



Mallow Town Park

Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment

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May 2021

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Introduction

JCA Architects are members of the design team, headed by Brady Shipman Martin, and including Dan Noonan Archaeology, who have been appointed by Cork County Council to prepare a framework masterplan for better access and utility for the grounds of its landholding in Mallow Town. Much of this landholding incorporates the demesne lands of Mallow Castle and House and also includes the Spa House and grounds to the north of Mallow Castle on Spa Walk.

Mallow Castle House (sometimes known as New Mallow Castle, or Mallow Manor) is situated in the centre of Mallow town, with demesne lands extending south to the banks of the Blackwater River. A short distance to the south of the house the ruins of the earlier Mallow Castle, a fortified house, are retained. These buildings, a gate lodge and a number of outbuilding complexes, all currently share the same entrance off Bridewell Lane and extend south along the northern bank of the river Blackwater. Further grounds which are the subject of the framework master plan comprise the playing fields and town park which lies west of Mallow Bridge, in an area historically known as the Long Meadow.

Mallow Castle House is a protected structure on the Mallow Town Plan (Reg. No. 15), as is the ruined earlier castle (Reg. No. 13) and the entrance gates, lodge, outbuildings and garden complex (Reg. Nos. 14 – 18). Any garden structures or features within the curtilage of these structures, such as stone walls, gates, glass houses, embankments etc would be including in the protected structure status of Reg. Nos. 13 – 18. In addition to being a protected structure, Mallow Castle House is also an archaeological monument (CO033-009002-), and being in the ownership of the Local Authority, the building has National Monument status.¹The definition of a National Monument includes the land adjacent to the site or structure, which is necessary to preserve the amenities of that monument.

The adjacent ruined castle is also a National Monument (CO033-009001-). Several other archaeological monuments are recorded within the demesne, including the remains of a tower house, bawn (CO033-009006), a lime kiln and a rath. Historic landscape features associated with the earlier castle are also included on the Record of Monuments and Places (CO033-092---). These are described as a rectilinear system of low earth works banks within the deer-park, immediately east of the 19th century country house.

The following report has been prepared for Cork County Council as part of a Framework Master Plan for the demesne lands still associated with the castle, and for grounds to the southwest along the river. This phase of the proposed works is associated with the Town Park area, located to the southwest of the demesne lands associated with Mallow Castle, and will form the basis of a Part XAB planning application.

¹ National Monuments are defined as those structures or sites for which the Minister of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government or a local authority has ownership or guardianship (in addition to those structures or sites which are subject to a preservation order). Section 14 of the 1930 national Monuments Act as amended by Section 5 of the 2004 National Monuments (Amendment) Act requires that anyone wishing to demolish, remove, or disfigure, deface or alter a National Monument must obtain consent from the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in advance. It is also unlawful to excavate, dig, plough or otherwise disturb the ground within, around or in proximity to a National Monument without ministerial consent. Unless consent has been applied for and granted in writing, it is an offence to interfere with a National Monument.

The area to the south of Mallow Castle, forming the southern portion of the demesne lands and included in the Part XAB planning application also forms part of Architectural Conservation Area 1 for Mallow Town.

The following report will focus on the proposals to this area, in the context of the nearby historic demesne lands and any other protected structures which could potentially be affected by the proposed development.

There are no protected structures within the area of the Mallow Town Park. However, there are a number of buildings included on the Record of Protected Structures for Mallow Town on the periphery of this area. These include St. James's Church of Ireland Church (RPS Reg. No. 79), St. Mary's Church and Graveyard (Reg. No. 120), St. Mary's R.C. Church (Reg. No. 33), Mallow Bridge (Reg. no. 129) and the quay wall, limestone coping and single-arch bridge to the southeast of Mallow Bridge (Reg. No. 130). In addition a group of protected structures associated with Belview House (Reg. No. 124) located to the southern bank of the river overlook the Town Park (Fig. 1).

