Bath are on the north-east side of the Lower Lake. In order to match up his descriptions concerning directions (i.e. left and right); the view he describes must be from painting station 5. However, in the centre of the picture would then be an island and not a harbour. There is what would appear to be a harbour to the north of the Lower Lake. If this were the case it would go some way towards interpreting the stretches of masonry mentioned above.

There was a bridge at the north end of the Lower Lake (the original path to the bridge is still visible in this area) and the assumption could be made that this also was an integral part of the water management, that is, a dam, sluice and attendant structures would have been constructed at the same time. There is also a substantial sluice / overflow associated with the north-west corner of the Lower Lake. The suggestion is, therefore, that the remaining structures represent the bridge abutments and associated dam.

On the north-east bank of what was the Lower Lake, is a small, circular plunge pool, restored in the early 1990s by Dyfed County Council. Five stone steps lead down to it, to the left of which is a protruding, semi-circular stone, just above ground level. To the right is the drain for the pool. The pool is described by some as a holy well and by some others as the site of the chalybeate springs. This is possibly the structure described in the Sale Particulars (1824) as 'A grotto, and Chalybeate Spring, which has pipes, conducting the overflow to the outside of the Park'. Its position ties in with Hornor's plan.

Further east, up the Gwynon valley, is a well built, single span, dressed stone bridge with prominent string course. In the centre, the stone parapet has recently been replaced by wooden posts and rails. The whole of the upper part of the bridge has also been repointed. This bridge originally carried the north-east drive over the stream.

Downstream and to the west of the bridge is a substantial stone wall that was constructed to retain the water of the reservoir (as described by Hornor). This mainly curved wall stands to about 6 m, with drainage holes to the side to allow for seepage and to prevent the wall collapsing under the weight of water. Today, when the river is in full spate, this waterfall is still an impressive sight.

Further upstream, the river is contained by curving stone revetment walls about 2 m high, between which is a stone dam, in the upper centre of which is a circular opening. Upstream of this dam, there would appear to be an arrangement of sluices so that the flow of the river could be controlled. The arrangement above the dam might have been a silt trap, but there is no direct evidence for this.

The core of the park, to the east of the walled garden, has been developed as the National Botanic Garden of Wales during the years 1996-2000. In future years it is proposed to extend this to include areas such as the walled garden.

The main entrance and car park lies on the south boundary, inside which is a circular gatehouse. A long metalled walk, the Broadwalk, leads northwards up the slope past the walled garden to a Mirror Pool and rockwork Mediterranean Garden. To the west of these is the Millennium Square, to the east the Great Glasshouse (Dome). Various features adorn the Broadwalk - a circular fountain, a winding rill and two rockwork and water gardens. Between the walk and the east wall of the walled garden is an area of herbaceous borders. Informal walks and adjacent areas of planting have been created around the three restored lakes. More utilitarian features - nursery glasshouses and a biomass furnace - have been built to the north-west of the stable block.

To the south of the site of the Hall and sharing the same elevation, is an area that in dry weather used to be crossed by parch marks indicating axial, crossing former paths.

Until 1998-99 this lay within a pasture field, the outline of the area being visible as a slight rise in ground level. Since that date the Great Glasshouse, a huge oval glass dome, 95 x 55 m, designed by Norman Foster and Partners, has been built on the site as part of the Botanic Garden. This is the site of the formal garden and fountain that is shown on the Butler lithographs of 1853. However, this garden was apparently not part of the grand scheme when the park was laid out. It does not appear on the 1815 overview by Thomas Hornor, neither does it appear on the Sale Particulars of 1824. From map evidence it is not clear if it was in existence by 1847, as the tithe map of that date is so worn as to be indecipherable in this area. However, although E.H. Adams died in 1842, it is likely that this garden was his addition to the immediate landscape of the Hall.

Butler's view of the front of the Hall shows the four, straight, formal paths leading to a central (formal) pond with a circular path around. In the centre of the pond is the fountain, which appears to be an heroic figure rising from a shell, the water cascading from an object held in the right hand. This formal area continues to appear on the first edition Ordnance Survey map (surveyed in 1886 and published in 1891). It is also recorded on the 1905 survey.

The walled kitchen garden lies on gently sloping ground to the west of the mansion site and south-west of the stables. The outer wall encloses a four-sided, more or less rectangular area, its long axis aligned south-west/north-east. The southern half contains an inner, more or less square garden, also enclosed by a wall. The total enclosed area was originally 2.96 acres, but it was changed and developed over the course of time. It has not yet been developed as part of the Botanic Garden but there are plans to do so.

In Hornor's overview of 1815, the walled garden is shown as a double-walled square structure with the main entrance apparently from the track on the north-west side. The paths within form a cruciform pattern, so that the inner walls have gates or doors in the centre of each side. To the south-east, there is a distance of about 9 m between the walls; this may also be assumed for the original distance between the two walls on the south-west and north-east sides.

