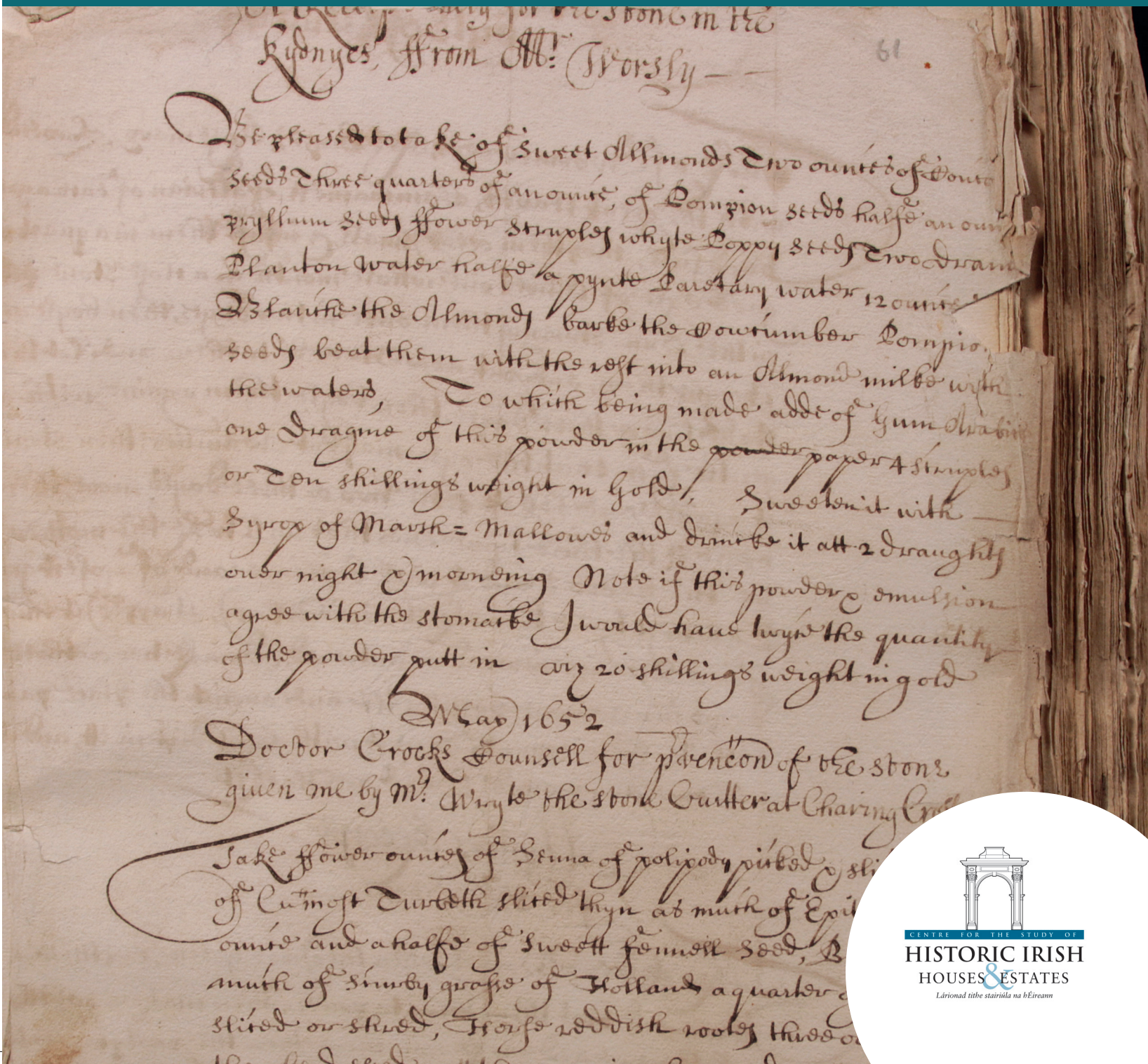




Country house archives and the public good

Friday 8 November 2024

John Paul II Library, Maynooth University



Hydnyes, from Abb: Worsly

It pleased to take of Sweet Almonds two ounce of white
seeds three quarters of an ounce of Compton seeds halfe an ounce
pyllum seeds flower strypley white Coppy seeds two dram
Planton water halfe a pinte Carstany water 12 ounce
It laute the Almond Carbs the Cowrumber Compio
seeds beat them with the rest into an Almond milke with
the waters, To which being made adde of Gum arabic
one Dragma of this powder in the powder paper 4 simples
or 20 shillings weight in gold, Sweeten it with
Syrup of Marsh-mallows and drinke it att 2 draughts
euer night & morning Note if this powder & emulsion
agree with the stomacke I would haue buyed the quantity
of the powder putt in att 20 shillings weight in gold

