

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

**REGISTER ENTRY**

**PICTON CASTLE**

**Ref number** PGW (Dy) 42 (PEM)

**OS Map** 158

**Grid ref** SN 016 135

**Former county** Dyfed

**Unitary authority** Pembrokeshire

**Community** Slebech

**Designations** Listed buildings: Picton Castle (Grade I); Stables and coach house (grade II); North wing and entrance yard (Grade II); Raised terrace at east entrance (Grade II); Gates, piers and railings at north entrance lodges (Grade II)  
Scheduled Ancient Monument: mount (PEM 277)  
Pembrokeshire Coast National Park (park and gardens)

**Site evaluation** **Grade II\***

**Primary reasons for grading** The park and gardens at Picton are set within the fine rolling Pembrokeshire countryside and although now somewhat diminished by recent plantings, the park was extant in the eighteenth century. The pleasure garden, albeit recently altered, still retains some late eighteenth - early nineteenth-century features. The gardens still contain some fine exotics, including many hybrid rhododendrons. Included within the Register area is an interesting mount and a scenic walk along the estuary, which includes a Georgian 'peepout' or shelter.

**Type of site** Extensive parkland to the north of the castle with informal gardens and woodland walks surrounding it. To the west is a fine walled pleasure garden and utilitarian garden to the east.

**Main phases of construction** The formal early eighteenth-century garden gave way to more informal, picturesque plantings and landscaping probably around 1800.

**Site description**

Picton castle is set in a secluded position at the top of a small valley above the Eastern Cleddau river. To the north and east is the former deer park, to the south and west are the gardens and to the east are the later stable buildings and utilitarian gardens. From the lower gardens and elsewhere are fine views towards the estuary.

The main entrance to the house is reached from the sweeping forecourt at the east end of the structure. The entrance level is now above the original ground-floor level and the forecourt is retained by a stone wall. Under this forecourt it is thought that original features, such as the double entrance stairs, may remain. The eastern block of the house consists of the early castle which was built as a three-storey structure with seven towers, including the gatehouse to the east, surrounding the rectangular inner court. Alterations from about 1750 onwards have removed much of the medieval detail and all the window openings have been enlarged. The main doorway is a pseudo-Norman, Victorian addition of dressed stone. The door is flanked by carved pillars and dog-tooth decoration with mock battlements over. The chimneys and the enlarged tracery windows of the great hall were extant in 1740, as was the pitched slate roof and upper floor above the great hall which occupies the former inner court.

To the west is the so-called 'new-wing' which was added to the original castle by Lord Milford in about 1790. This is a four-storeyed, sub-rectangular, structure with slim towers at the western corners and battlements above. The tower to the west of the original castle was removed to allow for this addition. The great many windows throughout the castle and new wing are sashed and those facing south on the former castle have been very much 'gentrified' in a pseudo-Norman style. Most of the exterior has been recently restored, the rough rendering made good and painted pink.

In 1773 the castle was approached from one of three drives all of which led off the network of small lanes which dissect this part of the Pembrokeshire countryside. Today, two of these drives are in use, the other remaining as a track.

There is a lack of consensus over the very early history of Picton Castle and it is not clear whether the mound to the east of the castle, probably a garden mound and site of the summer house, was originally a motte and the pre-cursor of the present building.

The present castle was probably built by Sir John Wogan, who may have been the grandson of Gwrgan ap Bleddyn ap Maenarch, Lord of Brecon. It is also possible that Sir John was related, on his mother's side, to Wizo the Fleming. Tradition maintains that Picton was granted, in the early twelfth century, by Arnulf de Montgomery to William de Picton, from whom the Wogans claim descent. In the mid-twelfth century there are grants or confirmation of the grant by Philip, son of Wizo, of the church at Boulston 'with its chapel at Piketon' to the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem who held a commandery immediately to the east of Picton at Slebech. The architectural details of the castle, recorded by the Buck brothers in 1740, suggest that the castle was built probably in about 1300. This suggestion is reinforced by a deed held in the library of St David's Cathedral which indicates that Sir John Wogan was in residence at Picton in 1302 and the belief is that he was, therefore, the builder.

Picton remained a possession of the Wogan family until the beginning of the fifteenth century, the estates of the Wogan family being distributed on the death of a later John, somewhere around 1420. The Welsh estates were gifted to John's second daughter, Katherine. She married, as her second husband, Owen Dwnn (also spelt Donne, Donn and Dunn) of Muddlescombe, Carmarthenshire. Their only son, Harry, was killed at the Battle of Edgecote, near Banbury, in 1469, and so the Pembrokeshire estates went to his daughter Jane, also referred

to in some documents as Joan. Jane was married to Sir Thomas Philipps (Ap Philipps) of Kilsant, with whose descendants it still remains.

