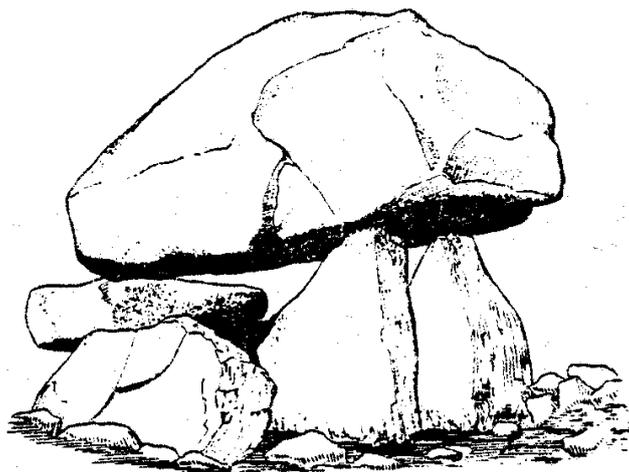


ULSTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Survey Report: No. 19

**Survey of site of the Queen Anne period mansion,
Castle Ward, County Down
UAS/09/04**

In association with



HENRY WELSH

© Ulster Archaeological Society
First published 2011

Ulster Archaeological Society
c/o School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology
The Queen's University of Belfast
42 Fitzwilliam Street
Belfast
BT9 6AX

CONTENTS

| | page |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| List of figures | 4 |
| 1. Summary | 5 |
| 2. Introduction | 6 |
| 3. 2009 UAS survey | 11 |
| 4. Discussion | 12 |
| 5. Recommendations for further work | 21 |
| 6. Bibliography | 22 |
| Appendix: Photograph record form | 23 |

LIST OF FIGURES

| Figures | page |
|--|------|
| 1. Location maps for Castle Ward, County Down | 5 |
| 2. Aerial photograph of the Queen Anne mansion site Yvonne Griffiths | 6 |
| 3. UAS survey group at work at the site of the Queen Anne mansion | 7 |
| 4. Detail from a navigation chart by George Johnson dated 1755, showing an elevation of the Queen Anne house (<i>PRONI D/671/P10/1</i>) | 8 |
| 5. Detail from Murdock Mackenzie chart 1755, <i>Hydrographic Office UK</i> | 9 |
| 6. Extract from the demesne map of Castle Ward of 1813, surveyed by James Boyd, <i>National Trust Collection at Castle Ward</i> | 9 |
| 7. Extract from Ordnance Survey, First Edition, 1835 | 10 |
| 8. Extract from Ordnance Survey, Second Edition, 1859 | 10 |
| 9. Plan of the Queen Anne mansion site | 12 |
| 10. Old Castle Ward, wall scars from Jacobean range | 13 |
| 11. Leamaneh Castle, County Clare (after Jones, 2004) | 14 |
| 12. Trench 1, looking south | 16 |
| 13. Trench 2, looking east | 16 |
| 14. Trench 4, looking east | 17 |
| 15. Trench 5, looking west | 17 |
| 16. Trench 7, looking north | 18 |
| 17. Trench 8, looking north | 18 |
| 18. Trench 9, looking west | 19 |
| 19. Trench 10, looking west | 19 |
| 20. Trench 11, looking east | 20 |
| 21. Trench 12, looking north-east | 20 |

1. Summary

1.1 Location

A site survey was undertaken at the site of a Queen Anne period mansion house at Castle Ward estate, County Down (SMR number: DOW 031:071), in the Barony of Lecale Lower, townland of Castleward, Irish Grid reference J 57326 49769. The site has also been given the reference NTSMR 131513 by the National Trust.

