

Archaeoleg Cambria
Neuadd y Sir
Stryd Caerfyrddin
Llandeilo
Sir Gaerfyrddin
SA19 6AF

Ffon 01558 823131
Ffacs 01558 823133
Ebost:
cambria@cambria.org.uk



Cambria Archaeology
The Shire Hall
Carmarthen Street
Llandeilo
Carmarthenshire
SA19 6AF

Telephone 01558 823131
Fax 01558 823133
Email:
cambria@cambria.org.uk

TIR GOFAL MANAGEMENT PLAN: HERITAGE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION (HE2)

(HE2 carried out at the Year 5 review)



Prepared for: Pontfaen Farm

**Tir Gofal Reference No W/11/1215
ACA Report No. 2006/49
Project Record No. 40421**

Prepared by Alice Pyper

Other documents enclosed:

**Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments and ICOMOS. 2002. Carmarthenshire,
Ceredigion, & Pembrokeshire. Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of
Special Historic Interest in Wales. Part 1: Parks and Gardens.
Llanerchaeron PGW (Dy) 51 (Cer)**

A) INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

2. Historic landscape character & archaeological and historical content

Historic Landscape Character

Pontfaen Farm consists of one holding which is almost split into two sections, lying on the southwest side of the valley of the Afon Aeron within the community of Ciliau Aeron. Significantly the farm lies on what was, historically the Llanerchaeron Estate. The estate influence permeates the landscape and the buildings of Pontfaen Farm. The eastern part of the holding is named 'The Park' on 19th century maps and has latterly been included on the Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Wales, Grade II. The origins of this park lie not with the current Llanerchaeron House but with the former country house of 'Plas Ciliau' whose exact location is unrecorded but presumably lay in the Nant Faen valley.

The western section of the holding lies nearer to the immediate environs of Llanerchaeron House and one field to the northwest of the holding lies within an area identified in the Register of Parks and Gardens as essential setting to Llanerchaeron park.

Archaeological and Historical Content

An historically significant aspect of Pontfaen Farm is the parkland landscape of Ciliau Park (PRN 55420) which now forms part of the registered parkland of Llanerchaeron. Within the park there are a number of individual features of historic interest including a couple of mill ponds (PRNs 56188 and 56190) and a mill leat which traverses the parkland from south to north (PRN 56191).

In addition the farmstead of Pontfaen itself forms part of the estate of Llanerchaeron and the farmhouse and barn have been designated as Listed Buildings due to their estate character. Other aspects of archaeological interest on the farm include the mill race (PRN 55428) which forms part of the northeast boundary to the farm. Water from the Afon Aeron was diverted by means of a weir and sluice (PRN 55427) into a mill race to power the corn mill at Pandy.

Further sites of historic and archaeological interest are listed in the gazetteer below.

Key Objective

The key management objective for historic environment of this farm is the maintenance and preservation of the parkland landscape and estate features.

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	<u>(56191)</u>	Post Medieval leat	SN4949959017	C		Specific

The course of the leat shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889 is still traceable on the ground going through the parkland. The farmer believes that the leat supplied the mill 'Ty Glyn' with water. The leat apparently starts just to the south of the Ciliau Park boundary, diverting from the Nant Faen, although the mouth of the leat was not visited. Where it enters the park it is visible as an earthwork channel c. 4 m wide and c 0.5m deep with a slightly raised bank on the west side. The channel is now dry. Some self seeded trees now line the sides of the channel. A slot has been cut through the leat at the southern end in the 20th century to create a sheep dip (PRN 56192). The leat continues to hug the contours along the valley sides and in most places it is still visible as an earthwork depression. There are one or two sections which have been eroded by reseeded operations. *Visited 12/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)*



In places the course of the leat survives well as an earthwork channel

- | | | | | |
|---|---------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 2 | (56194) | Post Medieval
gateway | SN4940559423 B | Specific |
|---|---------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|

The entrance gateway to Ciliau park was probably erected by William Lewis (Palmer, 2004, 56). A farm gate now takes the place of the original gates, but the stone piers to either side with internal curving side walls remain, although somewhat overgrown with ivy and the wall tops decaying. *Visited 12/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)*



The entrance gates to Ciliau Park.

- | | | | | |
|---|---------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 3 | (56196) | Post Medieval
water wheel | SN4930459587 C | Specific |
|---|---------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|

A wheel pit served by leat PRN 56197. The stone built structure is still in situ, c 6 m long and 1.5 m wide lying within a fenced off enclosure. Nothing remains of the wheel itself but the brackets on which it pivoted. Ash and hazel trees have seeded within the masonry structure. *Visited 12/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)*

- | | | | |
|---------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| (55422) | Post Medieval
quarry | SN4956758922 C | Generic |
|---------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|

An 'Old Quarry' is marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889. (Cards sheet 25.02) . The quarry consists of a scoop out of the west facing hillslope. The stone face is exposed in the upper reaches of the quarry and loose stone has weathered out of it. The quarry is now populated with self seeded trees. *Visited 12/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)*

- | | | | |
|---------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| (55423) | Post Medieval
footbridge | SN4929359248 C | Generic |
|---------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|

A footbridge is marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889. (Cards sheet 25.02) No longer recorded on the current maps. No trace of the footbridge was observed on the farm visit. *Visited 12/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)*

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| PONT FAEN (55424) | Post Medieval
farmstead | SN4927059551 B LB2 | Generic |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|

The farmstead of Pontfaen consists of considerable historic interest and includes two listed buildings.

The farmhouse listing description states 'a mid C19 estate farmhouse retaining its regional character and of special interest in its grouping with the adjoining barn to West. Mid C19, replacing a structure shown on the 1844 Tithe map. Roughcast elevations. Slate roof. Projecting bracketed eaves. Rubble gable chimney stack to left; those to right and rear wing have been removed. Three bay front with 12-pane hornless sash windows, slate sills. Central door with 3 long panels and 4-pane overlight. Sash windows to rear wing, except those to ground floor on E side which are C20. Rubble front court wall with whitewashed single

storey outbuilding to left, forming W boundary of forecourt. Central stone gatepiers with slab tabling and decorative cast iron gate.'

