

THE BUILDINGS OF MOREFA BORTH

- the Marsh Harbour

Ceredigion



That part of Borth Village on a pebble bank with the sea on one side and the Cors Fochno marsh some reclaimed and the railway on the other. In the distance is the River Dyfi. Photograph Michael Lewis

Photographs and History by BERYL LEWIS

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THE CAE GWYLAN ESTATE

At the northern end of the village, set back from the main road with its own network of access lanes, a grassy area and with 12 garages. Almost all are bungalows. Plans for the estate were approved in July 1972



The Estate in 1974 (a detail sketched from a Crown Plan 1/2500 published in 1975. At the north end of the estate, the detached Bungalows 35 and 36 had not been built yet though the Council had approved their plans. Ty Olaf and Llys-y-gwynt, both larger detached houses were also not there yet (Council 'Minutes', Volume May 1973-4, Ceredigion Archives).

The name Cae Gwylan is Welsh and translates as the Seagull Field. However, this name does not appear on old maps.



ABOVE Numbers 1 to 3. This is the first of two blocks of houses on the main road. They are two storey, and balconies allow a good view of the sea over the concrete defensive sea wall which was completed in 1956. Number 3 has a particularly large balcony. The fronts of the houses have a large upstairs windows for their living rooms with a view of the sea. There are three bedrooms in the houses. They open at the back on to a generous parking area and open ground with grass. Number 1 has a chimney with two flues. These houses could be built two storeys high as below them is the pebble bank built up by the sea. The rest of the Estate is on reclaimed marsh, and bungalows were mostly built there as they are less heavy and could have a raft base to distribute their weight on the softer ground.

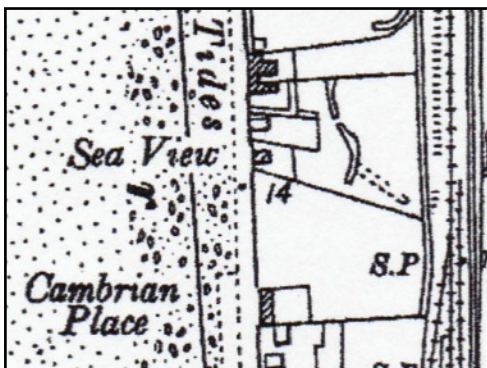


ABOVE Numbers 3 to 6. Number 6 in the foreground had enough room to add an extension and a glazed porch. It has a special round 'porthole' window which suits its seaside position.

LEFT In 1848 the ground on which the Estate was built was pasture of nearly an acre with a cottage of David Jenkins in the southern corner. It is number 5 outlined in red. The old course of the River Leri was a water course through the field - and the dashed line was where they guessed the river had been as this was used as the boundary between the Cyfoeth-y-brenin

Township on the seaward side (the sea is a black line) and the Henllys Township, both belonging to the parish of Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn. The Cae Gwylan Estate has been cleverly arranged to avoid any dampness from the old course of the river.

By 1924 the enterprising Roberts family of Garibaldi then a draper's shop (now the Premier Stores) had obtained the land, and Howard Lloyd Roberts set up and owned public hard tennis courts on part of it. He died in 1935.



LEFT In 1948 there was nothing built on the Cae Gwylan ground. The Cottage had become Cambrian Place - now Sea Breaker, Trigfan and Bodlondeb. Sea View is our Maes Arfor, and the building sketched in above it is Surrey. There was still a wet watercourse across the upper pasture. Over the boundary from Cambrian Place on the south had been the garden of the great Cambrian Hotel - later called the Grand Hotel - but it was sold off for bungalows and houses after 1927. S.P. was a signal post on the railway. (Detail from a

Provisional Six Inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1948, Ceredigion Archives).

BELOW The rear of the northern block facing the High Street. Steps lead up to the back doors. One house has an in built garage, the other two have an extension for a room.



BELOW The southern block has brick walls, and two houses have an inbuilt garage. The third has a lean-to extension and has enclosed the garden.



BELOW The road from the High Street opens into a grassy area surrounded by some of the bungalows of the estate. Because of the soft ex-marsh ground these needed to be light in weight and have to float on rafts. A group of garages have been provided for these homes.





ABOVE The eastern section of the estate is linked by small lanes.



ABOVE Turning northwards from the High Street are a row of bungalows behind the High Street houses.

BELOW This is the corner bungalow and gives an idea of the size and construction of the these homes.





ABOVE The bungalows behind the High Street houses form a terrace.

BELOW This building with dormer windows for rooms under the roof and an extension is on the northern boundary of the estate and was a later addition.



ABOVE From the High Street a lane curves away northwards, and the architect has carefully avoided the old course of the River Lerry which here is safely below the tarmac.



ABOVE Not all the buildings are part of long terraces.



LEFT Number 19. This bungalow, one of a pair, faces eastwards at an angle, and has no other bungalows between itself and the railway line. It contained in 1995 a lounge extending to a kitchen area, a bathroom, a lavatory and two bedrooms, one larger with built in wardrobe. There was also a small lobby. Cooking and heating were by electricity. The ground in front had to be open plan (Sale details Ceredigion Archives).

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gan/by Beryl Lewis
[cyf/ref ADX/1629]

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Ceidw Beryl Lewis yr hawlfraint yn ei gwaith ac mae'r hanesion yn cael eu rhannu at ddibenion preifat ac ymchwil yn unig.

Houses of Borth consists of over 350 histories of individual buildings, lavishly illustrated with photographs, maps and documents. All the files are available from our website: <https://www.archifdy-eredigion.org.uk/tairborth.php>

We would like to thank Beryl for her kindness in letting us share her work with the widest possible audience.

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