



ULSTER
ARCHÆOLOGICAL
SOCIETY

Survey Report

Reference: **Survey Report No. 64**

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Location:

**Survey of Temple Water
Castle Ward
County Down**

In association with:

 **THE NATIONAL TRUST**



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Cover illustration: Temple Water, looking west

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1. Summary

1.1 Location

A site survey was undertaken at Temple Water, an artificial lake within the Castle Ward estate in County Down. It is located at National Grid Reference J 57326 49769 and is recorded as NTSMR 131513 in the National Trust Sites and Monuments Record. The lake forms part of an historic landscape, which contains many monuments of archaeological and historic importance. It is recorded as DOW 031:071 in the Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record and is a Scheduled Monument under the terms of the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (Northern Ireland) Order 1995. Several archaeological surveys and excavations have taken place there in recent years (see below). This survey was carried out on 29 April 2017 as part of a series of planned surveys undertaken by members of the Ulster Archaeological Society in 2017.

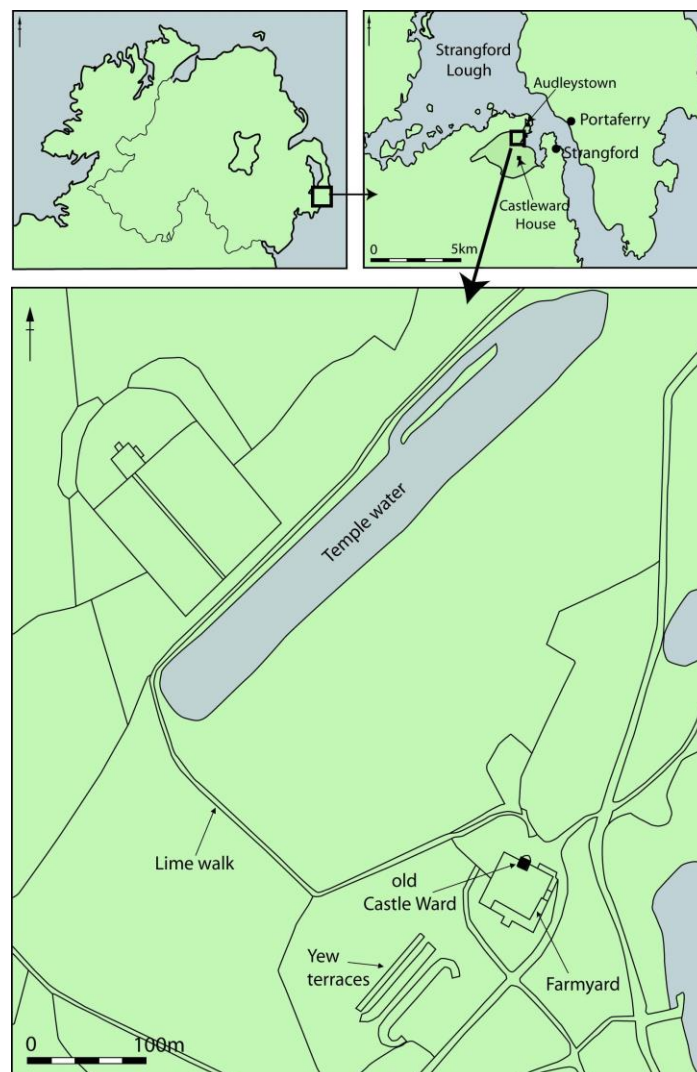


Figure 01: Location map for Temple Water. *Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork*

1.2 Aims

In order to enhance the archaeological record of this site, the aims of this survey were to produce accurate plan drawings of the monument and carry out a photographic survey. This information was compiled into a report and copies submitted to the National Trust and to the archives of the Ulster Archaeological Society.



Figure 02: Survey Group members in action during Temple Water survey

2. Introduction

2.1 Background

The survey of Temple Ward was undertaken on 29 April 2017. 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 Malachy Conway, Archaeologist of the National Trust in Northern Ireland, it was 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 and Temple Water was subsequently chosen to be the sixty-fourth of these.

