

**PROJECT REPORT
&
ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

**Proposed visitor car park, upgrading of surfacing to front and rear
of the House and modification of the parkland edge of the
forecourt & associated ancillary works at**

**MOUNT CONGREVE, KILMEADEN, CO. WATERFORD.
(a protected structure RPS Ref. WA 750035)**



On the instructions of Waterford City & County Council

BLUETT & O'DONOGHUE

PROJECT MANAGEMENT ARCHITECTURE ENGINEERING BUILT HERITAGE PLANNING FORENSICS

Prodomo Ltd T/a Bluett & O'Donoghue Reg Address No. 1 Chancery Street, Dublin 7 Ireland CRO No. 284657

Date : 5th April 2023

Our REF: P22-026

No. 1 CHANCERY STREET,
DUBLIN 7.

www.boda.ie

No. 2 JOHN STREET,
KILKENNY.

IRELAND

T + 353 (0)1 865 62 65

E mail@boda.ie

T +353 (0) 56 77 62907

**PROJECT REPORT
&
ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

Proposed visitor car park, upgrading of surfacing to front and rear of the House and modification of the parkland edge of the forecourt and associated ancillary works at

**MOUNT CONGREVE, KILMEADEN, CO. WATERFORD.
(a protected structure RPS Ref. WA 750035)**

CONTENTS

1. Introduction.
2. Historical Background
3. Ambrose Congreve and the Gardens at Mount Congreve.
4. Statement of Significance.
 - Mount Congreve House.
 - Mount Congreve Designed Landscape.
5. The Design Process, the Proposed Development & Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment
6. Conclusion

Appendix A: NIAH Records

Appendix B: Folio of Historic Maps.

1. Introduction:-

Mount Congreve was built in the 1760's and is attributed to the architect John Roberts, who designed both the cathedrals in Waterford, and the Estate remained in the family until Ambrose Congreve's death in 2011.

From the 1950's onwards Ambrose Congreve developed the Woodland Gardens which are renowned for the extensive collections of camellias, magnolia, azalea, maple and for one of the largest collection of rhododendron in the world.

The House was significantly remodelled by Ambrose Congreve between 1966 and 1969. The works included the addition of the 3-storey bow front to the entrance façade and the heightening of the flanking side wings to 2 storeys. He also extended and embellished the end pavilions with limestone dressings and cupolas.

The outcome is a long symmetrical 13 bay-structure, set out in the Palladian manner, with screen walls and low ranges linking the House across courtyards to the end pavilions. **Ref. Cover Photograph.**

In 2011 the House and Gardens were transferred, for the benefit of the people of Ireland, to a Trust made up of the Mount Congreve Estate and Waterford City & County Council, with legal title vested in the OPW.

In 2018, there were 40,000 visitors to Mount Congreve, a figure that had grown year on year from 7,100 in 2013.

In 2021/2022, Mount Congreve Trust, with the support of Fáilte Ireland, carried out major improvements to enhance the attraction and new visitor facilities have been created in the east wing by roofing over the courtyard and converting the stables and garages. Currently, a permanent exhibition is being installed in the main reception rooms of the House and from later this year, visitors will proceed to the Gardens from the House and complete the tour at the east wing where food & beverage, toilets and ancillary retail are available.

The recent works realised the principal recommendations of the Business Feasibility Study commissioned by Failte Ireland but did not address a key recommendation of providing parking for 500 cars overall, ideally with 180-250 spaces close to the House.

In 2022, the OPW commissioned an assessment of the Mount Congreve Designed Landscape including consideration of how visitor car parking might be accommodated within it and the design of the proposed car park has had regard to the resultant O'Kane Report.

Planning Context

Mount Congreve is included in the Record of Protected Structures for County Waterford, RPS Ref. No.WA750035, and is also included in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) where it is described as being of artistic, architectural, historical and social interest and is rated as being of national importance. The NIAH also provides descriptions and commentaries for the main entrance gates, the east gate lodge, the walled garden, the glasshouse, the head gardener's house, an estate worker's house and the stables.

Mount Congreve is also included in the NIAH Survey of Gardens and Designed Landscapes, Survey ID 527.

This Report assesses the heritage impact of the proposed additional car parking and associated works on the setting of the House and on the historic designed landscape. It forms part of the documentation for the public consultation process to be carried out under Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations.

This report has been prepared by Cormac O'Sullivan (Planner, Architect, and RIAI Accredited in Conservation at Grade 3) and Peter Bluett (RIAI Conservation Architect Grade 2) of BLUETT & O'DONOGHUE.

The methodology of the report follows the guidance set out in the Dept. of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government "*Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Architectural Heritage Protection, Appendix B; Architectural Heritage Assessment Reports*" and the proposed parking area has been designed having regard to Section 13.7 of the Guidelines, 'Development within the Attendant Grounds of a Protected Structure'

This Report should be read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings;

Architectural Drawings; Bluett & O'Donoghue

- P-01 Site Location Map @ scale 1:2500
- P-02 Overall Site Layout @ scale 1:500
- P-03 Works in the vicinity of the Main House @ scale 1:250
- P-04 Proposed Car Park Layout @ scale 1:250
- P-05 Details & Site Section

Landscape Architect Drawings; Hayes Ryan

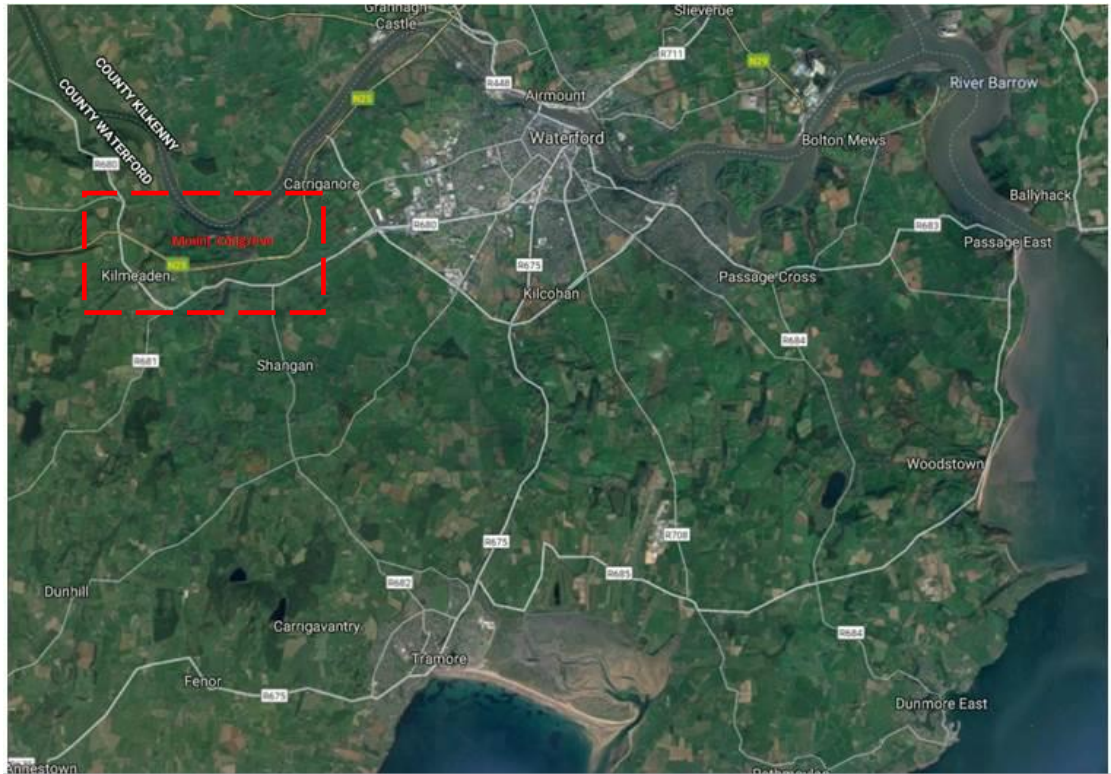
- 23/BODA/MC/001 Landscape Analysis and Context
- 23/BODA/MC/002 Landscape Design Proposals
- 23/BODA/MC/003 Planting Locations and Schedules

Engineering Assessment Report; Frank Fox & Associates

Storm Water Management

2. Historical Background:

Mount Congreve is located five miles west of Waterford on the south side of a “U” bend in the River Suir. The House stands on a level platform about 100 metres above the river.



The Congreves have been in Ireland since 1641 and the estate remained in family ownership until the gifting of the property to the State by the late Ambrose Congreve in 2011.

The first Ambrose Congreve was Mayor of Waterford in 1736 when the remarkable Willem van der Hagen painting of the City was commissioned. The late Ambrose Congreve (1907 – 2011) was the fifth of that name in the family.

The house at Mount Congreve was constructed about 1760 and is accredited to the Architect, John Roberts of Waterford who designed many of the public buildings in the City including, unusually, both the Cathedrals. Mount Congreve is depicted on the Taylor and Skinner map of Waterford dating from 1777, Ref. Figure 1.

In the Topographical Dictionary of Ireland, Samuel Lewis, 1837, Mount Congreve is recorded as the principal seat of Kilmeaden Parish.

