An Archaeological and Historical Landscape Study of the Townland of Louth Hall

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By combining surviving documentary and material evidence along with aerial photography, satellite imagery, and historical and archaeological Geographical Information Systems (GIS) data, this research essay, which is essentially a study in historic landscape archaeology, will attempt to interpret and gain insight into the medieval and post-medieval landscape of the townland of Louth Hall. An important element of this research project lies in the fact that there has never been anything substantial written on the history or archaeology of Louth Hall before, and it has, up until now, remained a blank canvas for research. Initially, in order to contextualise this study, this research essay will discuss the different structures into which the Irish landscape has been ordered over many centuries. These include; baronies, civil parishes, townlands and demesnes. This essay will then specifically discuss the history of the townland of Louth Hall and present the findings of research based on historic sources and archaeological evidence.
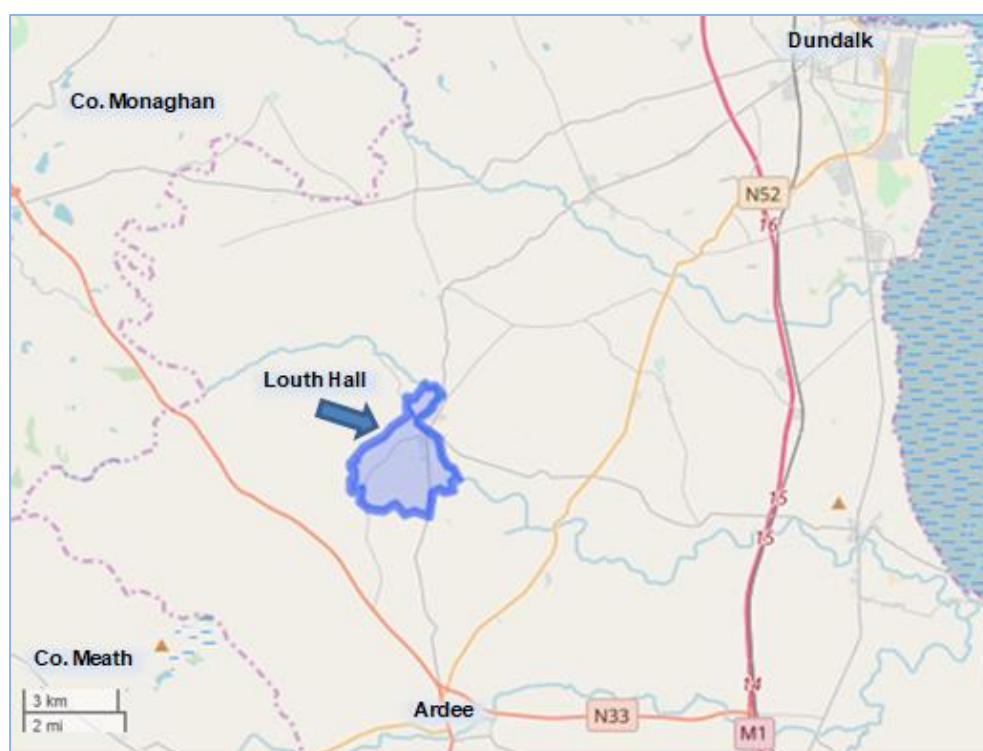

Fig. 1 The location of Louth Hall in relation to Dundalk, which lies approximately 13 km north-east of the townland, and Ardee, which lies approximately 6 km south of the townland.[2]

Baronies, civil parishes, and townlands

In reading the landscape, and in beginning to understand the territorial structures that lie within it, it becomes evident that there is a historic territorial hierarchy of land division in place, namely baronies, civil parishes, and townlands.[3] Baronies were based on pre-existing

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[1] This dissertation was submitted in partial fulfilment of the BA(Hons) in Digital Humanities, May 2019.
[2] Irish Townlands, 'Louth Hall Townland, Co. Louth'
(https://www.townlands.ie/louth/ardee/tallanstown/tallanstown/louth-hall/) (11 May 2019).
[3] P. J. Duffy, *Exploring the History and Heritage of Irish Landscapes* (Dublin, 2007), p. 54.

local lordships or 'countries', and administered local government up until the creation of county councils in 1898.[4] Civil parishes were based on earlier Gaelic territorial units called *túatha*, and are also important units for administrational purposes, particularly parochial records.[5] Townlands are direct legacies of a landscape assessment system, which emerged as an expression of land ownership and means of administering taxes and other dues on the medieval inhabitants of Gaelic lordships and manors of Anglo-Norman Ireland.[6] Although generally considered to be the smallest and oldest unit of land division in place, some larger townlands are made up of sub-denominations, or sub-townlands as they are sometimes referred to.[7] With approximately 63,000 townlands, 2,500 civil parishes, and 273 baronies in the country, each of these territorial units are an intermediate subdivision of the next – baronies consist of many civil parishes, civil parishes consist of many townlands, and some larger townlands may consist of sub-denominations, or sub-townlands.[8]

Irish demesnes and their development

In terms of landscape development, demesnes have been an important feature of the Irish landscape ever since the medieval period.[9] With over 6,000 demesne landscapes occupying more than six percent of the country's land mass, demesnes are considered to be most extensive man-made features in the Irish rural landscape.[10] Although historically dependent upon their surrounding estates, demesnes were the part of the manorial estate which were retained and reserved for the owners own pleasure, use and occupation.[11]

From as early as the thirteenth century gardens, along with deer parks and dovecots, were among the main components of Anglo-Norman demesnes.[12] It was not until the sixteenth century that demesne landscapes became more ornamental following the introduction of arbours; knots of intricate geometric patterns using flowers and other suitable perennial plants; intricate mazes and other topiary.[13] By the early seventeenth century, small enclosed gardens which were either geometric or symmetrical in plan, were being built as integral

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[4] *Ibid*., p. 54.

[5] *Ibid*., p. 59.

[6] *Ibid*., p. 54.

[7] Cork County Council 'Preserving our Placename Heritage: In the Naming of New Developments'. (Cork, nd), available at Cork Council Council (https://www.corkcoco.ie/sites/default/files/2017-04/Preserving%20Placenames.pdf) (accessed 10 May 2019); Logainm, 'Sub-units of Baile an Tallúnaigh/ Tallanstown' (https://www.logainm.ie/en/s?txt=in:1735&cat=FB) (10 May 2019).

[8] J. G. Ryan, *Irish Records: Sources for Family and Local History* (Dublin, 1997), p. 7; Duffy, *Exploring the History and Heritage of Irish Landscapes*, p. 58.

[9] T. Reeves-Smyth, 'The Natural History of Demesnes' in J. W. Foster and H. C. G. Chesney (eds), *Nature in Ireland: A Scientific and Cultural History* (Dublin, 1995), p. 549.

[10] Duffy, *Exploring the History and Heritage of Irish Landscapes*, p. 89; Cork County Council, 'Guidance Notes for the Appraisal of Historic Gardens, Demesnes, Estates and their Settings: An action of the County Cork Heritage Plan 2005/2010'. (Cork, nd), available at Cork County Council Arts and Heritage (https://www.corkcoco.ie/sites/default/files/2017-04/Guidance%20Notes%20for%20Appraisal.pdf) (accessed 24 May 2019).

[11] T. Reeves-Smyth, 'Demesnes' in F. H. A. Aalen, K. Whelan and M. Stout (eds), *Atlas of the Irish Rural Landscape* (Cork, 2011), p. 278; Reeves-Smyth, 'The Natural History of Demesnes', p. 549; F. Beglane, *Anglo-Norman Parks in Medieval Ireland* (Dublin, 2015), p. 221.

[12] National Inventory of Architectural Heritage, 'Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes' (http://www.buildingsofireland.ie/Surveys/Gardens/AShortHistory/) (23 May 2019); Reeves-Smyth, 'Demesnes', pp 279-280.

[13] Reeves-Smyth, 'Demesnes', p. 280; National Inventory of Architectural Heritage, 'Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes'.

parts of the manor house design.[14]   Prominent features from this period include bowling greens; fountains; statuary; terraces; and ornamental ponds.[15] By the end of the seventeenth century, demesne fields were reorganised into regular grid-like patterns, and the symmetry of early formal garden design was greatly extended into the demesne lands, which emphasised the centrality of the house within the surrounding hinterland.[16] Layouts from this period characteristically incorporated plain grass plots which were bordered and dissected by gravel paths; straight allée walkways, which were often bordered by trees or scrubs; nearby orchards and kitchen gardens, ornamental lakes and canals which served as fish ponds; deer-parks which had re-emerged during this period; ornamental garden buildings such as grottos, gazebos and summer houses, and other, more functional buildings such as dovecotes, pigeon houses, and ice houses; and of course, long straight tree-lined avenues.[17]

By the mid-eighteenth century a strong reaction against the formal style of garden and parkland design of the late seventeenth and early eighteenth century led to the adoption of the 'naturalised' landscape park.[18] Flowers, orchards and kitchen gardens were now banished to walled gardens, which were often some distance away from the house, or at least hidden from view by trees and scrubs.[19] Wide expanses of smooth, open lawns and meadows, which were dotted with clumps of trees surrounded the manor house and were separated only by sunken fences or ha-has, which permitted uninterrupted views of the demesne landscape.[20] Ideally, these views would have featured rolling hillocks, a winding stream and a lake that perfectly mirrored the house and park.[21] Additionally, the desire to block out the surrounding hinterland, which characteristically would have comprised of a treeless landscape and cultivated fields, was achieved by encircling plantation belts and perimeter walls.[22] Serpentine paths, which took a winding approach around large wooded areas to the house, were also a prominent feature from this period, as were gate lodges, which were often treated in the same ornamental style as the manor house.[23]

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[14] National Inventory of Architectural Heritage, 'Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes'; T. McErlean, 'The archaeology of parks and gardens, 1600-1900: an introduction to lrish garden archaeology' in A. Horning, R. Ó Baoill, C. Donnelly and P. Logue (eds), *The Post-Medieval Archaeology of Ireland 1550-1850* (Dublin, 2007), p. 276; S. Marcus and R. Barker, *Using Historic Parks and Gardens* (London, 1997), p. 5.

[15] McErlean, 'The archaeology of parks and gardens, 1600-1900: an introduction to lrish garden archaeology' p. 276; Marcus and Barker, *Using Historic Parks and Gardens*, p. 5.

[16] Reeves-Smyth, 'Demesnes', p. 281; National Inventory of Architectural Heritage, 'Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes'.

[17] V. Costello, *Irish Demesne Landscapes, 1600-1740* (Dublin, 2016), pp 50, 58, 69-70, 99; Reeves-Smyth, 'Demesnes', pp 278, 281; McErlean, 'The archaeology of parks and gardens, 1600-1900: an introduction to lrish garden archaeology', p. 279.

[18] Reeves-Smyth, 'Demesnes', p. 282; Reeves-Smyth, 'The Natural History of Demesnes', p.550.

[19] Reeves-Smyth, 'The Natural History of Demesnes', p.551.

[20] Reeves-Smyth, 'Demesnes', p. 282; Reeves-Smyth, 'The Natural History of Demesnes', p.550.

[21] Reeves-Smyth, 'Demesnes', p. 282.

[22] McErlean, 'The archaeology of parks and gardens, 1600-1900: an introduction to lrish garden archaeology', p. 276; Reeves-Smyth, 'Demesnes', p. 282.

[23] Costello, *Irish Demesne Landscapes, 1600-1740*, p. 188; Reeves-Smyth, 'Demesnes', p. 284.

