

Terenure College Grounds and Their Environs Historic Landscape Assessment



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Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. The Early Landscape of Terenure	6
3. Terenure in the Seventeenth Century	10
4. Eighteenth-Century Terenure	15
5. Into the Nineteenth Century	27
6. Ornamental Buildings and Features of the Demesne	30
7. The Lake and its Features	33
8. The Changes of Use and Character of the Demesne after 1859	40
9. Transformation of the Surrounding Landscape of Terenure Demesne	42

1. Introduction



Figure 1.1 Terenure House and Demesne, 1832



Figure 1.2 Today, a similar view to that in Figure 1.1 . A glimpse of the original Terenure House can be seen, overpowered by later school buildings, and mostly hidden behind the massive bulk of chapel. On the right of the photograph is the Swan Island with its mature planting.

The Dublin Penny Journal of August 4th 1832 is headed with a copy of the engraving of Terenure house and demesne. (Figure 1.1) The article then launches into a tirade against the demesne parks, on which so much wealth has been expended, for the eyes of the few. “The citizens of Dublin of the middle and poorer classes are rather unkindly treated by some of the noble and affluent among their countrymen ... debar them from a sight of those parks, palaces and pleasure-grounds within which they repose.”¹ However he celebrates the exception: “Walking in the neighbourhood of Terenure ... I was struck by the number of carriages, jaunting-cars, and pedestrians, either standing at the gate, or issuing in and out of the demesne... Terenure is the demesne of FREDERICK BOURNE, Esq ... his gates are open to all who may choose to walk in and ... that the meanest and the humblest citizen, may see, enjoy and admire.”

“On entering Terenure, you perceive that it has no natural beauties. The grounds are flat and fat, producing a rich abundance of lofty elms – the house is not remarkable – but the large gardens, fraught with all the glories of Pomona and Flora form the grand attraction.”

Gone are the elms, gone too is the central focus of the house, albeit unremarkable, now crowded in and partially enclosed with larger-scale buildings, the necessary additions to serve the Carmelite college’s educational mission. (Figure 1.2) The pasture for grazing livestock has been replaced with the close-cropped swath of rugby fields. However the backdrop of the Dublin Mountains still persists and the lake, man-made to compensate for the lack of natural beauties is still home to a variety of water fowl. Currently swans are nesting albeit not on the specially created “Swan Island”, ducks, coots, moorhens and herons still find sufficient food and now are joined by a newcomer, thanks to climate change, the little egret. (Frontispiece, Figures 1.3, 1.4 & 1.5) And still the citizens of greater Dublin are welcome, to take respite with a circuit of the lake and to take in the distant views of the mountains.



Figure 1.3 Nesting Swans at the east end of the lake

¹ Dublin Penny Journal, vol 1. No.6, August 4th 1832, p.41



Figure 1.4 Ducks and Coot on the lake



Figure 1.5 Little Egret, a recent newcomer to Ireland, on the lake of Terenure Demesn

2. The Early Landscape of Terenure

Terenure is one of a number of place names that owe their origin to the Irish for a particular species of trees. Writing in his monumental work, *The origin and history of Irish names of places*, of 1869 Joyce suggests that the word for yew (taxus), *iubhar* occurs as a termination “in the form of *-ure*, or with the article *-nure*, in great numbers of names all over the country. Terenure is a place near Dublin whose name signifies the land of the yew (*Tir-an-iubhair*) and the demesne contains, or contained until lately, some very large yew-trees.”²

On the lands of Terenure College today there are a few yews but of no great age. However, in the wooded areas of Bushy Park which was part of the original townland of Terenure there are some significant yews. (Figure 2.1) However this is in the context of the presence of exotics in the structure of the woodland that had been conspicuously planted as elements in the development of eighteenth and nineteenth century Bushy Park Demesne.

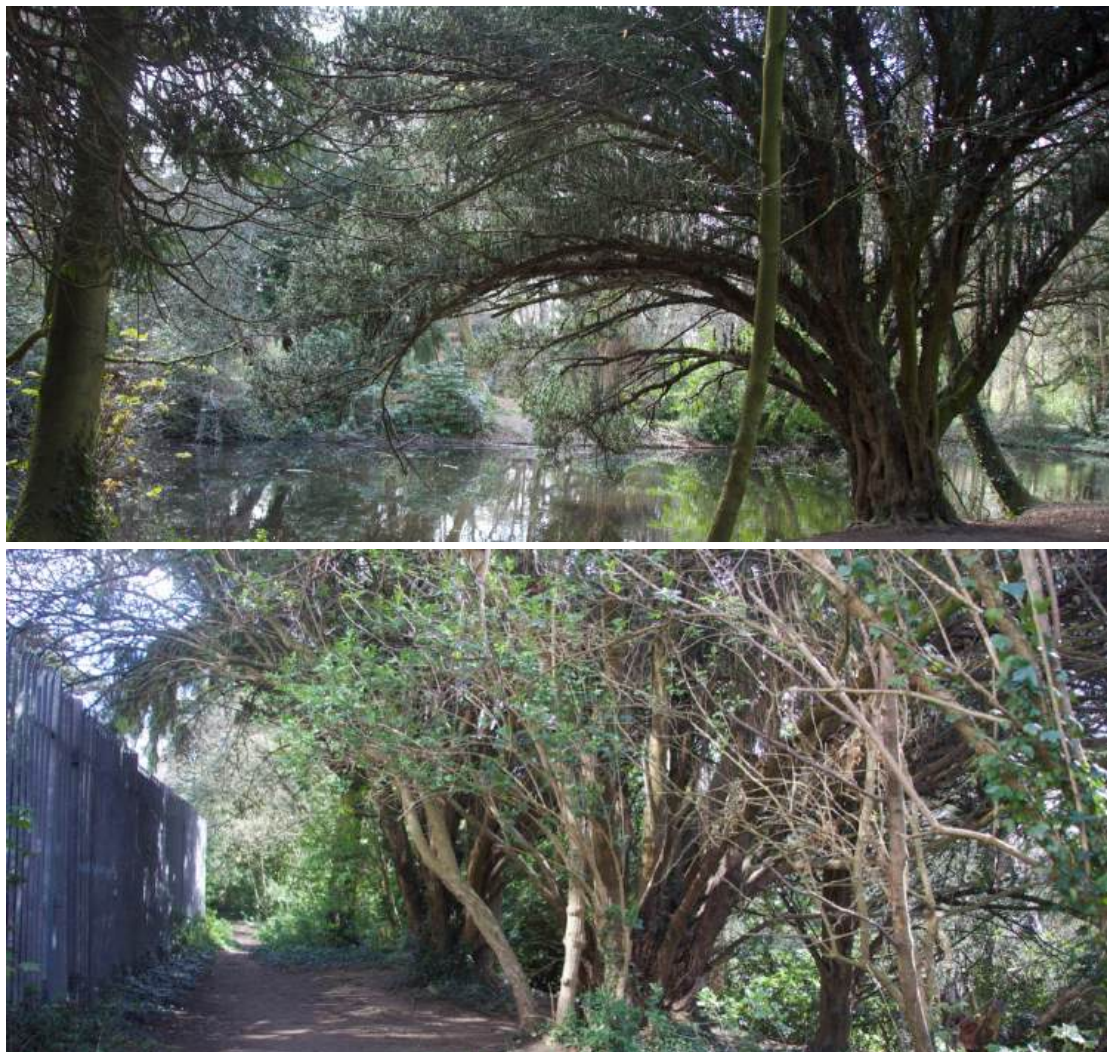


Figure 2.1 Yews in Bushy Park

² P.W.Joyce, *The origin and history of Irish names of places*, Dublin, 1869 vol 1 p.511

From the medieval period through to the mid-seventeenth century, the lands of Terenure formed part of the large landholdings that were in the possession of the Barnwell family. In 1206 the lands of Terenure, Drymnagh and Kimmage were given by King John to the Barnewall family. In the fifteenth century a portion of Terenure was given by Reginald Barnwell to the hospital of St John outside Dublin's Newgate. This section of the demesne is indicated on the Down Survey Map of 1650s as St John's Lease and the 1st edition of the OS map of 1840 and the 1910 25inch map show a house named St John. (Figures 2.2, 2.3 & 2.4)

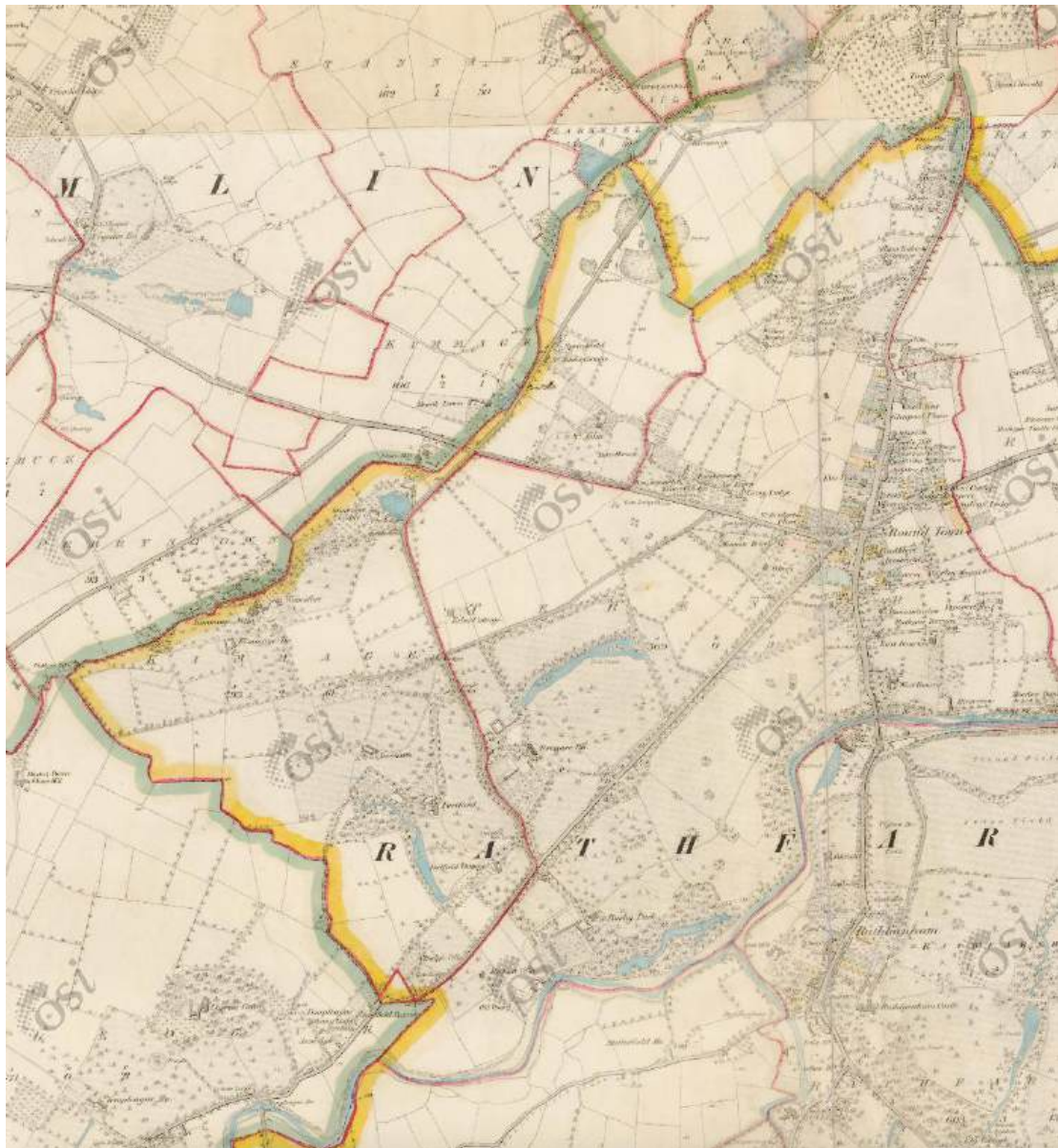


Figure 2.2 1st edition OS Map, c.1840. The lands of Terenure originally stretched from the parish boundary of Rathfarnham (yellow) to the River Dodder that meanders in the south (the diagonal course at the bottom right of the map) and bounded on the east by the road that goes north from Rathfarnham to Dublin.