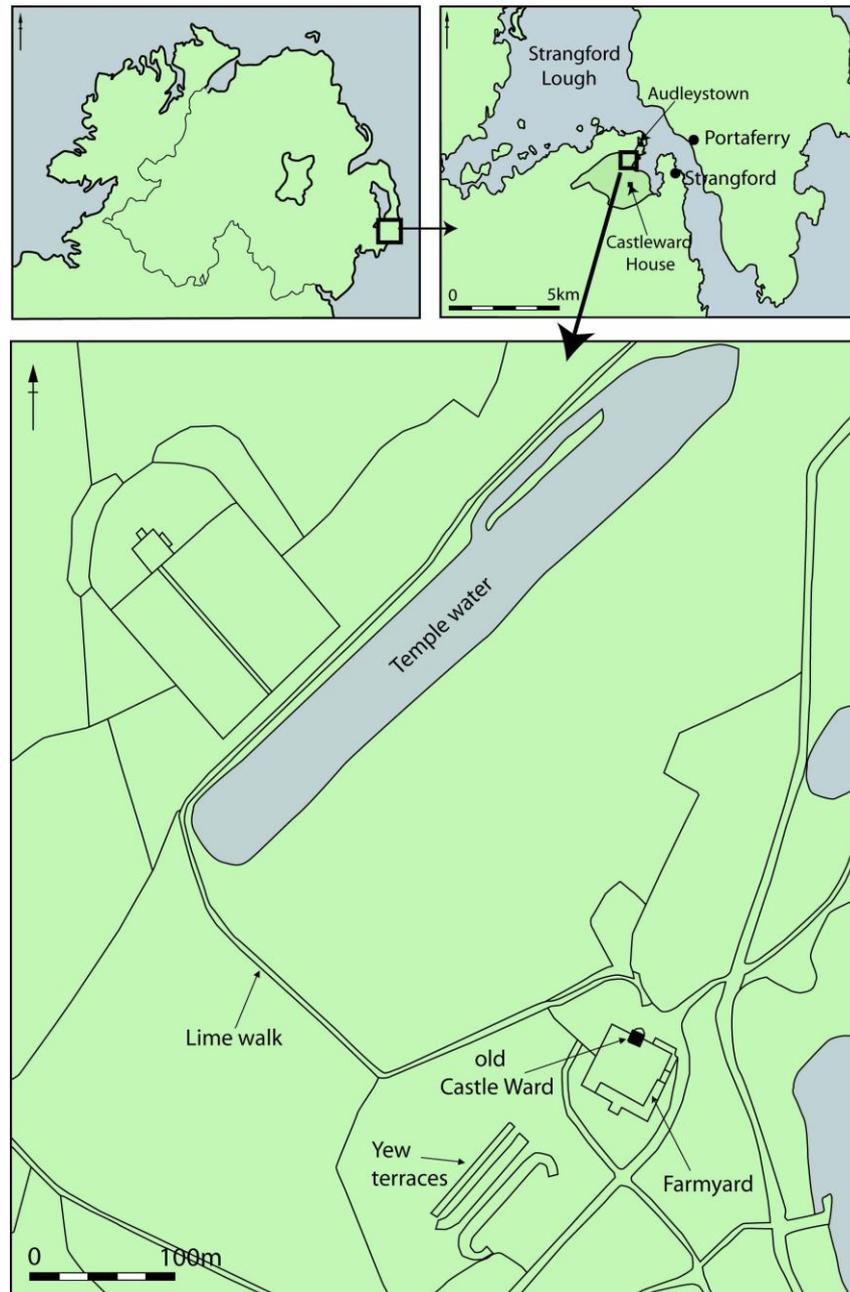


Figure 1: Location maps for Castle Ward, County Down

The site of the Queen Anne mansion house is situated within the grounds of the Castle Ward estate and forms part of a wider landscape owned by the National Trust. The survey was the fourth in a series of planned surveys undertaken by members of the Ulster Archaeological Society during 2009.

1.2 Aims

In order to enhance the archaeological record of this site, the aims of this survey were to produce an accurate plan drawing of the site and carry out a photographic survey. This information was compiled into a report and copies submitted to the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, to the National Trust and to the archives of the Ulster Archaeological Society. The report was also placed on the website of the Ulster Archaeological Society.



Figure 2: Aerial photograph of Queen Anne mansion site, 2008, *Yvonne Griffiths*

2. Introduction

2.1 Background

The survey of the site of the Queen Anne period mansion house was undertaken on Saturday 27 June 2009. It was carried out by members of the Ulster Archaeological Society in response to a decision taken by the committee of the society to extend an opportunity to members to participate in practical surveys of archaeological monuments that had not previously been recorded. This followed a bequest to the society from the late Dr Ann Hamlin, from which the items of survey equipment were purchased. During discussions with Mr Malachy Conway, Survey Archaeologist of the National Trust in Northern Ireland, it was noted that many archaeological monuments on National Trust property had not been subject to a detailed archaeological survey. It was therefore agreed that members of the society would commence a programme to survey these monuments and the site of the Queen Anne

period mansion house was subsequently chosen to be the nineteenth of these. The survey was timed to coincide with a second season of excavation of the site between 10 and 28 June 2009, undertaken as a joint venture between the National Trust, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency: Built Heritage (NIEA) and the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork of the Queen's University, Belfast (CAF). Participation in the excavation was open to members of the public as part of the *Archaeology Days* activities, co-ordinated by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency. Several members of the Ulster Archaeological Society took part in the excavation and it was felt that the survey group could make a positive contribution to the event.



Figure 3: UAS survey group at work at the site of the Queen Anne mansion

2.2 Previous archaeological surveys

Thomas McErlean and Terence Reeves-Smyth carried out an investigation of this site as part of a wider survey of the archaeological and historic landscape of the Castle Ward estate. Full details of this survey can be found in McErlean, T. and Reeves-Smyth, T. 1985. *Castle Ward Demesne*, (2 Volumes). In June 2007, a geophysical survey of the area thought to contain the remains of the Queen Anne period mansion house was carried out by Philip Macdonald and Stephen Trick of CAF.

The survey identified the location of the house which was represented by a subrectangular low-resistance anomalous area (approx. 39m by 6.3m) containing a number of high-resistance linear anomalies that were likely to represent walls (all approx. 1m wide). The shape corresponded well with the house plan as shown in the 1770/1800 and 1813 estate maps (Figures 5 and 6) but less well with the modified building depicted in the 1834 OS map (Figure 7). It was suggested (P. Macdonald pers comm.) that the walls detected by the geophysical survey therefore represented the subsurface remnants of the earlier house and that the walls of that phase of construction were more substantial (and possibly included a cellar), compared to the walls of the later extensions of the 1830s. Other anomalous responses of high and low resistance were detected across the survey area including low-resistance linears that

correspond with the western and eastern boundaries of the Palisade Garden as depicted in the 1813 estate map, along with other probable garden features. (Murray 2008, 3)

Based on the results of this survey, an excavation was undertaken as a collaborative project between CAF, the National Trust (Northern Ireland) and NIEA. The excavations also facilitated volunteer participation throughout the duration of the project including members of the Ulster Archaeological Society and Young Archaeologists Club, as well as individual members of the public. The excavation was timed to coincide with *Archaeology Days*, from 21 June to 11 July 2008 and uncovered portions of wall foundations, tentatively identified as parts of the south wall of the mansion and south retaining wall of the cellar. Other features including drains, a large ditch and garden paths were also uncovered.

