

CADW/ICOMOS REGISTER OF LANDSCAPES, PARKS AND GARDENS
OF SPECIAL HISTORIC INTEREST IN WALES

REGISTER ENTRY

TRAWSGOED

Ref number PGW (Dy) 53 (CER)

OS Map 135

Grid ref SN 671 731

Former county Dyfed

Unitary authority Ceredigion

Community council Trawsgoed

Designations Listed buildings: Trawsgoed (Grade II*); Ornamental fountain (Grade II); Terrace wall and steps to south-west of house (Grade II); Stables (Grade II); Lodge (Grade II); Main drive entrance and flanking walls (Grade II)
Scheduled Ancient Monument: Roman fort (Dy 119)

Site evaluation Grade II

Primary reasons for grading The survival of the park and garden of one of the most important houses in west Wales. The garden dates mainly to the late nineteenth century. It includes some very fine specimen conifers, a grand fountain and a small Japanese water garden. The park is now entirely agricultural.

Type of site Formal and informal gardens; Japanese garden; pleasure grounds; kitchen garden

Main phases of construction c. 1650; 1741 – 66; 1766 – 1800; 1831 – 50; c. 1885 – 99; 1920s

Site description

Trawsgoed is one of the most important and historic mansions in west Wales and was for many centuries a property of the Vaughan family. It is situated in the lower Ystwyth valley, on low-lying ground just to the east of the river, which is flowing northwards at this point. The house is orientated north-west/south-east, with the main entrance front on the north-east side. The oldest part is a nine-bay, two-storey block at the south end. This is rendered, the lower parts of the walls grooved to imitate ashlar masonry, with a hipped

slate roof and a mixture of sash and mullioned and transomed windows. The central three bays on the north-east side have a pediment over, ornamented with the Vaughan family coat of arms, including the motto 'Non Revertor Inultus' (I shall not return unavenged). The central door is protected by a classical stone portico, with pairs of Ionic columns flanking a flight of steps and supporting an entablature with a small balcony over it. On the south-west, garden front the central three bays are slightly bowed out, the first-floor windows have wrought iron balconies and there is Bath stone balustrading along the roof line.

To the north of the main block is a later extension, also rendered, which was built mainly as a service wing. It is a large, irregular, three-storey block, with hipped roofs, mullioned and transomed windows on the ground and first floors, dormer windows on the second, and yellow brick chimneys.

Trawsgoed belonged to the Vaughan family from the thirteenth century until 1947, when the 7th Earl of Lisburne sold the house and surrounding parkland to the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food. The house was reacquired by the Vaughan family in 1996, under the terms of the Crichel Down Rules, and the property has been transferred to a company in which the family are shareholders.

In the medieval period it was no more than a farm. The creation of one of the largest estates in west Wales began in 1547, with the marriage of Moris Vaughan to Eiliw, daughter of Howell ap Jenkin ap Ieuan ap Rhys, who brought extensive nearby land with her. Between 1560 and 1585 Moris purchased more land in the vicinity. The estate and social standing of the family were greatly increased by Edward Vaughan (died 1635), Moris's grandson, who was the first member of the family to be High Sheriff for Cardiganshire. By the time of his death Trawsgoed was the largest estate in the county. The position was consolidated by his son Sir John (1603-74), who was perhaps the most distinguished member of the family.

The earliest depiction of the house is a sketch of 1684 by Thomas Dineley. This shows the south-west front, with a central block and forward-projecting wings around a small court. Central steps lead to the court and central door, which has a pediment and flanking classical columns. It is thought that this house might incorporate medieval sections but that it dates essentially to the mid seventeenth century and was built by Sir John Vaughan after the earlier house had been sacked by the Roundheads in 1644-45. Parts of the south end of the present house are thought to incorporate this house.

Two generations followed, each one adding to the fortunes and standing of the family. Sir John's grandson, John, married Malet Wilmot, daughter and co-heiress of the 2nd Earl of Rochester, and was created Viscount Lisburne of County Antrim in Ireland in 1695. It was his son John (died 1741) whose profligate nature nearly ruined the family. In 1746 his widow Dorothy brought a lawsuit to try to gain the estate and title for her son Edward but in 1754 she gave up her claim in return for financial compensation and the estate went to John's brother, Captain Wilmot Vaughan (died 1766), who became the 3rd Viscount Lisburne. He did much to restore the fortunes of Trawsgoed.

A sketch of the house on a 1756 estate map by William Mathews shows that by this time the north-east front had been refaced in plain eighteenth-century style and a wing and an L-shaped range (probably stables) had been added at the north end. Wilmot Vaughan, the 4th Viscount and 1st Earl (died 1800) made further improvements in the

1760s and 70s, although he preferred to live at his Devon estate, Mamhead, which he had acquired through his wife Elizabeth Nightingale. It was during the eighteenth century that the name Trawsgoed was anglicised to Crosswood. It retained this name until it reverted to Trawsgoed in 1947. Important changes were made between 1820 (Ordnance Survey map) and 1845 (tithe map), probably by the 4th Earl after the 3rd Earl's death in 1831. The 3rd Earl is unlikely to have made improvements as he lived for much of the time in France in order to escape his creditors. When he inherited in 1820 the Mamhead estate was sold. The 4th Earl modernised the house, which Samuel Lewis described as a modern mansion in 1843. By 1845 (and after 1820) the court on the south side of the house had been filled in, the space largely taken up with a new library, which was given spectacular and gaudy ornamental treatment. The portico at the main entrance dates to about 1840 and it was also at about this time that the stable block on the north side of the forecourt was demolished.