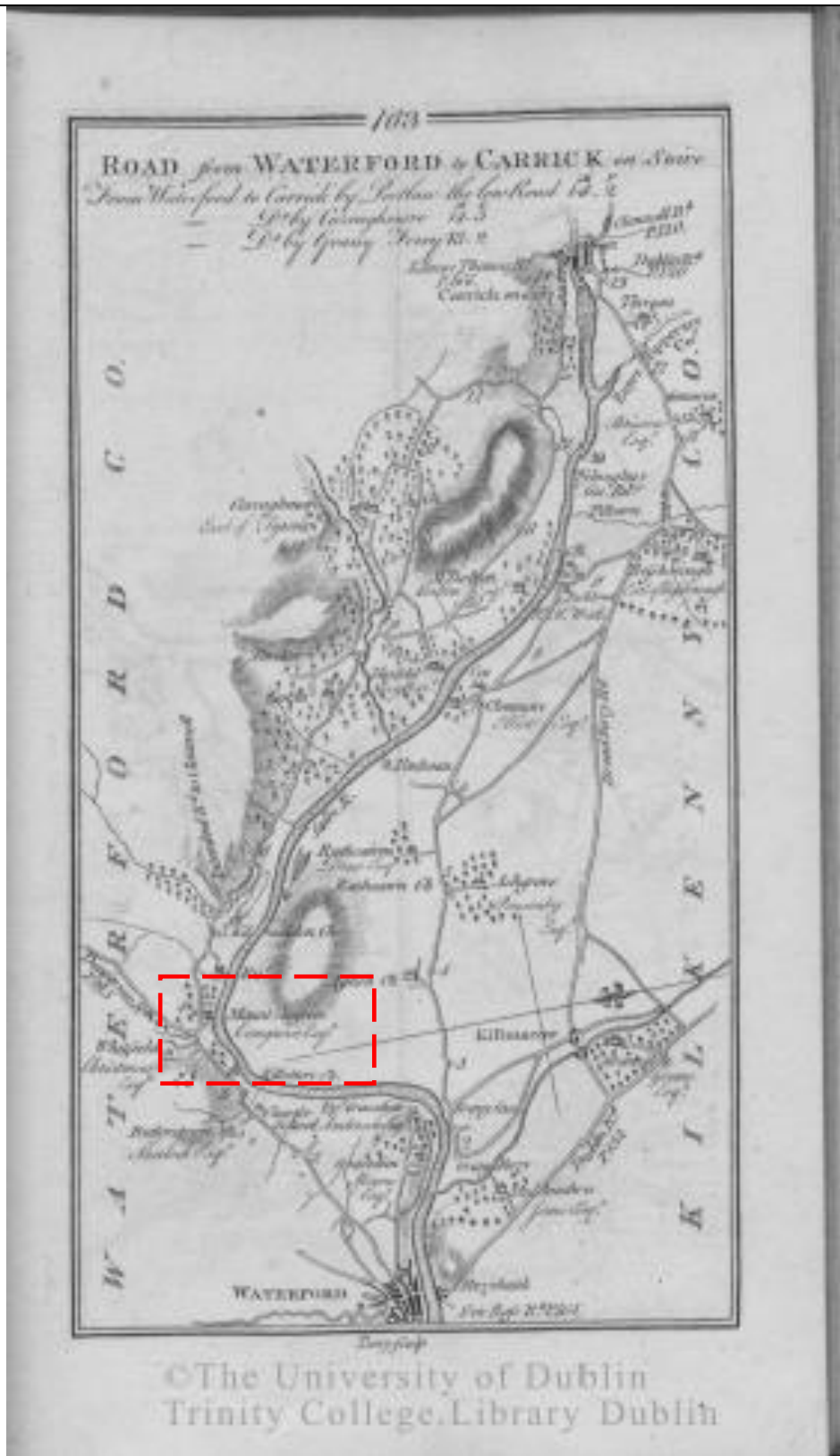


Figure 1: Taylor and Skinner map of Waterford dating from 1777

Mount Congreve House is a large symmetrical 13 bay structure set out in the Palladian manner with screen walls and low ranges linking the house across courtyards to the three bay, two storey east and west end pavilions.

Ref. Photos 1,2 & 3.

The house was remodelled and embellished by Ambrose Congreve between 1666 and 1669. The works included the addition of the 3-storey bowed and shallow domed centre bay to the front façade and the heightening and advancing of the front building line of the flanking side wings.

Ref. Photos 4,5,6 & 7.

He also embellished the pavilions with domes and cupolas, limestone door surrounds, improved gateways to the gardens and by the addition of fountains, including the one in the west courtyard.

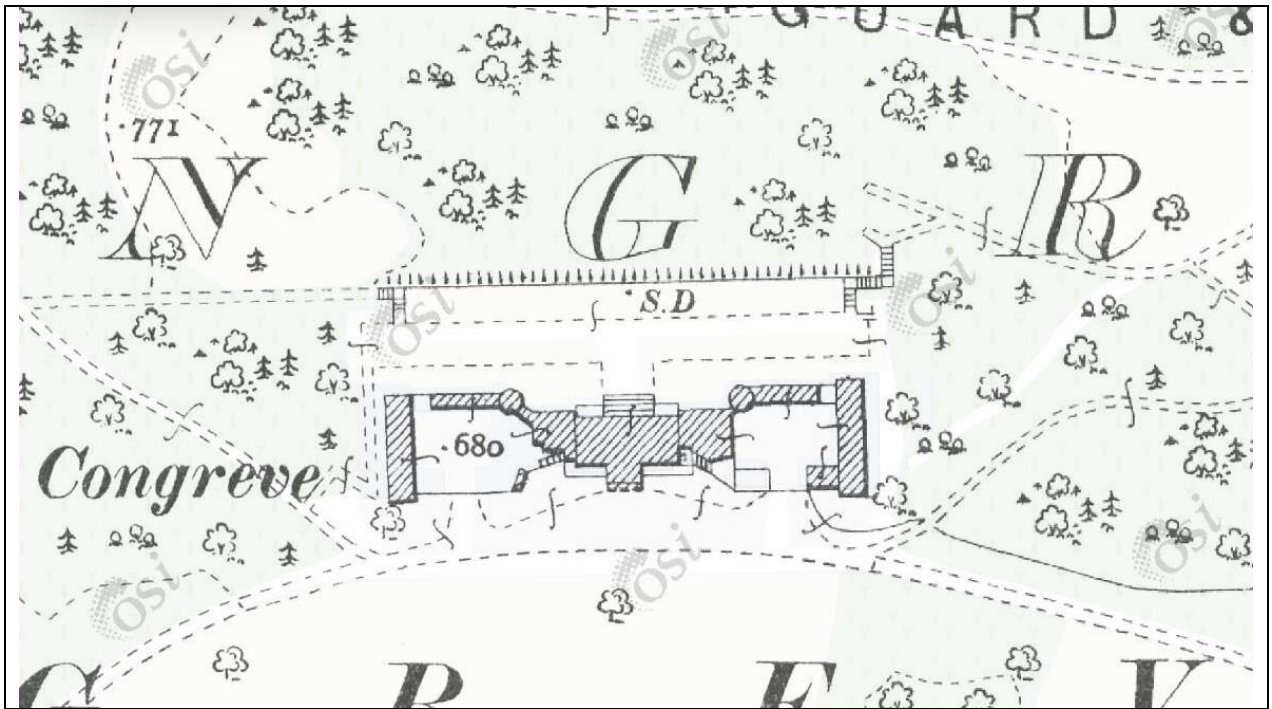


Figure 2

Extract from the OS Map of 1907 showing Mount Congreve prior to extensive remodelling by Ambrose Congreve between 1666 -1669. He added the 3-storey bow front in place of the single-storey loggia, enlarged the side wings and raised them to 2 storeys, covering over the steps to the basement from the courtyards in the process thus converting them to tunnels and he greatly enlarged the size of the end blocks.



1. Mount Congreve, The entrance front, 2020.



2. The 3-storey bow front and the 2-storey side wings were added by Ambrose Congreve in the 1960's (photo 2020)



3. Mount Congreve, The garden front. (2020)



4. The House with 6-bay front façade prior to the modern alterations.



5. The earlier loggia was removed to facilitate construction of the bow front. The dismantled ashlar stone remains on the estate.



6. The garden front prior to the alterations with high conical roofs to the pavilions. Note the side wings are single storey. View from the north-east.



7. The garden front prior to the alterations with high conical roofs to the pavilions. Note the side wings are single storey. View from the north-west.

3. Ambrose Congreve and the Gardens at Mount Congreve

The combination of established wind breaks along the skyline, acidic soil, mature woodland cover and mild winters with high rainfall provided perfect conditions for the gradual establishment of the extensive gardens by Ambrose Congreve since the mid 1950's. He indulged his passion for horticulture at Mount Congreve on a grand scale and was greatly influenced by the new gardens developed by Lionel de Rothschild at Exbury in England. Ambrose Congreve had also worked and travelled extensively in China and this has greatly influenced the end result at Mount Congreve, most obviously in the miniature Chinese Pagoda which is set within one of the woodland clearings but also in the wide range of Asiatic magnolia in the gardens and the Chinese themed detailing and décor within the House such as the service staircase balustrading and the hand painted wallpaper in the Large Drawing Room.

The design approach within the gardens was to create large scale scenic effects and to establish dense areas of azaleas, camellias, magnolias and rhododendron within woodland clearings. There are also numerous exotic specimen trees and a wide variety of hybrids propagated at Exbury and Mount Congreve and features such as the waterfall, the classical temple and several ponds. By careful selection and positioning, the gardens exhibit a vast range of colours throughout all the seasons and the garden has been recognised as one of the great gardens of the world. The gardens extend to almost 100 acres and they are managed from the Walled Garden which dates from c. 1770 and which contains an impressive glasshouse from c. 1850.

Margery and Ambrose Congreve died in 1995 and 2011 respectively. They are buried in the gardens beneath the classical temple overlooking the River Suir. In his will Ambrose Congreve bequeathed the Estate in trust to the people of Ireland.

4. Statement of Significance

Mount Congreve House

Mount Congreve is rated as being of national importance in the National Inventory. The House, dating from c. 1760, along with its setting, is of architectural significance as a fine example of a country house laid out on Palladian principles with the 2 & 3 storey central block flanked by service courtyards to each side with screen walls and elaborate gateways reaching to the 2 storey end pavilions.

The Walled Garden and the gate lodges are 18th century, contemporary with the House, and the greenhouse and head gardener's house were developed in the mid-19th century.

