

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

REGISTER ENTRY

TREWARREN

Ref number	PGW (Dy) 65 (PEM)
OS Map	157
Grid ref	SM 828 070
Former county	Dyfed
Unitary authority	Pembrokeshire
Community council	St Ishmaels
Designations	Listed buildings: Trewarren (Grade II); Folly south-east of Monk Haven (Grade II); Wall at Monk Haven (Grade II)
Site evaluation	Grade II
Primary reasons for grading	The survival of an extensive ornamental layout of the mid nineteenth century. Although the site is largely neglected and overgrown the main features can be made out, including an interesting folly building in a dramatic position on the cliff top and a massive wall across the head of Monk Haven.
Type of site	Small, simple park; extensive pleasure grounds; walled kitchen garden
Main phases of construction	1845; 1850s

Site description

Trewarren is a substantial Regency period mansion situated about half a kilometre to the west of the village of St Ishmael's, on the south coast of Pembrokeshire. The ground is gently rolling, but sloping generally to the south, towards the sea, with a valley running due southwards from Trewarren down to Monk Haven. It is in this valley that the ornamental grounds were laid out.

The house is mainly two-storey, roughcast, with a hipped slate roof. It is approached from the north-east, down a short, winding drive to a roughly rectangular gravel forecourt on the east front. The front door and flanking ground floor windows on this side are round-arched and several openings are blank. The house is U-shaped, the main block having a six-bay veranda along its south side. This has a pent roof supported on slim, tapering posts and a floor of large slate slabs with moulded outer edges and a single slate step below, down to the garden. The west wing, which is

partly three-storey, extends northwards partially to enclose a small court at the back of the house.

At the west end of the south front is an attached, south-facing conservatory on a brick base, built against a high rubble stone wall. Beneath it, as a semi-basement, is a room with a door and flanking windows on the north side. The 1940 Sale Particulars refer to this as a heated lean-to greenhouse with vinery and a stone built potting shed underneath.

Trewarren was built by Gilbert Warren Davis in 1845. There had been a previous house on the site and the Warren Davis family had lived there since the end of the eighteenth century. The style of the house suggests that the architect might have been William Owen of Haverfordwest, who also designed Scolton Manor and Avellanau. A photograph of the house, dating to about 1870, shows it much as it is now, complete with conservatory. The Warrens were from north Pembrokeshire, near Fishguard, and the Davis family were from nearby Mullock. The two families intermarried and linked their names. Gilbert Warren Davis married Margaret Biddulph. He had made his money as a cattle drover and had a trade with the navy, for which he drove cattle all the way to Portsmouth. Trewarren remained in the Warren Davis family until 1940, when the widow of the last member of the family here, Henry (died childless in 1924), died. During the Second World War the house was requisitioned by the army and the whole place fell into neglect. It was bought from the Pettyjohn family in about 1950 by David Llewellyn, whose family remains in occupation.

Behind the house, to its north, is a service court, walled on the east, west and south sides and reached through opposing archways at the south end of the east and west walls. There is a further, similar archway in the middle of the south side, through into the small back court of the house. Occupying the whole of the north side is the former coach house and stable block. This is shown on the 1874 25 in. Ordnance Survey map, along with the walls, and these structures are probably contemporary with the house. Further outbuildings along the west side were added later.

The farm buildings lie to the west of the house and garden. To the south of the minor road to Musselwick, which passes along the north side of Trewarren, are some walled enclosures and a large barn. To the north is Moor Farm and its outbuildings, now separate private residences. It is probable that this was originally the Home Farm for Trewarren.

The house and garden overlook a small 'park' to the south. This is very simple, consisting of a large, roughly rectangular field, bounded for the most part by a rubble stone wall. On its west side the ground slopes down towards the Monk Haven valley. The boundary with the garden is a substantial, rubble stone revetment wall, which extends from the lane on the east boundary of the garden all along the garden's south side and beyond, bounding the area of farm enclosures to the west. This is shown in a photograph of the house of about 1870, with cattle grazing in the 'park' below. The south boundary wall, which is broken down in places, runs down to the north-east corner of the kitchen garden at its south-west end. Behind it is a narrow belt of mixed trees, mostly oak and sycamore, but including a few mature ornamental conifers towards the west end. Within this belt is an ancient, broken down wall running roughly parallel with the park wall. This runs along the north side of a series of former fields on the northern side of a second valley which runs south-westwards from St Ishmael's to join the Monk Haven valley to the south of St Ishmael's church and former Vicarage.

The 1874 Ordnance Survey map shows the present layout of the 'park', with a small deciduous clump of trees, now gone, in the north-west corner. The area is demarcated as parkland on the 1908 Ordnance Survey map. It was presumably laid out at the same time as, or soon after, the house was built in 1845. The 1839 tithe map shows a house but no park, only two adjoining fields. The Sale Particulars of 1940 refer to 40 acres of park and woodland.

There are two quite distinct areas of garden at Trewarren. First, there is the garden next to the house and secondly the much more extensive area of pleasure grounds which occupies the valley between Trewarren and Monk Haven.

