

**CADW / ICOMOS REGISTER OF PARKS & GARDENS
OF SPECIAL HISTORIC INTEREST IN WALES**

REGISTER ENTRY

STACKPOLE COURT

Ref number PGW (Dy) 44 (PEM)

OS map 158

Grid ref SR 975 960

Former county Dyfed

Unitary authority Pembrokeshire

Community council Stackpole

Designations

Listed buildings:

Brewery	Grade II*	Gateway to Brew Yard	Grade II
Eight-arch bridge	Grade II*	Gasworks	Grade II
Stable courtyard flats	Grade II	Game Larder	Grade II
Diary block	Grade II	Ice House	Grade II
Single arch bridge	Grade II	North lodge gate piers & gate	Grade II
Summerhouse	Grade II	Garden cottage	Grade II

SSSIs: (biodiversity) Stackpole, which includes the entire area; Stackpole Court flats and walled garden; Stackpole Quay - Trewent Point
Pembrokeshire Coast National Park

Site evaluation **Grade I**

Primary reasons for grading From the early eighteenth century onwards the parks, gardens, lakes and woodlands were developed and improved to create a sophisticated and beautiful ornamental landscape on a huge scale. At its zenith Stackpole would have rivalled some of the best estates in Britain with strategically placed walks, bridges, weirs and grottos all complemented by thoughtful and innovative planting. The water features at Stackpole are of particular interest and sophistication.

Type of site The former deer park is to the north. By the late eighteenth century this had been superseded by a far more extensive landscape park to the east. Eighty acres of lakes, including some fine structural features, separate both parks from the former house site. Associated with the house site and terrace were fine formal and informal gardens.

Main phases of construction The gardens, parks and lakes were developed from the mid eighteenth century onwards. The major phases of development were 1758 – 1782 and again in the early nineteenth century, although some elements were later.

Site description

Stackpole Court, gardens and lakes lie 5 km to the south of Pembroke town. The whole area is one of ancient settlement and habitation, many generations having taken advantage of the mild climate near the sea and the flatter land to the south of the present site of Stackpole village. Surrounding Stackpole are prehistoric monuments and the village is of medieval origin. The gardens lie mainly to the west of the house site, but the lakes and lily ponds extend from the house site to the sea to the south. The designation of much of the site as SSSIs reflects the diversity of habitat which has been created through the construction of the water features and former land use practices, as well as the important geological features evident towards Stackpole Quay and along the coast.

Sir Leonard de Stackpole, a crusader, is one of the earliest known occupiers of this site and it is he, or his family, who gave the name to this area. The estate passed through an heiress to the Vernon family, who were then at Haddon Hall in Derbyshire and Stackpole was left in the charge of the family steward, George Lort. In the mid-sixteenth century, Lort was able to buy Stackpole from the Vernons and the property remained with the family until recently. During the Civil War, Stackpole was garrisoned for the King and the family only regained their influence after the Restoration. In 1698, the estate passed to Elizabeth, the sister of Sir Gilbert Lort. Elizabeth was married to Sir Alexander Campbell of Cawdor, she died in 1714, thus passing the estate to the Campbells. Her great-grandson, John Campbell, was created Baron Cawdor of Castlemartin and his son was made Earl Cawdor of Castlemartin in 1827. By 1900, it is estimated that the Stackpole estate covered some 17, 700 acres.

Up until the end of the Campbell's tenure the fortified medieval residence of the Stackpole's and Lort's had been altered and enlarged and further enlargements were made by Sir John Wyattville, the King's architect, and Henry Ashton in the 1820s. In 1962 the contents of the house were sold and the property demolished soon after.

Although the house has now gone, many images of the property remain. In 1758 it is shown as a great square block, with 22 windows to the east face and the servants quarters or attic rooms above. The view shown is one of rural tranquillity with the ploughman to the foreground and the house across the valley; this valley and two smaller valleys to the south-west, were later dammed to form the lakes and fish ponds. To the rear and south of the house is a series of lower, possibly older, buildings. To the east and south of the house is an enclosed garden area with a few mature trees, although most seems to have been ploughed. The Hassal survey of 1782 shows the upper lakes and the 'New Deer Park' with extensive gardens to the west of the house. The creation of the deer park necessitated the removal of Stackpole village, as happened at Chatsworth and elsewhere.

