

Tracing Ancient Woodlands through the archives: surveys and maps of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries

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 - They will appear in full in publications of the Ancient Woodlands Ireland Project at a later date.
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- Ancient Woodlands Ireland Project

Task 3: Determining woodland antiquity through assessment of historical map and documentary evidence

- Project Leads: Dr Annaleigh Margey (DkIT) and Dr Eamon Darcy (MU)
- Key tasks:
 - A rapid assessment of cartographic and other material relating to woodland antiquity housed in private, local, national and international archives
 - A catalogue of material from these archives
 - A detailed analysis of the archival and map material to identify the evidence of woodland extent in Ireland between 1500 and 1800
 - A narrative account of woodland history referring to both the maps and relevant ancillary material to explore underlying processes of change, maintenance and development of woodland across the early modern period in Ireland

Writing the history of Irish Woodlands

- E. McCracken, *The Irish woods since Tudor times* (Newton Abbot, 1971)
- R.A. Butlin and J.H. Andrews in *A New History of Ireland, Vol. III: early modern Ireland, 1534-1691* (Oxford, 1976)
- K. Nicholls in *Gaelic Ireland, c.1250-c.1650* (Dublin, 2001)
- W. J. Smyth, *Map-making, Landscapes and Memory: a geography of colonial and early modern Ireland, c. 1530-1750* (Cork, 2006)
- J. Montano, *The Roots of English Colonialism in Ireland* (Cambridge, 2011)
- N. Everett, *The woodlands of Ireland, 700-1800* (Dublin, 2014)
- F. Ludlow and A. Crampsie in *The Cambridge History of Ireland, Vol. II, 1550-1750* (Cambridge, 2015)
- K. Pluymers, *No wood, no kingdom: political ecology in the English Atlantic* (Philadelphia, 2021)

Key archives

- National Library of Ireland
- Public Record Office of Northern Ireland
- Trinity College Dublin
- UCC
- The National Archives
- The British Library
- And others.....



Some key sources

- Maps
- Surveys
- Correspondence
- Estate Records
- Printed Pamphlets and Tracts

TCD MS 1209/68,
Ireland, c.1568

**BL Cotton Ms Augustus
I.ii.19, 'Ulster', Francis
Jobson**

MPF1/35, 'A
Generale
Description of
Vlster', Richard
Bartlett



NLI MS 2656/1, Moyry Pass

Sir John Davies to Sir Robert Cecil, Lord Salisbury, 1 July 1607

- “The state of this cause he signified to his Lordship before Christmas last, but he has now drawn the case more exactly out of the records themselves which the Lord Deputy has now transmitted, whereby His Majesty’s title not only to all O’Chane’s country, but also to the great wood or forest of Glanconkeyn (which it well nigh as large as the New Forest in Hampshyre and stored with the best timber in Ireland) and likewise to the territory of Killetrage and other good scopes of land in Tirone, appears so evidently that there is no colour or shadow of doubt in the case”
- “As for the great wood of Glanconkeyn, if His Majesty, having neither park nor forest in this Kingdome, will be pleased to reserve the same and make it a forest, besides the pleasure of the game wherewith it may be stored, it lies so commodiously upon the river of the Banne that the timber thereof may be easily transported for building of ships of other public uses”.

(CSPI, James I, 1604-1606, pp 211-213)



TNA MPF1/47

‘Parte of the
Baronie of
Loghinsholin’

Josias Bodley

1609

TNA MPF1/47

‘Parte of the Baronie of
Loghinsholin’

Josias Bodley

1609

Drapers' Hall

Ms +793

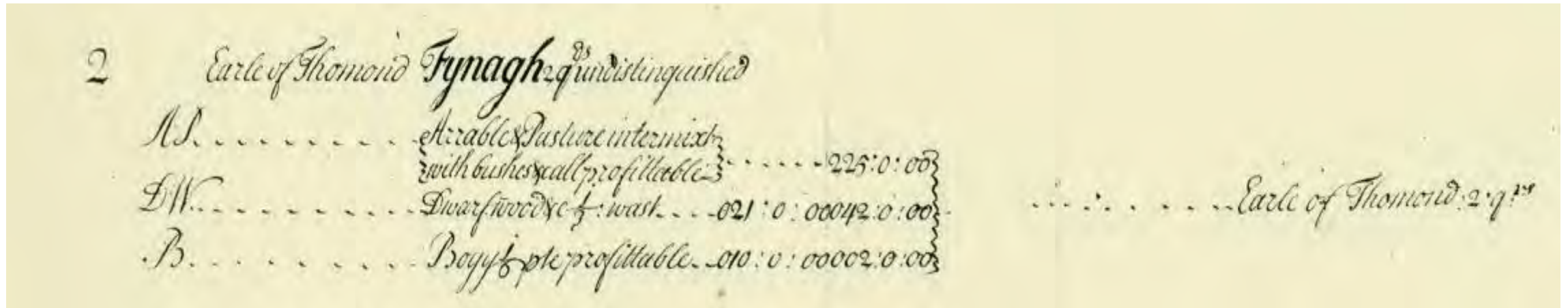
Drapers' Hall

Ms +793

Drapers' Hall

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NDM, Ballysallagh,
Thomas Raven, 1625/6