Figure 2.3 Detail of the Down Survey of Newcastle Barony of County Dublin. 1655 The lands confiscated from Barnewall included the townlands Tirenure (now divided into Terenure and Bushy Park) and Canning (Kimmage) To the north “St John’s Lease” lands leased to St John’s, Newgate. (TCD)

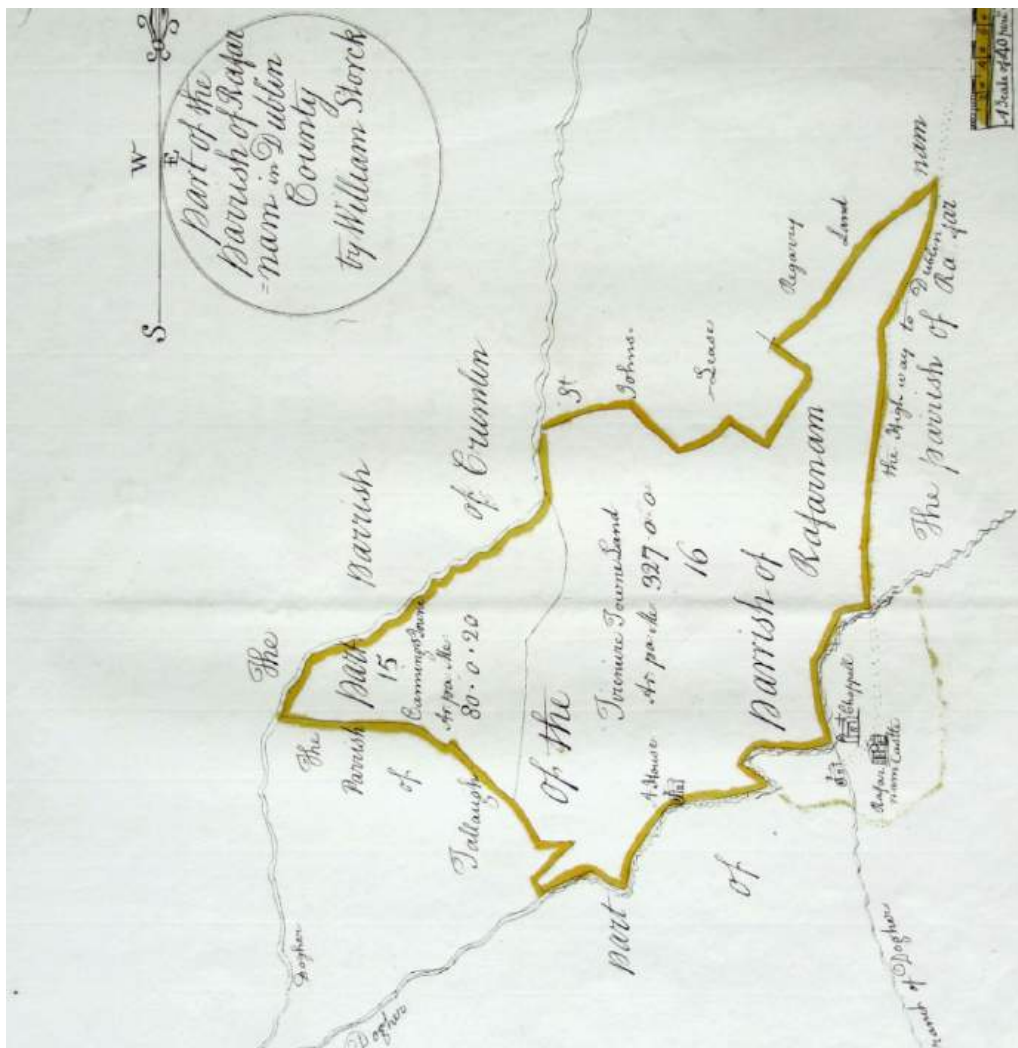


Figure 2.4 Down Survey Map of part of the Parish of Rathfarnham (TCD)

In 1611 the lands of Tyrenure and Kimmage comprised one castle and six messuages and 360 acres. It was finally lost to the Barnewall family in the civil wars of 1641 and granted to Richard Talbot (later to become the Earl and then the Duke of Tyrconnel). It was sold on in 1670 to Joseph Deane who was granted lands in counties Dublin, Meath, Kilkenny and Down. Joseph's son Edward by his second marriage was to be given Terenure. However, possession had to be confirmed in 1700 by the commissioner of Forfeited Estates, the Duke of Tyrconnel having been attained.³

The another grant of lands in Kilkenny in 1670 was to the Bushe family. Colonel John Bushe was given 770 acres of Kilfane, located just north of Thomastown. By 1713 Amyas and Arthur, sons of John Bushe were MPs for Thomastown while Edward was an MP for Inistioge just to the south.

The families were to become, not only neighbours and associates in parliament, but neighbours in Dublin. In about 1700, part of the then lands of Terenure adjacent to the river Dodder was leased by Edward Deane to Arthur Bushe. Arthur built a residence, *Bushe House*, later to be known as Bushy Park. Edward had already married Elizabeth, Arthur's niece. A house was also built on Terenure towards the end of the seventeenth century where Joseph Deane was to live before his death in 1699.

This situation heralds the process by which the historic lands of Kimmage and Ternure started a process of sub-letting and sub-division through the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. This accommodated an emerging class of individuals involved in various aspects of government, administration, the legal profession and commerce, providing them with a modest demesne in the vicinity of Dublin.

³ *Landed Gentry, Ireland* p.169

3. Terenure in the Seventeenth Century

In the seventeenth century the townland of Terenure was recorded in the Down Survey of 1654-6. (Figure 2.3 & 2.4) Terenure was bounded on the west by the River Poddle and on the east by the Dodder and the road from Dublin to Rathfarnham. In the thirteenth century, in the neighbouring townland of Templeogue, a leat was taken from the River Dodder to augment the flows in the River Poddle to become Dublin's water supply. (Figure 3.1) The water flow in the city watercourse and the augmented Poddle was exploited to drive a series of mills along their courses. Later the leat would be appropriated to feed a series of water features on Templeogue demesne. (Figure 3.1) Flow of water was also to be the supply of water for utility and pleasure for a number of small demesnes that emerged in the area including Terenure.

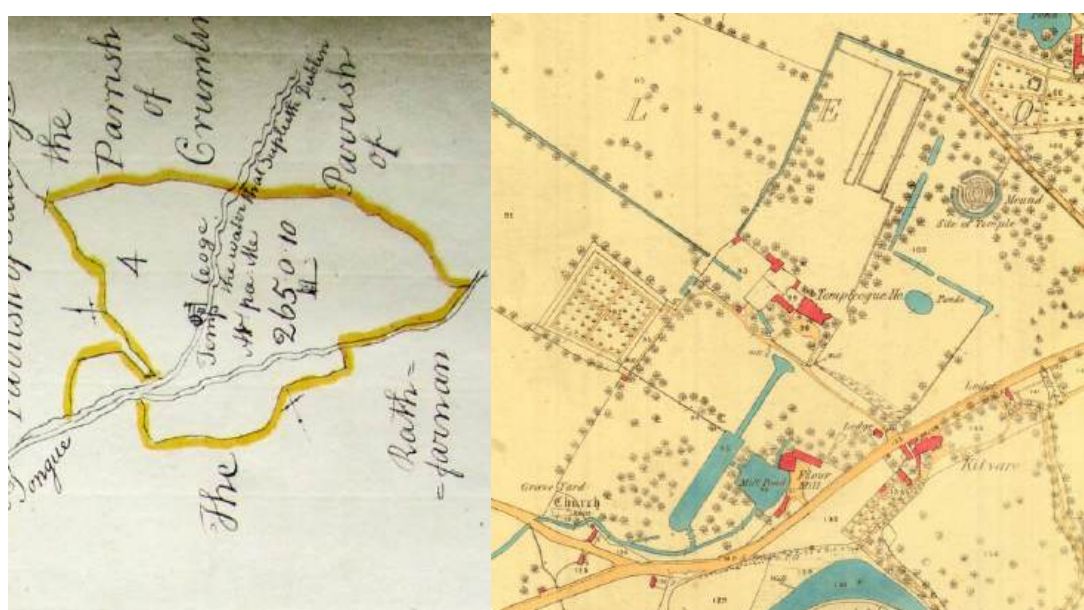


Figure 3.1 Left, on the Down Survey Map showing the city water course taken from the Dodder through the demesne of Templeogue. Right, Templeogue Demesne in 1864 with all the water features supplied by the City Water Course.

It is often possible to match, with a degree of geometric accuracy the townland boundaries on the Down Survey to those on the 1st edition OS Maps. This sometime allows for the location of features shown the Down survey with some certainty. However, although there general correspondences on the two maps, there is uncertainty of the location of the castle on Terenure. The *Terrier* lists for: “Teirenure a Castle also in good repaire and a dwelling House formerly a Mill”. On the larger scale parish map the former mill was shown but sadly the map omits the icon of the castle. However the best fit of the 1st edition OS map and the Down Survey Map barony map would place the castle on the current lands of Bushy Park. This can at most raise some uncertainty of the site of the castle. Currently as the recorded monument DU022-095 the castle is sited at the position of the surviving 18th century Terenure House. However, the former mill's site can be identified adjacent to the walled garden of Bushy Park House. A weir on the Dodder (though no longer extant) was clearly

marked on the 1840s and 1864 OS Maps. (Figure 3.2) The weir was later to provide the source of water for the sequence of ponds in Bushy Park Demesne.

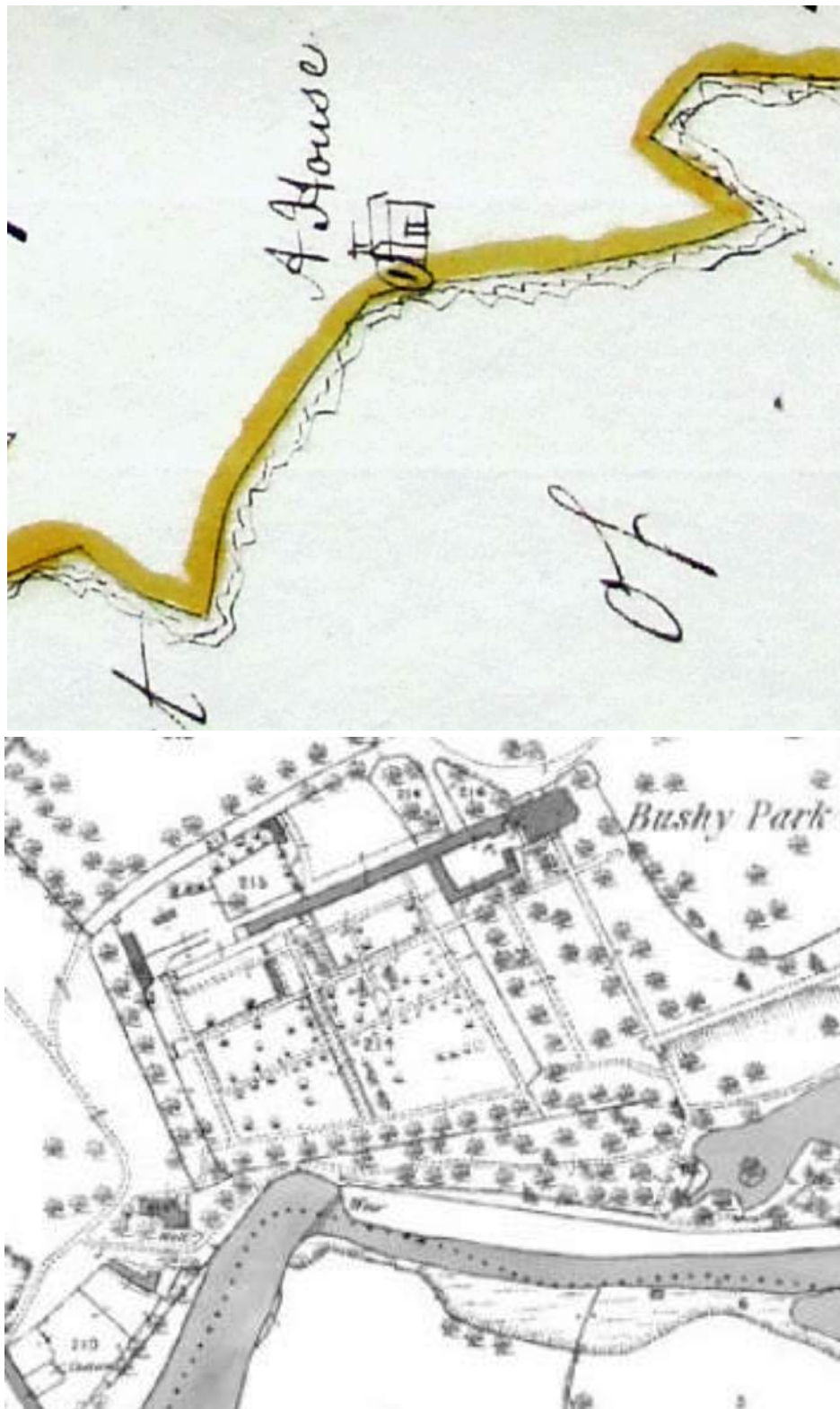


Figure 3.2 Above detail of Down Survey Map as of Figure 2.4 above. Clearly showing the location of the mill reused as a house. Below detail of the 1864 Parish map showing the location of the weir whose predecessor had been associated with the mill.

In the 1750s, the then current owner, a member of the Deane family, claimed that the gardens contained two fishponds containing carp and tench and that the house commanded a view of Dublin harbour.⁴



Figure 3.3 Above detail of Rocque's 1760 map of County Dublin, showing Terenure House compared with below 1st edition OS map of c1840. The overall walled enclosure has some geometric correspondence with the layout the house and immediate grounds of 1840

John Rocque's Map of County Dublin of 1760 shows Terenure house and its gardens contained within a rectangular enclosure divided into 4.⁵ The two outer divisions were laid out as gardens. This geometry of house and gardens may still have had a memory of in the layout in the vicinity of the eighteenth century house as depicted on the 1840s OS map. (Figure 3.3) In the 1760's, the orientation and two parallel buildings

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⁵ Rocque's map is reliable in indicating content of the landscape however the metric accuracy is rather loose and features like roads in order to give them prominence are much wider than reality.

have correspondence with the two ranges shown on the 1840s map with the house facing out to the north east.

On the Rocque Map, to the south east, a drive or path is shown. It heads in an easterly direction before turning sharply to the north. It is labelled on the map as “Path from Templeoge” and continues towards the centre of Dublin. Aerial photographs show what could be this road. South of the current drive it is revealed by lush grass growth and immediately north of the drive its form is also visible on site. either side of the feature are ditches (now shallow) framing a raised and cambered cross section. (Figures 3.4 & 3.5).

It is possible that the entrance to the demesne and approach to the house was from the location of the current Fortfield Road. Today’s straight Templeogue Road was not built until 1801.