In the mid eighteenth century John Campbell made radical alterations to the house. Part of the structure was demolished and a wing and stable block were added in the classical style; the architect for these changes is unknown. Further changes were made from the early part of the nineteenth century under the direction of Sir J Wyattville and Henry Ashton. These alterations included a fine conservatory to the north of the house.

Although the house has now gone the terrace wall, steps and many other features still remain, including the home farm with associated buildings, stable block, game larder and dairy.

The house that is associated with the home farm complex is in private ownership and has not been included within the Register area. However, the utility courtyard, to the south of the site of the mansion, is owned by the National Trust and has been included. The courtyard consists of single-storey utility buildings to the east all well built in stone with slate roofs and dressed stone over the wide arched entrances. The National Trust uses one of the buildings for its offices, whilst the remainder are used for workshops, garages and the like. Across the tarmacked courtyard to the west are two rows of two-storey cottages which are used as school rooms and for accommodation. To the south and west, the buildings have been altered to incorporate a conference / visitor centre and activity centre. The direct link between the home farm complex and the deer park to the east is an eight arch bridge which spans the artificial, picturesque fishponds .

The game larder and dairy were originally at the southern end of the mansion, although not apparently directly attached to it. To the north is a fine dressed stone arch in a classical style which stands to about 4.5 m; the arch being slightly over 4.5 m wide. Each square pillar to either side is 1.5 m wide, gently flaring towards the base. Above the whole structure is a carved architrave, the arch itself being constructed of seven large stones. This arch, probably more than any other remaining structure, gives an indication of the care and expense which must have been lavished on the house itself. There have, however, been alterations. The carved recess within the arch in which the gate hangers are set, extends some 3 m almost to the full height to either side, indicating massive gates originally hung from the pillars. Today, there is a fine set of wrought iron gates with scooped tops and spears decorations, but these were probably from elsewhere on the site.

Once through the arch the game larder is to the south via a wooden walkway and the garden to the dairy cottage is to the east.

The stable courtyard, in private occupation, is situated to the south and west of the mansion site. The north-facing façade is of well dressed stone, again with a classical feel, but with few embellishments. To either side of the central arch are five windows of twelve lights on the ground floor with five windows of six lights above. The central arch is over 4 m high but only some 3 m wide. The arch is framed by stonework set proud of the main wall and over it is the clock tower and cupola. The land enclosed within the courtyard is private gardens. (However, it is understood that the clock tower is an important breeding site for the greater horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*) with the adjacent lofts being used by the lesser horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*). Other areas of the courtyard are used by pipistrelle, brown long-eared, Natterer's, Daubenton's and whiskered bats).

As might be expected with an estate of this size and complexity, there are a great many trackways and possible ways of approaching important elements, such as the house, home farm and the utilitarian gardens. There was, apparently, only one main drive.

The First Edition 25 inch map shows a variety of drives, trackways and paths which have possibly changes in status since about 1875. From the north there is a route past Hill Lodge; from the north-west is a track through Cheriton Bottom. From the east there was a path or track from Stackpole Quay, across the deer park and over the seven arched bridge. From the north-east was a route from St Petrox and from the east were two further possible routes. The earlier Tithe Award Survey possibly indicates that the main drive was then from Cheriton Bottom, but this assumption is based only upon the thickness of the line indicating this route and the fact that the St Petrox drive is represented by two lines of dashes. From whichever way it was approached, the single span bridge marks the beginning of the sweep of the drive towards the mansion. From the bridge, which is to the east of Stackpole Court, the drive turns to the left (west) and ascends for a short while. From here there were and still are, views across the fishponds and the hidden bridge is also evident. Today the drive, which is a mix a gravel and tarmac, ends at a turning bay to the west of the house site. Prior to its demolition, the drive would continue towards the house, the forecourt and grand porte-cochère. The drive then continued south to the stable courtyard. Although the drive is under grass in the immediate environs around the house, it is understood that the course can be traced as parch-marks in a dry year.

The extant pleasure gardens extend from the house site westwards, the whole area being referred to as 'Lodge Park' on the Ordnance Survey First Edition 25 inch map surveyed in about 1875. To the west of Lodge Park is an enclosed area usually referred to as the 'Flower Garden' and later 'Lady Caroline's Garden'. However, documentation suggests that there was a garden at Stackpole 150 years before this survey. The 1758 sketch and the survey by John Hassal (1782) show a garden to the east and south of the house.

