LLYS LLEWELYN
GARTH
LLANGOLLEN

BUILDING RECORDING

March 2026



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 [redacted].

1.2 The building is not listed, nor is it within a conservation area, and the Historic Environment Record does not have any record relating to the house itself, although its site is seen in an 1841 tithe map, recorded as ‘small field’. The house is not featured on a local list, and is not considered to be a non-designated heritage asset.

1.3 As a heritage asset any planning application is required to address the provisions within the National Planning Policy Framework concerning heritage and enhancement of the historic environment. The significance of the asset is described in this report, and the impact of the proposed changes are assessed.

1.4 The report has been prepared by Rob Burns, an urban designer and specialist in heritage issues, who has 35 years of experience in dealing with historic townscapes and buildings. Formerly employed by English Heritage (now Historic England) as a specialist in conservation and regeneration/development.

2. HISTORY AND CONTEXT OF LLYS LLEWWLYN

2.1 The house was constructed in the mid 1920's, as a wedding gift from the bride's family (Figure 1). The groom's father was [redacted] who owned Garth Quarry, which was the focus of local industry from the middle of the 19th century, until its closure in the late 1970's. Marls, silica deposits and stone were quarried from opencast workings, and a drift mine at various periods, and the materials were used for the manufacture of bricks and fire-bricks. The wedding was registered 19th June 1926 (Figure 2)



[redacted]

[redacted]

2.2 The farmhouse was constructed within an earlier field system, and the site is marked on the 1841 tithe map as Plot 217; small field, pasture, and owned by [redacted], labourer (Figure 3). The OS map of 1880 (Figure 4) provides a clearer image of the pre-construction context, and shows the location of the site set amidst the field systems of that period. The site is set in a field marked by furze or whins, common terms for gorse, and which is rough pastureland of low quality.

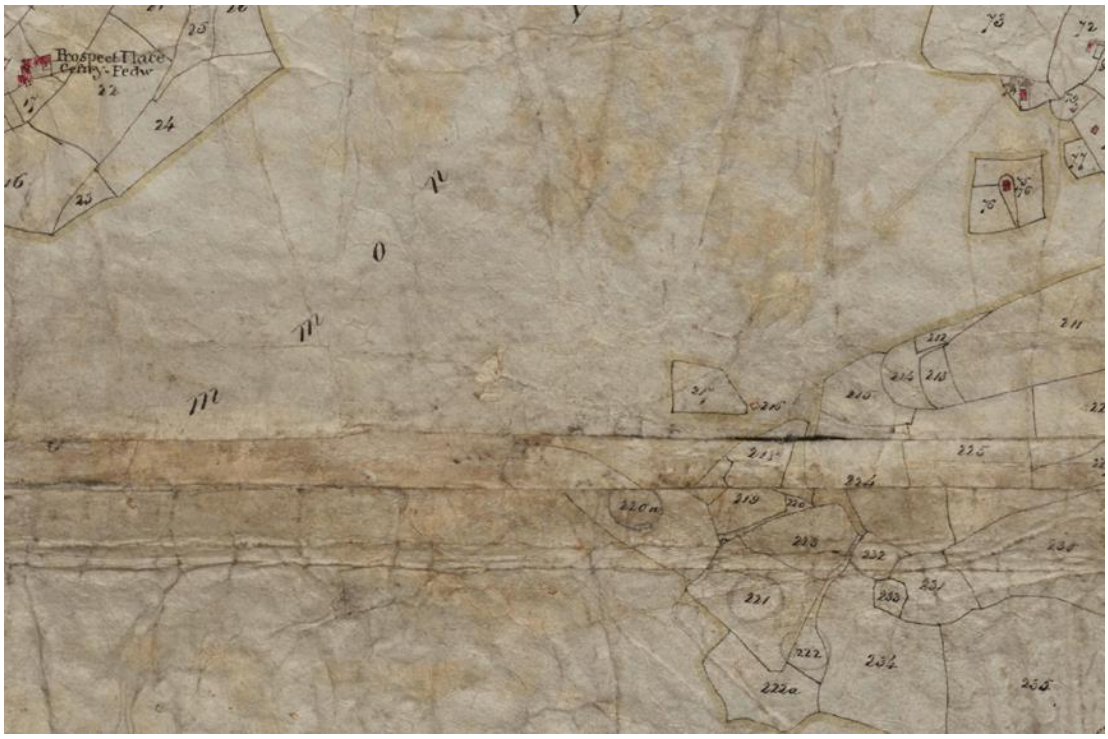


Figure 3- tithe map of 1841 (Coflein)



