



ULSTER
ARCHÆOLOGICAL
SOCIETY

Survey Report

Reference: **Survey Report No. 15**

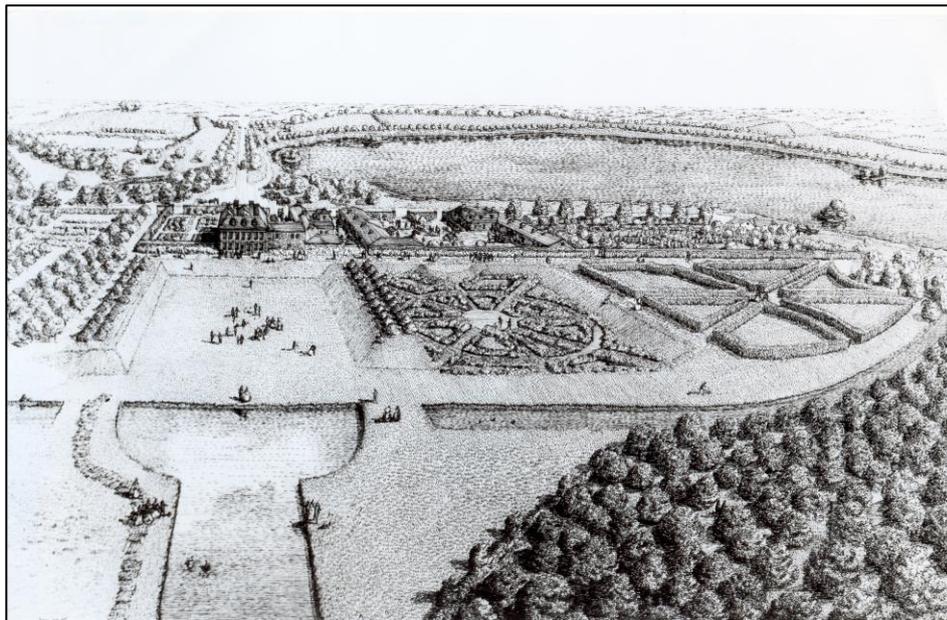
Author: **Ian Gillespie**

Location:

**Castle Coole Formal Gardens
Castle Coole
Derryvullan
Co.Fermanagh**

In association with:

 **THE NATIONAL TRUST**



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c/o School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology

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Cover illustration: Artist's impression of Castle Coole in Margetson & Mary Armar's
time (After Marson 2007)

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1. Summary

1.1 A site survey was undertaken at the National Trust's Castle Coole site in the townland of Castle Coole, Derryvullan, County Fermanagh, Irish Grid reference H25774 43376. The purpose of the survey was to record the remains of substantial 18th Century formal gardens associated with a now demolished Queen Anne house.

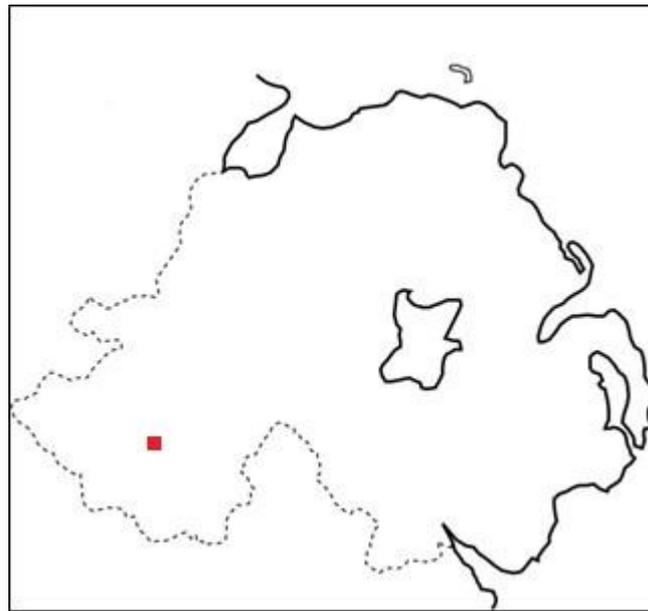


Figure 1: Location map for Castle Coole

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 monument and carry out a photographic survey. This information was compiled into a report and submitted to the NIEA and the National Trust.

2. Introduction

2.1 Background

The survey was carried out on 30th August and 27th September 2008, by members of the Ulster Archaeological Society. This was the fifteenth such survey carried out by the Society, whose survey programme has been running since April 2006. The programme was undertaken 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 decision had been prompted by 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, Archaeologist of the National Trust in Northern Ireland, it had been noted that many archaeological sites 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 sites.

2.2 Castle Coole

The demesne of Castle Coole began life in the late 16th century as a grant of 1,000 plantation acres, called Coole, to Captain Roger Atkinson. The name Coole derives from the Irish Cúil meaning ‘corner’ or ‘recess’ and also lends its name to the Lough within the property.

In 1656 the property was sold on to John Corry and has remained with the Corry family until its donation to the Trust in 1951.

A most significant feature of the property is the survival of a rare example of unaltered 18th century formal garden layout which is appropriately a Scheduled Ancient Monument (NTSMR 130960).

The 18th century formal garden was laid out around a Queen Ann House and accompanying kitchen yard, which no longer survives (NTSMR 131680), and which was approached from the west by an Oak lined avenue planted around 1730 (NTSMR 131698).

The formal garden (NTSMR 130960) was characterised by a terrace and bowling green, which lay immediately east of the Queen Anne House. To the south of the

house lay a flower yard and melon ground and to the north a Stableyard, Haggard and Shubbery.

To the south of the bowling green lay an orchard while to its north a sunken parterre and northern parterre.

East of the house and the bowling green lay a canal known as the Banjo Lake (NTSMR 131712), either side of which at its western end, further canals swept around to the north and south of the formal gardens (NTSMR 131653, 131654).

Close to the location of the former Queen Anne House lies the site believed to be that of the original plantation castles, which were constructed between 1613-1709 (NTSMR 1316810).

2.2 Cartographic evidence

The earliest depiction of the Queen Anne house is in William Starratt's 1723 map which shows the house before the formal gardens were laid out.