2.3 Cartographic evidence

The Queen Anne period mansion house is recorded on several estate maps and Ordnance Survey maps. The earlier maps show a two-storey structure with a steep roof and chimneys, square in plan.

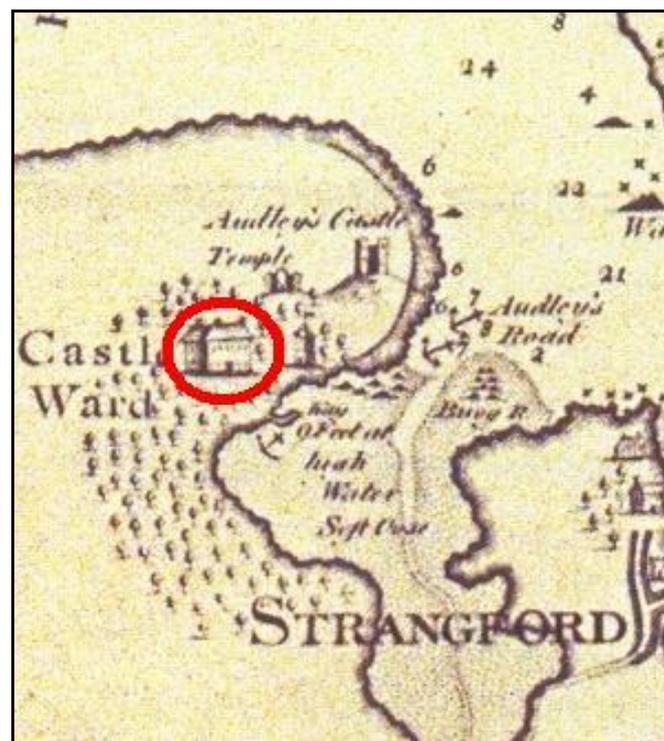


Figure 4: Detail from a navigation chart by George Johnson dated 1755 and showing an elevation of the Queen Anne house (PRONI D/671/P10/1).

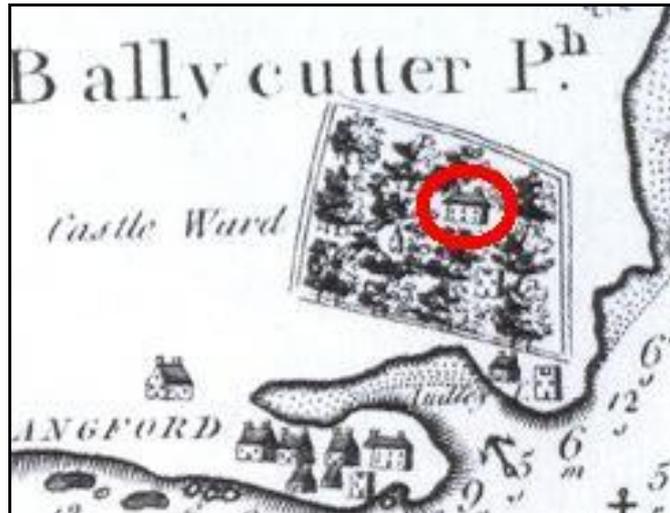


Figure 5: Detail from Murdock Mackenzie chart 1755, Hydrographic Office UK

From around 1800, estate maps indicate that wings had been added to the east and west of the original mansion house, confirmed in the Ordnance Survey First Edition map of the area in 1835.

