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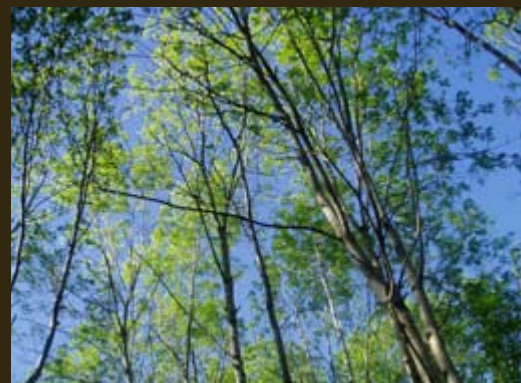
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Cartographic and Historical Sources for Native Woodlands

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Native Woodland Scheme Information Note No. 1



Developing a picture of how a particular site has changed down through the centuries is a key component of any native woodland project, and will yield a wealth of useful information. For example, a study of successive historical maps may indicate that all or part of the site may have been under continuous woodland cover since records first began. A study of the original townland name may give hints about the type of trees or woodland present during these earlier times. A review of estate records may indicate the past history of management within existing woodland. All of this information will have a direct bearing on decisions regarding how best to proceed on a particular site, be it to establish new native

woodland cover, to enhance existing native woodland, or to convert non-native woodland to native woodland. An historical assessment, coupled with the ecological assessment, also creates a 'package' of information regarding the unique historical, cultural and natural heritage associated with the site. For these reasons, a review of historical records is a requirement under the Forest Service Native Woodland Scheme as part of the Ecological Survey and Management Plan.

This Native Woodland Information Note details the various cartographic and historical sources in Ireland relevant to native woodlands.

INTRODUCTION

The 1st edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 6 inch to 1 mile (1:10,560) scale maps are perhaps the most frequently used source when it comes to assessing the historical woodland cover on a particular Native Woodland Scheme site (Fig. 1). However, a significant number of other useful cartographic and written sources are also available. These include town, city and county maps, estate maps and records, valuations and descriptions, as well as journal articles and county histories.

Most of this material can be found in the following archives and libraries:

- The National Library of Ireland
- Trinity College Library Map Library
- The National Archives
- The Royal Irish Academy
- The County/Local Libraries

Although probably less relevant, further sources of material are held in the Royal Society Antiquaries of Ireland and the Irish Architectural Archives.

A large number of the maps, particularly those contained in estate papers, are also listed in *Hayes Catalogue*, a copy of which can be consulted in each of the above institutions.



Fig.1: Tracing the history of woodland cover to the 1830s A.D., Co. Wicklow. (Mapwork for Coillte Old Woodland Survey – Black boundaries: all Coillte properties. Green: Coillte Old Woodland Sites. Blue: Sites with discontinuous forest cover since 1830s. Red: 19th century plantations (planted between 1830s and 1910s). Image reproduced from Garrett & O’Sullivan (2001).



Map 1. Co. Wicklow (1st Edition OS, 1839)



Map 2. Co. Wicklow (3rd Edition OS, 1910)

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND

The National Library of Ireland (NLI) Department of Manuscripts has a spacious Manuscripts Reading Room with an extensive collection of maps and plans. Among the notable items in the collection are: a map of Europe in a 12th century copy of the *Topographia Hiberniae* by Giraldus Cambrensis; maps by Francis Jobson and Richard Bartlett documenting the English conquest during the reign of Queen Elizabeth; and plans of fortifications in the period 1685-92 by Captain Thomas Phillips and the Huguenot engineer John Goubet.

However, the most relevant series of maps are the Down Survey. This survey was directed by William Petty between 1655-57, and included the detailed mapping of baronies and parishes confiscated after the Cromwellian conquest. The maps depict selected items of settlement and topography, such as barony, parish and townland boundaries, as well as rivers, lakes and woodlands.

