



Planning • Historic Buildings • Archaeology

Specialist & Independent Advisors to the Property Industry

Portmeirion

Client

Gwynedd Council

Location

North Wales

Services Provided

Historic Buildings

Date of Completion

Completed

Key Issues

Conservation Area Character Appraisal

Recommendations for proposed boundary amendments and possible areas for enhancement



As part of a project reviewing and carrying out appraisals of 14 conservation areas for Gwynedd Council, the historic buildings team undertook an appraisal of the conservation area at Portmeirion, the Welsh coastal village with many literary and artistic associations, most notably being used as the backdrop to the cult television series 'The Prisoner' in the 1960s and 1970s.

The original small settlement here (known as Aber lla, referring to the nearby estuary, or "mouth" of the passing tidal river) was transformed by the well-known and idiosyncratic architect, Clough Williams-Ellis into its present form during the 1920s.

As a result there are today buildings of all shapes, sizes and colour, mostly constructed in a broadly Italianate style, as well as parkland, woodland and planted gardens. Most of the buildings and other features, such as statues and boundary walls, terraces etc within the village are statutorily listed. The appraisal involved compiling a historical outline of the area, an assessment of the existing character to be preserved and identification of possible areas for enhancement. This concluded that within the village itself, nothing really stood out as needing improvement. Beyond the village, repairs to walls and prevention of field boundary bank erosion were recommended. A tennis court and a farm at the north-west corner of the conservation area were also areas to be addressed, in terms of possible removal, relocation or simply repair and maintenance.

Along with the other Character Appraisals, Gwynedd Council is currently taking the Portmeirion appraisal through to adoption as a Supplementary Planning Document.

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