2.2 Previous archaeological surveys

There have been several archaeological investigations within the National Trust Castle Ward estate:

Thomas McErlean and Terence Reeves-Smyth carried out a comprehensive baseline survey of the archaeological and historic landscape of the Castle Ward estate (McErlean and Smyth 1990).

Monument surveys were carried out by the Ulster Archaeological Society as follows: The Yew Terraces (Welsh, J. 2007); a portal tomb, or pair of standing stones (Welsh, J. 2009); the domestic gas works (Rutherford 2012) and the Windsor Garden (Welsh and Crane 2018);

In 2008 and 2009, archaeological excavations were carried out in the area of the Queen Anne mansion house (Conway and Murray 2008; Murray 2008; Murray et al. 2008; Welsh et al. 2011).

In 2018, the UAS carried out a geophysical survey at the Yew Terraces (in preparation).

2.3 Cartographic Evidence

Temple Water is believed to have been constructed around the 1723-1726 period and is represented on the earliest maps currently available:



Figure 03: Demesne survey map 1813 *National Trust*



Figure 04: Post-1813 Proposals map, depiction of environs of Temple Water.
National Trust

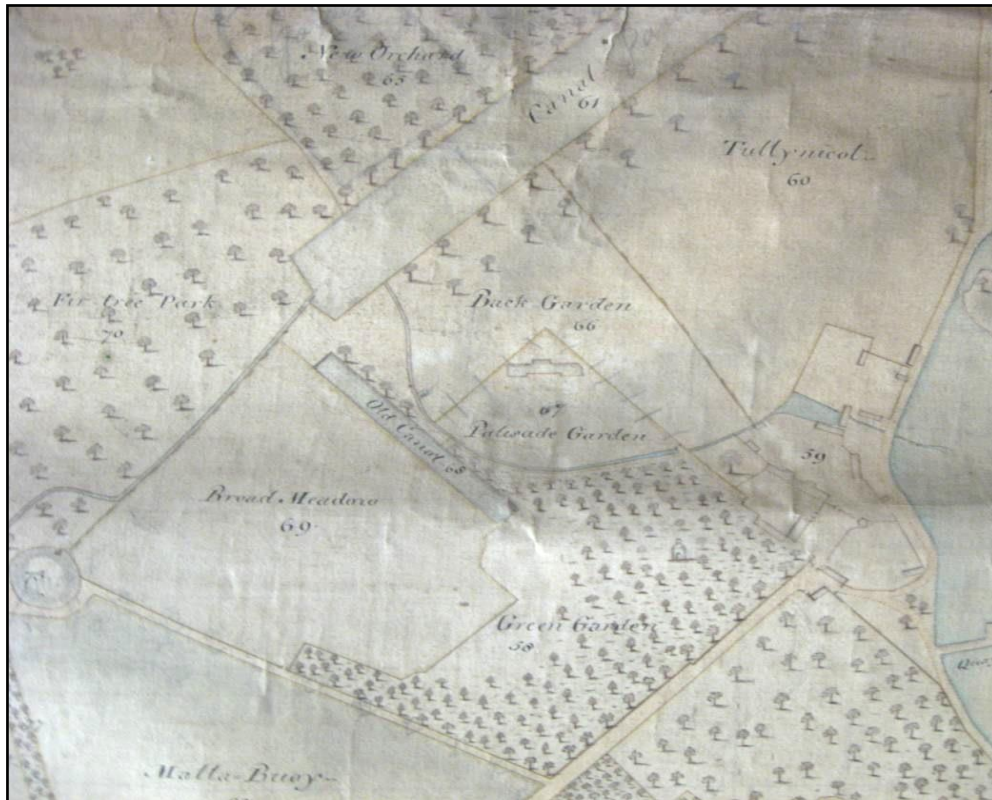


Figure 05: 1813 survey map. *National Trust*

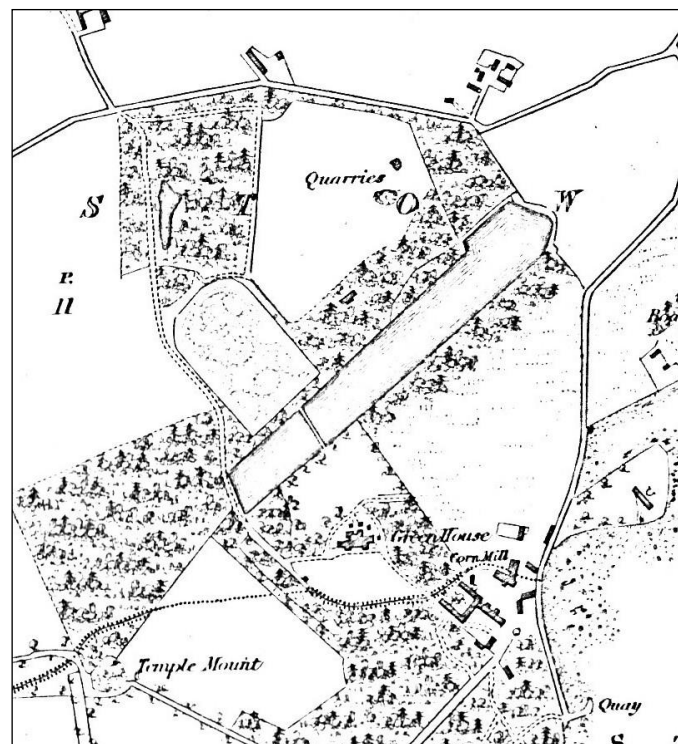


Figure 06: Ordnance Survey, County Series, First Edition, Sheet 31 (part of) 1835

Temple water canal has undergone changes in construction over the years, evidenced from the survey maps.