2. Earle of Thomond Fynagh 2 qtrs. Undistinguished
 AP Arable Pasture intermixt
 & with bushes &c all profitable} 225:0:00
 DW Dwarf wood &c 1/3 wast 021:0 00042:0:00
 B Bogg 1/6 parte profitable 010:0: 00002:0:00

R.C Simington (ed.) *Books of Survey and Distribution being abstracts of various surveys and instruments of title, 1636 – 1703, Vol. IV. County of Clare* (Dublin, 1967)

**WSRO PHA C27D,
Box 2, Survey Ref:
No. 21**

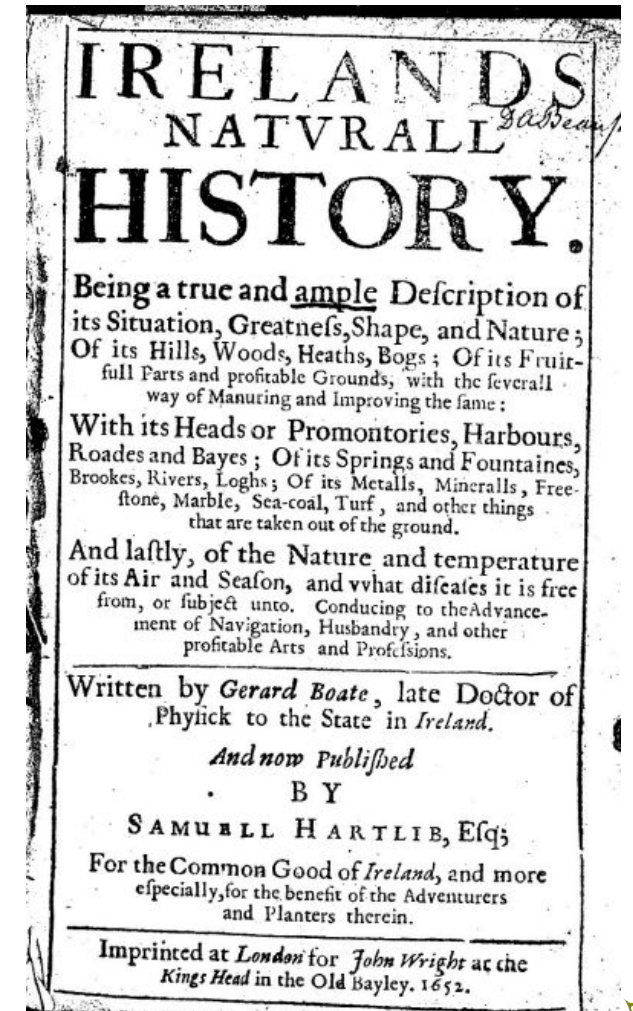
**‘John Parkteige his
houlding
185 acres three
quarters [2]5 perch
that is in Earable
land
61 acres on halfe and
5 perch
bogg 102 acres on
halfe 31 perch
wood 21 acres on
halfe 23 perch’**

Boate's *Ireland's Natvurall History* (1652)

"Woods much diminished in Ireland since the first coming in of the English

In antient times, and as long as the land was in the full possession of the Irish themselves, all Ireland was very full of Woods on every side, But the English having settled themselves in the land, did by degrees greatly diminish the Woods in all the places where they were masters, partly to deprive the Theeves and Rogues, who used to lurk in the Woods in great numbers, of their refuge and starting holes, and partly to gain the greater scope of profitable lands. For the trees being cut own, the roots stubbed up, and the land used and tilled according to exigency, the Woods in most part of Ireland may be reduced not only to very good Pasture, but also to excellent Arable and Meddow". (p. 119)

'the remaining Woods have very much been diminished, and in sundry places quite destroyed, partly for the reason last mentioned, and partly for the wood and timber itself, not for the ordinary uses of building and firing....but to make merchandise of, and for making of Charcoal for the Ironworks' (p. 120)



William Petty's A General Mapp of Ireland

(A Generall Map of Ireland

(<https://downsurvey.tchpc.tcd.ie/down-survey-maps.php>)

(26 September 2024)

Raphoe, County Donegal

‘Barony of Raphoe in the County of Donnegal’

(<https://downsurvey.tchpc.tcd.ie/down-survey-maps.php#bm=Raphoe&c=Donegal>) (26

September 2024)