Mount Congreve is of social and historical significance as the seat of the Congreves from the 17th Century until the death of Ambrose Congreve in 2011. It is a rare surviving example of a large country estate which remained in single private residential use up to very recently and is evidence of how an almost extinct way of life was played out in modern times.

At Mount Congreve, the history of the family, the estate and the ornamental gardens are completely intertwined and the prospect of presenting this story to the public in a sympathetic manner can be of great benefit to the social, historical and architectural heritage of Waterford.

The last Ambrose Congreve aggrandised the House by carrying out extensive alterations in the 1960's. The House was remodelled between 1966 and 1969 and the works included the addition of the 3-storey bowed and shallow domed centre bay to the front façade and the heightening and advancement of the front building line of the flanking side wings. **(Ref. Photos 1 – 7)**

He also embellished the property with domes and cupolas, limestone door surrounds, improved gateways to the gardens and by the addition of fountains, including the one in the west courtyard. These changes are of interest in their own right and the massing and elegant detailing of his work reinforces the Palladian form of the overall complex.

The gardens and woodlands were enhanced by Ambrose Congreve from the 1950's onwards to become internationally renowned as one of *'The Great Gardens of the World'* with a superb collection of flowering shrubs and trees.

A unique aspect of Mount Congreve is how the Asiatic theme of much of the gardens planting is reflected in the décor within the House, most noticeably in the hand painted wallpaper in the 'Chinese' or Large Drawing Room.

The east and west courtyards are of significance as evidence of how Mount Congreve functioned and was serviced historically. The tunnels connecting the two courtyards via the basement light wells are of particular interest and reflect the 'upstairs/downstairs' aspect of social history which is often so appealing to visitors to large country houses.

The House is the centrepiece of an intact demesne where the typical elements all survive, gateways with wing walls, gate lodges, extensive stone boundary walls, winding avenues through parkland, a walled garden and the farmyard with stores and stables. Mount Congreve is a remarkably intact estate which remains in single ownership. It is a rare survivor of a large country house in Ireland and is of enhanced heritage significance on that account.

Mount Congreve Designed Landscape

Mount Congreve is included in the NIAH Survey of Gardens and Designed Landscapes, Survey ID 527.

The NIAH Survey lists the extant historical features of the demesne including the principal buildings, gateways and gatehouses, drives, walks, parkland, formal gardens, kitchen/walled gardens and naturalistic water features. The survival and maintenance of so many of the typical features of an 18th century demesne at a single site is significant as is the fact that it was curated by the same family for over 240 years.

The focus of Mount Congreve as a visitor attraction is on the Woodland Gardens, established by Ambrose Congreve from the 1950's on the falling ground from the back of the House down to the River Suir. The Woodland Gardens are based on the planting principles of Gertrude Jekyll on a grand scale and there are over 700 live camellias and 350 magnolias sourced from nurseries all over the world. The Gardens have high aesthetic appeal although their botanical significance will only be fully understood after systematic cataloguing of the planting and the numerous hybrids which were successfully grafted by Ambrose Congreve.

However the Woodland Gardens are only one aspect of Mount Congreve and the earlier periods of the designed landscape define the approaches to the House and its setting.

The first edition OS Map from 1842 plots the extent of the demesne which reached to Knockanagh Hill to the south of the public road which passes through the Estate. Mount Congreve was laid out at the height of Capability Brown's popularity as a landscape designer and it displays the characteristic features of his designs such as high stone walls, broadleaf tree belts, sweeping avenues and undulating parkland with tree clusters and specimen trees. Most significantly, the historic maps show how the stream along the eastern boundary was canalised and this, together with the bridge across it, suggests cooperation with the neighbouring demesnes of Suir Villa and Whitfield.

This gave control of the wetlands and the means to create a large body of water, always a highly desirable feature of an 18th century designed landscape, and to make the most of this innovation, the main avenue was realigned in the 19th century to pass through the water meadows as a causeway.

In the later 19th century it appears that the public road was lowered, possibly as a public works project and became effectively a large ha-ha so that passing traffic was not visible from the House. This period also saw the farmland to the west of the House taken into parkland and the construction of the Fishguard & Rosslare railway along the edge of the River Suir. Ref. Appendix B, Historic Maps.

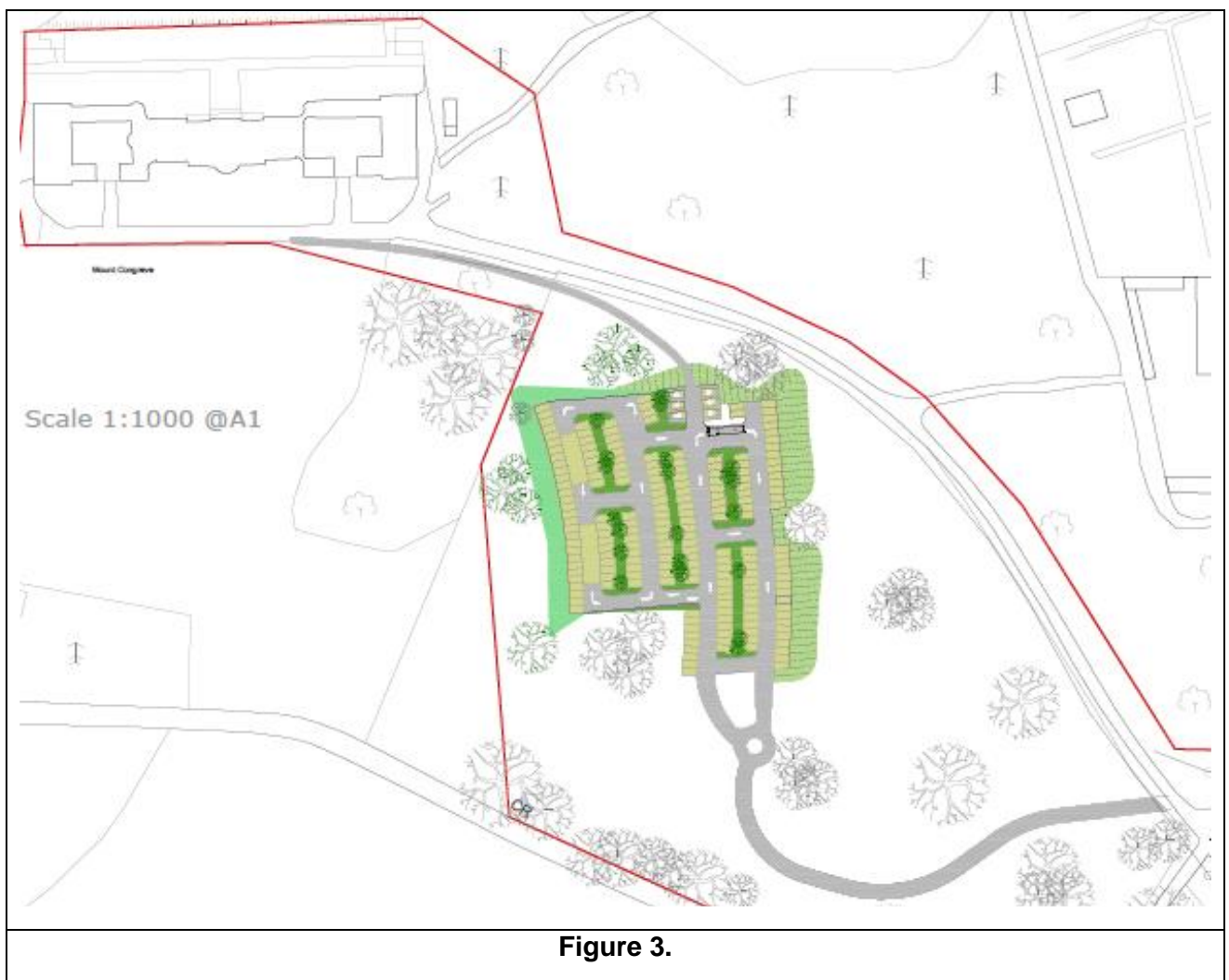
The evolution of the designed landscape is well understood and remains evident today and contemporary interventions into this landscape can be made on the basis of a good understanding of its heritage significance.

5. The Design Process, the Proposed Development & Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment

The Design Process

The design process for the provision of additional car parking at Mount Congreve has been guided by an understanding of the heritage significance of the House and its setting as set out in Section 4 of this Report. The Design Team also had regard to the content and recommendations of the draft Historic Landscape Assessment (the O’Kane Report) commissioned by the OPW in 2022.

The Trust previously considered an option for a car park with 200 spaces, located within the parkland to the south-east of the House which addressed the Business Plan recommendation for c.180-250 spaces close to the House. **Ref. Figure 3**



However, the assessment of this option served to highlight the importance of maintaining the parkland setting of the House and the area to the north of the avenue was identified as being more suitable.