Fig. 2 Louth Hall Demesne (centre) along with the other three demesnes that once existed in the civil parish of Tallanstown: Arthurstown Demesne, Lisrenny Demesne, and Thomastown (or Knockabbey) Demesne.[24]

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[24] Ordnance Survey Ireland, 'Historic Map 6 Inch Colour, 1835' (http://map.geohive.ie/) (17 May 2019).
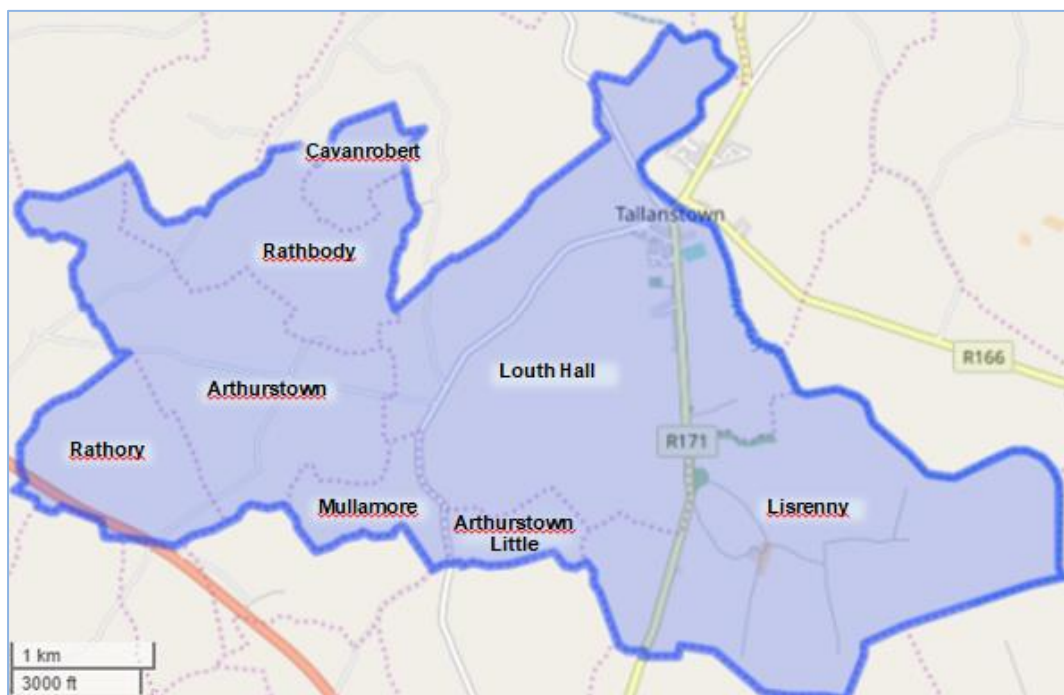
Fig. 3 The eight townlands that make up the modern day civil parish of Tallanstown, from left to right: Rathory, Arthurstown, Rathbody, Cavanrobert, Mullamore, Louth Hall, Arthurstown Little and Lisrenny.[25]

Description of Louth Hall

Situated towards the western fringes of mid-Louth, some 13 km south-west of Dundalk and 6 km north of Ardee is Louth Hall, the largest of eight townlands in the modern day civil parish of Tallanstown (see Figs. 1 and 3).[26] The modern day townland, which can be found on sheets eleven and fourteen of the historic six inch and twenty-five inch Ordnance Survey (OS) maps of County Louth (see Fig. 4), covers an area of approximitely 1070 acres (or 433 hectares/4.33 km^2) and ranges from between 13.4 m and 53 m above sea level.[27]

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[25] Irish Townlands, 'Civil Parish of Tallanstown, Co. Louth' (https://www.townlands.ie/louth/tallanstown1/) (17 May 2019).

[26] M. Cummings & Co. Ltd., Town Planning and Development Consultant, *Tallanstown Village Local Area Plan 2003* (Dundalk, 2003), p. 10; Irish Townlands, 'Civil Parish of Tallanstown, Co. Louth'.

[27] V. M. Buckley, *Archaeological Inventory of County Louth* (Dublin, 1986), p. 121; Louth Field Names Project, *Field Name Research Handbook: A practical guide for volunteers to conduct the Field Name Surveys in County Louth with Grid Map, Townland Listing and Glossary of Terms* (Dundalk, 2013), p. 21; 'Ordnance Survey Name Book – Parish of Tallanstown, 1835' (MFP 1/261).
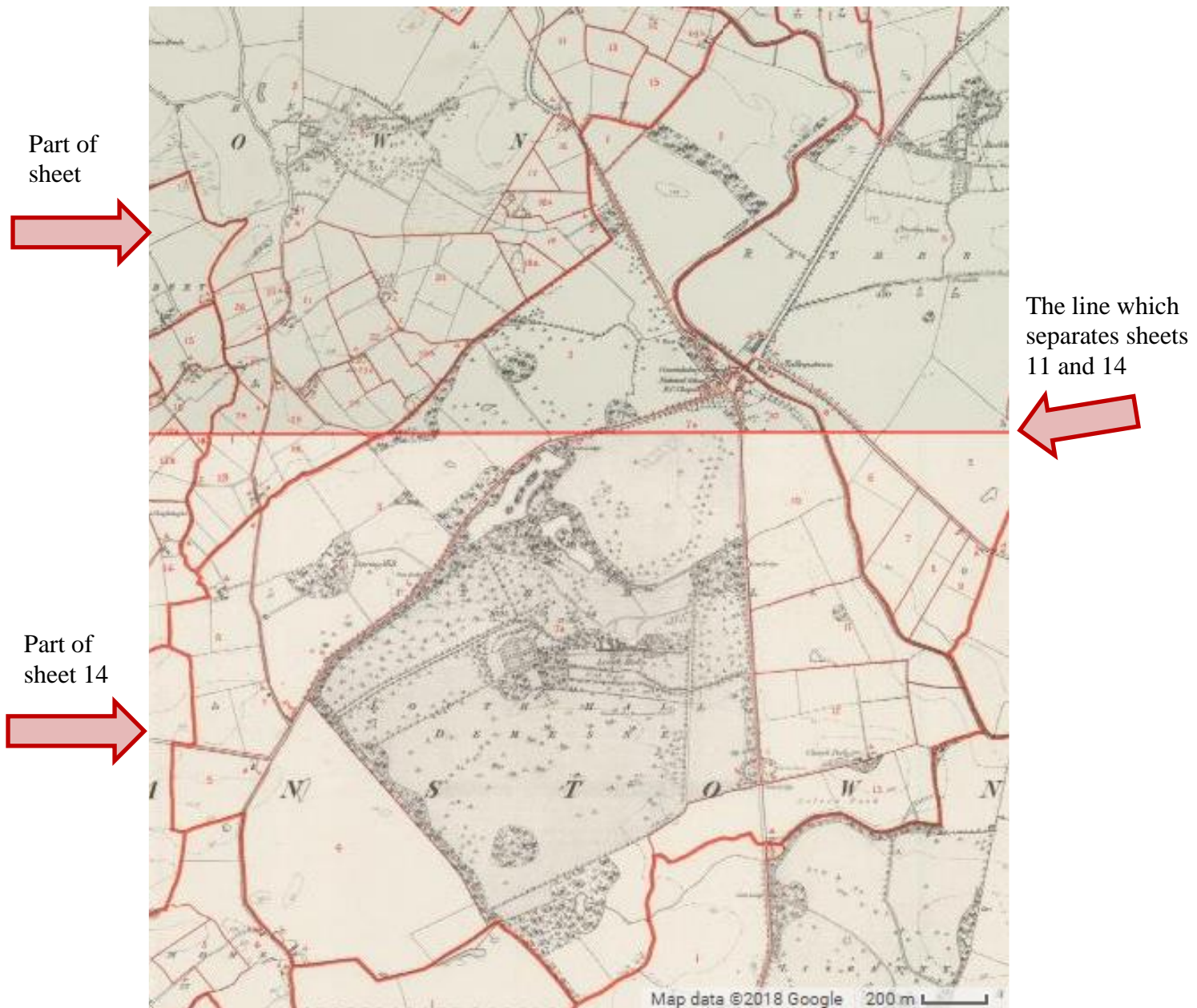
Part of sheet

Part of sheet 14

The line which separates sheets 11 and 14

Fig. 4 Louth Hall, as it appears on sheets eleven and fourteen of the historic six inch and twenty-five inch Ordnance Survey (OS) maps of County Louth. These separate but adjoining sheets are represented by the red horizontal line running directly across the townland illustrated above. The map itself is a variation of the six inch OS map created sometime around the completion of Griffith's Valuation of County Louth in 1855 or shortly thereafter.[28]

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[28] Ask About Ireland - Griffith's Valuation, 'Historical Map Viewer' (http://griffiths.askaboutireland.ie/gv4/single_layer/i8.php?lat=&longt=&dum=0&sheet=11,14&mysession=2612930599336&info=&place=&county=Louth&placename=%3Cb%3ELouth%20hall%3C/b%3E&parish=Tallanstown&country=Ireland&union=&barony=Ardee) (17 May 2019); J. F. V. FitzGerald, *A Practical Guide to the Valuation of Rent in Ireland: With an Appendix, Containing Some Extracts from the Instructions Issued to Valuators in 1853 by the Late Sir R. Griffith, Bart* (Dublin, 1881), p. 105.

It must be noted that Louth Hall is not the original townland name.[29] The original townland name was in fact Tallonstown, with local lore suggesting that it was named after the Tallon family.[30] Evidence of this local lore can be found in the Louth OS Letters of 1835, when Patrick Kieran, a resident of 'Tallonstown townland', was recorded to have said: 'Tallan [sic] was the man's name from whom Tallonstown townland, Baile an Tallanaigh, is denominated, being proprietor of it.'[31] While, local historian Major General F. W. Stubbs (1828-1911) rightly pointed out in his own research on placenames of County Louth that Mr. Kieran 'gives no authority for this', Baile an Tallúnaigh - the modern day Irish spelling of the townland, directly translates to 'Tallan's homestead', which suggests that the historic townland of Tallonstown may very well have gotten its name from the Tallon family.[32] The remains of an old and hoary headstone in the old graveyard which reads 'Here lieth the body of Laurence Tallon who died Febry 19 1768 aged 4[1] years', has only added to the local lore and mystery which surrounds the Tallon family.

Historically, however, the townland has been associated with another, more prominent and well documented Anglo-Norman family; the Plunketts. While documentary evidence suggests that the Plunkett family were associated with the townland of Tallonstown from as early as the late fifteenth century, the physical remains of their residential tower house, which was built high in the centre of the townland, dates to an even earlier period of around 1350.[33] In 1541, the Plunkett family were given the title 'Barons of Louth' by Henry VIII, and it appears that at some point after the creation of this title, Lord Louth's residential tower house and demesne in the centre of Tallonstown was named Louth Hall.[34] Therefore, Louth Hall was originally the name given to the residence and demesne of the Plunkett family, Barons of Louth, from which the modern day townland of Louth Hall got its name.

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[29] Logainm.ie, 'Baile an Tallúnaigh - Louth Hall' (https://www.logainm.ie/en/33638) (17 May 2019); T. O'Conor and P. O'Keeffe, 'Ordnance Survey Letters: Louth'. (Louth, 1836), available at Ask About Ireland (http://www.askaboutireland.ie/aai-files/assets/ebooks/OSI-Letters/LOUTH_14%20D%2023.pdf) (accessed 17 May 2019).

[30] T. O'Conor and P. O'Keeffe, 'Ordnance Survey Letters: Louth'.

[31] *Ibid.*

[32] J. R. Garstin, 'Major General Stubbs: In Memoriam', in *Journal of the County Louth Archaeological Society*, 2, 4 (1911), pp 347-349; F. W. Stubbs, 'Place Names in the County of Louth', in *Journal of the County Louth Archaeological Society,* 2, 4 (1911), p. 358; Logainm.ie, 'Baile an Tallúnaigh - Louth Hall'; A. Room, *A Dictionary of Irish Place-names* (Belfast, 1988), p. 118.

[33] P. Dillion (ed.), 'National Library of Ireland, Collection List No. 90, Louth Papers – A collection of estate and family papers of the Plunkett family, Barons Louth, of Louth Hall, County Louth, 1548-1941'. (Dublin, nd), available at National Library of Ireland (http://www.nli.ie/pdfs/mss%20lists/louth.pdf) (accessed 17 May 2019); National Inventory of Architectural Heritage, 'Louth Hall, County Louth' (http://www.buildingsofireland.ie/niah/search.jsp?type=record&county=LH&regno=13901426) (17 May 2019).