The Barn is also listed; 'Early C19, shown on the 1844 Tithe map. Large and well designed early C19 barn, equal in quality to the Home Farm buildings of nearby Llanerchaeron, to which Pontfaen belonged. Rubble built. Broad hipped slate roof, close timber eaves. Tall three bay front, each bay with recessed high round arch, blank to sides, both with a loop: entry to centre with boarded doors and timber lintel. Stone voussoirs. Loop to left end. Right end partly collapsed. In deteriorating condition (summer 1995). ' At the time of the farm visit some roofing slates where missing from the barn.

The additional, unlisted buildings include an L-shaped one-storey cartshed range which encloses the farmstead to the west. The N-S range includes 4 open cart sheds and the E-W range, parallel to the road, includes 3 enclosed cart entrances. This building is in excellent condition following a recent programme of restoration.

Extending to the north of the barn mentioned above is a further two-storey range, accessed by stone steps on the western side. This building included the machinery driven by the water wheel (PRN 56196), powered by transmission shafts which entered the building below the external steps. At right angles to this building and extending to the east to the rear of the farmhouse is a further 1 and a half storey - dropping to 1 storey range which was presumably animal accommodation. These buildings have corrugated asbestos on the rear (north) pitches. The slate roof pitches of these buildings is in a mixed condition and in places a significant number of slates are missing. *Visited 12/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)*

<u>(55426)</u>	Post Medieval quarry	SN4838959652 U	Generic
----------------	---------------------------------	-----------------------	----------------

A roadside quarry is marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889. (Cards sheet 25.01). Current condition unknown.

<u>(55427)</u>	Post Medieval sluice	SN4917659855 C	Generic
----------------	---------------------------------	-----------------------	----------------

A sluice is marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey 1889 (Cards sheet 25.01) Diverting water with the aid of a weir from the Afon Aeron into the mill race (PRN 55248). The leat and the weir are still visible but there is no visible trace of the sluice itself. *Visited 12/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)*

<u>(55428)</u>	Post Medieval mill race	SN4901360002 C	Generic
----------------	------------------------------------	-----------------------	----------------

The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889 shows a mill race, fed by a sluice on the Afon Aeron supplied water to the Corn Mill at Pandy. The leat survives as a channel c. 2 m deep c. 3 m wide. Evidence of stone lining at the head of the leat. Mature trees have now colonised the banks to either side. *Visited 12/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)*



The leat survives as an impressive deep earthwork channel, lined with trees.

(56188)

**Post Medieval
pond**

SN4930159442 C

Generic

A holding pond is located on the south side of the road to serve the water wheel at Pontfaen farm. The pond is now largely dried up. A drystone revetment wall over a 1m high remains at the lower (northern) end of the pond with a metal sluice gate and chain in situ. This pond in conjunction with that further upstream (PRN 56190) supplied the waterwheel behind Pontfaen farmstead (PRN 56196). Self seeded ash and alder grow from the top of the revetment bank. *Visited 12/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)*



The revetment band and sluice gate still survive although the pond no longer holds water

(56189)

**Modern sheep
wash**

SN4929359447 C

Generic

A sheep wash has been constructed across the Nant Faen by the current owner and his father in the 20th century. A concrete and stone channel has been constructed either side of the natural watercourse to channel sheep through. Slots in either side of the concrete presumably held gates. *Visited 12/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)*

(56190)

**Post Medieval
pond**

SN4935958855 C

Generic

A large pond within a fenced off enclosure, recently redug. A large revetment bank of earth has been constructed at the northern end of the pond. It is fed by an inlet at the south end and a overspill channel at the northern end drains water back into the Nant Faen. Where the Nant Faen runs parallel to the pond it has been straightened and dug out. *Visited 12/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)*



The higher holding pond has been recently redug and now holds water

(56192)

Modern sheep dip SN4947458685 C

Generic

A sheep dip constructed through the channel of the leat PRN 56191. It consists of a slot 0.5 m wide and of an unknown depth (filled with leaves). Shuttered concrete sides with an impression of corrugated iron. Constructed in the 20th century by the current farmer's uncle as a sheep dip, which was unsuccessful. *Visited 12/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)*

(56193) **General outcrop** **SN4971758925** **C** **Generic**

A natural low stone outcrop on the summit of the hill, c 0.3 m high and 0.75 m orientated on a NE-SW axis. The farmer relates that there was an attempt in the early 20th century to dig the stone out. The stone was still immovable after two weeks of digging, so the attempt was abandoned. *Visited* 12/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)

(56195) **Post Medieval** **SN4930159502** **C** **Generic**
weir

A weir is recorded on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map. Concrete revetments are still in place either side of the stream. *Visited* 12/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)

(56197) **Post Medieval leat** **SN4930859545** **C** **Generic**

A leat diverting water from the Nant Faen to the water wheel pit PRN 56196 is shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889 (Cards sheet 25.02). The course of the leat is still visible in places as an earthwork feature, particularly on its course near to the water wheel pit. *Visited* 12/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)

(56198) **Post Medieval leat** **SN4931159595** **C** **Generic**

A leat which took the water to the Nant Faen after supplying water to the water wheel PRN 56196, the railway embankment (PRN 56199) has interfered with the original course. *Visited* 12/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)

(56199) **Modern railway** **SN4911659681** **C** **Generic**

Disused railway. The former 'Aberayron' Branch railway which ran from Lampeter to Aberaeron completed in 1911. The railway fed into the line linking Aberystwyth and Carmarthen. There were halts along the branch line at Llanerchaeron, Crossways, Ciliau Aeron, Felinfach, Talsarn, Blaenplwyf and Silian. It closed to passengers in 1951, but milk trains continued to run between Lampeter and the creamery at Felin Fach until 1973. *Visited* 12/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)



The course of the disused railway is still a prominent feature in the landscape

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

(56191)

SN4949959017

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

Care should be taken with any further reseeding or cultivation not to erode the earthwork remains of the mill leat.

Site 2 on MAP 1

(56194)

SN4940559423

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

It is recommended that the restoration of the entrance gateway is undertaken to stabilise these decaying structures. The ivy should be removed and the wall tops consolidated. It is understood that restoration of these entrance gates will be undertaken through the scheme by National Trust masons.

Site 3 on MAP 1

(56196)

SN4930459587

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

In order to prevent damage to the masonry structure, it is recommended that where it is safe to do so, vegetation should be cut back and spot treated to prevent regrowth.