Figure 2 Detail from William Starratt's 1723 Plan (PRONI D3007/)

Castlecoole is depicted on two maps included in Taylor & Skinner's compendium entitled "Maps of Roads of Ireland Surveyed in 1777". The first entry is Map 47 "Donegall & Killybegs".



Figure 3 Part of Map 47 from "Maps of Roads of Ireland Surveyed in 1777"

On the facing page is a handwritten entry by an unknown author: "John Curry (sic) of Castlecoole had a grant of the Manor of Coole & several townlands inroll'd by 1669 at a quit rent of £16-6-9 which had been granted by King Charles the first to Major Atkinson & by him convey'd to Mr Curry".

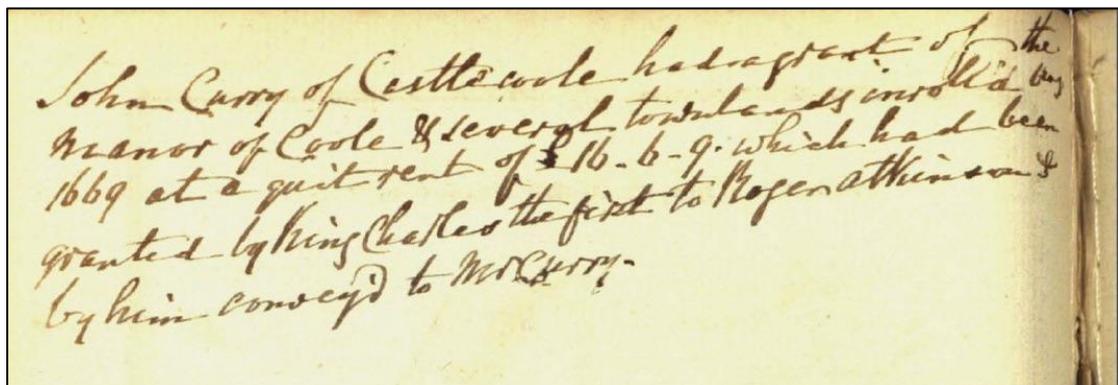


Figure 4 Comments facing Map 47 from "Maps of Roads of Ireland Surveyed in 1777"

The second entry is Map 259 “From Monaghan to Enniskillen”

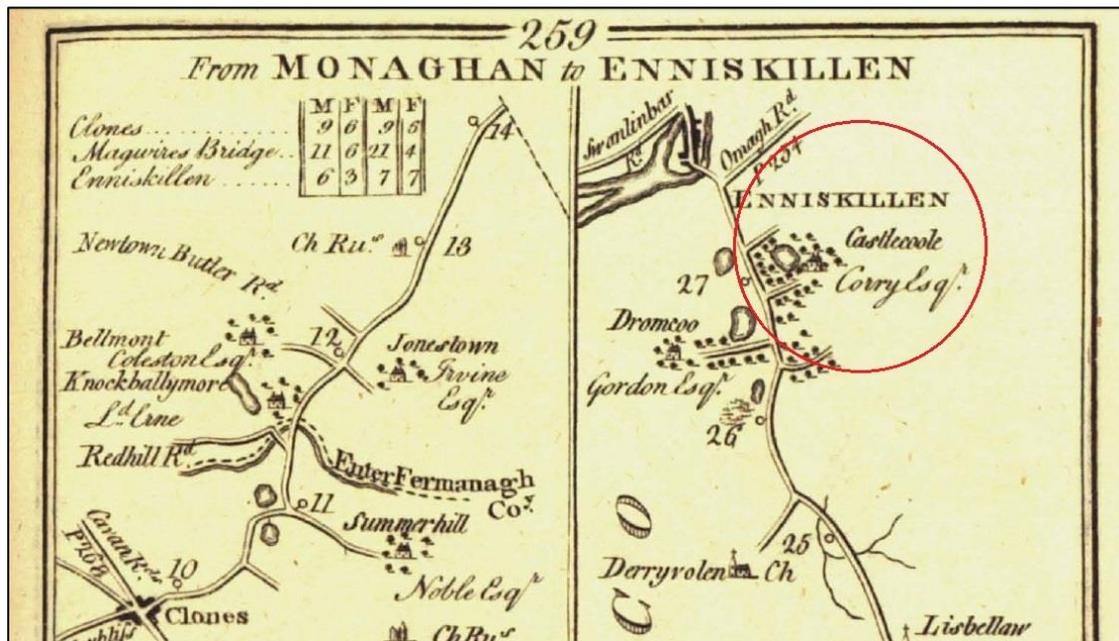


Figure 5 Part of Map 259 from “Maps of Roads of Ireland Surveyed in 1777”

This 1803 map originally survey by Captain Taylor in 1797; copied by J Sedley, Royal Military Surveyor & Draughtsman, in May 1803 depicts “Castle Coal Lord Belmore”.

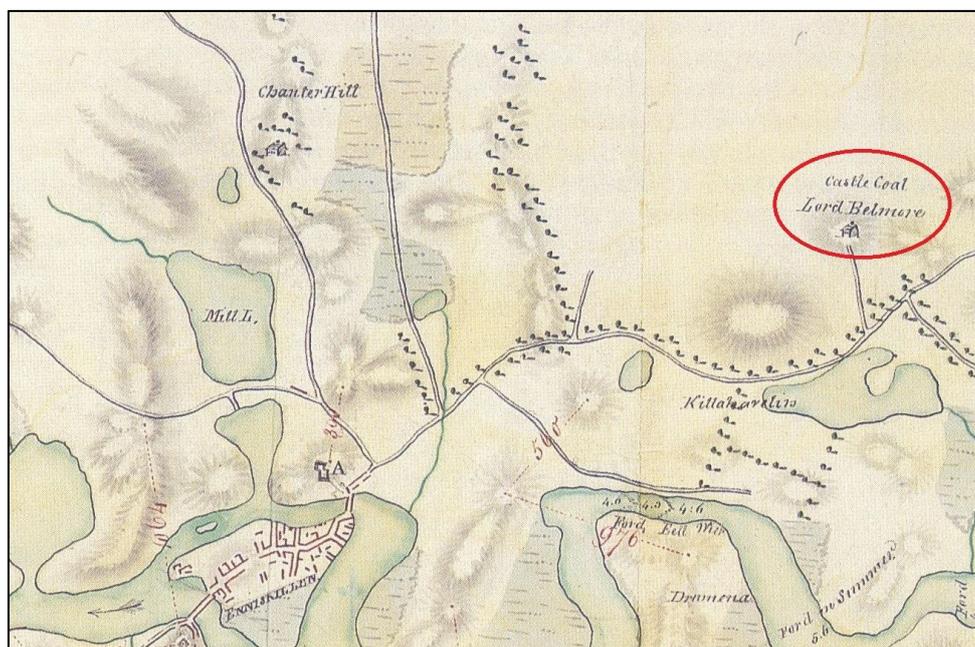


Figure 6 1803 County Fermanagh: Enniskillen District (part of). National Archives: MPH 1/11/13