As the house was extended and improved so further areas were brought into cultivation. By 1850 it is suggested that a water garden had been established on the Eastern Fish Pond, to the north-east of Lodge Park, and this is referred to as 'Lord Emlyn's Garden'.

Of the many reports of the gardens at Stackpole possibly none give a better impression of the scope and range of the gardens, and plant material within them, than the description by A. P. Rowler writing for *The Gardener's Chronicle* in April 1909. ...'The mansion overhangs a beautiful artificial lake, which is spanned by an elegant stone bridge, and commands a view of a most delightful landscape, including woodland, lake and park. A wide terrace on the south front runs the length of the house, which is about 360 feet, and a flight of steps leads to a further terrace extending 200 or more feet. The tender plants that thrive in the pleasure grounds, and particularly on this terrace, betoken the mild character of the climate. Standing unprotected in the grounds are such plants as *Agapanthus umbellatus*, *Fuchsia gracilis*, *Escallonia exoniensis*, *Chimonanthus fragrans*, *Calycanthus floridus* and *Pittosporum Tobira* (a plant of this tree is about 15 feet high and 18 feet in diameter). There is a remarkable plant of *Magnolia grandiflora*, having a massive stem, gnarled by age, and filling a large space on the wall of the residence. Banksian Roses, too, of great size, flourish, with *Garrya elliptica*, *Photinia serrulata*, *Buddleias*, *Magnolia Soulangeana*, *Honeysuckle* &c. A spacious winter garden adjoins the mansion. Climbers such as *Cobea scandens* and *Bougainvilleas* lightly drape the roof, Palms and other suitable plants furnish the floor, whilst carved figures and vases stand in prominent positions.

A charming woodland is entered from the terrace. It is planted with native Ferns, the commoner varieties of Daffodil, Winter Aconite, Bluebells &c., and canopied, but not too densely, by a variety of trees. A winding path leads to the tennis ground formed of concrete: this was previously a battery ground, and from here the north front of the residence is entered by a massive archway.

A pair of old Spanish guns, dated 1754 and 1756, guard the front entrance. *Escallonias*, *Hydrangeas*, and *Myrtles* are planted on the spacious lawn, and there is a fine specimen of *Fraxinus Ornus*, and also a large Cockspur Thorn (*Cratægus Crus-galli*), the branches of which have arched over and sweep the ground forming a tent with no entrance. Fine Yews, Copper Beeches, and a number of large evergreen Oaks, whose branches arch and depend in such a manner as to suggest vaulted chambers, are also met with. On the lawns are many large evergreen Oaks, magnificent gnarled Limes, huge Silver Firs and big trees of English Oak and Sycamore. One of these last-mentioned has a straight stem of 30 feet to the first branch. Other notable trees are *Pinus Lambertiana* (60 feet), a beautiful specimen of *Sequoia sempervirens* (probably planted 60 years ago and now 60 feet high), Tulip trees, Planes, *Abies Smithiana*, *Cryptomeria japonica* (50 feet), *Cupressus Lawsoniana* (50 in height and 35 feet in diameter). The Hartstongue Fern (*Scolopendrium vulgare*) grows plentifully under the towering trees, and in the hedgerows. Continuing in this direction, a spot that was once a flower-garden is reached. Such plants as *Phormium tenax*, *Gunnera scabra*, *Ginkgo biloba*, and *Benthamia fragifera* are met with in this old flower-garden. The *Benthamia* flowers and fruits freely: one specimen is 35 feet high. Other plants of interest are *Quercus glabra* and *Juniperus japonica aurea* (a good plant of this golden Juniper), *Laurus nobilis*, *Cupressus Lawsoniana lutes*, grand specimens of Oriental Plane, and Tulip tree. At a short distance is a group of nine gigantic Beech trees, forming a circle, their heads a dome, and constituting a grand natural temple'. The article continues in the justifiable praise of Mr W. B. Fisher, the head gardener.

This Edwardian article not only emphasises the diversity of the plant material but also draws attention to the maturity of many of the trees, most of which were probably planted shortly after the remodelling of the house in the mid nineteenth century.

