



Llanover

*Conservation Area
Appraisal &
Management Proposals*



monmouthshire
sir fynwy

Document Prepared By:



FORUM
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Services

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The War Memorial in Llanover

Part A: Purpose & Scope of the Appraisal

1 Introduction

1.1 Conservation Areas comprise the accumulation of an area's positive architectural or historic attributes, rather than the quality of its individual buildings, which makes it worthy of Conservation Area status. The attributes might include: the landscape setting of the area; the grouping of traditional buildings and the resultant spaces and sense of enclosure; the scale, design, type and materials of the buildings; historic boundaries; public realm; landmarks, views and vistas; and the present and former pattern of activities or land uses.

1.2 Llanover is one of 31 designated Conservation Areas in the county of Monmouthshire. It was designated as a Conservation Area on 12th January 1976.

1.3 The *Llanover Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Proposals* are seen as the first steps in a dynamic process, the aim of which is to preserve and enhance the character and appearance of the Llanover Conservation Area and to provide a basis for making sustainable decisions about its future management.

1.4 Key study aims:

- Identify those elements of Llanover which contribute to its character
- Identify elements which detract from the character
- Propose measures to maintain or improve the positive character, local distinctiveness and sense of place of Llanover

1.5 The framework for the study follows guidance set out in *Circular 60/96: Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology* and *Circular 61/96: Planning and the Historic Environment: Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas* and the latest draft guidance from Cadw; *Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance for the sustainable management of the historic environment in Wales*, adopted March 2011.

2 Consultation

2.1 A consultation event covering a number of Conservation Areas, including Llanover, was undertaken on 1st March 2010 at County Hall in Cwmbran.

2.2 The purpose of this event was to obtain initial views from the local community on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to the Conservation Area.

2.3 Participants were broadly asked to consider the following:

- Positive characteristics (i.e. strengths) of the Conservation Area that makes it special
- Negative aspects (i.e. weaknesses) of the Conservation Area that threaten its special character
- Areas or features within the Conservation Area that need to be improved or enhanced (i.e. opportunities within the Conservation Area)
- Areas or features within the Conservation Area under threat or at risk
- Whether the boundary of the Conservation Area is correctly drawn
- The use of additional powers available to the Council's Planning Department to control alterations to original features on housing in the Conservation Area, such as windows and doors (where this is not already controlled)

2.4 Feedback from this initial consultation has been used by the study team in preparing the draft Conservation Area Appraisal.

3 Planning Policy Context

3.1 Section 69 1(a) and 2 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 ('the Act') defines Conservation Areas as:

"Areas of special architectural and historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance"

3.2 In addition, the Act puts particular emphasis on specific duties:

"It shall be the duty of the local authority from time to time to review the past exercise of functions under this section and to determine whether any parts or any further parts of their area should be designated as Conservation Areas..."

3.3 This is reinforced by the guidance set out in *Circular 60/96: Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology* and *Circular 61/96: Planning and the Historic Environment: Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas*. In particular, the local authority should from time to time, formulate and publish proposals for the preservation and enhancement of these Conservation Areas (management proposals).

3.4 In order to undertake works of enhancement, the character of the Conservation Area needs to be clearly defined and understood (character appraisal).

3.5 National planning policy is set out in Planning Policy Wales (PPW). PPW provides the overarching national strategic guidance with regard to land use planning matters in Wales. Conservation of the historic environment is set out in Chapter 6 of PPW. Policies relating to Listed Buildings, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Archaeological Remains and Historic Parks and Gardens are contained in PPW unless locally distinct elements require further Local Development Plan policies. PPW also sets out clear statements for development management in Conservation Areas.

3.6 This Conservation Area Appraisal should be read in the context of the Monmouthshire County Council Local

Development Plan (LDP) which was adopted on 27 February 2014, covering the period 2011-2021. Strategic Policy S17 helps to meet LDP objectives to protect and enhance the historic and built environment by ensuring good design that enhances the character and identity of Monmouthshire's settlements and respects the County's distinctiveness. Conservation Area Appraisals can play a significant part in helping to meet such aspirations. The historic environment chapter is contained in pages 167-172 of the LDP. Policies HE1, HE2 and HE3 directly relate to Conservation Areas.

3.7 The detailed criteria for assessing development proposals in Conservation Areas is set out in Policy HE1 and where appropriate aims to ensure the findings of the Conservation Area Appraisals are fully taken into account when considering development proposals. The Council will seek to preserve or enhance the special character or appearance of Conservation Areas in the assessment of Planning Applications. Policy HE2 relates specifically to the alterations of unlisted buildings in Conservation Areas to ensure that the conversion, alteration and extension of such buildings make a positive contribution to Conservation Areas. A number of detailed criteria relating specifically to the design of shop fronts in Conservation Areas are provided in Policy HE3. Policy HE3 seeks to maintain high standards of shop front design in Conservation Areas.

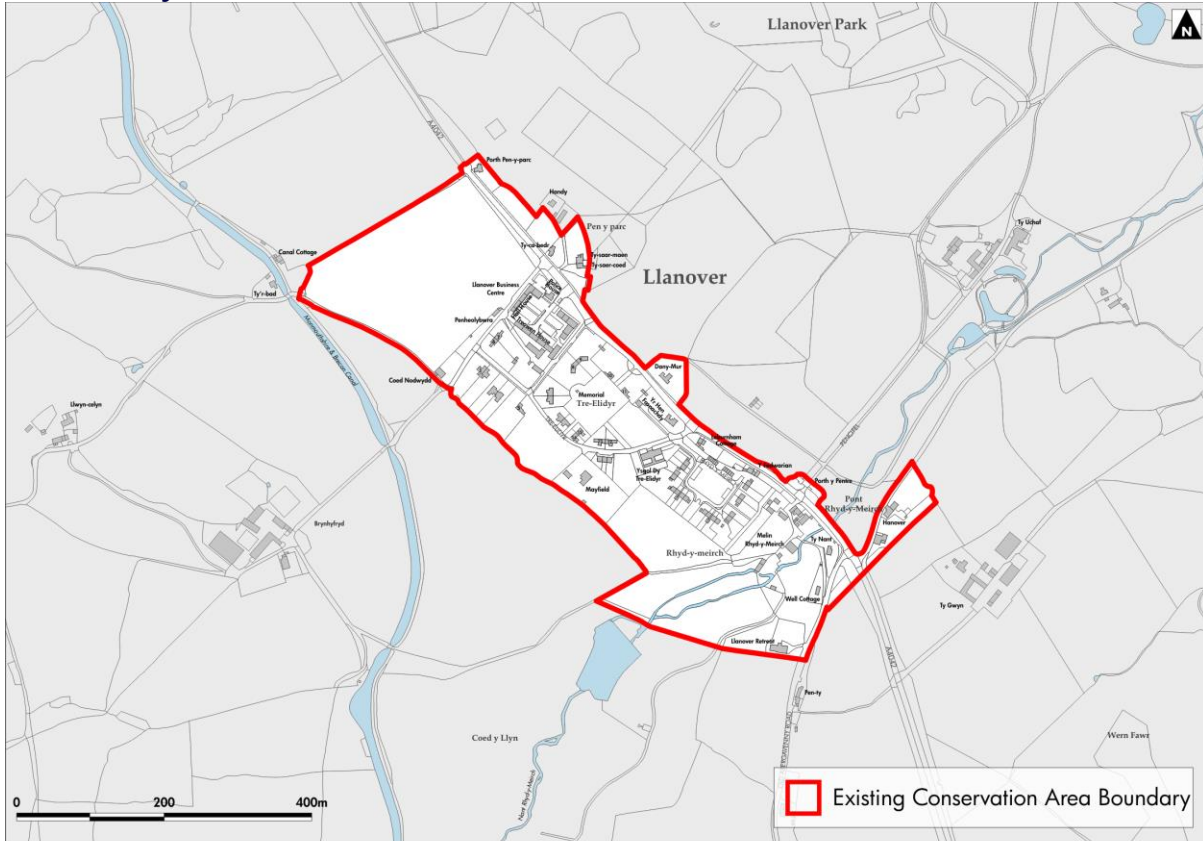
3.8 A number of additional studies carried out to support the LDP should be read in conjunction with the Conservation Area Appraisal. These include Landscape Capacity and Sensitivity Studies of the surroundings of Monmouthshire's towns and villages, including those with Conservation Areas. Similarly, published studies on Accessible Natural Greenspace and Habitat Connectivity may also include information that needs to be taken into account in preparing development proposals in Conservation Areas. Relevant information is also contained in the Monmouthshire LANDMAP landscape character assessment.

3.9 Draft Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) has also been produced. This provides practical design and planning checklists along with good practice case studies. This SPG should be

read in conjunction with the Conservation Area Appraisal.

For Additional Information:
 Monmouthshire Local Development Plan
<http://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/planning>

The Study Area



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Fig.1 Study Area

Part B: Conservation Area Appraisal

5 Location & Setting

5.1 The small estate village of Llanover is situated 4 miles south of Abergavenny on the A4042 to Pontypool, south-west of the River Usk (Fig.1 & Fig.2). The village is bounded to the north-east by the 19th century stone walls of Llanover Park, and to the west pasture land rises to the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal, and beyond to the wooded slopes of the Garn Ridge. There are extensive views north-west to the Bloreng and Sugar Loaf beyond.

5.2 Llanover comprises two distinct areas; the 1920s Arts and Crafts inspired 'model village', known as Tre Elidyr, on the A4042 and the older hamlet of Rhyd-y-Meirch, west of the A4042, opposite the main park gate. The Gwenffrwd (translated as white rushing stream) enters the village to the south, changing its name to Nant Rhyd-y-Meirch

(Stallion's Ford Brook) after the ford which once provided access to the village (since replaced by the bridge carrying the A4042) and so giving the hamlet its name.

5.3 To the north-east of the Conservation Area is the Grade II* listed Llanover Park (CADW Register of Landscapes Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales).

Refer to:

Part D - Plan 1 Conservation Area Plan

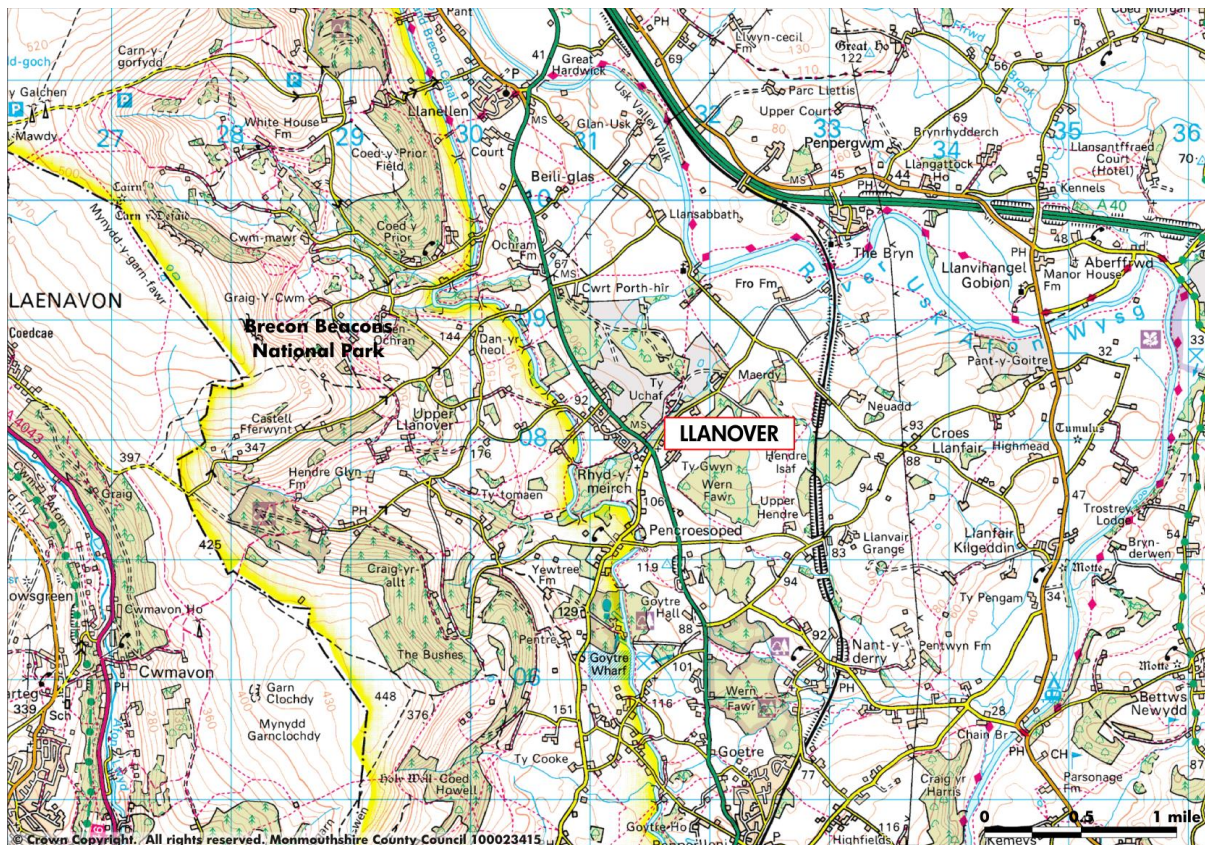


Fig.2 Llanover Location Plan

6 Historical Development & Archaeology

6.1 Historic Background

6.1.1 There are no sites of prehistoric or Roman date identified in the vicinity of the Llanover Conservation Area. This area appears to have developed as a landscape of dispersed settlement in the medieval period with hamlets and scattered farmsteads set within a landscape of generally small, irregular fields created through woodland clearance, particularly on the rising ground to the west of the village. To the north-east, the valley of the River Usk has slightly larger irregular fields of piecemeal enclosure. The former village, 'Old Llanover', was located around the 14th century church standing on the west bank of the River Usk just over 1km to the north of the present village.

6.1.2 An early settlement of a few scattered houses grew up next to the church. East of Llanover Park's North Lodge, west of the church, stands Court Farm of early 16th century origins. Known as the Court of the Long Entrance, this was originally the main house of the Llanover Court estate (**Fig.3**). Within the park are nine wells in a circle, the waters of which fall over two basins into a bath. The largest well is known as Ffynnon Gover 'the well of Gover' after whom Llanover is named (Barber, 2004).

6.1.3 The Llanover Court estate was held in the 15th century by Ievan ap¹ Trahiarn ap Meurig ap Gwilym Sias ap Madog, descendant of Gwaethfoed, Prince of Cardigan. In the 11th century, Ievan's heiress Jane, married Howel, second son of Ievan ap Meurig of Penrhos. The estate passed down the family to the Pritchards who resided at Cwrt y Porth-hir. A second house, Ty Uchaf, translated as Upper House, has its origins in the 15th century but it seems to have become the main house of the Llanover Court Estate in the 16th century when the Pritchard family left Cwrt y Porth-hir in favour of Ty Uchaf. A 16th century Pritchard family pew in Llanover Church records their residence at Ty Uchaf. The last Pritchard

heiress, Barbara, married the lawyer Walter Rumsey of Usk in c.1620. Rumsey died in 1660 and is buried in Llanover church. At his death the estate passed to the Cecil family (Barber, 2004).

6.1.4 In the 17th-18th century the hamlet of Rhyd-y-Meirch developed next to the stream on the southern edge of Llanover Park with a water-powered corn mill, smithy and collection of cottages (**Fig.4**).

6.1.5 The Llanover Court estate and Ty Uchaf were purchased in c.1792 by Benjamin Waddington of Nottinghamshire who extended and remodelled the house in the Neo-Classical style and created a circular walled garden with a dovecote, terrace and ha-ha to the south-east. The Rhyd-y-Meirch stream was altered to create lakes, cascades and weirs. In 1799 he planted 120,000 larch trees, brought from Glasgow.



Fig.3 The Court of the Long Entrance (sketch by F. Hando)

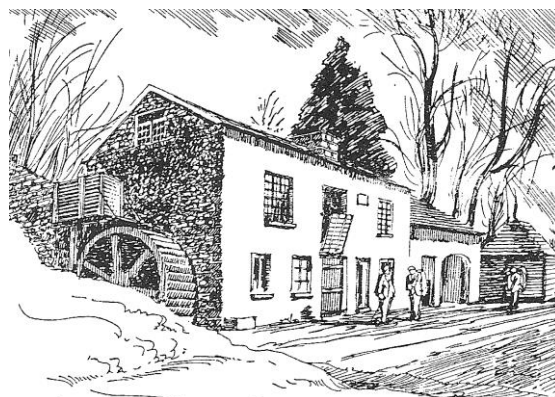


Fig.4 Rhyd-y-Meirch Mill (sketch by F. Hando)

¹ The prefix 'ap' means 'Son of' in Welsh

6.1.6 In *A Historical Tour through Monmouthshire* published in 1801 William Coxe described the estate thus:

The house stands on a gentle rise near the torrent Rhyd y Meirch, which falls from the neighbouring hills, and rippling through the grounds, hastens towards the Usk. In the front the rich meadows sink into an oval vale, intersected by the meandering Usk, and skirted by a range of gentle elevations dotted with numerous seats, churches and hamlets: beyond these rise in a grand succession, hills and mountains which combine the varieties of light and shade, and vie in the contrast and singularity of their forms...

6.1.7 Sir Benjamin Hall of Abercarn married Benjamin Waddington's daughter and heiress of Tŷ Uchaf, Augusta Waddington in Llanover church in 1823. The couple first resided in Newport House, Almeley, Herefordshire later moving to Abercarn House in Ebbw Vale. In 1826 Hall bought the Llanover Court estate adjoining Tŷ Uchaf. In 1828, following the death of Benjamin Waddington, the Halls moved from Abercarn to Llanover (Barber, 2004). In the same year Benjamin Hall employed one of the best-known early 19th century architects, Thomas Hopper, to design a new Elizabethan-style mansion in the grounds of the old court, a quarter of a mile north of Tŷ Uchaf (which remained in the Waddington family). Building started in 1828 and, the house was complete by 1837 (**Fig.5**). The two estates were amalgamated into the Llanover estate and a stone wall was built to enclose the park, accessed by three gated entrances, complete with lodges (**Fig.6**). Hall was M.P. for Monmouth from 1832 and for Marylebone from 1837. He became First Commissioner of Works (the bell in the clock tower of the Houses of Parliament is called after him, Big Ben). Raised to the peerage, he became Lord Llanover in 1859. Llanover House was last occupied in 1911 (**Fig.7**) and demolished in 1935, presumably as there was no need for two large houses within the estate. The stables remained, which were left to ruin.

(**Fig.8**) and Ty Uchaf reverted to role of estate house (Colvin, 1995).



Fig.5 Llanover House, built within 400 yards north-west of Ty Uchaf



Fig.6 Porthmawr was built by Benjamin Hall to form a ceremonial entrance to the main drive



Fig.7 Llanover House in the early 20th century



Fig.8 Early 20th century photograph.
The stable block is presently in a derelict condition.

6.1.8 Lady Llanover (1802-1896) did much to shape the fortunes of the village. Born to English parents she took the bardic name Gwenynen Gwent (the Bee of Gwent). Lord and Lady Llanover developed their house as a centre for Welsh culture. Lady Llanover campaigned for a Welsh education, revived old folk songs and dances of Wales, employed harpists to keep the tradition of the triple harp, (the national instrument of Wales) alive, and encouraged a national costume using her estate mill to produce Welsh cloth and flannel. Life on the estate was intended to be a Welsh one and her servants were expected to speak Welsh. She was a strong supporter of Eisteddfodau all over Wales and was the force behind the series of Eisteddfodau held in Abergavenny between 1833 and 1854 by the Cymreigyddion Society. The Llanover estate not only influenced the built form of the village, but also had an impact on the landscape and agriculture of the area. The flock of Black Welsh Mountain sheep in Llanover Park are directly descended from those brought by Lady Llanover in 1840.

6.1.9 Lady Llanover was also a supporter of the Temperance movement and bought up

every public house on the estate, converting them to coffee houses. She was so keen to preserve the Welsh language that she even had a church built at Abercarn and in a legal document stated that services must be in Welsh. She also endowed the Rhyd-y-Meirch Calvinistic Methodist Chapel. Built as a corrugated iron structure it was later replaced in stone. The parish church tower had acted as a school from the 1770s but in 1835 Benjamin Hall endowed Llanover School, now a private residence (Barber, 2004).

6.1.10 The present Hanoverian Chapel, east of Llanover Park, has earlier origins. As a congregation, it was first housed in the white-painted cottage that bears a plaque inscribed Hanover RDM 1744, RDM being the initials of the founder Rees Davies, and his wife Mary (Newman, 2002). A chapel for the congregation was not built until the 1760s and the current building is dated 1839 with a schoolroom of 1868. Robert Jermain Thomas (1839-1866) is commemorated in the churchyard. He was the son of a Reverend at the chapel and was ordained in Llanover to serve as a missionary in China. After a period in Beijing he joined a French expedition to Korea during the 1866 uprising. His ship was attacked and the Koreans executed him. Thomas became a martyr, dying whilst handing out the Bible. He is now perceived as the founder of Protestantism in Korea and Koreans frequently visit Llanover on pilgrimage (Hughes, 2004).

6.1.11 To the west of the village lies the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal which was constructed in 1809-12 by William Crosley. It travels north-south through the parish and is crossed by seven of Crosley's humped, single-arch bridges. There does not appear to have been significant canal-side industry in Llanover but it would have been used as a local transport link for the estate.

6.1.12 The grandson of Lady Llanover, Lord Treowen, was responsible for the early 20th century development of the village. The Arts and Crafts inspired hamlet of Tre Elidyr (a remarkable memorial to soldiers killed in the First World War and named after Lord

Treowen's son, Captain Elidyr Herbert, killed in action in 1917) was built in the mid-1920s to the designs of Alfred H. Powell. The hamlet incorporates a war memorial, a Welsh school (its motto 'Ysgol Harddwch Gwlad' meaning 'School in beautiful country'), a dozen cottages and cottage pairs set irregularly around a rectangular green with pleached limes planted to remember soldiers of the estate killed in action. In 2002 two benches made by sculptor Neil Gow to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Lady Llanover were placed in the garden of the primary school.

6.2 Settlement Plan

6.2.1 This area was characterised by dispersed settlement of scattered farmsteads and hamlets. Historically this pattern was reflected by a small settlement located around the medieval church near the River Usk with the manor house, Cwrt Porth-hir set on its own almost 1km to the west of the church. Ty Uchaf also developed as an isolated property.

6.2.2 Rhyd-y-Meirch, developed in the 17th or 18th century, as a small settlement which by the mid-19th century comprised a watermill standing alongside the stream and a number of cottages set in narrow roadside plots. The settlement at that date had the appearance of piecemeal development, with houses often located on plots to the roadside (known as roadside waste) rather than being a planned estate village. In the 1920s an area a little to the north-west of Rhyd-y-Meirch was developed. John Newman in the Buildings of Wales series, *Gwent/Monmouthshire* describes this development of twelve cottages (some paired) and known as Tre Elidyr, as a 'touching and, in a way, inspiring realization of the dream of a hamlet, built for Lord Treowen in the mid-1920s to the Arts and Crafts ideal by Alfred H Powell'². In 1950 the area between Rhyd-y-Meirch and Tre Elidyr was in-filled with prefabricated 'Cornish' type houses placed around a second green. In 1965, additional

² Alfred Powell (c1865-1960) was more well-known for his decorative painting but was active in the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) producing pamphlets explaining how vernacular buildings should be restored and repaired

houses were erected amongst the 1920s cottages.