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
4	PONT FAEN (55424)	Post Medieval farmstead	SN4927059551	B	LB2	Specific

The farmstead of Pontfaen consists of considerable historic interest and includes two listed buildings.

The farmhouse listing description states 'a mid C19 estate farmhouse retaining its regional character and of special interest in its grouping with the adjoining barn to West. Mid C19, replacing a structure shown on the 1844 Tithe map. Roughcast elevations. Slate roof. Projecting bracketed eaves. Rubble gable chimney stack to left; those to right and rear wing have been removed. Three bay front with 12-pane hornless sash windows, slate sills. Central door with 3 long panels and 4-pane overlight. Sash windows to rear wing, except those to ground floor on E side which are C20. Rubble front court wall with whitewashed single storey outbuilding to left, forming W boundary of forecourt. Central stone gatepiers with slab tabling and decorative cast iron gate.'

The Barn is also listed; 'Early C19, shown on the 1844 Tithe map. Large and well designed early C19 barn, equal in quality to the Home Farm buildings of nearby Llanerchaeron, to which Pontfaen belonged. Rubble built. Broad hipped slate roof, close timber eaves. Tall three bay front, each bay with recessed high round arch, blank to sides, both with a loop: entry to centre with boarded doors and timber lintel. Stone voussoirs. Loop to left end. Right end partly collapsed. In deteriorating condition (summer 1995). ' At the time of the farm visit some roofing slates were missing from the barn.

The additional, unlisted buildings include an L-shaped one-storey cartshed range which encloses the farmstead to the west. The N-S range includes 4 open cart sheds and the E-W range, parallel to the road, includes 3 enclosed cart entrances. This building is in excellent condition following a recent programme of restoration.

Extending to the north of the barn mentioned above is a further two-storey range, accessed by stone steps on the western side. This building included the machinery driven by the water wheel (PRN 56196), powered by transmission shafts which entered the building below the external steps. At right angles to this building and extending to the east to the rear of the farmhouse is a further 1 and a half storey - dropping to 1 storey range which was presumably animal accommodation. These buildings have corrugated asbestos on the rear (north) pitches. The slate roof pitches of these buildings is in a mixed condition and in places a significant number of slates are missing. *Visited 12/03/2006 (Alice Pyper)*

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.

Specific Management Requirements for individual Traditional Buildings:

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

Site 4 on MAP 1

PONT FAEN (55424)

SN4927059551

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

Although there is probably little scope for further building restoration to take place within the scheme, steps should be taken where possible to make watertight those roofs which are no longer weather proof.

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:

	Name (& PRN)	Period/Site type	NGR	Status	SAM/listing	Management required
5	CILIAU (<u>55420</u>)	Post Medieval parkland	SN4957259124	B	RPGW II	Specific

Parkland included within the Register entry for Llanerchaeron at Grade II. The parkland is not contiguous with that which surrounds the house of Llanerchaeron, but is the parkland setting of the earlier, now lost house of Plas Ciliau, the exact location of which has not been recorded. The parkland is documented on Singer's map of 1803 as Ciliau Park. It is thought that the walls which surround the park were erected by William Lewis of Llanerchaeron in order to achieve the appearance of a deer park. There is no evidence that deer were ever kept in the park (Palmer 2004, 56).

The B4339 at Ciliau Aeron forms the eastern boundary of the parkland which extends to the west side the Nant Faen valley. It encompasses a gentle, conical hill on the western slopes of which swathes of deciduous (mostly oak) trees have been planted. To the south is a large pocket of deciduous woodland enclosed by a bank (2m wide) with the remains of stone wall upon it and on the exterior is a relic ditch c. 2.5 wide and c. 0.5 m deep. A section of herringbone pattern wall survives at the west extent of the woodland. Elsewhere the boundary wall of the park survives; in places up to 1.75 m high and the entrance gateway itself (PRN 56194) survives almost to full height. The lower lying land of the valley base have a few isolated specimen trees planted. While many of the parkland trees survive some have been lost and damaged. *Visited 12/03/2006* (Alice Pyper)



Looking northwest across the parkland into the Nant Faen valley.

LLANERCHAERON
(55421)

Post Medieval
parkland;
essential setting

SN4827560224 B RPGW II Generic

Area identified in the Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Wales, as 'essential setting' to the parkland of Llanerchaeron. *Visited 12/03/2006 (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:

Site 5 on MAP 1

CILIAU (55420)

SN4957259124

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

The parkland character of the landscape is retained while the mature parkland trees survive, however some of the park trees have been lost since the 1st edition Ordnance Survey was published. It would be advisable therefore to consider planting replacement trees in the parkland in the future. Any proposals effecting the registered parkland should be carried out in consultation with both the National Trust and Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments.

*AP - 07/04/2006 (18:15:10) - HTML file produced for Tir Gofal HE2 report, Cambria Archaeology
Project record number 40421.*

*Cambria Archaeology (Dyfed Archaeological Trust), The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo,
Carmarthenshire, SA19 6AF.*

tel (01558) 823131, fax (01558) 823133, email cambria@cambria.org.uk, website www.cambria.org.uk

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

Sources consulted:

Historic Environment Record for Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire

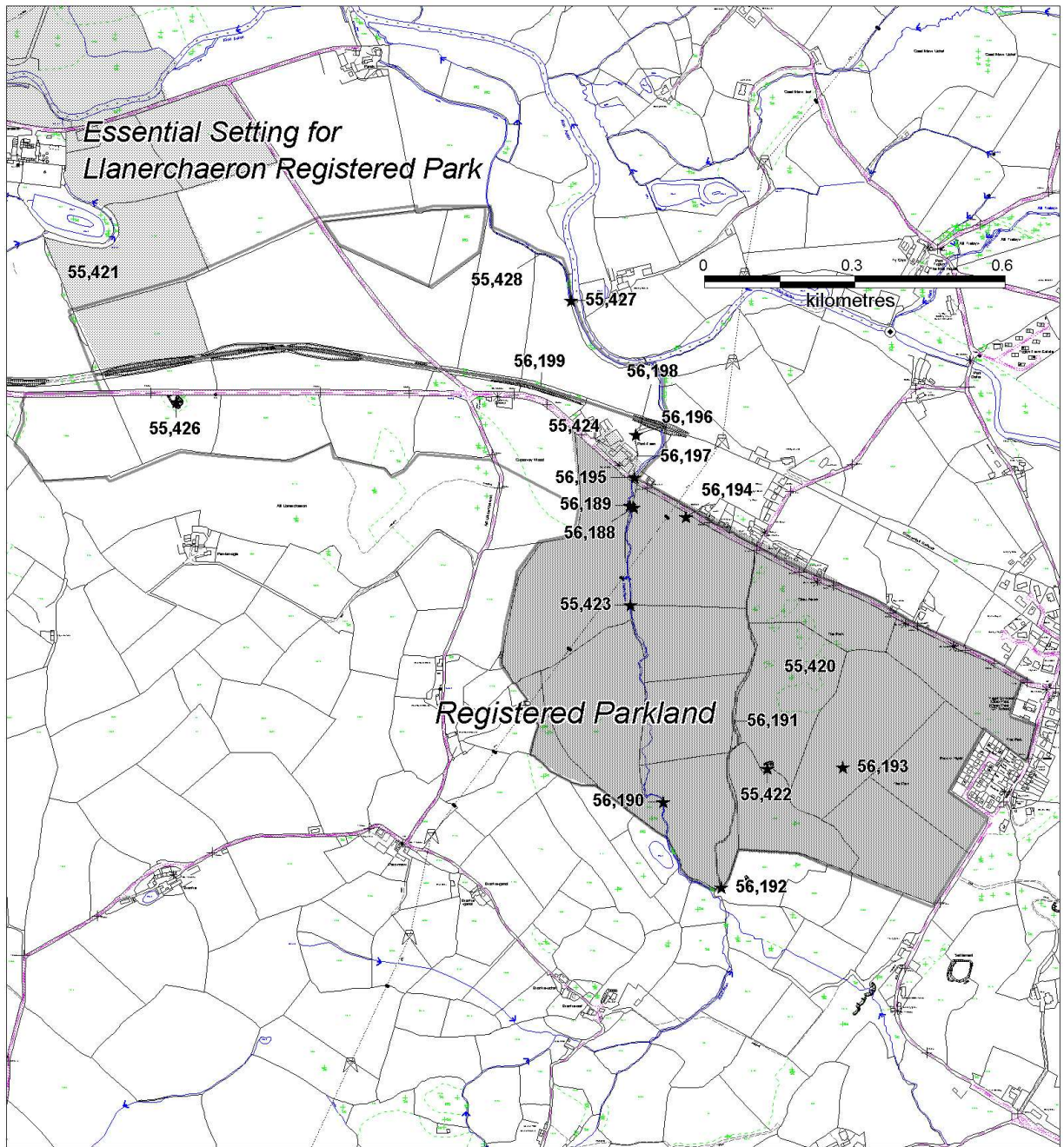
**Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments and ICOMOS. 2002. Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, &
Pembrokeshire. Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in
Wales. Part 1: Parks and Gardens.**

Cadw Listed Buildings Database

Ordnance Survey 1889. 1st edition 1:2500. Cardiganshire sheet 25.01

Ordnance Survey 1889. 1st edition 1:2500. Cardiganshire sheet 25.02

Palmer C. 2004 Historic Parks and Gardens in Ceredigion.



- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|---|---|
| — | Farm Boundary | ■ | Archaeologically Sensitive Areas (by PRN) |
| ★ | Archaeological Sites (by PRN) | | |

This map is reproduced from the Ordnance Survey map by the National Assembly for Wales with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. License number: GD272825G

LLANERCHAERON

Ref number PGW (Dy) 51 (CER)

OS Map 158

Grid ref SN 4810 6018

Former county Dyfed

Unitary authority Ceredigion

Community council Ciliau Aeron

Designations Listed buildings:**DESIGNATIONS** The house Grade I; Service Court Grade I; Billiard Room Grade II*; Potting shed Grade II; Garden house Grade II; Walled garden Grade II; St Non's Church Grade II; Abermydr Lodge Grade II

Site evaluation **Grade II** **SITE EVALUATION** **Grade II**

Primary reasons for grading**Primary reasons for grading**The modest, picturesque, park and gardens at Llanerchaeron have essentially changed little since they were laid out at the turn of the nineteenth century, although they suffered from some neglect earlier in this century. To the east of the house are two walled gardens and a splendid farm complex.

Type of site**TYPE OF SITE** Picturesque parkland; wooded pleasure grounds with walks and lake; kitchen garden

Main phases of construction **MAIN PHASES OF CONSTRUCTION**The present landscape was probably completed by 1803. There have been minor alterations since that time.

Site description

Llanerchaeron house is set within the wide, misfit valley of the river Aeron some three km to the south-east of Aberaeron. The house is surrounded by pleasure grounds and, to the south-west, parkland bordered by trees. To the north, beyond the river Aeron, the slopes of the valley are covered by mature and semi-mature trees.

Llanerchaeron is described by Suggett (1995) as a 'box villa' and it incorporated the stone extension to the hall house which was added by either Llewellyn or John Parry sometime before 1690. The house is a two-storeyed, hipped slate roof, rendered block with a recessed entrance portico to the front (south-east) side. The entrance is flanked by four fluted pillars, which stand to c 3 m. Above the pillars is a small balcony, to the front of which is a balustrade of cut or moulded stone. To either side of the entrance are Venetian windows; the one to the north having recently being restored by the National Trust. These windows have central sash panels of twelve lights with two panels of four lights to either side. Above the main panel is a semi-circular fan light, surrounding which is decorative moulding. The other ground-floor windows echo this design. To the north-west are further Venetian windows and to the south, the five square-topped windows of twelve lights, have

been set into round-topped recesses. The upper windows, again of twelve lights are all square-topped and sash. Rising above the roof and recently repaired are a series of rendered chimney stacks with three and four pots. Set centrally below the roof line is a pyramidal lantern or sky-light. The whole structure, now painted in the original ochre colour, has a feeling of restrained symmetry. To the north-east of the house is the Servant's wing and Service Courtyard.