The terrace immediately in front of the house and the lower terrace still exist and the structural elements will be very much as A. P. Rowler saw them. To the front (east) of the terraces is a fine built dressed stone wall which stands to 80 cm and is topped with sloping stone slabs. The flight of 22 dressed stone steps between the upper and lower terraces also remains. To the west of the terrace and separating it from the cellars, is a massive dressed stone wall of superb quality which stands, at its maximum, to 4 m. The *Photinia serrulata* which grows at the base of the steps, is probably the one which is mentioned in the article. On the lawn to the west of the house site, between the house, woodland and the stable block, are other survivors. These probably include the *Fraxinus ornus* or Manna ash and the *Quercus* species. The yews, bays, quinces, Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*) and large *Quercus ilex* may also have been seen by Rowler.

To the north of the lawn, the land dips towards a lake or fishpond which is crossed by the single arch bridge and the 'hidden bridge'. To the west are woodland walks and the enclosed flower garden.

The main paths in the woodland outside the flower garden have now been cleared and within this woodland are oaks, the sweet or Spanish chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), at least two Coast redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*) yews and box which were probably planted as hedges but which now grow more naturally.

At SR 9745 9621 is a delightful reminder of a previous, more formal, phase of this garden. Set so as to look towards the house, adjacent to the path, is a small pavilion or summerhouse, which probably dates to the late eighteenth century. The front (east) face, which looks towards the house, is just a little over 3 m tall, the whole structure being 7.75 m long. Within the façade, which is built of dressed stone with chamfered joints, are three arches, each about 2 m tall and just over a metre wide. The base stones of the pillars between the arches are set just a little proud as are the base stones to the walls on either side. At 1.6 m, the course of stones is again set proud, above which are the arches. The six voussoir stones to each arch are finely cut and in the centre are massive keystones which extend to the penultimate course. Topping the structure is a course of unchamfered blocks, again set proud and in the centre and to either end are urns. Behind this splendid face, the workmanship is less impressive, although there may have been alterations. The roof, which slopes down from the front, is supported by brick and stone rubble walls which are covered with rough rendering or harling. The building has been divided into two with a wall which runs north to south and which is lower than the façade wall. Behind this partition were one or two other small rooms, but the purpose of these is not known.

From the pavilion it is possible to take a path to the west, which is nearly on the route shown in 1875, around the outside of the flower garden, or to approach the flower garden itself.

In plan, the flower garden is a quarter circle with the curved perimeter wall being to the south and west. The plan of about 1875 shows four possible entrances, two to the east and two to either end of the curved wall. The present height of the remaining sections of this wall is just over 1.75 m and it is mostly of stone. Along part of its length

is an overhanging cap, which might be an additional feature. Two of the four entrances remain evident and are very similar in design; there has been considerable collapse surrounding the westernmost access and the northernmost access was obscured by ivy at the time of visiting. Both extant entrances are marked by two cut stone gate pillars. The octagonal pillars are about 2 m high, including the pyramidal finials, and seem to be worked from an extremely fine-grained, dense, metamorphic rock such as a marble or slate. To each side of all the pillars, the stone wall dips in a curve and, in the case of the southernmost entrance, this recess has been filled with brick. It may be that this was part of the original design, the brick being rendered and (possibly painted) to give a more interesting and classical feel to the entrances. Alternatively, the brick filling could have been a later addition, with the original design leaving the recesses empty, thus drawing attention to the fine gate pillars. The southern entrance is wider than that to the east. Within the eastern entrance is a rose pergola. The eight upright iron supports to either side stand to about 1.5m high and the arches over are kept in place by metal straps running the length of the pergola. Within the garden, to either side, are three further uprights which form a splay. All the metal work was once painted green. There is no evidence of the roses, clematis and other climbers that probably adorned this feature, which was possibly a twentieth-century addition.

The 1875 survey shows a circular feature towards the centre of the flower garden. This was probably the site of the 'nine gigantic Beech trees, forming a circle, their heads in a dome, and constituting a grand temple' as mentioned by Rowler some thirty years later. The beech trees no longer form 'a grand temple' but other plant material remains which Rowler probably saw. These plants include, *Leycesteria*, *Petasites*, ransomes, *Prunus* (both *laurocersus* and *lusitanicus*), holm oaks, sycamores, Lawson's cypress, rhododendrons, deutzias, *Arundinaria japonica*, *Ulmus*, tiliac, hydrangeas, ginkgos, montbretias and, forming an overgrown hedge to the rear (north) of the seat, box.