The Philipps family themselves have a long and venerable history and can trace their ancestry not only to Cadifor Fawr but also to Sir Aaron ap Rees of Kilsant, who was with Richard Coeur de Lion during the crusades. Sir Thomas Philipps was Squire of the Body of Henry VII, an important, trusted and respected man. Girouard (1960) recounts a story concerning Sir Thomas's grandson, Morgan. In about 1560 Morgan married the Pembrokeshire heiress, Anne Scourfield, whose first husband, William, had not returned from Barbary and was, therefore, presumed dead. A few years later William, having escaped from a Barbary prison, reappeared to find that his wife had remarried and had a child. William and Anne were reunited, Morgan married again. John Philipps, the son from this second marriage, eventually inherited the estate and was created baronet in 1621.

During the Civil War, the family supported both the Parliamentarians and the Royalists. Erasmus, son of Sir Richard Philipps and grandson of John, had been named after his grandfather, Sir Erasmus Dryden and his mother Jane, was aunt to the poet. Perhaps it is not surprising then that Sir Erasmus Philipps championed the cause of education for the ordinary folk, being a member of a trust which established many local schools. Sir Erasmus was, apparently, careful over his finances, in contrast with his wife Elizabeth D'Arcy and his son John. However, when the Duke of Beaufort visited in 1684, Sir Erasmus obviously set caution aside and the Duke and his party were 'nobly entertained at Dinner'. Thomas Dineley, who accompanied the duke, made a sketch of the castle which is, apparently, the earliest impression to have survived. Elements of the castle and its general plan are still discernible today and the Philipps family are still involved with the running of the castle and own much of the land.

There are two stable courtyards at Picton. One, the earlier, is adjacent to and associated with the castle. The later stable courtyard is to the south-east of the castle just to the south of the former avenue between the castle and the summerhouse mount. To avoid confusion these will be referred to as the 'older' and 'newer' stable courtyards.

A courtyard of buildings is recorded to the north-west of the castle by Thomas Lewis as being extant in 1773. However, these buildings were probably demolished or partly incorporated into the rebuild of this complex in the style of the remodelling of about 1790. This suggestion is not only based on the evidence from the maps but also on the architectural style.

The vehicular entrance to this 'older' stable courtyard is from the north, through an arched entrance in the rubble wall which stands to over 5 m. This is the one wall which may have formed part of the earlier buildings, although other materials may have been re-used. The craftsmanship in the construction of this wall is less refined than in the rest of the complex. Over the arched entrance are ill-defined battlements which lack capstones. Two black, modern wrought-iron gates some 3 m high hang from each side on the southern side of the arch; the spear decorations are gold painted. Within, the courtyard has been adapted for visitor use and offices. The surface of the yard is a mix of cobble and concrete. Running the entire length of the eastern side of the yard is a long, single-storey block again built of rubble. The many wide entrances, which are indicated by dressed limestone quoins, are now mostly blocked or the openings have now been reduced to windows. Sky-lights have been inserted into the slate roof but the ventilation lanterns, have been retained. To the west of the yard is a variety of buildings, all modernised. Forming a continuous unit with the buildings to the south, is a two-storey block, with a steeply pitched slate roof with cut stone mullions to the upper floor

windows. The central, south block more obviously reflects the pseudo-Norman style, being of two and three-storeys; the taller, castellated tower being in the middle. Set adjacent to and east of the tower is the entrance to another yard which is to the south and adjacent to the castle. The entrance is flat topped with offices over.

Immediately south of the castle is a small yard, its surface a mix of concrete and grass. It is enclosed by the south side of the buildings described above, further offices to the west and the retaining wall for the forecourt entrance. The south side of the stable court buildings again reflects the pseudo-Norman style, with a slim tower and glazed 'arrow-slits' decorating the square tower mentioned above. Abutting this tower to the east are two 'Norman' arches supported by a stone column with a simple capital; the whole standing to 1.5 m. On this side of the building the passageway between the two yards has an arched top of dressed stone and dressed stone is used extensively around the windows, for the quoins and for the decorative corbelling.

Set away from the castle to the north-east and now mostly hidden from it by trees, the 'newer' stable courtyard is an impressive complex. It would appear to have been constructed between the 1773 and 1829 surveys, although some buildings were apparently extant to the north of the yard at the end of the eighteenth century. Although referred to on the Ordnance Survey First Edition (1889) as offices, the design and layout are typical of an extremely well appointed stable and coach yard and again, design elements echo the pseudo-Norman feel found elsewhere on the estate. The grand arched entrance is on the west side and was built both of dressed stone and rendered rubble. The entrance façade protrudes slightly from the abutting walls and the finely dressed arch is flanked and supported by columns of similar design to those of the castle courtyard (see above), in this instance they stand to just over 3 m. In the centre and above the arch, immediately beneath the ornate corbelling is a carved head. Rising above the whole entrance tower is the hexagonal clock tower which, like the rest of the walling, is topped with castellations. Within the entrance is a simple rib-vaulted ceiling which is now losing some of the plaster work. The architectural detail is repeated on the inner face of the entrance, fine cut stone, columns and corbelling, with another carved face above. The width of the doors indicate the functions of the various sections of the building, for example, the wide doors for the coaches which are opposite the main entrance. On the north and south sides are triple arched Norman style openings, again the arches are supported by stone columns, the central arch standing to just over three metres whilst those to the side are about half a metre lower. Adjacent to these arches are elaborate stone water troughs for the horses. The extreme corner reflects the main entrance and is worked in dressed stone with stone columns and arched entrances.