The first family noted at Llanerchaeron is the Gwynne family who sold the 'plas' or mansion and some 500 acres to Llewellyn Parry in 1634. Little or nothing is known of this early house but the fact that it is referred to as a 'plas' may suggest a building of some status. Evans, (1998), suggests that it was a hall house, subsequently demolished prior to 1795. Llewellyn Parry married Jane Lloyd and their son, John, inherited the estate in 1667. In 1670, the house was assessed as containing six hearths, compared with Nanteos where there were two, indicating a grand, if not a great house. Either John or his father added a stone wing to the wooden hall house. Some sources suggest that when John Parry died in 1690, he left the estate to his daughter, Anne. However, Evans (1996), states that the estate was left to his elder son, Stephen. Stephen married Anne Lloyd. They had two daughters, Mary and Anne named after Stephen's sisters. Family tragedies and the early death of John's presumed heir in 1736, his grandson, meant that the estate passed to John Lewis, who was also a grandchild of John Parry. John Lewis married twice, firstly to Magdalen Jenkins and subsequently to Elizabeth Griffies. John Lewis had stipulated that the eldest of his sons, Hugh, should inherit Llanerchaeron. However, his early death meant that John (II) inherited both Llanerchaeron and Verdre. In 1749, John married Elizabeth Johnes of Dolaucothi; this union produced eight children and William, the second son, eventually inherited the estate.

It was William Lewis who commissioned John Nash to design a new mansion for the family at Llanerchaeron, as his relatives at Hafod, Nanteos and Dolaucothi had already done. Evans (1996) mentions that documentation for this building work was scarce, but that when repairs were being carried out to the roof in 1995, the builders came across two papers which confirm Nash's association with Llanerchaeron. The first is a bill for glass dated 20th March 1795, which was addressed to Major William Lewis, written and signed by John Nash. The other, a letter from a wine merchant in Carmarthen, concludes that he was glad to hear that that building was nearing a conclusion. It is also believed that Nash was involved in the rebuilding or refurbishment of the church and that an agent of his was responsible for the farm buildings to the east of the house

John and Eliza were the children of William Lewis and Corbetta Williama Powell. The estate passed to Eliza, who married William Lewes and it was their great grandson, John Powell Ponsonby who left the estate to the National Trust in 1989.

Contemporary with the main house and abutting it is the rectangular block of the servants' wing. Although of two storeys, the roof lines are lower than the main house, but the double pitched roofs are again of slate. The rubble walls may once have been rendered and painted as the house, but now the stone is exposed. The ground floor rooms would have been kitchens, maid's and housekeeper's rooms and the butler's pantry. Upstairs were bedrooms and bathrooms, although one of the two bathrooms may have been for the use of the main house.

The service court, to the north of the house, is described by Suggett as 'plain but delightful with a covered way at the perimeter of the central cobbled yard providing access to the dairy, cheese-room, game-larder and (on the other side) laundry, boot-room and brew-house. It is difficult to assess the originality of Nash's assured handling of the planning of the services, but the inspiration was Italianesque and presumably derived from the loggia'd courtyards of the Palladian villa'. After a period of neglect, the single-storeyed

service courtyard is presently being restored so that the corrugated iron, which still roofs part of the complex, will be replaced with slate. The rectangular courtyard is enclosed by the offices described above and the northern elevation of the servant's quarters. The covered perimeter walkway has been reinstated and the rendering is being replaced on the walls. The same careful symmetry of design is found within this courtyard, with the round topped doors and windows being placed at regular intervals with the east and west wings being mirror images of each other. To the north is a round-topped pedestrian arched access, which includes a delicate iron fan light. The centre of the courtyard is presently down to grass, although it may once may have been cobbled. This enclosed area, away from the household, would have been an excellent drying ground but there is no direct evidence for this use.

Standing on its own to the north-east of the service courtyard is the single-storeyed billiard room. This square rubble built building with hipped slate roof and external porch, was erected much later than the house in 1843. The room is lit, not only by the side windows, but also by a clerestory or clearstory window in the centre of the roof. The builder was the estate mason, David Morgan, and his design reflects elements found in Nash's building. The round-topped sash windows to the front (north) side are set within round topped recesses and there is a semi-circular fan light over the porch door.

Across the drive from and to the north of the billiard room is a roughly coursed rectangular building with slate roof. The original function of this building is not known, but, as it lacks any evidence of domestic occupation, the National Trust believe that it served as a wood shed.

To the east of the house and associated with the walled garden is a further, impressive, complex of utilitarian buildings which will be mentioned, but not fully described, within that garden area

The park and gardens at Llanerchaeron enjoy the low lying flat land of the valley of the river Aeron as it meanders towards Aberaeron. The flat, gently rolling landscape around Llanerchaeron is in contrast with much of the surrounding countryside. During restoration and renovation work within the gardens, both Dr John Savidge and members of the National Trust have encountered a variety of soils including, towards the lake, heavy clays. It has been suggested by Dr Savidge and others, that this variation is as a result of deposition within the valley during the later phases of the last Ice Age. Most of the land associated with the park and gardens is at about 45 m AOD, with the southernmost parkland rising to about 47 m. Little is presently known of any gardens or the land-use contemporary with the earlier houses, although the inventories reproduced by Evans (1996) give some idea of the activities of the early Llanerchaeron. The National Trust has also recently discovered a possible cobbled yard within the park to the north of the house.

There are four main elements to this site - the parkland, walled gardens, pleasure grounds and woodlands across the river.

There are some 61 acres of park at Llanerchaeron, most of which are down to grass and grazed. Associated particularly with the eastern and southern boundaries are deliberately planted 'scallop' of trees, which serve to break and soften the margins of the park. These features, which are separated from the open park by degraded earth and stone banks, are probably part of the original design, as they appear on the Tithe Award Survey. By 1889 these 'scallop' are shown to be planted with a mix of mature trees. Regrettably these plantings have been neglected and the mature Scots pine, chestnut, sycamore and oak are now becoming sparse and senile. The open parkland is now broken by a self-sown scrub hedge of willow and alder which is associated with a leat. However, the deliberately planted clumps at SN 4786 6017 and SN 4803 5982 remain, although the former has become congested with self sown oaks and ash and the latter has become degraded by

neglect and grazing animals. Enclosed within a former meander bend of a tributary to the river Aeron, which runs along the west side of the park, is a fine stand of beech, but this area, again, is becoming congested with self-sown saplings. Other specimen trees within the park include a lime to the south of St. Non's church, which may be the one represented on the 1889 survey.