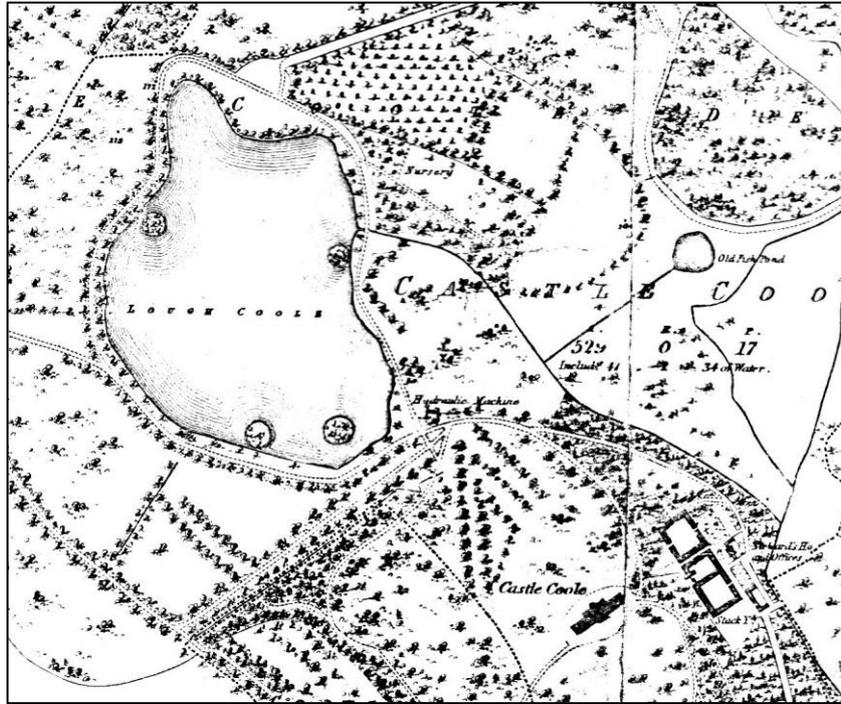


Figure 7 1st edition Ordnance Survey Map 1833

The first edition OS map describes the remains of the ornamental lake as an ‘old fish pond’. The only evidence of the Queen Anne house is the ‘Hydraulic Machine’ east of the lake.