[34] Dillion (ed.), 'National Library of Ireland, Collection List No. 90, Louth Papers – A collection of estate and family papers of the Plunkett family, Barons Louth, of Louth Hall, County Louth, 1548-1941'.
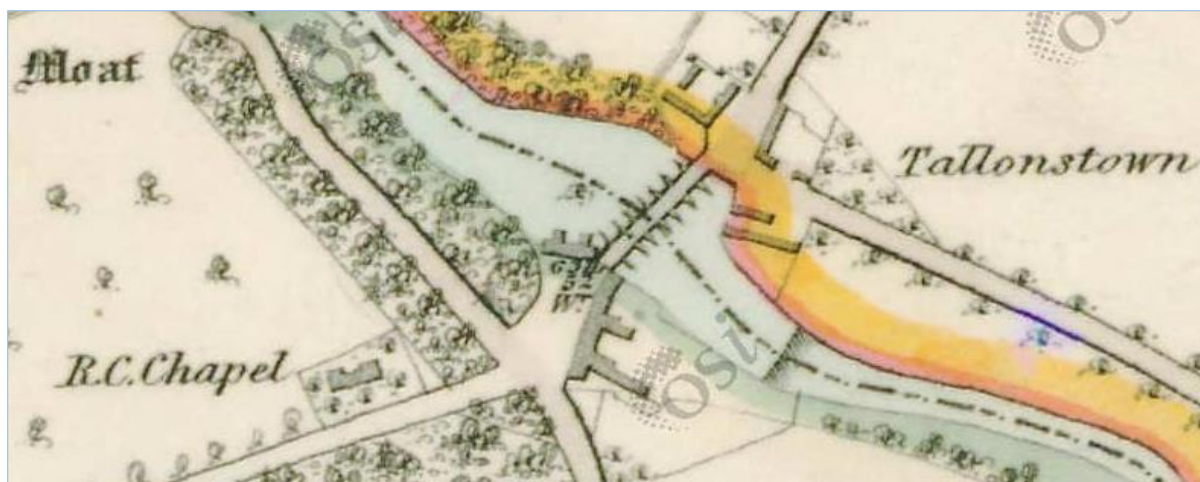
Fig. 5 The village of Tallonstown as depicted on the six inch OS map of 1835. The teal coloured boundary line running directly along the south bank of the River Glyde represents the civil parish boundary, while the red and yellow boundary lines running directly along the north bank of the river represents the townland and barony boundaries respectively.[35]

To confuse matters, the village of Tallonstown, which was initially built to house the estate workers employed by Lord Louth in the eighteenth century, is geographically situated on the boundary between two separate townlands, two separate parishes and two separate baronies (see Fig. 5).[36] As a result, part of the village lies in the modern day townland of Louth Hall, in the civil parish of Tallanstown, in the barony of Ardee; while another part of it lies in the adjoining townland of Rathbrist, in the civil parish of Louth, which was also a part of the barony of Louth. The River Glyde separates the two neighbouring townlands, parishes and baronies, while Tallanstown Bridge, in the very centre of the village, connects them. It appears that from the eighteenth century onwards there was a shift in the use of placenames; Louth Hall was now used to represent the entire townland formerly known as Tallonstown, while Tallonstown was now used to denote the village.[37]

Research Objectives

This research essay will attempt to address the following questions:

- What evidence is there to suggest early medieval settlement in the modern day townland of Louth Hall?
- What historical information exists that may link the historic townland of Tallonstown to the Tallon family?
- To what extent did the Plunkett family influence and alter the landscape around them?
- Is it possible to identify any unrecorded features or low visibility sites in the local landscape through the use of aerial photography and satellite imagery?

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[35] Ordnance Survey Ireland, 'Historic Map 6 Inch Colour, 1835'.

[36] C. Casey and A. Rowan, *The Buildings of Ireland: North Leinster* (London, 1993), p. 494; Biblioteca Digital Hispánica, 'A Topographical Map of the County of Louth, by Matthew Wren, 1766' (http://bdh-rd.bne.es/viewer.vm?lang=en&id=0000189268) (17 May 2019).

[37] Biblioteca Digital Hispánica, 'A Topographical Map of the County of Louth, by Matthew Wren, 1766'; Logainm.ie, 'A Map of the County of Louth, surveyed by Taylor and Skinner, 1777' (https://www.logainm.ie/Eolas/Data/Brainse/logainm.ie-map-george-taylor-and-andrew-skinner-1777-grand-jury-louth-south.jpg) (17 May 2019).

Methodology:

By combining surviving documentary and material evidence along with aerial photography, satellite imagery, and historical and archaeological GIS data, this research essay - which is essentially a study in historic landscape archaeology, will attempt to interpret and gain insight into the medieval and post-medieval landscape of the modern day townland of Louth Hall. An important element of this research project involves putting together a map archive. By placing the maps in chronological order, it may be possible to document how certain aspects of the local landscape developed over time. Through the use of additional aerial photography and satellite imagery, this research essay will also attempt to identify possible unrecorded features and low visibility sites within the modern day landscape. Field walking has also been an important element in examining and identifying existing features in the local landscape.

Historical Sources

Broadly speaking, the range of historical sources for information in relation to Louth Hall townland can be divided into two main categories: documentary and cartographic.

Documentary sources

Perhaps, the earliest reference to the modern day townland of Louth Hall can be found in the Louth OS Letters. These were a series of letters written by Thomas O'Conor and Patrick O'Keeffe to Lieutenant Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the OS, containing information relative to the antiquities of County Louth, which was collected during the progress of the OS between 1835 and 1836.[38] In a letter, dated 8 February, 1836, it states that Louth Hall 'was anciently called via saltus - *Bothar a Minig* (*Mionaig*) (road of the lawn).'[39] While '*Bothar a Minig* (*Mionaig*)' is old Irish, the words 'via saltus' are Latin, and translate to 'way of the forest'. Similarly, Tallonstown Bridge was said to have 'anciently bore another name, ostium pontis - *Beul a Drocit*.'[40] This time, however, both the Latin 'ostium pontis' and old Irish '*Beul a Drocit*' translate to 'mouth of the bridge'. Although there is no Latin name given, the same entry states that: 'On the lands of Louth Hall, is a place called Spring Hill (anciently called *Baile Ui Reigin*)'.[41] When translated into English, '*Baile Ui Reigin*' directly translates to Balregan.[42] Unlike the two previous placenames, there is cartographical evidence in the form of two eighteenth century maps to suggest that Spring Hill, which remains a well-known placename within the modern day landscape, was once known, or at the least partly known as Balregan (see Fig. 6).

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[38] O'Conor and O'Keeffe, 'Ordnance Survey Letters: Louth'. (Louth, 1836).
[39] *Ibid.*
[40] *Ibid.*
[41] *Ibid.*
[42] Logainm.ie, 'Baile Uí Réigín - Balregan' (https://www.logainm.ie/en/33721) (17 May 2019).
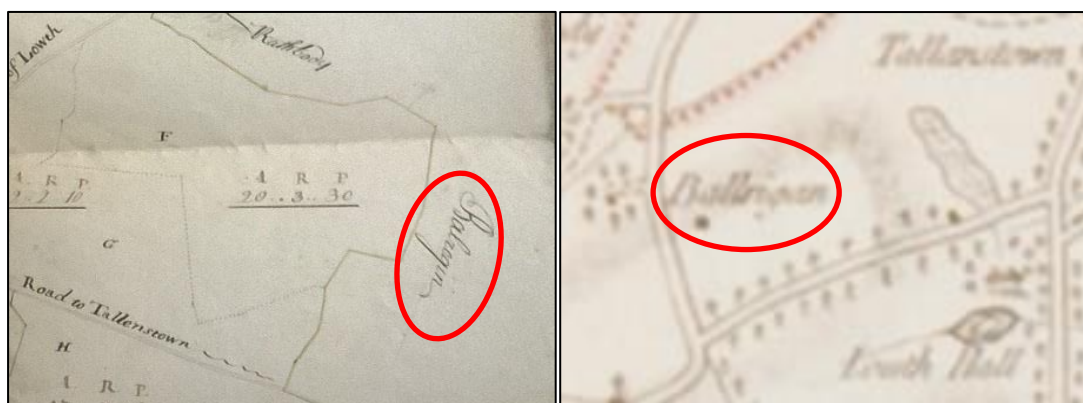
Fig. 6 From left to right: 'Balregan' as it appears on James Brickell's 1764 'Map of part of Arthurstown', a 'Road to Tallenstown' is also featured on the map on the bottom left of the image; and 'Ballrigan' as it appears on Taylor and Skinner's 1777 'A Map of the County of Louth'.[43]

Documentary evidence relating to the existence of the modern day townland of Louth Hall from the early medieval period can be found in an early nineteenth century transcript, copied and published by the Irish Records Commission from an original plea roll.[44] Essentially, plea rolls were medieval judicial parchment rolls which contained all manners of court proceedings.[45] Having reproduced a list of 243 townlands from County Louth, as they originally appeared on a plea roll dated 7 January 1301, the late local historian, Reverend Diarmuid MacIomhair (d. 1983) recorded that 'Drogstrochil' formed part of what is now the modern day townland of Louth Hall.[46] While 'Taluneston' is also listed among the 243 townlands, it is one of thirty-seven townlands were no modern day location is recorded within County Louth.[47] There is little doubt, however, that the townland of 'Taluneston', must have formed the other part of what is now the modern day townland of Louth Hall. Furthermore, the reference to 'Taluneston' in the plea roll transcript refers to 'the townlands of the Villa de Drumeskyn… and Taluneston'.[48] A reference to the term '*vill* (*villa* or *villata*)' is once again recorded in relation to 'Toloneston' from records dating to 1540-41.[49] What exactly is meant by the term '*villa* or *villata*' in these records is not known; however, these terms most likely refer to a manor house or possible manorial village, which may have existed in the townland from as early as 1301.[50]

Further documentary evidence from the fourteenth century includes a reference to 'Talounistoun chapel' which was recorded as being a 'synodal of the deanery of Atrium Dei'

[43] 'Map of part of Arthurstown by Jas Brickell, 1764' (PP00012/018/003); Logainm.ie, 'A Map of the County of Louth, surveyed by Taylor and Skinner, 1777'.

[44] D. MacIomhair, 'Townlands of County Louth in A.D. 1301', in *Journal of the County Louth Archaeological Society*, 16, 1 (1965), p. 42.

[45] CIRCLE: A Calendar of Irish Chancery Letters c. 1244 – 1509, 'Calendars and Notices' (https://chancery.tcd.ie/content/reconstructing-rolls-medieval-irish-chancery#calendars-and-notices) (17 May 2019); Oxford Reference, 'Plea Rolls' (http://www.oxfordreference.com/view/10.1093/oi/authority.20110803100331490) (17 May 2019).

[46] T. Ó'Fiaich, 'A Tribute to Father Diarmuid MacIomhair', in *Journal of the County Louth Archaeological and Historical Society*, 20, 3 (1983), pp 173-174; MacIomhair, 'Townlands of County Louth in A.D. 1301', p. 45.

[47] MacIomhair, 'Townlands of County Louth in A.D. 1301', p. 47; Rev. J. B. Leslie, *History of Kilsaran: Union of Parishes in the County of Louth* (Dundalk, 1908), p. 180.

[48] Leslie, *History of Kilsaran: Union of Parishes in the County of Louth*, p. 180.

[49] N. B. White (ed.), *Extents of Irish Monastic Possessions 1540-1541: From Manuscripts in the Public Record Office, London* (Dublin, 1943), pp viii, 109, 226, 449.

[50] R. Muir, *Landscape Encyclopaedia: A Reference Guide to the Historic Landscape* (Lancaster, 2004), pp 265-266; T. O'Keeffe, *Medieval Ireland: An Archaeology (*Gloucestershire, 2001), pp 58-60, 70-73.

by Archbishop Milo Sweteman of Armagh (d. 1380) in an entry dated c. 1370.[51] 'Atrium Dei' is an old Anglo-Norman name for Ardee, the barony in which the historic and modern day townland is located.[52] Additional writings from the late antiquary, Rev. Mervyn Archdall (1723–91) state that Tallanstown church, 'the white church', was once one of eight chapels of the Priory of St. John of Ardee, and remained so until sometime between 1537 and 1540 during the dissolution of the monastries.[53] Interestingly, in a survey of former monastic possessions carried out between 1540-41, under the 'Rectory of Toloneston' - 'Toloneston'; 'Cnok'; 'Droghedoll'; and 'Cokleragh' were all recorded as paying tithes.[54] By 1622, it appears that the church was in a ruinous condition.[55] Additionally, an Episcopal Visitation Book from 1692 confirms the presence of the church, although it was still very much in a ruinous condition with its 'walls, windows and roof out of repair.'[56] In 1836, it was recorded by O'Conor and O'Keeffe in their OS letter to Larcom that 'there are no remains of the Church, nor does any one now living rememeber to have seen any vestiges of it.'[57]

Two chancery documents in the form of patent roll manuscripts from the early fifteenth century shed considerable light into how the landscape was being developed within the historic townland. The first, which dates to 3 February 1420, makes reference to 'Tallonestoun manor', it reads: 'PARDON to Walter Plunket of all manner of intrusions [etc.] committed or perpetrated by Walter [etc.] in the manors of Beawlieu, Kerrestoun and Tallonestoun.'[58] The second, which dates to 28 April 1421, appears to guarantee a custodial transfer of land and holdings to William Tallon, son and heir of John Tallon.[59] The land in question consisted of 240 acres of ploughland, 40 acres of pasture, 40 acres of moor, and one water mill in Tallonestoun.[60] It reads: 'COMMISSION, by mainprize of Philip Netterville senior and Walter Tryvers of Balyshee, co. Dublin, to William, son and heir of John Tallon, of custody of two messuages and two carucates of land, 40 acres of pasture, 40 acres of moor, 40s of chief rent and 1 water-mill in Tallonestoun; to have for as long as they are in the K.'s hand, rendering the extent.'[61]

Unfortunately while no documentary evidence directly relating to the townland of Louth Hall or barony of Ardee have survived from the Civil Survey (1654-56), which was an unmapped but detailed survey conducted to establish the amount of land forfeited as a consequence of the 1641 rebellion, 'Tallanstown bridge' and the 'river Blackwater', presumably an old name for the River Glyde, are both mentioned in surviving boundary descriptions for the adjoining

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[51] Rev. H. J. Lawlor, *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy, Volume XXIX, Section C, No. 8: A Calendar of the Register of Archbishop Sweteman* (Dublin, 1911), p. 289; Dictionary of Irish Biography 'Sweteman, Milo by Ailbhe Mac Shamhráin' (http://dib.cambridge.org/viewReadPage.do?articleId=a8410) (17 May 2019).