The last major phase of alteration to the house took place in 1891, when Arthur Vaughan, the 6th Earl (1862-99), who made many improvements to the estate, replaced the eighteenth-century north-east wing with a huge L-plan service wing designed by the architect Thomas Aldwinckle of London. At the same time the balustrading was added to the garden front, the lodge was built and the outbuildings rebuilt and extended.

The contraction of the estate began under the 3rd Earl, in the early nineteenth century, and continued throughout the century. Debts, agricultural depression and the eventual collapse, in the 1880s, of income from lead mines on the estate, all contributed to the need to sell land. When the 7th Earl, Ernest Vaughan (1892-1965), inherited Trawsgoed in 1899 it comprised in excess of 40,000 acres and his trustees proceeded to sell agricultural land so as to retain the core of the estate. In 1947 the 7th Earl sold much of the estate for £50,000 to the Ministry of Agriculture as the headquarters in Wales of the National Agricultural Advisory Service and the house was adapted as offices. At this time some 25,000 acres remained of which about 9,000 acres were sold to agricultural tenants. The 8th Earl of Lisburne inherited the remainder of the estate in 1963. At present (2000) the house is undergoing conversion into flats.

The outbuildings lie to the north-west of the house and are ranged along the south-west and south-east sides of what was the kitchen garden. They are built of local grey stone, with pitched slate roofs and are mostly now converted to private dwellings. The main block is the former coach house and stables. Three two-storey blocks are ranged around a small court, open to the south-west. The central block has three coach house arches, now filled in. Further outbuildings lie to the north-west and south-east. These were given their present appearance by the 6th Earl during his improvements of the 1890s. The outbuildings and service area of the house are reached by a contemporary service drive off the B4340, which runs straight north-eastwards to them. The entrance is flanked by square stone piers, about 2 m high, with pyramidal tops. The boundary wall on either side is about 1.6 m high, built of rubble stone with rounded coping.

In an isolated position in a field, to the west of the kitchen garden, is a long, low former dairy building, now disused, orientated north-east/south-west. It is single-storey, rough-cast, painted white, with hipped slate roofs and slightly taller central and end blocks. This was built as a model dairy by the 7th Earl in 1920-30 but it never really succeeded.

To the north-east of the house is a medium-sized park. It is quite simple in layout, consisting of large pasture fields, a few clumps and a wooded backdrop, but provides an attractive setting for the house. The south-west part is on level ground; towards the north-east end the ground rises to a partly wooded ridge. There are no drives through the park. The access track from the main drive to Lodge Farm, which lies on its northern boundary, skirts its north-west side. The lower part of the park, nearest the house, is divided into large fields, dotted with a few deciduous trees. Where the ground begins to rise there is a small conifer plantation, with another, larger one on higher ground behind it, rising partly to the skyline. On the crest to the north-west is another small conifer plantation and there are further blocks of planting on the south-east side of the park.

The earliest evidence for a park at Trawsgoed is the 1756 demesne map, which shows a small, roughly circular, palisaded deer park of 144 acres in the north part of the present park. The park is also shown on the 1771 estate map by Henry Mercier. Its south-west boundary followed the track south of Lodge Farm and a field boundary running south-east from it. The 1756 map shows an avenue on the main axis of the house, which crossed the field to its south-west and led to an entrance gate in the south corner of the park. There is a suggestion on the map that the avenue continued a short distance into it as well. Curiously, the avenue is not shown on the 1771 map, although it is mentioned as in existence in 1788. Two plantations, one rectangular and enclosed, are shown in the northern part of the park and smaller areas of woodland are shown along the south side. A large area of meadow, 'Palu Meadow' lay to the west. The remainder of the land that was to become the present park was hedged fields. Access to the house was by a tree-lined drive, with a gate at its entrance, running west to the north-east front from a north-south road (now a field boundary) which joined a road (now farm track) running south to Llanfihangel-y-Creuddyn. The drive led to a formal court in front of the house and then north-westwards past the stable court and along the garden boundary to a hedge line corresponding with the line of the present main drive. At this date (1771) the drive stopped here.

The present park was largely the creation of Wilmot, 4th Viscount and 1st Earl of Lisburne (died 1800), in the late eighteenth century. Wilmot gained possession of Trawsgoed in 1766 and soon set about improvements, both to the house and estate. At the same time he was also engaged on a considerable amount of work at his Devon estate of Mamhead. In 1771 J. Probert, possibly the agent, made suggestions for improvements. The fields to the north-east of the house are described as 'now layed open together so as to let ye House appear in a lawn', suggesting that the creation of a landscape park had already begun. A memo from the Earl, dated 1788 indicates the nature of the improvements: 'Hedges on the Demesne to be all made up, Banks repair'd, Water courses opened in Palu and elsewhere, the Hedges on each side the Avenue fronting the House to be levelled and taken away so that the whole may look like one great lawn from the Avenue of Oaks, to Palu'. The name Palu refers to the flat area of large pasture fields that forms the core of the new park. The old, palisaded deer park was absorbed into the new park and adorned with plantations.