6.3 Key Historic Influences & Characteristics

6.3.1 The key historic influences and characteristics of Llanover are:

- 'Old Llanover' originated around the 14th-century church north of the present village
- Manorial estate located to the west of the church with the early 16th-century Llanover Court, at its centre.
- The Tŷ Uchaf estate developed adjoining the south-east boundary of Llanover Park
- 17th-18th century the hamlet of Rhyd-y-Meirch developed next to the stream on the southern edge of Llanover Park
- Llanover Court and Tŷ Uchaf united in an extended Llanover Park with a new house, Llanover House built in 1828-1837 for Sir Benjamin Hall. This new house was demolished less than a century later.
- 19th century estate development of Rhyd-y-Meirch influenced by the pro-active Lady Llanover
- 1920s village expansion to the north-west with the construction of the Arts and Crafts inspired hamlet of Tre Elidyr
- 1950 'Cornish' type houses placed around a second green
- 1965 additions to Tre Elidyr

6.4 Archaeological Potential

6.4.1 There is no defined Area of Special Archaeological Sensitivity within the Llanover Conservation Area. However, contact should be made with the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust, the council's archaeological advisors, at an early stage in any proposed development scheme to ensure that any archaeological issues are fully considered.

Refer to:

Plan 2 Historical Plan

Plan 3 Area of Archaeological Potential

7 Spatial Analysis

7.1 Background

7.1.1 Conservation Areas are designated for their special character, but within the area there will be zones which are varied but contribute to the whole. It is important to define these 'character areas' and provide a clear understanding of the defining elements making up the character of a particular part of the Conservation Area. This leads to a more useful and comprehensive document in development control terms.

7.1.2 Whilst individual character areas have been defined with a line (see **Plan 6**), adjacent areas will, in almost all cases, have a direct effect on the character of any defined sub-area. Character areas do not sit in isolation and when considering the impact of proposals on the character and/or appearance of a Conservation Area the character area and adjacent character areas and their wider setting (which may in some cases extend beyond the Conservation Area boundary) should be very carefully considered. There are often cases where character areas will overlap giving these spaces added complexity and importance in terms of proposed changes.

7.1.3 It should be noted that whilst six character areas have been identified, it is also important to appreciate the cohesion to the whole Conservation Area, which should always be considered when addressing the character of the Llanover Conservation Area.

7.1.4 For general guidance on the criteria used for assessing buildings making a particularly positive contribution to the Conservation Area, please refer to **Appendix 1**.

Refer to:

Part D - Plan 4 Spatial Analysis

Part D - Plan 5 Listed Buildings & Buildings Making a Particular or Special Positive Contribution

Part D - Plan 6 Character Areas

7.2 Overview

7.2.1 Llanover is an estate village, and whilst its underlying history is complex its present form is largely a creation of the early 20th-century, its inspiration derived from Lady Llanover's passionate campaigns to promote the revival of Welsh culture. The village and Conservation Area can be divided into a series of distinct character areas. It extends along the west side of the busy A4042 (the considerable volume of traffic using this road has a bearing on the character of the area) with the park wall of Llanover House enclosing the roadside to the east. Llanover Park itself is not part of the Conservation Area, but its lodges on the A4042 are included. The Conservation Area divides south to north with the older settlement of white-washed stone cottages known as Rhyd-y-Meirch in the south followed by a group of 1950s cottage pairs and then by the planned Arts and Crafts inspired hamlet of Tre Elidyr. Adjacent to the roadside is the Llanover Business Centre, a planned courtyard of part-converted farm buildings and new-build. This area is inward looking and an essentially contained area distinct from the remaining predominantly residential areas in the village.

7.2.2 As an estate village, the consistency required in terms of the use of materials such as paint colours for walls and joinery have provided a unity of appearance to buildings which is a defining characteristic of the Conservation Area. The continuity of ownership and the controls that are in place as a result have also contributed to the long-term preservation of the village.

7.2.3 A field to the north is also included within the Conservation Area. The estate land is grazed by a flock of Black Welsh Mountain sheep, of note due to their special connection to Lady Llanover's revival of Welsh culture which is so central to the historic associations of Llanover.

7.2.4 The parish church is a mile to the north-east but the village contains two chapels, a Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Chapel, built on the bequest of Lady Llanover, and an earlier Hanoverian Chapel.

7.3 Character Areas

7.3.1 Six distinct character areas have been identified in Llanover, the boundaries of which have been identified in **Fig.9** below and **Plan 6**. This section will identify the key attributes of each character area.

7.3.2 Each character area makes reference to the following key considerations

- Form (cohesiveness – why is it a character area)
- Scale & Building Line
- Significant buildings or groups of buildings making a positive or special contribution
- Materials
- Views
- Local Features
- Significant Spaces & Gaps
- Trees, hedges and boundaries
- Surfaces

Refer to:

Part D - Plan 6 Character Areas

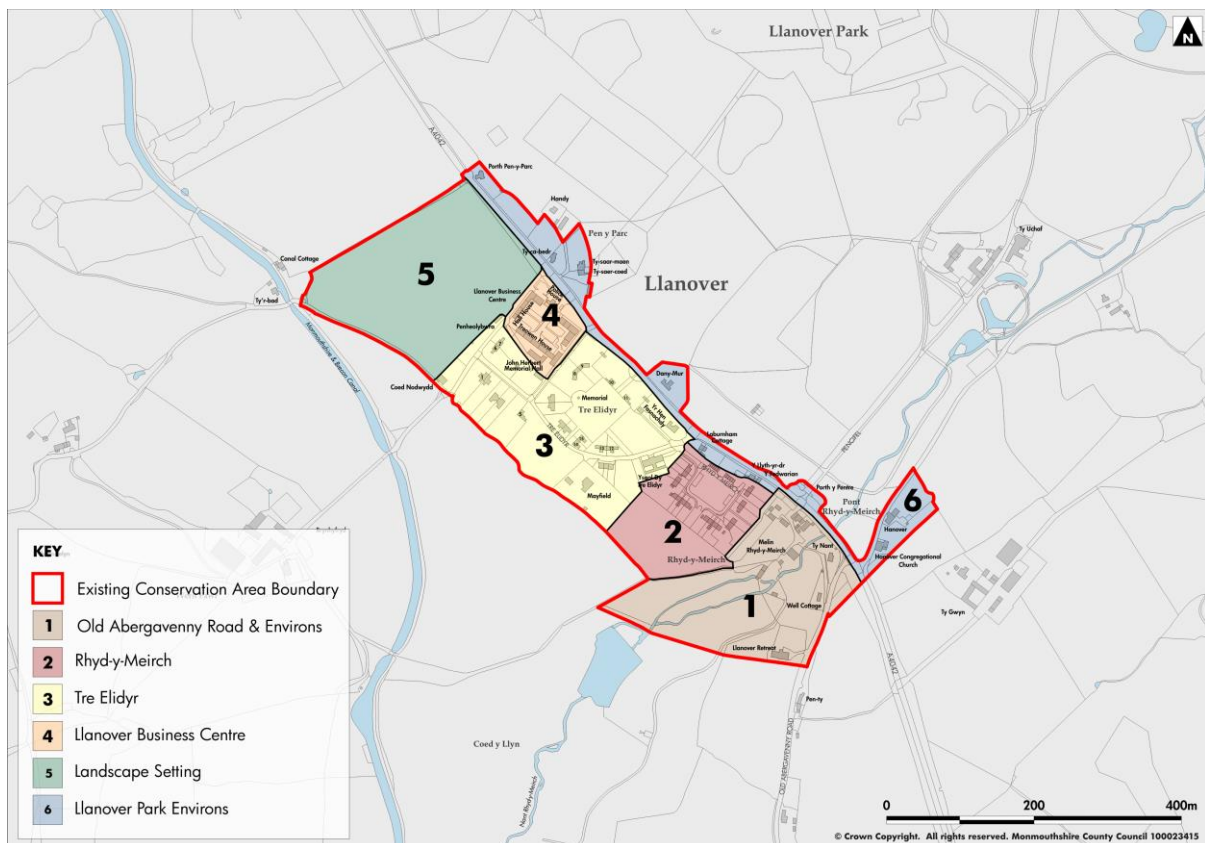
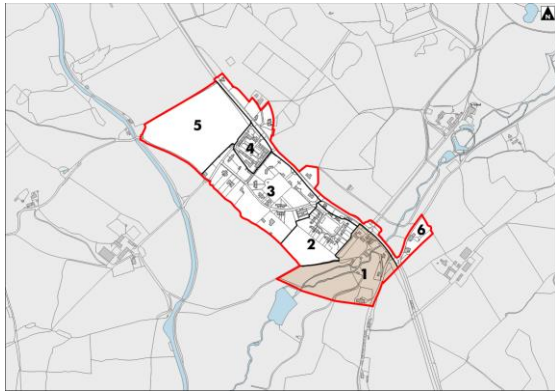


Fig.9 Llanover Character Areas

CHARACTER AREA 1 Rhyd-y-Meirch Old Hamlet



Refer to:
Part D - Plan 6A



Fig.10 The hamlet of Rhyd-y-Meirch with houses positioned informally responding to former main entrance to Llanover Park and the topography defined by the course of the brook



Fig.11 The lane south narrows crossing over the brook on a narrow stone bridge

7.3.3 This character area is focused on the hamlet of Rhyd-y-Meirch located opposite the main park gate on the A4042. It comprises a group of stone and white-washed stone and rendered cottages with a dispersed layout situated below the level of the main road. The individual houses are accessed by a network of

narrow lanes and footpaths on both sides of the Rhyd-y-Meirch brook. Vehicular access is via a lane on the north side of the Post Office. Its vernacular buildings and valley setting with a strong surrounding tree line of mature deciduous and coniferous groups strongly define and enclose the character area. The area, bounded by the A4042 to the east, extends west to the Calvinistic Methodist Chapel (Llanover Retreat) with the boundary turning north-west to enclose sloping paddocks and a weir on the brook.

7.3.4 The buildings within this character area are predominantly two-storey, domestic scale, detached houses arranged informally around the network of lanes and taking advantage of the topography defined by the brook (**Fig.10**). Nos. 1-3 Pencifel (Post Office Cottages) face the A4042 set behind a small front garden bounded by a hedge. Behind these cottages Gwesty Stables house also faces east to the A4042 with a group of stone outbuildings to the north-west. The lane to the south narrows, with laurel hedging and stone walls creating a sense of enclosure, which opens out again passing the gable end of the double depth Mill House to the valley bottom (**Fig.11**). This house is positioned at a lower level, facing south-east onto its manicured garden which is overlooked by the raised A4042 which bridges the brook to the north-east. South-west of Mill House the large double depth, five-bay house of Y-Gwesty is positioned facing east to the A4042, the brook skirting the south-east corner of the house. Set further back to the west The Mill is positioned facing south-east, its south-west elevation positioned on the water course diverted from the brook to power the waterwheel. Crossing the brook in front of Y-Gwesty over a stone footbridge Ty Nant is tucked into the bank above which rises the A4042. Ty Nant faces the valley to the north-west. A lane leads up the slope to the south, on the west side of which is Well Cottage orientated north-south. The lane connects to the Old Abergavenny Road leading south to Pencroesoped. The Calvinistic Church (Llanover Retreat) is positioned on the west side of this road, set back behind a tarmac area of hard-standing. The area is strongly defined by the juxtaposition of the openness

of the paddocks lying either side of the brook, and the enclosure created by the houses being set to lanes and footpaths. The relationship between the natural and built environment in this part of the Conservation Area forms an essential element of the sense of place.