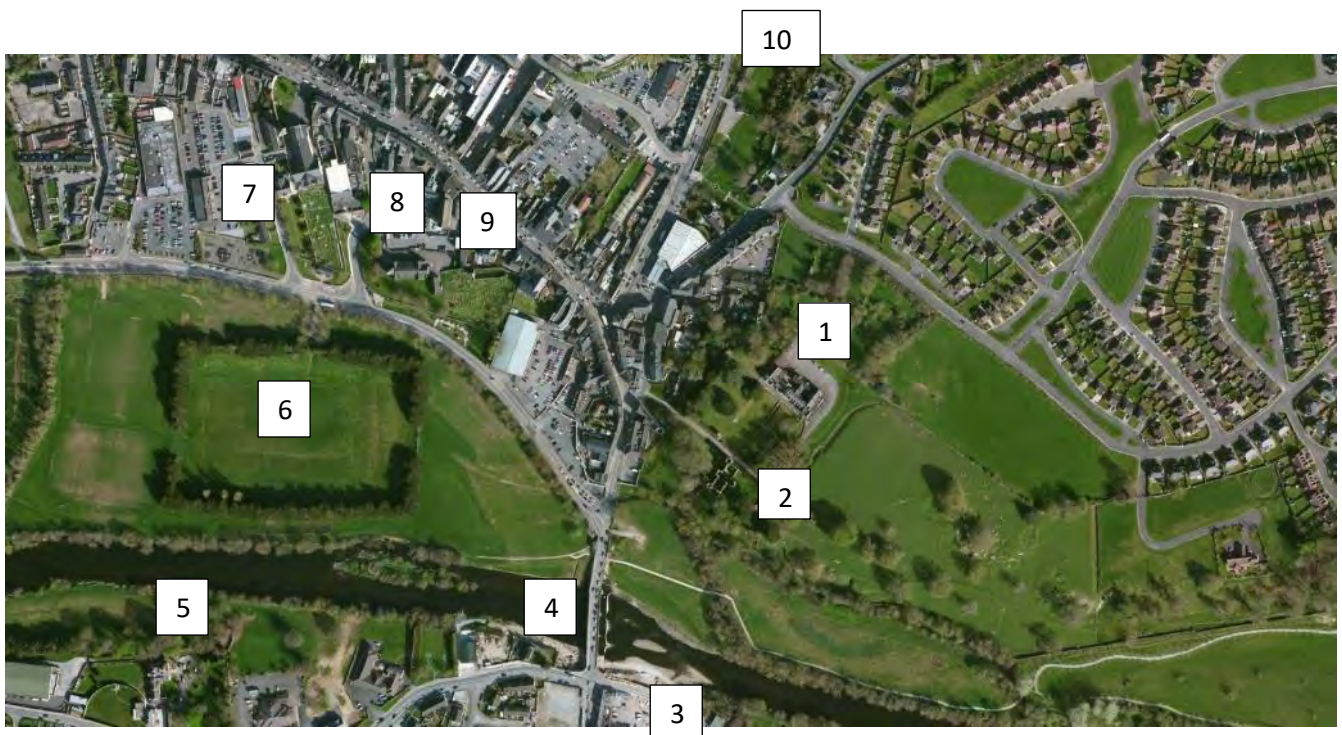


Fig. 1: Aerial photograph of the Mallow Town Park and Mallow Castle Demesne, with significant sites (as outlined above) indicated.

1. Mallow Castle House (RPS Reg. Nos. 14, 15, 16 and 18)
2. Old Mallow Castle (in ruins) (RPS Reg. Nos. 13 and 17)
3. Quay Wall, limestone coping etc. (RPS Reg. No. 130)
4. Mallow Bridge (RPS Reg. no. 129)
5. Belview House (RPS Reg. No. 124)
6. Mallow Town Park
7. St. Mary's R.C. Church (RPS Reg. No. 33)
8. St. James's Church of Ireland Church (RPS Reg. No. 79)
9. St. Mary's Church and Graveyard (Reg. No. 120)
10. Mallow Spa House (RPS Reg. No. 12)

Part 1: History and Record of the Town Park and Adjacent Structures of Significance

Historical Development of the Demesne and Designed Landscape

An extensive written description and discussion of the historical development of the castle, house and demesne at Mallow Castle is contained in Dan Noonan's *Mallow Castle House and Demesne Conservation Plan*, November 2012, prepared for the Heritage Unit of Cork County Council with support from the Heritage Council.² Further research and recording was carried out as part of the Part VIII application made for Mallow Castle gardens (submitted in December 2019) for the proposed development of the walled gardens to the north of Mallow Castle House, improving public access to the Castle Grounds and providing a natural themed, inclusive children's playground amenity, with associated site works and landscaping. The reports prepared for the Part VIII application were supplemented by additional historical research in the form of historical accounts of the demesne which helped to build a picture of the origins of the designed landscape elements on the site, including the gardens and farm. The Jephson Papers in the Mallow Castle Collection, held by UCC, were also consulted with maps and account ledgers providing additional relevant information regarding the gardens, landscape and demesne associated with the house. In addition to archival research, the Part VIII reports were also informed by archaeological testing carried out by Dan Noonan Archaeology in the area of the gardens.³

The following historical context in this report focuses on the area of the town known as the Town Park, which lies to the southwest of Mallow Demesne on west side of Mallow Bridge. It will also include the historical development of the southern portion of Mallow demesne, to the east side of the bridge which forms part of the historical grounds associated with the castle and where some works are proposed.

Southern Area of Mallow Demesne, North bank of Blackwater River

The Sixteenth Century

The earliest descriptive record available, which mentions also the grounds associated with the castle, was written in 1584 as part of a survey of the forfeited lands of Gerald, Earl of Desmond.⁴ This account refers to an earlier structure on or adjacent to the site of the present ruined fortified house and is described as '*..one castle containing two small courts and one great barbican.*' It is thought that the current ruined structure located to the south-east of the castle today may once have been part of the bawn wall of this earlier castle. The survey records that the house and castle stand in a dry, good and wholesome place '*..having on the north side very good arable land, one the south side very good, lowe and firme grownde for meadowe*'. It mentions that fish (salmon, trout and other fresh fish) can be found in the river '*..wherein there is great fishing..*', and that there are substantial woods belonging to the manor and that there is a rabbit warren on the east side of the castle and '*..in the woods and lands..are many beasts, as well as red deer as fallow, a great many partridges, pheasants and the like*'.

² Greene, F. and Noonan, D., *Mallow Castle House and Demesne Conservation Plan*, November 2012

³ The Part VIII documentation for the works to the gardens at Mallow Castle, as submitted in December 2019, is available here:

<https://www.corkcoco.ie/en/Planning%20/Part%208%20Development%20Consultation/active-part-8-development-consultation>

⁴ Quoted in Berry, Henry F., *The Manor and Castle of Mallow in the days of the Tudors*, JCHAS 1893, Vol 2, No. 14.

The above account, associated with the earlier castle, makes no mention of gardens or walled areas, although the arable land to the north became the fields of the later demesne, while the rabbit warren is mentioned in later accounts also. The emphasis in this survey was on the hunting and fishing opportunities provided by the lands associated with the castle and the ample supply of wild food sources rather than farm or garden produce.