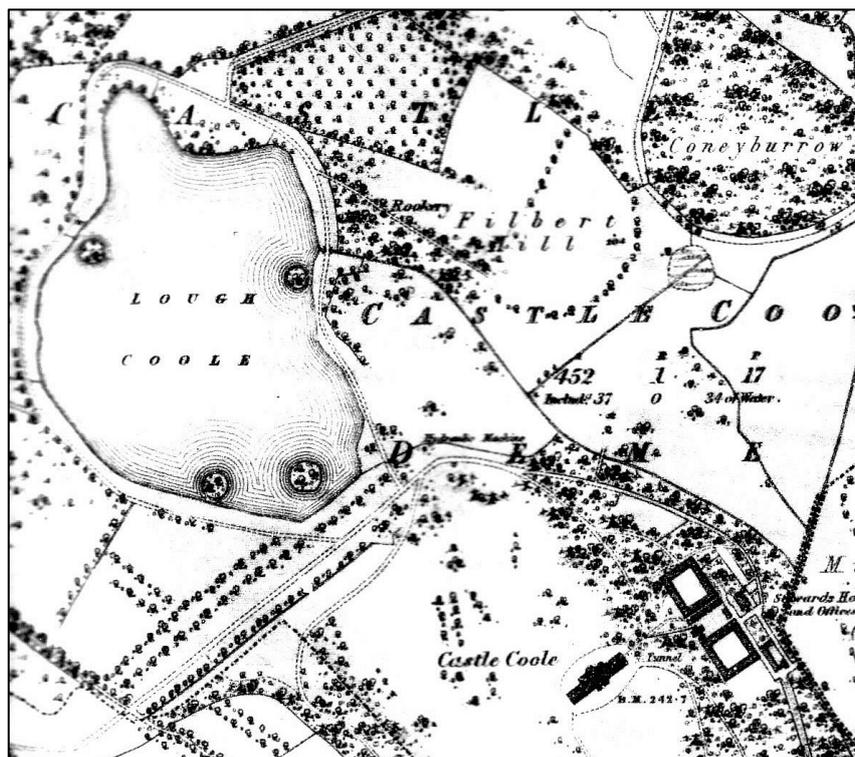


Figure 8 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1857

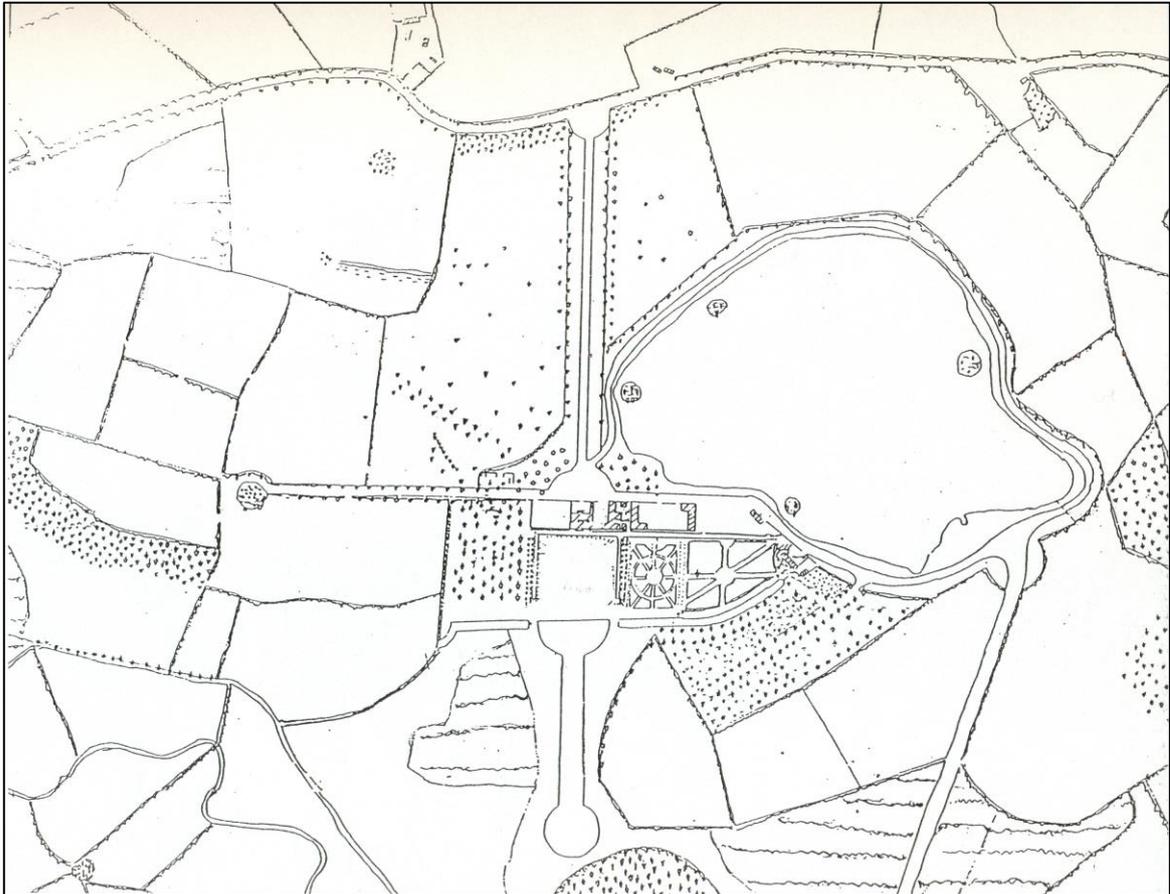


Figure 9 Detail from undated unsigned Estate map circa 1783. (PRONI D3007/D/1/5/1-2)

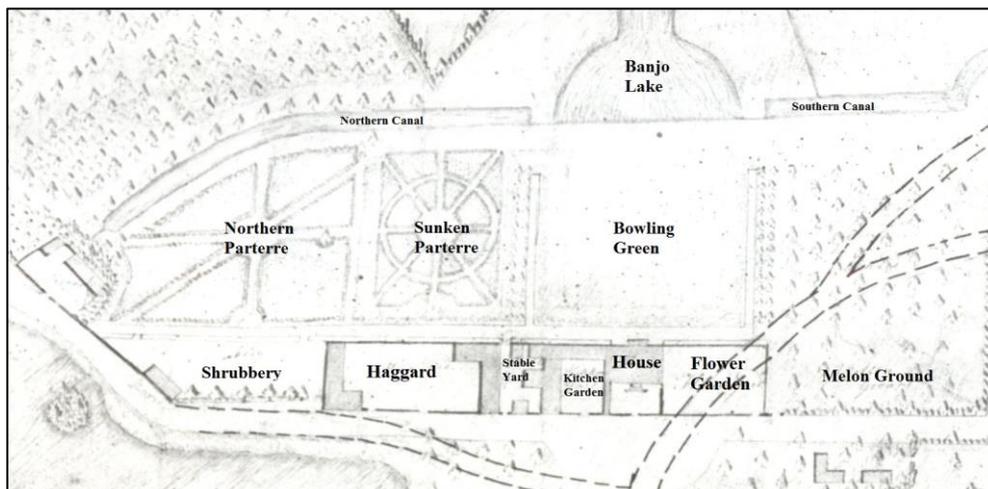


Figure 10 Details of the Formal Gardens

There are two versions of the estate map – one showing the formal gardens and Queen Anne House, the other showing the plans for a new ambitious landscape park. The latter version has ink additions made by the 4th Earl to show the new roadways.

2.3 Aerial Photographs

The following aerial photographs were taken by the Queen's University Aerial Photography unit in December 1984 and show the Sunken Parterre and Banjo Lake quite clearly.



Figure 11 Aerial Photograph of Sunken Parterre (QUB 6-12-84_1_38)