7.3.5 All buildings within this character area form a cohesive group that makes a positive contribution to the character and appearance of this part of the Llanover Conservation Area (**Fig.12**). The valley topography contains the buildings in a secluded setting, their orientation determined by the valley sides and brook. The collection of exposed stone, white-washed, and rendered cottages all contribute to the strong vernacular characteristics of the built form to this part of the Conservation Area (**Fig.13**). The rock-faced Calvinistic chapel set above the valley, hidden by laurels, is somewhat divorced from the houses to the valley, but still makes a contribution to the historic character of the area (**Fig.14**). The restored circular pigsty below Well Cottage is an attractive unusual feature of special note.



Fig.12 View encapsulating a number of the white painted cottages that make up the hamlet of Rhyd-y-Meirch



Fig.13 The Post Office in a typical local vernacular style and estate colours with the painting of the Mari Lwyd above the door



Fig.14 The Calvinistic chapel, set above the valley away from the heart of the hamlet

7.3.6 All buildings within this character area are local rubblestone with the exception of the rock-faced stone chapel. Stone walls are sometimes exposed, for example The Mill and Gwesty Stables (**Fig.15**) or smooth rendered and painted, for example, Mill House, but often white-washed, for example Y-Gwestry, Pencifel and Ty Nant (**Fig.16**). Roofs are generally natural slate. Chimney stacks are red brick or stone. Windows are a mix of timber multi-pane casements, for example, on Y Gwesty and timber vertical sliding sashes as on Mill House. The Mill has striking large multi-pane casements which strongly define the presence of this building in the character area. The estate houses have a unified colour scheme of white with pale blue joinery and rainwater goods. The circular pig-sty is of local stone with a stone slate roof. The area contains local rubblestone boundary walls, stone lined walls to the channelled brook, and a large stone bridge over the brook.

7.3.7 The area, set in a narrow valley, is defined by its topography. Most houses occupy the lower slopes near the brook and views north, from Well Cottage on the south slope, take in the houses of the attractive hamlet in their setting of paddocks and trees dissected by the winding brook (**Fig.17**). The 1950s Cornish-type houses, positioned to the north on the ridge, can be seen from here, their distinctive mansard roofs appearing between the trees. To the east the tall conifers mark the grounds of Llanover Park. The open paddocks within this area provide the essential setting to the houses within the valley. Landmark trees include a large willow in front of The Mill and a Monkey-puzzle in the

grounds of Llanover Retreat. From the Retreat there are views south to estate cottages along the east side of the Old Abergavenny Road (outside the Conservation Area). From Well Cottage there are also glimpsed views north-east to the boundary wall of Llanover Park. From the Old Abergavenny Road, looking north-west, there are views across the valley which give an appreciation of the character of the early hamlet and its attractive and largely unaltered valley setting.



Fig.15 An example of exposed rubblestone in the character area at Y-Gwesty Stables



Fig.16 A white painted roadside cottage in the estate colours



Fig.17 View from Well Cottage to the mill in its valley setting

7.3.8 Local features include a selection of good boundary walls including the wall to Mill House with stone gate piers and distinctive pier caps also found at Coed Nodwydd in character area 3 (**Fig.18**). There are stone walls to the Old Abergavenny Road set in high earth banks topped by hedges. The channelled brook (utilised for the mills) is a key feature with its stone walling and its stone bridge. The circular 19th century stone pig-sty is an unusual structure of note (**Fig.19**). A commemorative water trough is positioned to the side of the A4042 just north of the Post Office (**Fig.20**). The roadside niche which contains the water trough is built of random quartz conglomerate. The inscribed panel is no longer legible. A second historic stone water trough is positioned in the garden wall of Mill House. The Post Office features a painting of the Mari Lwyd above its entrance, painted at the request of Lady Llanover in c.1860 to illustrate an old Welsh Custom. The painting shows the front of Llanover House in the light of a crescent moon.



Fig.18 Gate piers to Mill House with unusual capping stones



Fig.19 The unusual and rare restored circular pig-sty



Fig.20 The commemorative roadside water trough

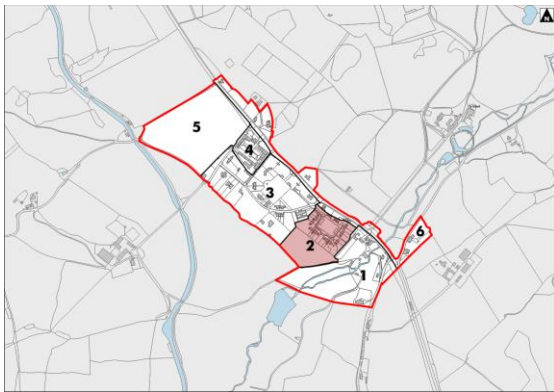


Fig.21 Laburnham Cottages to the north are divided from Rhyd-y-Meirch by a stone boundary wall



Fig.22 Typical 1950s Cornish type housing of Rhyd-y-Meirch

CHARACTER AREA 2 Rhyd-y-Meirch 1950s Cornish-type Housing



Refer to:
Part D - Plan 6B

7.3.9 This character area comprises the housing development of 1950s Cornish-type houses with mansard roofs set around a rectangular green with mature trees. There are garage blocks and parking spaces set around the green. The backdrop of tall specimen conifers and conifers to the north marking Llanover Park are a key landscape characteristic of this area. To the north-east a stone boundary wall marks the rear of properties on the A4042. Laburnham Cottages are located to the north, a stone outbuilding forms part of the boundary wall (**Fig.21**). The character area includes a hedge-lined plantation to the south-west of the 1950s houses.

7.3.10 The 1950s housing development comprises nine groups of two-storey 'cottage' pairs set around a rectangular green with garaging to the north-east side (**Fig.22**). The houses face inwards towards the green with two car parking areas at the west and east sides. The houses to the south west are in groups of four. Houses are set back in small,

open garden spaces with a consistent building line to each side of the green. Those to the south-west are set up from the access road with low stone retaining walls forming the edge of the building plots to this side. The green is comfortably enclosed by built form to all but the north-east edge where a series of garages with a tree and hedge backdrop form the edge to this side. To the north-east, on the side of the A4042, there is a group of older stone properties at the roadside which face the road. At the junction to Tre Elidyr is the two-storey Laburnham Cottages (now a single dwelling) with a single-storey range of coal store, woodshed and wash-house and to the south-east are the attached two-storey Y Llyth-yr-dy and single-storey Y Fedw Arian.

7.3.11 The 1950s Cornish-type houses have their own distinctive character and the regular layout creates a sense of place within the Conservation Area. The houses within this part of the Conservation Area have little in common with those to the north (Tre Elidyr) or those to the valley to the south (Rhyd-y-Meirch).

7.3.12 The houses are red brick to ground floor level with the upper storey in a tiled mansard roof. The brick probably replaced pre-stressed concrete interlocking panels which were originally used for this type of mass produced post-war housing.

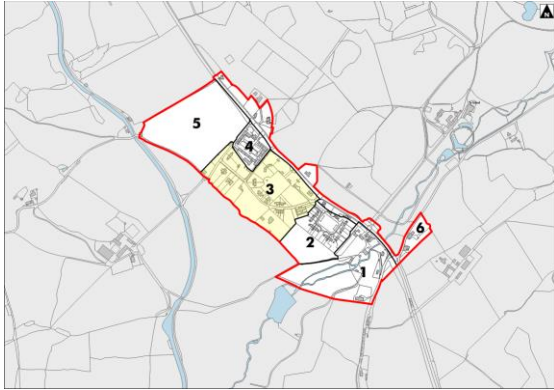
7.3.13 Due to the enclosed nature of the site the character area contains few open views. Within the 1950s housing site there are views of trees to the south and west and views to the parkland conifers to the north-east (**Fig.23**). On the pavement on the A4042 there are views north-west and south-east along the road. These views take in the long vista of the straight through road with the parkland wall opposite. The park boundary wall on the north-east side is a dominant feature. There are views over the hedge topped stone walls on the south-east side to the 1950s houses, raised above the roadside.



Fig.23 The treed square is contained by the Cornish type housing. Views to the parkland trees are visible in the background

CHARACTER AREA 3

Tre Elidyr



Refer to:
Part D - Plan 6C

7.3.14 Tre Elidyr forms a major built part of the Llanover Conservation Area and is the northern-most section of the village. It comprises a housing development built for Lord Treowen as a War Memorial in the mid-1920s in an Arts and Crafts inspired style by A. H. Powell. The hamlet comprises a War Memorial square, Welsh school, a dozen dwellings formed of cottages and cottage pairs set with purposeful irregularity around a rectangular green. A narrow sweeping perimeter road from the A4042 skirts the green and connects the buildings. Between the 1920s cottages are two pairs constructed in 1965. In addition the character area includes land to the north-west containing the mid-20th-century Nos. 1-4 and the stone cottage, Coed Nodwydd. In terms of landscaping, the area is characterised by green spaces, both formal and informal, individual mature trees and beech hedges (Fig.24).



Fig.24 Clipped beech hedges form distinctive boundaries around houses

7.3.15 The character area is a planned hamlet of cottages with central rectangular, stone walled Memorial Green with a second green to the south-east to the front of the Welsh School (**Fig.25**). The central green has a focal entrance point off the A4042 with flanking walls leading to a beech hedge-lined path in line with a mature tree. The green is overlooked by houses which creates an informal sense of enclosure (**Fig.26**).



Fig.25 View from the school to the green with Memorial Green beyond



Fig.26 The central memorial green with houses in generous spaces, facing inwards creating an informal sense of enclosure

7.3.16 The majority of the buildings that dominate the character of the area are the 1920s cottage scale houses of one and a half storeys with single-storey weather boarded wings. Other buildings vary from the single storey Nos. 20-22 to the two-storey Penheolybwra and Coed Nodwydd (Fig.27). The entrance to the green is flanked by two Arts and Crafts style stone cottages creating a pleasing symmetry. The symmetry does not continue and the remaining cottages and cottage pairs are positioned with artful irregularity around the green. To the north-west is the half-butterfly plan Nos. 8 & 9. To the west and south-west are the two 1965 cottage additions (the space intentionally left in the 1920s for the addition of more houses). Nos. 14 & 15 are offset from but face the southern entrance path, while Nos. 12 & 13 face north to the Memorial Green.

Immediately south of these the 1967 range of three cottages is positioned facing the link road that winds around the hamlet. To the south-west two detached houses are positioned either side of a paddock, Mayfield to the south and No. 5 to the west. The Welsh School (Fig.28), Ysgoldy Tre Elidyr is positioned on the link road facing north to a second green. To the east Yr Hen Fasnachdy, a white rendered cottage (not part of the 1920s hamlet), is positioned on the junction to the entrance to Tre Elidyr from the A4042. The character area continues north-west of the planned hamlet with two semi-detached pairs set in long gardens to the west (Nos. 1 & 2 and Nos. 3 & 4). West of these is the white painted stone cottage of Coed Nodwydd and to the north is the Arts and Crafts style Nos. 6 & 7 and stone estate cottage of Penheolybwra.



Fig.27 The single storey Nos. 20-22 Tre Elidyr



Fig.28 The classically inspired design of the Welsh School makes a strong architectural statement in the hamlet

7.3.17 The character area contains a number of historically and architecturally important buildings which as a group are highly significant as they were constructed (along with the centrally placed memorial) as a memorial group. The 1920s Arts and Crafts cottages and cottage pairs have a number of distinct elements which strongly define the group. This includes the use of gables, cast iron and timber casement windows, natural slate and stone slate roofs, porches, weather-boarding and large stone chimney stacks (**Fig.29**). Together with the Welsh School (in a classical style) (see **Fig.28**), these form a cohesive group of great significance and architectural quality and character (most of the houses and the Welsh School are statutorily listed). This group is all the more important due to its planned layout and setting with the greens, War Memorial, pleached and pollarded limes, and beech hedges forming an integral part of the character of this part of the Conservation Area. The older cottages of Coed Nodwydd and Penheolybwra are also



Fig.29 Two contrasting styles of 1920s houses showing the eclectic mix of architectural treatments and material finishes to be found in the hamlet



Fig.30 Houses exhibit a harmonious and complementary palette of materials

buildings of particular significance note due to the use of traditional materials and architectural style.