May 1652

Doctor Crocks Counsell for p[re]vention of the stone
given me by M^r. Wyle the stone cutter at Charing Cross

Take flower ounce of Semen of polipody p[re]pared & sliced
of Cutmost Turbith sliced thyn as much of Epit
ounce and a halfe of Sweet fennell seed, &
much of shirby grass of Holland a quarter
sliced or shred, Herse reddish roots three or
the red seed



Country house archives and the public good

The Heritage Council is delighted to continue its partnership with Maynooth University's Centre for the Study of Historic Irish Houses and Estates (CSHIHE). Building on the success of last year's inaugural seminar, we are excited to bring together a range of expert speakers for this year's event, focusing on archival collections in country houses in Ireland.

Our ongoing collaboration with CSHIHE underscores our commitment to supporting the stewardship of privately owned heritage. Our strategic plan, *Our Place in Time 2023-2028*, specifically references our aims and objectives in this area. In Ireland, the vast majority of cultural heritage, including archives, libraries, paintings, and artefacts, is in private ownership. Private owners act as custodians of this heritage, and it is essential that the Heritage Council supports them in fulfilling their stewardship responsibilities.

This year, we are particularly pleased to highlight the new survey of country house archives conducted by Dr Veronica Barry. This survey, initiated in June 2024, involved circulating a detailed questionnaire to country house owners and conducting site visits to gather comprehensive data. The surveyed collections include a wide range of archival materials, from personal letters and estate records to photographs and architectural plans.

Dr Barry's survey findings reveal that while some collections are in good condition, many face challenges such as inadequate storage, environmental damage, and lack of appropriate cataloguing. Common issues include damage from dampness, pests, and improper handling. The site visits provided further insights into these challenges, highlighting the need for better storage solutions and professional conservation efforts.

The survey also uncovered significant research potential within these archives. Many collections contain valuable historical information that is crucial for understanding the social, economic, and political history of Ireland. Access by scholars to the wealth of information contained within country house archives will help to develop a greater understanding of a shared history. Likewise, valuable local information about people and places are recorded in the rentals and maps which are usually found in country house archives. Placemaking and its importance to communities is a significant part of the Heritage Council's approach to preserving national heritage, and access to the documentary heritage of a place is a key factor in achieving this.

The Heritage Council has been a steadfast supporter of CSHIHE, recognising its profound understanding of the significance of preserving and promoting Ireland's rich cultural heritage. The Centre's inclusive approach to public engagement involves private owners, scholars, policymakers, heritage organisations, and the general public, ensuring that the benefits of their work are widely felt. This collaborative spirit has been instrumental in the success of their public engagement initiatives, bridging the gap between academia and the wider community.

This ongoing partnership with CSHIHE at Maynooth University is a crucial step towards our goal of preserving Ireland's cultural heritage for the benefit of all.

Virginia Teehan, CEO, The Heritage Council



As Assistant Director of the Centre for the Study of Historic Irish Houses & Estates, based at the Department of History, Maynooth University (CSHIHE) I would like to join with Virginia Teehan, CEO of The Heritage Council, in welcoming you to today's workshop on 'Country house archives and the public good'.

The CSHIHE sits within the Department of History at Maynooth University and is a unique public-private venture, supported by the Office of Public Works as well as a number of private benefactors. It aims to secure and enhance public appreciation of historic properties by supporting education, research and scholarly publication.

In addition to promoting research into historic houses, their estates and families, third-level educational initiatives have included the development of undergraduate modules on the social, political, economic and cultural history of Irish country houses, their architectural evolution, their material culture and the creation (and destruction) of their surrounding landscapes.

Since 2003, one of the key activities of the Centre has been the organisation of an Annual Historic Houses Conference (usually held in May), in collaboration with the OPW and supported by other academic partners down the years, including the Yorkshire Country House Partnership; the Institute for the Study of Welsh Estates; and the Centre for the Study of Scotland's Land Future. The conference provides focus and recognition for new scholarship and other developments in the field of built heritage studies throughout Ireland and wider Europe.