The land occupied by the Picton Castle park and gardens is the gently rolling countryside found in many parts of Pembrokeshire, the castle itself being at about 45 m AOD. The park is essentially to the north and east of the castle where the height above sea-level is again 40 - 50 m AOD. From the castle the land slopes gently, mostly to the south and west, although the water features were constructed within the shallow sided valley on the western margins of the garden. The site is reached from minor roads from the A 40 trunk road between Haverfordwest and Narberth. Haverfordwest is about 6 km to the west. The early, prehistoric settlement between the parks of Picton and Slebech, the ancient settlement at Wood Barn and elsewhere towards Llawhaden, would suggest that this was a favoured area for settlement prior to the building of the medieval structures which now litter the landscape. The lands at Picton

are set too far inland to receive the worst of the coastal gales but still enjoy a maritime climate, being adjacent to the Western and Eastern Cleddau estuaries.

In addition to the once extensive utilitarian gardens to the east, there are four major landscape elements at Picton; the park, which is primarily to the north and east of the castle; the walled pleasure gardens to the west; the lawns, including the terracing and plantings, which surround the castle and the walks, woodlands and water features to the south of the castle. This last category also includes the coastal walk from the ferry site towards Slebech, which includes the two shelters along the route of the path.

As might be expected there are a great many estate maps relating to the Picton estate. The maps referred to include the *Plan of Picton castle demesne* drawn by Thomas Lewis and dated 1773, the *Map of Picton Castle demesne; the property of Sir R.B.P. Philipps Bart* surveyed in 1829 by H.P. Goode, Haverfordwest, the *Tithe award survey* of 1830 and the *First edition Ordnance survey map* (25 inches) published in 1889 and 1890.

There are several drives associated with the Picton estate, but the main drive, through the park, would appear to have altered very little since the eighteenth century. The 1773 plan shows a simple entrance from the minor road that runs along the north of the park, no lodges are shown and no trees are depicted along the margins of the drive. By 1829 the lodges are shown and so are extensive plantings of trees to either side of the drive. There are gaps in the tree plantings, presumably to give vistas through to the park. The 1829 survey also shows an area of thirty or so acres which has been planted around the northern aspects of the castle. The survey by the Ordnance Survey later in that century shows the drive very much as it appears today. The swept, recessed entrance to the north has been constructed, to either side are the double lodges and there has been additional planting to the east of the drive.

Today the entrance to the park is still impressive. A low stone wall, about 0.5 m high and topped with black wrought iron railings, their decorative spear motives painted white, define the recessed splay from the road. Tall, rendered and painted stone gate piers flank the drive. Each is topped with a 'Philipps lion' facing each other across the drive. Between the piers and to either side of them hang four wrought iron gates, painted in the same fashion as the railings. Flanking the entrance are two small lodges, built between 1773 and 1829. They appear to have been constructed as mirror images of each other. The single-storey structures are rendered and painted except for the mock corbelling below the castellations and the decorative 'dog-tooth' motif which form a semi-circular pattern above doors and windows. These neo-Norman details are set next to fine twelve-light windows with semi-circular tops and fine glazing-bars in the Georgian style. Over the front doors are semi-circular fan-lights.

The tarmacked drive is lined with conifers, oaks and limes. Towards the castle the plantings include a great many shrubs, including a fine collection of hybrid rhododendrons. There is a mention of rhododendrons and laurels at Picton in 1868 but it is not known where these were planted. Just before the courtyards the drive forks; the eastern fork sweeps around to the gravelled forecourt to the front of the castle whilst the western fork leads to the courtyard entrance. There is a further track, now apparently only used by farm vehicles, which leads from the western fork to the newer stable block to the east of the castle.

Either side of the drive was, and to some extent still is, the eighteenth-century park. Representations of leaping stags on the early surveys suggest that planting in the park was managed to encourage game. To the west of the drive some 50 acres was park, with the greater part being to the east of the drive. The eighteenth-century surveys show the park to be enclosed

by hedges to the south and west and what would appear to be walls to the north and east. By 1829 the configuration of the park had been changed. The 'gentrification' of the castle at the beginning of the century seemed to have necessitated a more 'designed' landscape to complement the redesigned and extended castle and offices. Tree planting to either side of the drive is clearly shown as is the addition of more defined clumps within the park. Tree plantations are shown immediately to the north of the castle covering some 40 or so acres; later surveys show meandering walks through these plantations. The boundaries to the south and east have been extended, possibly to compensate for land used for the castle plantation and landscaping and the linear features which are shown associated with the belvedere or summerhouse, to the east of the castle at the end of a straight avenue of trees. Also one, possibly two, almost circular ponds are also shown. A significant change to the Avenue was undertaken between 1829 and 1889. The formal straight line of (lime) trees which gave a vista from the main castle entrance to the belvedere has been swept away, as has the summerhouse structure itself, although the mound remains. Fourteen acres of the park to the east of the castle plantations and including the belvedere has been enclosed into what is referred to as 'The paddock'. Within the Paddock a sub-rectangular reservoir is shown on the 1889 survey.