7.3.18 Building materials are diverse but exposed sandstone rubble, stone chimney stacks, stone slate roofs laid to diminishing courses, and weather-boarded wings dominate (**Fig.30**). Houses have a series of gabled dormers, lattice casement windows, drip moulds to windows, and plank doors. No. 5 is of note with its steep mansard type roof in natural slate and its large external stone chimney stack. Nos. 6 & 7 also feature a natural slate roof but with slate hanging and dormers breaking through the eaves line. The school, contemporary with the houses, is distinctive in the group for its use of render and painted brick with a natural slate roof and red brick chimney stacks. Other properties are rendered and painted white such as Coed Nodwydd and Nos. 3 & 4. While Nos. 1 & 2 are rock-faced stone with a rendered and pebble-dashed upper storey.

7.3.19 Due to the layout of the hamlet there are a series of planned views including the view to the Memorial green from the A4042 terminated by a mature deciduous tree centrally placed, and the view south along the road accessing Nos. 8 & 9, which is terminated by No. 5. There are views north-west from the school across the adjacent green to the War Memorial and central green. From here there are extensive views to the Black Mountains. Within the Memorial Green there are comprehensive views to the surrounding houses facing in to the green. The use of formal greens and informal paddocks between houses is an essential part of the character of the area (**Fig.31**). Trees also act as landmarks

and provide structure whether it is the beech hedging, the pollarded limes, pleached lime memorial or the trees flanking the entrance between No. 10 and No. 11 (**Fig.32**). Taking the road south of Coed Nodwydd to the hump back canal bridge (outside the Conservation Area) there are extensive open views north and west to the countryside and with the skyline defined by the distant hills which include Blorenge and Sugar Loaf. On looking back towards the village from this elevated position, the wooded backdrop of the park is an important element in these extended views. The numerous groups and individual trees within the village are also clearly seen from this vantage point.



Fig.31 The landscaping of greens, trees (in groups and individually) and beech hedging are an integral part of the character of the area



Fig.32 Trees are carefully positioned as landmarks and create focal points for local views within this part of the Conservation Area

7.3.20 The War Memorial (World War I) to Lord Treowen's son and men from the estate, is an important feature of considerable local importance. The memorial comprises a curved sandstone wall with slate plaques inscribed with Welsh Daffodils, with a curving line of pleached lime trees representing those killed in action (**Fig.33**) and a rough stone cross topped with a wrought iron cross on three steps of large stone slabs (**Fig.34**). Stone walls, approximately one metre in height surround the green with openings on three sides. At Coed Nodwydd, the garden is raised with a stone retaining wall and large stone boundary wall to the west adjoining the field. The house has gate piers with distinctive capping stones similar to Mill House in Character Area 1.

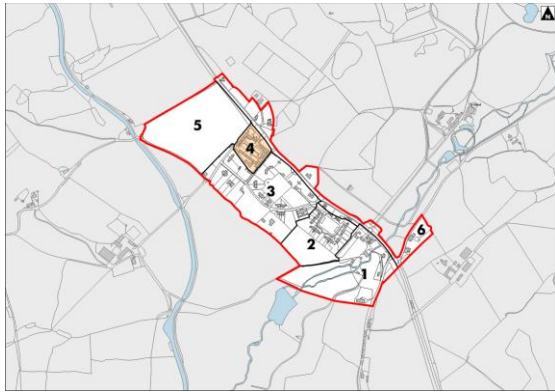


Fig.33 The intentionally rustic lines and finish of the stone War Memorial



Fig.34 The pleached lime trees to the War Memorial, one for every soldier from the village killed in action

CHARACTER AREA 4
Llanover Business Centre



Refer to:
Part D - Plan 6D



Fig.35 The new Waddington House range making up one side of the Llanover Business Centre



Fig.36 The Police Station with weighbridge and weigh building viewed from within the estate yard. These buildings form part of the important group of buildings which contributed to the management of the Llanover estate.

7.3.21 This character area is focused on a compact courtyard of converted estate buildings with new build additions, which make up the Llanover Business Centre. To the south-west is the village memorial hall and garaging and to the east, flanking the entrance to the business centre, is the early 20th century former Police Station and weighbridge with weigh building.

7.3.22 The business centre comprises what was the estate yard with inward facing single-storey red brick and stone buildings on three sides enclosing a courtyard. The buildings to the north (Hall House) and to the west (Treowen House) are early 20th century whilst to the east the range known as Waddington House is all rebuilt (within the last ten years) (**Fig.35**). The long brick ranges have been split into units and Hall House is occupied by the Llanover Day Nursery. The courtyard has been landscaped with cobble sets and flagstone paths, with circular seating areas around feature machinery and a cider millstone. Low beech hedges line the paths and retained trees are made features by lighting at night. To the north the two-storey 'L' plan Police House faces the A4042. To the south the single-storey John Herbert Memorial Hall is orientated north-west to south-east with its entrance on the east side.

7.3.23 The courtyard formed by the former estate buildings, the Police House and weighbridge building all form a collective group of historic and architectural significance which retain their estate character and provide a reminder of the former functional requirements of the management of the historic estate (**Fig.36**).

7.3.24 Buildings to the former estate yard are red brick and rock-faced stone with natural slate and fibre cement slates (**Fig.37**). The Treowen range is rock-faced stone with red brick dressings to openings (**Fig.38**). Chimney stacks are red brick. There is new joinery including plank doors and casement windows painted the estate colours of white and pale blue. The newly-built Waddington range has waney-edge elm weatherboarding at the eaves. The weighbridge building has weatherboarding and a stone slate roof. To the east a bus shelter on the A4042 is constructed of stone with a stone slate roof. The mid-late 20th century Memorial Hall is constructed of grey brick, rendered and painted white with uPVC windows and a fibre cement slate roof. The former Police Station is distinctive for its use of squared red sandstone rubble with ashlar dressings, render at first floor level, and decorative timber framing in the gables. Roofs are red tile with rendered stacks. Windows are casements with stone mullions.

7.3.25 The area contains landmark trees preserved in the central courtyard. There are views from the courtyard west to Penheolybwra with hills in the distance (**Fig.39**) and views north-east terminated by Ty-saer-coed. The central open courtyard provides an historic context to the estate buildings and once served as the estate yard.

7.3.26 Local features include stone gate piers to the entrances to the courtyard of buildings in the north-east at the weighbridge entrance

and in the west between Hall House and Treowen House (**Fig.40**). The cider millstone and various iron machinery components are industrial remnants of the estate's past.



Fig.37 A renovated range (Hall House) forming part of the estate buildings facing a large courtyard; red brick and natural slate roofs



Fig.38 The rock-faced stone Treowen range to the south-west side of the courtyard group



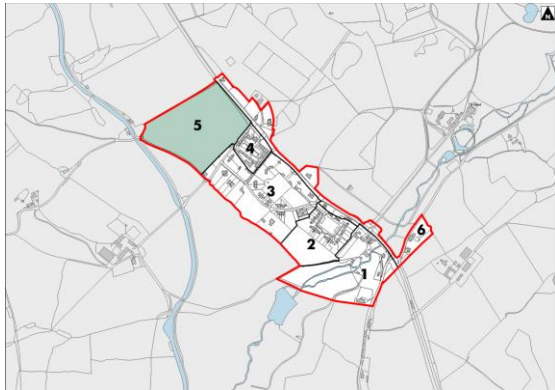
Fig.40 Large rough hewn stone gate piers are a feature of the entrances to the estate yard



Fig.39 View from the courtyard of the Llanover Business Centre looking north to the distant hills

CHARACTER AREA 5

Landscape Setting



Refer to:
Part D - Plan 6E

7.3.27 This character area comprises the 10 acre pasture field to the north-west of Tre Elidyr. The area is bounded to the south by a hedge-lined lane. To the west corner is Canal Cottage on the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal, outside the Conservation Area.

7.3.28 There is no built form within this character area except for the water trough opposite Porth Pen-y-Parc Lodge. The trough is part of the water supply system provided for the Llanover estate by Lady Llanover. It takes

the form of a roadside niche built in random quartz conglomerate with some squared stones. The niche contains a large elliptical trough with a water spout above and three recessed panels with illegible inscriptions (**Fig.41**).

7.3.29 The field provides a good buffer between the estate village and open countryside, bringing the Conservation Area up towards the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal. There are good views north-east to the parkland boundary wall and parkland trees. A footpath runs alongside the northern boundary and from here there are views south towards the village. The cottage of Penheolybwra and the Llanover Business Centre are key landmarks in these views. From the corner of the field next to Coed Nodwydd there are panoramic views north and west towards the distant hills (**Fig.42** next page). A lone tree is a landmark within the field. The attractive sunken lane, with banks and native mixed hedges of hazel, oak and hawthorn, to the south-west forms a well-defined boundary. The holly hedge boundary on the A4042 forms a strong entrance to the village with the stone wall of the park opposite.

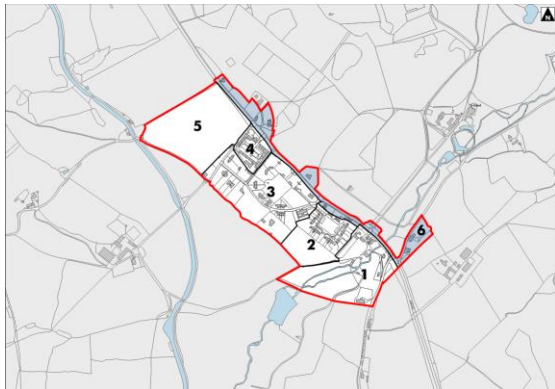


Fig.41 A commemorative water trough, larger than the similar example found in the village, with large elliptical shaped trough



Fig.42 Dramatic panoramic views to the Black Mountains in the direction of Abergavenny and across the parkland to the west

CHARACTER AREA 6 Llanover Park Environs



Refer to:
Part D - Plan 6F

7.3.30 This character area covers the busy roadside along the A4042 following the parkland wall from Porth Pen-y-parc in the north to Hanover in the south. The area contains lodge buildings to Llanover Park, a group of cottages opposite the former Police House in an area called Pen-y-Parc, the grand gateway into the park and the Hanover United Reformed Chapel and Hanover (house). The character area includes all the park features which interact with the estate village, although the park itself is excluded from the Conservation Area. The busy, heavily trafficked nature of the A4042 dominates the character area with the traffic noise forming a major part of its character.

7.3.31 Prominent buildings within the character area are located on the roadside to both the east and west sides of the A4042. The traditional stone estate cottages on the roadside are attractive buildings making a positive contribution to the character and appearance of the Conservation Area (they are a similar style to those in Character Area 1). In Pen-y-Parc the cottages of Ty-ca-bedr and the semi-detached Ty-Saermaen and Ty-saercoed are set back from the roadside and offset to the access lane. Ty-ca-bedr can be seen from the A4042 as the park wall dips to a lower level. A long barn is positioned on the edge of the parkland orientated north-south to the south of Ty-saercoed. Hendy Cottage to the north is not included in the Conservation Area. To the south-east, on the lane leading north

alongside the park boundary, are the Hanover Chapel, end on to the roadside facing north-east into its graveyard and Hanover with attached (converted) barn facing the roadside. Buildings vary in size from the substantial two-storey Hanover to the compact two-storey Porth Pen-y-parc lodge (**Fig.43**) and one and a half storey Porth-y-Pentre (**Fig.44**). The stone boundary wall to the east side of the A4042 strongly defines the edge of the park through this part of the Conservation Area (**Fig.45**).