By the time that the sale catalogue was produced in 1824, the outer wall to the north-east had been demolished and the walls to the north-west and south-east had been extended to include another 2.046 acres; there was no north-east wall to this extension. From the illustration, the new area enclosed would appear to be orchard. The paths within the inner walled garden also appear to have been altered, this time they enclose smaller squares; entrances and exits to the inner garden are not shown.

The tithe survey of 1847 shows this garden very much as it appeared in 1824, with the addition of partition walls between the inner and outer walls and the wall at the north-east of the orchard extension built.

The 1886 Ordnance Survey map indicates further changes within the walled garden; in the extreme south-west corner of the outer wall is a semi-circular extension, which later researches refer to as 'The Herb Garden'. Probably also of the same date (1847 - 1886) are the magnificent gate pillars associated with the entrance to the 'Herb Garden' and the space between the two walls. The path arrangement within the inner garden has also been altered, reverting much to its original cruciform plan but with the addition of a path along the north-west edge. The main entrance appears to have been changed from the north-west side to the south-east side.

By 1905, the central path through the orchard appears to be better defined and there is a central circular feature in the inner garden. This was apparently a pond/well surrounded by decorative iron railings. The main entrances appear to be on the north-east and south-west sides. The partition walls between the main walls are missing.

Both the inner and outer walls are reasonably well preserved. The inner wall is mainly of brick, retaining its stucco or render towards the south-west corner. Most of the south-east entrance arch remains to its full height, although the centre has collapsed in spite of some apparently recent attempts to restore it. From this section it is possible to suggest that at least some, if not all, of the inner walls stood to a height of about 2.5 - 3 m. In the north-west corner is a series of wide span, low-angled arches, that, in some cases, allowed access from the outer enclosure to the glasshouses or conservatories shown on the 1847 survey and subsequently.

The outer walls are mostly of stone and stand to about 1.5 m except in the south-west corner and the 'Herb Garden', where they still stand to nearly their full height of 2.5-3 m. The 1886 and 1905 surveys indicate that the enigmatic bulge in the outer wall, now called the 'Herb Garden', once contained a roofed structure that could be reached from the inner garden by a brick arch, which still stands. The space enclosed is small and the walls stand to 2.5-3 m, suggesting a place of shade rather than sun, which would be required by most herbs. The fact that the main entrance to this garden was protected by what must have been substantial gates (if the size of the gate pillars is anything to go by) suggests a collection of shade loving /shade tolerant plants of some importance.

At the entrance to the space between the two garden walls in the south-west corner are three superb stone gate-posts, one of which was utilised by two gates, that is, the gate to the main garden and the gate to the 'Herb Garden'. These gate pillars are tapering circular structures and are fashioned from extremely well cut stone. One of the posts associated with the 'Herb Garden' is now in disrepair, but the stones are all around and it could be re-built.

There is a path from the gate pillars, between the two garden walls along the north-west side. Immediately to the north of this path is a small, low stone wall along the whole length which retains a terrace some 1.5 m wide.

Abutting the inner wall on the north-west side of the garden is the 'Gardener's Cottage'. This small stone building has a fine porched entrance, surrounded by moulded stone. Within are fireplaces and the remains of windows. Several uses have been suggested for this building but it is probable that it was originally built as the Gardener's Cottage referred to in the 1824 Sale Particulars. The map that accompanies the Sale Particulars records many of the structures extant at the time. Only the inhabited buildings, or those capable of habitation have been shaded in; while the shape of Nelson's Tower has been recorded, it remains unshaded, as do the sundry buildings to the north-west of the stables. The stable block is shaded because it contained (amongst other things) 'Two Staircases, four Lodging Rooms for men, and Lofts'.

The construction of the cottage is lean-to and the roof level would have been higher than the inner garden wall which it abuts, but is not keyed into. There was once a simple door from the cottage to the glasshouses at the other (south-east) side of the wall; this can still be seen clearly, as can the render of the reveals. At some stage, three 2 m-wide, flat topped arches were built linking this building with the glasshouses and the evidence for this remodelling is still in the walls; two types of brick have been used and, at the northern end, stone. It is quite possible that the function of this building changed after 1824 from gardener's cottage to a conservatory.

There was once an extensive range of glasshouses against this south-east facing wall. Today these have almost disappeared, only being evident from the grass-covered foundation platform, the iron ties for climbing plants and some timber fragments. The Ordnance Survey map of 1905 also indicates a small glasshouse adjacent to the 'Herb Garden', but there are no remains of this.

Set into the bank immediately to the south-west of the walled garden is a brick built arch standing to about 2 m, with a stone built splay opening up towards the field. This is

the entrance to a well preserved ice-house, which is believed to be the one mentioned in the Sale Particulars of 1824. From the entrance, the ice-house is approached by a barrel vaulted brick lined passage which was originally sealed by three wooden doors. The ice chamber is partly sunk into the hillside and is domed and brick lined. The chamber measures about 4.9 m from floor to ceiling and is about 1.8 m in diameter.

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