Landed Estate papers constitute the other main component of the NLI collection and comprise records generated in the course of the administration of certain landed estates over a period of several centuries. Among the more notable estates represented are:

Balfour (Co. Meath and Co. Louth)
 Bellew (Co. Galway)
 Castletown (Co. Laois)
 Clements (Co. Leitrim and Co. Donegal)
 Clonbrock (Co. Galway)
 Conyngham (Co. Meath, Co. Donegal, Co. Clare and Co. Limerick)
 Coolatin (Co. Wicklow)
 De Freyne (Co. Roscommon)
 De Vesce (Co. Laois)
 Doneraile (Co. Cork)
 Farnham (Co. Cavan)
 Fingall (Co. Dublin)
 Ffrench (Co. Galway)
 Headford (Co. Meath)
 Inchiquin (Co. Clare)
 Lismore (Co. Waterford)
 Louth (Co. Meath, Co. Louth, Co. Monaghan and Co. Kildare)
 Mahon (Co. Galway)
 Mansfield (Co. Kildare)
 Monteagle (Co. Limerick)
 O’Hara (Co. Sligo)

Ormond (Co. Kilkenny and Co. Tipperary)
 Powerscourt (Co. Wicklow)
 Prior-Wandesforde (Co. Kilkenny)
 Sarsfield (Co. Cork)
 Wicklow (Co. Wicklow)
 Wynne (Co. Wicklow)

The estate collections usually include correspondence and other personal papers documenting the personal lives and careers of the various members of the landlords’ families. Most of the collections date from the 17th to the 20th century.

TRINITY COLLEGE LIBRARY MAP LIBRARY

The Map Library established in 1987 and contained in the Trinity College Library is the centre for cartographic materials in the University of Dublin. It holds both rare, older material as well as modern maps, making it the largest collection of printed maps in Ireland. The collection is particularly strong on maps of Ireland and Britain.

The library is open to all. Readers who wish to consult maps should apply for a reader’s ticket at the Enquiries Counter in the Berkeley Library, or write directly to the Librarian.

THE ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY

The Royal Irish Academy (RIA), founded in 1785, is the principal learned society in Ireland. One of the major research projects funded by the academy is the Irish Historic Towns Atlas; a series of publications on individual towns representing different periods of urban development in Ireland. Each individual town atlas contains a large-scale (1:2,500) colour map depicting the town *circa* 1840, copies of other historical plans, views and illustrations, and a detailed text section with explanatory maps. Some of these atlases may prove useful (mainly for the smaller towns that have experienced less dramatic expansion and change over the last century) in



identifying any surviving vestiges of urban or peri-urban woodland groves or orchards.

The atlases published to date are as follows:

- No. 1 Kildare (1986)
- No. 2 Carrickfergus (1986)
- No. 3 Bandon (1988)
- No. 4 Kells (1990)
- No. 5 Mullingar (1992)
- No. 6 Athlone (1994)
- No. 7 Maynooth (1995)
- No. 8 Downpatrick (1997)
- No. 9 Bray (1998)
- No. 10 Kilkenny (2000)
- No. 11 Dublin, Part 1, to 1610 (2002)
- No. 12 Belfast, Part 1, to 1840 (2003)
- No. 13 Fethard (2003)
- No. 14 Trim (2004)
- No. 15 Derry-Londonderry

The RIA also holds the original manuscripts of the OS Memoirs. These contain descriptions of parishes visited during the mapping of Ireland at the time of the first OS. Colonel Thomas Colby initiated the written reports, with instructions to compile statistical remarks for every parish dating from his first annual report in 1826. This resulted in a structured report, known as a Memoir, a term used in the 18th century for written descriptions accompanying maps. However, these reports embrace a whole range of subjects other than purely map-related information.

Since 1989, as a joint venture between the RIA and the Institute of Irish Studies, Queen's University of Belfast, volumes of the extant memoirs for different counties have been published, together with excerpts from the maps and some of the drawings that illustrated the original descriptions.

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

The first OS of Ireland was authorised by the Duke of Wellington in 1824. During the period between 1824 and the present day, it has created very large quantities of archives, some of which have been transferred to the National Archives of

Ireland. The archives transferred comprise part of the administrative archives, most of the archives generated by the mapping of the country at the scale of 6 inches to 1 mile (1:10,560), and town plans at various scales. Included are items such as registered correspondence 1824-1952, parish observation books, descriptions of trigonometrical stations, boundary remark books, plots of rivers and lakes, etc., as well as the name books, which record evidence on the orthography of the place names.