No general description of the park at Llanerchaeron would be complete without reference to the significance of the church within this designed landscape. The small church, with its distinctive tower and cupola was redesigned by Nash; it was initially erected as a chapel of ease for the family before coming into common use. Thomas Lloyd, writing in 1990 states of the planned picturesque disposition of the buildings at Llanaeron (*sic*) that: 'First and foremost, there is the church, unattributed and undated but clearly Regency, Picturesque – and Nash. Meyrick indicates that it was rebuilt about the same time as the house (he published in 1809). Its proximity to the house but juxtaposition of style leave one in no doubt what is intended. For here is a scene from the canvas of Poussin or Claude, cool, Italian Palladianism in the house and rugged stone gothic half hidden in the adjacent clump: the classic language of architectural symbolism then in the height of fashion'. Lloyd then goes on to speculate whether this 'looking out beyond the house' of architect and client could indicate that this might be Nash's very first planned park. Whoever was the designer, it is clear that the landscape and the buildings within it at Llanerchaeron were manipulated in a sophisticated way to achieve a picturesque quality, with particular views, the chief of which was that from the house to the church.

The Tithe Award Survey shows the church, as it is today, separated from the park, within a rectangular enclosure. On the west, south and east sides is a ha-ha, the stone walls towards the church, the slope to the ditch, which now appears somewhat silted, towards the park. To the north is the lane. The National Trust suggests that no graves were ever intended, but by 1889 the enclosure is referred to as a 'Grave Yard'.

There is now a hedge separating the park from the graveyard and lane, but, as far as can be judged from nineteenth-century illustrations, this is a recent development. The boundary may have originally been marked by the iron park railings which are still partially extant between the gardens associated with the house and the park. To the south-east, separating the park from the pleasure gardens, is a further stretch of ha-ha. The ditch, to the park side, is now filled with water which drains from the leat. This is probably the result of tumbled masonry where the leat should enter the pleasure gardens, although there may once have been a sluice arrangement.

There are two estate cottages which form important incidents in the picturesque landscape. Clwyd Ddu Lodge is a small single-storey cottage, which stands at the junction of the lane to Llanerchaeron, to the west of the house and the Aberaeron to Lampeter road. It has a pyramidal, pitched, slate roof with central, stone, chimney stack. The National Trust believes that it is late eighteenth-century in date and was built as a lodge. To the north-west is a modern, block, extension with flat roof.

To the west of the house, on the north side of the lane to Llanerchaeron, is a small, single-storey cottage, Abermydr. The National Trust suggest that this small, pink-washed cottage was designed either by John Nash or George Repton in a style and position to enhance the picturesque scene of the landscaped park. The building was originally thatched but now the slate roof is extended to the south to include a veranda. The cottage, which was originally an octagonal structure, was extended northwards in c 1840 and a further extension was added to the east by 1889. The roof is pitched at the western end and there are rendered chimney stacks at both ends. There is a dormer window within the roof towards the front (south) which is Gothic in design, as are many of the other windows, although not original. Within the gardens to the south-west of the cottage is a splendid

London Plane (*Platanus x acerifolia*) and to the south-east a delicate wrought iron gate some 1.5 m high hangs from a new stone gate-pier.

The river Mydr forms the western boundary to the gardens of Abermydr cottage and a single span, stone bridge, Pont Mydr, carries the Llanerchaeron lane over the river. The bridge, which is just over 3 m tall from the river bed to the top of the solid stone parapet, is utilitarian in design, with no rustic or picturesque embellishments.

The Tithe Award Survey and Schedule of Apportionments of c 1840 refer to the two fields which form the park as 'Cae Dail'. These are field numbers 349 and 350 and are given as 21 acres 3 roods and 40 acres 3 roods and 30 perches respectively. The boundaries to the park are, to the south-east, a field boundary; to the south, the Lampeter to Aberaeron road; to the west the course and former course of a tributary of the Aeron river, the afon Mydr, and to the north the minor road or drive associated with the house.

In the fifty or so years between the survey undertaken for the Tithe Award and the First Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey map some, small changes had been made. By the late nineteenth century, the park is shown as three parcels, one, to the north-west is given as 39.585 acres (350) and field number 349 has been divided into two parcels of 10.132 and 12.124. There has also been a change in the water courses. The meander of the afon Mydr, to the west of St. Non's Church, is now represented as a relic course (although still the course of the parish boundary) and the river has been returned to a previous, straighter course. At the junction of the previous meander and the present course, the Ordnance Survey have recorded 'Def. This abbreviation stands for 'defaced' and relates to the parish boundary which is 'C.Tk.OCR' in other words, the physical marker, the river, has been defaced, but the course of the parish boundary is still the centre of the former river course. Surviving stonework to either side of the present river at this junction would suggest deliberate water management. Just over 1.5 acres is enclosed by the relic meander which is still visible as a linear depression. In 1889 this area had been planted with trees and it remains so today.

As mentioned above, much of the drift geology at Llanerchaeron is clay. Other changes were made in the water management in these fifty years, possibly prompted by poor drainage. The Tithe Award Survey shows a leat or drain running from the afon Mydr, near to Llaethliw, which is to the south of the Lampeter to Aberaeron road. In c 1840, the leat, which was taken under the road and into the park, is shown as having two spurs running west across the park. The first, some 150 m from the road, is only a short spur and the water is, presumably, returned to the river as it heads west. The second spur may have had a more significant impact on the park landscape. This spur is shown branching from the main leat some 250 metres north from the road. Its north-westerly course takes it across the park (field number 350). Due south of St Non's church is a small fork heading due north. The main spur eventually empties into the meander, which was extant at that time. By 1889, these spurs from the main leat, like the meander, have been done away with and only the main leat remains.

With the exception of the above, very little of the park appears to have been altered since the turn of the last century.

The pleasure gardens, walled gardens, drives and the lake occupy some 12 acres around Llanerchaeron; with most of the garden area being to the east of the house. They were laid out at the same time as the house was rebuilt and were probably largely complete by 1803. To the north of the garden area is the Llanerchaeron lane with the remnants of the park fence and ha-ha surrounding the gardens to the south. The early maps indicate that the layout has changed little in 150 years. The 1889 survey shows mature trees to the small area to the west of the house with further plantings of trees, winding paths, walled gardens, associated buildings and the working, utilitarian buildings to the east. Small flower gardens

were later established to the east and west of the house and, earlier in this century, a croquet lawn was levelled to the south. The flower gardens around the house were, apparently, bordered with white calcite or quartz boulders, which are just still visible. The garden to the west of the house was probably about 4 m wide whilst the one to the east seems to have been curved to accommodate the early twentieth century alterations to the service block. The croquet lawn to the south of the house juts into the parkland. It was constructed after 1919 and is now rough grass.