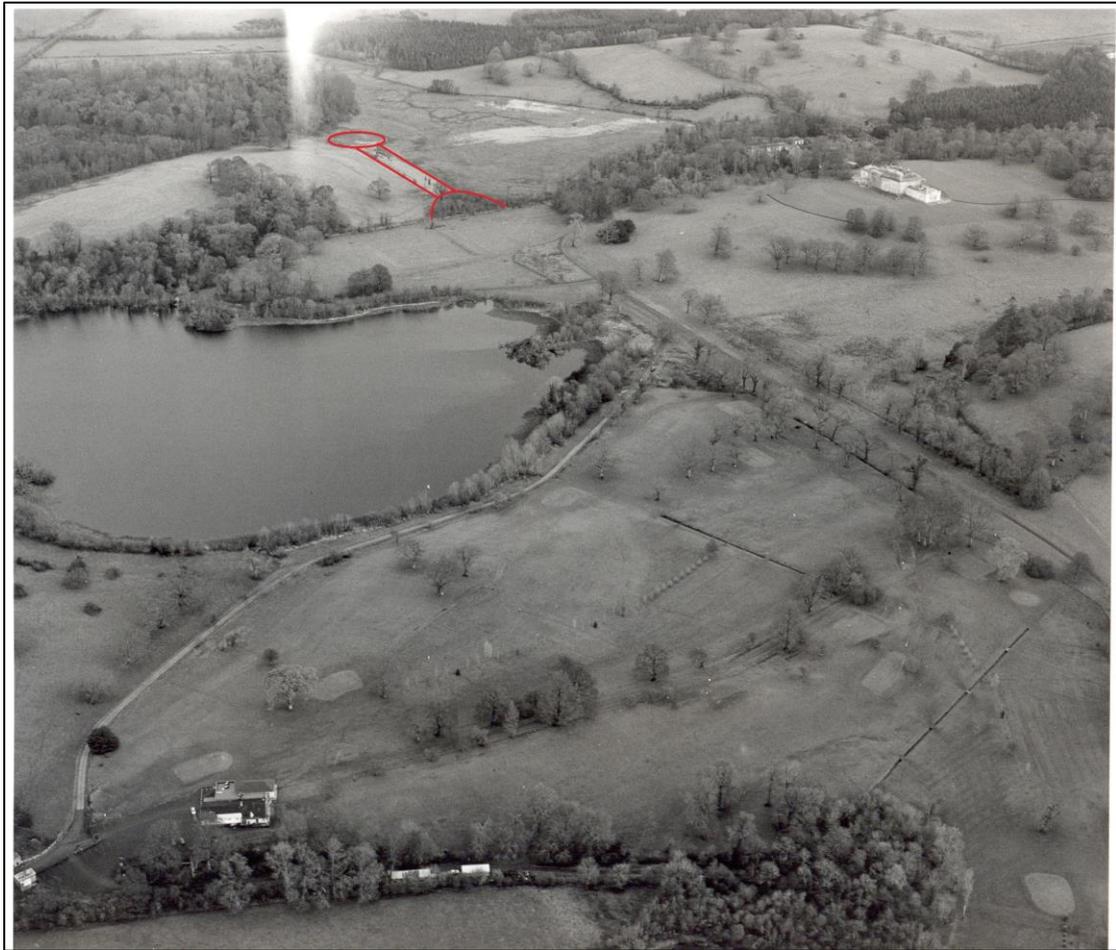


Figure 12 Aerial Photograph of Banjo Lake (outlined) (QUB 6-12-84_2_38)

2.4 Archiving

Copies of this report have been deposited with the NIEA and the National Trust. All site records are temporarily archived with the Honorary Archivist of the Ulster Archaeological Society.

2.5 Credits and Acknowledgements

The surveys of 30 August and 27th September 2008 were led by Harry Welsh and other members of the survey team were Michael Catney, Chris Conway, Billy Dunlop, Ian Gillespie, Lee Gordon, Julie Hanse, Anne MacDermott, Ken Pullin, Janey Sproule and June Welsh. The Ulster Archaeological Society is particularly

grateful to Mr Malachy Conway, Archaeologist of the National Trust, who worked closely with the survey team in choosing the site and facilitating access.

3. Survey

3.1 Methodology

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

3.2 Production of plan and profile drawings

Plan and profile drawings were 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 & 1:1000 scale and profiles at 1:100 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.