A further development in the creation of a park-like setting to the house was the removal of the farm buildings and hedged field boundaries of Maesdwyffrwd, to the east. This farm is shown on an estate map of 1781 but had been transformed into pasture

dotted with trees and plantations by 1887, when the 1st edition 25 in. Ordnance Survey map was surveyed. The Tal y Fan ridge to the east was ornamented with plantations. The present layout of roads and drives, except the service drive, was made between 1773 and 1786. The main development was the building of the turnpike road (the present B4340), skirting the west side of the grounds and the making of the main and south drives off it. At a later date white gates (Gatiau gwynion) were erected at the entrance to the south drive. By 1800, when the 1st Earl died, the present configuration of the park had been achieved. The 2 in. manuscript Ordnance Survey map of 1820-21 shows this layout in a schematic way. The park is now entirely informal and the avenue gone, although the old road still crosses it. The old drive has gone and Lodge Farm has been built. On the north-east front of the house no turning circle or ha-ha are shown. The 1845 tithe map shows that by this time the road across the park, except for the section south of Lodge Farm, leading to a track to the main drive, has gone and that the ha-ha and turning circle in front of the house have been made. The south drive, previously quite straight, has been altered to a more sinuous route and there is a four-sided, enclosed tree nursery in the woodland to the south-east of the south entrance.

The park is shown in its heyday on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map, surveyed in 1887. This indicates that at that date there were a few more clumps in the park, particularly two to the east of the grounds that have now gone, and that there were many more isolated trees than now dotted through it. This is confirmed by a photograph of 1883, 'From the Front Door', which shows the lawn in front of the house merging seamlessly with the park, which is planted with numerous deciduous trees in the foreground and the large plantations, which survive, on the slope behind. Immediately to the east of the garden were a number of conifers, one or two of which survive. An article of 1891 in the *Journal of Horticulture and Cottage Gardener* indicated that the 6th Earl was improving the park at that time by enclosing further land next to the old garden and planting it with 'specimens of such dimensions as to bear the appearance of an old established plantation'. This probably refers to the two clumps to the east of the garden and to the conifers dotted through the park in this area.

Since 1947, when the Ministry of Agriculture took over Trawsgoed, the park has been used for agricultural purposes only. The plantations have been replanted, mainly with conifers, and most of the scattered trees in the park have gone. The south drive remains but is no longer used as a drive; a section of it is a farm track.

The ornamental grounds of Trawsgoed lie in a roughly rectangular area of more or less level ground between the house and the B4340 road, which runs down the Ystwyth valley, to the south-west. There are four distinct areas: first, the main drive and north-east front of the house; secondly, the garden; thirdly a separate area of woodland at the southern end of the former south drive and fourthly a belt of woodland flanking the B4340 and forming the west boundary of the grounds. Between the main drive and a secondary drive to its south, and between the garden and the woodland on the south drive are two pasture fields.

The main drive enters the grounds off the B4340 to the west of the house. The entrance, flanked by simple, octagonal, iron posts, with pyramidal tops, is set back from the road. On either side are widely spaced, curved stone boundary walls about 1 m high,

with cut stone coping. On the south side of the entrance is a lodge. It is a simple small building of one and two storeys, with white, rough-cast walls and pitched slate roofs. An oval date plaque of 1893 is set into the north wall. Around the lodge is a small garden, bounded by a low, looped iron fence and just to the east is an iron foot gate leading into the woodland.

The tarmac drive runs north-eastwards, flanked by an avenue of closely planted lime trees. North of the kitchen garden it branches, the main drive curving round to the east and a subsidiary one heading straight on to Lodge Farm. The main drive then runs south-eastwards towards the north-east front of the house, flanked by a narrow area of ornamental tree and shrub planting. In front of the house is a rectangular, tarmac forecourt and a lawn. At the south end of the forecourt the former south drive leads off eastwards to a gate at the boundary of the garden. The lawn is divided by four gravel paths to a perimeter path along the curving garden boundary wall. The three paths in front of the house are orientated at right angles to its front; the northernmost path is set at an angle to it. The mortared rubble stone wall is about 1 m high, with slightly higher piers at intervals and a ditch outside it. The central of the three parallel paths leads to a pair of heavy, iron gates set between square stone piers of the same stone as the wall. These are about 2.5 m high and are topped by fluted urns. On either side the wall is stepped down in three stages.

The garden lies mainly to the south-west and south of the house. It occupies a roughly rectangular area, with a short extension at the south-west end, and has a pronounced formal axis running south-westwards from the central bay of the older part of the house. To the south of this the ground rises to a slightly higher area which has a much more informal character.