Today, much of the park is as it appeared a hundred years ago, but there have been significant alterations. The area of the Paddock has been used in the recent past (two or three decades) either as a nursery plantation or for a commercial crop of hard and softwood trees; in either case planting is too close to allow the plants to grow and flourish and the whole area has a scrubby feel. A modern farm building has been erected to the east of the former avenue and the eastern section of what was the avenue is now planted with exotic conifers. This area has now lost its parkish feel although it does contain some features of interest.

At the termination of the avenue, to the east of the castle, is a substantial earthen mound now covered in self-sown tree saplings, on the top of which are substantial concrete girders running north – south. The mound is still more or less of the dimensions as described by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, but there is no evidence to back early interpretations as a Norman motte or pre-Norman earthwork. Recent earthmoving, documents in the Carmarthenshire archives and mapped information may shed some light on its function. In 1773, the mound is shown with a square building, referred to as 'SummerHo', in its centre on the summit; by 1829 the configuration of the summerhouse has changed and a linear feature is shown starting about 53 m due north of the centre of the mound, which it skirts on the eastern side before continuing for a further few metres. By 1889, this feature is definitely depicted as a ditch. It seems unlikely that this ditch was dug to provide material with which to build the mound as there are artificial ponds, clay pit and quarries just a little to the east. As this area can become rather waterlogged, it may have had the more prosaic function of providing drainage and, if full of water, of providing an attractive landscape feature. Extracts from the journal of Sir Erasmus Philipps held in the National Library of Wales may indicate the date of the belvedere: 'In May 1728 a summer house was begun to be built at Picton. A model sent from London drawn by Mr James the surveyor not entirely followed'. Mr John James was the noted London architect.. In August 1729, Mr Paul the stone cutter was paid 1s. 5d. for a chimney piece for the summerhouse of Hanton (Haddon?) stone. The steward's accounts for 1729 - 30 record 8 capitals for pilasters in the summerhouse, which was square with a dome. In the same year William Havard did the flagging in the gallery. This was obviously a construction of some style and John Carter, writing sometime later (*Architect's tour*

*through Wales* (1805)), was able to say of Picton that: 'opposite the entrance front and at some distance the long avenue of trees terminates with a pavilion in the Italian style'.

The pavilion had been demolished by 1889 and the mound used variously for a Trig point and also to elevate large tanks, thus assisting with gravity feed. To enable this to be done safely the mound was apparently strengthened with girders, concrete and stone slabs and, possibly, an internal wall. This wall crossed and blocked a passage, described by J. Rigg, surveyor for the Antiquities section of the Ordnance Survey in 1965 as an ice-house, which runs east to west within the mound. The western entrance to the passage is passable, the opposite entrance has been blocked for a considerable period of time. However, mammals, foxes or badgers, have made a narrow entrance into the east side of the mound; it is just possible to see into this hole. The east side of the mound at this point, opposite the passage entrance on the west side, is hollow and it is tempting to suggest that this indicates that the passageway continues through the mound. This hypothesis is reinforced as the top nine stones of an arch have also been revealed. The passageway is quite complex in its construction; it is far more than a simple arched structure. The height of the passage varies between 1.25 and 2m (uneven floor) and it is about 1.25 m wide, being built from a mix of brick and stone although it is mostly stone. Within and almost immediately to the right (south) is a brick arch to an entrance which is now blocked, or possibly a niche for statuary. The roof construction, which is flat immediately by the arch, suggests that this is an original feature. Two to three metres further in is what appears to be a false lining to the passage, possibly built to strengthen the original arch. This lining terminates before the wall, running north - south, which now blocks the passage. There is also what appears to be another niche. The passageway might have served some utilitarian purpose, such as keeping victuals cool for users of the pavilion but the niches suggest an ornamental one, perhaps a charming architectural conceit to allow the park and landscape beyond to be seen through the mound from the avenue.

In addition to the summerhouse there are other features of interest remaining in the area of the eighteenth-century park; these include the base of the sundial, two reservoirs, the main drive with its lodges and a circular pond.

At the western end of the avenue is a small, eight-sided block of stone set within the turf. It is only about 15 cm high but is of dressed stone. In 1889, a sundial was recorded at this site and although little now remains, it is likely that this stone formed its base.

Reservoirs were built within the park to meet the need for a domestic water supply; two reservoirs are referred to in the 1889 survey, the areas now covered by the two pitched roofs and the circular pond. There are two covered reservoirs at about SN 0135 1350 just to the east of the circular pond. Each is covered with a pitched roof standing about 1.5 m above the surrounding ground level. A little to the west of the reservoirs is a circular pond, which appears on the early surveys and which may once have been part of the water supply to the castle as the 1889 survey refers to this as a 'reservoir' with a filter house immediately to the west. This pond has been recently cleared and part of the embankment restored.