The Seventeenth Century

Harold Leask, who carried out extensive investigations and research into the surviving Mallow Castle structure during the 1930s-40s, determined that the castle dated to the marriage of Sir John Jephson to Elizabeth Norreys which occurred in c. 1610.⁵ In 1622, James I issued a commission to make a thorough inquiry into the general condition of the plantations in Ireland. This survey of the plantation of Munster recorded that 'a goodly, strong and sumptuous house' had been built by Sir Thomas Norris upon the ruins of the old castle, and that it had a bawn and many convenient houses of office. Interestingly, the survey also notes that the house had two gardens and an orchard, containing about four acres of ground, '*one garden being walled with a stone wall, twelve foot in height. The other garden and orchard strongly fenced.*'⁶

Just eleven years later, in 1633, the Earl of Cork wrote of the manor house at Mallow in a letter to Sir John Jephson which describes the gardens and grounds associated with the house. He mentions orchards, gardens, houses of office, a pigeon house and 150 acres of lands '*..laid as a demesne to the house...with a parck [sic] of deer.*'⁷ The Earl also mentions a '*smale connye warren [sic]*', or rabbit warren, first mentioned in the 1584 survey. Sir John Jephson's will of 1658 describes the gardens and lands associated with the castle in the mid-17th century, and confirms that the earlier description by the Earl of Cork of a designed landscape associated with Mallow Castle at this time. Jephson, who desired that his wife would live in Ireland following his death, writes of his '*..house in mallow, which I give her for life, with all the gardens and orchards, the long warren in the glyn, and all lands behind the castle to Gallows Hill lane, with the little meadow under the castle, if she shall live there however until my son and heir come to age.*'⁸

A further mid-17th century description by the physician and antiquarian Dr. E. Borlase reads as follows:

To the castle, which for strength and beauty is inferior to few in the kingdom, doth belong a fair and large demesne, two pigeon house, a coneygerre [rabbit warren], a pleasant and spacious park, well impaled, of over four and a half miles circumference, equally composed of lawns, sheerewood, coppices, brakes and shelter, with a large paddock of sixty acres, and so well furnished with fallow deer (and some red deer also) that there would have been this next season one hundred full complete bucks,

⁵ Leask, H.G., *Mallow Castle*, Co. Cork, JCHAS 1944, Vol. 49, No. 169, pages 19-24.

⁶ This survey is quoted in Dunlop. Robert, *An Unpublished Survey of the Plantation of Munster in 1622*, JCHAS, 1924, Vol. 14, pages 128-146.

⁷ Quoted in Berry, Henry F., JCHAS, *The English Settlement in Mallow under the Jephson Family*, 1906, Vol. 12, No. 69, pages 1-26.

⁸ Quoted in *Ibid.*, page 3.

most of which are now killed or driven thence and the pale destroyed in many place.
.. there is no place in the kingdom that can scarce parallel this.⁹

It is clear from these descriptions that in addition to the retention of earlier elements of the grounds associated with the castle, such as the deer park and rabbit warren, formal walled gardens and planted orchards were developed during the first half of the 17th century. These structured gardens, in addition to the large tracts of land fenced in by palisades, were typical elements of designed landscapes of the 17th century and show a comprehensive project to formalise the grounds around the castle. Pigeon houses also were typical of the period (although they had existed since the medieval period) and housed birds which were bred for food. The pigeon houses also provided manure, used as a soil enricher, and were therefore often situated within or close to the pleasure garden.¹⁰ Borlase's account describes a formally managed demesne, of lawns and carefully planned pasture land in the form of fenced paddocks with managed plantations of trees replacing the woodlands in earlier descriptions.

It is traditionally stated that Mallow Castle was badly damaged in the late 17th century during the Williamite War (1688-1691) from which time it was no longer occupied as a residence, although Leask states in his article on the castle that he found no evidence of when the castle was finally abandoned.¹¹ The understanding is that the family took up residence in existing outbuildings at the time the castle was damaged, although what these outbuildings comprised or where exactly they were located is unclear. A simple survey drawing dated 1704 and signed Thomas Smith survives as part of the Jephson Papers held in the Boole Library in University College Cork, which shows the approximate location of buildings and the layout of the demesne at that period (Fig. 2).¹²

The survey illustrates the layout of the meadows and 'horspark [sic]' (Marked as A). A house is illustrated in the approximate location of the existing house with a 'back yard' immediately to its east, although whether this represents a house or the (likely at this time abandoned) castle is unclear. The footprint of an L-shaped building is indicated to the north of this in area where the gardens are likely to have been located. No references to gardens or orchards are given on this map.

Smyth's drawing is simple, and generally indicates the field and avenue layouts of the demesne in the very early 18th century. No specific detail is provided for the area along the northern river banks, although it appears that the river formed the natural boundary to the horsepark and large field marked as 'E' on the survey of 1704.

⁹ Quoted in Jephson, Maurice Denham, *An Anglo-Irish Miscellany: some records of the Jephsons of Mallow*, 1964, Dublin, p.2.

¹⁰ Costello, Vandra, *Irish Demesne Landscapes, 1660-1740*, Dublin, 2015, p.70.

¹¹ Leask, *Ibid.*, p.23

¹² Uncatalogued Jephson Papers; Mallow Castle Archive, in Special Collections at the Boole Library, UCC.



Fig. 2: Survey drawing by Thomas Smyth, dated 19th May 1704.

The 18th Century Demesne

During the 18th century many improvements were made to the demesne, although the field system as indicated on the 1704 Smith survey appears to have been retained to a large degree. A deerpark was retained to the demesne, located along the southern side of the demesne stretching from east to west across the grounds overlooked by the old castle and the house. Apart from the basic survey of 1704 mentioned above, no other detailed maps or surveys of the demesne are known for the 18th century, but it is likely that the layout of the park and fields, as shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of c. 1840 was that of the demesne which developed in the century prior to that (Fig. 3). A number of travellers' accounts of Mallow Castle House made during the 18th century describe in detail the farming practices of Col. Denham Jephson on a demesne which had been improved according to all the best practices of the period. Arthur Young, who visited in 1776, wrote regarding Jephson's demesne that:

'The whole is divided into fields, of a moderate size, with double quick hedges, well planted with trees, and kept in the most perfect degree of neatness; between the hedges are gravel walks, so that there is a planted communication about all the fields; the gates are neat and light, and every attention preserved to give the whole the appearance of a *ferme orné*.¹³

¹³ Young, Arthur, *Tour in Ireland (1776-1779)*, in Mallow 1776, London 1892, pps.308-309.