[52] Fr. M. Murtagh, *Ardee 2000: Millennium Recollections* (Dundalk, 2000), p. 16.

[53] J. S. Kieran, *An Outline History of the Parish of St. Mary's Abbey, Ardee* (Ardee, n/a), p. 2; Stubbs, 'Place Names in the County of Louth', p. 358; N/a, 'Returns of Property of Monasteries at Dissolution', in *Journal of the County Louth Archaeological Society*, 7, 1 (1929), p. 46.

[54] White (ed.), *Extents of Irish Monastic Possessions 1540-1541: From Manuscripts in the Public Record Office, London*, p. 191.

[55] J. B. Leslie, *Armagh Clergy and Parishes* (Dundalk, 1911), p. 412.

[56] G. W. C. L'Estrange, *Notes and Jottings on the Union of Charlestown* (Charlestown, 1912), p. 12.

[57] O'Conor and O'Keeffe, 'Ordnance Survey Letters: Louth'. (Louth, 1836).

[58] CIRCLE: A Calendar of Irish Chancery Letters c. 1244 – 1509, 'Patent Roll 7 Henry V' (https://chancery.tcd.ie/roll/7-Henry-V/Patent) (18 March 2018).

[59] CIRCLE: A Calendar of Irish Chancery Letters c. 1244 – 1509, 'Patent Roll 9 Henry V' (https://chancery.tcd.ie/roll/9-Henry-V/Patent) (18 March 2018).

[60] *Ibid.*

[61] *Ibid.*

barony of Louth.[62]   However, two partial land survey records do survive. During the Gross Survey (1653-54), which was an umapped civil inquistion into land ownership, conducted as as a preliminary survey to land forfeited as a result of the 1641 rebellion, the denominations of 'Tallonstown', 'Corklyrath', 'Danistown', 'Droghedull', and 'Farnonrath' are recorded as being within the historic civil parish of Tallonstown.[63] Interestingly, a surveyors' book from the Down Survey (1654-56), which was the mapped record of land forfeited, gives two seperate measurements for the historic townland of Tallonstown; one part measuring 354 acres, 1 rood and 0 perches, and the other part 39 acres, 0 roods and 0 perches.[64]

In relation to the townland, two interesting documentary sources from the nineteenth century reveal some interesting placenames within the local landscape. A survey of Lord Louth's estate from 1833, shows the townland of Louth Hall was divided up into nine smaller sub-denominations; 'Areeah', 'Balregan or Priest's Farm', 'Churchpark', 'Draythdull', 'Lisdhu', 'Loughanleban', 'Louth Hall Demesne', 'Silverpark' and 'Springhill'.[65] While the parish census of 1834 lists the following sub-denominations: 'Tallonstown and Louth Hall', 'Spring Hill and Loughlinlebin', and 'Silverpark and Churchpark'.[66]
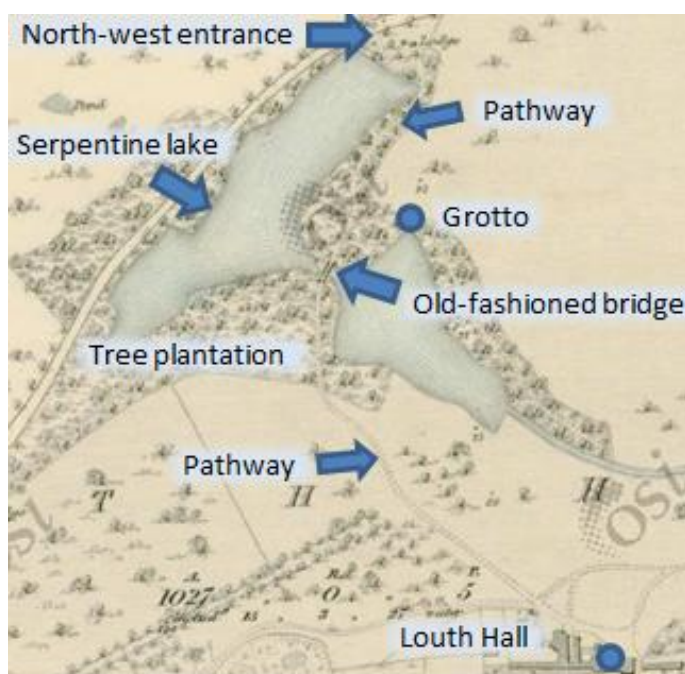

Fig. 7 Part of Louth Hall demesne, as described by Bassett in 1886, along with the locations of places mentioned.[67]

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[62] J. Byrne, *Byrne's Dictionary of Irish Local History: From the Earliest Times to c.1900* (Cork, 2004), p. 67; R. C. Simmington, *The Civil Survey 1654-6, Vol. X: Miscellanea* (Dublin, 1961), pp. 51-53.

[63] Byrne, *Byrne's Dictionary of Irish Local History: From the Earliest Times to c.1900*, p. 143; H. O' Sullivan, 'The Plantation of the Cromwellian Soldiers in the Barony of Ardee, 1652-1656', in *Journal of the County Louth Archaeological and Historical Society*, 21, 4 (1988), pp 443, 448.

[64] O' Sullivan, 'The Plantation of the Cromwellian Soldiers in the Barony of Ardee, 1652-1656', pp 420, 443; Byrne, *Byrne's Dictionary of Irish Local History: From the Earliest Times to c.1900*, p. 103.

[65] N. Ross, 'A Survey of the Estate of Lord Louth in 1832-33', in *Journal of the County Louth Archaeological and Historical Society*, 23, 2 (1994), pp 235-236.

[66] D. MacIvor, 'Census of Tallanstown Parish, 1834', in *Journal of the County Louth Archaeological Society*, 14, 1 (1957), pp 15, 17, 23-24.

[67] Ordnance Survey Ireland, 'Historic Map 6 Inch Colour, 1835'.

Another interesting documentary source from the late nineteenth century paints a vivid description of part of Louth Hall's demense, which historically lay at the very centre of the townland. In 1886, George Henry Bassett wrote: 'A serpentine lake twists in and out, always near the drive, and is literally covered in the season with white water lilies. On its bank is a pretty grotto ingeniously lined with shells and pebbles of different colors, in regular patterns. A high old-fashioned bridge crosses a narrow part of the lake and leads to a park of magnificent trees and to the mansion a broad square castellated building, characterized by an amazing number of windows.'[68]

Fig. 8 The shell grotto (top); and manor house and part of demesne (bottom), *c*.1904. [69]

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[68] G. H. Bassett, *Louth: County Guide and Directory* (Dublin, 1886), p. 245.
[69] *The Sketch*, 4 January 1905.

Cartographic sources

Fig. 9 Part of Gerald Mercator's 1595 'Ultoniae Orientalis Pars' map. 'B. Talent' (Tallonstown) and 'Lough flu' (the River Glyde) are circled in red.[70]

To date, the earliest known cartographic reference to the townland can be found on 'Ultoniae Orientalis Pars' by Gerald Mercator, which was first included in his *Atlas* of 1595.[71] The 'B. Talent', which is depicted directly north of 'Arde' (Ardee) and close to the banks of the 'Lough flu' (perhaps another old name for the River Glyde), is undoubtedly the name and location of the historic townland of Tallonstown (see Fig. 9).[72]

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[70] B. L. Ruderman, Antique Maps Inc., 'Ultoniae Orientalis Par [From 1st Edition of Mercator Atlas]' (https://www.raremaps.com/gallery/detail/24378/ultoniae-orientalis-par-from-1st-edition-of-mercator-atlas-mercator) (17 May 2019).

[71] B. L. Ruderman, Antique Maps Inc., 'Ultoniae Orientalis Par [From 1st Edition of Mercator Atlas]'; R. W. Karrow Jr., 'Gerardus Mercator, Duisburg, 1595 - Atlas sive Cosmographicæ Meditationesde Fabrica Mundi et Fabricati Figura'. (Washington, nd), available at The Internet Archive (https://web.archive.org/web/20160310032427/http://mail.nysoclib.org/mercator_atlas/mcrats.pdf) (accessed 17 May 2019).

[72] B. L. Ruderman, Antique Maps Inc., 'Ultoniae Orientalis Par [From 1st Edition of Mercator Atlas]'.

Fig. 10 From left to right: The historic townland of Tallonstown as it appears on William Petty's Down Survey 'Barony map of Atherdee', c. 1657, and the townland as it appears on Matthew Wren's 'Topographical Map of the County of Louth', 1766.[73]

An accurate depiction of the historic townland boundary exists in William Petty's Down Survey 'Barony Map of Atherdee', *c.*1657 (see Fig. 10).[74] Plotted on a scale of '160 perches in an inch', which is equivalent to two inches to one mile, the map is orientated north-west, as opposed to due north.[75] The historic townland of 'Tallonstowne', is depicted as being one of nine townlands which made up the civil parish of the same name.[76] Interestingly, while the townland is divided into two separate parts, due to an adjoining townland, both parts are clearly labelled 'Tallonstowne'.[77] Along the river bank within the greater part of 'Tallonstowne', a corn mill and a tuck mill for fulling cloth are both depicted and labelled accordingly, while a roofless church, the tower house structure and two unknown buildings or features - all of which are unlabelled, are depicted further south-east of the townland.[78] The townland also features on a proof copy of Petty's map of the 'County of Lowth', which dates from between 1660 to 1675.[79] Plotted on a much smaller scale, the orientation of this map is

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[73] The Down Survey of Ireland, 'The Barony of Atherdee in the County of Louth' (http://downsurvey.tcd.ie/down-survey-maps.php#bm=Atherdee&c=Louth) (17 May 2019); Biblioteca Digital Hispánica, 'A Topographical Map of the County of Louth, by Matthew Wren, 1766'.

[74] The Down Survey of Ireland, 'The Barony of Atherdee in the County of Louth'; J. T. Dolan, 'Seventeenth Century Maps of Ardee', in *Journal of the County Louth Archaeological Society*, 7, 1 (1929), p. 108.

[75] The Down Survey of Ireland, 'The Barony of Atherdee in the County of Louth'; F. Prendergast, 'The Down Survey of Ireland', in *Survey Ireland*, 14 (1997), p. 48; Dolan, 'Seventeenth Century Maps of Ardee', p. 108.

[76] The Down Survey of Ireland, 'The Barony of Atherdee in the County of Louth'.

[77] *Ibid.*

[78] *Ibid.*

[79] The Down Survey of Ireland, 'The County of Lowth' (http://downsurvey.tcd.ie/down-survey-maps.php#c=Louth) (17 May 2019); The Down Survey of Ireland, 'Map Sources' (http://downsurvey.tcd.ie/map-sources.html) (17 May 2019).

orientated due north.[80]   While the townland boundaries are not shown, the two mills, the church and the tower house depicted in the barony map of Atherdee, are also included on this county map.[81]

The townland is also depicted on the 1766 'Topographical Map of the County of Louth', by Matthew Wren (see Fig. 10).[82]   Just like the Down Survey map, this map is also orientated north-west, as opposed to due north, and is drawn at a scale of two inches to the Irish mile.[83] This appears to be the earliest known map to reference both Louth Hall and Tallonstown (spelled 'Tallens Town'), with Louth Hall being used to denote Lord Louth's demesne and 'Tallens Town' being used to denote the village.[84]   Topographical features of the local landscape, almost all of which are depicted for the very first time, include roads and places of elevation which make it much easier to identify and locate historical features depicted in the landscape.[85]   These features include Lord Louth's demesne, which includes many buildings and a large fishpond; a church, which shows no signs of being in ruins; the village, which has already seemingly emerged on either side of the 'Glide River' (River Glyde); and a 'Danish Mount', which is no doubt referring to the surviving motte of the Norman period, directly west of the village.[86]

Fig. 11 From left to right: the townland as it appears on Taylor and Skinner's 1777 'A Map of the County of Louth', and part of the townland as it appears on two separate road maps from Taylor and Skinner's *Maps of the*

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[80] Prendergast, 'The Down Survey of Ireland', p. 48; Dolan, 'Seventeenth Century Maps of Ardee', p. 108.

[81] The Down Survey of Ireland, 'The County of Lowth'.

[82] Biblioteca Digital Hispánica, 'A Topographical Map of the County of Louth, by Matthew Wren, 1766'.

[83] Biblioteca Digital Hispánica, 'A Topographical Map of the County of Louth, by Matthew Wren, 1766'; J. R. Garstin, 'The Co. Louth Ordnance Survey Letters, 1835-6', in *Journal of the County Louth Archaeological Society*, 4, 1 (1916), p.85.