Fig.43 The modestly scaled Porth Pen-y-Parc lodge



Fig.44 Porth-y-Pentre, a modestly scaled lodge at the main entrance to the estate



Fig.45 The park boundary wall dominates and strongly defines this part of the Conservation Area

7.3.32 All of the buildings within this character area, including the boundary walls make a positive contribution to the character and appearance of the Conservation Area (due to their historic associations, shared materials palette and architectural detailing). Despite being a dispersed group, they are complementary and linked by the stone boundary walls of the park. The park wall is a unifying feature, its length being a particular element of note and marking out Llanover for passing motorists. Buildings include the Porth Pen-y-Parc Victorian lodge, remodelled in 1916, accessed by an entrance with flanking walls that sweep around and are terminated by square gate piers with pyramid caps and a set of wrought iron gates. The 1920s, 17th-century style, Arts and Crafts inspired Dan-y-Mur is part of the Tre Elidyr development but is set apart from the hamlet, fully contained behind the park boundary wall. Porth-y-Pentre is a c.1910 gate lodge to the main entrance with flanking walls with a wrought iron foot-gate and impressive wrought iron double gates leading into the park (**Fig.46**).

7.3.33 To the south-east Hanover chapel, Hanover (house) and its former barn, now

converted, form a good historic group of architectural significance (**Fig.47**).

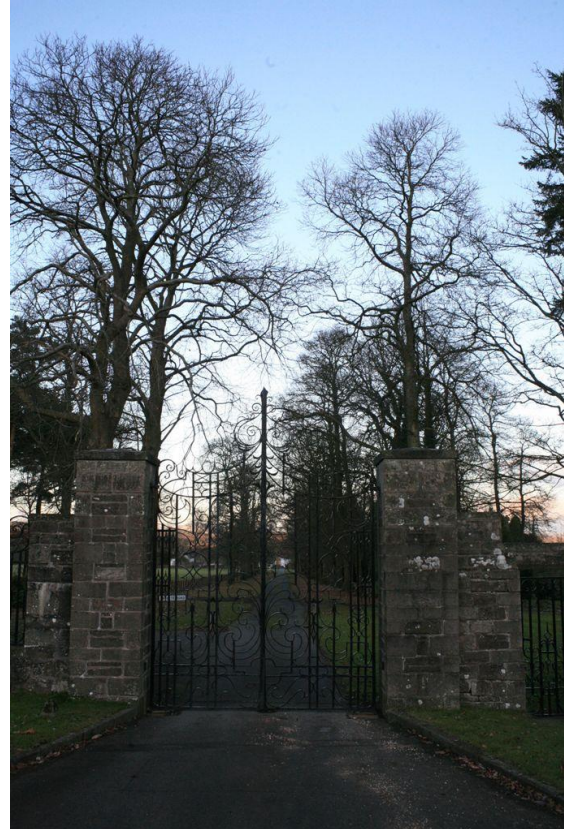


Fig.46 The impressive ornamental wrought iron entrance gates to Llanover Park



Fig.47 Hanover and attached (converted) barn

7.3.34 Buildings comprise modest lodges and cottages which exhibit a varied palette of vernacular materials and traditional building methods. The traditional cottages to the west side are characteristically stone, painted white, with natural slate roofs, Laburnham Cottage with stone stacks and Y Llyth-yr-dy with painted brick stacks. Windows are three-light leaded casements to the cottage and two-light small paned casements with elliptical brick heads and stone cills to Y Llyth-yr-dy. To the east, the gate lodges are squared rock-faced red sandstone rubble with stone slate roofs and timber casement windows. Dan-y-Mur, in common with the houses which make up the Tre Elidyr hamlet (to the south-west side of the road), has a single-storey weather boarded wing. The estate cottage Ty-ca-bedr is white painted rubblestone and brick with a natural slate roof, stone chimney stack and leaded casements. The semi-detached Ty-saar-maen and Ty-saer-coed are white painted rubblestone with a slate roof and small pane timber casement windows (**Fig.48**). The low barn to the south-east is of exposed rubblestone with a natural slate roof. To the south-east the 1832 Hanover Chapel is coursed and squared brown sandstone rubble

with a natural slate roof and natural slate-hung rear elevation (**Fig.49**). To the north of the chapel is the painted rubblestone Hanover (house) with natural slate roof and attached exposed stone barn with a stone slate roof.

7.3.35 On the pavement on the A4042 there are views north-west and south-east along the road. These views take in the long vista of the straight through road with the parkland wall opposite. The park boundary wall on the north-east side is a dominant feature.



Fig.49 The Hanover Chapel has coursed and squared sandstone rubble walls beside the painted rubblestone Hanover



Fig.48 The white painted rubblestone Ty-saar-maen and Ty-saercoed share common characteristics of cottages in Rhyd-y-Meirch (character area 2)

7.3.36 Properties within the character area are often partially hidden from view by the park boundary walls. There are long views north along the A4042 to the hills (**Fig.50**). Just to the south of Porth Pen-y-parc there are uninterrupted views north-west to the open countryside, woodland and distant hilltops. From the driveway to Porth Pen-y-parc the land falls away east with extensive views across the sylvan parkland. The area of Pen-y-parc has a distinctive character within this part of the Conservation Area, set off the busy A4042

with its curving lane, brush land and numerous very large mature trees (**Fig.51**). At the main entrance gates at Porth-y-Pentre there are leading views east along the tree-lined avenue towards former Llanover House. The south-east corner of the park, next to the brook, contains a group of very tall pines, which act as a landmark entering the village from the south-east. From the Hanover Chapel there are enclosed views north-east along the road bounded on the west by the parkland wall.



Fig.50 Views looking north out of the Conservation Area along the A4042 to the distant hills



Fig.51 Views from Pen-y-Parc to the parkland with its specimen parkland trees

7.3.37 The stone parkland wall dominates the area, an ever-present feature that contains curved inset walled screens to gateways and a bus shelter (**Fig.52**). A good number of wrought iron gates survive to entrances as well as a field gate at Porth Pen-y-parc and gates and gate piers to the Hanover Chapel. The chapel's graveyard contains a fine collection of gravestones and monuments including a commemoration of Robert Jermain Thomas, founder of Protestantism in Korea.

7.3.38 Locally distinctive features include stone boundary walls to the cottages fronting the A4042, topped with a conifer hedge to Laburnham Cottages gardens and the estate-adopted use of a beech hedge to Y Llyth-yr-dr (**Fig.53**). The latter has a set of iron railings and gates while Laburnham Cottages have stone gate piers with good iron gates (**Fig.54**).



Fig.52 The stone park wall is an important feature within the Conservation Area



Fig.53 Distinctive historic railings to Y Llyth-yr-dr



Fig.54 Stone gate piers and iron gate to Laburnham Cottages

7.4 Architectural & Historic Qualities of Buildings

7.4.1 Architecturally, Llanover has considerable significance, particularly in terms of estate village design. Buildings of this type in Llanover were developed in two broad phases; the first from the late 18th century to the mid-19th century and the second in the 1920s. There are also individual buildings of architectural interest from the Victorian and early 20th century periods.

7.4.2 This assessment has been compiled with reference to the Statutory List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest for Llanover, the volume on Gwent/Monmouthshire in the Buildings of Wales series by John Newman (*Yale U.P 2002*), and by the consultants during field surveys.



Fig.55 Hanover. Earliest dated building in the Conservation Area, built in 1774.



Fig.56 Post Office, Rhyd-y-Meirch. This is part of a regular short terrace dating from the late 18th/early 19th century. The plaques with bold lettering are an eye catching feature.

18th and early 19th century.

7.4.3 The earliest dated building in the Conservation Area is 'Hanover' (Grade II listed, **Fig.55**), built in 1774 as a cottage with an attached chapel. Situated close to the lane running along the south-eastern boundary of Llanover Park, it is 'T' shaped in plan and of two storeys, with the plain wall of the meeting room (with date plaque) on the southern wing. The painted rubble walls and slate gabled roof convey more of a vernacular design than the 'polite' architecture of the classical style, except for the elliptical heads to the windows.

7.4.4 The hamlet of Rhyd-y-Meirch, on the south side of the A4042 clusters informally near the stream. The estate houses and cottages date from the late 18th century and early 19th century. The cottages at the entrance to the hamlet are slightly more formally arranged, being set out parallel to the main road frontage. The Post Office (Grade II listed, **Fig.56**) is one of a terrace of four cottages facing the street, behind a wall and hedge. The terrace as a whole is a simple, low, two storey composition of four cottages of rubble construction, painted white, under a low pitched slate roof. Low sash windows reflect the period. Porches have simple pent roofs. The Post Office has two large painted signboards fixed between first floor windows, announcing its presence in Welsh and English. Between the two panels is an unusual round headed painting of the Mari Lwyd commissioned, by Lady Llanover in c.1860.

7.4.5 To the right of the cottages, set back and parallel to them, lies a stone storage building of similar date with a fine segmental arched doorway in its gable end.

7.4.6 Again parallel to the Post Office Cottages but set back and enclosing the access path to the rest of Rhyd-y-Meirch, stands a wide fronted symmetrical three bay cottage (**Fig.57**) with arched openings formed by large stone voussoirs above twin timber casement windows. An award plaque is set into the unpainted, uncoursed but generally squared stone wall. The relatively low pitched slate roof overhangs both eaves and gable ends.

7.4.7 Further to the west, also bordering on the main road and backing onto the estate wall, stands another handsome, well proportioned and preserved cottage, Y-Fedwarian (Grade II listed, **Fig.58**), near the entrance to Tre Elidyr. This is also two-storey and three-bay with a central, panelled door framed by a simple bracketed canopy of large slates, enhanced by a graceful scrolled bargeboard. The twin timber casement windows have low elliptical heads formed by stone voussoirs. Above the door is a recessed, possibly infilled opening with a carved stone nameplate. In common with most of the estate buildings of Rhyd-y-Meirch, the coursed rock faced stonework is painted white, with front door and cills painted a light grey blue.

The setting of the cottage is enlivened by well preserved railings atop a low boundary wall.

7.4.8 The other buildings on Rhyd-y-Meirch are found in the dell-like green, centred on the stream. They are more loosely arranged and reflect the architectural characteristics of those cottages described above. These include Y-Gwestry (Grade II listed), facing east towards the bridge, with possibly its earliest origins in the 17th or 18th centuries, but considerably remodelled in the early 20th century. The two storey house appears to have been built in two sections, one three bays wide, the other of two bays, with a common chimney in the centre.



Fig.57 Rhyd-y-Meirch. A larger cottage situated parallel and behind the Post Office Cottages. The skilful use of stone voussoirs forming elliptical arches over the window heads is apparent.



Fig.58 Y Llyth-yr-dr Cottage. This nearly symmetrical cottage demonstrates the generally higher standard of design characteristic of estate cottages. The scrolled bargeboard to the porch is an attractive feature, as are the iron railings.

7.4.9 The Mill House (Grade II listed, **Fig.59**) facing south towards the bridge, has similar late 18th or early 19th century origins and was remodelled in the 20th century. The walls are smooth rendered rather than painted stonework.

7.4.10 Ty Nant is dated 1795 and is of the same form and scale as those previously described. Further up the dell an unpainted stone two storey cottage, perhaps built in two or three phases, contributes to the group.

7.4.11 Well Cottage, on the rising land on the eastern boundary, another in the valley group, has a circular pigsty (**Fig.60**), built of stone with a conical stone slate roof within its curtilage.