The formal part of the garden runs south-westwards from the house, with a central, axial walk running its full length, from the paved area in front of the house to a gate on the south-west boundary. This part of the garden is divided into several sections. South-west of the house is a level, rectangular lawn, dominated by a huge, central fountain. Next to the house the lawn is bounded by an area of concrete paving. This paving, which is the same as that of the axial path across the lawn, is of historic interest in being the first of its kind in the area. Clipped box bushes stand at the corners of the paved area. On the south-east side the lawn is bounded by a grass bank leading up to the informally planted area. On the north-west side the lawn is bounded by a rendered stone revetment wall, with a drop beyond down to the court at the back of the Victorian wing. A curving ramp, flanked by dry-stone walling, leads down to a gate into the court. Along the top of the wall a number of large cypress trees are planted and these now form a solid wall of greenery bounding this side of the garden.

The central, concrete-paved path skirts round the fountain, which has a large, circular, concrete-lined basin with a rope-moulded stone top. The rim is punctuated at regular intervals by eight urns standing on octagonal plinths. Between these, outside the basin, are scalloped beds, set in a narrow strip of grass, with rope-moulded stone edging. In the centre of the basin is a tiered iron fountain standing on a cylindrical base. Above this are two circular bowls of diminishing size. The fountain is topped by a bronze figure holding a serpent. In the path to the south-west are some decorative iron drain covers.

A gravel cross path, now partly grassed over, runs north-westwards to a simple stone bench near the garden boundary and south-eastwards across the lawn and up the slope to the informal, higher level. The central path continues to the south-west end of the lawn, where there is a drop of about 1.6 m. A broad flight of ten cut stone steps takes the path down to the lower level. These and a wider platform at the top of the steps are flanked by round-arched parapets topped by faceted coping, the whole about 1.2 m high. At the ends and corners are slightly higher square piers. Those at the ends of the platform are topped with ball finials. The south corner pier is topped by a small dragon; on the corresponding pier on the north side only the feet remain. The piers at the top of the steps are topped by large, sitting, heraldic beasts. The foot of the steps is flanked by two rhododendron bushes.

Below the steps the axial path is gravelled and then stone paved, although the paving is at present grassed over. Cross paths lead north-west and south-east, the north-west one turning to run parallel with the main path until it joins the first cross path. North of this path is a pair of wooden gates in the garden boundary wall. The slope to the north-west of the steps is planted with a row of cypresses and yews. The lower area flanking the axial path is one of conifers informally planted in grass. The trees, now large and mature, include some very fine specimens. Of particular note are five large monkey puzzles (*Araucaria araucana*) and a Western Red Cedar (*Thuja plicata*). The path has now been made to wind but was until recently straight. It leads to a curved stone bench in front of a large cypress tree planted on a slight mound. The arms of the bench are in the form of griffons and the top is decorated with a lion's head in the centre. Formerly the path ran in a circle around the cypress and then straight on to the garden boundary a short distance to the south-west, but this section has now been obliterated. On the boundary, where the path reaches it, is a pair of ornate wrought-iron gates flanked by square stone piers about 2.1 m high.

The remaining formal part of the garden lies to the south of the steps, below the south side of the main lawn. It is a rectangular former rose garden laid out with cross and perimeter paths of random paving stones, between which are four circular beds. All paths and flowerbeds are now grassed over but one or two spindly rose bushes survive. The cross path below the steps continues to form the north-east perimeter path of the garden. At its centre is a stone sundial about 1.5 m high. This is faceted, baluster-shaped and stands on a two-tiered octagonal base. A few years ago an armillary bronze gnomon stood on top but this has now gone. This area is bounded on the south-west by a cypress hedge and on the north-east and south-east by grass terraces. On the south-east side there are three precisely cut tiers, each about 2 m high, with steep grass banks between them. Only the lowest tier is present on the north-east side, where there is less of a drop in ground level. In the centre of the south-east side the cross path which runs along the side of the rose garden continues up the terracing in a series of three flights of cut stone steps. Between the steps, on the terraces, the path is of random stone. The steps are flanked by low parapet walls terminated by plinths with central holes indicating ornaments, now gone. Alongside the walls are low cotoneaster hedges and there are large cypresses at the corners of the terraces. At the top the path skirts a circular bed planted with heather, in the centre of which is a square concrete pier about a metre high standing on a stepped plinth.

The south-eastwards path terminates here but a cross path runs from the flowerbed both to the north-east and south-west.

The second main part of the garden is the upper, south-eastern area, which is informal in character. It has three sections: the south-west end, which is wooded and dominated by mature conifers; a lawn to its north-east and a large woodland area occupying the north-east half. A gravel path runs through the wooded south-west area from the main axis of the formal garden, parallel with the garden boundary. It curves around the southern corner of the garden and runs north-eastwards to join the path along the north-east side of the lawn. A branch path leads northwards, flanked by huge cypresses, to the circular heather bed at the top of the terraces. The level area at the top of the terraces is largely laid out as a lawn. At its south-west end is a hard tennis court. Along its north side is a path, cypresses and a large bank of rhododendrons. In the north-east corner is a small wooden pavilion of vaguely Japanese character. It faces the lawn, with a random stone path leading from the perimeter path up to its central French doors. It stands on a brick footing, is single-storey, with a swept corrugated iron roof and gable over the door. At the corners and flanking the door are turned wooden posts. There are side windows and a back door and inside the floor is tiled. The purpose of this building was probably related to the tennis court or to croquet on the lawn and it would appear to date to the early twentieth century.

