

Bodnant Garden and House.

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Based in Tal-y-Cafn, Colwyn Bay, near Conwy, North Wales. Bodnant Garden is situated above the River Conwy and overlooks the valley towards the Carneddau range of mountains.



Tal-y-Cafn (Welsh meaning : "place opposite the ferry-boat") is a small settlement in the Conwy valley. It was the site of a Roman river-crossing point of the River Conwy. A medieval ferry, which operated from as early as 1301, was replaced by the current bridge in 1897. Originally a toll bridge, it is now toll free, and is the only road bridge over the river between Conwy and Llanrwst.

Begun in 1875, it is the creation of four generations of Aberconways

Much first la

Ordnance survey Grid Square SH7972

Pochin, [a successful English industrial chemist,

from 1874 onwards until his death in 1907. He was the son of a yeoman farmer of Leicestershire who served an apprenticeship to James Woolley (1811–1858), a manufacturing chemist, and in course of time became his partner. Woolley died in 1858 and Pochin kept a manuscript diary of the illness, treatment and death of his partner. This diary is preserved in the Wellcome Trust Library. On Woolley's death Pochin became the sole proprietor.]

Bodnant House had been built in 1792 but was remodelled by Pochin and on his death it was inherited by his daughter (whose husband became the first Baron Aberconway in 1911).

[Lord Aberconway, once a major British industrialist who built the Queen Elizabeth 2 ocean liner and who in 1939 took part in a secret meeting with Hitler's close aide Hermann Göring, died on Tuesday in London. He was 89.

The meeting with seven British industrialists, aimed at averting a world war, was publicly discussed only in 1999. It was termed by some a second Munich, in reference to the famous efforts there to appease Hitler before the war, but Lord Aberconway said this was a misinterpretation.]

[source:<http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9C07E4DF123BF93BA35751C0A9659C8B63> accessed August 08]

The gardens are divided into two parts:

The upper level (around the house) features huge Italianate terraces, specimen trees and formal lawns, with paths descending to a lower level

"The Dell", with a wooded valley, stream and wild garden below.

Included within the Dell are:

The Old Mill,

The mill pond

The mill race

The attractive spillway waterfall

The River Hiraethlyn,

To give the babbling brook through the Dell its proper name.

The garden, but not the House or other parts of the estate, was presented to the National Trust, with an endowment, in 1949. The House was the home of the late Lord Aberconway, and members of his family continue to be actively involved in the management of the garden, its tea pavilion and car parks on behalf of the National Trust.

Woodland garden at Bodnant

Of the many specimen trees within the Dell and the Woodland, notable are several Californian Redwoods including *Sequoiadendron giganteum* planted in 1886 and at 146 feet (45 m) high, surpassed in height only by another tree from the western United States, the Oregon Douglas Fir *Pseudotsuga menziesii* at 158 feet (48 m). From China in 1949 came the Dawn Redwood, previously known only from fossils and believed to have been extinct.

Above the Dell is "The Poem", the family mausoleum from which a network of paths leads through shrubberies and the Rosemary garden to the front lawn (separated from the old park by a [ha-ha](#)) and across the lawn to the Round garden.

References :

[<http://www.geograph.org.uk/gridref/SH7972>] Geography . org accessed July 30 2008

[<http://www.bodnantgarden.co.uk/>] Bodnant Garden Home Page, accessed July 30 2008

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bodnant_Garden] Wikipedia accessed July 30 2008