The house is approached from the Llanerchaeron lane to its north. There are two recessed entrances to the drive to the east and west of the house from the lane. These entrances are very similar in construction, but not quite identical. At the entrance to each drive, the low stone wall of the recess (c 0.75m high) ends at a double set of rubble stone gate piers some 2 m high. Between the outer and inner piers and set on a low stone wall, are iron railings, with "Fleurs de Lys" to top and bottom and which are about a metre tall. Between the two inner piers hang the iron gates which, similarly decorated and dip towards the centre so that, when shut, they form a semi-circle; this is matched in the design of the ironwork below. All the piers are capped with stone slabs and the National Trust believes that they were once rendered and probably painted the same colour as the house. At the western side of the west entrance is a simple flight of three or four crude stone steps which may predate the stonework of the entrance. They are only about 40 cm wide and seem to give access to a former footpath across the park, recorded on the 1889 survey.

To the north, across the road from the entrances to the main drive (north of) and no longer used, is the entrance to a track which led to a ford across the river Aeron. Although no longer extant as a drive, but formerly an important route to the house from the north, this route crossed the river at SN 4795 6028. From the ford, the route followed a river terrace to the west before turning north up the step (on this side) scarp of the valley. This drive still apparently exists as an earthwork and the route is still marked by more mature oaks. The entrance to this track from the Llanerchaeron lane is again marked by a walled recessed entrance, the walls, although somewhat tumbled still standing to 0.75 – 1 m. The west wall of the drive also acts as a retaining wall between the drive and the river terrace.

The grounds to the east of the house have a canopy of mixed coniferous and deciduous trees, including beech, cedar and wellingtonia. Towards the lake are clumps of bamboo and the occasional holly. Two paths lead off the east drive. One leads towards the utilitarian complex to the north of the walled gardens; the other would seem to have been laid out as a circular walk which crossed the leat over a small bridge, followed the west wall of the walled gardens returning just to the east of the bridge. At SN 4801 6010 is a fork from this circular route. This path lead through what has been described as the Dutch garden to the lake. This path has all but disappeared but the circular path is still extant. Also extant, but possibly later in construction than the path is a 'rocky bank' or rock garden, which has been formed in a series of scallops to the west and north of the walled gardens. These banks are made from a variety of stones many of which are not local. Some are calcite, others are water worn (rounded) and from the holes within them, obviously marine. The crescent shaped bank to the north is the most complex, although possibly altered from the original design by recent clearance and planting work. This rock garden now appears as a series of small, irregular terraces with a stone retaining wall between each. Two mature beech trees grow on the top of the bank, which rises to c 2 m; these pre-date the building of the rock garden. The scallop bays to the west and abutting the wall of the walled gardens are just retained by a single line of stone and are no more than 30 cm above the level of the path.

The path to the lake, which runs to the south of the walled gardens is now, as mentioned above, very indistinct and goes through an area the National Trust describes as

the 'Dutch' gardens. At the east entrance and attached to the east end of the walled garden wall is an ancient wooden (probably oak) gatepost standing to 1.75 m. It is topped with a wooden ball and most of the blue-green paint has now gone. The little private garden is now very overgrown with *Rhododendron ponticum*, but the edges of former borders, marked with calcite, and a small pond are still just visible.

To the south-east of the garden, within the pleasure grounds, is the lake. The leat, through the park and the rill which runs through the gardens are both associated with it. This oval lake, set to the south-east of the walled gardens and covering some 1.5 acres is again shown on the Tithe Award survey and is referred to as 'Pond' (parcel number 348). An oval-shaped island, towards the east of the lake, is also shown on this survey and later surveys. Around the lake is a path c 1.5 m wide; this now has large rhododendrons (*R. ponticum*) to either side. At the western end are the sluices which control the water levels and, originally the flow of water to the rill which bisects part of the pleasure garden. This western end is less curved in plan and there is masonry on the inner face. Set into this is a concrete and slate channel which is just under a metre wide and about 7 m long. At the west end of this channel and now covered with a sheet of plywood, is a square, stone lined cavity into which a slate step has been inserted towards the top. At the base of the cavity are two culverts, one leads back towards the lake, the other towards the park. It would seem that the original intention was that when the lake was sufficiently full, water would flow along the channel from the lake, tumble into the cavity and from there it was directed, underground, into the ha-ha. Water could, presumably, still be channelled into the ha-ha when the water levels were lower by the use of sluice gates. These would allow the water to flow into the cavity from a deeper water level within the lake. At SN 4809 6005 the water entered the ha-ha; returning to the pleasure gardens and into the rill at SN 4798 6099. This arrangement is not shown on the early survey, but it appears on the 1889 map and subsequent surveys. The slate set into the cavity would ensure that there was the sound of tumbling water, when the lake was full. However, there may have been some further features around the cavity, which is about 3 m deep, to prevent accidents.

Today the lake appears as a badly silted depression, invaded by scrub willow, alder and moisture-loving plants. The island is still evident as a dry mound on which there are a mature Scots pine and less mature birch trees. To the east of the lake is more masonry, which could represent other water management features, and the rotten wooden piers of what was probably once a small jetty. No boat-house is recorded and no likely remains of such a structure were seen.

The little stone-lined rill which runs through the gardens to the west of the walled gardens does not seem to appear on the Tithe Award survey but it is recorded in 1889. The water enters the gardens on the south side, the flow of water formerly being controlled by the features described above. The channel is a constant 90 cm deep and 1.25 m wide, of undressed and uncoursed stone. At SN 4797 6017 the rill is crossed by a little bridge which carries the path from the house towards the walled gardens. This is a curious structure which stands, to the top of the small, solid parapet, 1.5 m above the bed of the rill. The single arch is made of brick but the arch is offset to the line of the rill and the eastern edge of the arch is hidden by the stone of the rill sides. This may be as the designer intended. However, it might suggest that the bridge was extant prior to or built after the creation of the rill. The rill ends close to the east drive and the water is then channelled underground, by a square stone culvert; immediately to the south of the culvert is a flight of five stone steps, which lead down to the water level. The purpose of the rill was probably always mainly utilitarian; water from it was used for flushing lavatories and other utilitarian purposes within the house complex.