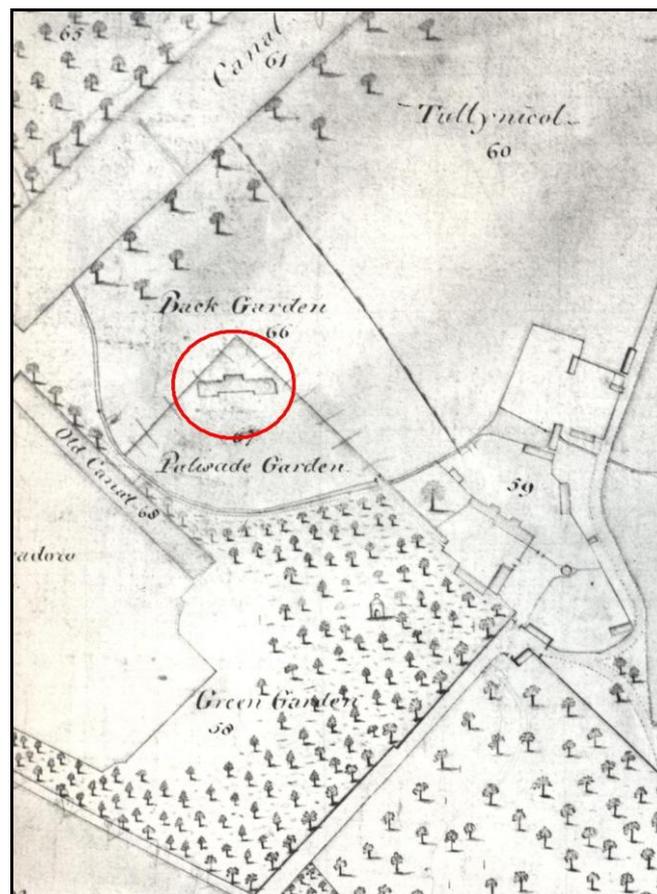


Figure 6: Extract from the demesne map of Castle Ward of 1813, surveyed by James Boyd, *National Trust Collection at Castle Ward*

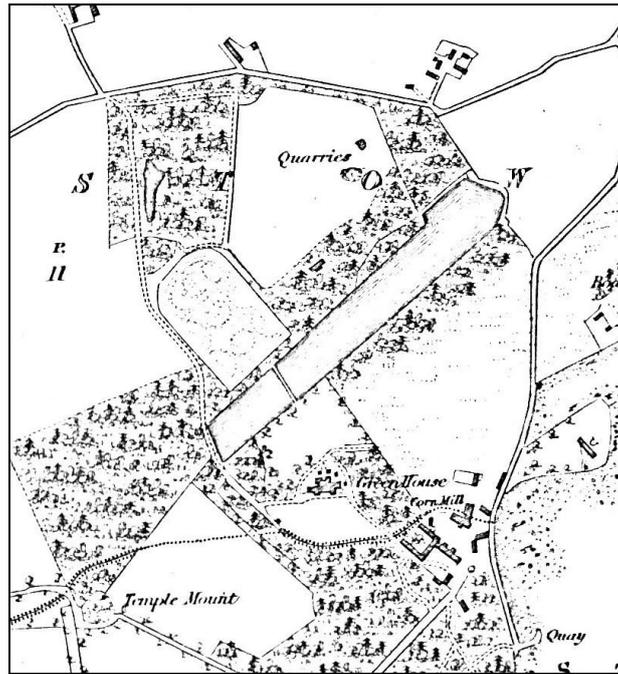


Figure 7: Extract from Ordnance Survey, First Edition, 1835

Estate records indicate that the mansion house was still occupied in 1846, but the Second Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1859 confirms that the entire structure had been demolished soon after and the area had been landscaped.

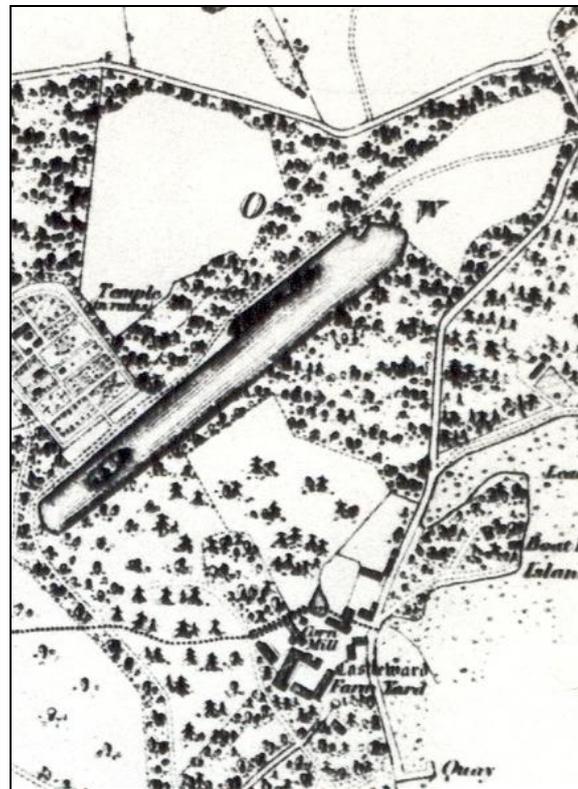


Figure 8: Extract from Ordnance Survey, Second Edition, 1859

2.4 Archiving

Copies of this report have been deposited with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, the National Trust and the Ulster Archaeological Society. All site records have been archived by the National Trust at Rowallane, Saintfield, County Down.

2.5 Credits and Acknowledgements

The survey was led by Harry Welsh and other members of the survey team were Michael Catney, William Dunlop, Ian Gillespie, Anne MacDermott, Ken Pullin, George Rutherford, Liz McShane, Hilary Boyd, Colin Boyd and Duncan Berryman. The Ulster Archaeological Society is particularly grateful to Mr Malachy Conway, Survey Archaeologist of the National Trust, who worked closely with the survey team in choosing the site and facilitating access.

3. 2009 UAS Survey

3.1 Methodology

It was decided that the survey would take the form of the production of a plan drawing, accompanied by a photographic survey. This report was compiled using the information obtained from these sources, in addition to background documentary material.

3.2 Production of the plan drawing

A plan drawing was completed, using data obtained from a field survey. Measurements were obtained by using the society's *Leica Sprinter 100* electronic measuring device. Sketch plans at 1:200 scale were completed on site by recording these measurements on drafting film secured to a plane table and backing up the data on a field notebook for subsequent reference. Field plans were later transferred to a computer-based format for printing.