The garden area next to the house is relatively small and is in two separate areas, to the east and west of the house. It was laid out in its present form soon after the house was built in 1845. The larger area to the east is laid out informally and is bounded by a rubble stone wall. The entrance to the drive lies at the northern apex and consists of square stone gate piers topped by single upright natural rocks. The gravel drive then curves gently southwards through a small sycamore wood to an irregular, but roughly rectangular gravel forecourt on the east front of the house. At the north end of the house an archway in the west wall leads through into the stable court. To the south of the forecourt and house is a narrow lawn, beyond which is the park. The revetment wall bounding the lawn is topped with a low parapet on which urns are placed.

The garden to the west of the house consists of a walled rectangular area, the north wall corresponding to the north end of the house and the south being an extension of the revetment wall bounding the park. The rubble stone walls stand to about 1.7 m. Around the edge of the garden are earthen terraces. That on the north side is the best preserved, with a steep scarp down to the sunken centre of the garden. On the east, house, side the terrace has been utilised for a small conservatory extension to the house. Three ancient holly trees, probably original plantings, line the south terrace. Otherwise the garden is largely lawn, with a few ornamental trees and shrubs. This garden is referred to in the 1940 Sale Particulars as the walled flower garden, with a lawn bordered by rhododendrons. A photograph in the Particulars shows a large Monkey Puzzle tree (*Araucaria araucana*) to the west of the house but this has now gone.

The Monk Haven valley was ornamented as wooded pleasure grounds, as well as being used for the kitchen garden. The valley runs north-south and is almost a kilometre long. After many years of neglect, the grounds have now reverted to a semi-wild state, with seedling tree growth and the choking of ponds obscuring some of the landscaping. However, the paths, walls, ruinous built structures and some of the trees remain and indicate that this valley was ornamentally laid out with woodland walks leading to water features, garden areas and folly buildings.

At its north end, the valley starts just to the west of the Trewarren farm buildings, at a gate on the Musselwick road. A straight, stony track runs southwards, flanked by a belt of oaks and horse chestnuts to the east and oaks and seedling woodland to the west. The track is bounded by rubble stone walls, that to the east being mortared, that to the west dry-stone. Within the wood to the west are some discontinuous stretches of ruinous former field walls. Further south, the west wall becomes more of a stone revetted bank. The east wall ends before the first pond, which lies just to the east of the track. The lack of wall here indicates that this was an ornamental feature, intended to be seen. The pond is now completely silted up. It has a substantial earth dam, stone-lined on its inner side. Below it is a bank of

rhododendrons. The path continues southwards, flanked by woodland, to the kitchen garden, which lies in the angle between the Trewarren valley and that coming in from the north-east, in which the church and former vicarage are situated.

At the kitchen garden the track turns slightly towards the south-west, running along the outside of the west wall of the kitchen garden. The stream which runs down the valley from the first pond is culverted underneath the garden, emerging to its south into a large pond, which fills the valley floor. This is not part of the original landscaping, having been built by David Llewellyn as an irrigation pond for potatoes in the 1950s. It occupies an area demarcated on the 1874 map as two orchard compartments, with a wall across the valley on the site of the present pond dam. The wall had a central weir, through which the stream flowed. When the present pond was made the dam was created by banking up earth against the wall. A sluice was made at the east end.

The valley sides continue to be wooded, planted with a mixture of deciduous trees, particularly oak and sycamore. The 1874 map shows that at that time conifers were also present, but most of these have now gone. At the seaward end of the valley the woodland becomes more sparse and the trees are stunted and windblown. The track continues down the west side of the valley, past the irrigation pond, ending at an open grass area in front of a high stone wall at the head of Monk Haven. The floor of the valley below the pond is boggy and overgrown. The 1874 map shows it as open, with the stream running down the centre to a second, small ornamental pond. This is much silted up and overgrown but can still be made out. It is triangular, with an earthen dam planted with bamboos. Below the pond the stream runs in a curving channel, which appears to have been artificially created, down to the east end of the Monk Haven beach, where it passes through a gap in the foot of the sea wall. The 1874 map shows a small building to the west of the stream, but there is now no sign of it.

The foot of the valley is blocked by a massive red sandstone rubble wall, beyond which is the beach. A row of iron rings set into the beach side of the wall indicate that it could be used for tying up boats. The wall is divided into two sections by a wide central gap, repaired in the late twentieth century by a Manpower Services team. Within living memory this had an oak lintel over the top of it. There are no signs of any gate. The wall stands more or less to its full height and is crenellated. The central parts are about 4.5 m high, the outer ends about 6 m. The west side is built into the rocky valley side, the east end stops short of the end of the beach, with a squared end of larger stones. The culvert hole for the stream is at the foot of this end. Originally this had an oak lintel over it but it has now been replaced by a concrete one. A wall originally ran northwards from this corner, flanking a path, to its east. However, the south end of this has gone, the wall, which is lower, resuming a short distance to the north, beyond the stream.