Figure 4- OS map of 1880 (detail)

2.3 The house was designed by the Llangollen based architect J.W. Hughes, who was also responsible for the Liberal Club in the town, which was opened in 1909 and demolished in the 1990's. It's possible that the designer was the same John William Hughes, who served as the Surveyor and Sanitary Surveyor for Llangollen District Council, and who oversaw the development of early social housing in the town during the interwar period. Permission was granted, subject to drainage etc, on 14th March, 1925 (Figure 5). The drawings do not provide details of the external finishes of the house, which is characterised by the use of decorative tiles to the main façade, and it may be assumed that tiles were a slightly later addition to the exterior, as an opportunistic addition during construction.

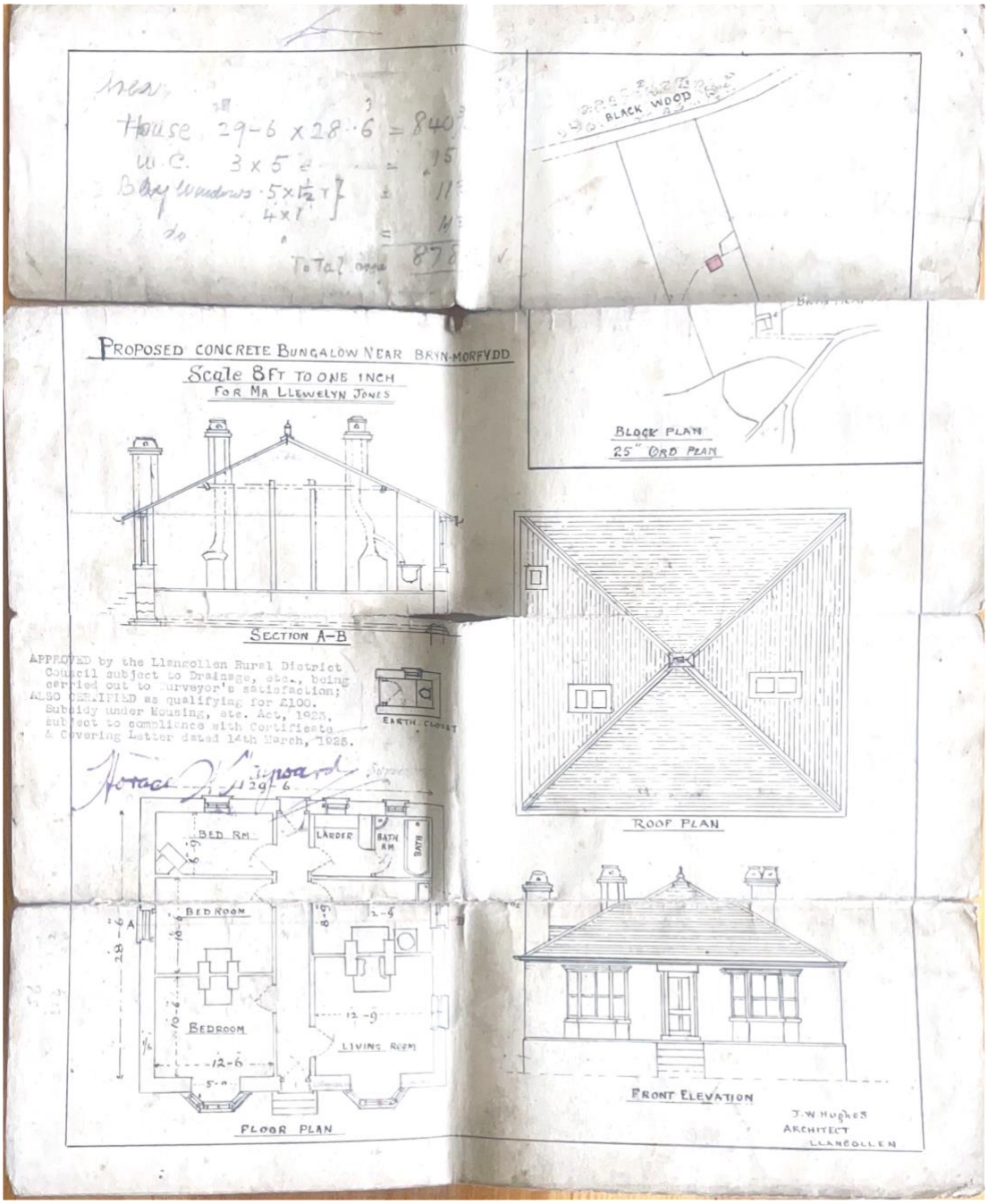


Figure 5- architects drawings for the house, 1925 (Philip Alstead)

2.4 The house is of concrete construction, with an external render, and sits on a level plinth base with a stone retaining wall. It has 3 bedrooms, a sitting room, kitchen and bathroom, with storage facilities in two outhouses to the rear of the property. A later porch was constructed to the rear of the house. Internally, the house retains some original fireplaces, and 4 panelled doors. The floors are finished in red clay tiles. Internal decoration and detailing is minimal, with simple door surrounds, and plain skirting boards where they exist.

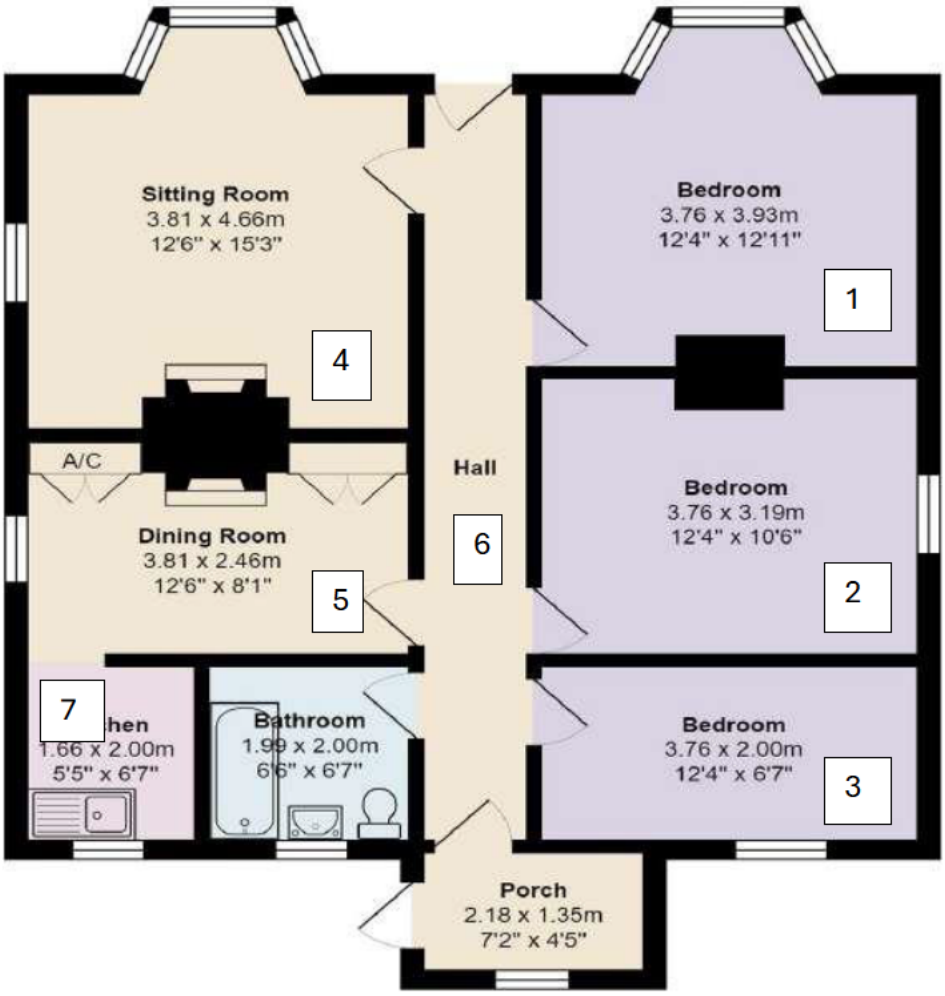


Figure 6- current layout (Glenn Cavill Architecture)