A walled garden was extant to the west of the castle in 1773 and elements may be included within the present pleasure garden and the site of the former slip beds and potting sheds to the north. The 1829 plan shows the garden more or less as it appears today with the 1889 survey showing the full extent of the glazed areas.

Although referred to above as a pleasure garden, it is most likely that the garden, built well over two hundred years ago, served not only to give pleasure but was also utilitarian. The

rectangular garden, which is about 286 m x 142 m has, according to tradition, always had a fountain or water feature within it. On the 1 September 1725, Sir Erasmus Philipps records that: 'a fountain was made in the pleasure ground by David John, projected by Mr Webb'. It has been suggested that this reference is to the walled garden and to the fountain which is still extant. This being the case, it also suggests that the family had already ceased to regard this area as primarily utilitarian.

The rectangular garden depicted in 1773 is divided into nine, almost equal, plots. By 1829 these plots have been done away with and there is a linear structure on the south side of the north wall, with further structures to the other side of this wall. There is also a structure or building at the west end; it is tempting to suggest that these were the glasshouses which are depicted on the Ordnance Survey map of 1889, which shows the full extent of these once most impressive glasshouses. The ranges of glass shown occupy the entire northern length of the garden and most of the western side. In addition there is what has recently been referred to as 'The Peach House' against the southern side of the south wall.

Today, although all the glass has now gone, some of the original features within the garden remain. The main entrance to the garden is on the east side. The low, dull-yellow, brick wall, standing to just under 1.5 m is topped by heavy and ornate railings bringing the total height to about 3 m. A little to the south of the middle of this wall are two impressive brick gate piers on the top of which are moulded stone flags and above which are two pineapples, the total height being about 4.5 m. These decorative features appear to be of Coade stone, which would place their manufacture sometime between 1769 and 1843. Between the gate piers are two heavy wrought iron gates which echo the design of the railings above the low wall. Both are of superb quality, painted black and stand to some 3 m.

Within the garden most of the south-facing, north wall is of red brick, with patches of rendering still remaining. The glasshouse bases are also of red brick, although there has been some substantial rebuilding. In the far north-west corner this internal face of the wall is of stone rubble. Set into this section is an entrance with brick arch over; the reason for this differentiation is not clear. This wall and the other two walls were topped with concrete slabs in the early 1990s. The internal faces of the west and south walls are mostly of stone. A section of the west wall has been recently lowered to allow the occupants of Peach Cottage to see into the garden and a small modern wooden pergola has been erected over a terrace constructed from old bricks. There is an entrance in the south wall which is reached down a small flight of stone slab steps; over this entrance and steps is a wrought iron rose arch. The perimeter path shown on the early surveys has now gone and most of the garden is now down to grass. Two *Trachycarpus fortunei* are probably survivors of an earlier period but the herbs and herbaceous material now grown between the flags and bricks of the glasshouse bases are recent.

To the south of the garden are the tumbled brick remains of the peach house, now overgrown. The entrance arch to the west stands to about 2 m. To the north are the former boiler house and potting sheds.

The early surveys show two water features within the garden, both set centrally, with a pond immediately to the north of the fountain and this remained the case for the next one hundred years or so. Apparently inspired by the Canal Terrace associated with the Pinmill at Bodnant during the last decade, the two ponds were done away with and the present rectangular pond, which is about 9 m x 4 m, was created, within which the fountain was replaced. The simple bronze fountain, which stands to about 1 m, may be the one referred to above, which was



erected in 1725. A fluted pedestal stands on an octagonal base at water level. Above the pedestal is a shallow scalloped bowl from which the water trickles into the pond.

For convenience the informal grounds around the castle are referred to as 'the lawns'. However, the area not only includes the lawn to the south of the castle but also the west drive, the woodland walks to the north and part of the field beyond the lawns to the south. In 1773 a discrete parcel of land appears to have been enclosed by (possibly) walls to the west and east, the walled garden to the north and a ha-ha to the south, this area is described in the legend accompanying the Lewis survey as 'The Castle with the Outhouse, gardens & etc' and although later landscaping has swept away much of this previous curtilage boundary, the ha-ha remains. The area of garden surrounding the castle, but excluding the walled pleasure garden, is about 40 acres. The west and south drives, which still exist, were extant in 1773. Later features include the ice-houses and exotic plantings. The neo-Norman winter garden associated with the terraces adjacent to the castle was probably demolished in the 1930s or 1940s.