Fig. 3: Extract from the first edition Ordnance Survey map showing the Castle Demesne

In addition to the above, Young described the farming practices of the demesne, with crops of potatoes, oats and wheat, and with a herd of up to 60 dairy cows, with the farm producing both butter and cheese. He notes that great quantities of lime were used, with 100 barrels an acre laid.

A number of years later, in 1786, William Wilson recorded his visit to Mallow Castle House, writing that *'The park is well stocked with deer; the shrubberies, fields and walks are planned in a style of elegant simplicity, which reflects great credit on the taste of Mr. Jephson.'*¹⁴ In 1810 Reverend Horatio Townsend was equally impressed with the orderly arrangement of the grounds into fields surrounded by double fences of quicks (hawthorns or other thorny hedgerow plants) writing that *'As a ferme orné (so it has been appropriately termed by Mr Young), it is not, perhaps, exceeded by any demesne in the kingdom.'*¹⁵

The improvements made to the demesne in the 18th century, and the earlier landscape features retained as part of this, are illustrated on the first edition Ordnance Survey map. This map shows the extent of the demesne which reaches from the Blackwater to the south to the large ring fort preserved to the northeast, just inside the townland boundary of Carrigoonbeg. Two other ring forts are also preserved in the demesne lands. To the south is the deer park which comprises a mixture of woodlands and open park. While medieval deer parks tended to be composed of dense natural woodlands, their later counterparts were designed to make the chase easier and to encourage breeding, with open pasture included for

¹⁴ Wilson, William, *The Post-chaise Companion: or Travellers Directory Through Ireland*, 1786.

¹⁵ Townsend, Rev. Horatio, *Statistical Survey of Cork*, 1810

grazing.¹⁶ It is this arrangement that can be clearly identified on the first edition OS map which is cut through with a long, meandering pathway leading through the woodland to the easternmost side of the demesne. Remnants of two formal straight avenues also appear to be indicated to the front of the house.

Waterways and planting are visible on the first edition OS map to the area south of the deer park, along the northern bank of the river, which formed part of the demesne lands.

The 19th Century

Charles Denham Orlando Jephson (later Norreys) succeeded to the estate in 1813 and continued to carry out improvements to the demesne he had inherited at Mallow Castle House. He is remembered particularly for rebuilding the main house and for the large stable yard and outbuildings located off the rear avenue. It appears that Jephson's work began in earnest post 1820, as a ledger survives recording work carried out between March 1821 and April 1822 which details a huge amount of improvements to the demesne and buildings; in Jephson's own words 'Jobs almost innumerable in house and offices.'¹⁷

While works to reconstruct the house and outbuildings began in the 1830s, from the records kept in Jephson's ledger it is clear that he began to carry out significant works to the landscape from the early 1820s. While it appears that no major rearrangements of the demesne layout were made by CDO Jephson, he did carry out extensive works to the smaller landscape elements and planting. The ledger records work carried out to the Long Walk, which included gravelling and levelling '...the many ugly ditches which intersected the walk', the planting of many trees around the demesne including ash and willow, and repairing '...the entire wall round the demesne' which was '...new dashed, made up and part [sic] rebuilt.' Jephson also carried out extensive works to the gardens at this time, including cutting down the old orchard and making a new melon ground.

Jephson appears to have also carried out some works to the ground below the deer park, to the southern portion of the demesne. By the time of the Ordnance Survey Town Plan of 1878 (Fig. 4), the area of ground to the south is separated from the deer park by a wall along the southern boundary, and the waterways visible in the first edition OS map have been formalised in to one larger stream. There are many references in the ledger of works from the early 1820s to planting of trees and the demesne walls, and a comparison of early and later 19th century maps for this areas of the demesne indicate some alterations to this area which previously appeared to be more heavily planted and criss-crossed with a number of small streams.

¹⁶ Costello, Ibid, p.166.

¹⁷ Ledger 50. Uncatalogued Jephson Papers; Mallow Castle Archive, in Special Collections at the Boole Library, UCC.



Fig. 4: Extract from the OS Town Plan (1:500) series, published 1877.

20th Century

The farm and gardens of the house continued in use during the first half of the 20th century and the extent of the demesne lands maintained, as the Jephson family continued to live at Mallow Castle House. This ended tragically with the death of Brigadier Maurice Jephson and his wife Eileen in the Tuskar Rock plane crash in 1968.

In the later 20th century, before the sale of Mallow Castle House by the Jephson family to the American McGinn family, the upkeep of the gardens and grounds associated with the house declined. The gardens were not used as productive gardens any longer, although the extent of the demesne remained intact (Fig. 5).



Fig. 5: Aerial photograph by Daphne Pochin Mould, n.d. (post 1970). View north.

A large part of the demesne lands north of the house was sold c. 2000 and housing developed on these grounds. Continued lack of maintenance to the grounds resulted in further decline of the garden structures such as the glass houses and overgrowth of the planted features such as beech and box hedging.

Town Park Area of Mallow

This area of ground, located to the southwest of the Mallow Castle Demesne, was historically known as the Long Meadow. It is identified as such on the first edition OS map of c. 1842 (Fig. 7), where it extends to the properties at the north, comprising the R.C. chapel (St. Mary's), the Church of Ireland church (St. James's) and the old St. Mary's Church and graveyard. The road dividing these properties from the Long Meadow, the Park Road, was not constructed until the 20th century and these properties formed the northern boundary of the Long Meadow (later the Town Park) until this time.



Fig. 7: Extract from the first edition Ordnance Survey map, showing the Town Park area, known at this time as the Long Meadow.

From the time of the first edition map, due to the area acting as a flood plain, there are no structures indicated on Town Park area. On the northern periphery of the Long Meadow are a number of churches, which survive today, the Barracks to the northwest, a tannery to the northeast and Mallow Bridge to the southeast, built in 1712. Further details of these structures are given below.