The CSHIHE is also grateful to private benefactors for their support over the years, and in the case of today's event we would like to acknowledge in particular the Stackallen benefaction.

In 2008, the CSHIHE and OPW came together in collaboration with Maynooth University Library to establish the OPW-Maynooth University Archive and Research Centre at Castletown (OMARC). Located on the first floor of Castletown House, OMARC facilitates the care and study of archives and other sources relating to the history of Irish country houses, landed estates and the decorative arts. In more recent years, the CSHIHE has been delighted to work collaboratively with the Historic Houses of Ireland Association, which numbers over 100 privately owned houses in Ireland. It is to be hoped that today's event will be of special benefit to them.



The CSHIHE is delighted to once again collaborate with the Heritage Council for this event which brings together all of those with an interest in archives within the sphere of the historic house in Ireland and further afield. The theme of this workshop emanates from discussions at last year's event which explored the idea of caring for collections within the historic house.

With papers from Irish and international experts, this day-long workshop aims to provide further information to custodians, researchers and the wider public on the value of archives in interpreting local and national histories.

The workshop commences today with a report from Dr Veronica Barry on 'Irish country house archives in private ownership'. This scoping exercise, a collaborative effort between the CSHIHE and the Heritage Council, sought to identify the location, nature and condition of country house archival collections held in private ownership, and to establish the extent to which these archival collections are accessible to researchers. As Dr Barry will highlight, there are a number of practical recommendations to safeguard the future preservation of country house archives in private ownership, and many of those will feature in the presentations today.

We hope you enjoy the workshop, the discussion and your visit to Maynooth today.

**Dr Ciarán Reilly, Assistant Director, Centre for the Study of Historic Irish Houses & Estates,
Department of History, Maynooth**



Programme Friday 8 November 2024

9.15-9.45 Registration

9.45-10.00 **Welcome:**
Dr Patricia O'Hare (The Heritage Council)
Dr Ciarán Reilly (CSHIHE, Dept of History, MU)

PANEL 1 Chair: Aalia Kamal, Cultural and Inclusive Heritage Officer, The Heritage Council

10.00-10.20 **Veronica Barry** The Irish country house archives project

10.20-10.40 **Julia Porier** Safeguarding your story: Best practice for archive care and preservation

10.40-11.00 **Fiona White** The Lucas Clements archive at Maynooth

11.00 -11.15 Q&A

11.15-11.45 Tea & coffee

PANEL 2 Chair: Michaela Hollywood, Head of Collections and Content, Maynooth University Library

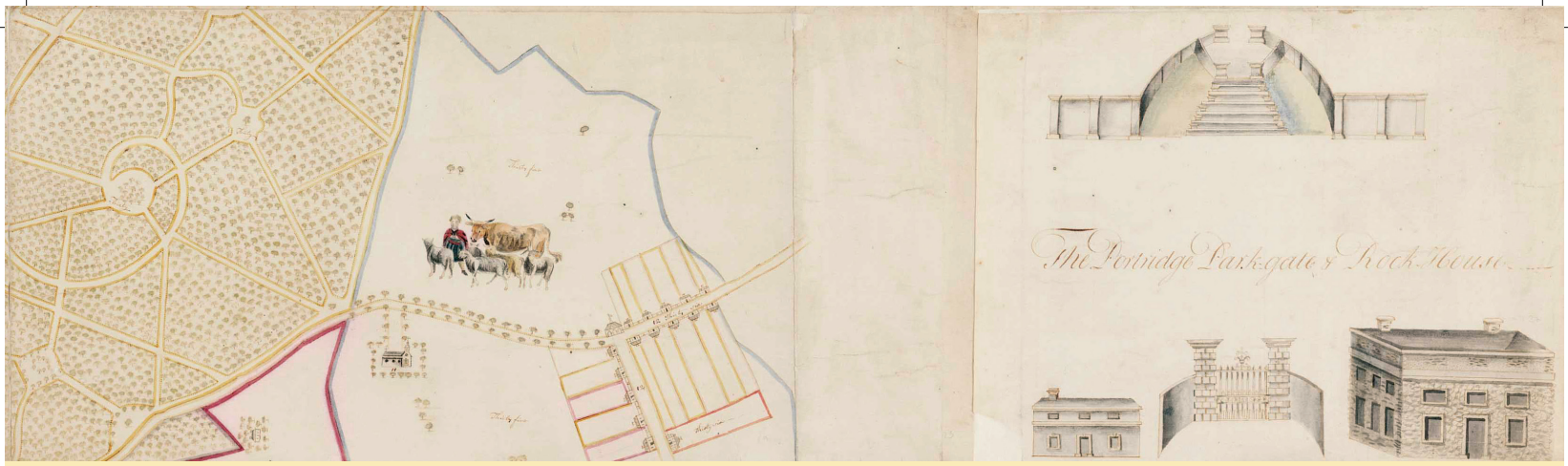
11.45-12.05 **Jon Stobart** Small stories and big pictures: learning from English country house archives