The option of a car park to the north of the avenue at the edge of the woodland gardens was subsequently considered by the Trust and the concept of a long, narrow car park parallel to the avenue was worked up for further consideration. **Ref. Figure 4.**

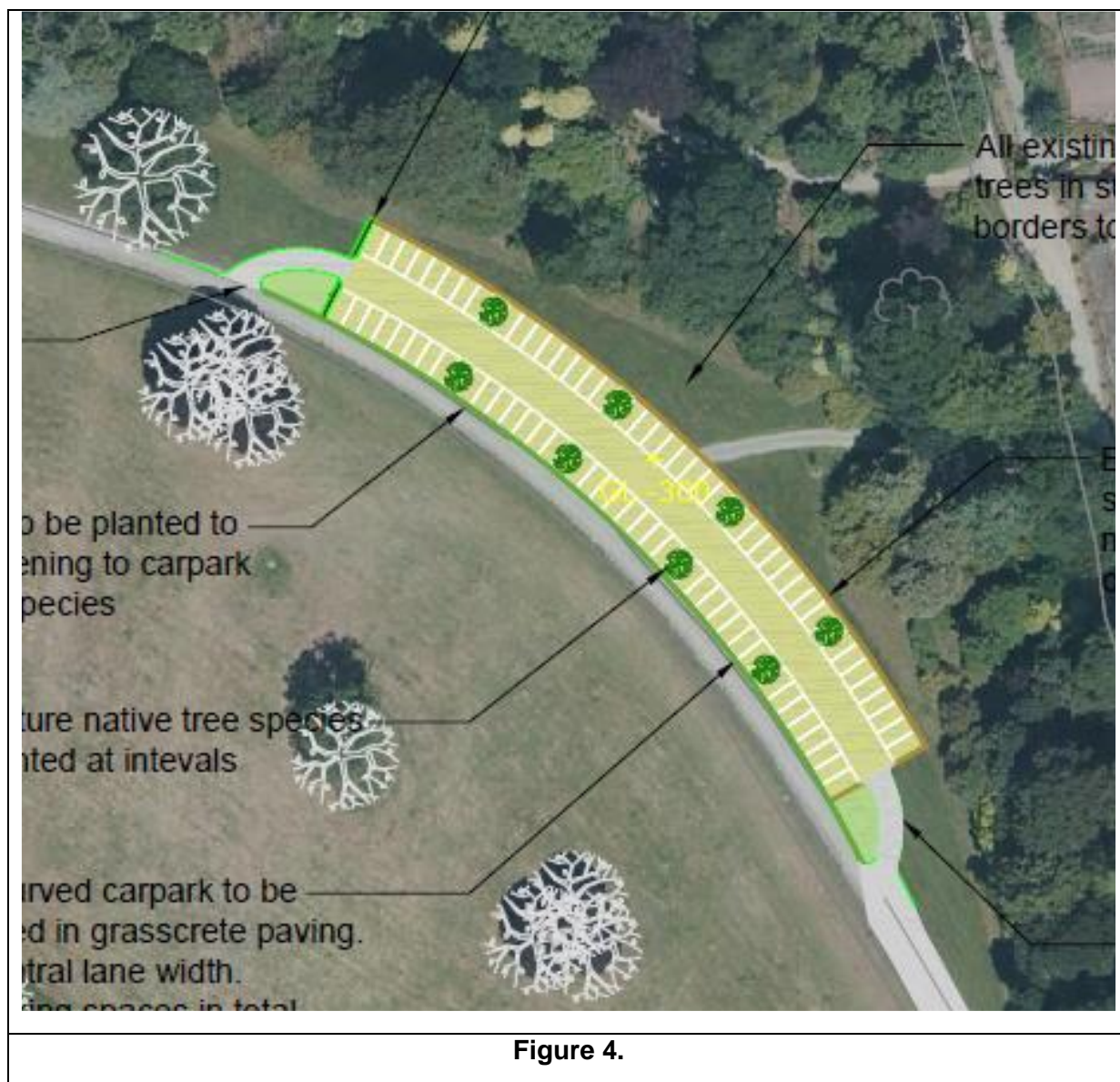


Figure 4.

Following assessment, it was considered that subject to careful detailing, selection of materials and appropriate landscaping that parking for potentially 60-90 vehicles could be accommodated close to the House without compromising its setting or the views towards the House upon approach up the avenue.

The concept of a linear carpark between the avenue and the woodland edge was gradually refined through a number of sketch schemes.

Ref. Figures 5 - 9.

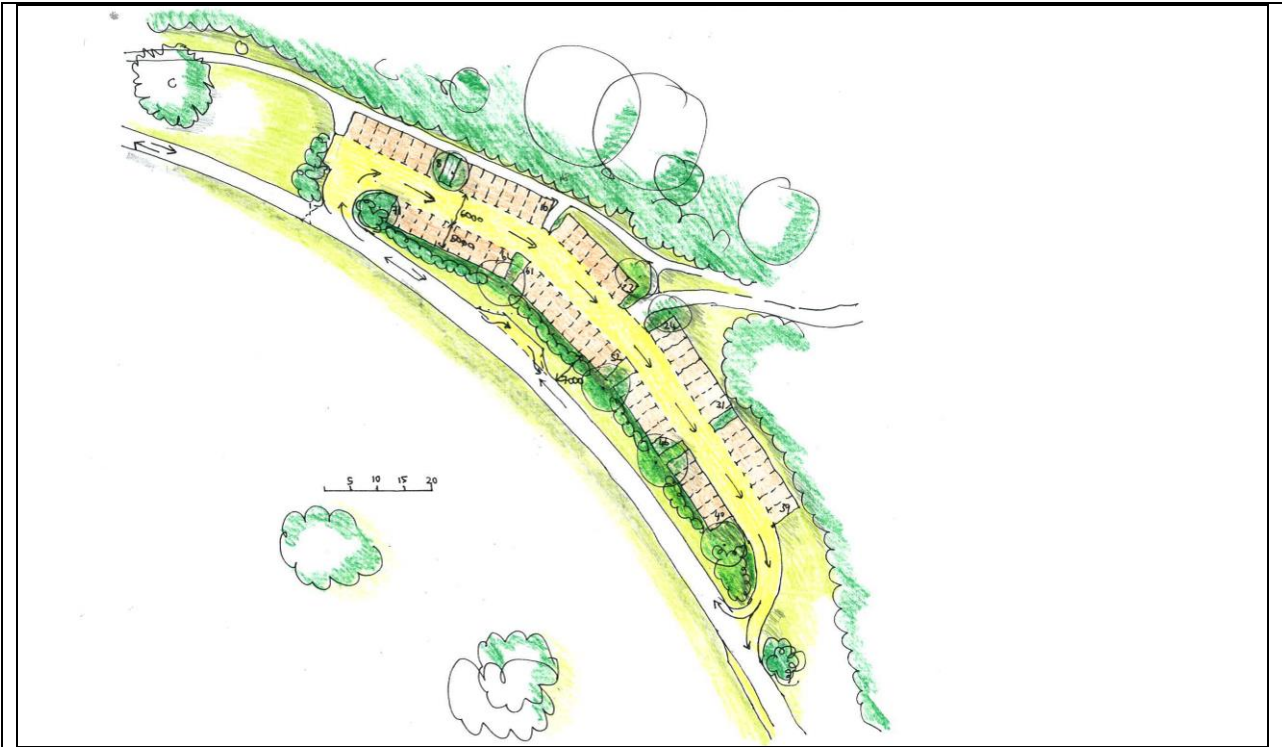


Figure 5.



Figure 6.

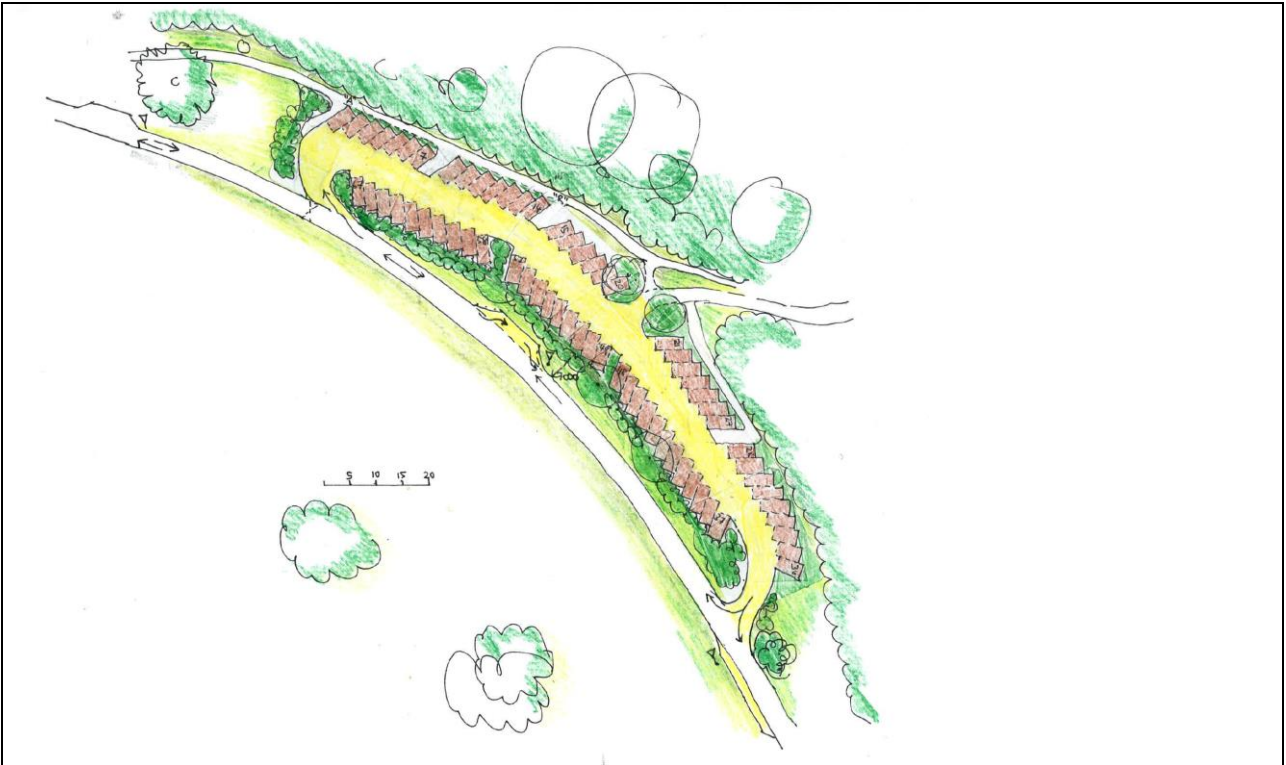


Figure 7.