The woodland area to the north of the bank of rhododendrons is different in character to the conifer-dominated area at the south end of the garden. It is more open, consisting of a grassy glade with a canopy of mature beech and oak, with further rhododendrons to the north-east. In the east corner of the glade is a small oak with a plaque indicating that it was planted by the Prince of Wales on 30th October 1923. Near the south-east boundary are clumps of bamboos and a rectangular, concrete-lined pond, with an inlet hole on the south-east side. Just to the north a path leads to an iron foot gate into the field beyond the garden. This path is the southern end of one which crosses the centre of the glade, ending next to the house. A cross path to the south-west links up with the cross path from the heather bed and another, near the south end, curves round and becomes the path along the perimeter of the lawn to the south-west. Two others, also at the south end, lead into the woodland area at the north-east end of the garden.

The pond is at the head of a narrow channel which feeds water into a Japanese garden. The channel is stone-edged and cobble-floored and runs north-westwards from the pond along the south-west side of the woodland glade. The path to the lawn crosses it on a simple, flat, concrete slab bridge. A similar bridge carries the more northerly cross path over it. The channel then curves westwards, in a thicket of bamboos, and leads into a small pool. This has a small, rocky island and is lined with waterworn stones and is surrounded by specimen shrubs. The channel continues, ornamented with small cascades and flanked by rockwork. A path runs along the north-west side of the area, with shallow stone steps on the bank down to the level of the main lawn. The lower part of the Japanese garden lies on this level, opposite the fountain. At the drop in level there is a rockwork cascade, about 2 m high. Below is a pool, lined with rockwork and surrounded by mixed ornamental planting which includes cypress shrubs and yuccas. Hidden in this planting is a stone Japanese lantern, which appears to be genuine.

The north-east end of the garden is a further area of woodland, dominated by conifers and rhododendrons. A path curves through the middle of the area and another skirts the boundary. Both end at a gate through to the forecourt, just next to the house. This is an ornate, double foot gate of delicate wrought ironwork. Just outside the garden, next to the former south drive, is a large wellingtonia.

The third area of the grounds is a belt of mixed coniferous and deciduous ornamental woodland flanking the south end of the former south drive. The drive enters the grounds to the south of the house and garden, where the B4340 takes a sharp westward bend. The drive carries on northwards from the bend. The entrance has a pair of simple iron gates flanked by cut stone piers about 3.8 m high. Outside these are pedestrian entrances and similar outer piers. The entrance is then flanked by rubble stone walls about 1.2 m high. The drive, now a farm track, curves through the woodland and then crosses pasture fields, curving round westwards to run along the north side of the garden to the south end of the forecourt.

The fourth area is the belt of mixed woodland along the western boundary of the grounds. The B4340 road runs along its west side, flanked by a rubble stone wall about 1.2-1.6 m high. The woodland belt is mostly narrow but widens to the north of the main drive into a roughly triangular wood called Aber-Magwr Wood, which is bounded by a farm track on its north side. Although this area of woodland has now more or less lost its ornamental function it remains an integral part of the grounds. It was planted ornamentally and at one time was threaded by walks. The gate at the entrance to the walk to the south of the main drive remains.

The garden as it exists now is very much a creation of the late nineteenth century. However, elements of earlier phases do survive. The earliest evidence for a garden at Trawsgoed is the Thomas Dineley sketch of 1684, showing the south-west front of the house. Between the side wings was a court, the area of which is now part of the present house. It was bounded on the south-west side by a wall and central steps. The wall was topped with metal ornaments which appear similar to those at Rhual (Flintshire), which date to the seventeenth century. In front of the court was a rectangular garden bounded by high walls, with entrances on the north-west and south-east sides and gates, flanked by tall piers topped by ball finials, in the centre of the south-west side. The gate piers appear very similar to the pair in the grounds at Margam (Neath Port Talbot). The garden itself was divided about the central axis into four quarters, probably of turf, with slender spires of clipped evergreen shrubs in pots in the corners of each bed. These may have been yew, box or perhaps cypress. Beyond this enclosed garden, to the south-east, was a grove of deciduous trees. The walled garden lay on the area that is now the main lawn south-west of the house; the grove was on the site of the present informal woodland area.

The garden depicted by Thomas Dineley was probably that of Sir John Vaughan (1603-74). Its simple, symmetrical and axial layout centred on the door of the house, suggesting a date no earlier than the mid seventeenth century. The making of this garden was therefore probably contemporary with Sir John's rebuilding of the house, following its sacking in 1644-45. None of this garden survives above ground.