A path runs northwards up the east side of the valley, from the east end of the sea wall. Just past the north end of the lower pond a path doubles back from it, climbing the east side of the valley and running eastwards along the cliff top to a small folly, known as the Malakov Tower, in the south-east corner of the pleasure grounds. The siting of this building is spectacular. It is perched on the very edge of the cliffs, with sheer drops on the south and on the east, where there is another small inlet, Loose Haven. The building is a rectangular, crenellated tower, about 5 m high. The south wall and south-east corner have gone but the other walls remain to their full height. The ground floor is entered through a pointed door, with an inserted yellow

brick arch, on the north side. There are lancet windows in the east and west walls and a small fireplace at the north end of the east wall. These walls also have large beam holes at first floor level, above which are remnants of concrete flooring and rendering. The upper floor is reached via dog-leg steps outside the north wall. The steps are of single stones, with a low parapet on the east side. They lead to a doorway at the east end of the north wall, below which is a large crack in the wall.

A rubble stone boundary wall to the pleasure grounds runs due north from the Malakov Tower along the lip of the valley. Within it the ground is wooded but the 1874 map shows an open area above an area of furze, only the northern end, east of the orchards, being wooded. Against the inside of this end of the wall, before it turns and runs north-westwards down the valley side to the south corner of the kitchen garden, is a roofless, crenellated, two-storey building in the same style and materials as the Malakov Tower and sea wall. It is reached by a sloping path up the valley side from the lower path, from which it diverges at the same place as the path to the Malakov Tower. The path is flanked on its lower side by a low rubble stone wall and a row of mature beech trees. The building has three rooms on the ground floor. The north end is higher, with two pointed windows on the west side, the upper one with a wooden surround. On the north side is a pointed doorway. The south end is lower, also with gothic windows on the west side, towards the valley. The use of this building is in some doubt; there is one theory that the butler lived here and another that it was used at one time to house an oriental lady.

The lower path continues along the east side of the valley, along the side of the irrigation pond, to the south end of the kitchen garden. Here it formerly ran along the south wall of the garden to join the main path, but this section is now densely overgrown.

The history of this part of the grounds is closely linked to that of the house and garden. It was probably laid out soon after the house was built in 1845. It is not shown at all on the 1839 tithe map, which shows the valley divided into a small number of fields of varying sizes. The entire ornamental layout is shown on the 1874 Ordnance Survey map, including the folly tower, sea wall and two-storey building. Another building shown, at the south end of the valley, has now gone. This was the stone boat house mentioned in the Sale Particulars of 1940. The name of the folly tower, the Malakov Tower, would suggest a date of 1855 or soon after, as a tower of this name in Sevastopol was taken on 8th September 1855 in the Crimea War. The similar style and building materials of the sea wall and buildings suggest that they are all contemporary and part of the wholesale layout of the valley. The sea wall probably served several purposes: to shelter the valley behind and protect it, to a certain extent, from salt spray; to provide a landing for boats; and to denote the extent of the private grounds behind. It is probable that there had long been a public right of way from the village of St Ishmaels down to Monk Haven, the track leading past the church and former vicarage and down the existing main track to their south to the beach. The building of the walled kitchen garden may have disrupted this route, which then had to be diverted round it. However, the tithe map of 1839 does not show a road or track to Monk Haven, the road from the village reaching only to the church.

The kitchen garden is an eight-sided enclosure bounded by high, mortared, rubble stone walls, which stand to their full height. It lies on the valley floor below the southern corner of the park, just to the west of the former vicarage. It is also probably part of the original, 1840s-50s layout of the gardens and grounds and is not shown on the 1839 tithe map. The walls stand to 3-4 m, with slate coping. The north wall has

two doorways in it. That at the west end is low, with a slate lintel and wooden door. To its east is a wider entrance, which appears to have been enlarged. It has a brick surround and a concrete lintel. The short north-east wall is similar to the north wall. At its east end an extension of the park wall, about 2.5 m high, runs down the slope above to the corner, where there is a doorway taking a path around the outside of the kitchen garden through to the former vicarage and church. On the right of the path, against the short east wall of the kitchen garden, is a small ruined building, probably a gardener's cottage or bothy. Its gable end, on the east side, has a fireplace.

Inside, the kitchen garden is heavily overgrown and its internal layout is very difficult to make out. The east wall has a higher, gabled section, corresponding to the building outside it and also has traces of rendering. The 1874 map shows the garden divided into an eastern and western section, the eastern being considerably smaller, by a wall. This has now gone. It also shows perimeter paths and cross paths in the northern part, meeting at a circular feature. The path from the door in the north wall to this feature can still be traced, as can the feature itself, which is now a boggy pool with stone edging. No glasshouses are shown on the map, but rendering against one wall suggests that there might have been a later one, now gone. Modern brick buildings within the garden were probably inserted either during the Second World War or during the 1950s. If the latter, they are probably connected with pumping of water from the pond below.

Sources

Primary

Photograph of Trewarren, c. 1870: private collection.

Tithe map, 1839: National Library of Wales.

Sale Particulars, 1940: Pembrokeshire Record Office, Haverfordwest, ref. D/ER/1/38.

Secondary

Jones, F., *Historic houses of Pembrokeshire and their families* (1996), pp. 217-18.