This arrangement is continued throughout the 19th century and little changes are shown on the OS map of c. 1900. The peripheral buildings remained at the end of the 19th century, although the bridge had been rebuilt following the flood in 1853. The Long Meadow was used from at least the mid-19th century for sporting events. A notice in the Cork Examiner on 22nd May 1869 advertised the annual 'Mallow Foot

Races and Athletic Sports'. The grounds were also used for cricket in the summer months, with the North Cork Rifles, stationed in Barrack Street, playing in the Long Meadow. ¹⁸ The meadow was also used for saving hay which was sold at auction. ¹⁹ The Long Meadow, and grounds known as the Cannon field, containing over 30 acres, were acquired by the Council of the Mallow Urban District for use as recreation ground and public walk for the use of the inhabitants of the district. ²⁰ The proposed uses of the Long Meadow, which began to be referred to as the Town Park, included horse races, athletic sports, coursing matches, horse and agricultural shows, hurling, football contests, hockey and other games. ²¹ Later in the 20th century the grounds were more often used for hurling, football and rugby.



Fig. 6: Cropped section of aerial photograph by Daphne Puchin Mould, n.d. (post 1970).

Extent of Historic Landscape Retained

The demesne lands associated with the house were originally enclosed by the river to the south and terminated to the northeast of the house with the ringfort or rath (SMR reference number CO033-012---) which is retained and is easily identifiable on recent aerial photographs of the site. Much of the demesne lands to the north and northeast of Mallow House are no longer in the same ownership as the house. They are now separated from the grounds of the house to the south by a new roadway, and most of the demesne lands is now built upon with housing.

¹⁸ Linehan, Barry, Cricket in Mallow and Kilshannig between 1863 and 1873, in the Mallow Field Club Journal, No. 28, 2010.

¹⁹ Cork Constitution 21st August 1871

²⁰ Cork Examiner 19th October 1903 includes a notice stating that the Council of the Mallow Urban District give notices ‘..that they intend to present a petition to the Local Government Board for Ireland .. with a view to the compulsory taking of certain lands for the purposes of the above-mentioned acts [Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898 and Public Health (Ireland) Act 1878].

²¹ Cork Examiner 29th January 1908.

The two main areas of the demesne which have survived are the deer park which extends southeast and east of the house, the area along the northern bank of the river, and the production gardens located to the north of the house. Part of one of the demesne fields, located to the south and east of the long walk, is also retained. This area is currently also used for the deer herd.

To the areas of the former demesne that have been developed with housing, landscape features associated with the demesne have been lost. The field boundaries, tree-lined walks, the majority of the Long Avenue and the Long Walk, the former orchard area to the north of the productive gardens and the ice house have all been lost.

The area on the southern boundary of the demesne lands is located between the old castle and the northern bank of the Blackwater river. It is separated from the remaining demesne lands by a stream, over which two bridges have recently been constructed (Fig. 13). The area is grassed and there is a mixture of mature and more recently planted deciduous trees. From the evidence of mid-20th century photographs it is clear that this area was more heavily planted previously than it appears today. The ruined castle is visible through these trees as viewed from the south or from Mallow Bridge, particularly in the winter months.

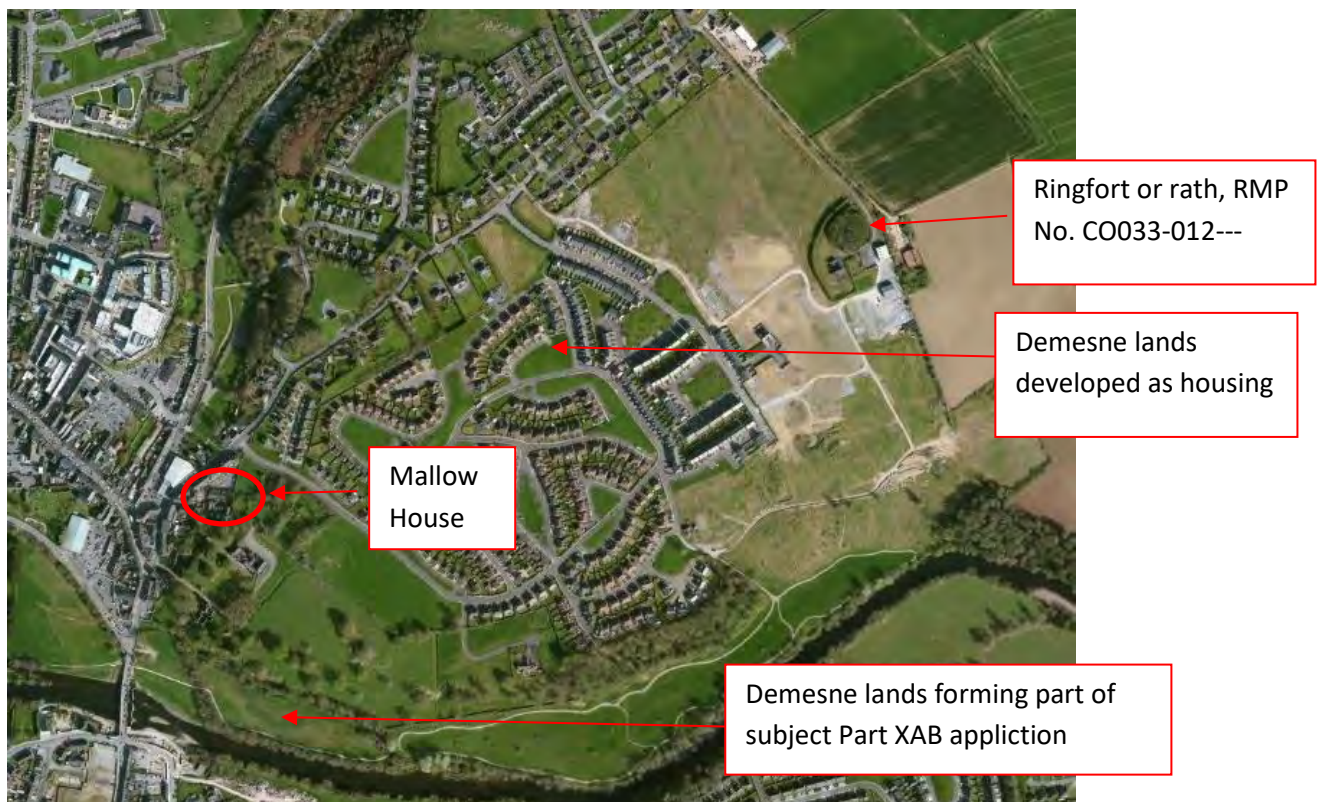
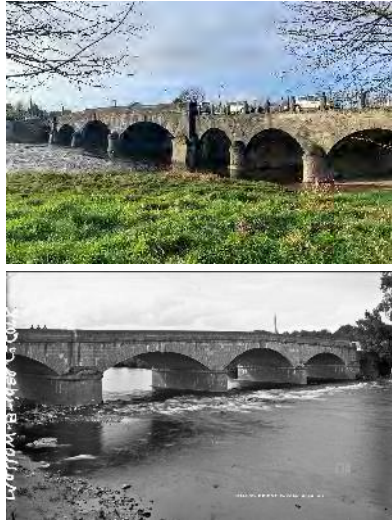