The 1756 estate map shows that by that time the garden had changed considerably. The garden occupies an area corresponding to the main lawn and the woodland area to its south-east, with a large walled kitchen garden, and probably orchard,

to the north-west of the house. A rectangular plantation, divided into quarters and with a central gate on to a road or track by the river, lies to the south-west of the garden. To the north-east of the house is an entrance court with two rectangular beds or pools, with scalloped corners, flanking the central axis. Beyond is a large open area, at the far end of which the drive exits and the avenue to the park begins.

The map shows the ornamental garden divided into formal compartments. The wall bounding the court between the house wings has gone. The seventeenth-century walled garden remains but has a new internal layout of quartered beds around a central octagonal feature which may be a bed or a pool. To the south-east is a large square area of garden with an inner, rectangular area divided into three compartments. The north-east half is laid out with perimeter and diagonally crossing paths; the south quarter is blank and the west quarter has an inner wall, with two openings, and a central rectangular feature which may be a bed or another pool. At the south end of the north-east boundary is a gate into the field beyond and against the inner side of the boundary is a rectangular feature which appears to be a building of some sort. A sketch of the house on the same 1756 map shows a simple walled forecourt on the north-east front of the house, with central gates and piers and two flights of semi-circular steps up to the front door. The gates and piers appear identical to those at the south-west entrance to the garden on the 1684 Dineley sketch, making it likely that they were moved to this new position when the garden was altered.

This new garden is probably contemporary with the conversion of the house into a more regular, Georgian building, which probably took place in the 1740s. The likely contender for this work is Wilmot Vaughan (died 1766), the 3rd Viscount, who, with the aid of his wife's wealth, returned the estate to prosperity, following the near disastrous profligacy of his brother John, who had left him the title and estate in 1741.

By 1771 further minor changes had been made to the ornamental garden, probably also by the 3rd Viscount (the 4th Viscount would only have been 16 at the time). Suggestions for improvements to the estate made by J. Probert in 1771 mention the 'court south of the hall, the Pleasure Grounds, Bowling Green etc south east thereof and the kitchen garden as now layed out'. The 1771 map shows that the layout remained formal; the area and divisions remained the same but their internal layouts had been altered. The entrance court now had a central bed or pool, skirted by the approach walk from the drive. The garden to the south-west of the house retained the central bed or pool but the remainder was divided into eight beds fanning out from it. In the compartments to the south-east the rectangular bed or pool remained; the compartment to the south-east contained rows of bushes or trees and that to the north-east was probably a shrubbery, or 'wilderness', threaded with sinuous walks. To the south-east of the forecourt was a rectangular grove, known to have been of oaks, corresponding to the north end of the present wooded area of the grounds.

By 1845 (tithe map) the ornamental garden had been completely transformed, although it retained its original area. This was probably the work of Wilmot, 4th Viscount and 1st Earl of Lisburne, in the late eighteenth century. By this time the formal, compartmented garden would have been hopelessly out of date. Wilmot was clearly familiar with contemporary informal landscaping as he had commissioned Capability Brown to redesign the grounds at his Devon property, Mamhead, in 1772. Thus the

garden was made informal. The 1820-21 manuscript Ordnance Survey map is too small-scale to show much detail but does indicate that the pool was circular by then and that rows of trees remained at the south end of the garden at that date. The 1845 map shows that the old compartments were completely removed, the only features to survive being the pool south-west of the house and trees in the grove to the south-east of the house. The 1887 Ordnance Survey map, which shows the redesigned garden in detail, indicates that the pool was fed by a water channel, which survives today, from a tank or pool on the south-east boundary of the garden. The map shows an informal lawn, its outer part planted with a few trees, to the south-west of the house. Against its north-west wall was a small conservatory and there were perimeter walks. The area to the south-east was informal woodland of both coniferous and deciduous trees, criss-crossed by meandering paths and the water channel. Two footbridges are shown where paths cross the channel and these survive today. The only possible relic of the former compartments in this area is a cross wall that is shown dividing the south-west part of the area in half.

By 1820-21 the approach to the house and garden was completely different to that in 1771. The present main drive had been made; by 1887 it had been planted with an avenue. The 1820-21 map shows that to the north-east of the kitchen garden the drive passed through a wooded area, shown also on the 1845 and 1887 maps. The 1887 map shows this area as of mixed deciduous and coniferous trees in which there is a small building, probably kennels, to the east of the drive, and a small, rectangular enclosure to the west of the drive. This has a central path leading to a circular feature at its east end. From its form and position close to the kitchen garden it is likely to have been either a well or possibly an ice-house. Between 1820 and 1845 an informal, roughly circular area, probably of lawn, with a turning circle around it was made in front of the house. It was bounded by a curving ha-ha on its outer side. The south drive led off eastwards from its south end.

By 1820 a narrow wooded belt had been planted along the west boundary of the grounds, screening them from the new turnpike road to the west. The 1887 map shows walks through it, that to the south of the drive leading past a small building, probably of utilitarian purpose, facing out on to the field to the north-east. Accounts and photographs of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries indicate that the main walk was called Lady Gertrude's Walk and that it was flanked by rhododendrons.