3.2.1 Site plans

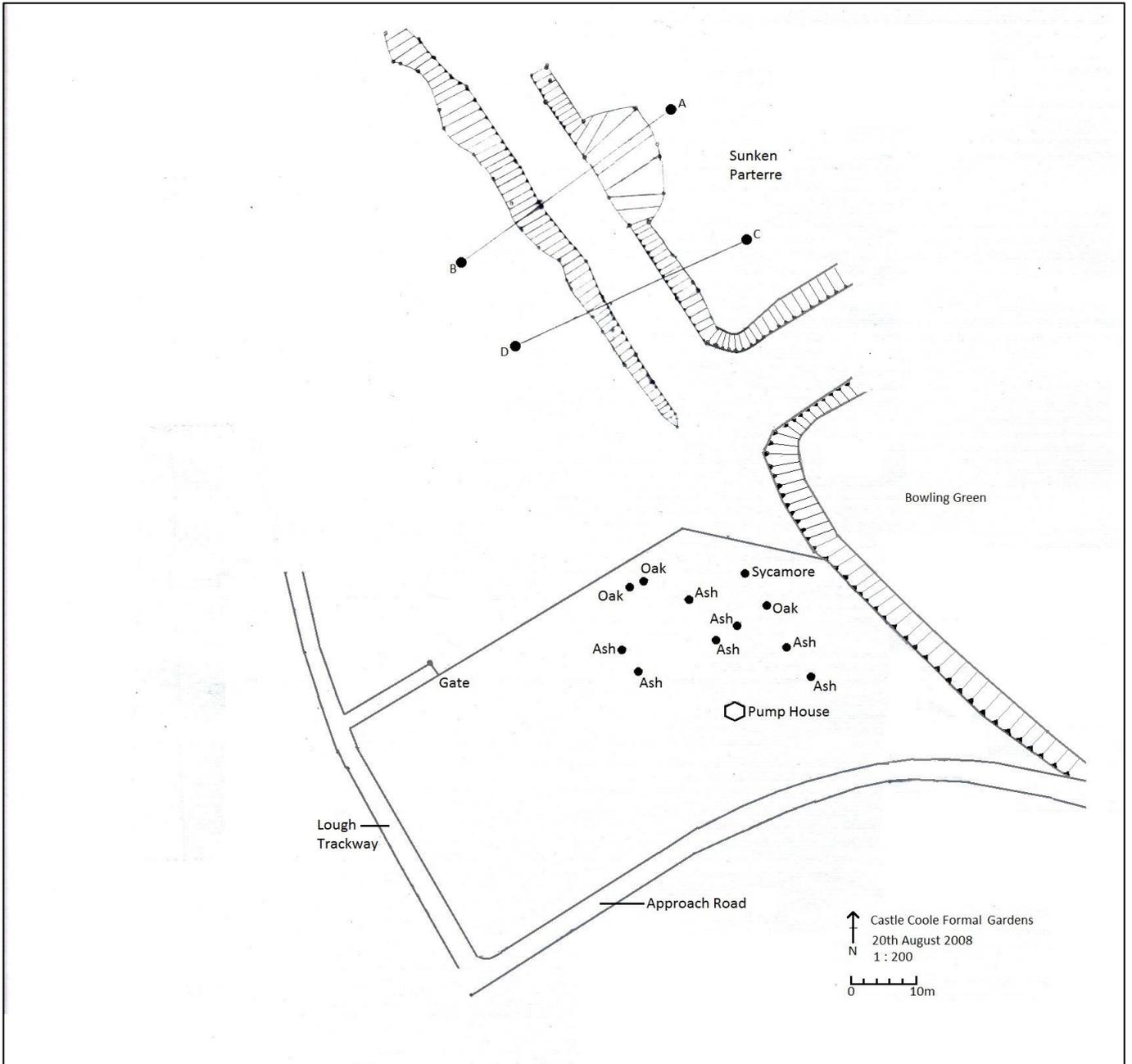


Figure 13 Site Plan 1:200

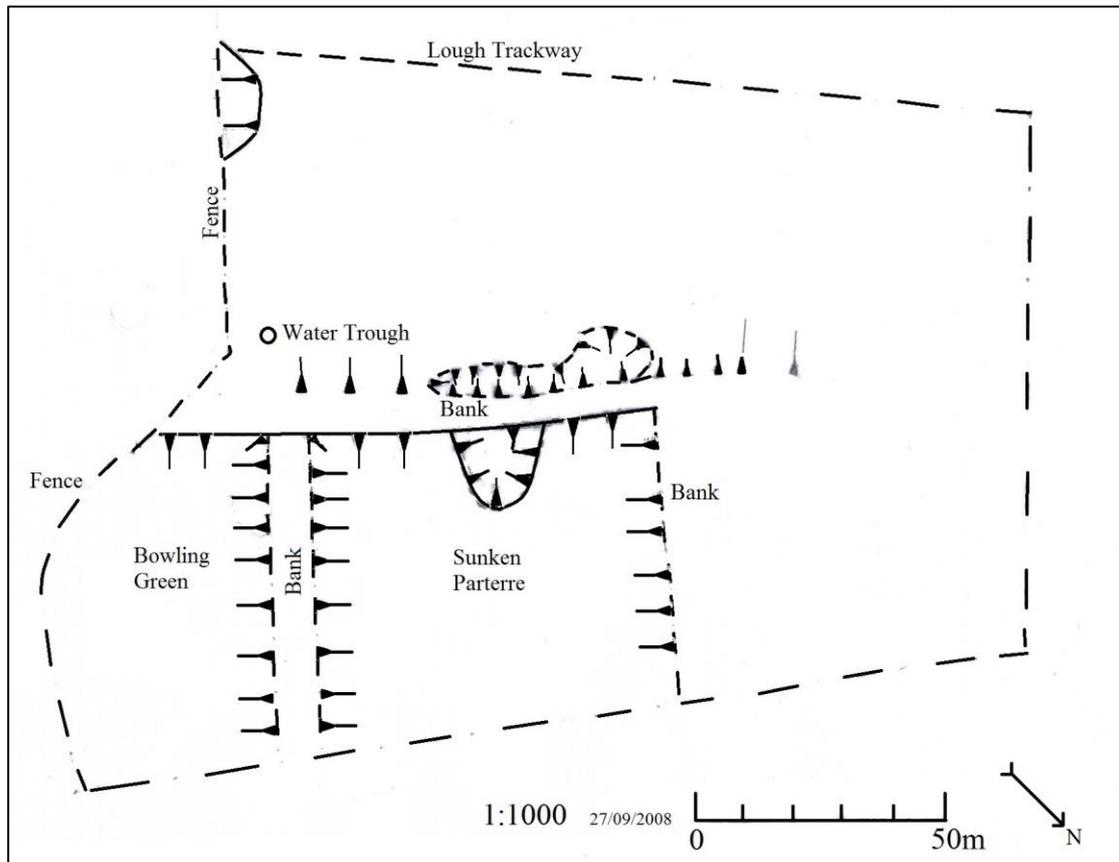


Figure 14 Site Plan 1:1000

3.2.2 Profiles

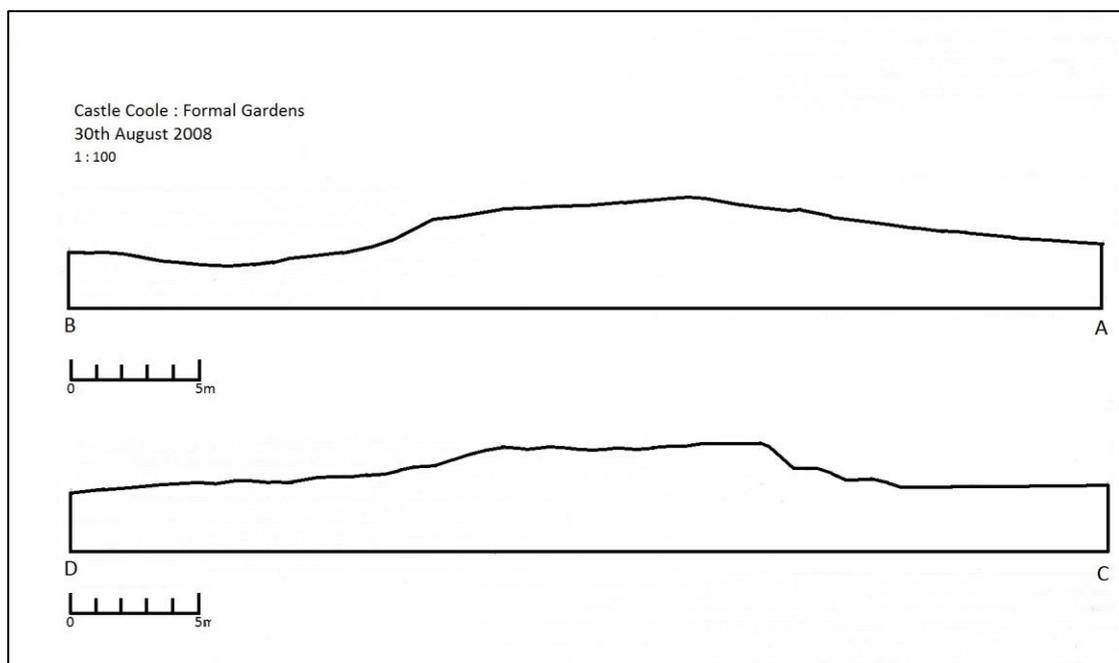


Figure 15 Profiles AB and CD

3.3 Photographic archive

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

4. Discussion

4.1 History of Castle Coole and its inhabitants from 1611 to 1797.

The following information is taken from The Earl of Belmore's book "*The History of the Two Ulster Manors of Finagh, in the County of Tyrone, and Coole, otherwise Manor Atkinson, in the County of Fermanagh, and of their owners.*" And *Belmore: The Lowry Corrys of Castle Coole, 1646 to 1913* by Peter Marson.

