

LANDSHIPPING

Ref number	PGW ((Dy) 35 (PEM)
OS map	158
Grid ref	SN 021 111
Former county	Dyfed
Unitary authority	Pembrokeshire
Community council	Martletwy
Designations	Part Scheduled Ancient Monument: Monument (Pe 454)
Site evaluation	Grade II *

Primary reasons for grading Extremely well preserved and impressive earthwork remains of a large and complex, seventeenth-century, formal garden with terraces, ponds and paths. Two walled gardens are adjacent to the former house which may be incorporated within the walls.

Type of site The earthwork remains of a formal landscaped garden of over 2 ha.

Main phases of construction The site was probably originally landscaped by Sir Arthur Owen in the late seventeenth century, possibly abandoned with little alteration.

Site description

The exact site of Old Landshipping House, a 'very respectable mansion' (Fenton, 1811), is not known. It was equipped in 1789 with, amongst other accommodation, a nursery, blue room, Plad room, Lady Owen's room, dressing room and closet, Plad room in the gallery 'Charset', yellow room, gallery corridor, red and Plad rooms, Sir Hugh's closet, best parlour, hall, drawing room, common parlour and a wing on the east side which consisted of the kitchen, larder, dairy, brewhouse and bedchambers over being 100 feet long and 20 feet broad. In addition there were outbuildings, coach houses, a malt house and all the usual offices and utilitarian buildings. Part of the mansion may be incorporated into the structure of the walled enclosures although a recent watching brief undertaken during trenching work to the north of the gardens and extant barns, revealed substantial foundations which may have been associated with this once great house.

The Nash and Wyrriot families were associated with the caput of the manor of Landshipping in the sixteenth century. In the seventeenth century the house passed to the Owen family of Orierton, who owned it until its demolition in the early nineteenth century. The Owen family apparently remodelled the house and in 1670 it was a three storeyed structure, impressively containing some twenty hearths; this would indicate that it was then

one of the largest in Pembrokeshire. Francis Jones (1996) notes that a letter from Sir Hugh Owen to Sir John Philipps mentions the 'new modelling and a water folly at Landshipping'; this letter would have been written around 1696-7. In 1786 the house is shown as being held by representatives of the late Sir Hugh Owen, Bart. Between 1789 and 1790 money was spent on repairs to the building but in January 1790 Lady Owen arranged for all the principal rooms to be shut and left only one housekeeper to take care of the building. When Fenton visited the site in 1811 he noted that the 'very respectable mansion' was unroofed and in ruins. The ruins were eventually demolished in the early part of the nineteenth century, however, the family retained their interest in the land and the owner on the Schedule of Apportionments that accompanies the Tithe Award Survey (1845), gives Sir John Owen as the landowner. The Pembrokeshire Archive Service hold the sale details for 1922 which details 32 farms, an Inn, 207 acres of accommodation land, 21 cottages, and 60 acres of woodland. The estate was still a most substantial 1,738 acres.

The Tithe Award Survey is interesting in that it not only shows (presumably) one of the extant barns but, to the south-east of it, a curved boundary, which may have been part of the earlier features. The individual compartments within the walled area are shown distinctly; four are given, from north to south numbers 379, 339, 391 and 392. The main garden area is contained within 393, with a further area to the north, 394. Number 393 is given as a pasture of 5 statute acres and 13 perches with Thomas John shown as the occupier. Number 394 is given as a cottage and garden and field of just over an acre.

In *c.* 1800 the Owen family built a new mansion to the west of the garden site (shown as no 488 on the Tithe Award Survey); this mansion is now itself a ruin. To avoid confusion between the two Owen residences the adjectives 'old' and 'new' are usually used.

There are two, single-storey mainly stone-built barns to the north of the garden site, which run almost parallel to each other. Between the barns is a roughly cobbled yard. The slate-roofed barns appear to have been built in several phases with breaks in the rubble where additional walls have not been keyed in. Interestingly, incorporated into one area are several of the red bricks found within the garden wall, suggesting that this section was built after the site had been abandoned by the Owens.