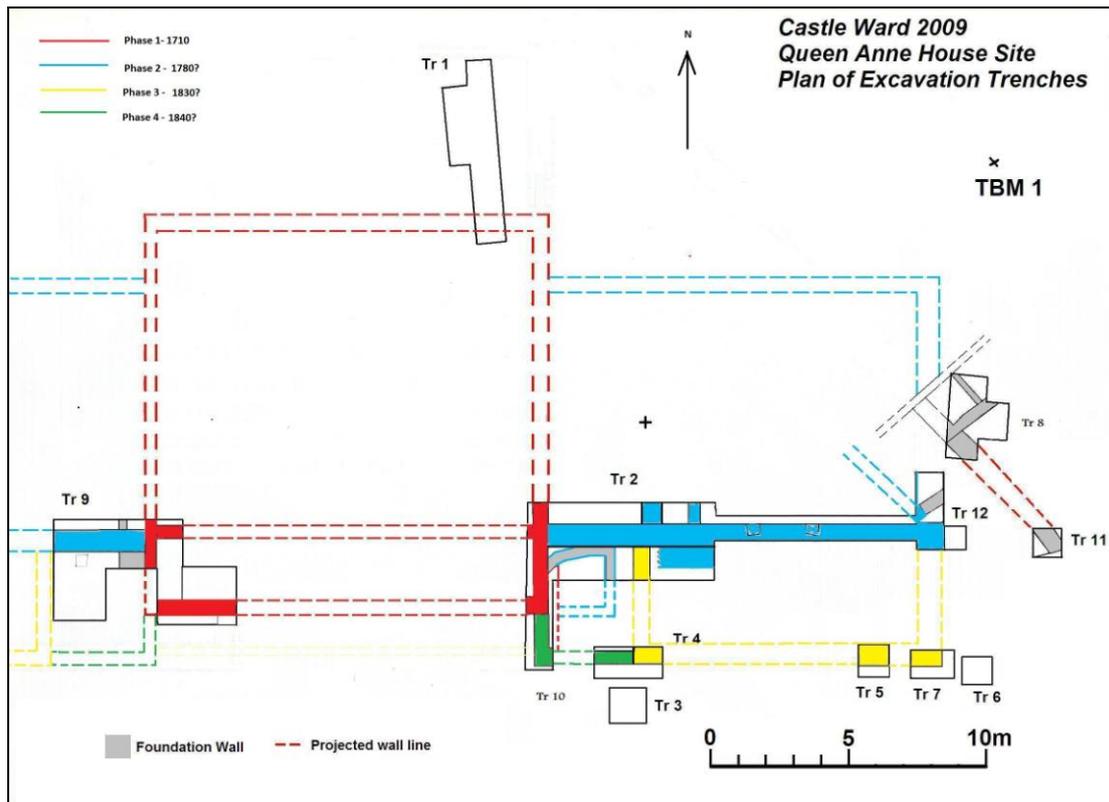


Figure 9: Plan of the Queen Anne mansion site

3.3 Photographic archive

A photographic record of the site was taken by using a *Ricoh Caplio 600G Wide 8* megapixel digital camera and a photograph record sheet was employed, corresponding to photographs taken during the site survey of 27 June 2009. The archive has been compiled in jpeg format and saved to compact disc.

4. Discussion

4.1 Introduction

The Castle Ward demesne, currently composed of 840 acres, was purchased by the Wards from the Earl of Kildare in 1570 and was in the sole occupation of the Ward family from the early sixteenth century until 1950, when, following the death of the sixth Viscount Bangor, Speaker of the Northern Ireland Senate, it was accepted by the government in part-payment of death duties and presented to the National Trust with an endowment. Throughout its long history, the demesne has been regularly altered and has become one of the most complete demesne landscapes to survive in Northern Ireland. One of the remarkable features of the Castle Ward estate is how it reflects the gardening fashions of several centuries, from the 1720s to the 1950s. The Yew Terraces, together with the Temple and Temple Water, form a major component of the formal garden layout. This landscape is one of the very few scheduled formal landscapes in Northern Ireland.