The engraving made by Samuel and Nathaniel Buck in 1740 shows the castle from the north, in the background and to the right of the engraving (that is to the west) some garden details are also included. Some distance to the south of the castle and associated with either the ha-ha or the boundary to the present lawn, is a row of trees, conifers alternating with 'branched' (broadleaved) species. The shrubby trees have been clipped into a formal style with exposed trunk and a globe top and, unless the conifers are Italian cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens* var. *sempervirens* or *stricta*), they also have been clipped into tidy upright shapes. To the west of the castle are two young conifers, which have been allowed to grow naturally, except that they have had their lower branches lopped. Beyond them, to the south-west, is a tree or shrub which has been clipped into a cone shape. The scene is one of order, formality and a considerable amount of plant management. Lewis's depiction, some thirty years later, suggests changes. He shows drifts of trees between the castle and the ha-ha and a simple hedge boundary associated with the west drive; this interpretation is also shown in the late eighteenth-century print by Sandby. This is a scene of rural tranquillity, cattle grazing in the foreground, the castle in the background and in between are shown young and mature conifers, mature oak and ash trees and numerous shrubs. The 1829 survey shows no further plantings to the south, but the informal plantings to the north of the castle and the woodland walks are now evident.

As might be expected, the gardens at Picton reflected the general fashions in garden design including, during this century, the vogue for the unusual and exotic. The woodland area contains a prize-winning collection of rhododendrons, mostly hybrids, which were raised by the former head gardener, Leo Eckers. The informal plantings are to the north of the stable courtyard and castle, to the west and south are the lawns and terraces.

Two postcards held in the National Monuments Record in Aberystwyth give some idea of this area at the end of the last century and the beginning of this. One postcard, showing a view of the north-west side of the castle has a postmark of 1905, the other, undated but possibly slightly older shows a similar view. Shown on the 1889 survey as a sub-rectangular structure and also appearing in both postcards is the splendidly ornate neo-Norman winter garden or conservatory which is attached to the 'new' wing of the castle. It is of two storeys with a glass roof. The west-facing wall consists of two rows of great windows, four uppermost and three and the door on the ground floor. The north-facing wall is blank but, judging by the chimney protruding from this end, this was the stove end. Ivy grows on the walls and there are fastigate yews to the west. The winter garden was demolished in about 1930. To its north is a former

hard tennis court, now abandoned, that was put down on a Second World War concrete base in the 1950s. Linking the winter garden terrace to the lawns to the south and west were two series of four or five grassed steps separated by a grass path. These lead to what appears to be the croquet lawn to the west. The grass steps have now gone, although the path remains as an earthwork and instead (or possibly remaining) are two small flights of stone steps, again separated by the grass path. The tennis court was cut into the slight rise in the land and two small grass paths or terraces are still extant at the north end.

To the south is an informal, slightly rolling lawn which presumably used to sweep right down to the ha-ha. Today there is a temporary fence and the land between this and the ha-ha is now used for grazing. To the west between the former tennis court and the pleasure garden is an area of exotic trees and shrubs including a very fine *Cryptomeria japonica* 'Elegans' and a *Sequoiadendron giganteum*, which must have been planted post 1853 when material was brought back from the Yosemite valley by William Lobb on behalf of Messrs Veitch. There is also a collection of heathers, a *nothofagus* and other ericaceous plants including many rhododendrons and azaleas. These plantings follow a small valley southwards, towards the former course of the south drive. Within this woodland are informal ponds, which utilise the stream, and two ice-houses. Across the lawn to the east, beneath the retaining wall of the forecourt, are further exotics including a brachyglottis, grevillea, romneya and a *Cupressus macnabiana*.

To the north and south of this area are two drives, the west drive and the former south drive, which is now a path; they have, therefore, been included within this section.

A drive from the west is shown on the 1773 survey running from 'New Houfe Land' towards the castle. It runs immediately to the north of the pleasure garden to the stable courtyard. By 1829, the course of the drive had been altered so that it runs further north before curving towards the castle. This alignment has continued until today, although the surface is now tarmacked. A building was recorded at the entrance in 1829, but not named as a lodge; indeed, it is not mentioned specifically as a lodge on any subsequent survey. However, from the architectural style, very obviously an estate building. The present structure is probably late eighteenth - early nineteenth-century and is of two storeys, with single-storey extensions to each side except to the north. It has a slate roof with double chimney stacks at the north and south gable ends. The windows are a mix of casement and sash and over some of the window openings are mock drip stone mouldings which are less elaborate than those within the twin lodges of the main drive. These mouldings are picked out in the same green-grey as those in the main lodges and the rendered walls are painted.

The south drive is shown on the 1773 map almost as an 'S' curve from the castle to the lane to the ferry. Landscaping around 1800 mostly removed this drive; part was replaced by the new parish road in the mid nineteenth century and the remainder was recorded as a footpath in 1889. This is still extant within the gardens as a wide path which winds up from the ferry lane across a small bridge and from there it swings to the west, below the ha-ha. From here it would have turned north towards the castle, but little remains of this section. The bridge is a very simple affair with plain stone parapets, now much overgrown with ivy on the north, which stand to just over 1 m. Beneath the bridge is a plain, square stone-lined culvert. This simple bridge may be one of the earliest built landscape features remaining at Picton.