Fig. 7: Recent aerial photograph showing the location of Mallow Castle House and the extent of development which has taken place on the former demesne lands to the north and northwest of the house. Part of the deer park, and the areas south along the river bank, remain undeveloped.

There have been a number of recent interventions into the demesne lands which run along the north bank of the river, including new concrete footpaths, two concrete and steel foot bridges, and a variety of fencing types. The demesne walls in this area are currently undergoing repair works.

As noted above, there are no buildings within the Town Park area, however there are a number of buildings and structures of architectural and historical significance in the immediate vicinity of the park. These are detailed below:

Protected Structure No.	Description
<p data-bbox="204 389 384 456">Mallow Bridge Reg. No. 129</p> 	<p data-bbox="699 418 1385 584">Bridge mainly comprises the structure reconstructed in 1856 following the damage caused to the bridge by the flood in 1853. Part of the earlier bridge, constructed in 1712, is retained to the northern end comprising four segmental arches constructed of random roughly shaped limestone.</p> <p data-bbox="699 618 1385 752">Bridge comprises eight arches in total, having dressed limestone walls with carved string courses and dressed parapet walls to 1856 section of the bridge. Cast iron railings to the northern end of the bridge.</p>
<p data-bbox="204 1061 651 1173">Quay wall, limestone coping and single-arch bridge to the southeast of Mallow Bridge Reg. No. 130</p>  <p data-bbox="204 1509 475 1543">Prior to flood relief works</p> <p data-bbox="204 1912 571 1946">Following recent flood relief works</p>	<p data-bbox="699 1061 1385 1128">Recorded on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage as:</p> <p data-bbox="699 1133 1385 1290"><i>Rubble limestone quay wall, built c. 1860, with parapet having cut limestone coping, incorporating single-arch bridge under road with round arch having cut limestone voussoirs. Single-span timber pedestrian bridge to east over same watercourse, with timber railings.</i></p> <p data-bbox="699 1335 1385 1424"><i>This quay wall forms a grouping with Mallow Bridge to the north. It is well constructed and the integral bridge is a notable feature due to its well-crafted voussoirs and small size.</i></p> <p data-bbox="699 1469 1385 1536">These structures are no longer extant, having been removed as part of recent flood relief works carried out by the OPW.</p>

Protected Structure No.	Description
<p>St Mary's Church and Graveyard Reg. No. 120</p> 	<p>Ruined Church of Ireland church built c. 1700, constructed in rubble limestone having carved limestone details. Tower to west end and graveyard to the southern side of the building. Southern boundary marked with rubble limestone wall.</p>
<p>St. James's Church of Ireland Church Reg. No. 79</p> 	<p>Cruciform Church of Ireland church built 1824 and designed by the Pain brothers, architects, in use for service. Dressed limestone walls and architectural details, and with cut limestone spire over western tower. Graveyard to the south and site boundary marked by limestone wall of 20th century construction.</p>
<p>St. Mary's Catholic Church Reg. No. 33</p> 	<p>T-plan Roman Catholic church built 1818, having apse to the south and front entrance to the north, accessed off Main Street. Lower side aisles and tower added in 1900. Limestone and sandstone faced elevations, with southern elevations rendered. Graveyard to south, walls of squared rubble limestone brought to courses to south and eastern boundaries.</p>
<p>Belview House Reg. No. 124)</p> 	<p>Detached three-bay two-storey house, built 1852, which forms part of a complex of structures including a walled garden, cut stone entrance gateway with cast iron gates and railings and other outbuildings. The house is situated on the southern banks of the Blackwater and overlooks the river and Town Park.</p>

Within the park itself is a gateway, located to the eastern end of the playing fields (Fig. 17). This is constructed of concrete and is not considered of architectural significance. It is not included on the Record of Protected Structures or on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage. To the northern boundary wall of the Town Park are a number of decorative cast plaques set in to piers (Fig. 18). No information was found on these decorative plaques, which would be considered of local interest.