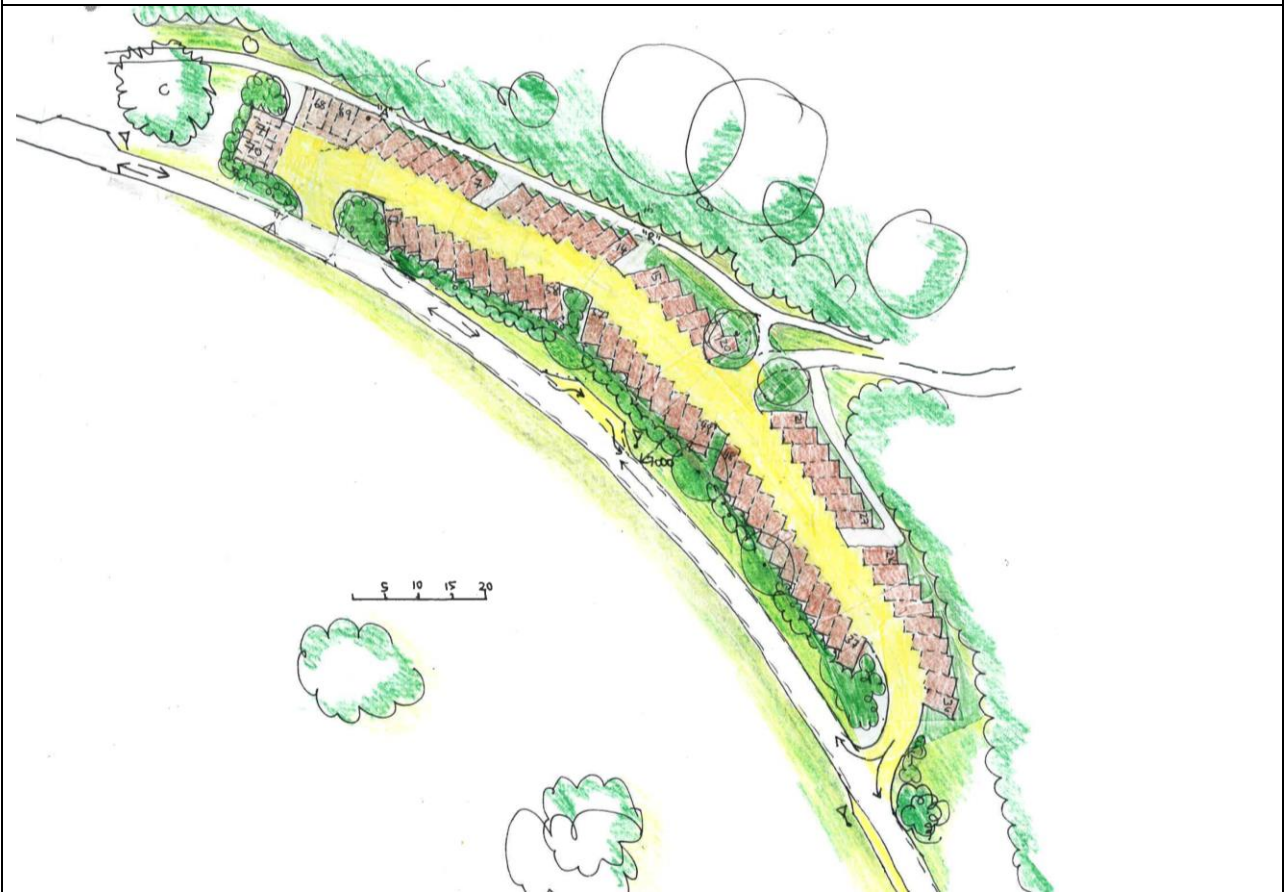


Figure 8.

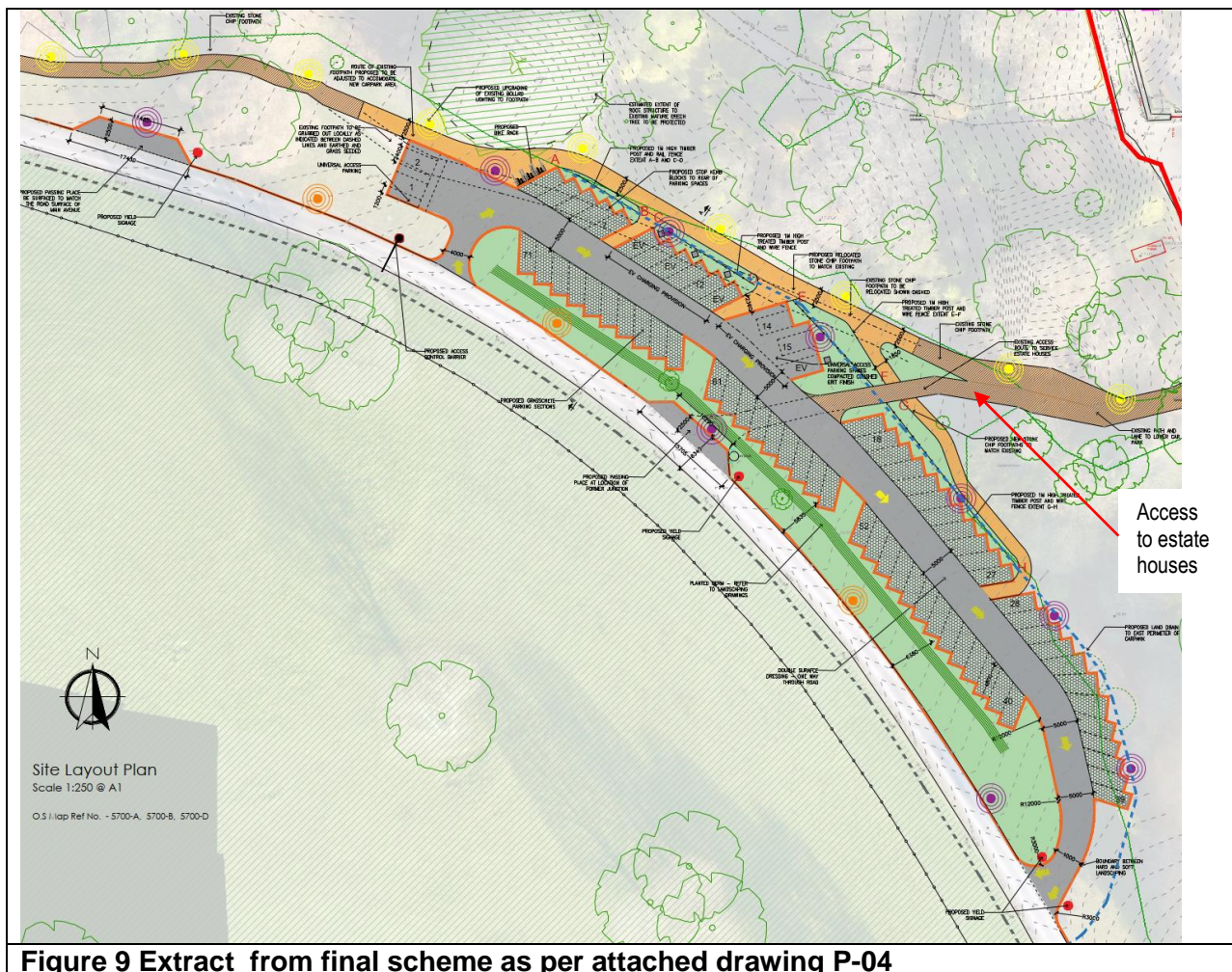


Figure 9 Extract from final scheme as per attached drawing P-04

Through this process, the design was fine-tuned with the following mitigating measures as set out in the attached drawings by:-

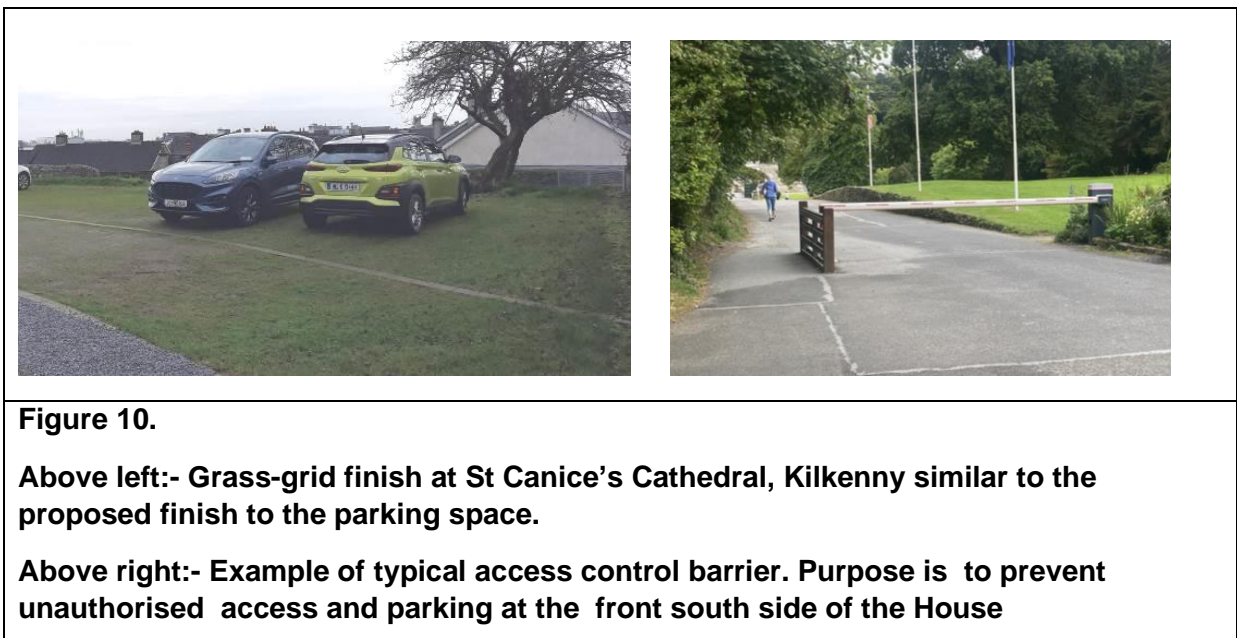
- Having one-way circulation to minimise the width of the central carriageway.
- Introduction of a 60° staggered or 'sawtooth' parking arrangement which reduces the overall width of the car park and creates an informal layout more suitable to the country estate context.
- Adjustment of the layout to safeguard the root protection area of the large beech tree on the woodland edge.
- Making good connections to the existing footpath which links the farmyard car park up to the House,
- Reusing the part of the farmyard lane where it currently meets the avenue as a passing bay.
- Allowing for continued vehicular access to the estate houses at the Walled Gardens via the new car park.
- Adjustment of the layout to provide parking spaces for universal access at the most convenient locations.