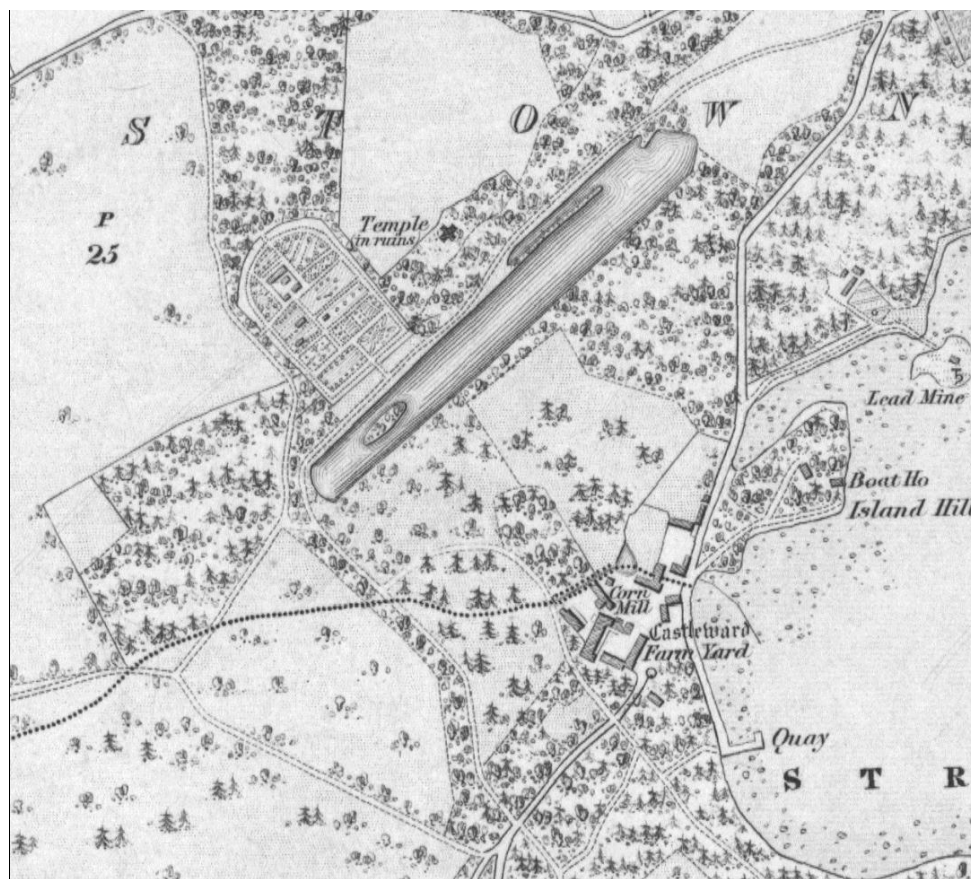


Figure 07: Ordnance Survey, County Series, Second Edition, Sheet 31 (part of), 1859

The 1835 OS map indicates that it had lost its sharp geometrical shape by this time, perhaps from neglect or an active desire to make the scene more picturesque and less formal. The island on the north-west side has undergone change since 1813, when it was a bank separating a small subsidiary inlet off the main body of water. By 1859, the bank had become an island and the small inlet opened on to the Temple Water at both sides. The original elegant geometrical shape and smooth grass edge are eroded and overgrown, the intended sharp outline lost, and the area is marshy and of undefined shape. The area was dredged and canal banks restored in the later twentieth century with stone revetments but this is currently damaged in places. The long sides are flanked by the eighteenth century Temple Water Plantation on the rocky slope on the north side, and by the twentieth century, tree planting on the formerly open canal lawn on the south side. The demesne at its most fully developed, as Major Nugent left it. The main innovations include the landscaping of Audleystown, the planting of Mallard Plantation and Mountain Wood and the completion of the Screen.