The small valley to the west of 'the lawns' was utilised to create a number of ponds and lakes, now gone. They were small and naturalistic, probably being created in the early part of

this century. The sides of the stream and the boggy areas created are used for water loving plants. The main pond within this area is immediately to the north of the small bridge associated with the former south drive. This sub-triangular pond was extant in 1889 and there used to be a sluice to regulate the flow of water. Now much silted, it is used primarily to grow moisture loving plants.

Within Peach House Wood, about 140 m to the south of the pleasure garden, are the remains of an ice-house which was certainly extant in 1889. The structure is now crumbling and dangerous and is fenced off for safety reasons. The ice-house would appear to be set into an artificial mound which is now bramble covered. A dog-leg flight of stone steps leads to the entrance, which is built into the mound, the surrounding earth being supported by a rubble revetment wall.

The rubble built ha-ha, which bounds the former garden (as described in 1773), still stands to just over 1 m in most places. To the south is the ditch, which, although much silted, still carries water into the stream within the small valley to the west.

The last tract of grounds includes the lakes and woodland to the south of the former south drive and the coastal path which leads to Slebech; an area of over 25 acres. The woodland is a mixed planting of exotic conifers, broadleaves and indigenous trees and towards the estuary (the south) it is now very much overgrown with brambles and other weed species.

The early survey (1773) provides very little detailed information on this area except to show the course of the former south drive and the dam at the southern end of the small valley. The Goode survey does show extensive plantings, the dam and the lakes but it is not until the first survey by the Ordnance Survey that any clear picture emerges. This survey shows the upper rectangular lake referred to as 'The Fish Pond' with the woodland area called Fish Pond Wood; the lower, sub-triangular lake adjacent to the estuary is reached by a series of paths through the woodland. Although not shown on the early survey, it is likely that The Fish Pond was extant in 1725 when Erasmus Philipps records that 'William Evans of Haverfordwest made a little boat (12ft) for ye fish pond in ye orchard. Mr Webb of Troopers End made this pond and the isle in the middle of it, and removed the dwarf trees out of the lower garden'. Mr Thomas Lloyd suggests that this should actually read Troopers Inn, rather than End; Troopers Inn is to the south of Haverfordwest. By 1889, Fish Pond Wood, to the south of the pond, is criss-crossed by a series of paths, with footbridges where the paths cross the small stream as it heads south towards the lower lake and estuary. Interestingly, by this date, the lower lake is shown as 'Mud', with the course of the stream through it. A path along the eastern side of this lake continues south, through fields and becomes the coastal path just to the west of the Boat House. This survey also shows many features both to the north and (initially) south of the coastal path. These features, where they still exist, will be commented upon but not described in detail.

Fish Pond Wood is now a mix of trees including mature conifers, acers and young self-seeded ash; brambles and ferns are rampant where there is sufficient light, but the pathways recorded about a century ago are still just discernible. Within the woodland and just to the south of where one of the paths diverges into two are two little stone bridges, now much overgrown, within a few metres of each other; one slightly upstream of the other. Both bridges are shown on the 1889 survey, although not before that date. Beneath the bridges are round-arched, stone, culverts above which were the low stone parapets, now tumbled on the more northern bridge. These bridges, built so close together, possibly give some insight into the former landscape importance of this area.

To the north of Fish Pond Wood is the rectangular fish pond, or small lake which covers about 0.8 acres. Whilst there is no direct evidence that this is the lake referred to by Erasmus Philipps in 1725, it is the only stretch of water which is consistently recorded as having an island within it. The survival of the name may also suggest that its origins are reasonably ancient, initially having the practical purpose of feeding the occupants of the castle as well as being a pleasurable landscape element.

Surrounding the lake and on the island, are conifers and exotic broadleaved trees. The early surveys show that there was a sluice on the south-eastern side. Today, however, a modern, concrete overspill has been inserted into the south side, but water pressure seems to be causing erosion around the sides very rapidly.

The lower, triangular lake utilises the small inlet created by the stream and the natural topography to the south of Fish Pond Wood. Sometime prior to 1773, a dam was constructed across the mouth of this inlet, thus creating a potential sheet of water of just over 1.5 acres. The early surveys seem to suggest that the dam was not that successful and this area is either referred to as mud or shown as mud in the appropriate convention; it was not until the beginning of this century that the lower lake is mapped as such. Local tradition holds that there was a wooden boathouse somewhere along the east bank, but no obvious remains were visible.

The dam itself was apparently initially constructed at least in part, from cut stone blocks; these are most obvious in the central section, which also included the sluices. There are six buttresses on the southern side of the dam which vary in size and which are unevenly distributed. Three buttresses, which increase in size towards the centre are to the west of the sluices and two small buttresses flanked the wide central buttress which would have carried the water from the sluice; there are no extant buttresses to the east of the central section. The eastern end of the dam has, at some stage, been extensively repaired. From the physical evidence it would seem that corrugated iron was set against this part of the dam as shuttering to allow for a pour of concrete between the shuttering and stonework. The shuttering was later removed leaving a concrete clad, corrugated patterned, eastern section; this work has not prevented leakage from the lower part of the dam wall. The dam is *c.* 60 m long and 1 m wide, in the centre is the iron wheel which operated the sluices which although still extant apparently no longer works.