The major changes to the garden that were to give it its present-day appearance were made by Arthur Vaughan, the 6th Earl (1862-99), after 1889. A sketch dated 17th July 1889, probably by the agent, Mr Gardiner, shows the new design and an article of 12th March 1891 in the *Journal of Horticulture and Cottage Gardener* indicates that by that time most of the work had been carried out. The most important change was the extension of the garden to the south-west, to include the whole of the area between the existing garden and the woodland belt next to the road. Previously this had been two fields - the Scotch Fir Yard and Cae Gwyn. The former garden to the south-west of the house, and the new part immediately beyond it were given a more formal treatment again. The present path system was laid out, with a strong central axis from the house, past the pool, and down into the new extension. The steps and terracing were made and a cross walk, the Lime Walk, was planted with limes, now gone, probably in the 1870s. The extension was planted with newly introduced exotic conifers, including monkey puzzle

(*Araucaria araucana*), Bhutan pine (*Pinus wallichiana*), Incense cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*), Nootka cypress (*Chamaecyparis nootkatensis*), Sawara cypress (*Chamaecyparis pisifera*), Hinoki cypress (*Chamaecyparis obtusa*) and Smooth Arizona cypress (*Cupressus glabra*).

The 1891 article describes the garden in some detail. The lawn to the south-west of the house was the 'flower garden proper', which had a conservatory against its north-west side. This was filled with flowers in season from the kitchen garden. By this time the pool had been transformed into a fountain, which can therefore be narrowly dated to 1887-1891, as it is not present on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map. The vases around it were filled with palms and 'foliage plants' were 'dotted here and there'. There were also gum (eucalyptus) trees, suggesting an enthusiasm for this Australian species. The single surviving gum tree, in the kitchen garden, probably therefore dates to this period. The new 'ornamental steps in a terrace of masonry' was mentioned, reached by a path that crossed an avenue of limes. The illustration accompanying the article shows these trees to have been large at the time, suggesting that they were part of the earlier garden. The article calls the limes and also Scots pines in the avenue as 'grand pictures'. A new avenue of wellingtonia and *Cryptomeria japonica* was going to be planted at the time. The wellingtonia avenue is shown on the 1889 sketch but it was not implemented. The article also refers to 'very fine specimens' of various conifers, 'fine old Elms' and rhododendrons. The latter grew in 'immense masses' in the 'old grounds' and new hybrids were added in the recently added area. Plants were clearly being moved around: huge azaleas, hollies, rhododendrons, conifers, kalmias, skimmias and heathers were transplanted. The path to the north-east of the lawn and tennis court was a rose walk, planted with dwarf hybrid perpetuals and with climbing tea roses and clematis on the trelliswork. The path led to a summerhouse, on the site of the present pavilion, which was octagonal, with a surrounding verandah. It faced on to the 'new extensive tennis lawns'.

The 1891 article gives much of the credit for the new garden to the Earl's agent, Mr Gardiner, 'who has proved himself a thorough landscape gardener in preparing his designs in so practical a manner under conditions not particularly favourable'. The head gardener, Mr Williams, is also praised for his success in transplanting so many large, mature trees and shrubs. The 6th Earl's obituary, in 1899, mentions his alterations to the garden: 'The gardens on the south side were also relaid and terraced and ornamented with fountains and summer houses and hot houses ... His collection of orchids was varied and valuable'.

The whole of the new layout is shown on the 2nd edition 25 in. Ordnance Survey map, revised in 1904. Between 1887 and 1904 minor changes had taken place to the approaches. A new service drive was added south of the main drive and the garden extended northwards to it. On the main drive the entrance was remodelled and the lodge built in 1893. The avenue was thickened with conifers; the small building and enclosure to the north-east of the kitchen garden had gone and the forecourt was differently arranged, with the outer half down to lawn informally planted with mixed deciduous and coniferous trees, now all gone.

After the 6th Earl died young in 1899 no further development of the garden took place until after the First World War, when a number of changes were instigated by the 7th Earl and his wife. The present arrangement to the north-east of the house, with the

boundary wall, gates, and paths, was made by the 7th Earl. He drew inspiration for it from entrance gates and wall shown on the Dineley sketch. His wife Regina, Countess of Lisburne, made the small Japanese water garden at the north end of the water channel feeding the fountain. The Countess's Chilean mother, Madame de Bittencourt, visited Trawsgoed every summer throughout the 1920s. Her daughter made the formal rose garden below the terraces in the 1920s (it is shown on photographs dated 1926). The sundial at its centre probably came from the kitchen garden: a sundial is marked at its centre on both the 1887 and 1904 maps. The present tennis pavilion also dates to the 1920s. A lodge at the entrance to the south drive and a golf course were projected but not carried out.