12.05-12.25 **Violet Manners** Preserving the past and looking to the future

12.25-12.45 **Sarah Roller** Telling new histories: a new chapter for the British country house archive?

12.45-13.00 Q&A

13.00-14.00 Lunch



PANEL 3 **Chair: Lisa Shortall, Head of Research, Learning and Cultural Heritage, The Heritage Council**

14.00-14.20 **Alan Cox and Lesley Whiteside** The Ballinderry House archive project

14.20-14.40 **Jeremy Hill** Monksgrange archives and who owns history?

14.40-15.00 **Aileen Spitere** Pageants, exhibitions, plant hunters and gardens: the diverse uses of a country house archive

15.00-15.15 Q&A

PANEL 4 **Chair: Nicola Kelly, Archivist, Office of Public Works/Maynooth University Archive & Research Centre**

15.15-15.35 **Cathal Dowd Smith** Malahide Castle: the vanguard of public memory

15.35-16.00 **Olwen Purdue** Historic houses as global crossroads: exploring entanglements of local and global identities at Ulster's historic houses

16.00 **Closing remarks**

Virginia Teehan, CEO, The Heritage Council

Professor Terence Dooley (Head of Department of History, Maynooth University & Director of the CSHIHE)

About the speakers

Veronica Barry is currently an Assistant Professor of History at Dublin City University. Since 2020, she has worked with the Centre for the Study of Historic Irish Houses and Estates, Maynooth University, most recently as a researcher on the 'Irish country house archives in private ownership' project which was conducted in association with the Heritage Council.

Alan Cox is a member of the Tyrrell family and is the current owner of Ballinderry House, Carbury, Co. Kildare. The Tyrrell family have lived in Ballinderry House for more than 280 years.

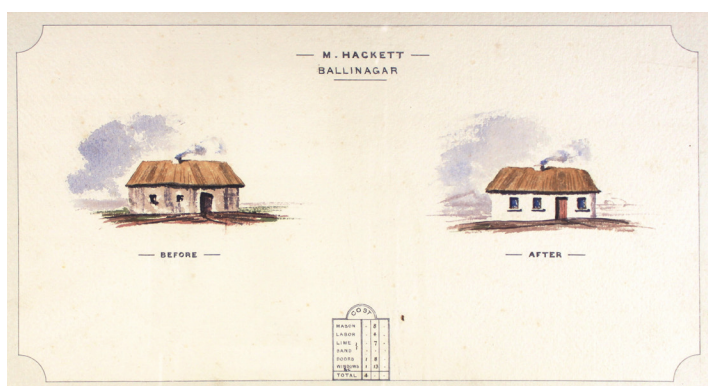
Cathal Dowd Smith is the Curator and Collections Manager of Newbridge House and Farm and Malahide Castle and Gardens. He holds a degree in the History of Art and Architecture and History from Trinity College Dublin. Cathal is currently leading on a project to mark the fiftieth anniversary of Malahide Castle in public ownership.

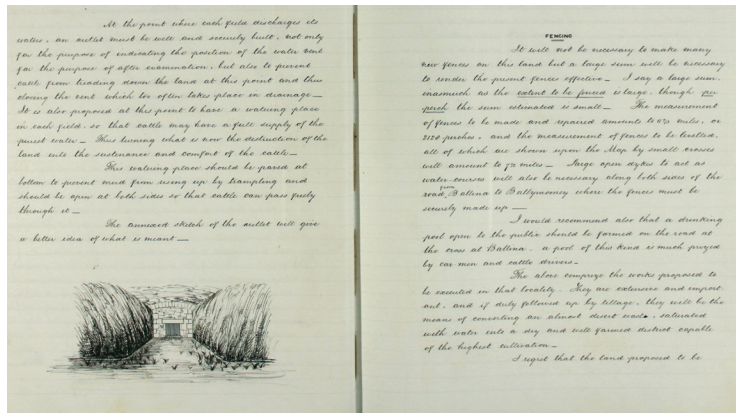
Jeremy Hill manages Monksgrange Archives, one of the largest such collections in private hands in Ireland. Earlier careers were in aviation, thoroughbred breeding and the visual and performing arts.