Statement of Significance

At legislative level, the house at Mallow Castle House, its gardens and grounds are protected under the Planning and Development Act 2000, as a protected structure includes the land lying within the curtilage of the protected structure. The Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities outlines the general principals of curtilage and attendant grounds associated with a protected structure and notes that:

Features within the curtilage and attendant grounds of a protected structure can make a significant contribution to the character of that structure. The designed landscape associated with a protected structure was often an intrinsic part of the original design concept, and, as such, inseparable from the building.²²

In addition to the significance of the grounds, the subject of this report, the structures themselves on the site, the castle, the house, the gate lodge and outbuildings are also both protected structures and National Monuments. As with protected structures, the definition of a National Monument includes the land adjacent to the site or structure, which is necessary to preserve the amenities of that monument. Both sets of legislation therefore, the Planning and Development Act 2000 and the National Monuments Act, recognise the significance of attendant grounds and provide protection for the grounds associated with the structures. The southern portion of the demesne lands, running along the northern bank of the Blackwater, provide the setting for the old Mallow Castle ruins in particular, but also form the southern boundary to the demesne lands, including the deer park.

While much of the demesne lands to the north of Mallow Castle House has been lost, the production gardens, the pleasure gardens, part of one of the demesne fields, much of the deer park and the lower ground to the south of the old castle are all presently retained as grounds to the house. Given the layers of habitation on the site, the survival of several large significance structures, and the phases of designed landscape associated with the occupancy of the castle, and later the house (in its various forms), the historical significance of the grounds associated with Mallow Castle/Mallow Castle House is high.

Traces of these multiple layers of designed landscape survive within the grounds of Mallow Castle and are evidence of several centuries of garden and landscaping activities on the site. While some such designed landscapes are known at other locations in Ireland, these are more often associated with larger houses of the 18th century. The documentary and physical evidence associated with several centuries of the designed gardens and attendant grounds of Mallow Castle/Mallow Castle House allows for an understanding of the development of a small demesne from the late medieval period and is of high interest and significance.

²² DoEHLG, Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities, p.193, 2004.

With regard to the Town Park, while no buildings of architectural significance are located on the area of the sports fields, the park is overlooked by several protected structures including churches, Mallow Bridge and domestic buildings. Views exist across the Town Park to and from these structures which contributes to the character of the place.

The Town Park is also itself of historical and social significance, having been in use as a venue for sporting events since at least the mid-19th century.

Both the grounds lying to the south of the Castle demesne, and the Town Park, are publicly accessible and have pathways running through the land which links to longer walks along the northern river bank. These paths are early 21st century interventions which formalised public access routes through these areas. In addition, two bridges are provided in the grounds south of the castle, one of which is substantial in size and height and is clearly visible from Mallow Bridge and from the south side of the river. While such interventions facilitate public access, these grounds, particularly the area south of Mallow Castle, are highly sensitive and provide the context for the castle and Mallow Castle House. The sustained preservation of this area as a setting for Mallow Castle, Mallow Castle House and its demesne landscape could be significantly altered by the introduction of further infrastructural items such as concrete pathways and other structures which impact visually on the context of the protected structures.

Part 2: Assessment of Development Proposals

Description of the Proposed Development

Likely Impacts of the Proposed Works (refer BSM General Arrangement Plan)

Proposed Works: P1 – New entrance to Town Park adjacent to Mallow Bridge

Physical Impacts: These proposed works are designed to link in with the proposed board walk to the Town Park on the western side of Mallow Bridge and to the existing pedestrian pathway which runs in a westerly direction from this point. The proposed works will not involve the loss of any historic fabric. A Celtic memorial cross (formerly located on the bridge) has been relocated to this area.

Visual Impacts: The combination of concrete paving and limestone and concrete sets to the proposed pathway, in combination with planting of naïve trees and low hedging in this area will mitigate any visual impacts of the hard landscaping on Mallow Bridge, a protected structure. The works proposed will result in an improved setting for the bridge (when compared to the current situation).

Proposed Works: P2 - P6 – New entrances and upgrading of entrances to Town Park

Physical Impacts: These interventions will not result in any physical impacts on architectural heritage structures in this area.

Visual Impacts: With the exception of entrance number 2, these entrances are pedestrian and will not have a high visual impact on the area. Good quality surfacing materials and tree planting will mitigate visual impacts and help to maintain the setting of the protected structures located across the road to the north.

Proposed Works: P7 – P8 – Skate Park and Pump Track

Physical Impacts: These interventions will not result in any physical impacts on architectural heritage structures in this area.

Visual Impacts: While these two proposed facilities will be visible in the context of a number of buildings of architectural heritage and significance (namely the three churches located to the north of the Town Park) the interventions will not impact negatively, particularly as the skate park will replace an existing playground. The pump track will be located

within the Town Park on the other side of the road to the historic church buildings.

Proposed Works: P9 – Ramped access off N20

Physical Impacts: A proposed path 3m wide on the N20 road embankment. These interventions will not result in any physical impacts on architectural heritage structures in this area.

Visual Impacts: The proposed path is located in a well screened and tree planted area, with limited views from other areas or protected structures.

Proposed Works: P10 – New 3m wide pedestrian bridge

Physical Impacts: The installation of this bridge will not result in any physical impacts on any structures of architectural heritage. The bridge will replace an existing structure which is of modern construction.

Visual Impacts: The proposed bridge design comprises a simple concrete bridge having a 1.1m high steel handrail which will be powder coated in a dark grey colour in order to mitigate visual impacts. Due to the simple design and low handrail this bridge will not be highly visible in any views of the castle and demesne from the south side of the river or from Mallow Bridge.

Proposed Works: P11 - Angling Stands

Physical Impacts: The proposal to provide angling stands along the river's edge will not result in physical impacts to any structures of architectural or heritage significance in this area. The river banks have natural edges and there are no quay walls, slipways or other such structures in this area.

Visual Impacts: The angling stands comprise plastic timber and concrete slab hard standing area. The works will result in localised visual impacts on the natural embankments of the river and therefore views across the river to the Town Park. The stands are not proposed, however, on the Castle demesne lands.

Proposed Works: P12 – P16 – Parking, pitches and event areas

Physical Impacts: There are no structures of architectural or heritage significance in the area of the proposed works which are all located to the Town Park.