Family photograph albums dating to the 1920s and 30s give a detailed picture of the gardens at that time. Apart from the generously planted flowerbeds of the day, they show many features that have now gone or become derelict. The grass terraces and rose garden below were lined with trelliswork covered with roses; a walk in the south part of the garden was lined with sweet peas, which were also dotted about the tennis lawn; there were island beds in the main lawn around the fountain. The Japanese or rock garden was much more open, with water cascading over the waterfall and a sinuous pool below. The slopes around it were littered with rockwork, on which a number of statues of birds and animals stood. In the upper part of the Japanese garden there was a small, wooden, 'Japanese' bridge over the stream. At the head of the steps up the grass terraces stood an octagonal, tent-like pavilion, with a curving roof supported on slender, ornate pillars. The central part was enclosed, the upper halves of the wooden walls glazed. On the plinths of the steps stood stone vases filled with flowers. Behind was a tennis lawn. The hard tennis court was in place by 1928. The present summerhouse was in place by 1930. In spring the segmental beds around the fountain were planted with tulips. The walk to the south of the tennis court was the Rhododendron Walk and backing the walk to the summerhouse was a huge, graduated, herbaceous border. The conservatory on the north-west side of the main lawn was a simple, rectangular, single-storey building. It was fully glazed, with windows hinged at the top. A chimney at the back indicates that it was heated. The Prince of Wales is shown planting the oak tree which now bears a plaque commemorating the event on 30th October 1923. Photographs dated 1927 show the wall and gates to the north-east of the house under construction. Photographs dated 1937 show the new concrete paths and terrace on the main lawn.

From 1947 onwards the garden has gently declined. Although the main features and most of the major planting have survived detail has been lost or become overgrown. Gravel paths and flower beds are grassed over but visible. The Japanese garden has become an impenetrable jungle, beneath which much of the structure survives. The pavilion at the top of the steps has gone. Some of the major specimen trees have been lost to disease or gales.

The kitchen garden lies immediately to the north-west of the house. It is a large, rectangular area, orientated north-west/south-east and enclosed by walls on the north-west, south-west and part of the north-east sides. The interior is completely empty, having been cleared of modern buildings in the late 1990s. The northern half of the north-east side is bounded by a rubble stone wall, lined with brick on the inside, about 3 m high. The wall stands to its full height and is topped by overhanging slate coping. A large fig

tree stands against its north end. The north-west side is bounded by a stone wall, with some brick inserted in it. There is a wide (modern) entrance gap towards the east end. To the east of this the wall is about 3.5 m high; originally there was a building against the outside of this section. To the west of the entrance the wall is about 3 m high and has a eucalyptus tree planted against it. Against the outside is a range of lean-to, single-storey bothies. The south-west wall is similar to that on the north-east side, stone on the outside and brick on the inside. At the south end outbuildings break the line of the wall. In the west corner is a two-storey brick and stone cottage, probably originally the head-gardener's house. It has pitched slate roofs and mullioned and transomed windows. To the south-west of the kitchen garden is a tarmacked car parking area. The only ornamental feature here is a row of yew trees running parallel to the kitchen garden wall.

The earliest evidence for a kitchen or utilitarian garden at Trawsgoed is the 1756 estate map, which shows a four-sided enclosure approximately in the position of the present kitchen garden. It protruded further north-east than later versions. The internal layout was one of perimeter and cross paths and there was a small building against the outside of the south-west wall. The 1771 map shows a rather different layout. The garden was rectilinear and larger, extending from the field boundary that was later to become the main drive to the stable block and ornamental garden. On its north-east side it was bounded by the drive and the south-west boundary extended on from that of the ornamental garden. Within, the garden was divided into rectangular compartments. The south-east corner was taken up with a yard with a small building and pond in it. Mention of the kitchen garden 'as now layed out' in the 1771 document by J. Probert suggests that it had been altered recently.

By the time of the 1845 tithe map, and possibly by 1820-21, the present kitchen garden had come into existence. The 1820-21 map shows a rectangular garden in a schematic way. The tithe map shows it more clearly, with outbuildings on its west and south sides. The 1887 Ordnance Survey map shows the garden in detail. It was then laid out with perimeter and cross paths, with a lean-to glasshouse along the north-west wall, bothies outside it and three free-standing glasshouses in the north-west corner. A sundial is marked at the centre. The 1891 *Journal of Horticulture and Cottage Gardener* article gives a full description of the garden at that time, when the head gardener was a Mr Williams. It stated that 'a more commodious dwelling' for Mr Williams was planned and by 1904 this had been built in the north-west corner of the garden. The paths were flanked by pyramid apples and pears; there were cherry and peach trees on the walls and a special mention was made of a huge old fig tree in a corner. This tree survives at the north end of the north-east wall. There were ranges of pits and frames and glasshouses 'which in style are not the most modern'. The range of plants in the glasshouses was extensive and included orchids and ferns, vines, peaches, cucumbers and melons. Endless flowers and flowering shrubs were grown for use in the house, conservatory and pleasure grounds.

An inventory of 1899 lists the contents of the buildings in the kitchen garden. The largest glasshouse contained, among other things, rhododendrons, azaleas, carnations, gardenias, many plants in pots and 415 orchids. There was also a fernery and another glasshouse, with begonias, geraniums, palms and a fern in it.

The 1904 map shows additional glasshouses at the north end of the garden and only a central, longitudinal path. A photograph dating to 1925 shows a long, graduated

rose border, with box edging, in front of the lean-to glasshouse on the north wall. After 1947 the kitchen garden ceased to be used as such and housed laboratory and office buildings. It is now empty.

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