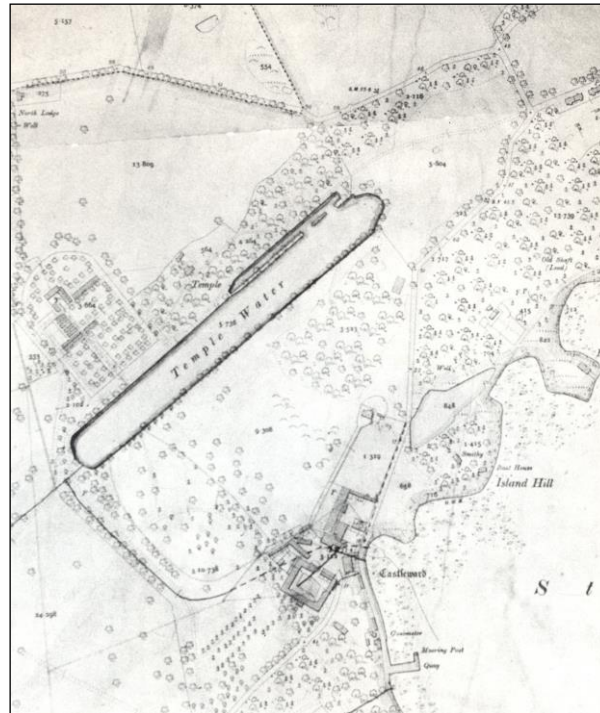


Figure 08: Ordnance Survey, County Series, Third Edition, Sheet 31 (part of) 1902

2.4 Archiving

Copies of this report have been deposited with 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 the survey group included Michael Catney, June Welsh, Ian Gillespie, Lee Gordon, Colin Boyd, Hilary Boyd, Anne MacDermott, Janna McDonald, Ken Pullin, George Rutherford, Randal Scott, Kate Crane, Olive Campbell and Chris Stevenson. The Ulster Archaeological Society is particularly grateful to Malachy Conway, Archaeologist of the National Trust, who worked closely with the survey team in choosing the site and facilitating access.

3. 2017 UAS Survey

3.1 Methodology

It was decided that the survey would take the form of the production of plan drawings and elevations, 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 plan drawings

Plan drawings were completed, using data obtained from the field survey. Measurements were obtained by using the society's *Leica Sprinter 100* electronic measuring device. Sketch plans at 1:500 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.