Probably the most relevant of these archives are the Fair Plans, the original partly coloured drawings prepared on a parish basis, from which the 6 inch maps were traced for printing. Although they themselves were never published, the plans were finished with great care and attention to detail. They are most interesting in bog, garden, woodland and mountains as well as demesnes were depicted by appropriate symbols.

General information about the history of OS mapping can also be very useful (Andrews, 1974 & 1975). A very detailed paper on the history and significance of the OS Memoirs, entitled *Portraying Donegal: The OS Memoirs*, published in the *Donegal Historical Society Year Book* is also a useful resource (Day, 1999).

LOCAL LIBRARIES

Most County Libraries have a Local Studies section containing a collection of books and other material dedicated to many aspects of their county. They are usually open to the public free-of-charge. The quality and size of these sections very much depend on the resources of the particular library service and the interest of the local librarian, but some are exceptionally well stocked. Most of the titles primarily deal with the history, archaeology and topography of the county, and will usually include historical and archaeological journals of specific relevance to the county. There may also

be other directories, almanacs, topographical dictionaries and unpublished works such as theses and projects.

Facsimile copies of early maps or estate papers are less frequent, but do occur. Some libraries hold copies of the Down Petty Survey (1685) and Grand Jury Maps (1787), as well as first edition OS 6 inch maps and their accompanying Letters and Name books. Some OS 25 inch, 5 inch and 10 inch town plans may also be held, as well as maps relating to the Commissioner of Public Works navigations and reclamation scheme of the late 19th Century. There may also be other estate records and land surveys, for example, Griffith's Valuation of 1855 which gives information on land holding in the 19th Century.

Finally, the more developed libraries may also have a photographic collection, with an archive of negatives and prints from important local collections. Some of these collections include interesting views of estates or demesnes in the last two centuries, as well as items of antiquarian interest.

TOWNLAND NAMES AND PLACENAMES

A considerable amount of the topographically descriptive townland names and placenames of the Irish countryside originated during the Early Historic and Hiberno-Norse periods, i.e. from about the 8th Century. Irish placenames indicating woodland are particularly common, especially the ubiquitous *doire* (often anglicised as derry or oak grove) of which there are over 1,600 examples recorded. Also common are placenames including *beith* or birch, *iúr* or yew, and *saileach* or willow (MacCoitir, 2003).

For further details, readers should also consult the publications of the Placenames Commission (An Coimisiún Logainmneacha), the Ulster Place-name Society, and the UCD Delargy Centre for Irish Folklore and the National Folklore Collection.



PURCHASING MAPS

The Ordnance Survey of Ireland (OSI) has recently established a web-based national mapping archive service. Through their dedicated website you can now view many of their historic maps for free, in particular various editions of the 6":1 mile (1:10560) scale series, as well as place an order for (i.e. purchase) a hardcopy which will then be delivered by post.

CONTACT DETAILS

Institution	Address	Telephone	Website
The National Library of Ireland	Kildare Street, Dublin 2	01 6030200	www.nli.ie
Trinity College Library Map Library	Trinity College, Dublin 2	01 6082087	www.tcd.ie/Library/RR/maplib.htm
The National Archives	Bishop Street, Dublin 8	01 4072300	www.nationalarchive.ie
The Royal Irish Academy	19 Dawson Street, Dublin 2	01 6762570	www.ria.ie
An Coimisiún Logainmneacha, An Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta	43/49 Bóthar Mespil, Baile Átha Cliath 4	01 6473000	http://www.logainm.ie/English/history.asp http://www.ulsterplacenames.org
UCD Delargy Centre for Irish Folklore and the National Folklore Collection	Newman Building, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4	01 7168216	http://www.ucd.ie/irishfolklore
Ordnance Survey of Ireland (OSI)	Phoenix Park, Dublin 8	01 8025300	http://www.irishhistoricmaps.ie/historic/

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