

natural course of Nant y Felin fach marked the boundary between Llanfairfechan and Aber, Bryn-y-Neuadd was close to Llanfairfechan village and, except for those members of the estate workforce who had been accommodated in some houses near to the yard of the home farm, in the lodges and in a pair of outlying cottages – Tan-y-ffordd – the remainder lived in houses and cottages provided in the village. But Gordinog was more remote from both Llanfairfechan and Aber so groups of cottages were built on the estate, itself, to house the workmen and their families. On the Llanfairfechan part of the estate these cottages were called: Llwyn-y-scollog, Gwylt, Tai heiron, Jubilee (to commemorate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee), Rhiwiau, and Gfan-y-mor Elias and on the Aber part of the estate the cottages were called: Tan-y-clogwyn and Madryn Farm Cottages, in total 28 cottages. Llwyn-y-scollog and Jubilee cottages were particularly well appointed dwellings for the senior workmen, eg head joiner, head painter. The single men lived in the bothies situated at the home farm, at the stables and in the glasshouse section of the original kitchen garden (eventually there were to be two walled kitchen gardens at Gordinog). In addition to the Agent's house, mentioned earlier, two other sizable houses were provided, one for the bailiff at the home farm, the other – Eastholme – sometime used as an annex to the House or occupied by the head gardener. The head gamekeeper lived at The Kennels where the gun dogs, fox terriers and ferrets were kept in a purpose built compound, and the second keeper lived in a renovated older cottage – Cae Mab Dafydd – which stood at the gateway through which the carriage drive to the hills entered the woodland at the rear of the House. It should be mentioned, as a point of interest, there was on the estate one property which long predated Henry Platt's building programme. This was the small house – Bod Silin – close to which John Platt's Walk was to pass. It had been provided as an overnight resting place for ecclesiastics journeying between Bangor and St. Asaph, by way of the traditional route over the hills, before the Turnpike road had been constructed along the coast. This house was not normally occupied by an estate workman but, more generally, was let to anyone prepared to live in its rather lonely location. Three lodges controlled passage into the immediate grounds of the House: Main Lodge, as the name suggests, stood on the Turnpike road at the entrance to the main drive, Cambwll Lodge which also stood on the Turnpike road (opposite the Bryn-y-Neuadd Grand Lodge) was at the entrance to a drive which provided a shorter route to the House but which was unsuitable for carriages (and later, motorcars), and, in consequence, was called the Pony Drive, and East Lodge, which lay at the rear of the House, on a road which served the hilly southern parts

of the estate. The stables and coach-houses (later to be converted to garages and servicing bays) were sited around a neat courtyard, just inside the grounds at East Lodge. As at Bryn-y-Neuadd, the estate was provided with a reservoir. Most of the properties had a piped supply of water although those properties at the extreme eastern end of the estate drew their water from the Bryn-y-Neuadd reservoir, an arrangement which continued after the Bryn-y-Neuadd estate was sold. A gasworks was constructed, in the yard at the home farm, to provide the House, the other principal dwellings and the farm buildings with lighting and for those other uses to which gas could be put.

Madryn was the name of the Gordinog home farm which was worked according to the very best agricultural practices of the day. The farm yard, itself, brought from visitors the same amazed reaction as had Hartford New Works, it was an undeniable showpiece. The conventional farm buildings: stables, shippens, pig sties etc, were of the very highest order and the pens and dipping baths for handling the large flock of sheep were well planned and organised – no hole in the corner of a field arrangement at Madryn Farm. The machines for chaffing, milling and chopping the fodder, normally worked by hand, were at Madryn, housed in purpose built barns and power driven and the product from these machines, when it lent itself to be, was conveyed in pneumatic trunking to a point for easy distribution to the feeding troughs. Similarly, the water supply was piped directly to the animals stalls. To drive the machines, a Crossley engine had been installed and the lineshafting had been prepared in the Works, at Oldham, and erected by the Company's millwrights. Henry Platt built up a very fine herd of the Welsh Black cattle and came to be recognised as a pre-eminent supporter of and authority on the breed. For some years, the annual breed sale was held at Madryn until it was decided to transfer the venue for the sale to the cattle market at Menai Bridge. Henry Platt gave great support when the University College of North Wales founded its school of agriculture and before the College acquired its own farm, on the western side of Aber, he leased Madryn Farm to the College for the practical aspects of the curriculum and research to be undertaken. The yard at Madryn also contained a slaughterhouse and butchers shop and the workshops for servicing and maintaining the estate: joiners and wheelwrights shop, painters shop, a smithy, where a high class farrier was employed, and the saw mills, the saw benches for which had been made at the Works in Oldham and installed by the Company's fitters. The larger machinery in the workshops, too, was driven by the Crossley engine. A second farm, Llys-y-Gwynn, which had been equipped with farm buildings of equal standard to those at Madryn, though on a much smaller scale,