[84] Biblioteca Digital Hispánica, 'A Topographical Map of the County of Louth, by Matthew Wren, 1766'.

[85] *Ibid.*

[86] *Ibid.*

Roads of Ireland, which were surveyed the same year. While the image to the left is orientated due north, the images to the right are both orientated north-east.[87]

The historic townland is also featured on George Taylor and Andrew Skinner's 1777 'A Map of the County of Louth' (see Fig. 11). While also drawn at a scale of two inches to the Irish mile, it differs from both Wren's map and the even earlier Down Survey Barony map in that it is orientated due north.[88] Features which are recorded for the first time in the landscape include: by-roads and lanes, a lake - which exists today as overgrown marsh land, the placename of 'Ballrigan', and a church which is now depicted as lying in ruins.[89] It is also interesting to note that Tallonstown is hereby spelled 'Tallanstown', which is the modern day spelling for both the village and civil parish.
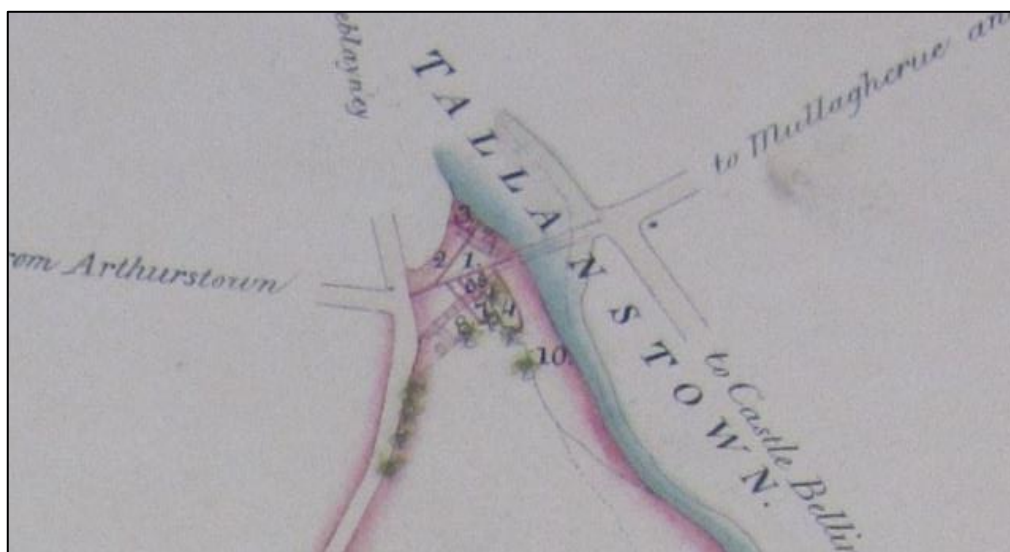

Fig. 12 Part of the village of Tallanstown as it appears on Frain and McQuillan's 1833 map of 'Areeah, Lisdhu and part of Churchpark'.[90]

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[87] Logainm.ie, 'A Map of the County of Louth, surveyed by Taylor and Skinner, 1777'; G. Taylor and A. Skinner, 'Maps of the Roads of Ireland'. (London, 1778), available at Ask About Ireland (http://www.askaboutireland.ie/aai-files/assets/ebooks/310-Maps-of-the-roads-of-Ireland-Surv-1777/310%20Maps%20of%20the%20roads%20of%20Ireland%20Surv%201777.pdf) (accessed 17 May 2019).

[88] Logainm.ie, 'A Map of the County of Louth, surveyed by Taylor and Skinner, 1777'; Garstin, 'The Co. Louth Ordnance Survey Letters, 1835-6', p. 85.

[89] *Ibid.*

[90] 'Maps of the Estate of the Rt. Hon. Thomas Lord Baron of Louth, 1833-34' (PP00072/002).

Fig. 13 Part of Frain and McQuillan's 1833 map of 'Louth Hall Demesne'.[91]

The townland of Louth Hall is represented in much greater detail throughout a volume of maps of the estate of Thomas Plunkett, 12th Lord Baron Louth, surveyed by James Frain and James McQuillan in 1833.[92] Drawn to a scale of twenty Irish perches to the inch, the townland is depicted across seven separate maps which account for nine sub-denominations that existed within the historic townland: 'Areeah, Lisdhu and part of Churchpark', 'Balregan or Priest's Farm', 'Draythdull', 'Loughanleban', 'Louth Hall Demesne', 'Silver Park' and 'Springhill'.[93] The part of Tallanstown village which is situated within the townland of Louth Hall is depicted as being within the sub-denomination of 'Areeah' (see Fig. 12). As well as these new sub-denominations and boundaries, internal field boundaries are also depicted for the very first time.[94] Not surprisingly, the map of Louth Hall demesne is exceptionally detailed; all its buildings, pathways, fishpond, serpentine lake, tree-lined avenues and plantations are perfectly depicted.[95] The map on Louth Hall demesne also features several annotations in pen and pencil, listing several field names and creating new field boundaries which suggests the map was used in the management of the estate in later years (see Fig. 13).[96]

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[91] *Ibid.*
[92] Ross, 'A Survey of the Estate of Lord Louth in 1832-33', pp 235-236.
[93] 'Maps of the Estate of the Rt. Hon. Thomas Lord Baron of Louth, 1833-34' (PP00072/002).
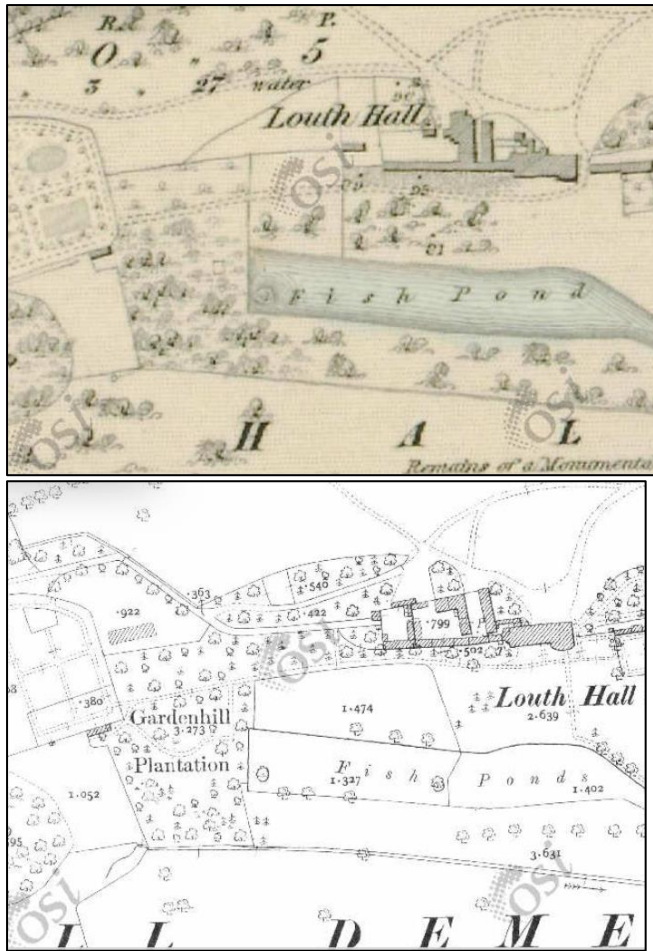[94] *Ibid.*
[95] *Ibid.*
[96] *Ibid.*

Fig. 14 Left to right: part of the six inch OS map, 1835; part of the twenty-five inch OS map, 1907.[97]

As already mentioned, the townland of Louth Hall also appears on sheets eleven and fourteen of the historic six inch and twenty-five inch OS maps of County Louth (see Fig. 3). Of these two OS maps which feature the townland, the first edition of the six inch map dates to 1835, while the first edition of the twenty-five inch map dates to 1907 (see Fig. 13).[98]

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[97] Ordnance Survey Ireland, 'Historic Map 6 Inch Colour, 1835'; Ordnance Survey Ireland, 'Historic Map 25 Inch, 1907' (http://map.geohive.ie/mapviewer.html) (17 May 2019).
[98] Ordnance Survey Ireland, 'Public Viewer' (http://maps.osi.ie/publicviewer) (17 November 2017).

Archaeological Evidence

Broadly speaking, the range of archaeological evidence in relation to Louth Hall townland can be divided into three main categories: recorded sites and monuments, recorded finds and aerial photographs.
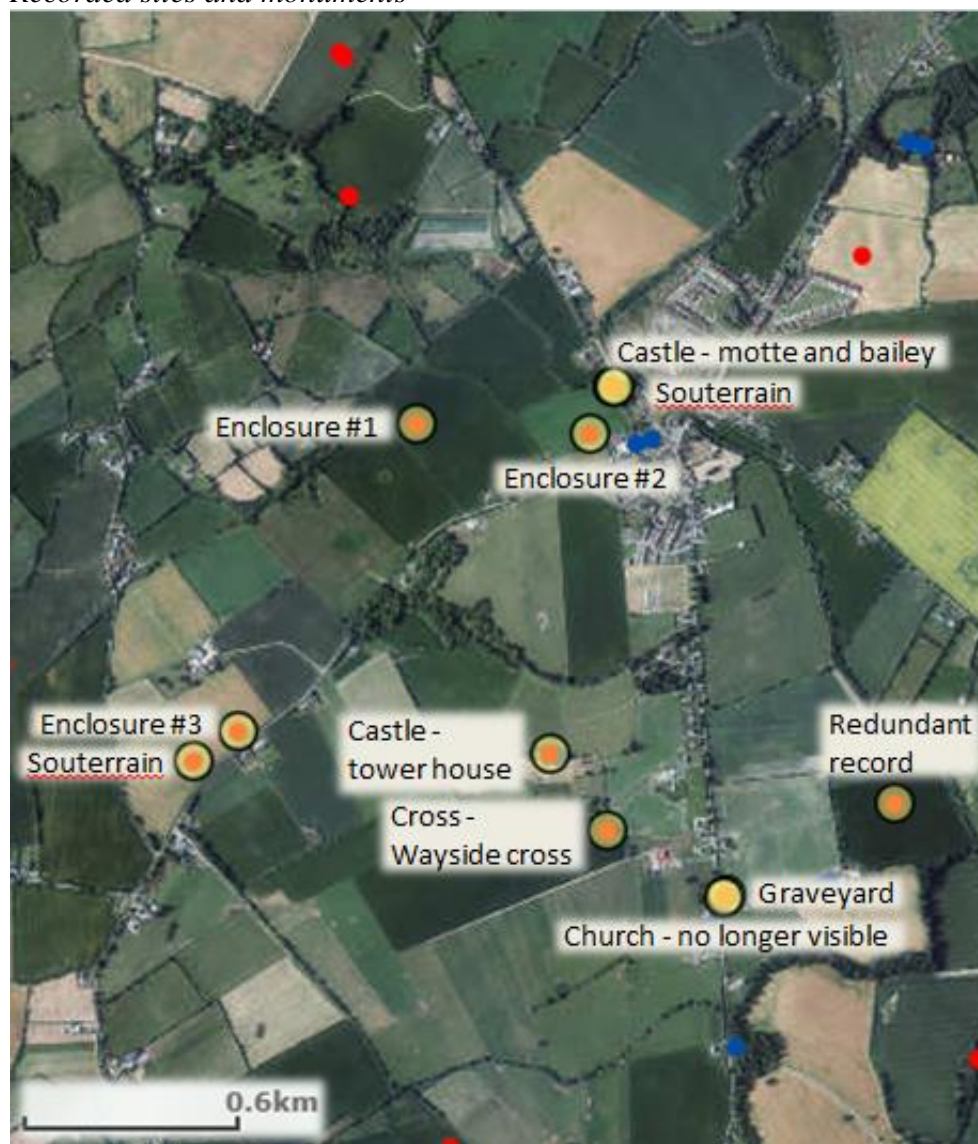
Recorded sites and monuments

Fig. 15 The location of the eleven recorded archaeological monuments and sites within Louth Hall.[99]

Class and SMR. No.	Description and additional information
Castle - motte and bailey LH011-085001-	Situated on a low east-west ridge close to the west bank of the River Glyde and consisting of a roughly circular mound (max. dimensions at base 29 m by 37 m, at summit 19.7 m by 17 m, height 4.5 - 6.8 m) with the remains of a fosse (max. width c. 5 m) at the south end and a much degraded bailey (max.