Figure 7- hallway, with red clay tiles (Room 6)



Figure 8- kitchen, original range has been replaced with a 1950's tiled fireplace (Room 5)



Figure 9- faux timber fireplace in the sitting room (Room 4)



Figure 10- cast fireplace, bedroom, Room 2



Figure 11- cast fireplace, bedroom, Room 3



Figure 12- 4 panel doors throughout



Figure 13- main façade, decorative tiles and door jambs

2.5 The main façade has been decorated with decorative terracotta tiles, laid in a regular pattern, with ribbed tiles marking the door jambs and a series of floral motifs on either side of the entrance and underneath the bay windows. The windows themselves are in uPVC, rather than the original timber.

2.6 The tiles appear to be manufactured by J C Edwards, a company which at its greatest productivity consisted of a total of 70 brick presses and 80 kilns at three factories located at Trefynant (Acrefair), Penybont (Newbridge) and Copi (Rhosllanerchrugog). Along with Henry Dennis, the company was a major contributor to the naming of the area as Terracottapolis, and their products were used globally. Tiles from Trefynat were used in the palaces of Indian Maharaja's as well as ocean liners, including the Titanic. The Natural History Museum in London, Port Sunlight in the Wirral, Pier Head at Cardiff, and Victoria Law Courts in Birmingham all used products made by J C Edwards. Edwards became the High Sherrif of Denbighshire in 1892, and also used his own products in the construction of his house at Bryn Howel, adjacent to the Llangollen Canal. The clay floor tiles are also likely to have been manufactured by J C Edwards. The company was established in the 1890's, and was sold in 1956.



Figure 14- decorative tiles



Figure 15- decorative tiles stored in Room 3

2.7 Map regression illustrates that the house was constructed in an area which was essentially rural, and where the dispersed buildings were agricultural in nature. However, the site is close to the key employment sites in Llangollen and the surrounding area, and by the 1930's a number of houses had been constructed along Blackwood Road, to the north west of Garth. One of the key reasons for the construction of these houses are the panoramic views to the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, and the valley, and the relative proximity of Llangollen itself.



Figure 16- view from Blackwood Road, adjacent to the trackway to Lys Llewelyn

2.8 The form and detailing of the building are typically interwar, and there is little intrinsic heritage merit or value. The decorative terracotta tiles affixed to the primary façade represent the most unusual aspect of the building, and appear to have been opportunistic additions to the original design. These may have been a gift to the [redacted] who owned Garth Quarry, from the Edwards' brick and tile works at Trefynant (Acrefair), as it is likely that the two industrialists were involved in some joint enterprises. A number of unused decorative tiles have been stored at the house, possibly with the intention to use them for further external adornment which was never implemented. The applicants intend to retain the tiles and re-use them in a scheme of redevelopment, and preserve the historic link of the site to the important J C Edward's works.