The two walled gardens, which were completed by 1803, are of the same size and form a rectangular block running east to west with the north and south walls being some 152.5 m long and the east and west walls being 45.75 m.

The west garden walls, which stand to over 3 m high, are built entirely of brick and the National Trust estimates that a total of 300,000 bricks were used in the construction of these gardens. From the west, this garden is entered through a doorway towards the north end of the west wall. The surrounding brickwork is set proud; the blue/green painted door and frame are believed to be original. Interestingly, the 1889 survey shows no path from the circular path to this entrance, neither does the Tithe Award Survey. The brick walls show signs of recent restoration work and all are topped with tiles. A broad, gravelled, path leads from this door straight to the door to the east garden. To the south of the path are venerable fruit trees which, from their shape, were obviously once trained to espalier frames. The two main planting areas to this side of the path have low hedges of box and these low hedges also border the secondary, north – south path which has been constructed half way along the main east- west path. At the northern end of the secondary path is a circular feature, now a pond. The 1889 survey records this circular feature but refers to it as a sundial. Today this feature is a shallow, stone-lined pond, the total depth below the path being about 0.75 m. Around it are random stones, some calcite, which form a small informal rockery.

The area to the north of the main path would seem to have been the section used very much for growing and displaying the more important, interesting and tender plants. The 1889 survey records a small square structure in the north-west corner; this has vanished and the area is now used to display roses which are planted within geometrically shaped beds surrounded, again, by low cut box hedges. These beds are thought to have been originally created towards the turn of the century and have recently been restored. The south-facing north wall was heated by a system of flues. No glass is shown on the early surveys to the western end of this wall, which might suggest that any covering was temporary or that it was used for more tender fruits. Five separate ranges of glass are shown on the early survey at the eastern end of this wall. Documentary evidence suggests that at least some glass was extant in 1860 when the areas of glass were extended and altered, (*pers comm* N Evans). Four areas were probably houses whilst the fifth may have been covered, heated raised beds. Two of the early, wooden, houses are still extant, one has been recently restored whilst the other is in an extremely poor condition. A modern concrete house replaced one of the former houses within the last few decades, now itself in poor condition, and the base of the fourth is still extant, as are the walls of the raised beds. Miss Nicky Evans of the National Trust has produced very detailed, isometric drawings of all these features, recording all fixtures and fittings, heating pipes, window openings and so on within the Boulton and Paul house and the others. Between the restored glass house and the ruinous house is a sundial, now set on a cast-iron base (which may be industrial or maritime in origin). It is possible that this may be that which stood on the site of the pond, and was removed to its present position when the pond was created, post 1889.

The east walled garden is entered by a door which is similar in construction to that into the west garden. The character and construction of this garden is different from the west garden. The north, brick, wall was, again, heated, although there is no evidence for glass. The most noticeable difference is that the south wall is of stone. It has been suggested that this indicates this east garden was more utilitarian in character. However, it may be that the colder stone wall increased the range of plant material grown within the garden. The stone wall rises to the same height as the brick wall, but it has been recently capped with cement, rather than stones, as was probably the case originally. As with the west garden, at the junction of a north-south subsidiary path and the main path is a circular feature. This is and probably always was, a pond. As with the previous pond, it is

surrounded by random stones. Over the pond is an iron rose or growing arch now in poor condition. Again, the shape of the ancient fruit trees within this garden suggest that they were once attached to espalier frames and some of the paths are bordered with low, box, hedging. The ground to the north of the main path is under cultivation whilst that in the south of the garden is down to grass.

There is a substantial complex of buildings which abut these gardens to the north and although there may be some overlap of function they possibly can be viewed as consisting of three main elements. To the north-west is the stable and carriage range, to the north the garden range and to the north-east the farm range.

The stable and carriage range is a U-shaped stone building of one and two storeys, with a slate roof. It consists of the stables to the east, a central carriage or coach house and a western range of indeterminate function, now roofless. The National Trust suggest that the central and west range predate the rebuilding of the house and that they were gentrified in or after 1800. The courtyard enclosed by these buildings is set with pitched stones in herring-bone patterns which are not only decorative but help the water to run off rapidly.

To the south of the stable and carriage range is an area referred to as the frame yard or small frame yard. This area is enclosed to the south by an open lean-to (which utilises the north wall of the walled garden), to the north by the carriage range and, to the other sides, by a stone wall which stands to 1.5 m high. Within the enclosure are cold frames, the bases of former cold frames and stove pits associated with the walled garden and the carriage range.

Constructed as a lean-to against the north wall of the west walled garden is a potting shed. This single-storey rubble building has been altered during the course of its history. At some stage the roof has been raised and two, possibly three of the window openings to the north have been decreased in size. Within the floor is a mix of flag stones, pitched stones and brick. The potting shed abuts the 'Bailiff's' house or 'Garden' house which is to the east.

The Bailiff's house was apparently erected after much of the complex had been established, probably in 1863. It is of two storeys with hipped slate roof and three chimneys. To the east is the front door, set centrally, with sash windows of twelve lights to either side and three above. Large cracks have now appeared in the outer walls. The Bailiff's house abuts the single-storey range to the north which was used for cows and the heavy horses.

To the east of this complex is a further assemblage of buildings, again built around a courtyard. These buildings include a fine cart house with the granary above, the kennel block, stock sheds, the threshing barn and the boiler house complex. This boiler house produced the hot water to heat the glasshouses within the west walled garden. To the east again is the wheel pit which housed the water wheel. This wheel provided the power for many of the activities within the farm complex, the water coming from a header pond to the east of the lake and, originally, from the leat which crosses the park. Between the lane and farm buildings are limes, laurels and some beech.

Sources

Primary

Evans N, *The Llanerchaeron Estate; The built environments, building descriptions and evaluations* (1998): unpublished document, National Trust.

Laidlaw R & Palmer C, *Historic park and garden survey Llanerchaeron* (1998): unpublished document, National Trust

Lloyd T, Untitled paper (1990): with Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments, Cardiff.
Tithe Award Survey and Schedule of Apportionments (1839): National Library of Wales,
Aberystwyth.
Information from Dr John Savidge.

Secondary

Evans ML, *Llanerchaeron, A tale of 10 generations 1634 – 1989* (1996).