The site of the garden is set about a kilometre to the south-east of Landshipping Quay, which is across the Eastern Cleddau river from Picton Castle; the small hamlet of Martletwy is about 3 kilometres to the east. The whole area is one of small country lanes, low rolling hills and streams draining to the Cleddau, Daugleddau or Cresswell rivers. The garden site is immediately to the south of the un-named lane which joins Mill Hill lane adjacent to Clare House. Clare House, or at least the site, may once have been associated with the Landshipping estate and the house itself is shown on the 1845 Tithe map. The garden site is about 30 m AOD and slopes gently towards the south - south-east. To the north-west of the site, in addition to Clare House and the barn mentioned above, there is now a new bungalow to the east of Clare house and a second barn to the south of the one which is probably represented on the tithe survey. The whole of the garden area, including the land within the walled gardens, is grazed by sheep.

The garden area occupies just over 2 hectares. To the north of the site (to the south of the barns) are the walled areas. To the south and west of the walled areas are a remarkable series of earthwork terraces which create five main levels of garden. Running north-east - south-west across the garden site is a narrower terrace from which all the other elements may be reached. In the north-east corner is an intricate series of smaller terraces or planting areas and two formal ponds. Three further ponds, which may also date to the seventeenth century

have also been identified from aerial photographs.

The lack, as yet, of documentary evidence for this site inevitably means that there must be some conjecture as to the exact use of the walled area. It may be that the walled gardens represent part of the house or its offices, as Turner suggests ((Scheduling Notification 1994), but the occurrence of a small building within the walls (summerhouse or apple-store?) and the apparent lack of structural remains of chimneys, would suggest a horticultural use for at least some of the area. From the remaining openings to the south-west, (probable *clairvoies*) it is likely that these walled areas were, at least in part, pleasure grounds/ gardens.

In 1845 the main walled gardens areas were recorded under the numbers 339, 391 and 392. The description for these parcels, all still owned by the Owen family, suggests that there was probably little sign of their original purpose. 339 is given as a pasture just over 2 statute acres, 391 is given as a cottage with Richard Eynon as the occupier and 392 is described as a garden occupied by Martha Eynon; both plots are slightly more than a statute acre. The same boundary configuration appears as late as the 1907/8 survey with the total walled area been given as .916 acre. More recent surveys show this area as two plots of .607 hectare in total.

The north-east walled area

Although not included within the scheduled area, the walls of this enclosure remain impressive. The uncoursed stone wall to the north (south-east facing) is, in places, just under 3 m and now topped with a luxuriant growth of ivy. Along its length there is at least one and possibly up to four, openings which, judging by the lichen, were blocked some years ago. Most of these former openings were *c.* 1.75 m high and up to 1.5 m wide. This wall may have formed part of the house complex, as Turner (1994) suggests. Not only were there several openings, more than would normally be expected within a walled garden, but this south to south-easterly facing wall is of stone. The usual practice within walled gardens was to face south facing walls with brick to maximise solar heat ; one reason for not so doing might be that this wall was already extant when the enclosure was built. What remains of the wall to the east is also stone, but more tumbled.

The south wall of this garden appears to have been built on modest stone foundations which are only evident where the tumbled brick wall has been further eroded by a sheep path. This wall stands mostly to thirteen or fourteen brick courses, that is *c.* 1 m, but rising at the western end.

In some respects, the west wall of this enclosure is the most interesting. Apparently built, or modified, in two types of brick, it still stands mostly to over 3 m and, as there are no obvious capstones, it may have originally exceeded this height. In the south-west corner, where the south wall rises to *c.* 2 m, is a small area of rendering. Two metres along the west wall is a blocked entrance which is immediately adjacent to and south of the remains of a return wall, there is also the ghost of a return in the south wall. It is possible that there was a small square building (*c.* 3 x 3 m) in this corner with an entrance through to the west garden as well as (presumably) one to the east garden. The purpose of any such building can only be guessed at but it would be a shady corner for a summer house. At the northern end of the wall the construction changes. For the first 2 m or so the wall is of brick, but above this the wall continues in stone. This west wall abuts, but is not keyed into, the north wall.