Figure 3.4 Aerial Photograph revealing earlier road on Terenure Demesne indicated by the white arrows



Figure 3.5 Looking north along the line of the earlier road on Terenure Demesne. Discernable are the two shallow ditches with the lush grass and the central cambered roadway

4. Eighteenth-Century Terenure

In 1785, Terenure House and Demesne was leased to Robert Shaw (1749-1796) by the Deane family. Soon after, the title of the lands was acquired by Abraham Wilkinson and the neighbouring Bushe House became one of the Wilkinson's residences. It was Robert Shaw who in 1787 rebuilt the seventeenth century house and developed its landscape setting.

Robert Shaw's grandfather had come to Ireland in 1689 with the regiment of General Ponsonby of King William's army. The Shaw family was granted land in Kilkenny in the townland of Sandpits.⁶ This modest holding was adjacent to the Ponsonby family's extensive estate. The general's son, Brabazon Ponsonby (1679-1758) became the first Earl of Bessborough and set about the creation of a grand house designed by Frances Bindon set within an impressive designed landscape. Prominent in the landscape was a string of linear lakes fashioned from limited sources of water. (Figure 4.1) Also the adjacent demesne of Beline to the east had its own necklace of water features.

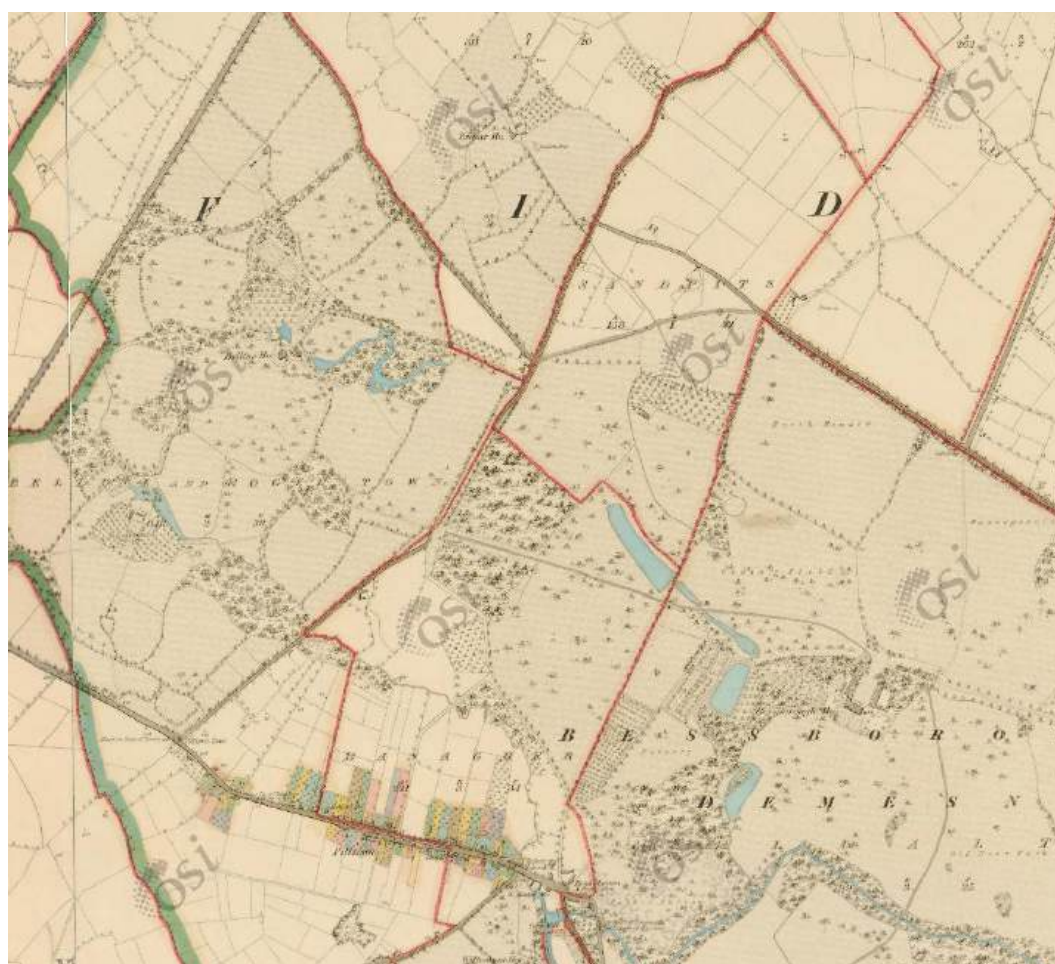


Figure 4.1 1st edition OS map c.1840 showing the demesnes of Beline (to the left) and Bessborough, Co. Kilkenny with their sequences of linear lakes. To the north can be seen the townland of Sandpits, Robert Shaw's birthplace.

⁶ Burke's *Colonial Gentry* p.456.

The second Earl of Bessborough, became Postmaster General in 1759 and was able to secure a junior position in the Irish postal service for his neighbour's 15-year-old son Robert Shaw in 1764. Robert rose through the ranks to become Accountant General before branching out into private commerce and banking and acquiring a fortune.⁷

This eighteenth-century reconfiguring of the original, late seventeenth-century house survives in part embedded in the current building complex of Terenure College. (Figure 4.2) From the description of the house in the sale pamphlet of 1859 and its present form, we can get a sense of its design intentions and origins.⁸



Figure 4.2 The eighteenth-century Terenure House today is dwarfed by the later buildings of Terenure College

Terenure house is a single-pile building - essentially one room deep with service access behind. (Figure 4.3) Although single-pile plans are not unknown in the latter part of the eighteenth century, it would be much more common of an earlier house. The house had a sequence of rooms with interconnecting doors enfilade along the northeast façade. The description of the rooms was as follows: “a large inner hall which is 27 feet wide by 14 feet long, and upwards of twenty feet high... On the right and left there are two ante-rooms, 16 feet by 17 feet, which serve as library and breakfast-parlour, that open into the dining and drawing-rooms respectively each 27 feet by 30.” These latter rooms “occupy the projecting semi-circular wings, and are lighted by windows that command the best views of the demesne and adjacent scenery.”

⁷ Tony McCarthy, *The Shaws of Terenure*, 2010, p.10.

⁸ *Rental and descriptive particulars of the mansion of Terenure*, 1859. A copy of this sale brochure in the National Library of Ireland, JP 3440

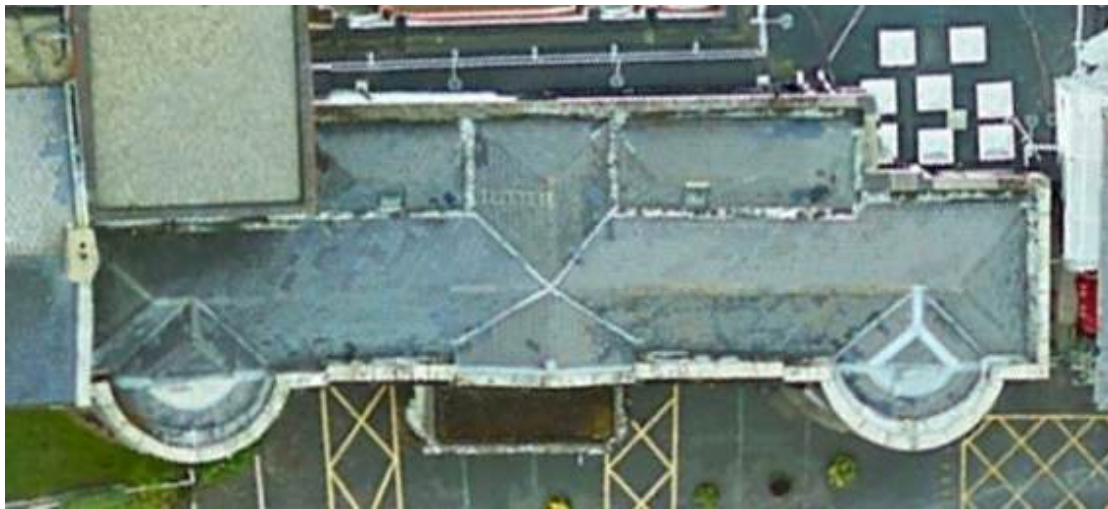


Figure 4.3 Terenure House, top the north east façade in 1832; below, the house today and an aerial view. The present porch was added before 1859.

The room described as the dining room has exquisite plasterwork whose motifs appear to suggest that its function was also as a music room. (Figure 4.4) This room had a window looking north into a more private pleasure ground enriched with flowering trees. (Figure 4.5)



Figure 4.4 Eighteenth plasterwork in the Dining/Music Room



Figure 4.5 The original Dining/music Room with generous windows in the bow provided views out to the parkland. The other window looked north giving views to the more private pleasure ground enriched with flowering trees

Whether the house was a reconfiguration, an extension of the late seventeenth-century house, or a complete rebuild, the decision to spread the principal rooms in a linear formation, enfilade, gave the house a greater presence within the designed landscape. The house's orientation and its dominant outlook to the northeast, yet shunning the sun, allowed the distant view toward Dublin and its harbour, the source of wealth of Robert Shaw. But more importantly, this was the direction of the larger proportion of the landholdings that could be designed and fashioned to create the prospect from all the principal spaces of the house. The bow windows maximised the viewing of the designed landscape. From the original gallery to the rear of the double-height hall a view to the designed landscape could also be enjoyed through the generous three windows above the entrance. (Figures 4.3 & 4.6)



Figure 4.6 The entrance hall of Terenure House before the relocation of the stairs and the removal of the gallery and colonnade.

In the development of designed landscape the creation of the linear lake and its planting became a major feature of the composition and a framing element of the prospect from the house. The planting along the north side of the lake served to shelter and enclose the front parkland. Robert Shaw's origins in Kilkenny with the neighbouring grand designed landscapes of Bessborough and Beline demesnes may account for the inspiration for the creation of the lake.

Terenure demesne occupies part of the plateau-like shoulder of land between the rivers Dodder and Poddle as it slopes gently down towards Dublin. Within the demesne, along the northern boundary the land already begins to fall gently towards the course of the Poddle. Therefore, in digging the lake the spoil was needed to form an embankment along its northern edge. The planting was needed to strengthen the embankment. This edge was profiled to provide for the path along the lake which itself provided viewpoints for the prospect across the lake and parkland to the house with its backdrop of the Dublin Mountains. (Figure 1.1) Containment of the lake was also required at its eastern end. Here the spoils were used not only for the creation of a dam but also to create a mount. (Figure 4.7)



Figure 4.7 The mount at the eastern end of the lake, now obscured by overgrown and self-seeded planting



Figure 4.7 Mount at Templeogue Demesne (RIA)

The earlier and more famous designed landscape of neighbouring Templeogue Demesne boasted a mount. (Figure 4.7) Passing through this demesne was a watercourse that was constructed in the thirteenth century to divert water from the Dodder to augment the flow of the Poddle to become the city's water supply. At

Templeogue the watercourse was appropriated to create a series of formal canals as water features in the designed landscape as well syphoning off water for domestic and utilitarian uses. In his *History and Antiquities of Tallaght*, 1876, William Domville Hancock describing this demesne wrote: “This watercourse, for many years the principal supply of the city, could at any time have been wholly diverted at this place. It runs much above the level of the adjoining fields, being carried along between embankments.”⁹ Whereas D’Alton’s *History of County Dublin*, 1838 claims when discussing Templeogue that “The busy rivulet sweeps round the grave-yard into the demesne, and thence to Tyrenure, where its supplies form a noble pond.”¹⁰

Both the city watercourse and the river Poddle were used to drive mills. Under lease to Robert Shaw, one mill, Cutler’s Mill was located at the original confluence of the city watercourse and the River Poddle. Here in the nineteenth century there was, a 3inch diameter pipe which diverted water to supply Terenure House and Demesne.¹¹ This is the exact location of the current culvert that forms part of the flood relief of the Poddle that takes overflow water to the lake in Terenure.

At the eastern end of the lake, to the northside of the mount is a three-arched, brick-constructed footbridge. (Figure 4.8 & 4.9) This sits along the retaining wall of the dam and originally the overflow formed a cascade. The combination of bridge and small cascade, a common feature in eighteenth-century designed landscapes was for adding an aural dimension to the place rather than the visual spectacle falling water.



Figure 4.8 Brick-constructed footbridge and the eastern end of the lake. A small cascade under the central arch was the original outlet of the lake. The bridge sits on the dam which on this side is faced with a retaining wall. The haunching added to the arched openings is not original.

⁹ pp.120-1

¹⁰ p.772

¹¹ Michael Corcoran and Don McEntee, *The Rivers Dodder and Poddle: Mills, Storms, Droughts and the Public Water Supply*, 2016, p.134



Figure 4.9 The bridge viewed from the lakeside

According to Duncan's map of 1821, a stream flows from the lake northwards towards Harold's Cross. (Figure 4.10) However, subsequent OS maps from 1840s onwards show no such watercourse. It is possible it ran in a ditch parallel to the bridge and entered the culvert near the present one. (Figure 4.11) The present culvert entrance is part of an extensive but not very elegant reconfiguration of the far-east termination of the lake. (Figure 4.12) This forms part of the Poddle flood relief scheme, the final outlet is in Bushy Park where drains into the Dodder.