The Proposed Development

A: The Visitor Car Park

The proposed visitor carpark is as set out in the scheme drawings and features: -

- 71 spaces, of which 4 are for universal access.
- one central carriageway with stone chip dressing on a bituminous base, similar to the main avenue, and grass-grid type surface for the parking spaces, ref. Figure 9 below.
- One-way circulation, with entrance at the top (north west end) to facilitate using the parking bays closest to the House first.
- An access control barrier on the main avenue, just beyond the entrance to the car park. This will be managed by intercom to allow vehicular access to the House only when necessary.
- Adequate lighting for safety purposes up the avenue from the main gates, at the car park and along the footpath to the House. The proposal is to provide 4m high light columns along the avenue and within the car park area and low bollard type lighting along the footpath.
- Surface water drainage of the car park is by simple ground infiltration to the grass grid finish parking areas. For any surplus water a land drain around the perimeter to the east is also provided which is connected to the avenue drainage system.
- Occasional passing-bays along the avenue with yield signs for exiting traffic.



B: Upgrading of surfacing to front and rear of the House

The existing forecourt to the south of the main house has a loose quartzite stone finish on compacted sub base. The build up is difficult for persons with wheelchair, prams, rollators and similar to negotiate. It is proposed to resurface the forecourt with similar colour stone chip dressing on a bituminous base to the same levels. This is required to facilitate universal access. It is proposed to designate 6 universal parking spaces for disabled drivers by means of low wall or post mounted signage in front of the west courtyard screen walls. This is set out in drawing P-03, It is also proposed to place free-standing bicycle stands to each side of the front entrance to the House. The location of these can be adjusted as required. The material will be metal frame of gray color.

The existing wide paths to the north lawn to the rear of the main house has a loose quartzite stone finish on compacted sub base. The current loose stone build up is difficult for persons with wheelchair, prams, rollators and similar to negotiate.

It is proposed to resurface the existing wide pathways through the north lawn with stone chip dressing on a bituminous base to facilitate access for wheelchair users from the House to the Gardens where the footpaths are also universally accessible.

C: Modification to the parkland edge of the forecourt

A strip of the parkland in front of the House, beyond the gravelled forecourt, was temporarily laid to hard standing for the storage of building materials and to construct the under ground fire water storage tank during the Recent Visitor Centre development works. This followed the excavation of the area to install underground fire-suppression water tanks.

This area has now been reinstated but it is proposed to extend the forecourt in front of the centre block by up to c.5m into this area on axis with the main entrance to give a generous sweep to facilitate bus drop-off and turning. As set out in drawing P-03,

Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment

A: The Visitor Car Park

A new car park has the potential to make an adverse impact on the historic landscape and on the heritage significance of Mount Congreve.

To ensure against this, the analysis undertaken by the Design Team identified aspects and features of the setting which should be maintained including.

- The open parkland character with occasional single or clustered specimen trees and the strong woodland edge leading to the House.
- The unfolding view of the House on the approach along the main avenue funnelled by the woodland edge on the north side and the rising ground on the south side
- The oblique views to particularly fine trees both within the parkland and along the edge of the woodland

On the basis of this analysis, the option in Figure 3 was discounted and option Figure 8 and associated computer drawing extract Figure 9 was considered the most appropriate and a landscaping scheme was designed by Hayes Ryan Landscape architects to echo and reinforce the existing landscape character and to mitigate the impact of the new parking area within the historic setting of the House.

The proposed Hayes Ryan Landscape architects landscaping scheme reinforces the historic character by.

- Maintaining the view of the woodland edge across the car park by introducing mainly low-level planting (maximum height 1.5m) punctuated by occasional ornamental trees. This planting scheme is in the manner established by Ambrose Congreve along the western avenue approach to the House, ref. Figure 10, with Japanese Maple and other species with red foliage set against a counterfoil of low evergreen shrubs.



Figure 11. Western Avenue approach to Mount Congreve

- Further channelling the view towards the House in a subtle manner by slight modification of the topography between the avenue and the car park, creating an earthen berm with low planting to emulate the rise in the parkland on the south side of the avenue in a very low-key fashion.

- Framing views to specific specimen trees by judicious placement of a small number of new semi-mature trees
- Generally, the screening of the car park involves the established Mount Congreve practice of layered ornamental planting with dense infill understorey, particularly at the south (exit) end so that the overall length of the carpark is not evident upon approach.

The impact of the lighting scheme will be mitigated by use of downlighters, on low 4m high black poles, with directional hoods to minimize light spillage.

The operation of the lighting will also be restricted to specific user times in conjunction with the use of photo sensors which ensure that the lighting will only operate when natural daylighting is too low and when the estate is in use at night.

It is considered that these landscaping and lighting control measures are suited to the context and planting history of Mount Congreve and will serve to satisfactorily assimilate the car park within the setting of the House and adequately mitigate the impact on the historic character of the parkland.

B: Upgrading of surfacing to front and rear of the House to improve universal access

The new surface dressing will be similar to the existing in colour and texture. It provides firmer and smoother passage for wheelchair and other users without undue impact on the setting and historic character of Mount Congreve.

C: Modification to the parkland edge of the forecourt

The upgraded surface dressing will be similar to the existing in colour and texture. The extended area, with sweeping curved edge, the overall extent is small relative to the main yard area and is aligned with the footprint of the main block and centred on the front entrance doorway. This will reinforce the symmetry of the complete frontage of Mount Congreve and will have a positive impact on the architectural character of the Palladian ensemble.

6. Conclusion

This Report summarises the history of Mount Congreve and the role played by the last Ambrose Congreve (1907-2011) in developing the Woodland Garden, now an established visitor attraction.

This Report explains the heritage significance of the Estate, both the House and the designed landscape, each of which has evolved and been modified by the Congreves since the 18th century onwards.

The proposed works are an intervention into this historic context and the impact of the works on the heritage significance of the Estate has been assessed.

Different car park options for addressing the Project Brief were explored and the final scheme was arrived at on the basis of a sound understanding of the heritage value of Mount Congreve.

The assessment concludes that the proposed works have had regard to the historic character of Mount Congreve and that the location and the design of the visitor car park is in accordance with Section 13.7 of the Guidelines on Architectural Heritage Protection pertaining to 'Development within the Attendant Grounds of a Protected Structure'. Appropriate mitigation measures have also been included in the scope of works and the impact on the architectural heritage is acceptable.

Over time, it is anticipated that making Mount Congreve and its broad range of built and natural heritage assets more accessible to the public will be of great benefit to the architectural heritage of County Waterford and will assist in securing the future of the Estate as a public amenity.

Besides the Woodland Garden, there are other important aspects of the Estate which are of heritage significance including;

- The extensive 18th & 19th century walled gardens.
- The wetlands/water meadows, which merit more detailed investigation and have potential for increased focus on the heritage interest of the defunct canals, and the ornithological, biodiversity and natural habitat assets of the Estate.

These aspects on the Estate are not affected by the proposed works but the central location of the proposed visitor car park could be well-suited to visitors who may also be interested in these aspects of the Estate in the future.

SIGNED



CORMAC

O'SULLIVAN,

*B.Arch, M.Phil, MRIAI, MIPI, IHBC.
Registered Architect, Grade 3
Conservation, Planner*

SIGNED



PETER BLUETT


*DipArch B(Arch)Sc MSc(Fire Eng) C
Eng FRIAI MIFireE MIEI
Conservation Arch' RIAI Grade 2
Registered Architect, Conservation Architect
(Grade 2), Chartered Fire Engineer*

BLUETT & O'DONOGHUE

Appendix A: NIAH Records

Main Record - County Waterford

[Additional Images](#) [View location on map](#)

 [Print This Page](#)

Mount Congreve (House), County Waterford

22901710



Reg. No.	22901710
Date	1730 - 1770
Previous Name	N/A
Townland	MOUNTCONGREVE (MID. BY.) KILMEADAN PAR.
County	County Waterford
Coordinates	253401, 110146
Categories of Special Interest	ARTISTIC ARCHITECTURAL HISTORICAL SOCIAL
Rating	National
Original Use	house
In Use As	house