The semi-circular seat at SR 9726 9631 is also shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map (25 inch), although it was probably commissioned by the 1st Earl and had been erected by 1840. At its widest, which is to the front (south), it is some 6 m wide, the enclosed floor area also being of stone. The semi-circular seating bench and back appear to have been constructed in eight segments and there is scrollwork to either end. The whole structure is just under 1.5 m high and remains a delight in spite of the graffiti carved into the stone during this century.

Outside the flower garden, to either side of the perimeter path are other woody plant survivors including oaks, beech trees and chestnuts. This path leads eventually passes an enigmatic structure, which is referred to on the 1875 survey as an 'ice-house', with a path leading to it from the external, perimeter, path. In late 1995 and 1996, the National Trust began clearance of the site and undertook limited excavations; these have been reported by Emma Plunkett Dillon in the National Trust's annual *Archaeological Review*. Initial clearance work revealed the top of a circular chamber which was surrounded on three sides by masonry, the whole being built into a small quarry. In January 1996, a tapering chamber built of roughly coursed limestone blocks and protruding slate slabs had been revealed. The floor was of dressed stone slabs which surrounded a circular water collector which was made of glazed bricks with a square drain cover in the centre. Above the structure was, apparently, a dome constructed

entirely of a rough concrete; samples of this concrete were sent for analysis. The dome, which is probably unique in Britain and the lack of an obvious entrance have given rise to considerable speculation, especially as the structure may have been re-faced to form a picturesque grotto. No reference to an ice-house has been noted in the Cawdor papers before the early nineteenth century and the National Trust refer to an unsuccessful structure. It is unclear whether this was the failed ice-house, which was later used as a decorative feature within the gardens or if there was another ice-house elsewhere.

Today, the remains of the springing for the dome are just evident. One suggestion is that the dome was removed, the ice-house having failed, and a viewing platform was placed over the top; this would have afforded good views across the adjacent fish pond towards Belvidere (*sic*) hill. The north-west face consists of a wall of water-worn limestone, over which is a protruding arch of the same material. At ground level and just off-centre is an arched entrance to the tunnel which leads to the internal drain. In front of this small arch is a seat. This contrived rustication is found in the grotto, which is situated towards Caroline Grove, to east of this site (see below). At its maximum, the face stands to about 3 m high and is 3.5 m wide at ground level.

At one time, the whole area of Lodge Park Wood was separated from the track to Coldwell Wood by a rubble wall. At SR 9715 9648 is a flight of four stone steps which leads to an entrance to the lane. This entrance may have once been arched or decorated with finials, as the remaining masonry still stands to some 3 m (from the garden side), but it is so overgrown with ivy that it is now difficult to tell. Flights of steps formerly linked the northern section of the perimeter path with the main drive, the single arch bridge and the hidden bridge which crossed the lake which is somewhat coyly referred to as 'The Fish Pond'.

To the north of the Fish Pond is Belvidere or belvedere hill. The tithe map for Saint Petrox parish shows much of this area being covered by parcel number 52 and which is referred to on the Schedule of Apportionments as 'Old Deer Park'. The park is just over 59 statute acres in extent. At least one early view (pre 1820) shows a tower, belvedere or hunting lodge almost at the summit of the hill. At about SR 973 968 are the much tumbled remains of walls, partially built into the old park boundary. As far as can be discerned, the walls form the base of a small square building, but too little probably remains for full interpretation without excavation. To the east of the old park is Cheriton Bottom, an important area as far as water management is concerned, and to the south, beyond Caroline Grove, is the New Deer Park.

Set adjacent to and to the north of the path from the hidden bridge to Stackpole village is the picturesque grotto with associated arch and walling. The grotto consists of a single arched recess some 3 m high by 4.5 m wide and about 1.5 m deep and it appears to have been built into an existing bank. Like the arch to the east and surrounding walling, it is constructed entirely from water-worn limestone. Standing in isolation some 2 m from the grotto is the arch, which is about 3 m high by 4 m wide. Within the luxuriant growth of ferns and ivy are traces of further walling surrounding both the grotto and the arch. It has been suggested by the National Trust that the route of the path originally passed through the arch. However, the 1875 survey does not show this deviation.