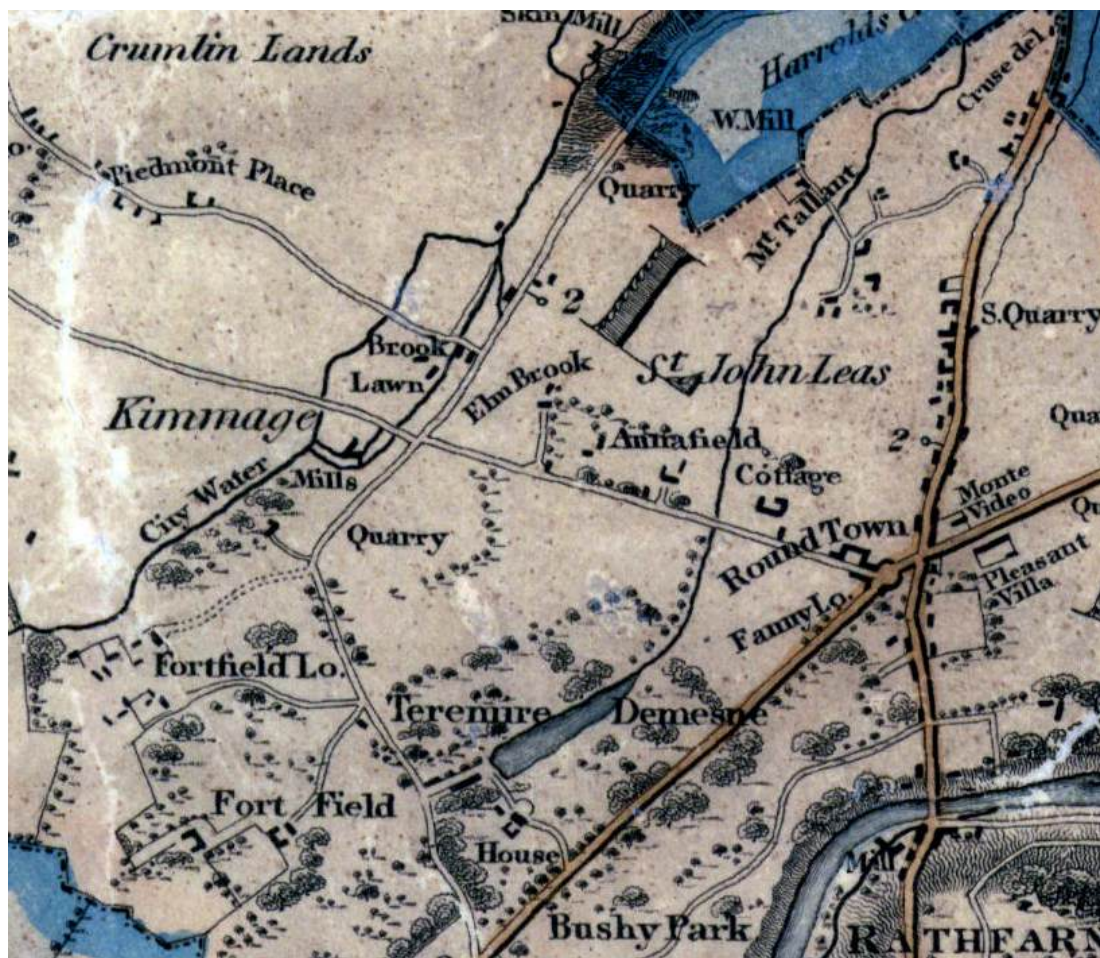


Figure 4.10 Detail of Duncan's Map 1821 of County Dublin



Figure 4.11 The foot bridge and raised walk beyond following the possible earlier route of the lake outflow



Figure 4.12 The current management of the lake's outflow constructed as part of the Poddle Flood Relief Scheme

In the eighteenth century, it was common for man-made lakes to be provided with a drain sluice to empty the lake. If one exists here, it was not located on the site visit at which time areas around the bridge were not accessible both on the lakeside and the far side of the bridge.

The lake contained two islands, the one nearest the house was accessible by a footbridge, the other was named the Swan Island and provided safe nesting sites for water fowl.

It has not been possible to establish the nature and location of the boundary between the two demesnes of Terenure House and Bushy Park house prior to the construction of the straight Templeogue Road in 1801. Added to this is the uncertainty of the entrance to Terenure in the eighteenth century, whether it was from Fortfield Road or somewhere that linked up with its present location. The first edition OS Map of c.1840 shows an area of woodland, round the position of the current entrance that stretched into Bushy Park Demesne. (Figure 4.13) Originally the wood may have been part of Terenure Demesne before 1801.

The woodland, along with further planting may have been intended to combine with the planting around the lake and its islands to contain views from the house and defined an approximately elliptical sheltered enclosure of parkland - a not uncommon device in designed late eighteenth-century landscapes. (Figure 4.13) A further result of this would have been that the house seen from the parkland would appear framed by planting and concealing the functional buildings, gardens and yards behind the house. (Figure 1.1)

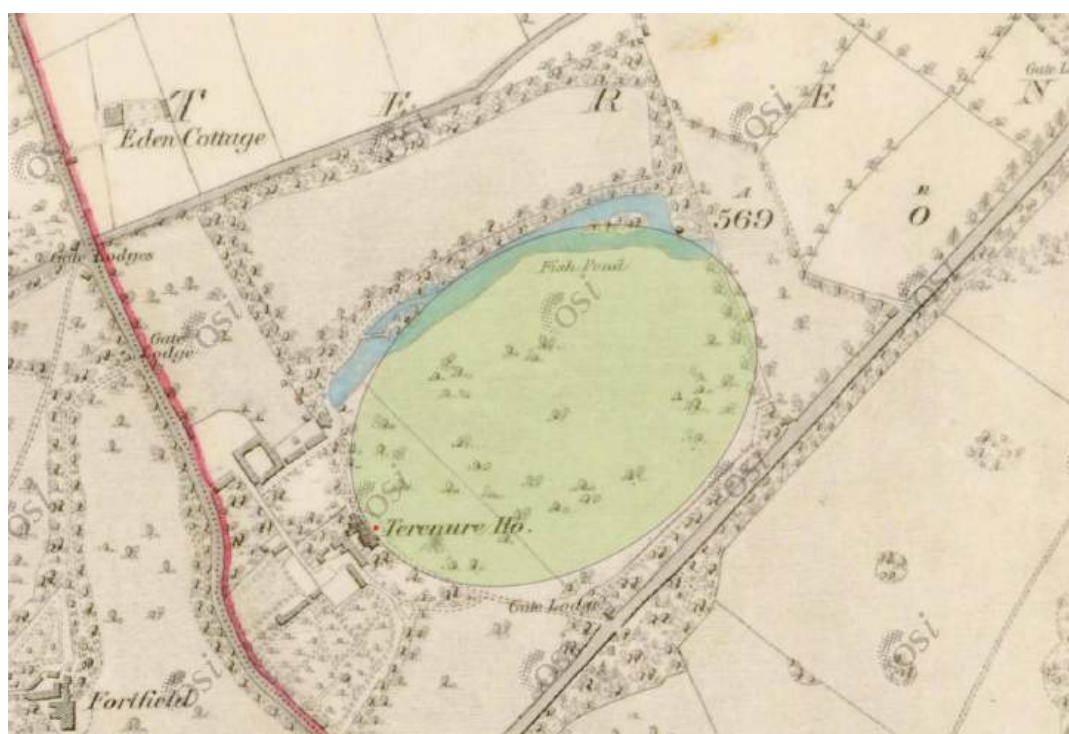


Figure 4.13 1st edition OS Map c.1840

A series of circuit walks including a boundary walk would be normal within the layout of the designed demesne landscape of the second half of the eighteenth century and early nineteenth century. The boundary walk would be contained in planting inside the demesne's enclosing wall both of which would have added to security, shelter and privacy. At Terenure, a circuit went from the house through the planting on the north side of the lake. At the end of the lake, a choice was presented of turning left and continuing a circuit within boundary planting that enclosed a paddock. To the right the path continued to complete the circuit around the parkland in front of the house.

Another common feature of an eighteenth-century landscape was a sunken fence, otherwise referred to as a *haha*. On Terenure Demesne, a *haha* stretched from the gate lodge across the parkland to the lake. (Figure 4.13 & 4.14) The ditch would have had a retaining wall on the house side. This allowed unobstructed views from the house across the parkland and the pastoral scene could be maintained with grazing animals, unable to approach the house. A *haha* would often contribute to water management and drainage within a demesne.

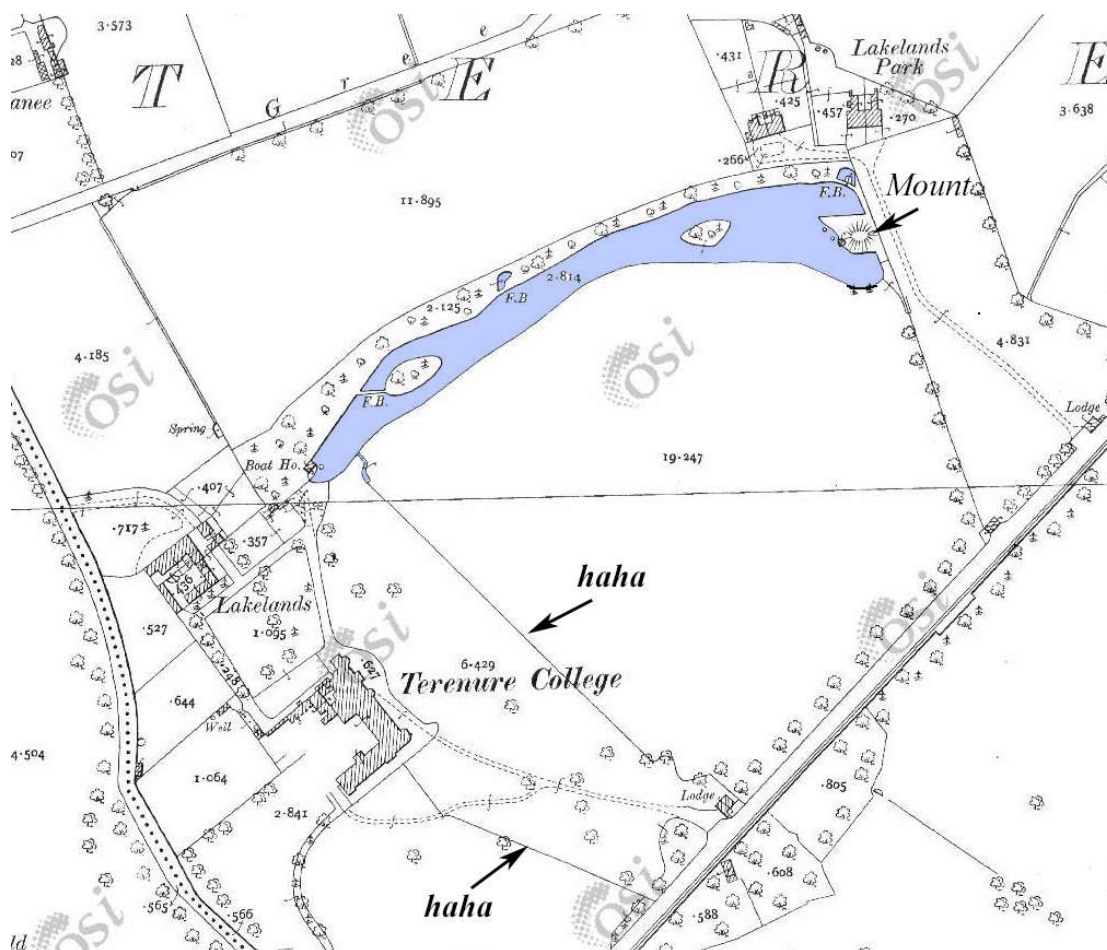


Figure 4.14 Terenure Demesne, c.1910 OS 25" Map

The 1910 OS map shows a small inlet leading from the lake to the line of the *haha*. (Figure 4.14) It is also visible in an early photograph. (Figure 4.15) It appears that water that collected in the *haha* drained into the lake. The line of the *haha* can still be seen in aerial photographs and on the ground. (Figure 4.16) This *haha* may still be involved in drainage. In addition, today the line meets the lake at the point that now is the inlet to the lake. A second *haha* was introduced to the south of the house sometime between 1840 and 1859. (Figure 4.16) This too can be seen clearly on aerial photographs and on the ground. Where the *hahas* intersect the roadway that was discussed earlier it is clear that road predated the *haha*. (Figure 3.4) This then dates it from the eighteenth century before Robert Shaw's development of the demesne and would appear to be before at least 1760, the date of John Rocque's map of County Dublin.



Figure 4.15 Terenure c.1900. The line of the *haha* and the channel entering the lake are each indicated.



Figure 4.16 Aerial photograph shows clearly the lines of the two *hahas*.

The overall structure of the demesne design explored above was also elaborated with a series of buildings and features. These will be identified and discussed below.

5. Into the Nineteenth Century

Robert Shaw began the process of rebuilding the house and developing the demesne in 1787. His eldest son and heir, Robert married Maria Wilkinson in 1796. Maria's father, Abraham of nearby St Jerome had acquired the title of the Deane's lands in 1789. Abraham gave Bushy Park House and 100 acres and a considerable sum as a dowry. A few months later Robert Shaw senior died, the lease of Terenure passing to Robert junior. Shortly after, with the building of the new road in 1801 came a clear division between the lands attendant on Terenure and Bushy Houses. However, Robert and Maria moved to Bushy Park, with its larger land holding and the more dramatic topography with the steep ravine of the River Dodder valley which Bushy Park House and gardens overlooked.