Description


Detached thirteen-bay two- and three-storey over basement Classical-style house, c.1750, on a Palladian plan comprising seven-bay three-storey central block with three-bay two-storey advanced flanking end bays, three-bay two-storey side elevations, seven-bay three-storey Garden (north) Front having three-bay three-storey breakfront, and three-bay two-storey flanking end bays extending into single-bay single-storey curved wings terminating in single-bay single-storey pavilions on ovoid plans. Extensively renovated and remodelled, 1965 - 1969, with single-bay three-storey shallow bowed advanced entrance bay added to Entrance (south) Front. Hipped slate roof on a quadrangular plan behind parapets with rolled copper ridge tiles, rendered chimney stacks on axis with ridge, and cast-iron rainwater goods. Shallow copper-clad dome to bowed entrance bay. Conical slate roofs to pavilions behind parapets with cast-iron rainwater goods. Painted rendered, ruled and lined walls with rendered friezes having moulded cornices over, and zinc-lined blocking courses to parapets. Square-headed window openings with cut-stone sills. 3/3 and 9/6 timber sash windows. Square-headed door opening to entrance bay with cut-limestone ionic doorcase having entablature, frieze, moulded cornice, profiled blocking course, and timber panelled double doors leading to glazed timber panelled double internal doors with decorative overlight. Square-headed door opening to Garden (north) Front with five cut-limestone steps, cut-limestone splayed ionic doorcase with entablature, moulded surround with double keystone, and 9/9 timber sash French door. Interior with timber panelled shutters to window openings. Set back from road in own grounds with gravel forecourt, and landscaped grounds to site. (ii) Pair of detached twelve-bay single- and two-storey outbuildings, c.1750, to east and to west on L-shaped plans about courtyard comprising five-bay single-storey ranges to north with seven-bay two-storey perpendicular blocks to south having three-bay two-storey side (south) elevations. Pitched (single-storey ranges) and hipped (two-storey blocks) slate roofs behind parapets with rolled copper ridge tiles, timber-clad polygonal vents to apexes to two-storey blocks on timber panelled stages with copper-clad domes, and cast-iron rainwater goods. Painted rendered, ruled and lined walls with round-headed recessed niches to side (south) elevations of two-storey blocks. Ovoid window openings to Garden (north) elevations of single-storey ranges with decorative fixed-pane windows. Round-headed window openings to south elevations of single-storey ranges with 3/6 timber sash windows having decorative fanlights. Square-headed window openings to two-storey blocks (oculus window openings to centre first floor) with cut-stone sills. 6/3 and 6/6 timber sash windows with decorative fixed-pane windows to oculus window openings. Square-headed door openings to two-storey blocks with cut-limestone pilaster doorcases purporting triglyph frieze and broken segmental pediment, moulded shouldered surround, and timber panelled double doors with decorative overlights. Gravel courtyards with painted rendered, ruled and lined screen walls to south having elliptical-headed carriageways with cut-limestone surround having horizontal banded piers, cut-limestone voussoirs, cut-limestone gable over with zinc-lined coping, and wrought iron double gates.

Appraisal

An impressive palatial country house on a Palladian plan that forms an important element of the architectural heritage of County Waterford. Remodelled in the late twentieth century, the house is distinguished by the usual bowed entrance bay, which adds incident to an otherwise reserved façade treatment. While little extraneous ornamentation clutters the clean lines of the composition, the house is enlivened by some subtle detailing in the form of glazing patterns and decorative doorcases - the carved detailing to the doorcases in particular attests to high quality craftsmanship. Set in extensive landscaped grounds, the house forms an important landmark in the locality, most notably from the vantage point of the River Suir to the north.

Main Record - County Waterford

[Additional Images](#) [View location on map](#)

 [Print This Page](#)

Mount Congreve (House), County Waterford

22901714



Reg. No.	22901714
Date	1750 - 1790
Previous Name	N/A
Townland	MOUNTCONGREVE (MID. BY.) KILMEADAN PAR.
County	County Waterford
Coordinates	253746, 110169
Categories of Special Interest	ARCHITECTURAL SOCIAL
Rating	Regional
Original Use	walled garden
In Use As	walled garden

Description

Walled garden, c.1770, on a wedge-shaped plan. Random rubble stone walls (ivy-clad) with lime mortar, and round-headed pedestrian opening having rendered surround. Set in grounds shared with Mount Congreve (House).

Appraisal

An attractive mature walled garden that is of interest as evidence of the various activities necessary in the maintenance of a large-scale estate. The construction of the walls serves to assimilate the composition into the landscape.

Main Record - County Waterford

[View location on map](#)

 [Print This Page](#)

Mount Congreve (House), County Waterford

22901719



Reg. No.	22901719
Date	1775 - 1825
Previous Name	N/A
Townland	MOUNTCONGREVE (MID. BY.) KILMEADAN PAR.
County	County Waterford
Coordinates	253718, 109794
Categories of Special Interest	ARCHITECTURAL
Rating	Regional
Original Use	gate lodge
In Use As	gate lodge

Description


Detached five-bay single-storey gate lodge, c.1800, on a T-shaped plan retaining some early fenestration with single-bay single-storey projecting bay to centre. Mostly refenestrated, c.2000. Hipped slate roof on a T-shaped plan with rolled lead ridge tiles, rendered chimney stack, and cast-iron rainwater goods on overhanging rendered eaves. Painted rendered, ruled and lined walls. Square-headed window openings with cut-stone sills, and cut-limestone surround to projecting bay. Replacement uPVC casement windows, c.2000, retaining some early timber casement windows. Square-headed door opening with glazed timber panelled double door. Set back from road in grounds shared with Mount Congreve (House).

Appraisal

A well-composed gate lodge of modest scale and appearance, which retains most of its original form and character. However, the inappropriate replacement fittings to most of the window openings have not enhanced the external expression of the composition. The gate lodge, together with the attendant gateway (22901720/WD-17-20), forms an important element of the Mount Congreve (House) estate, and contributes to the visual appeal of the area.

Main Record - County Waterford

[View location on map](#)

 [Print This Page](#)

Mount Congreve (House), County Waterford

22901720



Reg. No.	22901720
Date	1730 - 1770
Previous Name	N/A
Townland	MOUNTCONGREVE (MID. BY.) KILMEADAN PAR.
County	County Waterford
Coordinates	253697, 109800
Categories of Special Interest	ARTISTIC ARCHITECTURAL
Rating	Regional
Original Use	gates/railings/walls
In Use As	gates/railings/walls

Description


Gateway, c.1750, comprising pair of limestone ashlar piers with moulded capping, decorative wrought iron double gates, decorative wrought iron flanking pedestrian gates, limestone ashlar outer piers having moulded capping, and sections of limestone ashlar flanking boundary walls to perimeter of site. Road fronted at entrance to grounds of Mount Congreve (House) estate.

Appraisal

A well-composed gateway incorporating fine stone work to the piers and boundary walls, together with decorative wrought iron work which enhances the design quality of the composition. The gateway, together with the attendant gate lodge (22901719/WD-17-19), forms an important element of the Mount Congreve (House) estate, and contributes to the visual appeal of the locality.

Main Record - County Waterford

[Additional Images](#) [View location on map](#)

 [Print This Page](#)

Mount Congreve (House), County Waterford

22901723



Reg. No.	22901723
Date	1840 - 1860
Previous Name	N/A
Townland	MOUNTCONGREVE (MID. BY.) KILMEADAN PAR.
County	County Waterford
Coordinates	253703, 110231
Categories of Special Interest	ARCHITECTURAL TECHNICAL
Rating	Regional
Original Use	glass/green house
In Use As	glass/green house

Description


Detached three-bay single- and two-storey glass house, c.1850, comprising single-bay double-height central block (palm house) with single-bay single-storey flanking lateral wings (propagation houses). Hipped glazed roof to central block and pitched glazed roofs to wings in timber frames with timber ridges, louvered timber panelled vent to apex to central block having copper-clad elongated-pyramidal roof over, and cast-iron rainwater goods on timber eaves. Unpainted rendered, ruled and lined walls. Square-headed window openings to central block with 36/36 timber sash windows. Square-headed door opening with glazed timber panelled double doors. Square-headed window openings to wing with stone sills, and fixed-pane timber windows. Interior with limewashed lime rendered walls, planting beds, and cast-iron water pipes. Set in grounds shared with Mount Congreve (House) in walled garden.

Appraisal

An elegant substantial glass house forming the centrepiece of the walled garden at Mount Congreve (House). The construction of the glass house, which allowed for the adjusting of an artificial climate through a system of hot water pipes and vents to the roof, is of technical engineering interest. Very well maintained, the glass house retains its original form and fabric. The glass house is of additional significance as an indicator of the various activities undertaken in the maintenance of a large-scale estate.

Main Record - County Waterford

[View location on map](#)

 [Print This Page](#)

Mount Congreve (House), County Waterford

22901724



Reg. No.	22901724
Date	1860 - 1890
Previous Name	N/A
Townland	MOUNTCONGREVE (MID. BY.) KILMEADAN PAR.
County	County Waterford
Coordinates	253692, 110158
Categories of Special Interest	ARCHITECTURAL
Rating	Regional
Original Use	worker's house
In Use As	worker's house

Description


Detached three-bay two-storey head gardener's house, c.1875, retaining original aspect. Pitched slate roof (gabled to window openings to first floor) with red clay ridge tiles, rendered chimney stacks, timber bargeboards, and cast-iron rainwater goods on timber eaves. Painted rendered, ruled and lined walls. Square-headed window openings with stone sills, and 2/2 timber sash windows. Square-headed door opening with glazed timber panelled door. Set in grounds shared with Mount Congreve (House) in walled garden.

Appraisal

A well-proportioned house, the scale and fine detailing of which attests to its function as the residence of a senior employee on the Mount Congreve (House) estate. Very well maintained, the house retains its original form and fabric. The house, together with the remainder of the ancillary structures in the grounds (including 22901714, 23, 25 - 6/WD-17-14, 23, 25 - 6), is of additional significance as a reminder of the various activities undertaken in the maintenance of a large-scale estate.

Main Record - County Waterford

[View location on map](#)

 [Print This Page](#)

Mount Congreve (House), County Waterford

22901725



Reg. No.	22901725
Date	1840 - 1860
Previous Name	N/A
Townland	MOUNTCONGREVE (MID. BY.) KILMEADAN PAR.
County	County Waterford
Coordinates	253675, 110202
Categories of Special Interest	ARCHITECTURAL
Rating	Regional
Original Use	worker's house
In Use As	worker's house

Description

Detached single-bay two-storey estate worker's house, c. 1850, retaining original aspect. Pyramidal slate roof with clay ridge tiles, rendered chimney stack, and cast-iron rainwater goods on timber eaves. Painted rendered walls. Square-headed window openings with stone sills, 8/8 and 8/12 timber sash windows. Square-headed door opening with glazed timber panelled door. Set in grounds shared with Mount Congreve (House) in walled garden.