4.2 Association with the Old Castle Ward tower house

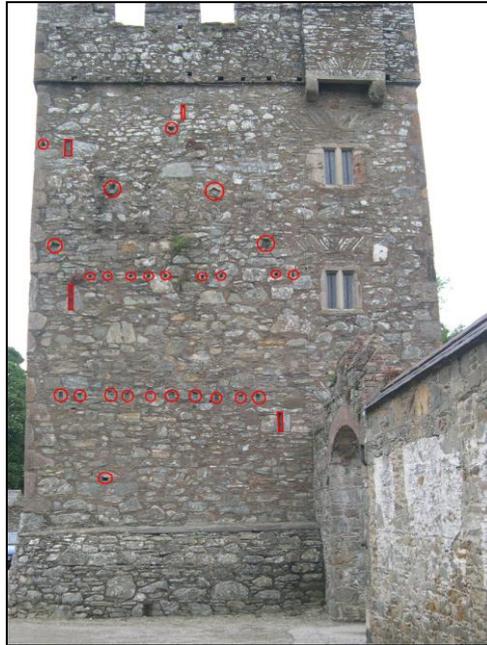


Figure 10: Old Castle Ward, wall scars for Jacobean range

The earliest known residence of the Ward family was what is now known as the Castle Ward Tower House, constructed for Nicholas Ward in about 1610 (National Trust 2005). Nicholas Ward was Clerk, Comptroller and Surveyor-General of the Ordnance and later Deputy Governor of Lands. The tower house is one of many such fortified houses in this area, including Audley's Castle, a fifteenth century tower house, built for the Audley family (1420-1450). This building was incorporated into the Castle Ward estate in 1646 and 'used in 1738 as an eye-catching focus of the long vista along Castle Ward's Temple Water' (DOENI 1983, 97-8).

The family had outgrown the tower house by the late seventeenth century and a two-storey house was added to the east side of the tower house. The wall scars of this structure are still visible on the side of the Tower House today (see figure 11). This house has become known as the Jacobean period house, although no record of its layout has been preserved. A similar structural situation occurred at Leamaneh Castle in County Clare, where 'the eastern portion is a fifteenth-century tower house while the western portion is a seventeenth-century manor house' (Jones 2004, 148).

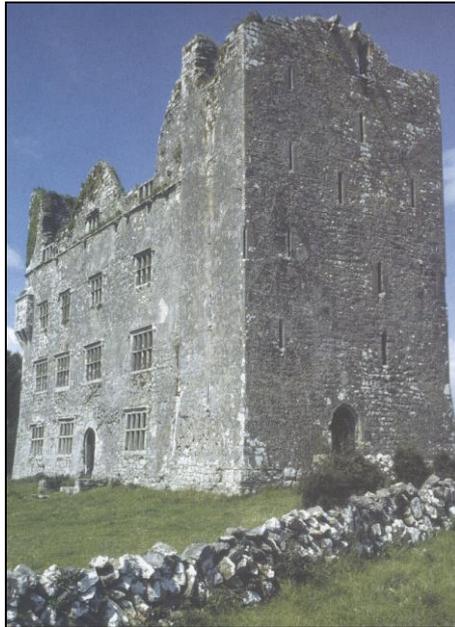


Figure 11: Leamaneh Castle, County Clare (after Jones, 2004)

4.3 The Queen Anne period mansion house

A new mansion was constructed by Bernard Ward on a small hill to the north-west of the old tower house around 1710-1714. This house has become referred to as the Queen Anne period mansion house and was surrounded by 'impressive formal terraces and canals. Temple Water is possibly the largest ornamental garden feature in Ireland to survive from the eighteenth century' (National Trust 2005). Bernard succeeded to the parliamentary seat of his late friend Robert Hawkins Magill of Gill Hall and married his widow Lady Anne, daughter of the first Earl of Darnley. Around 1760, work commenced on another new mansion house, which was completed about ten years later and is the building known today as Castle Ward. On the death of Bernard Ward in 1781, the estate passed to his bachelor son Michael. Despite the presence of the new mansion house on the estate, the Queen Anne mansion house, known as the Green House, continued in use and was extended on several occasions between the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, but its absence on the Ordnance Survey Second Edition map of 1859, confirms that it had been demolished at some time between 1846 and 1859. It has been suggested that during this period, the Castle Ward estate had become a shuttlecock in a series of family disputes and by 1837 the estate had been described as being 'totally out of order' (Montgomery-Massingberd and Sykes 1999, 159). This may go some way to explain the existence of two mansion houses simultaneously on the same estate and the repeated modifications to the Queen Anne period mansion house during this period.

4.4 The 2008 excavation

The 2008 excavation consisted of two main trenches, along with two small test pits, sited over the anomalies highlighted by the 2007 geophysical survey of the site.

Trench 1 (2m x 21m) was opened perpendicular to the rectangular anomaly detected in the resistivity survey and three closely set

parallel walls running east-west were uncovered towards the middle of the trench. The form, and by inference the function, of the walls was very different and all three had been levelled to the same height, approximately 0.33-0.35m below the modern ground surface. (Murray 2008 (b), 2)

The northernmost of the three was interpreted as the cellar wall which appears to have been built by the excavation of a large hole with the construction of a retaining perimeter wall against its edge. The second was interpreted as probably functioning as a retaining wall for a light well. Less than a metre (0.90m) south again of the central wall was a third wall. This was the most insubstantial of the three and probably supported an insubstantial architectural feature at the front of the house such as steps or a low garden wall.

The depth of building rubble north of the house in Trench 4 and the extent of archaeological deposits and rubble spread to the south of the house, in Trenches 1 and 2, also indicate that the natural topography of the hill has been hugely altered. (Murray 2008 (b), 3-7).

4.5 The 2009 excavation

A further season of excavation took place in 2009, again as a collaborative project between CAF, the National Trust (Northern Ireland) and NIEA. The excavations also facilitated volunteer participation throughout the duration of the project including members of the Ulster Archaeological Society and Young Archaeologists Club, as well as individual members of the public. The excavation was again timed to coincide with *Archaeology Days* and ran from 10 to 28 June 2009. The aim was to build on the information obtained during the 2008 season, by identifying the dimensions of the original Queen Anne period mansion house, along with the east and west wings and later additions. A total of twelve trenches were opened, based on the estimated position of wall foundations extrapolated from the 2008 excavation.