Part of the Terenure estate was leased to Henry Edmond Taaffe a "man of Fortune". In the 1850's he instigated the process of suburban development along Templeogue Road, albeit in the end with just two pairs of substantial houses. (Figures 5., 5.2 & 5.3)

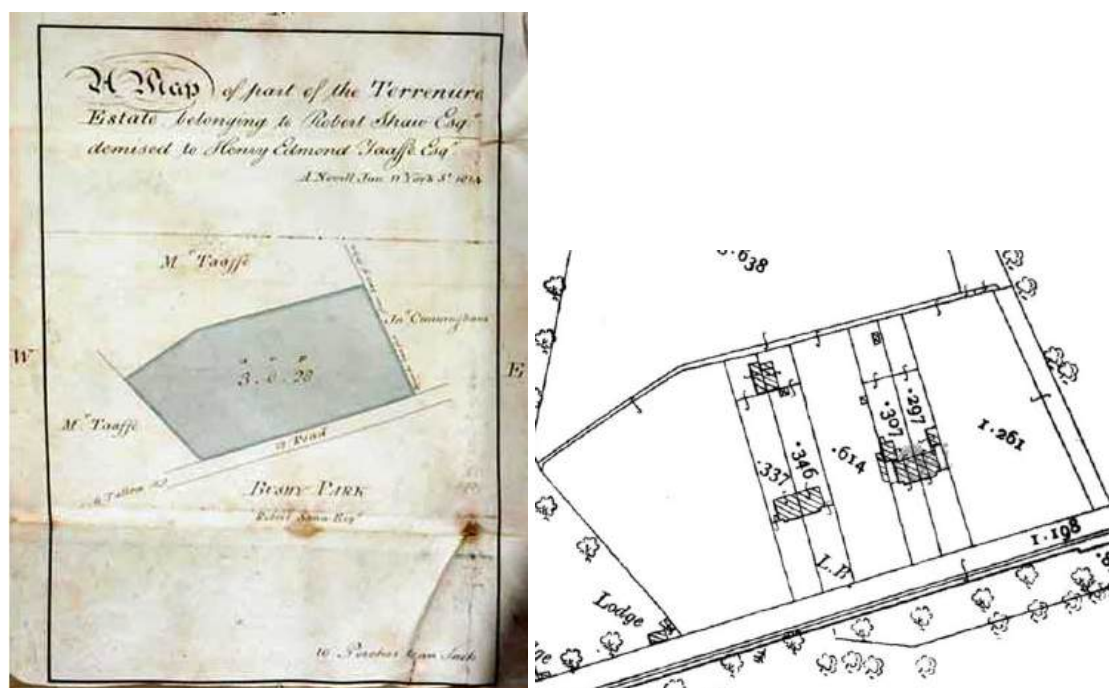


Figure 5.1 left, Survey Map of land on Templeogue Road to be developed by Taaffe c.1850 (Dublin City Archive) Right, Site as developed by 1910



Figure 5.2 The two pair of houses built c.1860

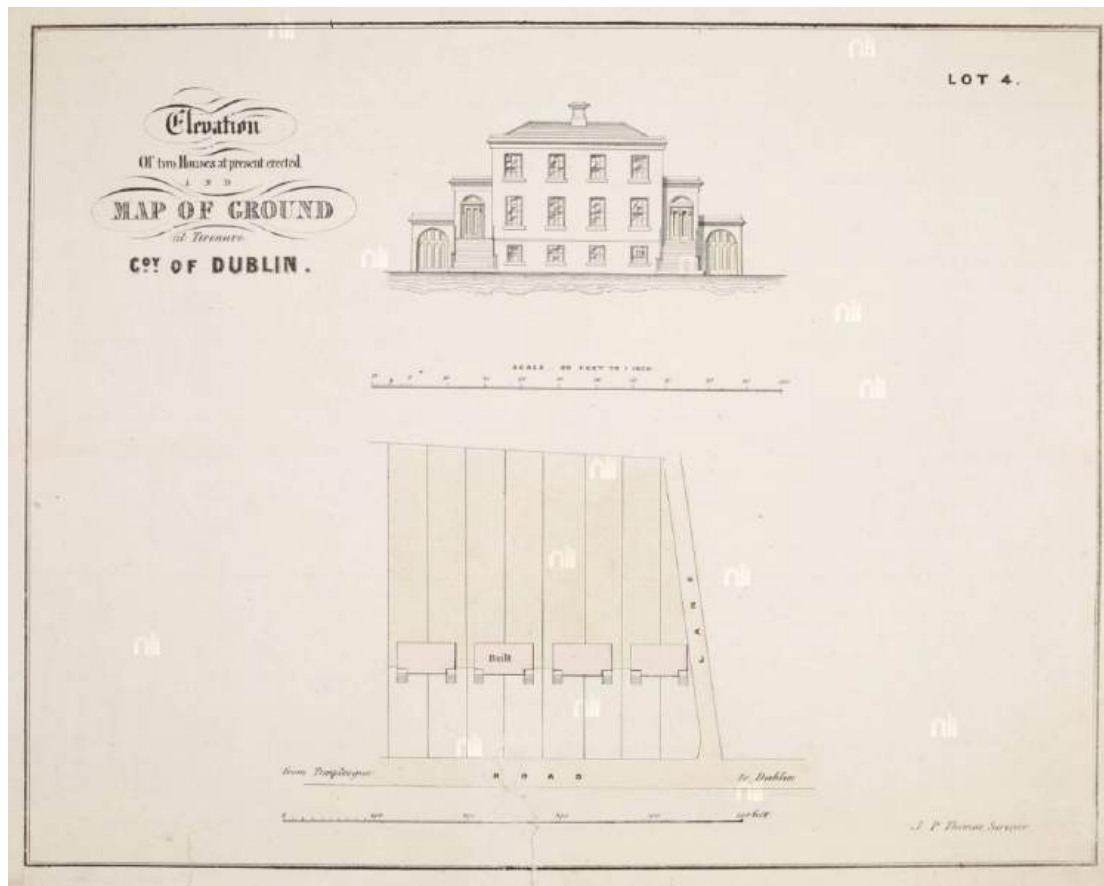


Figure 5.3 The proposed development by Taafe. (NLI)

Early in the first decade of the nineteenth century Frederick Bourne took over Terenure House and Demesne and developed them further. It is from the first half of that century that we have descriptions of the designed landscape. They provide details of a number of features and garden buildings, and give some insight into plantings and the results of horticulture and gardening. However, at the moment it has not been possible to identify exactly which campaign of development some of the features date from, whether it was Robert Shaw senior or Frederick Bourne who was responsible, whether from the eighteenth century or early nineteenth century. Much detailed information on the house and demesne is contained in the brochure of sale of 1859.¹² (Figure 5.4)

The brochure also contains suggestions for the potential development and future uses of the demesne. After a suggestion that it might be attractive to continue as a gentleman's residence, it suggests either an institutional use or the potential for residential development that would engage with and maintain some of the assets of the designed landscape as its setting. In order to demonstrate the potential of the latter, the brochure contains a scheme prepared by the architects Carmichael and Jones. (Figure 5.5)

¹² *Rental and descriptive particulars of the mansion of Terenure*, 1859. A copy of this sale brochure in the National Library of Ireland, JP 3440

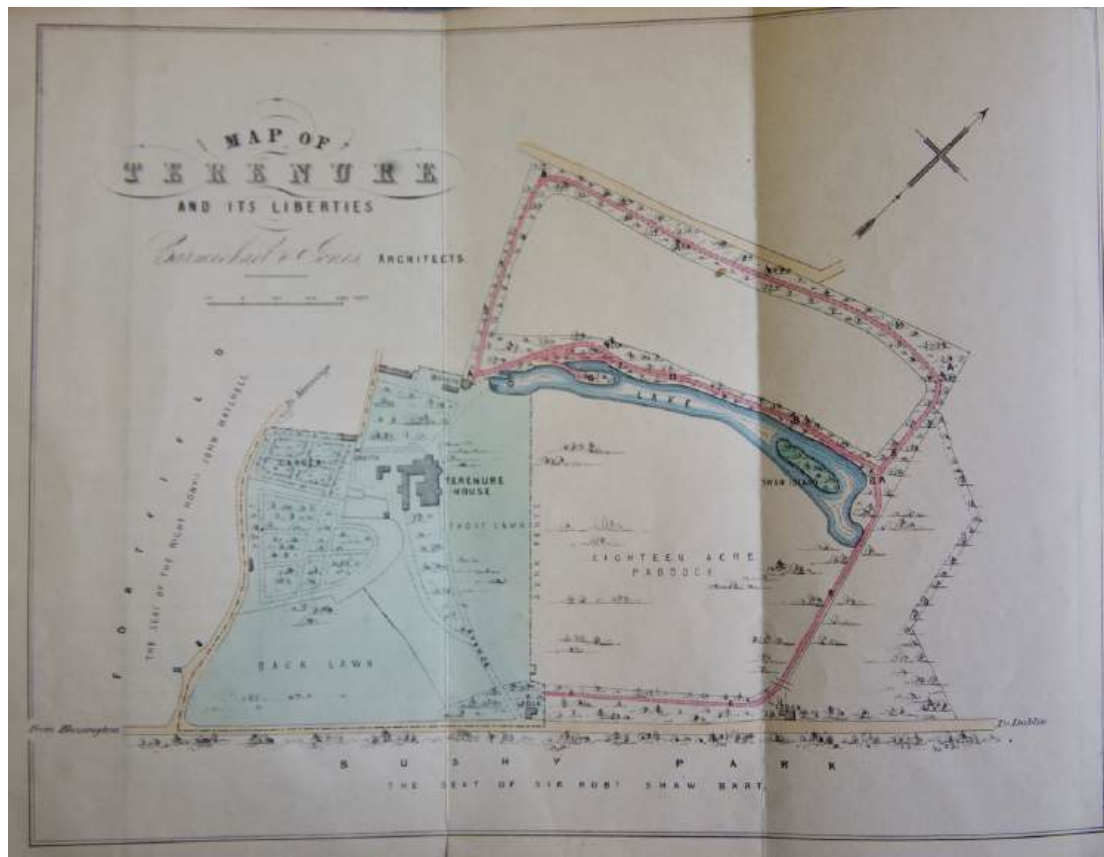


Figure 5.4 Demesne Map from the sale brochure 1859 (NLI)

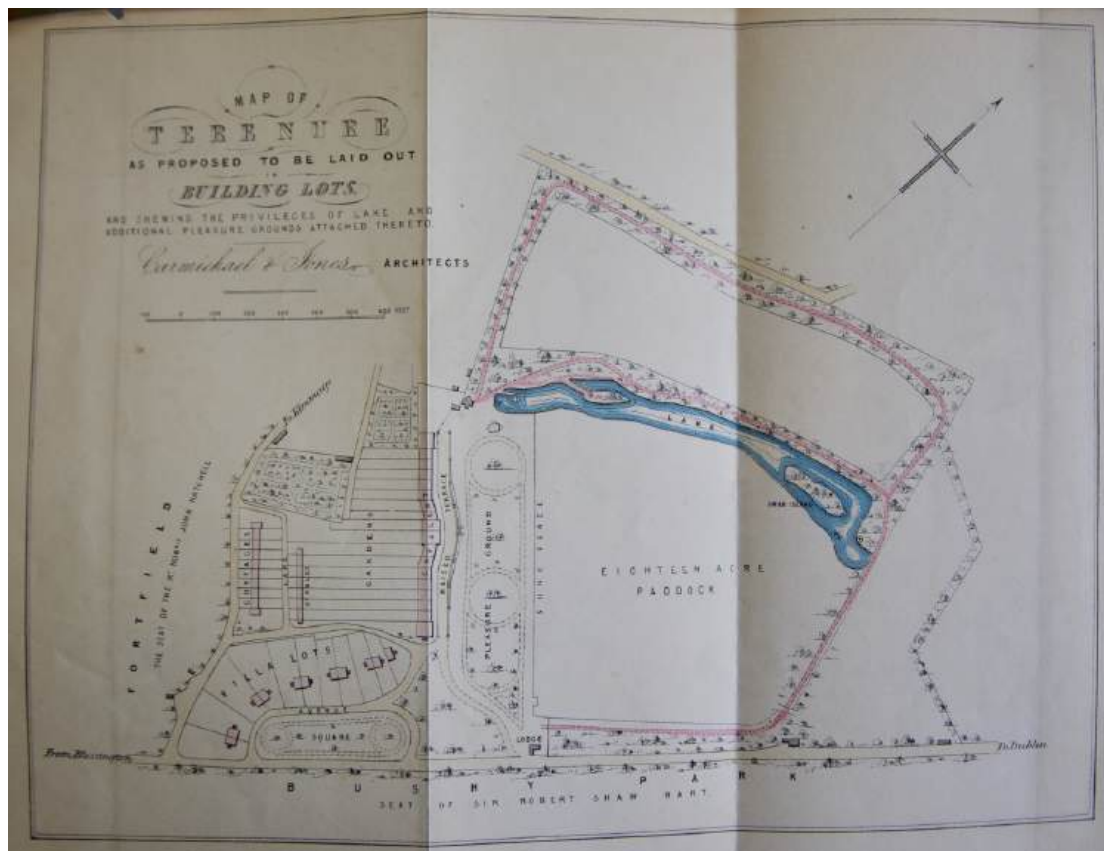


Figure 5.5 Suggested development of Terenure Demesne by architects Carmichael and Jones, from the sale brochure of 1859 (NLI)

6. Ornamental Buildings and Features of the Demesne

It is only from the nineteenth century that we have some descriptions of the house and demesne. Only one citation refers to the demesne before Frederick Bourke takes over and adds his own contribution. Under the auspices of the Dublin Society, Joseph Archer compiled his *Statistical Survey of the County Dublin* which was to be published in 1801. It mentions: "Terrenure, the seat of Robert Shaw, Esq. The house is large and elegant, with a good view of the adjacent country. The demesne consists of about thirty acres, is well improved, and contains extensive shrubberies. The gardens are well laid out, and in fine order, and the whole enclosed with a good stone wall."¹³

Within one sentence in his *History of the County of Dublin*, of 1838, d'Alton tells us much: "Tyrenure succeeds; with its magnificent gardens, hot houses, groups of trees, and shrubberies of evergreens, its grottos, urns, and rustic seats, disposed through all the grounds, its fine sheet of water, insulated banquetting-house, fishing temple, winding walks, and picturesque bridges."