Visual Impacts: The introduction of parking to the Town Park will have a visual impact on the views across the park from the south side of the river and from Mallow Bridge, and will alter to some degree the views to, and context of, the protected structures on the periphery of the park. The retention of the mature trees on Park Road and the use of reinforced grass to the multi event centre rather than hard landscaping will help to mitigate against negative visual impacts on the setting of the surrounding architectural heritage.

Proposed Works: P17 – Widening of concrete footpath

Physical Impacts: There are no structures of architectural or heritage significance in the area of the proposed works which are located in both the Town Park and the southern part of Mallow Castle demesne.

Visual Impacts: The widening of the footpath will result in a slight increase in the visual impact of this existing footpath by increasing its width and the amount of hard surfacing in these areas.

Proposed Works: P18 – Access to Mallow Bridge

Physical Impacts: The proposed work will not physically impact on the fabric of any structures of architectural heritage.

Visual Impacts: This access will facilitate an existing concrete apron by the water and will form part of the access improvement works in this area discussed above (P1).

Mitigation Measures and Recommendations

- The proposed works should not result in the loss of historic fabric in the form of surviving garden or landscape features, with proposed new interventions suitably situated so as to avoid the loss of historic elements associated with the demesne Mallow Castle House and Mallow Castle.
- All proposed repair works or other interventions which will potentially result in the loss of surviving historic fabric should be specified and supervised by a suitably experienced conservation architect and/or archaeologist as required.
- Proposed new surfacing materials for existing pedestrian routes, new pathways and car parking areas should be carefully chosen to minimise visual impacts on the historic demesne lands and on the larger attendant grounds associated with Mallow Castle House. Hard surfacing should be minimised in order to protect the special character of these areas, and in order to protect the setting of other structures of architectural significance located to the periphery of the Town Park.
- New surfacing of existing pathways and other routes should not be carried out where existing historic fabric and materials will be lost as a result of the works.
- New fencing, signage and gates should be minimised in order to avoid cumulative visual impacts and visual clutter in the garden areas and wider attendant grounds. New fencing should not interrupt the historic circulation between individual areas of the Castle grounds, and all existing pedestrian access points should be maintained.
- The current proposal does not include for lighting to the Town Park area, and therefore the impacts of any proposed lighting, in particular flood lighting for the playing fields, has not been assessed as part of this report. Future proposals for such lighting to be subject to a separate assessment with regard to likely impacts on the architectural heritage of the immediate area.
- New planting should be cognisant of the historic views to and from Mallow Castle and the associated demesne, and of views from Mallow Bridge across the Town Park. This is particularly relevant with regard to views towards the churches located to the north side of Park Road and . with regard to views towards the surviving demesne lands and the deer park associated with Mallow Castle.

Appendix I – Photographic Record – Garden Structures



Fig. 8: View north towards Mallow Castle across the Blackwater river, showing grounds of Mallow Castle which are the subject of the Part XAB application.



Fig. 9: Area south of Mallow Castle, subject of the Part XAB application.



Fig. 10: Grounds south of Mallow Castle, adjacent to Mallow Bridge (east side of bridge)



Fig. 11: Grounds directly south of Mallow Castle, between castle ruin and north bank of river.



Fig. 12: Grounds south of Mallow Castle, view east showing pedestrian path and bridge.



Fig. 13: Grounds south of Mallow Castle, pedestrian bridge.



Fig. 14: Town Park, view from Mallow Bridge.



Fig. 15: View north from Town Park towards St. Mary's ruined church and graveyard.



Fig. 16: View west across Town Park.



Fig. 17: Gateway which formerly gave access to the playing fields.



Fig. 18: Cast decorative panels to piers on the north side of the Town Park.



Fig. 19: Mallow Bridge (from corner of Town Park, view south).



Fig. 20: Mallow Bridge, (from corner of Mallow Castle Demesne, view south).

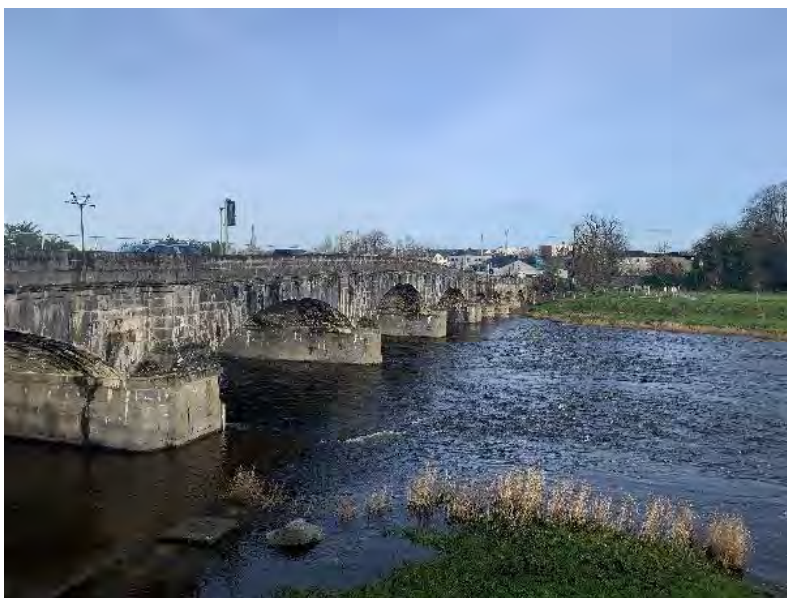


Fig. 21: Western side of Mallow Bridge, view north.



Fig. 22: Quay walls, south east of Mallow Bridge.



Fig. 23: View of St. Mary's and St. James's churches, as seen from the northern boundary of the Town Park.



Fig. 24: St. Mary's church and graveyard.



Fig. 25: St. James's Church.



Fig. 26: St. James's Church



Fig. 27: St. Mary's R.C. Church, as seen from the Town Park.