4.1.1 Captain Roger Atkinson

Captain Roger Atkinson received the Plantation Patent for Manor Coole on 20th January 1611. On 20th April 1613 he was returned as first Member of Parliament for the borough of Iniskillin.

Pynnar's Survey of 1618 describes Atkinson's holding:

LXV., 1000 acres :—" Captain Roger Atkinson hath one thousand acres called Coole. Upon this Proportion there is a strong bawne of lime and stone sixty feet square, with three flankers. He hath a strong stone house, in which his wife with his family dwelleth. He hath two freeholders all resident on the land. Here are two watermills, one for corn, and another a tucking mill."

As with many of the Plantation estates, the assessment of 1,000 plantation acres was considerably inaccurate. [The 4th Earl] Belmore in his *Two Ulster Manors* (London,

1881), p.77, computes the real size of Atkinson's grant to consist of 2,762 plantation acres (approximately 4,576 statute acres).

4.1.2 Arthur Champion

On the 22nd April 1640, Atkinson executed a conveyance of Manor Coole and some tenements in Enniskillen and its neighbourhood to Arthur Champion of Shannoth Co.Fermanagh. In this, a rather peculiar arrangement was made; Captain Atkinson was to receive £1,650 down, to be paid in England, which was all but eight years' purchase on the rental. But he conveyed the fee, and Champion immediately executed a lease of the whole to him and Edith his wife for sixty years, in case either of them should live so long, at £40 a year for their joint lives, and £100 a year for the life of the survivor. The yearly rental was £210 10s. for the manor, and £5 10s. for the Enniskillen holdings.

Arthur Champion did not long enjoy his new estate. The following is from the evidence of John Cormick at Lord Maguire's Trial :

" Presently after, upon the 29th of October, one Captain Rori MacGuire took upon him the managing of all businesses in his absence ; he fortified first the Castle Hasen, the house wherein he dwelt himself ; he took in the castle of one Edward Aldrith, Esq.; he put out all the English there ; he went to the town, burnt that, but killed none of the men ; went thence to another place, and hanged one Eleazar M., one that was Clerk of the Peace of the county ; and from thence he went to Newtown, four miles off from it, took in the town, stript and disarmed all the Protestants that were in the church ; the next day after marched away, and killed and destroyed most of the English in those parts; murdered Arthur Champion, Esq. ; and many more."

The following information respecting Arthur Champion's death is extracted from the Fermanagh Volume of the Depositions of 1641, in Trinity College Library, page 25, No. 81.

Alice Champin the late wife of Arthur Champin late of Shanoge in the county of Fermanagh, esq., being duly sworn deposeth and sayth: that the 20th day of October, 1641, her said late husband was assaulted and cruelly murdered before his owne gate at Shanoge aforesaid, by the Maguires and others their adherents, whereof she

well remembreth that there were present at the same murthering of him, Don Carrage Maguire of (blank) in the countie of Fermanagh, gent., Edmond Carragh Maguire of Annaghard in the said county, gen., Redmond Macowen Maguire of (blank) in the said countie, gent., and Patrick Oge Macrosse Maguire of Borfadda in the said countie, gent., and others to the number of 100 persons or thereabouts, and that they murthered and killed also with him the said Arthur Champin six other persons at Shanoge aforesaid, as, namely, Thomas Champin, Thomas Iremonger, Humphrey Littlebury, and Christopher Linis, gent., John Morrice, and Hugh Williams, yeomen. And that afterwards they killed and murthered thereabouts about the number of xxiv. Englishmen more.

Maguire's men burnt down Champion's castle at Shanoge as well as Castle Atkinson at Coole.

4.1.3 Henry Gilbert

Castle Coole was purchased in trust by Emery Hill for Henry Gilbert Esq. who had married Champion's widow Alice. Alice subsequently dies and, in 1665, Gilbert sells Castle Coole to John Corry of Belfast for £860.

4.1.4 John Corry

John Corry was a Scottish merchant. He purchased Coole for less than half that paid by Champion. He extensively repaired the castle and made it defensible again. Unfortunately Castle Coole was deliberately burned down again during the Williamite Wars.

4.1.5 Colonel James Corry



Colonel James Corry by James Pooley

John Corry's son James takes over Castle Coole by deed of settlement in 1679. Towards the end of the seventeenth century a period of peace and prosperity prompted some land owners to build new elaborate and unfortified homes. It is James who, at the age of 76 in 1709, had plans made up for a new house. The

Figure 16 Colonel James Corry

architect was probably John Curle who designed a house in a blend of Dutch and Classical styles in the newly fashionable red brick. It was similar to, although more modest than, Beaulieu in County Louth.

The house was large enough to accommodate the extended Corry Family and their servants. The remains of the older fire-damaged building were turned into a kitchen wing. The house was sixty

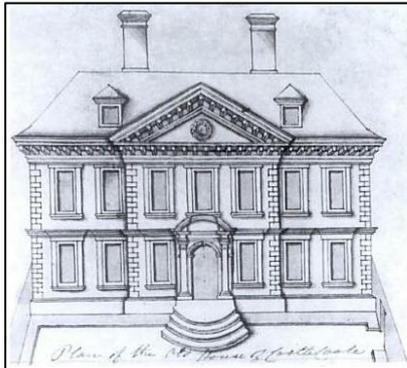


Figure 18 Plan of the New House



Figure 17 Beaulieu, Co Louth

feet in length, consisting of a

three-windowed dining room facing the west, probably twenty or twenty-one feet long, a hall with one window at the side of the door and on the other side of the hall was a two-windowed sitting room

which, in latter days, would probably have been called a study. Facing the east was a drawing room, at the south end; a staircase in the middle of the house; and a bedroom at the north end. It had five principal bedrooms on the first and second floors and two principal and two subsidiary bedrooms in the attic. On the first floor were bedrooms with what are called in the plan closets, that is, little rooms through the bedrooms, probably used for powdering or washing rooms. Upstairs were some more rooms in the slope of the roof with dormer windows; some of these had fireplaces and were probably family rooms.