J.C. Loudon in his encyclopaedia of Gardening singles out Terenure for a mention. He notes "extensive hot-houses and gardens; and a varied collection of plants, judiciously arranged by J. Fraser, an excellent botanist and gardener, and a man of general information."¹⁴ James Fraser who worked at Terenure Demesne became friends with Loudon and was to become the Irish correspondent for Loudon's *Gardener's Magazine*. In 1826 in its inaugural volume, Fraser ran a series on "The State of Gardening in Ireland" and as if in self praise gives Terenure a mention: "...Tereneure, the seat of Frederick Bourne Esq., a most zealous amateur in every branch of gardening. The gardens and dressed-grounds are extensive, and contain the best private collection of plants we know in this country... He was among the first to break down the barriers which had so long hemmed the villa gardener within the parallel beds of tulips and elliptical figures of roses, and lead the way in endeavouring, upon natural principles, to blend the decorative with the useful. The conservatory is a large structure, and is heated by steam. The forcing-houses are extensive, and the collection of hardy shrubs is interesting."¹⁵ Fraser then went on to herald Terenure's gardens as an influence on surrounding demesnes in particular Bushy Park. The latter part of the description appears to be forward looking to the rise of a natural approach to gardening and the wild garden famously espoused later in the century by the Irishman, William Robinson.

James Fraser was to go on to set himself up as a Landscape Gardener as Loudon reports in 1829, under the heading, "Landscape-Gardening and Forest-Management... our friend and correspondent Mr James Fraser, now of North-east Street, Dublin has

¹³ Joseph Archer, *Statistical Survey of the County of Dublin*, 1801, p.100

¹⁴ J.C.Loudon, *Encyclopaedia of Gardening* 1824 p.1095

¹⁵ James Fraser, "State of Gardening in Ireland" in *Gardener's Magazine*, 1826, vol.1, pp.262-3. The article ran over several issues but had been written 1825.

publicly assumed the above profession.”¹⁶ Fraser was to go on and provide designs for many prestigious demesnes.

The 1859 brochure of sale provides us with more information. The parkland on the house side of the *haha* was “planted with specimen or clumps of trees”. These are identified as “fine specimens of green and copper beech of upwards of one hundred years, besides other forest and ornamental trees”.¹⁷ If not exaggerated, the beeches signal the development of the demesne in the first half of the eighteenth century, well before Robert Shaw’s time at Terenure. To the north of the house was the private pleasure ground “enriched by some of the rarest specimens of foreign flowering trees, cedars, Italian cypresses, magnolias, tulip trees, cedars of Lebanon, maple trees etc. Of native trees, mention is made of some fine old arbutus trees, and a magnificent chestnut tree, the bole of which is fifteen feet in circumference.”¹⁸ The presence of the sweet chestnut tree, of at least 200 years old, dates planting in the demesne to the mid-seventeenth century. At that time and earlier, the chestnut was a favoured parkland tree. This particular tree does not survive, however, near Bushy Park House there are two ancient chestnuts. (Figure 6.1) In the seventeenth century Bushy Park was part of the demesne of Terenure.



Figure 6.1 Ancient sweet chestnut tree (*Castanea sativa*) with Bushy Park House behind

¹⁶ *Gardener's Magazine*, 1829, p.84

¹⁷ p.12

¹⁸ *ibid* p.13



Figure 6.2 The surviving fragment of the conservatory. Now adapted and heavily restored as a chapel



Figure 6.3 The walled kitchen garden, for a time still in use by the College

7. The Lake and its Features

The lake was the site for a number of the garden features and buildings already mentioned. It was created in the late eighteenth century; its supply was the Poddle River and the water exited over a cascade beneath the brick bridge at its far eastern end. Historic references to the supply of water to the demesne suggest a greater flow than is apparent today. Also the nature of the structure of the bridge and dam suggests a significant flow of water. Today at the site of the original source of water from the Poddle, the culvert leading of to Terenure Demesne is only served when the river reaches a certain height and overflows. The sale brochure of 1859 points out the existence of a covenant that requires the maintenance of “a full supply of water” to the lake. The existence of the small flow even with no overflow of the Poddle suggests surface water and ground water joins the course of the culvert.

The brick bridge was a major feature along the lakeside walk. Its position would have given long views down the lake with its islands and the ambience of the place would have been augmented by the aural delight of the gentle cascade beneath. It was one of the “picturesque bridges” referred in 1838. The low parapet of the bridge had called for added safety protection at sometime with the introduction of stanchions to support a chain or rail. These were crudely inserted and clearly never original. (Figure 7.1)



Figure 7.1 Stanchions crudely inserted in the bridge parapet

Adjacent to bridge is the mount, undoubtedly created from the spoil from digging the lake. Its position was prominent in prospects from the principal rooms of the house. In particular it was central to the view from the dining/music room. The top of the mount is flat and may have served as a belvedere. From this point a view back to the house with its backdrop of the Dublin Mountains would have been notable. (Figure 7.2)



Figure 7.2 Looking towards Terenure house from the top of the mount at the eastern end of the lake. The view is obscured by mature planting and self-seeded trees.

There is no map evidence of a summerhouse or “temple” occupying the top of the mount nor was any steps or ramp identified to reach the summit. However on the site inspection visit, limited access to this area was available because of the presence of nesting swans and its overgrown nature. On the 1840, 1864 and 1910 OS maps, a very small circular building is shown at the waters edge. (Figures 7.3 & 7.4) Could this be the “fishing temple” mentioned by d’Alton in 1838? The remains of building fabric at the location were discernible. It included an apparent retaining structure to a cut in the face of the mound. (Figures 7.5 & 7.6)

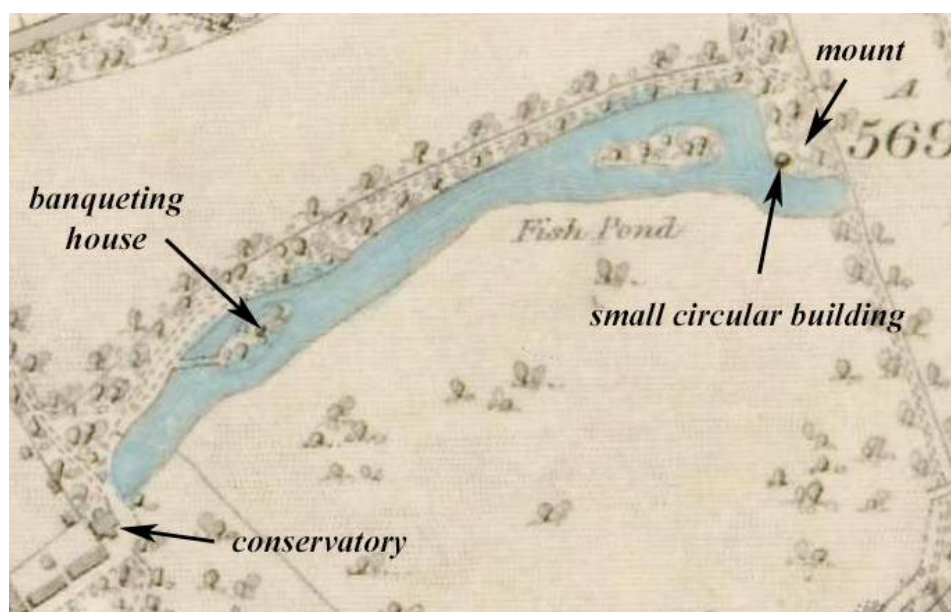


Figure 7.3 The Lake c1840

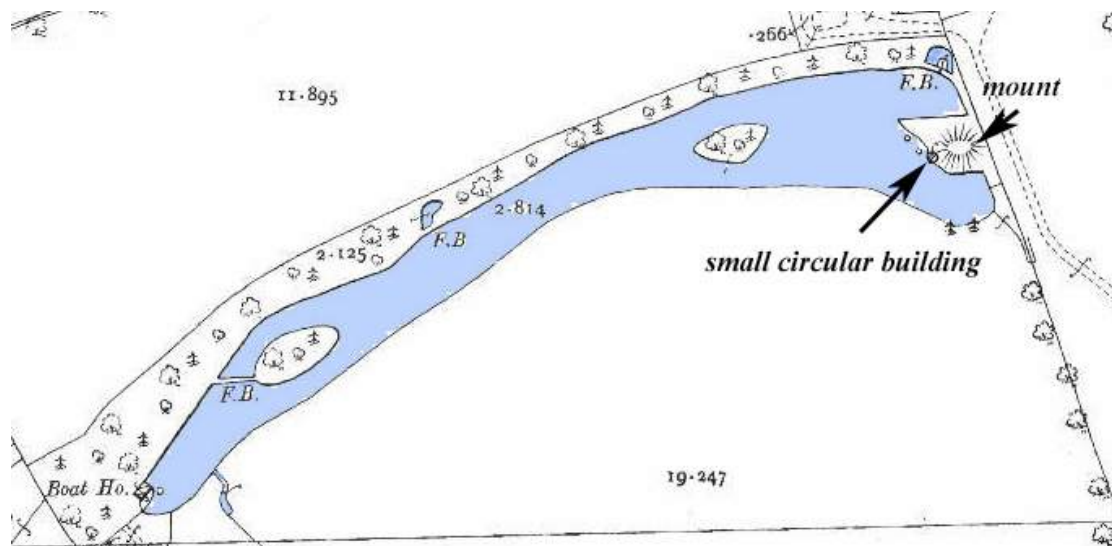


Figure 7.4 The Lake c.1910



Figure 7.5 Looking down from the mount to the remains of a circular building and retaining walls.



Figure 7.6 Remains of the circular building at the foot of the flat-topped mount at the water's edge

The account of Terenure in 1838 mentions a “fishing temple”. This could have been located in front of the mount. In the neighbouring demesne of Fortfield, now completely redeveloped as a residential area begun in the 1930s, there was also a linear lake. At its southern end was a mound which contained an icehouse. (Figure 7.7) However there was no indication on the maps of an icehouse on Terenure Demesne. Nor was one mentioned in the sale brochure. The mount at Terenure could benefit closer scrutiny when conditions allow.

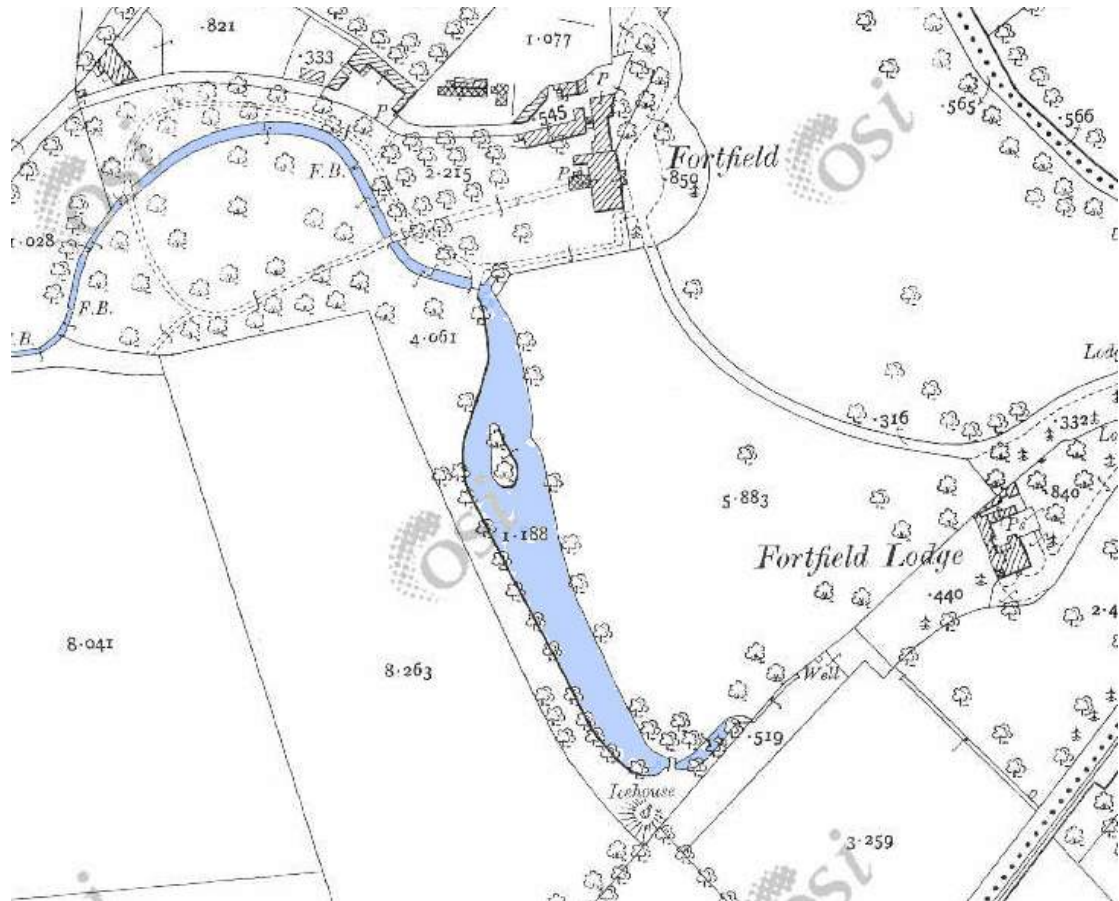


Figure 7.7 Fortfield Demesne. There is an icehouse marked on the map at the lake’s southern end

The lake at Terenure also had two small pools on its northern edge each providing the opportunity for other “picturesque bridges” for extra incidents to enliven the “winding walk” along the northern side of the lake. (Figures 7.4, 7.8 & 7.9) One of these is clearly visible yet rather derelict. It has a single segmental brick arch that had a variety of stones some tuffa-like as facing to the spandrels. Here too there is evidence that some metal structure had been applied by way of a balustrade.