3.3 Photographic archive

A photographic record of the site was taken by using a *Ricoh G600* 8 megapixel digital camera and a photographic 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.



Figure 09: View of Temple Water, looking west



Figure 10: View of eastern drainage sluice, looking east



Figure 11: View of eastern sluice gate, looking east



Figure 12: View of Temple Water, looking east, with Audley's Castle in distance



Figure 13: Survey Group members in action

4. Discussion

The lake is a very prominent feature in the demesne and measures c. 460m east/west by 45m north/south [500 by 50 yards]. It is an artificial water body and was stocked with perch and tench for the estate larder as well as serving as a magnificent feature of the estates landscape. Dredging of the canal in 1967 revealed that the central part was much deeper than the remainder of the lake suggesting that it may have been shorter and deeper than it is today. It is thought that the lake extended by Bernard Ward, the son of Michael Ward. Temple Water has been positioned to provide a dramatic view of Audley's Castle when viewed from the west.



Figure 14: View of Audley's Castle, looking east. The original crisp outline of the lake is obscured by vegetation. *National Trust*

The canal has ornamental shaping and it is believed that it has been modelled on other canals such as Templeogue and Kilruddery in Dublin.



Figure 15: Canals at Kilruddery. Crisp grass edges frame the geometric outline of the canals. *National Trust*



Figure 16: View north-east along lake towards Audley's Castle, Mary Ward c.1850s-60s, shows less sharp outline than originally intended, perhaps intentionally evoking a more Picturesque feel. *National Trust*



Figure 17: Temple Water, north bank with Kitchen Garden wall, Mary Ward, c.1863.
National Trust

4.1 The Temple

The Temple is a folly in the form of a Greek Temple. The central bay is fronted by a classical pedimented portico with a set of Tuscan columns and carved frieze. It is constructed mainly of brick and of Bath stone, which is a Jurassic limestone formed some 140 to 220 million years ago. The Temple is believed to date from around 1755.



Figure 18: View of the Temple. *National Trust*

5. Recommendations for further work

In 2017, The National Trust embarked on an ambitious conservation project at Castle Ward to refurbish the Temple and historic paths and vista points. The man-made landscape of the Temple Water area, designed by the Ward family, is one of the most important late seventeenth and early eighteenth century gardens to survive in Ireland. It is anticipated the project will take three years and will include the repair of the Temple and improvements to the parkland to open up views of both Audley's Castle and Strangford Lough. Temple Water will be a central to the restoration project. Historic paths will also be reinstated along Lime Tree Walk and the Yew Tree Terraces. Improvements will also be made to access around the lake by reinstalling former pathways and steps, repairing drains, creating pockets of natural biodiversity, removing some inappropriate trees, pruning others and planting new trees in locations based on early demesne maps.

It is hoped that the work of the Ulster Archaeological Society will contribute to the understanding of this important landscape.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD FORM

Site: Temple Water, Castle Ward, County Down

Date: 29 April 2017

Make and model of camera...Ricoh G600W

Frame no	From	Details
RIMG0002	North-east	View of survey group members in action at Temple Water
RIMG0003	East	View of survey at southern shore
RIMG0005	West	View of southern shore of lake
RIMG0006	West	View of southern shore of lake
RIMG0008	North-west	View of damaged revetment at southern shore
RIMG0009	North	View of outlet for mill race
RIMG0015	West	View of damaged revetment at southern shore
RIMG0025	West	View of damaged revetment at southern shore
RIMG0026	West	View of damaged revetment at southern shore
RIMG0028	South	View of section of north shore
RIMG0031	East	View of section of north shore
RIMG0032	East	View of section of north shore
RIMG0035	East	View of sluice at eastern end of lake
RIMG0036	East	View of sluice at eastern end of lake
RIMG0052	East	View of lake with Audley's Castle in distance