Violet Manners knows the realm of historic houses across the UK well, being the daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Rutland, and grew up at Belvoir Castle. She has witnessed first-hand the increasing number of younger, more diverse and digitally savvy visitors who are 'heritage-curious', a trend no doubt fuelled by popular Regency hits like *Bridgerton*. Motivated by this shift, she sought to create a solution that would benefit all generations and unite independent historic houses in one accessible platform. Violet is the founder and CEO of the newly launched HeritageXplore. She is dedicated to champion the UK's independent historic houses, showcasing their beauty and charm to a wider audience through this innovative new digital platform. HeritageXplore provides a discovery and booking service for independently owned heritage sites, making it easier for people to explore these hidden gems.

Julia Porier is the Book Conservator at Maynooth University Library and accredited member of ICRI. She graduated with a Master's degree in Paper Conservation from Northumbria University, Newcastle in 2010. She worked as book conservator for the Derry and Raphoe Conservation Project with the University of Ulster until 2012. She then joined the Chester Beatty, Dublin, as the Heritage Council conservation intern (2012-2013) and remained in her former role as Book and Paper Conservator until July 2024.

Olwen Purdue is Professor of Modern Social History at Queen's University Belfast where she works on social class, power and agency in nineteenth- and twentieth-century Ireland. She is the author of two monographs: *The Big House in the North of Ireland: Land, Power and Social Elites 1878-1960* (Dublin, 2009) and *Children, Poverty and the Poor Law in industrial Belfast 1880-1914* (Liverpool, 2024). She also works on public history particularly





in difficult or contested contexts, and founded and directs the Centre for Public History and the MA in Public History at Queen's University. Her latest edited volume, *Public History in Ireland: Difficult Pasts*, was published by Routledge in 2024. She sits on the Council of the Royal Historical Society and the Board of Directors of the Irish Museums Association. She is a member of the project board for National Museums NI's redevelopment of the Ulster Museum, was historical advisor to the Titanic Belfast and a member of the advisory panel for the Ulster Museum's *Troubles and Beyond* gallery. She is currently collaborating with the Smithsonian Institution and the US Holocaust Memorial Museum on dealing with difficult pasts.

Sarah Roller manages the policy and engagement work of Historic Houses, the not-for-profit membership association representing 1,450 Grade I and II listed historic houses and gardens across the UK. Before joining Historic Houses in early 2022, she worked in various history and heritage sector roles, including in communications, digital media and collections/curation work. She is a trustee of the Heritage Education Trust, and holds an MPhil in Public History and Cultural Heritage from Trinity College Dublin.

Aileen Spitere is an archivist currently cataloguing the archive at Annes Grove in North Cork for the OPW. Prior to that she spent many years working for Library and Archives Canada researching and locating material relating to Canada in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

Jon Stobart is Professor of Social History at Manchester Metropolitan University. He has been studying English country houses for more than 20 years and has a particular interest in systems of supply, material culture and ideas of comfort. He has written and edited several books on these topics, most recently *Comfort and the Eighteenth-Century Country House* (2022) and *Global Goods and the Country House: Comparative Perspectives* (2023). Jon is currently running an international research network on country house servants.