The north-west walled area

This enclosure is as fascinating as the first and is again constructed of a mix of brick and

stone. The northern wall is stone rubble and in places, badly tumbled. However, there is, towards the eastern end, what appears to be an original entrance. One section of the stone wall stands to just over 2 m high and is *c.* 1.75 m wide. It retains quantities of mortar (*cf* the remaining walling) and where it joins to the rest of the wall, which is *c.* 1.5 m high, there is a clean edge; it is not keyed into the wall. These remains may represent a gate pillar; however, its possible pair to the east is a pile of rubble. So many of the walls of these two garden areas are not keyed in that any attempt to suggest which walls are contemporary is extremely difficult. It is tempting to suggest that the possible gate pillar predates the north wall, but there is no evidence for this.

The east wall separates the two walled garden areas and is described above as the west wall. However, the four brick pilasters are very much more evident from this side. The south wall, both internally and externally, is intriguing. The stone foundations, which are visible externally, stand at the west end to *c.* 1.5 m. The brickwork above the stonework begins at the internal level of the garden. That is, the stone wall was used to retain the internal ground level, which, presumably, had been artificially altered and particularly raised in this south-west corner. Internally the brick-work rises above the stone about 3 m. The brick wall is constructed of two brick skins with a slightly rubble and mortar core. Erosion has removed sections of both internal and external brick skin. The wall was again reinforced by brick pilasters; in between the pilasters are blocked apertures with rounded tops. These openings are 1.5 m wide and, at the maximum, the same high. One opening, at least, has been blocked by later brickwork, others may remain hidden under ivy. These openings, whether part of the original house complex or deliberately constructed as *clairvoies* afford a wide view of the countryside to the east and would have overlooked the great terraced garden.

The west wall is constructed in brick and again not keyed into the south wall. There is a gap of *c.* 2 cm at the top of the two walls. Although now much tumbled and overgrown with ivy this wall retains some features of interest. Unlike the south wall, which it abuts, the foundation courses which retain the internal ground level are constructed from brick and the brickwork is hipped at the internal ground level where the stone of the south wall meets this wall. Built into the foundation courses is a rectangular niche *c.* 0.75 m high and nearly 1.5 m long. Whether this was original and what its possible function might have been is not known. Above this niche are the remains of a further opening, apparently of similar dimensions to those in the south wall, although the arch, above, has now collapsed. Abutting this section of the wall, externally, are the foundation stones of a possible small square building. This building apparently included the section of the west wall containing the niche. The structure is not recorded on the 1907/8 survey and it may not, therefore, be contemporary with the enclosed areas. If it were found to be contemporary it would be a splendid site for a summer house. To the north of this possible building are the straight edges of a former entrance. Growing against the external face, just above (to the north of) the entrance is an ancient and now much gnarled rose.

The terraced garden and water features

To the south-west and south-east of the walled enclosures are the earthwork remains of what must have been a magnificent formal garden. The garden, which consists of three main terraced areas, probably extended over most of the 6.5 acres that it still enclosed within a stone wall. This mortared rubble wall is somewhat tumbled in places, but it stands to a maximum of between 1 and 1.5 m high. The original garden seems to have formed a fat, rather stubby 'L' shape with the western boundary being Mill Hill and the northern boundary

being the lane between Landshipping and Martletwy.

By 1845 Clare House, which is at the junction of these two lanes, had been constructed and there is now a bungalow, adjacent to the east, which was probably built in the last decade. The 1845 survey shows a field boundary running from the south-east corner of the garden of Clare House across to the north wall of the enclosed gardens. This boundary does not appear on the 1907/8 survey. The land between the former 1845 boundary and the Martletwy lane is not included in the scheduled area, although it might have once formed part of the garden complex. This is a gently south - south-easterly facing sub-rectangular plot some 50 m x 35 m; there are no earthworks evident in this area.

Below and to the south-east of the sub-rectangular plot, the terraces and remains of other earthworks are most evident. Extending from the former 1845 field boundary south-east for some 80 m and flanked by Mill Lane and, in part, the west wall of the enclosed garden is the upper terrace. The terrace is about 50 m wide with sloping grassed banks marking the south-east and north-east limits. There appear to be remnants of cultivation ridges extending north-west to south-east along the length of the terrace. At the south-east corner there are traces of what might be stonework (as opposed to random stones). This may indicate that a revetment wall lies beneath the grassed banks or that there was once a flight of steps between the upper terrace and lower levels.