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[99] National Monuments Service - Archaeological Survey of Ireland, 'Historic Environment Viewer' (http://webgis.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/) (17 May 2019).

	dimensions 45 m north-south, 30 m east-west) at the west defined by scarping which is most pronounced at the north side.[100] The remains of the fosse at the south end is partly filled by a modern-day field boundary, while the remains of a possible fosse on the north side has a modern-day field wall built into it.[101] The top of the motte has also been quarried out to a depth of c. 1 m on the north-northeast side.[102] A possible souterrain (LH011-085002-) is thought to be situated underneath the motte.[103]
Souterrain LH011-085002-	Listed as a possible souterrain in both the *Archaeological Inventory of County Louth* and *Archaeological Survey of County Louth*.[104] The online database entry refers to there being a local tradition of a 'cave' being situated underneath the motte (LH011-085001-).[105]
Enclosure (#1) LH011-125----	This monument was first identified as a possible enclosure by Dr. Gillian Barrett in 1989 and was added to the online National Monuments Service database in 2009.[106] Aerial photograph (GB89.C.40) shows a cropmark of a large curvilinear enclosure defined by a fosse.[107] Recorded on the 1907 OS six inch map as a wooded enclosure, it may be a demesne landscaping feature but could also incorporate an earlier archaeological feature.[108]
Enclosure (#2) LH011-132----	This monument was also first identified as an enclosure by Dr. Gillian Barrett in 1989 and was added to the online National Monuments Service database in 2009.[109] Aerial photograph (GB89.C.20) shows a cropmark of a circular enclosure defined by a fosse.[110] An adjacent cropmark trackway may also be associated with the enclosure.[111] While other faint cropmarks in the field may be archaeological, they are not clearly decipherable from the aerial photograph.[112]
Souterrain LH014-004----	Now inaccessible, this monument it is located on the inside of an outcrop mound which has been incorporated into a tree-ring.[113] The online National Monuments Service database entry refers to there being a local tradition of a souterrain at

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[100] *Ibid.*

[101] *Ibid.*

[102] *Ibid.*

[103] *Ibid.*

[104] Buckley, *Archaeological Inventory of County Louth*), p. 43; V. M Buckley and P. D. Sweetman, *Archaeological Survey of County Louth* (Dublin, 1991), p. 146.

[105] National Monuments Service - Archaeological Survey of Ireland, 'Historic Environment Viewer'; Duchas.ie, 'IFC Schools MSS 667, 115-6' (https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/5008843/4960350) (17 May 2019).

[106] Archive Unit, 'Enclosure – Louth Hall' (LH011-125----).

[107] National Monuments Service - Archaeological Survey of Ireland, 'Historic Environment Viewer'.

[108] Archive Unit, 'Enclosure – Louth Hall' (LH011-125----).

[109] Archive Unit 'Enclosure – Louth Hall' (LH011-132----).

[110] National Monuments Service - Archaeological Survey of Ireland, 'Historic Environment Viewer'.

[111] Archive Unit 'Enclosure – Louth Hall' (LH011-132----).

[112] *Ibid.*

[113] Archive Unit, 'Souterrain – Louth Hall' (LH014-004----).

	Springhill, the sub-townland denomination in which this monument finds itself.[114]
Church LH014-005001-	The church, which is no longer visible, was recorded as being one of the eight chapels of the Priory of St. John of Ardee until the dissolution of the monasteries.[115] It is shown as church ruins on Taylor and Skinner's 1777 'A Map of the County of Louth'.[116]
Graveyard LH014-005002-	The circular graveyard, which has a diameter of c. 45 m, is situated on top of a hillock.[117] Eighteenth and nineteenth-century slabs are well represented - the earliest identifiable one dates to 1734.[118] It has an elaborate ornamental entrance gate and turreted wall.[119] There are no remains of the church (LH014-005001-).[120]
Redundant record LH014-006----	A church is indicated on the Down Survey 'Barony map of Atherdee', c. 1657, close to the northwest-southeast River Glyde.[121] However, this is a representation of the parish church of Tallanstown (LH014-005001-) which is situated c. 500 m further west-southwest.[122] Therefore, it is not scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the Record of Monument and Places.[123]
Castle - tower house LH014-052----	Incorporated into the very fabric of the castellated mansion of Louth Hall, the tower house, which dates to around 1350, projects at the west end of the later eighteenth-century three-story wing addition, forming an obtuse angle.[124] Punch-dressed quoins survive in the north-west angle, while the slight base batter of the north wall and a blocked doorway at the west end of the north wall must have given access to the barrel-vaulted area – the remains of the west jamb of this doorway can also be clearly seen.[125] The overall measurements of the tower house are c. 14 m east-west by c. 13 m north-south based on where there are straight joints and where the base batter terminates.[126]

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[114] National Monuments Service - Archaeological Survey of Ireland, 'Historic Environment Viewer'; Duchas.ie, 'IFC Schools MSS 667, 115-6'.

[115] National Monuments Service - Archaeological Survey of Ireland, 'Historic Environment Viewer'.

[116] Archive Unit, 'Church – Louth Hall' (LH014-005001-).

[117] National Monuments Service - Archaeological Survey of Ireland, 'Historic Environment Viewer'.

[118] Archive Unit, 'Graveyard – Louth Hall' (LH014-005002-).

[119] *Ibid*.

[120] National Monuments Service - Archaeological Survey of Ireland, 'Historic Environment Viewer'.

[121] *Ibid*.

[122] *Ibid*.

[123] National Monuments Service - Archaeological Survey of Ireland, 'Historic Environment Viewer'.

[124] M. Bence-Jones, *A Guide to Irish Country Houses* (London, 1988), p. 194; National Inventory of Architectural Heritage, 'Louth Hall, County Louth'.

[125] National Monuments Service - Archaeological Survey of Ireland, 'Historic Environment Viewer'.

[126] *Ibid.*

Cross - Wayside cross LH014-060----	Set in a large flat base almost square in plan and sited on a slight ridge, it is now broken into several large architectural fragments.[127] Part of the shaft, which is rectangular in section (0.45 m by 0.28 m), is still embedded in the base but the other fragments lay scattered on the ground.[128] However, its original height would have been approximately 3.1 m.[129] While, the apex of the shaft is broken in two, it can be seen that it tapers towards the top - the head of the pillar cross also takes the form of two truncated pyramids set base to base, while the top of the shaft is tenoned to fit a mortise in the head which is decorated with floral patterns and angels.[130] The remains also bear a rough crucifixion scene on one face and a robed figure on the other, while depictions of St. Peter and St. Patrick survive in the north and south faces in ogee-headed panels.[131] An inscription in relief which covers all four faces of the shaft, indicates that the cross is one of a pair of crosses set up by Jennet Dowdall in memory of her second husband, Oliver Plunket, 4th Lord Baron Louth, who died in 1607; the other is to be seen at Baronstown, Co. Meath.[132]
Enclosure (#3) LH014-082----	This monument was first identified as an enclosure by Dr. Gillian Barrett in 1989 and was added to the online National Monuments Service database in 2009.[133] Aerial photograph (GB89.C.26) shows a cropmark of a curvilinear enclosure, with traces of internal detail, defined by a fosse.[134] Close proximity to souterrain (LH014-004----).[135]

Table 2 Archaeological information regarding to the eleven registered and recorded archaeological monuments and sites within the townland of Louth Hall.

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[127] *Ibid.*

[128] *Ibid.*

[129] Buckley and Sweetman, *Archaeological Survey of County Louth*, pp 274-75.

[130] National Monuments Service - Archaeological Survey of Ireland, 'Historic Environment Viewer'; Buckley and Sweetman, *Archaeological Survey of County Louth*, pp 275.

[131] Buckley and Sweetman, *Archaeological Survey of County Louth*, pp 274-75; H. A. King, 'Late Medieval Crosses in County Meath c. 1470-1635', in *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy: Archaeology, Culture, History, Literature*, 84 (1984), p. 112.

[132] King, 'Late Medieval Crosses in County Meath c. 1470-1635', p. 112.

[133] Archive Unit, 'Enclosure – Louth Hall' (LH014-082----).

[134] National Monuments Service - Archaeological Survey of Ireland, 'Historic Environment Viewer'.

[135] Archive Unit, 'Enclosure – Louth Hall' (LH014-082----).
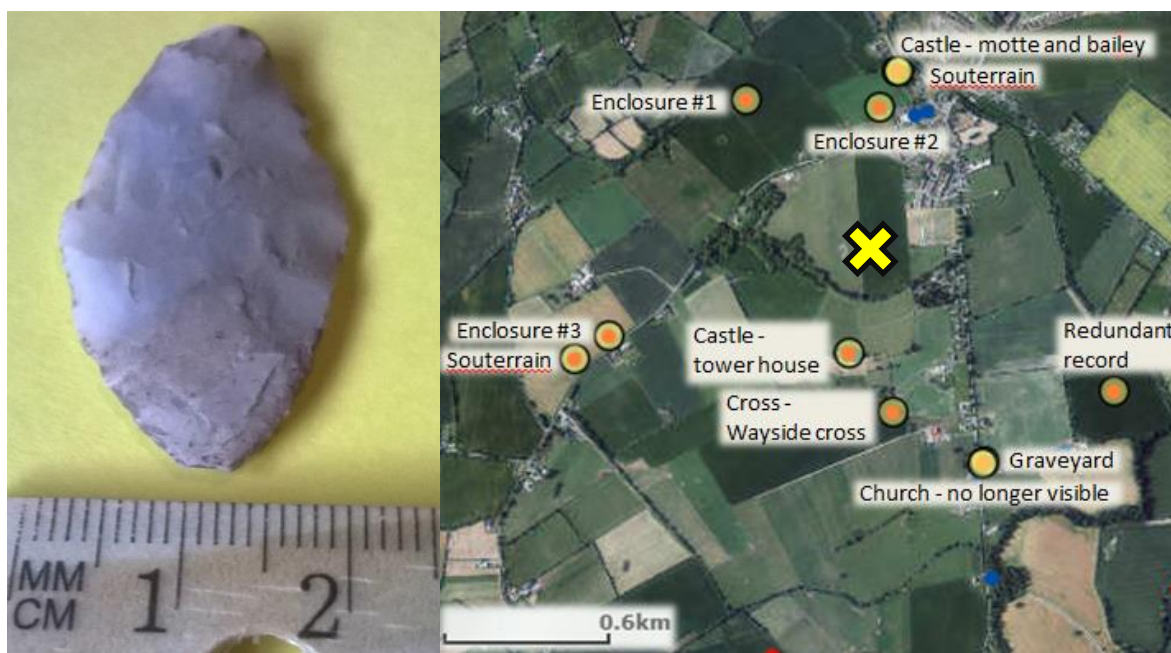
Fig. 16 From left to right: the leaf-shaped Neolithic arrowhead which dates to around 4,000 BC, and the location (represented by the yellow X) in which it was found in December 2015.

Recorded Finds

Unfortunately, there are no excavations listed on the online Database of Irish Excavation Reports in relation to Louth Hall.[136] Although incomplete, and not yet available online, there is only one registered and recorded archaeological find known to have been found within the townland - a leaf shaped Neolithic arrowhead, which was discovered by myself in December 2015, while out walking in a nearby field with my dog Buster (see Fig. 16).

Aerial photographs

The inclusion of the following four oblique aerial photographs was made possible thanks to Dr. Gillian Barrett, who kindly sent them from her own private collection with permission to use them for my research project. All aerial photos were taken on 12 July 1989.

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[136] Database of Irish Excavation Reports, 'Advanced Search – Louth Hall'
(https://www.excavations.ie/advanced-search/?exca_a=search&search=Louth+Hall) (17 May 2019).

Fig. 17 Aerial photograph (GB89.C.20) shows all three recorded enclosures within the townland of Louth Hall. The largest of the three enclosures (enclosure #1) is in the centre; while the other two smaller enclosures are situated near the top left corner (enclosure #3), and bottom left corner (enclosure #2).

Fig. 18 Aerial photo (GB89.C.22) of Louth Hall manor (bottom right) and part of the surrounding historic demesne landscape, including the walled garden (middle left) and the pigeon house (further left).

Fig. 19 Aerial photograph (GB89.C.26) shows enclosure #3 (middle left) and its close proximity to the one of two souterrains in the townland of Louth Hall.

Fig. 20 Aerial photograph (GB89.C.40) shows enclosure #1 in the centre and enclosure #2 in the far bottom right corner.

Discussion:

While the Neolithic leaf-shaped arrowhead (see Fig. 16) is a unique and substantial find, the fact remains that it was a stray find - it was not found in an archaeological context and is therefore difficult to interpret. Additionally, while it is possible that one or more of the three enclosure sites (see Fig. 15), could be prehistoric in origin, it is just as likely that they date to the medieval period.[137] Until each of the three enclosures are excavated, no conclusive dates can be attributed to them. While there is no solid evidence to suggest prehistoric settlement within the modern day townland of Louth, the historical and archaeological evidence reveals a medieval and post-medieval landscape.

A feature typically associated with the early medieval Irish rural landscape and often found in association with ringforts and other enclosed settlements, are souterrains.[138] These artificial subterranean structures, date from between 500 A.D. to around 1250.[139] The association between souterrains, ringforts and other enclosed settlements is interesting, considering the very close proximity between Louth Hall's two souterrains and three enclosures, all of which lie towards the western fringes of the townland boundary (see Fig. 15). The very presence of these early medieval monuments in the local landscape suggests that there was a degree of early medieval settlement within the modern day townland of Louth Hall.