To the north and west of the grotto is Castle Dock Wood. Within the wood are several built structures. To the north-east of the former drive and a little uphill from it is a

rectangular stone lined pond or tank about 4.5 m wide by some 8 m long. At the western (down slope) end the water is retained by a stone dam into which was inserted some kind of sluice. This wall is now tumbling a little and the exact arrangements are difficult to make out. The National Trust believe that this may have been a fish tank. However, if this were its function any fish could only have been held for a short time because there appears to have been no method to re-introduce oxygen into the water. Lack of oxygen may have limited its use. The tank drains, via a small stream, under the drive and into a recently re-excavated circular silt trap.

An enigmatic, little rubble building lies adjacent to the drive. It consists of a large fireplace arch in what may have been the gable end of a larger building. If this were the case, the fireplace, with its own single-pitched slated roof and chimney would have been external to the main building. The National Trust believe that this is the remains of a smoke house, but there is currently no evidence for this interpretation.

To the north of Castle Dock Wood are two reservoirs. One, the most northern, is stone lined and entirely enclosed. The second, which is a little below, appears to be more recent and is constructed of brick. These reservoirs apparently served both the house and the walled gardens some distance away to the south.

The lakes, usually referred to as 'Fish ponds' or, at Bosheston, 'Lily ponds' cover some 80 acres and are the creation of the Campbell family between about 1780 and about 1840. The 'Eastern Arm' of the ponds began at Cold Well, to the north-west of the house site and ended at the southern extreme of Deal Hill. The 'Western Arm' began to the north of Bosherston and ended to the north of Broad Haven beach. Between these is a smaller, 'Central Arm' which runs from Gulls Nest to join the other two stretches of water to the south of the prehistoric hillfort (SAM Pem 112).

The lakes were formed by the judicious damming and flooding of the three existing, natural, carboniferous limestone, valleys. The dams, sluices and water management features being an integral part of the three, lower (southern) bridges.

All the lakes are shallow, with apparently a maximum depth of 3.5 m. However, there is considerable seasonal variation. Duigan and Haycock writing in *Reserve Focus* suggest 'The artificial nature of the Bosherston Lakes and their isolation from the sea by a coastal sand-dune ridge are two unique features of this freshwater system. It is the only British marl lake which was formed this way'. This article and many others detail the tremendous importance to wildlife of these lakes.

All the early surveys, including the Hassal survey of 1782, show the Eastern Arm beginning at Cold Well, to the north-west of the house site (SR 9701 9664). From Cold Well the water is enclosed by a valley which runs east – west. At about SR 977 962 the valley and lake turn to run north – south. This north – south arm is the longest section of all the stretches of water.

The east – west section (from Cold Well) included, and still includes some fine features, although there have been some modifications over the years. The Tithe Award Survey records this section up to the bridge in two separate parcels (numbers 54 & 55 in Saint Petrox parish). These are both recorded as water and extend to just over 5 and 4 statute acres respectively. The bridge which carries the drive is clearly shown. To the east and south of the bridge this survey records one parcel (number 72), given as just over 17 acres. Parcels numbers 54 and 55 are now silted and invaded by reeds and willow, but

parcel number 72 is still mostly clear water. Interestingly, the survey also shows a circular feature to the east of the bridge, which appears to be linked to either bank; this is approximately at the site of the 'Hidden Bridge' (see below). The survey also shows a bridge at the site of the seven arched bridge on the north – south section, but no boathouse. This is the earliest stretch of water created by the Campbells and later modifications are, perhaps, to be expected.

The single-arched, dressed stone bridge now carries the drive at some height above the water, thus ensuring a reasonable gradient to the drive on either bank. However, this may not have always been the case as to either side of the main arch, where the dressed stone is of a different character, are two low, blocked arches. These arches are about half the height of the present arch. It is tempting to suggest that the first stone bridge was constructed at a lower level than the present bridge and that there may have been more, possibly five, arches in total. The dressed stone of the central section is similar to work undertaken in the early nineteenth century and these changes may have been part of the re-modelling. Along both sides are low stone parapets and below the arch are stone structures which may represent the remains of water control / management features .