The Barony of Raphoe In the County of Donnegall Is bounded on the North and Northeast with the Baronie of Kilmackerenan and with Lough Willie, on the Northeast with the Baronie of Enishowen and Liberties of Londonderry, on the East and Southeast with the Barony of Strabane, on the Southwest with the Barony of Omagh and on the West with the barony of Boylagh and Bannagh and Barony of Tirhugh. **The quallity of the soyle is good and generally profitable consisting of arable and pasture chiefly. Some woody land there is, which how advantageous both for shelter and ornament and use every man knowes.** There is some bog but not very much, yet that little that there is for the most part turfy, soe that at some tymes of the year it is profitable and at all tymes fitt for fuell. The whole Barony is finely watered, the River Ffiney glideing almost through the center thereof and Strabane water refreshing it on the Northeast side. Many other small rivers and rivulets there are that sometymes cutt betwixt, and sometymes interweave themselves among the severall parishes thereof. Neither is it a place uncouth or unfrequented, for there are upon it many improvements as Castles, Churches, Mills, Houses and Craghts with other conveniences, namely Briges and Highways and conteyneth these ensueing parishes vizt: Raphoe, Lifford, Tabone, Ray, Lecke, Donaghmore and Stranorlan. What else is remarkeable is to be found in the Discription of the severall parishes to which you are referred

Terrier, Barony of Raphoe Map, The Down Survey

(<https://downsurvey.tchpc.tcd.ie/down-survey-maps.php#bm=Raphoe&c=Donegal>) (29 September 2024)

Lifford Parish by Thomas West, 1656

(<https://downsurvey.tchpc.tcd.ie/downsurvey-maps.php#bm=Raphoe&c=Donegal&p=Lifford>) (26 September 2024)

The Parish of Lifford		Num ^r of Towns	Names of Towns	Denominations of Land	Num ^r of Acres by Admeasurement	Sand ^s Profitable	Sand ^s Unprofitable
Is bounded on the East with y ^e Baronie of Strabane, on y ^e North West and South with Unforfeited Land ^s in the same parish y ^e Nature of y ^e Soyle is Arable & some good pasture and some ffields of Boggy Pasture but graze-able for the most p ^t , and Conteyneth these En- suring Denominations (Vizt) Ballyboggan, Clonlee, Ballylast & Cuneshanogh: Improvements are on Ballyboggan is a Water Corn Mill; on Clonlee is two ffarm Houses and some Craghts; on Ballylast is a faire ffarme House.		1	Rich Perkins Esq ^r	Ballyboggan	0509:0:0	Ar & pr 0509:0:0	
		2	J ^r Downham Esq ^r	Clonlee 2 quarters	1096:0:0	Ar & pr with some Turf & Boggy } 1096:0:0	
		3	Coheirs of J ^r Spolwar	Ballylast 4 S ^r ings	0090:2:0	Ar & pr 0090:2:0	
		4	G ^r Seabe Sand	Cuneshanogh	0085:0:0	Same 0085:0:0	
Total of this Parish					1780:2:0	1780:2:0	
					8x	8x	

The Parish of Lifford

(<https://downsurvey.tchpc.tcd.ie/down-survey-maps.php#bm=Raphoe&c=Donegal&p=Lifford>) (26 September 2024)



NLI MS 16 F. 11

**Maps of
Manorhamilton,
County Leitrim,
William Larkin,
1807**



NLI MS 16 F. 11

**Cornestalk,
Manorhamilton
Estate**

<i>N^o</i>	<i>Reference</i>		<i>a</i>	<i>r</i>	<i>p</i>
1	James Rutherford	Arable	3.	0.	21
2	<i>d.^o</i>	<i>d.^o</i>	2.	1.	10
3	<i>d.^o</i>	Wood	5.	3.	29
4	<i>d.^o</i>	Green & boggy Pas	3.	1.	35
5	<i>d.^o</i>	Arable	4.	3.	30
6	<i>d.^o</i>	Rocky scrubby Pas	12.	3.	32
7	<i>d.^o</i>	Arable	2.	2.	12
8	<i>d.^o</i>	<i>d.^o</i>	7.	2.	32
9	<i>d.^o</i>	Orchard & Garden	0.	3.	10
10	<i>d.^o</i>	Arable	4.	2.	37
11	<i>d.^o</i>	Rocky Pas	4.	1.	5
12	<i>d.^o</i>	Arable	14.	3.	17
13	<i>d.^o</i>	Wood & scrubby Pas	8.	2.	13
14	<i>d.^o</i>	Meadow	3.	3.	18
15	<i>d.^o</i>	Green Pasture	6.	3.	21
16	<i>d.^o</i>	Arable	4.	2.	25
17	<i>d.^o</i>	Bog & Heathy Mountains	190.	0.	20
	<i>d.^o</i>	One half rivers	3.	0.	37
		Total	282.	0.	4

NLI MS 16 F. 11

**Reference: Cornestalk,
Manorhamilton Estate**