While the majority of mottes in Ireland date from between 1170 to 1200, some were being built in eastern Ireland as late as the early 1300s.[140] Unlike souterrains, mottes were very much an Anglo-Norman phenomenon. The archaeological record indicates that the motte in Louth Hall was accompanied by a bailey – an embanked enclosure at the foot of the mound. O'Keeffe states that in 'frontier locations the baileys presumably accommodated garrisons'.[141] Situated only 6 km north of Ardee, the historic townland of Tallonstown found itself right on the edge of the Pale – the ultimate frontier of its time. While many mottes were built upon earlier pre-existing earthworks, the archaeological record indicates that the motte in Louth Hall may have been built upon a pre-existing souterrain.[142] While O'Keeffe suggests that many earthworks may had been built upon for 'symbolic gain', given the location of the motte in relation to the Pale, the question arises could the souterrain have been used for more practical purposes, at least for a period of time?[143]

Two of the most important documentary sources from the medieval period that have survived are the two chancery documents in the form of patent roll manuscripts, which date to the early fifteenth century.[144] The first, which dates to 3 February 1420, not only makes reference to 'Tallonestoun manor', but also mentions Walter Plunket – a possible ancestor to the Barons Louth.[145] The second chancery document, which dates to 28 April 1421, appears

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[137] Archaeological Survey of Ireland, 'Class List Definitions'
(http://54.76.164.72/NationalMonuments/WebServiceQuery/Lookup.aspx) (17 May 2019).

[138] T. B. Barry, *The Archaeology of Medieval Ireland* (London, 1987), p. 25.

[139] L. Corrway, 'Souterrains in County Louth' in E. Campbell (ed.), *The Field Names of County Louth* (Drogheda, 2014), p. 176.

[140] O'Keeffe, *Medieval Ireland: An Archaeology*, p. 17.

[141] *Ibid.*, p. 17.

[142] *Ibid.*, pp 21-22.

[143] *Ibid.,* p. 22.

[144] CIRCLE: A Calendar of Irish Chancery Letters c. 1244 – 1509, 'Patent Roll 7 Henry V'; CIRCLE: A Calendar of Irish Chancery Letters c. 1244 – 1509, 'Patent Roll 9 Henry V'.

[145] CIRCLE: A Calendar of Irish Chancery Letters c. 1244 – 1509, 'Patent Roll 7 Henry V'; Dillion (ed.), 'National Library of Ireland, Collection List No. 90, Louth Papers – A collection of estate and family papers of the Plunkett family, Barons Louth, of Louth Hall, County Louth, 1548-1941'.

to guarantee a custodial transfer of land and holdings to William Tallon, son and heir of John Tallon.[146] The land in question consists of 240 acres of ploughland, 40 acres of pasture, 40 acres of moor, and one water mill in Tallonestoun.[147] Not only does this chancery document add immense credibility to Patrick Kieran's claim from 1836 that 'Tallan [sic] was the man's name from whom Tallonstown townland, Baile an Tallanaigh, is denominated, being proprietor of it', but these measurements are only seventy acres short of the measures given for both parts of 'Tallonstowne' during the Down Survey, *c*.1657.[148] Moreover, several sources suggest that the smaller part of 'Tallonstowne' recorded during that time is the 'Drogstrochil' first recorded in 1301, and referred to as 'Droghedull' in 1540-41 and 1653-4, and as 'Draythdull' in 1833.[149]
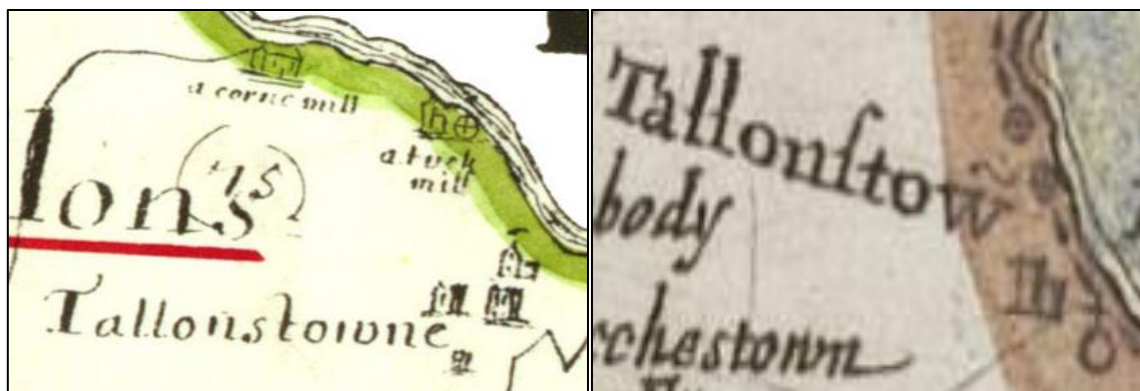

Fig. 21 From left to right: the six features in the landscape as they appear within the greater part of 'Tallonstowne' on Petty's Down Survey 'Barony map of Atherdee', c. 1657 – a corn mill, a tuck mill, a roofless church, the tower house structure and two unknown buildings or feature; and the features as they appear on Petty's 'The County of Lowth' map, 1660-75.[150]

Bearing in mind that the orienation of the Down Survey barony map is orientated due north-west, and the Down Survey county map is orientated due north, the location of the features in the landscape still differ dramatically to each other, which suggests that the location of each of these features is by no means accurate.[151] The same, however, cannot be said of the townland boundary (see Fig. 22). It is also interesting to note that while there is no bridge depicted on the Down Survey barony map, *c*.1657, or county map which dates from between 1660-75, 'Tallanstown bridge' is mentioned twice in the Civil Survey which dates to 1654-56.[152] Consequently, the first time Tallonstown Bridge would feature on a cartographic map would be Herman Moll's 1714 'A New Map of Ireland'.[153]

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[146] CIRCLE: A Calendar of Irish Chancery Letters c. 1244 – 1509, 'Patent Roll 9 Henry V'.

[147] *Ibid*.

[148] O'Conor and O'Keeffe, 'Ordnance Survey Letters: Louth'. (Louth, 1836); O' Sullivan, 'The Plantation of the Cromwellian Soldiers in the Barony of Ardee, 1652-1656', pp 420, 443.

[149] MacIomhair, 'Townlands of County Louth in A.D. 1301', p. 45; White (ed.), *Extents of Irish Monastic Possessions 1540-1541: From Manuscripts in the Public Record Office, London*, p. 191; O' Sullivan, 'The Plantation of the Cromwellian Soldiers in the Barony of Ardee, 1652-1656', p. 443; Ross, 'A Survey of the Estate of Lord Louth in 1832-33' pp 235-236.

[150] The Down Survey of Ireland, 'The Barony of Atherdee in the County of Louth'; The Down Survey of Ireland, 'The County of Lowth'.

[151] The Down Survey of Ireland, 'The Barony of Atherdee in the County of Louth'; Ask About Ireland - Griffith's Valuation, 'Historical Map Viewer'.

[152] Simmington, *The Civil Survey 1654-6, Vol. X: Miscellanea*, pp. 51-53.

[153] P. O'Keeffe and T. Simington, *Irish Stone Bridges: History and Heritage* (Dublin, 1991), p. 320.

Fig. 22 From left to right: the Down Survey 'Barony map of Atherdee' c. 1657, re-oriented due north to perfectly illustrate the accuracy and continuation of the historic townland boundary when compared to the modern day townland boundary of Louth Hall.[154]
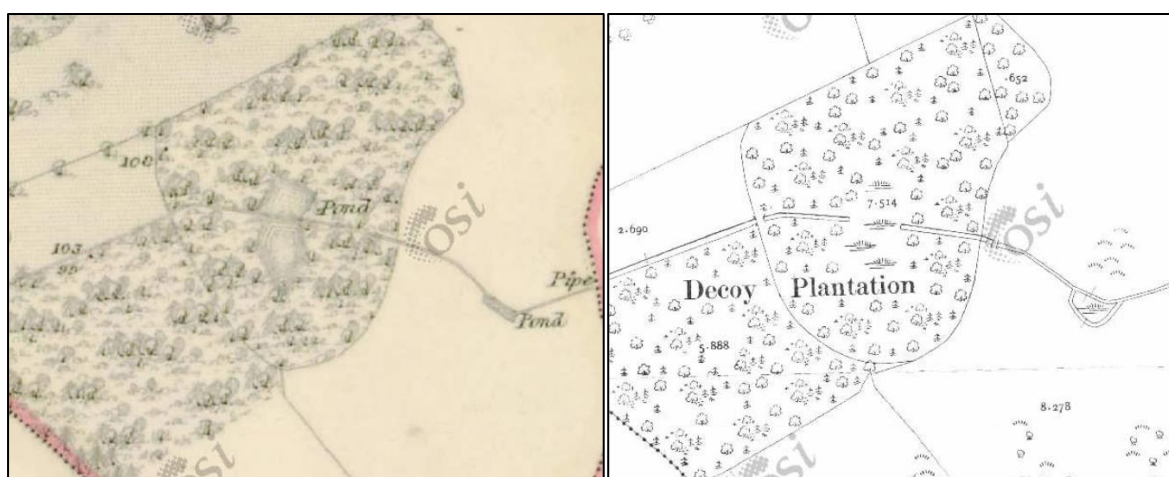

Fig. 23 The decoy as it appears on the OS six inch map, 1835; and twenty-five inch map, 1907. [155]

Other than the actual tower house, which was first depicted on the Down Survey barony and county map (see Fig. 21), the earliest landscape feature that can be identified from Louth Hall demesne is the fishpond, as depicted on Wren's 1766 map (see Fig. 10). This style of demesne fishpond generally dates to the seventeenth century.[156] However, it is possible, given their locations, that the pigeon house and wayside cross are the two unknown features recorded on the Down Survey barony map *c.*1657 (see Figs 21 and 22). From Lord Louth's 1833 demesne map, quite a large area is outlined and named 'Deer Park'.[157] While, deer parks were a notable feature of the early Anglo-Norman demesne, they were most prominent

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[154] The Down Survey of Ireland, 'The Barony of Atherdee in the County of Louth'; Ask About Ireland - Griffith's Valuation, 'Historical Map Viewer'.

[155] Ordnance Survey Ireland, 'Historic Map 6 Inch Colour, 1835'; Ordnance Survey Ireland, 'Historic Map 25 Inch, 1907'.

[156] McErlean, 'The archaeology of parks and gardens, 1600-1900: an introduction to Irish garden archaeology', p. 279; Reeves-Smyth, 'Demesnes', p. 281.

[157] 'Maps of the Estate of the Rt. Hon. Thomas Lord Baron of Louth, 1833-34' (PP00072/002).

in the region between the seventeenth and early eighteenth century.[158] Another fixture of the demesne landscape that was widely used from the 1660s to 1780s were decoys, which were used to trap wild fowl.[159] A small pond with pipes radiating from it are evident near some dense woodland named the 'Decoy Plantation' at the very bottom of Louth Hall demesne in both the OS maps from 1835 and 1907.[160]
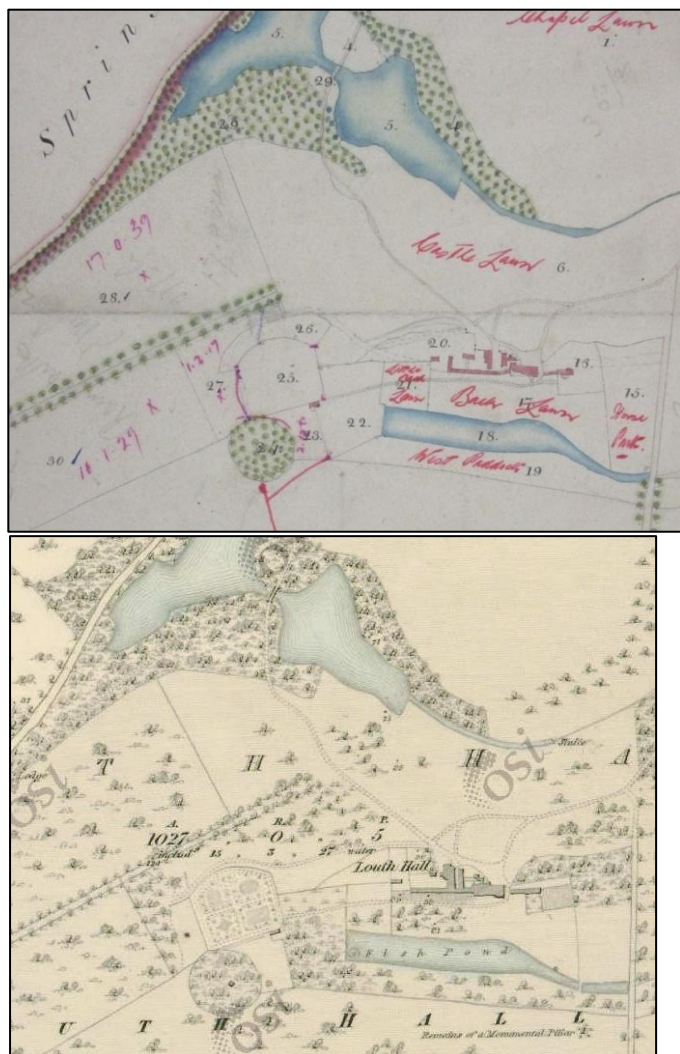

Fig. 24 Illustrating the accuracy of part of Frain and McQuillan's 1833 map of 'Louth Hall Demesne' (left), compared to the six inch OS map of 1835 (right).[161]

Additionally, from the period 1660 to 1750, long straight tree-lined avenues became one of the most prominent features of the demesne.[162] Again, from Lord Louth's 1833 map, and the 1835 Ordnance Survey map, it is clear that Louth Hall demesne featured some very impressive tree-lined avenues which stretched out for miles across the landscape (see Fig.