7.4.12 Other buildings of interest contributing to the character of the Conservation Area dating from the 19th century, include the Chapel (Grade II listed) built in 1839, just south of the original chapel at Hanover. This chapel is typical of the non-conformist places of worship, with their stripped neoclassical form, being square with a low pitched pyramidal roof and having tall arched windows on all elevations including either side of the central door. This box-like building is constructed of rubble with quoins and dressed stone surrounds to the windows. The interior was

restored later in the century, and a schoolroom was added on its eastern side.

7.4.13 A complete contrast in architectural styles is reflected in another non conformist chapel; the former Welsh Church (now the Llanover Retreat) built in 1898, designed by the Abergavenny architect B.J. Francis. This chapel is in the Gothic Revival style, with typical steeply pitched roof and pointed arch windows in the Early English and Decorated styles. The walls are constructed in rock faced stone with Bath stone dressings.



Fig.60 Circular pigsty, restored, in the garden of Well Cottage, Rhyd-y-Meirch. The use of stone in its conical roof is particularly skilful.



Fig.59 Mill House seen from the canal bridge.

20th Century

7.4.14 The former Police Station (Grade II listed, **Fig.61**) clearly shows the influence of the Arts and Crafts/Vernacular Revival movement, even in this standard design of a rural police station and attached house. The building, probably built immediately prior to the First World War, stands at the entrance to the Llanover Estate yard. The design of this extended two storey 'L' shaped building is a careful composition of domestic elements; an off centre gable, half-timbered above the window head, a pent roof over the entrance area and sturdy chimneys creating a counterpoint to the gables to front and side. Materials are coursed rock faced local stone on the ground floor with warmer coloured sandstone for deep lintels, mullions and quoins. The first floor and chimneys are white, rendered, creating a strong contrast with the stonework. Deep bargeboards, painted estate grey-blue and unusually in Llanover, clay tiles, complete this modestly confident buildings design.

7.4.15 The ranges of estate workshops, all single-storey, form a square and street frontages at the northern entrance to Tre Elidyr. These functional buildings, probably built around the same time as the Police Station and house have a robust simplicity and a good sense of balanced proportion which makes them attractive, and have the ability to adapt to new uses without erosion of their character. The use of materials, red brick alternating with local stone in various combinations of walling, dressings and chimneys, topped by slate and estate grey-blue doors and bargeboards, gives the buildings a well considered integral colour scheme. The white painted mullioned and transomed windows with slender glazing bars contribute to an interesting elevational design (**Fig.62**).

7.4.16 Almost all the buildings of the Tre Elidyr estate village were designed as an ensemble by Alfred Powell, an architect well established in the Arts and Crafts movement, in 1925. The ensemble is relatively open grained, yet quite precisely planned, with a strong axis running

south-west from the main road, and a less formal one running north-west from the school. In both cases landscape elements (hedges, avenues and boundary walls, plus the War Memorial group) play as important a role as the buildings (**Fig.63**).



Fig.61 Former Police Station and house, at the entrance to the Llanover Estate Yard. An 'official' and standard design which skilfully uses traditional materials in a robust and attractive design influenced by the Arts and Crafts movement.



Fig.62 Former Estate Yard building. The logical and sympathetic choice of materials, good proportions and good use of colour, make this group both attractive and functional.



Fig.63 Tre Elidyr. Part of the estate village designed by Alfred Powell in 1925. The two greens are framed by low walls and hedges which play as important a part in the scheme; the loose but deliberate layout of estate cottages.

7.4.17 The school (Grade II listed, **Fig.64**) is the most formal element of the ensemble. It presides over one of the greens from a slightly elevated position, with a wide, elegant, rendered, neo classical façade. The pedimented three-bay central element has arched openings for door and side windows, divided by four Tuscan pilasters. Bold lettering in the pediment and above the three arches, Ysgoldy Tre Elidyr, 1925, Ysgol, Harddwch, Gwlad, (Tre Elidyr School 1925, Schooling, Beauty, Country). Tall mullioned and transomed windows are in four bays either side of the central element. The dentilled cornice and pediment strongly define the principal façade and significantly contribute to the character of this building.

7.4.18 Powell's cottages at Tre Elidyr were built around 1925 and, unlike the estate village cottages at Rhyd-y-Meirch, are unpainted, mainly coursed rubble with more regular quoins, lintels, drip moulds and dressings. Roofs are of stone slates diminishing in size towards the ridge, as are the gable ends to the dormers. Cottages 5-15 (Grade II, **Fig.65**) make use of natural materials with casement windows, planked doors, and limited use of weatherboarding for outhouses and porches, completing the palette of materials. In most cases the designs are modest and appropriately detailed, but perhaps lack the inventiveness of Arts and Crafts buildings constructed prior to the First World War. Numbers 8 and 9 are more adventurous than most in their plan and use of architectural details. They are of a 'cranked plan' comprising three sides of an octagon, and boasting two massive chimneys (**Fig.66**).



Fig.64 Tre Elidyr School, also designed by Powell in 1925 The long, eleven bay elevation of this important community building is designed in a late neo classical style in contrast to the prevailing modest vernacular revival style of Tre Elidyr.



Fig.65 Tre Elidyr. One of a pair of Arts and Crafts style cottages by Powell at the southern entrance to the western green. Its inspiration is that of the vernacular building traditions of simple cottage design using natural materials.



Fig.66 No. 9 Tre Elidyr. One of a pair of cottages at the northern edge of the green. The 'cranked' plan helps to enclose the green. The chimneys are significant architectural statements on such modest buildings and form an important part of the composition of the houses.

7.4.19 Porth-y-Pentre (the gate lodge), c1910, and main gates (Grade II listed, **Fig.67**) at the far eastern corner of Llanover Park are also by Powell, possibly prior to the First World War. The lodge is very similar to the cottage designs of Tre Elidyr, on the south side of the main road, being unpainted stone, cut in blocks, with stone slate roofs. The porch is more prominent due to the function of the Lodge, and the building is gable end to the road, flush with the boundary wall, railings, stone gate piers and gates. The Lodge has a rear wing whose flank wall is also in line with the Park wall. This makes for an attractive and functional wall elevation. The gates themselves are five to six metres high, of an almost Baroque exuberance of sweeping curved motifs.

7.4.20 The post war era architectural additions contribute little to the inventiveness or character of Rhyd-y-Meirch or Tre Elidyr, but nevertheless attempt to respond sympathetically to the established character of these areas in their own way.

7.4.21 The square of local authority-type standard semi-detached houses of the early 1950s picks up something of the formality of layout of part of Tre Elidyr, and the mansard roof profile and attic windows tend to reduce the overall bulk of the house form to relate to the low eaves heights of the cottages in adjacent Rhyd-y-Meirch. The extensive cladding (or possibly re-cladding of early concrete panels) of brick, introduces an alien material to most of the area. Rendered walls would probably have been more appropriate. There has been some modest infilling at Tre Elidyr, notably the semi-detached cottages backing onto the Memorial green (**Fig.68**). The general design is a 1960s re-interpretation of a vernacular revival form, with sweeping roofs, attic dormers and even hooded drip moulds to the main ground floor mullioned windows. The plan however, is rather too deep, somewhat overpowering the very modest scale of the Powell cottages. Also the concrete tiles and buff reconstructed stone blockwork are unsympathetic materials.



Fig.67 The lodge (Porth-y-Pentre, c1910) and gates, Llanover Park. The gates and flanking screens were rebuilt in 1916, replacing those of 1862. The walls, piers, railings and exuberant gates together with the Lodge with its gable end, central chimney and rear wing form an attractive linear elevation set back from the main road.



Fig.68 Tre Elidyr. A pair of 1960s cottages infilling a plot in the layout planned by Powell. They contribute to the enclosure of the green and provide street continuity. The form and design of the buildings is a later reinterpretation of the established style of the original houses, although the choice of materials and plan depth of the buildings is less successful.

7.5 Activity: Prevailing & Former Uses

7.5.1 The village developed as an estate village to Llanover Park. The hamlet at Rhyd-y-Meirch was previously a number of mills powered by the brook. The vast majority of residents would have worked on the estate in agriculture, forestry and other light industry. Lady Llanover encouraged Welsh customs and retained a large staff of Welsh speaking estate workers. The estate included the Mill which was used to make Welsh cloth. The former public houses, for example, Y Gwesty, were converted into coffee houses.

7.5.2 Today the Conservation Area is now almost exclusively in residential use, most of which is tenanted cottages. The Post Office has closed but the school and memorial hall are still active as well as the Llanover Retreat and Hanover Chapel. The Llanover Business Centre has attracted new small scale companies to work in the village.

7.6 Contributions Made By Key Unlisted Buildings

7.6.1 There are a number of unlisted buildings that make a particularly important positive contributions to the character and appearance of the Llanover Conservation Area, both individually and in groups. Key groups are:

- In Rhyd-y-Meirch – Well Cottage, circular pig-sty, The Mill, Ty Nant, Gwesty Stables and Llanover Retreat – a rich collection of vernacular stone buildings, with a Victorian chapel.
- The former estate yard (Hall House and Treowen House) with the neighbouring Penheolybwra.

7.6.2 Individual properties which make a particular or special positive contribution towards the character and appearance of the Conservation Area and important boundary walls and railings are identified on Plan 5.

7.6.3 The common themes of vernacular form and the use of materials, particularly in relation to the use of colour – blue for joinery and white for walls is a strongly defining and unifying characteristic of listed and unlisted buildings throughout the Conservation Area. This has led to the retention of a strong unspoilt character to much of the unlisted houses within the Conservation Area which retain much of their original features.

Refer to:

Part D - Plan 5 Listed Buildings & Buildings Making a Particular or Special Positive Contribution

7.7 Prevalent Local & Traditional Materials

7.7.1 The Conservation Area contains a variety of building types and ages although they generally fall into two groups; 18th/19th century cottage scale estate houses or early 20th (Tre Elidyr) and mid-20th century houses (the 1950s extension to Rhyd y Meirch) arranged in separate groups.

Walling

7.7.2 Walls are mostly coursed local rubblestone (**Fig.69**), often white-washed or sometimes rendered. Early 20th century buildings such as the lodges to the park are rock-faced stone. The 1920s vernacular revival cottages and cottage pairs have sandstone (**Fig.70**), often squared – the two additional cottages added in 1965 are faced in artificial stone. Brick is not dominant but is seen in extensions such as Ty-ca-bedr and in the former estate yard buildings and in new build. The 1950s 'Cornish-type' houses feature red brick (replacing earlier concrete infill panels), with tiled mansard roofs.

Roofing

7.7.3 Traditional roofing materials are natural slate. The early 20th century estate lodges and 1920s vernacular revival cottages introduced the use of stone slate roofs, laid to diminishing courses (**Fig.71**). There are a large number of replaced slate roofs and cement fibre slate roofs (**Fig.72**). The 1950s Cornish-type houses have tiled mansard roofs. Chimney stacks are a mix of exposed and rendered red brick or stone.

Boundary walls and retaining walls

7.7.4 The park boundary wall is a dominant feature within this Conservation Area, built of local rubblestone. There are also important individual boundary walls to Tre Elidyr, and individual properties. Good examples of capped stone gate piers with wrought iron gates are found throughout the Conservation Area (**Fig.73** next page).