Trench 1 was situated over the anticipated position of the north wall of the original mansion house, based on the assumption that the building would be square in plan. Despite reaching a depth of 1.4m at the northern end of the trench, the wall was not located and extensions to the trench to the north also failed to locate it. Excavation had to be terminated due to the depth of the trench and the unstable nature of the rubble infill, so it is presumed that the remains of the north wall exist at a greater depth in Trench 1, perhaps further to the north, or were removed during the demolition of the house.



Fig. 12 Trench 1, looking south

Trench 2 was sited over what was anticipated to be the junction between the main building and the later east wing. This proved to be the case and the foundation of a substantial wall (C203), aligned east/west was uncovered at a depth of 0.3m. This was interpreted as the south wall of the east wing, added in approximately 1780. To the north of this wall, the rubble in-fill was rich in mortar and demolition rubble, similar to that found in the basement of the main building during the 2008 excavations. A further and less substantial wall foundation (C213), aligned north/south was also uncovered and this was interpreted as the west wall of a bay added to the south of the east wing about 1830. Also uncovered was a brick-lined drain, the slope of which was away from the building, to the south. Extensions to Trench 2 revealed the overall extent of the east wing, at 14m and the foundations of the east wall of the main building (C230), visible at the bottom of Fig 13 below.



Fig. 13 Trench 2, looking east

Trench 3 was positioned over the point at which the south wall of the bay was anticipated, but nothing archaeological was found in this trench.

Trench 4 was positioned closer to the east wing and at a depth of 0.3m uncovered the south wall of the bay (C213/C406), with an adjoining wall foundation (C404) that extended to the west. This was interpreted as representing the last phase of activity in this area, as it extended the east bay to the west, to connect with the southern part of the main building. In doing so, it had enclosed a drainage channel which had previously been an external feature, forcing a re-alignment of the drains to the south of the building.



Fig. 14 Trench 4, looking east

Trench 5 was sited over the south wall of the east bay in an attempt to establish the length of this structure. The wall foundation (C503) was found to extend through the entire length of the trench.



Fig. 15 Trench 5, looking west

Trench 6 was sited over the south wall of the east bay in an attempt to establish the length of this structure but nothing of archaeological significance was found.

Trench 7 was sited over the south wall of the east bay in an attempt to establish the length of this structure and achieved its aim, when the corner of the south and east walls of the bay was uncovered at a depth of 0.3m. The foundation was well-constructed of split stone in a lime mortar, with a slate damp-proof course at the top, similar to the foundation in Trench 5.



Fig. 16 Trench 7, looking north

Trench 8 was sited over what was anticipated to be the foundation of the palisade wall, which formed the eastern boundary between the mansion house and the adjoining parkland. This trench uncovered the foundations of a wall aligned north-west/south-east (C805), which seemed to accord with the 1813 estate map (Fig. 6). However, at a depth of 0.17m the excavation also revealed the top of a well-preserved brick-built arch (C807) over a brick-built corridor aligned north-east/south-west. It is not clear how this corridor relates to the east wing, but may be a discrete entrance for the servants.



Fig. 17 Trench 8, looking north

Trench 9 was opened over the anticipated junction of the south wall of the west wing and the main building. The substantial foundations of a wall were uncovered at a depth of 0.3m, aligned east/west (C906). This was interpreted as being the south wall of the west wing. Other wall foundations were uncovered, aligned north/south (C909) and east/west (C908) and these were interpreted as being the west and south walls of the main building.



Fig. 18 Trench 9, looking west

Trench 10 was sited over what was anticipated to be the corner of the western extension to the east bay. This proved to be the case, with a wall foundation (C1003) uncovered at a depth of 0.3m. It was also found that the wall then returned north to connect with the south wall of the main building.



Fig. 19 Trench 10, looking west

Trench 11 was sited over what was anticipated to be the foundation of the Palisade wall and this was indeed uncovered at a depth of 0.4m. The foundations (C1103) were in the form of un-mortared angular stones, approximately 0.2m wide, 0.2m long and 0.15m in size. This structure had clearly defined front and rear surfaces, but was unlike any other wall foundation uncovered during the excavation, in that it was not

mortared and there was no slate damp-proofing course at the top. The conclusion being that this was only suitable for a garden or boundary wall.



Fig. 20 Trench 11, looking east

Trench 12 was positioned in an attempt to locate the east wall of the east extension. This was not located, but the foundation of a wall (C1206), aligned north-west/south-east was uncovered, associated with another wall foundation (C1204), aligned north-east/south-west. These walls do not correspond well with any of the walls of the main building, wings, or bays added to the south. However, they seem to correspond with the alignment of the Palisade wall, brick arch and brick-built corridor uncovered in trenches 8 and 11. Due to the time constraints of the excavations, it was not possible to establish the relationship between the main buildings and these other features.