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[158] Reeves-Smyth, 'Demesnes', p.279.

[159] *Ibid.*, p.279.

[160] Ordnance Survey Ireland, 'Historic Map 6 Inch Colour, 1835'; Ordnance Survey Ireland, 'Historic Map 25 Inch, 1907'.

[161] 'Maps of the Estate of the Rt. Hon. Thomas Lord Baron of Louth, 1833-34' (PP00072/002); Ordnance Survey Ireland, 'Historic Map 6 Inch Colour, 1835'.

[162] Reeves-Smyth, 'Demesnes', p.281.

24).[163] From the period 1750-1840, the walled garden became the most popular feature of the demesne.[164] Not surprisingly, Louth Hall demesne also features one of these, and a very large one at that (see Fig. 18). Interestingly, a distribution map illustrates that the only pigeon house to be found in all of County Louth is the one at Louth Hall.[165] Another distribution map also shows that the grotto that once lay overlooking a lake within Louth Hall demesne (see Fig. 8) was only one of three such buildings in County Louth.[166] An icehouse, boat house and at least four gate lodges are also evident from Lord Louth's 1833 map and the OS maps.[167] Clearly, the Plunketts greatly influenced and altered the landscape around them.

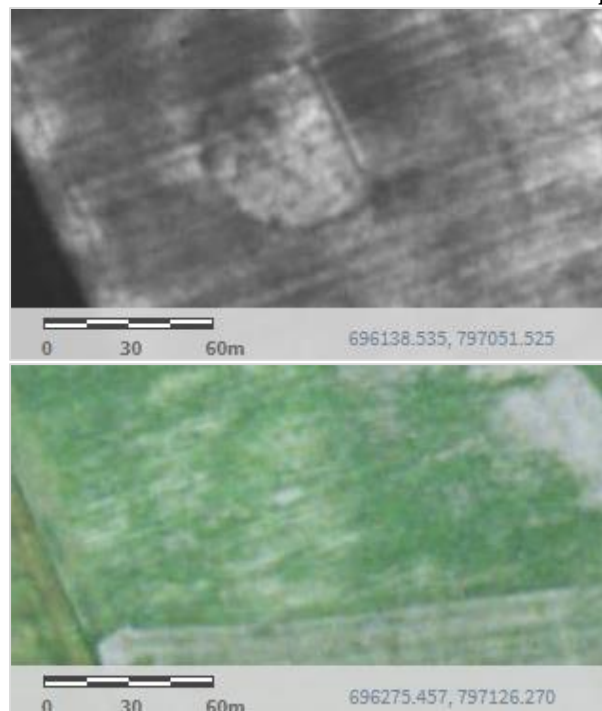**Possible unrecorded features in the landscape:**

Fig. 25 A circular enclosure showing up in the landscape from the OS 1995 black and white orthophotographic basemap (left), and again from the OS 2000 orthophotographic basemap (right).[168]

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[163] 'Maps of the Estate of the Rt. Hon. Thomas Lord Baron of Louth, 1833-34' (PP00072/002); Ordnance Survey Ireland, 'Historic Map 6 Inch Colour, 1835'; Ordnance Survey Ireland, 'Historic Map 25 Inch, 1907'.
[164] Reeves-Smyth, 'Demesnes', p.284.
[165] *Ibid.*, p. 285.
[166] *Ibid.*, p. 285.
[167] 'Maps of the Estate of the Rt. Hon. Thomas Lord Baron of Louth, 1833-34' (PP00072/002); Ordnance Survey Ireland, 'Historic Map 6 Inch Colour, 1835'; Ordnance Survey Ireland, 'Historic Map 25 Inch, 1907'.
[168] Ordnance Survey Ireland, 'Aerial 1995' (http://map.geohive.ie/mapviewer.html) (17 May 2019); Ordnance Survey Ireland, 'Aerial 2000' (http://map.geohive.ie/mapviewer.html) (17 May 2019).

Fig. 26 A large oval shaped enclosure showing up in the landscape from the OS 1995 black and white orthophotographic basemap (left), and again from the OS 2000 orthophotographic basemap (right).[169]

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[169] *Ibid.*

Fig. 27 From top to bottom: Although clearly focusing on enclosure #2, this image (GB89.C.20) also shows a rectangular feature (top right) and a trackway running from near the entrance of the field, past enclosure #2 and beyond; the second image (GB89.C.40), is taken at a different angle but shows the same three features again – though the unrecorded rectangular feature and linear trackway are much clearer here.

Fig. 28 Although clearly focusing on enclosure #3, this image (GB89.C.26) also shows two short lengths of liner features running parallel to each other. These features may indicate earlier field boundaries.

Fig. 29 What first appears to be two liner features running parallel to each other (top left); however, upon closer inspection it appears that the features curve and join into each other, moreover, the bottom half of the feature on the right is quite curvaceous (top right); the feature is also evident some distance away in the far side of the field with part of it crossing the old demesne bridge (bottom). It is quite possible that these features relate to earlier demesne walkways that pre-date those depicted on the 1833 map of 'Louth Hall Demesne' and the six inch OS map of 1835 (see Fig. 24).
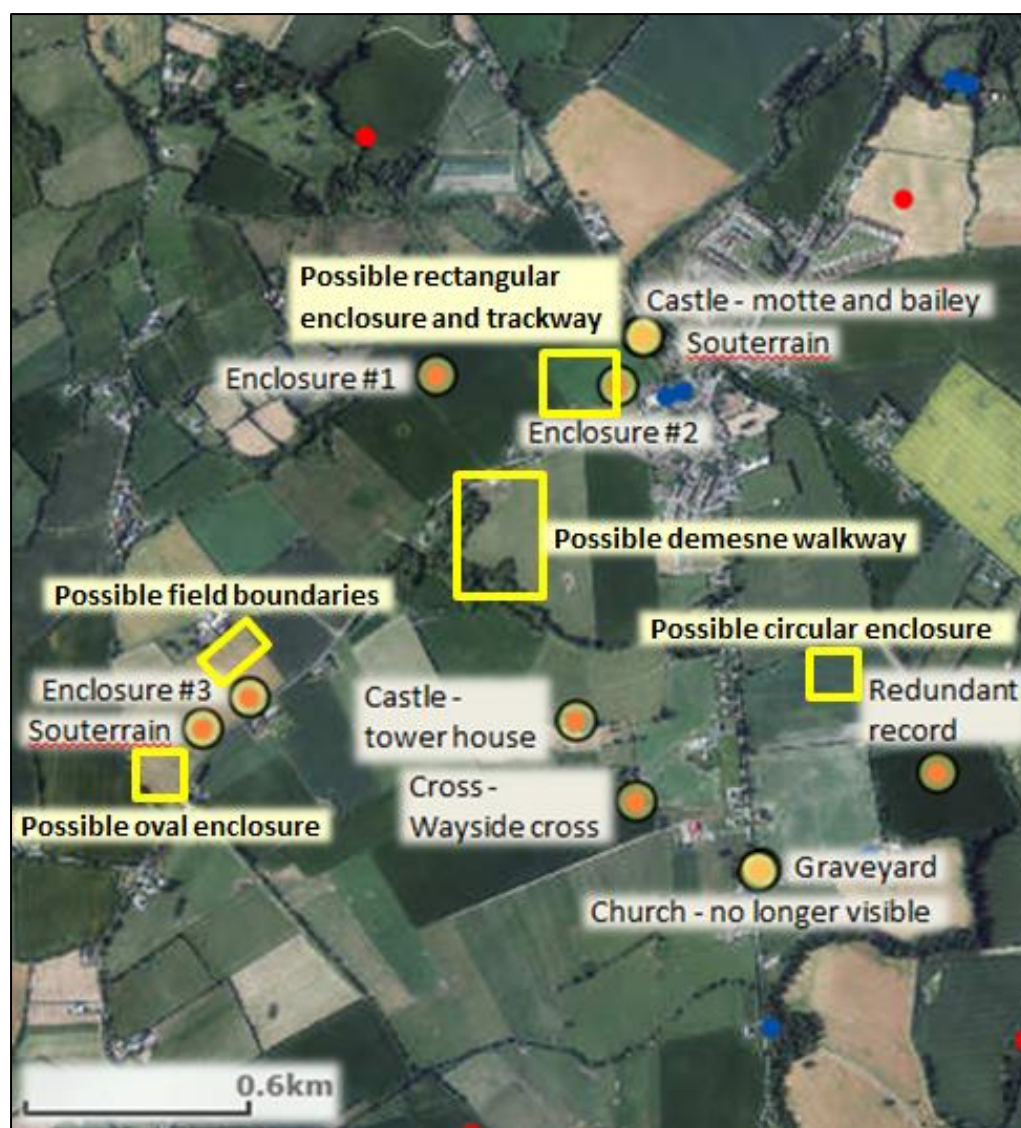
Fig. 30 The six unidentified archaeological features and their locations alongside those already identified and recorded within Louth Hall townland.[170]

Conclusion:

While there is no subtantial evidence to suggest prehistoric settlement, the very presence of two souterrains and the possibility of associated enclosures, suggests a certain degree of early medieval settlement within the modern day townland of Louth Hall. Moreover, considering that the Anglo-Norman motte and bailey was built upon one of the townland's pre-existing souterrains sometime between 1170 and the early 1300s, the site was clearly an important one, and may have been one of prolonged early medieval settlement. The three features in the field directly beside the souterrain and motte and bailey (enclosure #2, and the possible rectangular enclosure and linear trackway - see Fig. 30), may also indicate the site's importance in relation to possible early medieval and prolonged settlement.

The chancery document, which is dated 28 April 1421 and appears to guarantee a custodial transfer of land and holdings to William Tallon, son and heir of John Tallon, adds immense credibility to Patrick Kieran's claim from 1836 that 'Tallan [sic] was the man's name from whom Tallonstown townland, Baile an Tallanaigh, is denominated, being proprietor of it'. It

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[170] National Monuments Service - Archaeological Survey of Ireland, 'Historic Environment Viewer'.

is also quite interesting to note that a Laurence Tallan is recorded as living in Tallonstown during the 1766 Religious Census of Tallonstown.[171]   This is undoubtedly the same man buried in the old graveyard in Tallanstown, whose headstone reads: 'Here lieth the body of Laurence Tallon who died Febry 19 1768 aged 4[1] years.' A Widow Tallon is later recorded as living in Louth Hall townland during the 1834 Census of Tallanstown Parish. However, there are no Tallon's recorded in the 1901 or 1911 census.[172]

Considering that the Plunkett family, resided in Louth Hall from as early as the late fifteenth century, it is not surprising that the historical sources and archaeological evidence show that they greatly influenced and altered the landscape around them, especially after having been given the title of 'Barons of Louth' in 1541. Although some of the demesne features maybe earlier in date, the cartographic and archaeological evidence suggests that for the most part, the earliest identifiable demesne features date to the mid-seventeenth century. In addition to the development of the demesne that occurred throughout the post-medieval period, the village of Tallanstown was also built to house the estate workers employed by Lord Louth in the eighteenth century.

Lastly, it is most definitely possible to identify unrecorded features and low visibility sites in the local landscape through the use of aerial photography and satellite imagery. By using a combination of Dr. Gillian Barrett's aerial photographs and various OS maps, three possible enclosures, which varied in shape and size; a possible trackway; possible field boundaries; and a series of possible demesne walkways were discovered within the confines of the modern day townland of Louth Hall.

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[171] T. Ó Fiaich, 'The 1766 Religious Census for Some County Louth Parishes', in *Journal of the County Louth Archaeological Society*, 14, 2 (1958), p. 115.
[172] D. MacIvor, 'Census of Tallanstown Parish, 1834', p. 15.

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