Fig.69 Rubblestone walling is the characteristic material of 19th century and earlier houses within the Conservation Area



Fig.70 Sandstone is a feature of the vernacular revival houses either squared or as seen here as rubblestone



Fig.71 Richly coloured stone slates are seen to buildings throughout the Conservation Area



Fig.72 Cement-fibre slates are increasingly seen as natural slate is replaced or on new build



Fig.73 The long stretches of the boundary walls to the park define parts of the Conservation Area and often contain features such as curved entrance screens with capped gate piers



8 Contributions Made by Green Spaces (including Biodiversity Value), Trees, Hedges & Natural Boundaries

8.1 Llanover Park is outside the Conservation Area and although the boundary wall obscures most of this planned landscape, the numerous mature trees within the park provide an important backdrop to the village. The village contains a number of small paddocks providing an essential setting to houses at Rhyd-y-Meirch and the 10 acre field to the north-west provides an important landscape setting to the village from the north approach (**Fig.74**). In Tre Elidyr the formal greens form an essential element of the hamlet's layout and design. There are also further informal open spaces between buildings which contribute to the general openness of much of the Conservation Area. A good example of this is the former Estate Yard (now Business Park) which still retains much of the character of the original open space. Deciduous trees within the village are an essential part of its

character, juxtaposed with the conifers of the parkland and commercial woodland to the south-west of Rhyd y Meirch. Beech hedges are also a common characteristic of the estate boundaries. The trees, informal paddocks and brook provide good wildlife habitats. Conifer trees within domestic gardens are often out of context with the native species and beech hedging found within the Conservation Area.

8.2 To the east of the conservation area the Llanover Park Registered Garden (Grade II*) forms an important part of the adjacent landscape to the village and setting of the conservation area



Fig.74 Views to Tre Elidyr from the large open field to the north-west of the hamlet

9 Key Views

9.1 Landscape Setting

9.1.1 The village is separated from the parkland with a combination of the park wall and trees largely obscuring views to the parkland from the village (**Fig.75**). There is however good views to the wider landscape setting to the north and west with the distant hills forming part of a dynamic natural skyline. At a local level the landscape setting of the brook valley at Rhyd y Meirch forms a very attractive rural backdrop to the stone houses broken only by the sound of traffic on the A4042 and the bridging of the brook by the main road at this point.

9.1.2 To the east of the conservation area the Llanover Park Registered Garden (Grade II*) forms an important part of the adjacent landscape to the village and setting of the conservation area

Refer to:

Part D - Plan 4 Spatial Analysis

9.2 Types of View & Their Relative Significance

Strategic

9.2.1 Views of village-defining importance and in relation to how the village is perceived in its wider context would include views across the parkland where seen and views along the A4042. The parkland wall is a strongly defined feature from within the village looking east especially in views along the A4042. Tre Elidyr has a planned vista at the entrance to the Memorial green between the flanking cottages (**Fig.76**).



Fig.76 Planned vista between flanking cottages on the Memorial Green

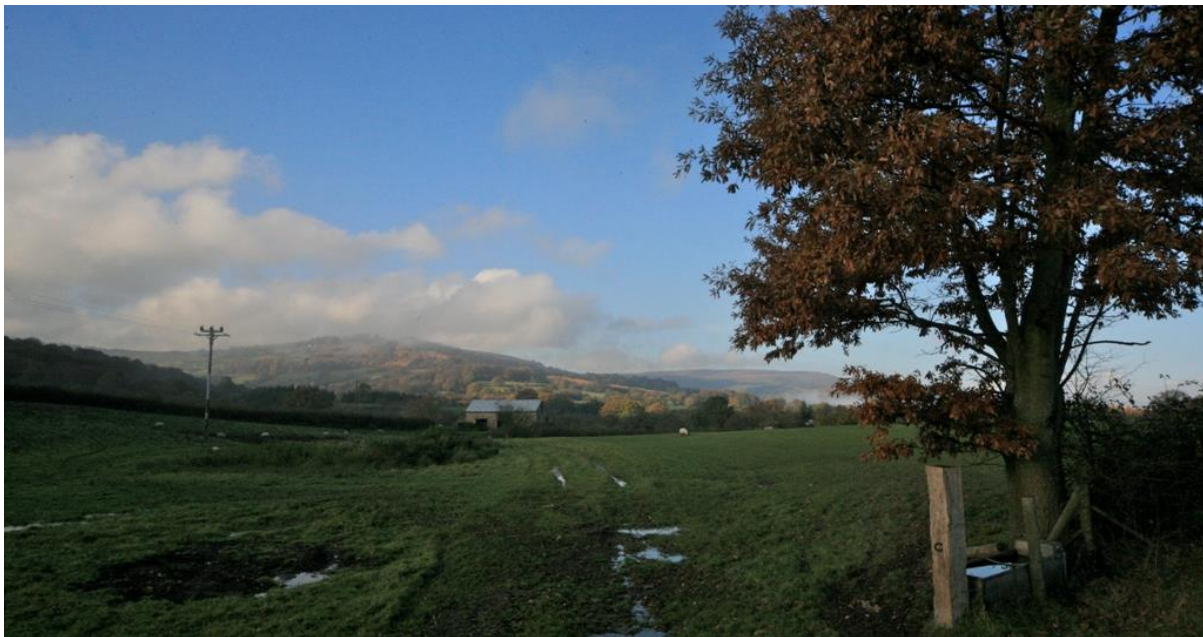


Fig.75 View from Upper Llanover in the direction of Llanover (hidden from view) to the Black Mountains (and the Brecon Beacons National Park)

Incidental

9.2.2 There are good incidental views across farmland to the surrounding countryside and distant hills. Some of these fine panoramic views are to be had from public footpaths and roads.

9.2.3 Good incidental views are to be had of the village, parkland wall, trees and hills from just outside the Conservation Area on the road bridge over the canal near Coed Nodwydd (**Fig.77**). There are also unplanned but attractive settlement-defining views over the valley and houses at Rhyd-y-Meirch from Well Cottage (**Fig.78**).



Fig.77 Views from the canal bridge towards the settlement and parkland beyond



Fig.78 Looking north across the brook from Well Cottage, a very attractive rural view of houses in their valley setting

Glimpsed

9.2.4 There are glimpsed views east from the main gates towards Llanover House and glimpsed views along the lane north of the Hanover Chapel to the park wall extending into the distance (**Fig.79**).



Fig.79 Glimpsed view from Hanover Chapel

Terminated

9.2.5 Occasional views are terminated by buildings (for example, No.5 terminating the view looking south-west along the perimeter road to Tre Elidyr, **Fig.80**) and sometimes trees intentionally planted to form planned vistas (view looking into Tre Elidyr from the main road). Deflected views partially terminated by buildings are a feature of the view corridor created by enclosure of the A4042. In this case the gables and façades of houses partially close views north and south on travelling along sections of the main road. This is accentuated by the parkland wall enclosure and further enclosure from trees and hedges to the west side of the road.



Fig.80 No.5 terminating the view looking south-west along the perimeter road to Tre-Elidyr

10 Degree of Loss of Architectural and/or Historic Elements

10.1 There is very limited loss of original windows and roof coverings largely due to the village's estate origins and continuing positive stewardship by the Estate.

Part C: Management Proposals

11 Boundary Revisions

11.1 Overview

11.1.1 As a result of analysis undertaken, the following are suggested boundary revisions to reflect ownership changes, recent development or a re-appraisal of the special character of a particular part of the village.

11.1.2 For general guidance on why suggested boundary changes are being made, please refer to **Appendix 3**.

Refer to:

Part D - Plan 7 Management Proposals

11.2 Areas for Inclusion

Pen-ty

11.2.1 Extend the Conservation Area south of Llanover Retreat to include the brick and stone white-painted estate cottage of Pen-ty and its garden and brick outbuilding. This is a good traditionally built cottage scale building of estate character with beech hedging and estate colour scheme. The brick outbuilding is also of historic note.

Hendy

11.2.2 Extend the Conservation Area to include Hendy and the open sided log store. Hendy is an attractive stone estate cottage within the area known as Pen-y-parc, which is included in the Conservation Area (**Fig.81**).



Fig.81 Extend the Conservation Area to include this attractive traditionally built estate type cottage, presently to the edge of the eastern boundary to the Conservation Area (Hendy Cottage shown above)

Fig.82 View from the road bridge over the canal looking north towards Canal Cottage – the cottage, road bridge and canal along with Ty'r-bad to the south-west side of the canal form a group of historic and architectural interest presently outside but to the edge of the Conservation Area



12 Article 4 Directions

12.1 Under Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Amendment) (Wales) Order 2013, planning permission is granted as 'permitted development' for a range of minor developments subject to limits and conditions designed to protect the amenity of the environment. Due to the sensitive nature of Conservation Areas and the fact that such 'permitted development' in this environment could be harmful to the character of the area, it is recommended that these 'permitted development rights' are restricted in order to preserve the character of the Conservation Area.

12.2 Article 4(2) of the General Permitted Development Order (GPDO) enables local planning authorities to make directions withdrawing the permitted development rights given under the order. These rights should only be withdrawn where there is firm evidence to suggest that permitted development is likely to take place which could damage the character or appearance of a Conservation Area, and which therefore should be brought within full planning control in the public interest. There are different areas where permitted development rights may be taken away; generally affecting the external appearance of dwelling houses in the Conservation Area.

12.3 Article 4 Directions may be applied to the whole Conservation Area, to parts of it such as Character Areas, or to individual buildings or groups of buildings, or features. This will be subject to further detailed consideration and recommendation. Their introduction does not mean that development specified within them is automatically precluded, but does seek to ensure that through the exercise of full planning control that such development does not harm the character or appearance of the Conservation Area and that all alternatives that can avoid this have been fully explored.

12.4 Examples would include:

- The erection, alteration or removal of a chimney
- Various kinds of development fronting a highway – to include gates, fences or walls or any other means of enclosure
- The construction of an external porch
- The painting of the dwelling house
- The construction of a building or enclosure within the curtilage of a building
- Alteration including partial demolition of a gate fence or any other means of enclosure and the construction of a means of access to a property
- Microgeneration – possible restrictions on changes which fall within permitted development rights relating to the retrofitting of renewable energy equipment; for example, wind turbines and photovoltaic cells, where they would have a significant impact on the character and appearance of the Conservation Area.

12.5 Within the Llanover Conservation Area, the historic estate cottages generally but specifically in Rhyd-y-Meirch old hamlet (character area 1), although in estate ownership, would benefit from additional protection of windows, doors, roofs, chimneys and front boundary walls, railing and gates and against the painting of unpainted stonework. This is especially the case given the importance of the estate colours which are used on some of these properties for doors and rainwater goods.

Refer to:

Part D - Plan 7 Management Proposals

13 Proposals for Enhancement

13.1 General Enhancement Opportunities

13.1.1 A number of opportunities exist that would help to enhance the overall appearance of the Conservation Area. These include:

- Boundary walls: maintenance and upkeep
- Footpaths and routes
- Maintenance of the public realm
- Traffic, parking and street improvement.
- Signage strategy

13.2 Specific Enhancement Projects

13.2.1 The following recommended proposals could be implemented as resources allow and following consultation with the local community. The recommendations are not ranked in any order of priority.

Area to south of the main Estate Courtyard, containing the Community Hall

13.2.2 This large area of tarmac contributes to a rather nondescript sense of place. The entrance area around the hall could be improved.

13.2.3 It is recommended that a surface dressing of aggregate, or resin bonded aggregate, with a pennant stone fringe around entrances would improve the space. Similarly, a line of native species trees of appropriate scale would help to define the space, and relate it in design and character to other spaces in the Conservation Area.

The Square, east of the School

13.2.4 This area, laid out as part of the post-war council housing development, is somewhat eroded by subsequent parking.

13.2.5 It is recommended that the existing trees are supplemented as necessary to increase the sense of enclosure to the green, and that parking bays, laid out with semi-

porous surfacing and 'soft' edging are provided between the trees. The green could be protected from encroachment by vehicles, by the use of low timber posts.

Street Lighting (see Fig.74)

13.2.6 Consideration should be given to the replacement of street lighting lining the A4042 as the present tall lamp columns have a detrimental impact on the village when viewed from the canal and other vantage points on looking down into the village. The use of shorter columns and the placing of lights on buildings where possible (without causing unnecessary impact on historic buildings) would enhance the character and appearance of the Conservation Area.

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