



Monivea Demesne Wicket Gate.

This wicket gate, in the townland of Monivea Demesne, is positioned in the demesne wall of the original Ffrench Estate.

The term wicket gate is derived from the game of cricket where a wicket is comprised of three standing stumps and two bails placed across them and hence the similarity to a narrow upright structure.

A gate such as this fine surviving example, provided a convenient secondary entrance through a walled park, garden or estate. These narrow gateways, wide enough for a person to walk through but too narrow for a horse and cart, were created as pedestrian entrances through the demesne walls of large estates. They provided a short-cut to the estate for the men and women who crossed through fields and over stiles in smaller boundaries to go to work for the local landlords. The well-crafted wrought iron constructions fitted neatly into the high demesne walls.

There were a few such gates through the demesne wall surrounding the Ffrench estate in Monivea. This one adjacent to the Killaclogher boundary is particularly well preserved and has been retained in its original condition by the Coppinger family, Kilbeg, as occupiers following the estate land division and distribution. Another existed at Knockcorrando but only a trace of its position is still visible. The junction at this location is still referred to locally as 'the wicket'.