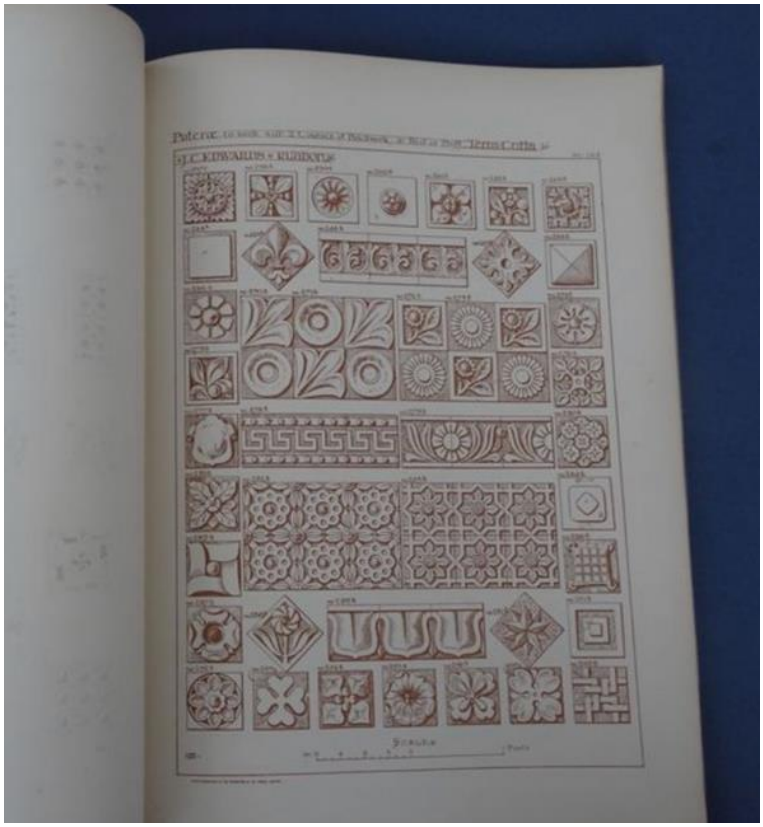


Figure 17- catalogue for J C Edwards, 1890's

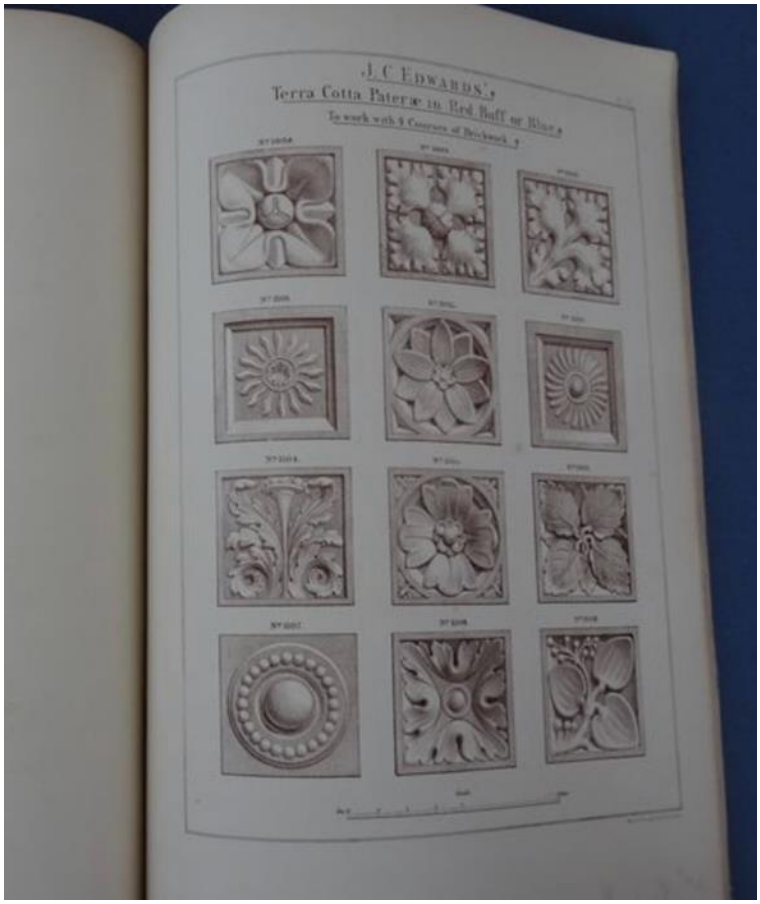


Figure 18- catalogue for J C Edwards, 1890's

2.9 The house at Lys Llewelyn is an unremarkable and typical interwar bungalow, constructed at a time when house building was undergoing a boom. The plan form and simple detailing provide a basic accommodation, and the detailing in the form of doors, architraves and fireplaces are all typically post WWI. The J C Edwards tiles which adorn the primary elevation are the only unusual aspect of the house, and the current owners intend to retain these as part of any new proposals.