The settlement of 1679 had already settled Castle Coole to James' son John by the time James dies in 1718 .

4.1.6 Colonel John Corry



Colonel John Corry is already 51 years old when he inherits Castle Coole, and he only lives for a further eight years, dying in 1726. During his ownership he reslates the house and

Figure 19 Colonel John Corry

acquires more land for the estate. He commissions a map of the demesne from Willaim Starrat.

When he dies his son Leslie is only 15; his will appoints Margetson Armar, John's nephew, as guardian during Leslie's minority.

4.1.7 Colonel Margetson Armar



Figure 20 Colonel Margetson Armar

Margetson Armar is an important link in the chain of succession to the Castle Coole estate. He had managed the estate during the minority of his cousin; he continued to live there even after Leslie Corry attained his majority in 1733; and in 1736 he married Mary Corry, the youngest of Leslie Corry's three sisters.

Leslie Corry's death in 1741 resulted in the extinction of the male line of Corrys at Castle Coole.

In 1736 Margetson married John Corry's daughter Mary. To secure his daughter, John Corry left most of the Castle Coole estate to Margetson. Margetson managed the estate from 1726 until his death in 1773. He was responsible for a number of improvements, including laying out the formal gardens however there is no specific date for the gardens.

In 1747 Margetson refurbished the house. New grates were put in the parlour and drawing room and expensive marble was used on the fireplaces, which were fitted



Figure 21 Mrs Armar

with carved mantelpieces; as brass curb was mended and basket fire screens provided. Floors were covered with Scotch and Kidderminster carpets and walls with flock paper. For decoration there were 'flower pieces', Indian pictures, a collection of framed Hogarth prints. A portrait of Mrs Armar was painted by Francis Bindon. New furniture was installed.

Stone steps were installed at the back of the house giving access to the new gardens.

A hint to the date of construction of the formal gardens is contained in a poem written about Armar by the Reverend Joseph Finlay in the late 1750's outlining Armar's charitable disposition:

*An epigram on the Waterworks at Castlecoole, which gave bread to number of the
Poor employed there in a time of scarcity*

*The Bread cast on the Water the Scripture says
And thou shalt find it after many days.
Armar obedient to the Text appears,
And may he find it after many years.*

*He makes his Riches, like his Water, flow
In many copious channels that conduce
At once to Public ornament and Use
Foe to the vagrant weed's destructive growth,
Sustaining Want, he exercises Sloth
In splendid Labours, where his seeming Waste
Is only Beauty in the dress of Taste*

This is thought to refer to the construction of the lake and canals of the formal gardens.

Margetson and his wife Mary were in poor health, he died in 1773 and she in 1774.

Margetson Armar was the uncle of the first Earl Belmore, Armar Lowry. Leslie Corry, having no children, came to an arrangement with Armar Margetson that Margetson would pass on the inheritance through Leslie's aunts Mary and Sarah (Armar Lowry's mother) to Armar Lowry.

4.1.8 Armar Lowry-Corry



Armar Lowry inherited Castle Coole in 1774 and took the name Lowry-Corry in recognition of his inheritance. He had married Lady Margaret Butler, daughter of the Earl of Carrick in 1771.

Figure 22 Armar Lowry-Corry

She died after only five years of marriage, leaving a son, Somerset, who would become the second Earl Belmore.

Armar was very successful in politics and became extremely wealthy on the death of his mother in 1779. As a rich widower he was extremely eligible. The Earl of Shannon, a great fixer of Irish political life at that time, proposed Armar for a peerage and arranged for him to marry his seventeen year old daughter Henrietta. They married in 1780.

This was not a happy marriage. Young Henrietta, who enjoyed the spirited social life of Dublin, hated Castle Coole and had no interest in Baron Belmore – a title she had chosen for him. It is said that she repeatedly and publicly showed her disgust for her new husband. One year into the marriage, shortly after the birth of her first child, Belmore announced that he wanted a separation.

An arrangement was reached that Henrietta could keep their baby daughter Louisa until the age of five when she would be returned to Castle Coole to live with her father. In the event Belmore ignored this arrangement and took the child directly after the separation. They divorced in February 1793.

Belmore did not immediately remarry however he went on to have relationships with two women who lived on the estate, producing three illegitimate children between them. Margaret Begby gave birth to Emily Maria Lowry Corry in 1784 and John Corry in 1787. In 1797 Miss Bowen, the coachman's daughter, gave birth to Armar Lowry Corry.

In the early 1780s Armar began making plans for a new house. The formal garden design had become unfashionable and he planned a new naturalistic demesne landscape with Lake Coole as its main focal point.

In 1794, twelve months after his divorce, he married Mary Anne Caldwell, but there were no further children.

The new house was constructed between 1789 and 1798. The canals of the formal gardens were back filled and the plants and trees removed.

In 1797 the Queen Ann was destroyed by fire. Someone had left a pan of hot coals on the staircase which caught fire.

5. Recommendations for further work

Cattle are currently grazing on the bowling green and the sunken parterre. There is considerable trample damage to the surviving earthworks of the Bowling Green and Sunken Parterre. Livestock should be excluded from this area to prevent further damage.

6. Bibliography

Belmore (1881) *The History of the Two Ulster Manors of Finagh, in the County of Tyrone, and Coole, otherwise Manor Atkinson, in the County of Fermanagh, and of their owners.* London and Dublin.

Marson, P. *Belmore: The Lowry Corrys of Castle Coole, 1646 to 1913.* Ulster Historical Foundation. 2007 Belfast.

Nicholas Pynnar's Survey of Ulster 1618 - 9, in *Harris Hibernica*. Pt. i 139 - 241.

Taylor, G., Skinner, A. (1778) *Maps of the Roads of Ireland Surveyed 1777.* London and Dublin.

Appendix**Photographic Record***Ricoh Caplio 600G Wide Digital Camera*

Frame no	Direction viewed from	Details
006	SE	View of Sunken Parterre
009	NE	View of Bowling Green
010	NE	View of Sunken Parterre
011	N	View of Bowling Green
014	S	View along top of Bank
018	N	View towards Queen Anne House site