Fig. 21 Trench 12, looking north-east

4.6. Summary

The 2008 excavations had confirmed the location of the remains of the Queen Anne mansion house within the Castle Ward Demesne. Further, they had established that under the layers of material brought on to the site to landscape it, substantial foundations remained in place. The 2009 excavations uncovered many of these foundation walls and allowed for a tentative proposal for the layout of the main building and later additions. From the evidence uncovered so far, it would appear that the first building on the site was the Queen Anne period mansion. This would have

been a two-storey building with a basement, square in plan, approximately 14m by 14m. This was the building constructed by Bernard Ward between 1710 and 1714. The main entrance to this building was probably at the north, as no evidence for a driveway at the south was uncovered during the 2008 and 2009 excavations. Instead, as at Castle Coole in Fermanagh, the south façade of the building would have opened on to the formal gardens, with a view to the Yew Terraces across the valley (see Welsh 2007). In 1760, work began on another mansion house, the present Castle Ward, but the family clearly intended to make use of the Queen Anne period mansion house as two wings were added to this building, to the east and west, around 1780, possibly following the death of Bernard Ward in 1781, when the estate passed to his bachelor son Michael. These were probably single storey and rectangular, approximately 14m by 9m in order to maintain the symmetry of the overall buildings, but it is not possible to be more definite about these dimensions without further excavation. It was probably during this period that the house acquired the name of *Green House*.

Around 1830, the wings were extended to the south with the addition of a bay on each side, approximately 11.5m in length and 4m in depth. Around ten years later, the bays were extended to connect with the main building. The family disputes that took place around this time provide some explanation for the existence of two mansion houses simultaneously on the same estate and the repeated modifications to the Queen Anne period mansion house. Its absence on the Ordnance Survey Second Edition map of 1859 confirms that it had been demolished at some time between 1846 and 1859 and the area had been landscaped.

5. Recommendations for further work

The National Trust in Northern Ireland is currently considering how best to make use of the information uncovered by the excavations and survey at the site of the Queen Anne period mansion house. It is hoped that the foundations of the house might be completely uncovered and placed on display as an important and interesting feature to enhance the experience of visitors to the Castle Ward estate. Further, a selection from the large variety of finds recovered during the excavations in 2008 and 2009 could be placed on display at Castle Ward.

Bibliography

- Conway, M. and Murray, E.V. 2008. 'No previous experience necessary', *Archaeology Ireland*, Vol. 22, No. 4, 14-17.
- Craig, M. 1982. *The Architecture of Ireland from the Earliest Times to 1880*. London: Batsford.
- Craig, M. 2006. *Classic Irish Houses of the Middle Size*. Dublin: Ashfield Press.
- Environment and Heritage Service of Northern Ireland. n.d. *Tower Houses of County Down*, Belfast: Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland.
- Griffin, D.J. 2003. Richard Castle's designs for Castle Coole, Co Fermanagh. In T. Reeves-Smyth and R. Oram (eds), *Avenues to the past: essays presented to Sir Charles Brett on his 75th year*, 135-142. Belfast: Ulster Architectural Heritage Society.
- Jones, C. 2004. *The Burren and Aran Islands, exploring the archaeology*, Cork: Collins.
- McErlean, T. and Reeves-Smyth, T. 1990. *An historic landscape survey of Castle Ward Demesne, County Down* (2 vols). Unpublished Report on behalf of the National Trust (2000 print).
- Montgomery-Massingbred, H. and Sykes, C.S., 1999, *Great Houses of Ireland*, London: Laurence King.
- Murray, E.V. 2008 (a). *Project Design for a Proposed Archaeological Excavation at the site of the Queen Anne house at Castle Ward, County Down (to accompany Excavation Licence application and Scheduled Monument Consent)*, Belfast: Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork.
- Murray, E.V. 2008 (b). *Summary Report on the 2008 excavation of the Queen Anne Peiod House at Castle Ward, Co. Down*. Belfast: Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork.
- Murray, E.V., Macdonald, P. And Conway, M. 2008. 'Excavations at Castle Ward', *Lecale Review, a journal of Down history* No.6, 18-23.
- National Trust. 2005. *Castle Ward, Strangford, Co. Down*. National Trust.
- Reeves-Smyth, T., 1999, *Irish gardens and gardening before Cromwell*, Carrigtwohill: Barryscourt Trust.
- Tinniswood, A. 1991. *Historic Houses of the National Trust*, London: National Trust/Abrams.
- Welsh, J. 2007. *Survey of the Yew Terraces, Castle Ward, County Down*, Belfast: Ulster Archaeological Society.

APPENDIX

PHOTOGRAPH RECORD FORM

Site: Queen Anne mansion house site, Castle Ward, County Down

Date: 27 June 2009

Make and model of camera...*Ricoh Caplio 500G wide*

| Film no. | B/W Print | Colour print | Colour slide | Digital image (m.pixels) |
|----------|-----------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| | | | | 8 |

| Frame no | Direction viewed from | Details |
|----------|-----------------------|---|
| 001 | East | UAS Survey Group at Queen Anne mansion site |
| 002 | North | View of Trench 1 |
| 003 | West | View of Trench 2 |
| 004 | West | View of Trench 4 |
| 005 | East | View of Trench 5 |
| 006 | South | View of Trench 7 |
| 007 | South | View of Trench 8 |
| 008 | East | View of Trench 9 |
| 009 | East | View of Trench 10 |
| 010 | West | View of Trench 11 |
| 011 | South-west | View of Trench 12 |