The 'Hidden' bridge is an extraordinary structure, described from 1875 onwards as a 'waterfall'. If the evidence from the Tithe Award Survey is correct, it was constructed somewhere between 1840 and the 1870s. It is possible that, following the re-modelling of the single arched bridge to the west, the stone structures beneath which were probably connected to regulating the water flow, (what appears to be a sluice and low stone walls) became ineffective. The hidden bridge may have been created to rectify the situation. Certainly the feature shown as an island on the Tithe Survey had disappeared by 1875 and the feature represented is the structure we see today. The flow of water is controlled by an extremely well built dressed stone wall which extends from the north to the south bank. This wall extends about 2 m above the bottom of the lake. The wall having retained the water to the required depth, any additional flow spills over the wall and, eventually, under the path. The path, which is 2 m wide, crosses the lake at the same height as the stone retaining wall. For the most part it is built on solid foundations, at least in the centre. However, towards either bank are two low stone arches through which the water is channelled into the rest of the lake to the east.

The 'Hidden' bridge is splendidly capricious. Water is retained to the required level under the main bridge to the house. There is also the sound of running water from both the water tumbling over the wall and from the water being channelled between the path foundations and the exit arches. In addition, it would seem to anyone on the drive that those on the path were apparently walking on the water!

The single-storeyed boat house is set on the western shore of the north – south stretch of the Eastern arm, just to the south of the house site. The boat house itself, which is of rubble, has a hipped slate roof which appears to be fairly recent. Within are the slip ways and storage areas. To the west and set about a metre from the rubble building is a false front, of brick, which may have been classical in intention. This façade is the same length as the rubble building, some 8 m long. In the centre is the main doorway, which has a triangular pediment over. To either side are two archways, which appear to have been blocked at some time in the past and windows added. Slabs top the wall and there

are short returns at either end. The bars on the windows inserted into the façade may have been to prevent theft or the space between the two walls could have been used for kennelling.

Spanning the Eastern arm of the lakes and linking the Home Farm to the New Deer Park is the pleasingly simple eight arched bridge which carries a drive to Stackpole Quay. Probably constructed in the 1790s, the bridge, which is of stone, is some 2 m wide with a solid stone parapet about 0.75 m high to each side. At either end of the bridge this parapet opens to form a splay. At the eastern end is a large cut stone which may have been a gatepost, but this was superseded by the cast iron posts which still remain. When the volume of water is low, it is possible to see that each arch is set on a stone cut-water; below these may also be a dam to regulate water flow. The faces of the arches are of dressed stone, but they are without prominent keystones or ornamentation. Compared with some of the more elaborate bridges which were so fashionable earlier in the century, such as at Burghley House, Wilton or Prior Park, this bridge at Stackpole must be described as simple, if not plain. However, it is an extremely important landscape element which quietly complements the lake and, from the house, it would have been a beautiful eye-catcher.

The Western arm of the lake system was probably not constructed until about 1840, but the Central arm does appear on the Tithe Award Survey. The two do not appear to have been connected at this time.

The water flow of the Western and Central arms of the pond system is controlled by a set of three combined bridges and weirs at SR 9685 9488, SR 9735 9469 and SR 9759 9474. These appear to be of similar construction, that is a substantial base retaining wall to give the correct water height. Above this is a less substantial wall with occasional openings that may once have had water gates. Topping this wall is a narrow footpath with (today) a single handrail to one side.

Today the Western arm is referred to as 'Bosherston Lily Ponds' and, when in flower, the mass of lilies is truly spectacular.

The three kitchen gardens were established to replace the former walled kitchen garden which are shown to the east of the house on the representation of Stackpole from the mid eighteenth century. This valley was flooded when the Eastern arm of the lake system was created. These gardens are to the west of the house site and to the south of the rose garden.

The enclosure for the gardens is an irregular shape. The northern garden is almost rectangular. The southern garden, which shares the partition wall with the northern garden, is less regular in shape. The east and west walls are extended from the northern garden but the south end consists of three sections of wall angled to form a curve. To the east and abutting both these enclosures is a long rectangular enclosure, again divided into two longitudinally. The Tithe Award survey shows the north and south gardens as one enclosure (parcel 79) with an extensive building against the south-facing, north wall. Parcel number 79 is given as a 'Garden' of just over 4.2 statute acres.

The 1875 survey shows 10 ranges of glass, including an extremely extensive range along the south facing north wall of the northern garden. Fruit trees are shown in uniform rows, except in the rectangular enclosure immediately to the east of the main enclosures

and to the south of the Garden Lodge. This area may have been the nursery area for the park and gardens.