Figure 7.8 The hollow was a small pool as an inlet from the lake. On the left at the lake's edge is a brick-arched footbridge



Figure 7.9 The single brick arch bridge. Currently it is propped at its centre by concrete blockwork

There was one further bridge and that was to access the western island. The bridge was probably timber in construction of which nothing remains. The island was undoubtedly the site of the banqueting house having been described in 1838 as “insulated”, i.e. on an island. It appears on the 1840s map. At the western end of the

lake there was a boathouse. (Figure 7.4) That end of the lake has been greatly altered and nothing exists of the boathouse or its site today.

In the 1990s the lake was dredged and the spoil was used to form a series of embankments along the southern edge of the lake on which trees and some shrubs have been planted, both obscuring the view of the lake from the demesne grounds to the south and altering the open views from the pathway along the north side of the lake. (Figure 7.10) The eastern two thirds of the lake was lowered with two changes of level around the island as large blocks of masonry formed miniature weirs. (Figure 7.11) The earlier presence of a boathouse at the west end of the lake confirms that this has been relatively recent intervention.



Figure 7.10 The embankment, planted with trees on the southern side of the lake. It was formed using the spoil from dredging the lake in the 1990s



Figure 7.11 Miniature weirs on either side of the western island altering the water level at the eastern part of the lake

8. The Changes of Use and Character of the Demesne after 1859

One of the potential buyers suggested in the 1859 sale brochure was a religious institution devoted to education. This came about with the Carmelite Order establishing Terenure College. Immediately there was a change of use and a direction of evolution and priorities different to what its earlier owners espoused. Animals were still grazed in the parkland but now also on the front lawn where they were contained by a railing fence along the drive, (Figure 8.1) and larger areas north of the lake were given over to agriculture. Horticulture continued for a while in the kitchen garden and may have fulfilled a pedagogical function. (Figure 6.3)



Figure 8.1 Terenure College, 1917

Before 1900 the built accommodation was expanded with an L-shaped block abutting the south end of the house forming an uncomfortable juxtaposition with its greater height. (Figure 8.1) The parkland and agricultural areas have been transformed into sports fields giving a more geometric organisation to the land, none more so that to the north of the lake with the current sharp abrupt boundary between the planted area and the grounds leased to the Terenure Rugby club. (Figure 8.2) The ecology of the parkland has been dramatically altered in its conversion from meadowland to amenity grass and most recently with the creation of an astroturf pitch with its attendant change to the ground water conditions.

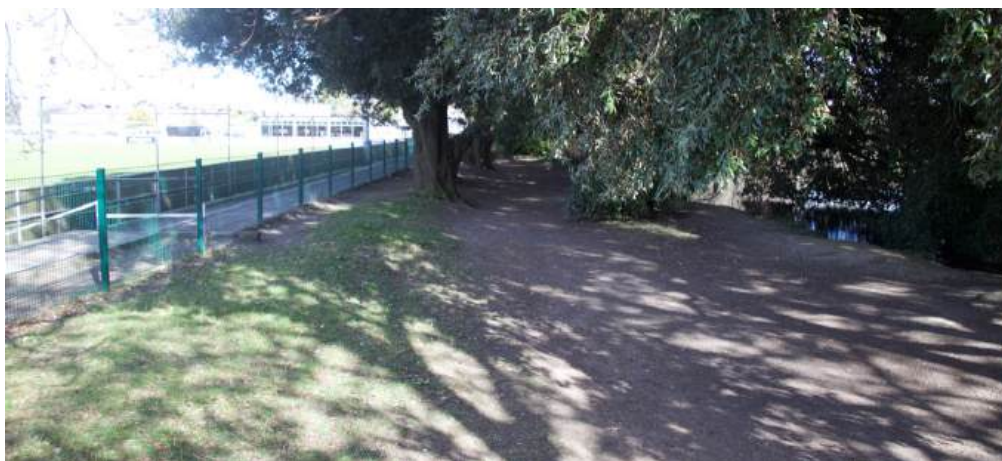


Figure 8.2 Northern boundary of the planted area of the lake

In the 1950s an open court was created with the building of the chapel and two ranges, one of which closely approached and dwarfed the original house on its north end. The view of the lake from the dining/music room (now the college's library) has been extinguished, even the view out to the playing fields and the distant skyline is being lost to close planting. From the upper rooms of the bows distant views are possible that is a reminder that the house and its predecessor look out to the early harbour and the mouth of the Liffey. Gone too is the walled kitchen garden and adjacent enclosure replaced with the necessary school buildings and playgrounds.

The early thirties saw a row of houses line the Templeogue Road. (Figure 8.3) Later, a road of houses bit into the northern boundary of the demesne. And to the east a row of houses faces onto the eastern end of the lake with its bridge and disused cascade.

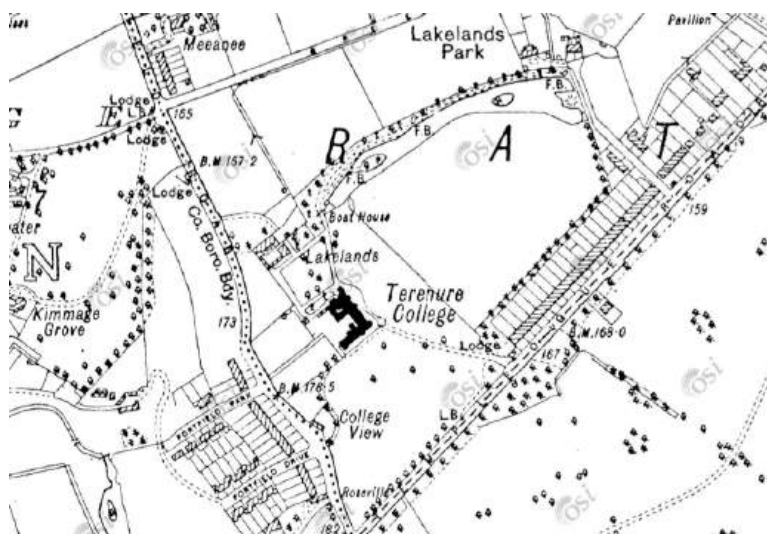


Figure 8.3 OS Cassini map of c.1930s

As with all the planted parts of designed landscapes there is a dimension of time. Trees grow and mature, understory planting and ground cover changes as access to light and sun is moderated and ecology shifts as shelter and cover is transformed. With this comes some splendours in the majesty of mature trees, and none more dramatic than the group of holm oaks that hang out over the lake at Terenure. (Figure 8.4)

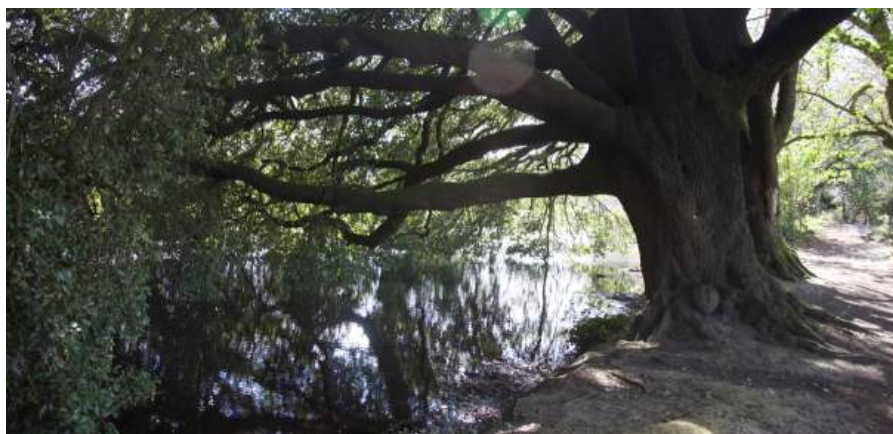


Figure 8.4 The mature Holm Oaks at the lakeside

9. Transformation of the Surrounding Landscape of Terenure Demesne

To the west of Terenure demesne Fortfield House was demolished in 1937 and its lake has been drained and the designed landscape has been erased. Its only presence is in the names of the streets of houses that have superseded the demesne. (Figure 9.1)



Figure 9.1 Fortfield Demesne is only remembered in the names of the roads

Bushy Park estate was sold in 1950s to Dublin City and is secured as open space and mostly given over to playing fields and tennis courts apart from the woodland that hangs over steep ravine down to the Dodder. Bushy Park House and immediate gardens became a school. Now along the approach drive and encircling the House is a complex of apartments. Figure 9.2



Figure 9.1 Bushy Park House and apartment development

Historic Landscape Impact Statement for the Development at Fortfield Road, Terenure

Prepared by John Olley BEng PhD

April 2024

The purpose of this statement is to identify and comment on the impact of the proposed development at **Fortfield Road, Terenure** on the historic character and setting of the site. The report should be read in conjunction with the separate report *Terenure College Grounds and Their Environs: Historic Landscape Assessment*.

The development will comprise a Large-Scale Residential Development (LRD) on a site at Fortfield Road, Terenure of 295 no. units delivering 19 no. houses and 276 no. apartments made up of studios; 1 beds; 2 beds; 3 beds; and 4 beds. Provision of car, cycle and motorbike parking will be provided throughout the development, including at basement and surface level. Vehicular/pedestrian/cyclist access from Fortfield Road. Proposed upgrade works to the surrounding road network is also included. All associated site development works, open space, services provision, ESB substations, plant areas, waste management areas, landscaping and boundary treatments.

The proposed development at Fortfield Road occupies a site within the bounds of the historic demesne of Terenure House. The site includes the northwest corner section of the demesne along with the entirety of the current lake and its islands and . (Figure 1)

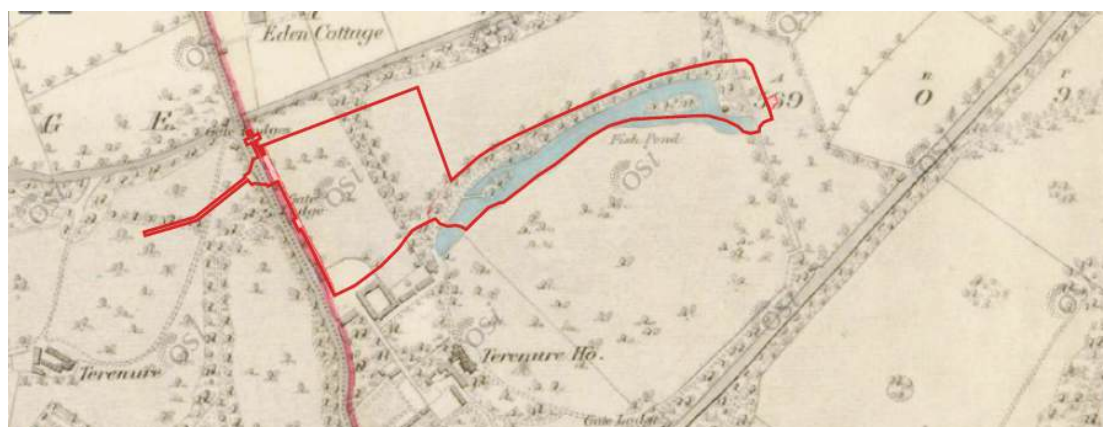


Figure 1 Site boundary of the proposed development marked on the c.1840 OS Map

In the eighteenth century, the northwest corner of the demesne mostly consisted of a field that served an agricultural purpose. The site includes a section of the land that formed a pasture that was enclosed with planting that contained a circuit walk. Before 1900 the planting had been removed with the exception of that bordering the north side of the lake, creating a single field. Subsequently the land, along with the field bordering on Rockfield Road has been used as sequence rugby pitches. The only feature left was a ditch that drained the water from a spring northwards. This ditch had formed the western boundary of the planting containing the circuit walk. It is

notable that the land to the west of the ditch was not included in the sale of the lands indicated in the brochure of 1859. (Figure 2) Historically, a wall to the north of the pleasure ground separated this area from the designed landscape addressed by Terenure House and its setting.

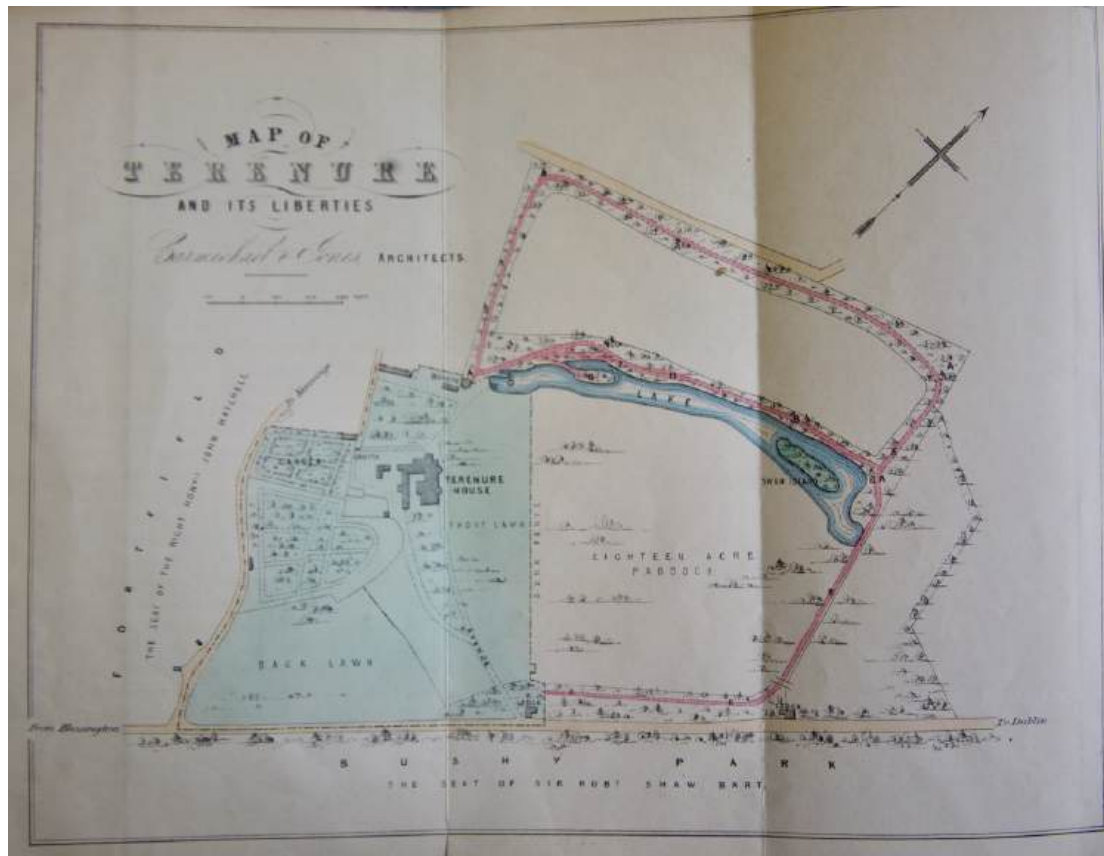


Figure 2 Demesne Map from the sale brochure 1859

The development of the school buildings that abut the original eighteenth-century buildings have radically changed its engagement of the house and its principal rooms with their setting - the pleasure ground to the north west, and the parkland and views of the lake with its mount at its furthest end to the north east. The pleasure ground was removed, and the parkland has become a series of sports fields. A planted embankment now occupies most of the southern side of the lake since the 1990s, further limiting views of the lake from the original parkland area.