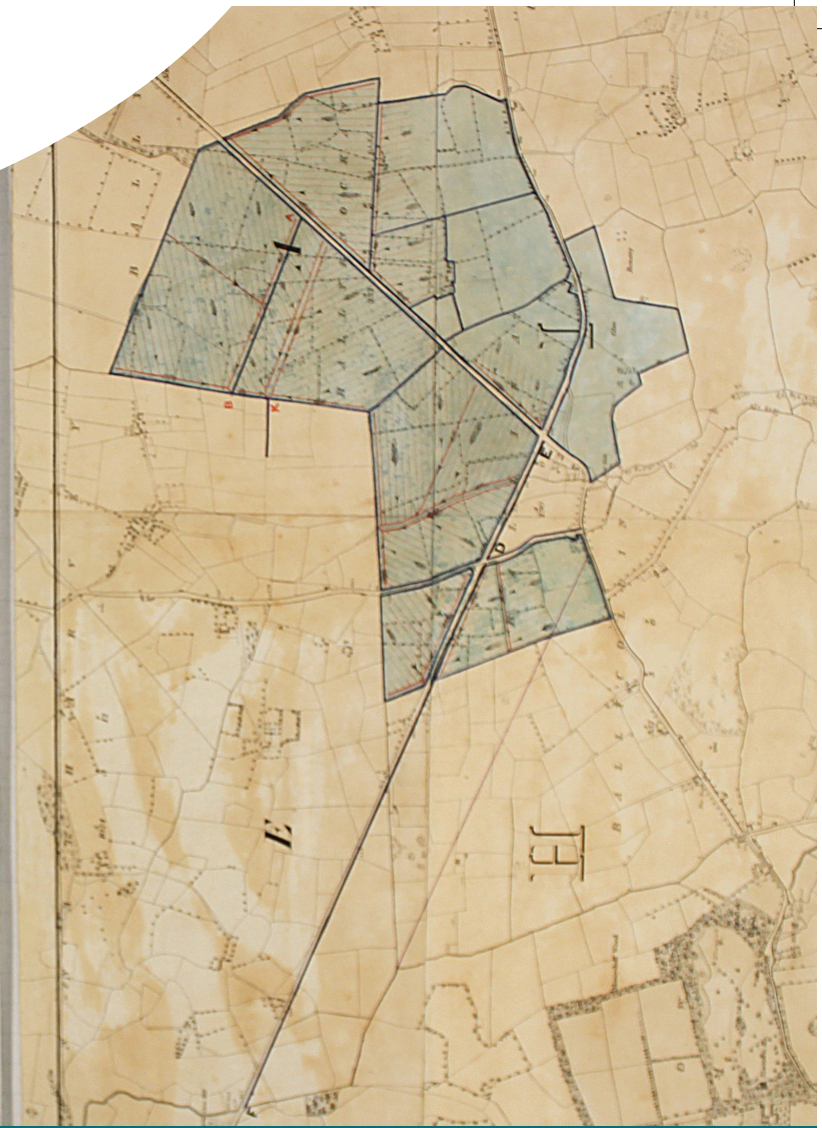
Fiona White is an archivist with responsibility for the landed estate archives project at Maynooth University which is funded by the Stackallen benefaction. She is a graduate of UCD with a degree in English Literature and Linguistics and a graduate of the UCD Archives and Records Management postgraduate programme. Prior to coming to Maynooth University, Fiona worked for many years in the areas of archives and records management in both the public and private sectors.

Lesley Whiteside an historian and archives consultant, has in recent years concentrated on the Irish country house and its agricultural environment. Her consideration of country house archives, 'Private archives in the Irish country house: a personal perspective', appeared in *Country House Collections*, edited by Terence Dooley and Christopher Ridgway in 2021. Her latest book, *Farming and society since 1700 in the barony of Carbury, Co. Kildare*, was published last month. She is the archives consultant to the Monksgrange Trust and to the Ballinderry House archive, both of which feature in this seminar.



An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council

Open River course 80 perches at 10/ per	72 0 0	
Do 352 do at 10/ per	176 0 0	
Bridge under Road at Cross Keys	20 0 0	268 0 0
FILLING-IN LEVELLING		
Filling in levelling &c 412 perches of open dykes at 5/ per		103 0 0
THORO DRAINAGE		
272 acres Thoro drained at 1.5 s & per Statute acre	1452 10 0	
272 acres levelled, cleared of furze, roots of trees &c at 10/ per	156 0 0	1560 10 0
FENCING		
116 Perches of new fences at 2/ per	23 4 0	
2012 do present fences, re-sinking and trimming at 1/3 per perch	125 13 0	148 10 0
2520 Perches of old useless fences levelled at 4/ per perch		116 0 0
		2204 9 0
Incidentals, overseeing &c do 10 per cent		220 9 0
Total Amount of Estimate	£ 2424 10 0	
6 1/2 cent per acre		



Country house archives and the public good

Friday 8 November 2024



Maynooth University
National University
of Ireland Maynooth



CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF
**HISTORIC IRISH
HOUSES & ESTATES**
Lárionad tith stairiúla na hÉireann