While the picturesque paths cannot be categorized as drives in the conventional sense, they were once very visual landscape elements. Where they still exist in a reasonable condition they are *c.* 1.5 m wide and from the extant bridge it is clear that care and expense was taken in their construction. The best preserved pathway, which may once have been gravel surfaced, is that which runs to the east of the lower lake to eventually become the coastal path to Slebech.

From the eastern edge of the lower lake dam this path swings eastwards passing through the southern end of several 'parkish' fields before it becomes parallel with and just above, the estuary. At SN 0160 1235 the substantial remains of the once-impressive boathouse, rubble built with dressed quoins, are immediately to the south on the foreshore. A little further to the east the path skirts the overgrown ruins of a structure described on the early surveys as a limekiln, at SN 0165 1240. The original function of this building, which in some places still stands to over 1.5 m, may have been a kiln, as to one end it is rounded, but the lobby to the east and other structural changes may suggested that it was converted to domestic use before falling into disrepair. Almost immediately adjacent to the east are the remains of the 'Boathouse Cottage' the walls of this cottage are now reduced to about 0.5 m. At SN 0178 1250 the path

passes through two, round stone-built, Pembrokeshire gate posts, now crumbling but still standing to just under 1.5 m. The path then enters the beech woods, known as Crafty Wood, which are mostly to the north with the estuary to the south. At SN 0191 1268 just to the east of a small disused quarry, are two rendered walls which still stand to 1.5 m. It is possible that these walls represent all that survives of a lookout or shelter, with the rest of the building being built into the slope to the north. The fact that it was rendered may indicate that it was the family who used this building.

At SN 0206 1283 the path divides, one route is to the north, through the beech woods, the other goes around the walling which is all that remains of Crafty Cottage. Again, this cottage does not appear to be entirely utilitarian. The whole complex is some 20 m long with the gables, still standing to about 3 m, at the east and west ends. The path runs around the back (north) of the cottage and down past the east gable end. Here, to the east, there is a rubble built retaining wall standing to about 1 m. To the south of the cottage is what might be described as a small forecourt surrounded by low rubble walls, with an entrance to the south. Beyond this entrance the path, now immediately at the shoreline, dips down to cross a small ford associated with a little stream draining from Crafty Wood. Ascending the other side the path then crosses the outer defences of the prehistoric ringwork or enclosure, called Castle Lake Camp (SAM PEM 278) at SN 0215 1294, here there are what might be the vestiges of steps. Possibly significantly, the beech wood is now called Peepout Wood for at SN 0245 1343 is another somewhat ruinous structure, which was possibly a 'peepout' or shelter.

This small, classical, building is of a very different style and construction to any other on the route of the path. The south face and the returns of the east and west sides are of brick, the remaining walls being rubble. To the south and over looking the estuary is a wide, flat-arched entrance with a light-coloured, dressed stone, keystone in the centre. This light coloured stone is also incorporated into the brickwork to either side as a string course. Above the keystone is a circular recess, the brick perimeter built to include four dressed stones above and below and to either side. It is tempting to suggest that this recess was built to house some decorative feature, such as a sundial or plaque. The whole building, which would seem to have been rendered internally, still stands to just over 3 m. Mr Thomas Lloyd suggests that this building is 'solidly Georgian', placing the date of its construction to about 1770 - 80. A structure, not quite in the correct location, does appear in this area on the Goode survey. From this splendid little building the path swings north, through the woods towards Picton Park Cottage. Picton Park Cottage, at SN 0250 1370 was once a handsome, two-storeyed structure with rubble walls, dressed quoins and a slate roof. Some years ago the front (south) wall collapsed, leaving the building open like a doll's house. Within is a fireplace and range, with two ovens, set at an angle inside the large recess. Upstairs are wooden internal partitions separating the bedroom and stair areas. Outside, to the south-east of the cottage, is a pigsty and 'Ty-bach', again both rubble built.

The large, sub-rectangular kitchen garden and orchard, which cover nearly 4.5 acres, are directly to the south of the newer stable block or offices. They date to the early nineteenth century and were extant in 1829. In layout they remain essentially as they were at that time. As might be anticipated the south face of the north wall is of brick with what appears to be brick caps; this north wall is the most intact, standing to just over 3 m with stone buttresses and face on the north side. Associated with this wall and built of the same small red bricks, is what was probably the gardener's cottage. Again this building still stands to over 3 m although it is now very overgrown with ivy. It is of two storeys, although upstairs may have been rather low and

cramped, but there are some architectural niceties. The door surround, which is 2 m high and about 1 m wide, is all of brick, except for a light coloured stone keystone in the centre. Adjacent is a window opening with ogee top. Much of the upper floor is concealed beneath ivy but it is just possible to see that part of the upper window has been blocked. The whole building may have been rendered as traces of render or limewash still remain. In contrast to this delightful building, the interior of the gardens is a disused wilderness. The orchard enclosure to the south-west is in much the same condition.

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