The original planting along the north side of the lake has grown and matured and its character changed as a result. A level of benign neglect has also added self-seeded trees and shrubs to the area. The small inlets from the lake on its north side have gone partly due to the lowering of the level of the eastern two thirds of the lake. Desire lines have arisen superseding the original path along the lake. The lake and its northern, planted area have acquired its own ecology as a result of the maturing of the planting and its maintenance regime.

The lake was the major element of the designed landscape of the demesne, and today is the only surviving feature. The current proposal for the lake is to respect its acquired

ecology. A path would be established to create a route that is accessible, mindful to ensure the continued life of the mature planting and exploiting some of the established desire lines. The footbridges that were events along the designed lake-side walk are to be repaired and restored with the reinstatement of sensitive appropriate rails for safety. They will be restored to their role as features in the landscape. The mount at the eastern end of the lake has become obscured by maturing planting and self-seed vegetation. At the moment this area is to be fenced off to protect its acquired ecology and the small remains of the garden building. The quality of the water entering the lake is to be ensured by its control at its entry point.

The lake and its northern planting and route will remain an asset. Its amenity as oasis of tranquillity away from the road network of Terenure will be ensured.

The proposed residential development is on a site that was predominantly concealed from the original focus of the designed landscape of the demesne. Thus its impact on the remnants of the designed landscape is minimal. The intense landscaping proposals for the development adds much to the surrounding evolving environment of the suburban locale.

Large-Scale Residential Development (LRD) on a site at Fortfield Road, Terenure

Response to Request for Further Information

This statement is to fulfil part of the request for further information for the following proposed development:

The development will comprise a Large-Scale Residential Development (LRD) on a site at Fortfield Road, Terenure of 284 no. units delivering 19 no. houses and 265 no. apartments made up of studios; 1 beds; 2 beds; 3 beds; and 4 beds. The development will also provide community, cultural and arts space and a creche. Communal internal space for residents will also be delivered. Provision of car, cycle and motorbike parking will be provided throughout the development, including at basement and surface level. Vehicular/pedestrian/cyclist access from Fortfield Road. Proposed upgrade works to the surrounding road network is also included. All associated site development works, open space, services provision, ESB substations, plant areas, waste management areas, landscaping (both public and communal) and boundary treatments.

Client: 1 Celbridge West Land Limited

Number of Units: 284

Address: Site at Fortfield Road, Terenure, Co. Dublin.

Development Title: Fortfield Road, Terenure.

Application type: Largescale Residential Development

This statement is concerned with the nature of the existing of boundary wall along Fortfield Road its significance and the treatment of any surviving fragment of the eighteenth-century demesne wall.



November 2024

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Much of the demesne wall of Terenure Demesne has been altered over the last century. The main entrance to Terenure College has been enlarged and reshaped, another entrance had been created along Fortfield Road to facilitate a safer exit for the school. Along Terenure Road, portions of demesne wall were lowered to front the early housing development. Part of the original demesne wall along Fortfield Road functioned as the wall of the walled garden.

In the 1859 brochure for the sale of Terenure Demesne, the north west section of the demesne was not included (Figure 1). This section became a separate property by adding residential accommodation to the north wing of the original service buildings of Terenure House sometime shortly after 1843. It was known as *Lakelands*. A map of c.1864 with annotation of 1879 show the lessees of the estate of Sir Robert Shaw jnr. (Figure2). It gives different lessees for Lakelands to those of the demesne proper now belonging to the Carmelites. A separate entrance from Fortfield Road to Lakelands had also been established by this time (Figure 8)



Figure 1 Left 1837-1843 OS Map – Right detail of the sale brochure of 1859



Figure 3 Map of 1864 with annotation of 1879 showing the lessees of estate of Sir Robert Shaw jnr.

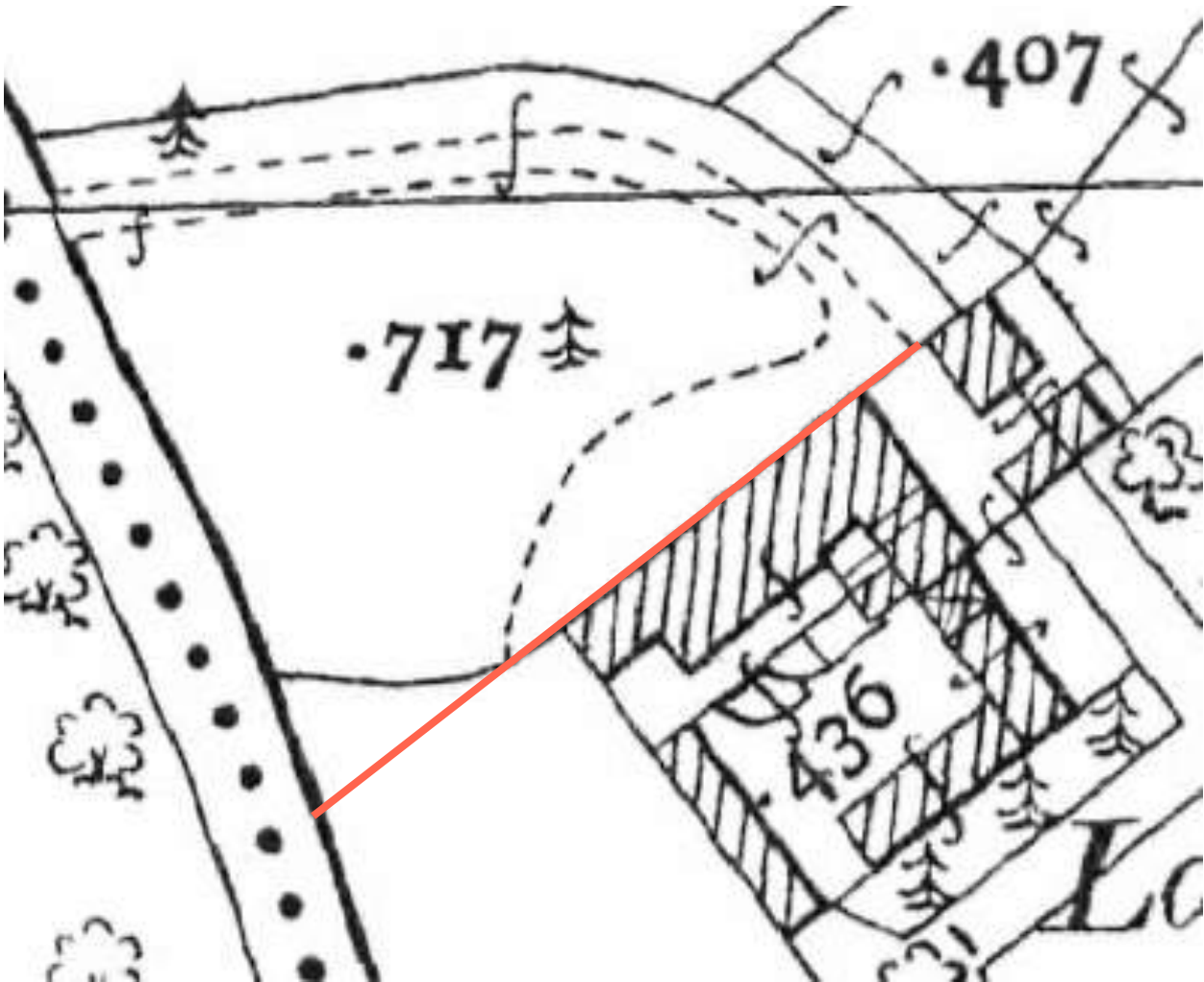


Figure 4 25inch c.1910 OS map. The red line shows the southern boundary of the proposed site

The 25inch c.1910 OS map shows a boundary which is different from the proposed site boundary for the development which is indicated on the map in red (Figure 4). From the boundary northwards the demesne wall had been rebuilt, possibly sometime in the second half of the twentieth century. The rebuilt wall is lower than the original wall at c.2metres and is constructed of concrete blockwork with at regular intervals piers on the inside of the wall with cement render on the pavement and capped with cement mortar. *This rebuilt wall itself is therefore of no heritage value.*



Figure 5 A section of the outside of the rebuilt demesne wall of concrete blockwork with cement render



Figure 6 The inside of the rebuilt demesne wall, unrendered, and with piers at regular intervals to a lower height than the wall.

The difference between the boundary on the 1910 map and the current site boundary means there is a short section of c.8.5 meters in length of the original demesne wall (Figures 4 & 7). It is c.3 meters tall and is of random rubble with lime mortar and a thin lime render. The end of the original wall has been crudely sloped down to the level of the concrete-block wall. Patches of the render have been lost (Figure7)

Where the entrance to Lakelands was created shortly after 1840, today the wall is curved in slightly and to a set of four brick piers one of which has gone (Figure 8). There is some evidence that they may have been joined with a brick wall. The sections of wall in this area have been given the same treatment of cement render. The surviving brick piers and any other sections of the wall from the mid-nineteenth century would appear to have been lowered. It is difficult to establish exactly the structure of this section of the wall, currently it shows fragments of brickwork and some of concrete blockwork. Furthermore, it might have been expected that the set back at the entrance would have been recorded on the 1910 25ich map but it is not (Figure4). Thus, it is not clear then whether any part of this wall dates from the 1840s or from after 1910.

It is the intention to retain the short section of c.8.5metres of the original demesne wall at the south end of the site and to make good the junction of the sloping section and to repair the render. This will be carried out by a competent mason with experience of traditional methods of the use of lime mortar and render and to best practise conservation. The render will match the existing in colour and texture as appropriate given that there is already considerable variation within the section of original wall.

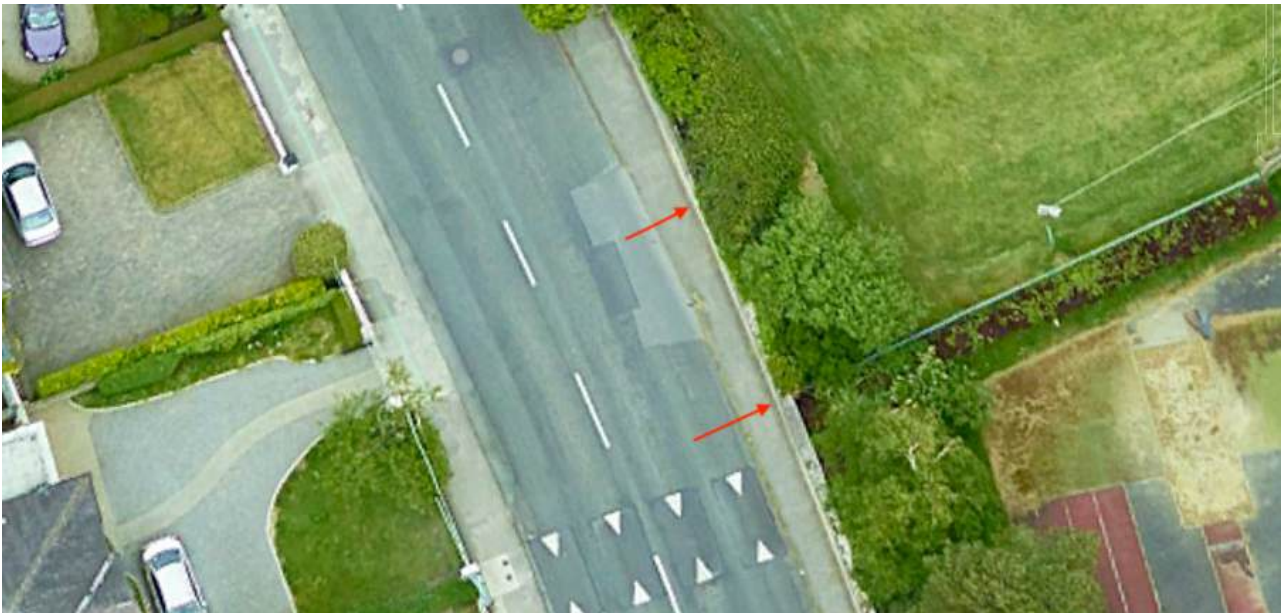


Figure 7 The Section of the original demesne within the proposed site for development is between the red lines



Figure 8 The location of the entrance created in the 1840s for a separate access to Lakelands