Today the walls still stand mainly to over 4.5 m high and are mostly, although not entirely, of brick. The main, rectangular garden area, that is the area to the north, is presently under cultivation by MENCAP volunteers. Although there has been no attempt to recreate a working garden of this period, it is still heart-warming to see the well weeded rows of peas, beans onions, soft fruit and the like. The ranges of glass which were along the north wall have now gone and the concrete bases of later structures have in use as raised beds. Most of the walls contain blocked entrances and evidence of change. The north wall is not entirely uniform in height and the change in brickwork might indicate that the walls were raised to incorporate the top, rectangular, vents for the areas of glass. A section of this wall, which would have been within the glass house, was also rendered and lime-washed. This rendering has been eroded in places to reveal the stone wall underneath. It is not clear whether this was an existing wall which was incorporated into the garden or stone was used where the wall was to be covered, to save money. At c SR 9725 9616 is a stretch of wall some three metres wide, to either side of this are brick pilasters, which may suggest an original entrance. At a later stage, this large entrance was reduced to pedestrian access, this 2m x 1m entrance being later bricked up.

Changes in use and design are also evident on the north-facing side of the north wall. At about SR 9727 9611 the brick wall is wider for the lower 2 m; the wall is then hipped and continues for a further metre or so until its full height. Set against this wall are two hipped slate roofed, Palladian-style summer house *cum* stores. Towards the brick wall the rendering is poor and it would seem that these are stone-built structures; neither is keyed into the brick wall. Each building has the windows overlooking the garden with a central round-topped light some 2.25m x 1.25m. To either side are rectangular windows. Underneath are low barrel vaulted store rooms, the ceilings of brick and the walls stone. At the time of visiting these were used for drying onions and storing gardening implements. Between these two buildings is an impressive arched access, now blocked. This arch stands to over 3 m high and is about 2 m wide, in the centre there is now a stand pipe for watering the garden.

To the north-east of this arch, almost at the present entrance to the garden, is a rectangular stone dipping pond. The walls are 1.5 m high above the ground level and topped with water-worn limestone, similar to that of the grotto. Within the enclosed garden to the east, which now forms part of the present entrance and sales area are the remains of glass houses, melon pits and boiler pits.

The garden to the south of the area was apparently used as an experimental area for a disabled garden some years ago. This required earth-moving to form mounds, paths and the like. It has now been abandoned and has become overgrown with nettles and brambles.

It is tempting to suggest that Garden Cottage, an impressive, two-storeyed, hipped-roofed stone cottage adjacent to the walled gardens, reflected the esteem in which the Head Gardener was held when it was built, sometime prior to 1875. There are pitched dormers to the front and over the small, square, bay. The roof is slate and over the main windows are moulded stone drip-stones. To the front, north, is a small pitched-roofed porch whilst to the rear are a series of outbuildings.

Garden Lodge was constructed to the south of the walled gardens sometime after 1875 and it is far less flamboyant than the Garden Cottage. The structure is now pebble-dash rendered, with a single pitched slate roof and a small pitched dormer to the front. To the north is a single-storey extension which is also slate roofed.

Sources

Primary

Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Sites & Monuments Record for OS record cards and general information.

Evans D.J, 'Garden survey, Stackpole Court, Dyfed', (May 1995) a National Trust internal document.

National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth, general file.

Plunkett-Dillon E, 'The ice house at Stackpole, Pembrokeshire – An unusual use of concrete', *National Trust Archaeological Review*, (1998).

Tithe Award Surveys and Schedules of Apportionments for Saint Petrox and Stackpole Elidor parishes (c. 1830), copies held in the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth.

Notifications and descriptions of the SSSIs mentioned above including species lists and description of the geology.

Copies of estate maps and early surveys: National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth.

Secondary

Duigan C and Haycock B, 'The Bosherton Lakes', *Reserve Focus*, (1983), pp 231 – 34.

Jones F, *Historic houses of Pembrokeshire & their families*, (1996), pp 196 – 7.

Lloyd T, *The lost houses of Wales*, (1989), p 71

Rowler A.P., 'Stackpole Court, Pembrokeshire, *The Gardeners' Chronicle*, (April 3, 1909), p 218 including photograph.

Ordnance Survey maps as mentioned in the text.