The lower terraced levels seem to consist of four discrete elements, all of which are of similar dimensions but which appear from the aerial photographs to have had separate functions. All the plots or garden areas are *c.* 90 m by 50 m. There is an area adjacent to the walled enclosures; an area to the south-east of the upper terrace; an area, adjacent, to the north-east and an area to the north-east of this. All the areas seem to have been separated by paths, with an additional path extending along the entire eastern edge of the garden. In addition to these formal plots there may have been two rectangular ponds below (to the south-east of) the boundary wall.

As with the upper terrace, there are slight indications of cultivation ridges on the plot adjacent to the walled enclosures; this area, the upper terrace and paths occupy the entire north-west of the site. There is a marked bank at the north-eastern end of the terrace to a linear feature which is presumed to be a path. This path is approximately at the same level as the south-eastern edge of the upper terrace, suggesting, once again a formality and symmetry of design and construction.

The rectangular garden area adjacent to Mill Lane may have been bordered by a path or walk, possibly up to 8 m wide. This 'frame' of more level ground encloses an area of clearly defined cultivation ridges which, like the upper terrace, run north-west to south-east. The pathway along the eastern edge is possibly continued along the eastern edge of the upper terrace. Shown on aerial photographs but not shown on later detailed surveys, is an area of flag iris, again associated with this pathway which may indicate a former water feature, such as a pond. The change in vegetation was noted because the iris form a rectangular patch *c.* 12 m by 6 m.

The central plot of these three southern garden areas is less obviously ridged and the evidence from aerial photographs suggests that this may have been an orchard with fruit trees planted in rows or an area of tree planting in a formal style. This area appears to be separated from the third, eastern area by a path or walkway. The earthworks within the third, eastern, area are quite different in character. To the west of this plot are the remains of two rectangular ponds. The northern pond is *c.* 30 m (north-south) by 20 m (east-west) and probably well in excess of 4 m deep although it is now much silted and covered in a luxuriant

growth of rush. Down the long sides, running from ground level at the southern end, are two ramped paths just over 1.5 m wide, which must have lead down to the water; the ramp on the western side is much more obvious and better preserved. Separated from this pond by a possible walkway and to the south-east of it, is the second pond. Again of similar dimensions but with a steeper gradient to the bank at the northern end, this pond seems to have been constructed without the ramps descending to the water. As with the first pond it is now much silted and has been invaded by rush and willow. Also silted and becoming overgrown is the third pond in this lower, south-eastern, part of the garden area. The remains of this pond, which are to the east of the second pond, have a less formal feel and are semi-circular in plan; again much silted and overgrown. This pond and the lower formal pond may have linked in with ponds outside the main garden area.

The three ponds and the boundary wall to the east enclose a sub-rectangular area c. 50 m by 60 m. Here the earthworks apparently form a series of small terraces or raised beds, decreasing in size so that triangular patterns, or chevrons of small terraces are formed. Towards the north, two chevrons have been set adjacent to each other with the longest terraces to the south and west. There are three such chevrons in all, although the series to the south of the garden area is less clear.

Turner (1994) suggests that there were two rectangular ponds in the small valley below and to the south-east of the main garden. Whether these ponds, which would have been beyond the boundary wall, were ever part of the garden layout or whether they were constructed as an expedient use of water from the site and acted as header ponds for the mill down the valley, is not known. Today this area has been much eroded by sheep and the physical evidence suggests that one pond, rather than two, occupied the site. To the south of the possible pond, which measures c. 60 m by 20 m, is tumbled stonework which could represent the remains of a dam.

The five areas that make up this great garden have an unmistakable feel of a formal garden created and planned to provide walks and vistas. One, much quoted, reference to Old Landshipping, of 1693, talks of a water folly by Mr Hancocke. Tantalisingly, no further description of this folly is given.

Sources

Primary

Sale details and specifications, (29 June 1922), copy held in the County Archives, Haverfordwest.

Tithe Award Survey and Schedule of Apportionments, (1845), nos 339, 391-394, copy in the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth.

Turner R, Form AM 107 Scheduling notification, (1994), Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments, Cardiff.

Secondary

Jones F, *Historic houses of Pembrokeshire and their families*, (1996), pp. 102-03.

Leighton D, *Royal Commission Annual Report*, (1998), p. 15.

Lloyd T, *The lost houses of Wales*, (1989), p. 68.

Musson C, *Wales from the air; patterns of past and present* (1994), p. 68.

