

Historic Landscapes

Project

Dyffryn Gardens, Cardiff

Client

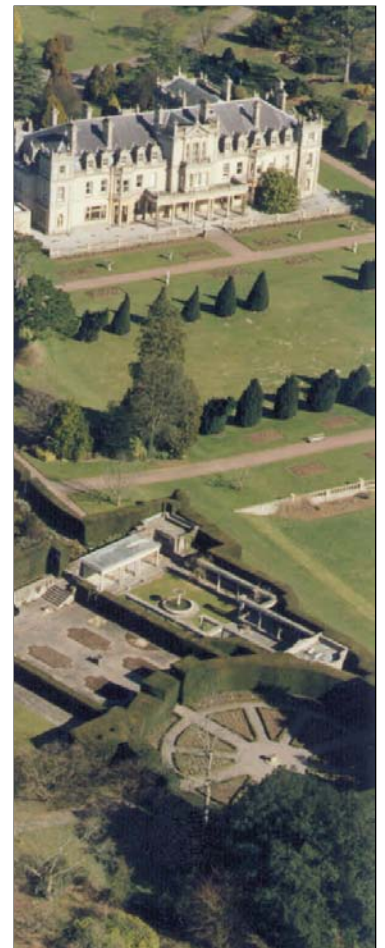
The Residuary Body for Wales

Background

The gardens at Dyffryn are regarded by many as the finest in Wales. Created in the early 1900s, the 55 acre gardens are one of the best examples of the work of Thomas Mawson, the first president of the Landscape Institute. The gardens are laid out as a series of green rooms walled with topiary, an innovative concept years ahead of the more famous Sissinghurst Gardens. There are also formal lawns, water features and an arboretum. Although open to the public, lack of funding meant that the gardens had been falling into disrepair.

Description

In 1996, following local government reorganisation, the Residuary Body for Wales took over responsibility for the gardens. Landmark was commissioned to survey the gardens and prepare detailed management plans to enable the Residuary Body to preserve the gardens while funds were sought for their restoration. Effectively, Landmark had to identify the most economical way of maintaining and managing the gardens whilst also initiating improvements.



The gardens contain many fine statues and ornaments for which an inventory was made. Landmark also produced a schedule of specimen trees, shrubs and tropical and desert glasshouse plants keyed to computerised management plans.

Client benefits

Detailed botanical skills allied with state-of-the-art digitised equipment created an accessible database and plan to fully inform future management decisions and fund-raising initiatives.