Appraisal

An appealing small-scale house retaining its original form and most of its original fabric. Built as accommodation for an employee on the Mount Congreve (House) estate, the house, together with the remainder of the ancillary structures in the grounds (including 22901714, 23 - 4, 26/WD-17-14, 23 - 4, 26), is of significance as a reminder of the various activities undertaken in the maintenance of a large-scale estate.

Main Record - County Waterford

[View location on map](#)

 [Print This Page](#)

Mount Congreve (House), County Waterford

22901726



Reg. No.	22901726
Date	1840 - 1860
Previous Name	N/A
Townland	MOUNTCONGREVE (MID. BY.) KILMEADAN PAR.
County	County Waterford
Coordinates	253738, 110075
Categories of Special Interest	ARCHITECTURAL
Rating	Regional
Original Use	outbuilding
In Use As	outbuilding

Description

Detached nine-bay single- and two-storey stable building, c.1850, on a symmetrical plan retaining original aspect comprising nine-bay two-storey block with single-bay two-storey projecting entrance bay to centre having square-headed carriageway, and four-bay single-storey lean-to flanking infill ranges. Hipped slate roof on a T-shaped plan (lean-to to flanking infill ranges) with clay ridge tiles, rendered chimney stack, rendered coping, and cast-iron rainwater goods on rendered eaves. Unpainted rendered walls. Square-headed window openings with no sills, and timber fittings. Square-headed door openings with timber boarded sliding doors. Square-headed carriageway with timber boarded double doors. Set back from road in grounds shared with Mount Congreve (House).

Appraisal

A well-composed substantial stable building of solid form and massing, which retains its original form, and most of its original fabric. The stable block forms the centrepiece of a group of ancillary structures in the Mount Congreve (House) estate, which are collectively of significance attesting to the disparate activities undertaken in the maintenance of a large-scale estate.

Appendix B; Historic Maps Mount Congreve Estate



OSI Current Ordnance Survey Map Extract

↑ North

The Palladian form of Mount Congreve is evident with formal facades to north, south, east and west

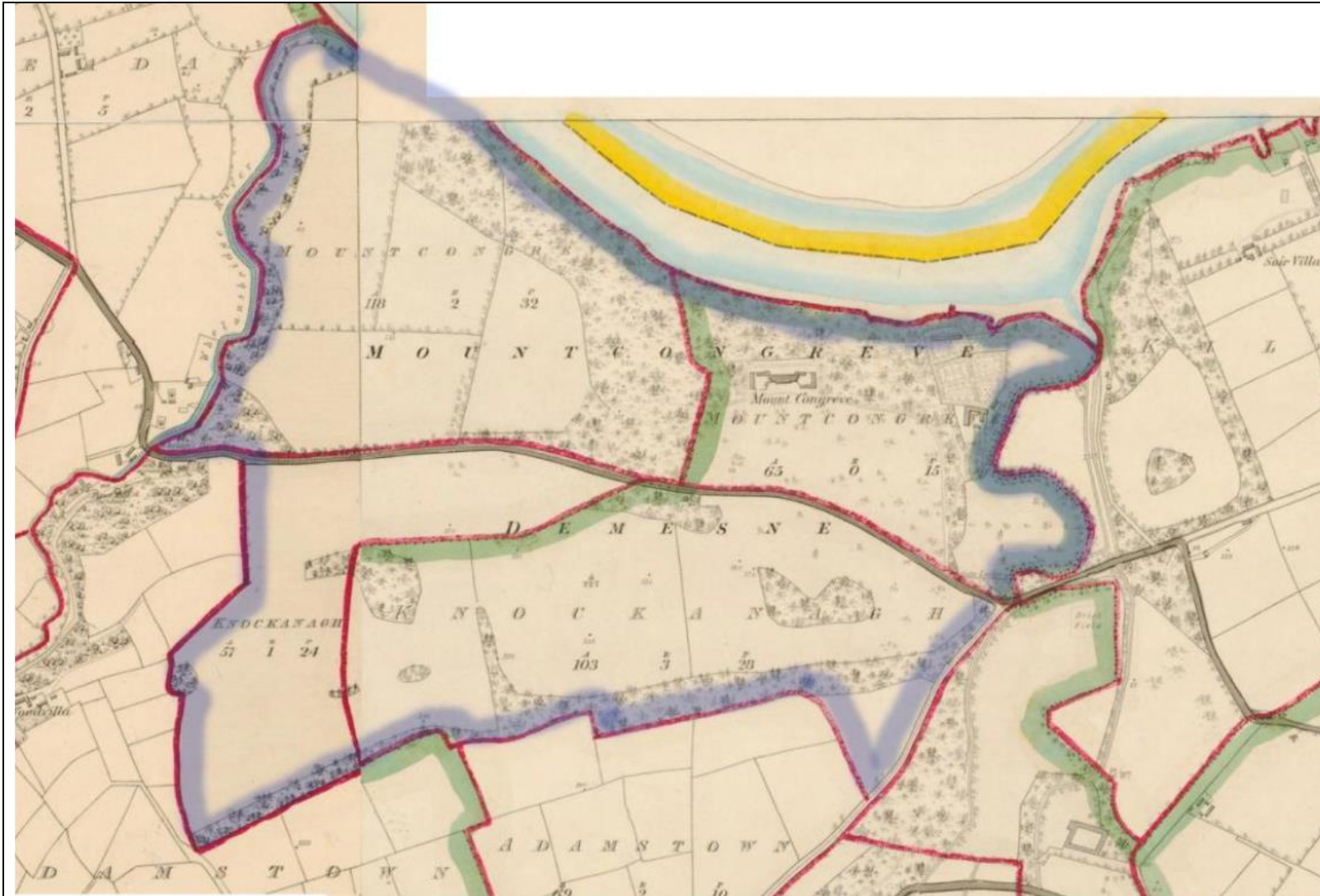
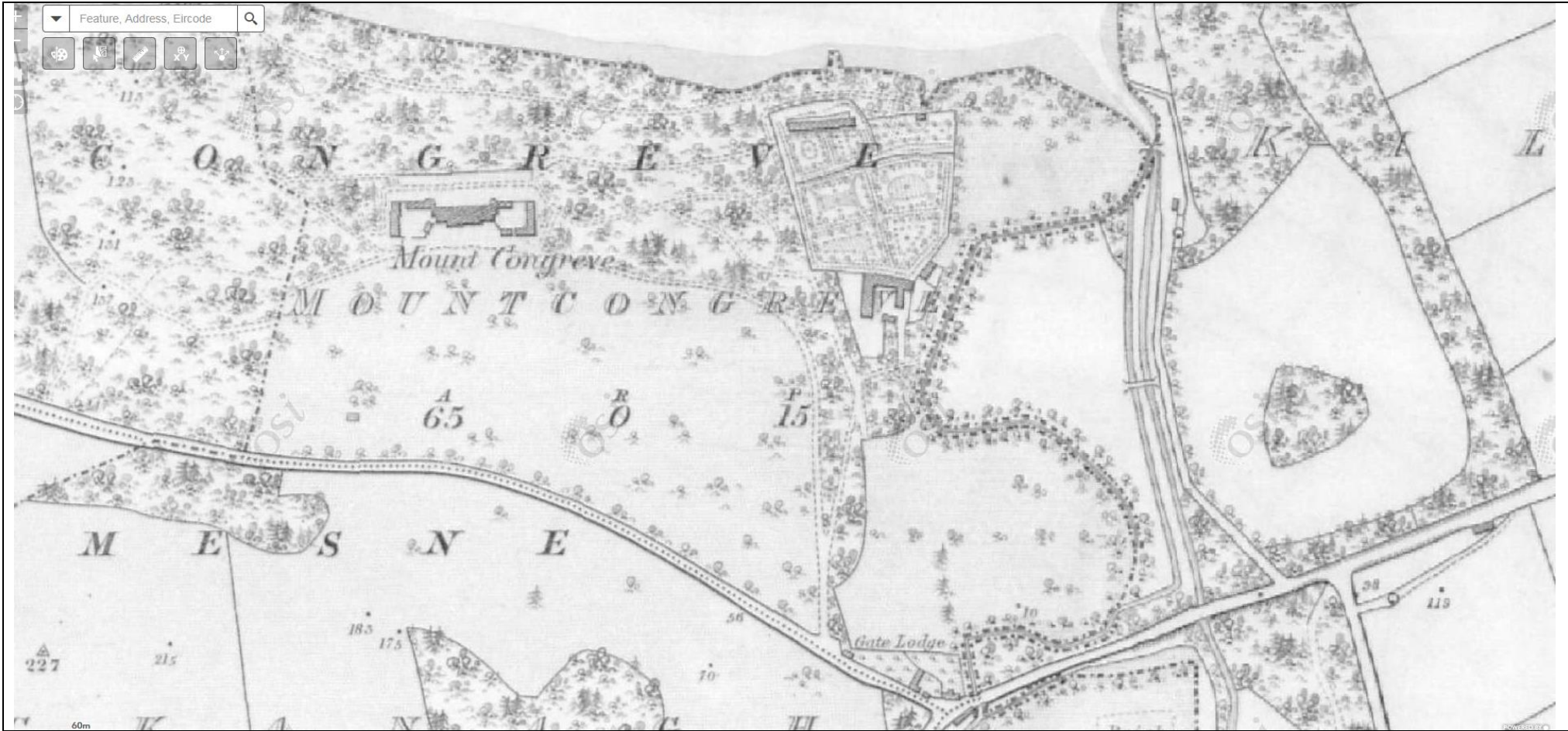


Fig. 5 First edition colour OS map of Co. Waterford, Mount Congreve demesne, Sheets 8, 16 & 17, Surveyed 1840, Published 1842-3, Scale 1: 10,560 with stippled area outlined in blue to denote original demesne area

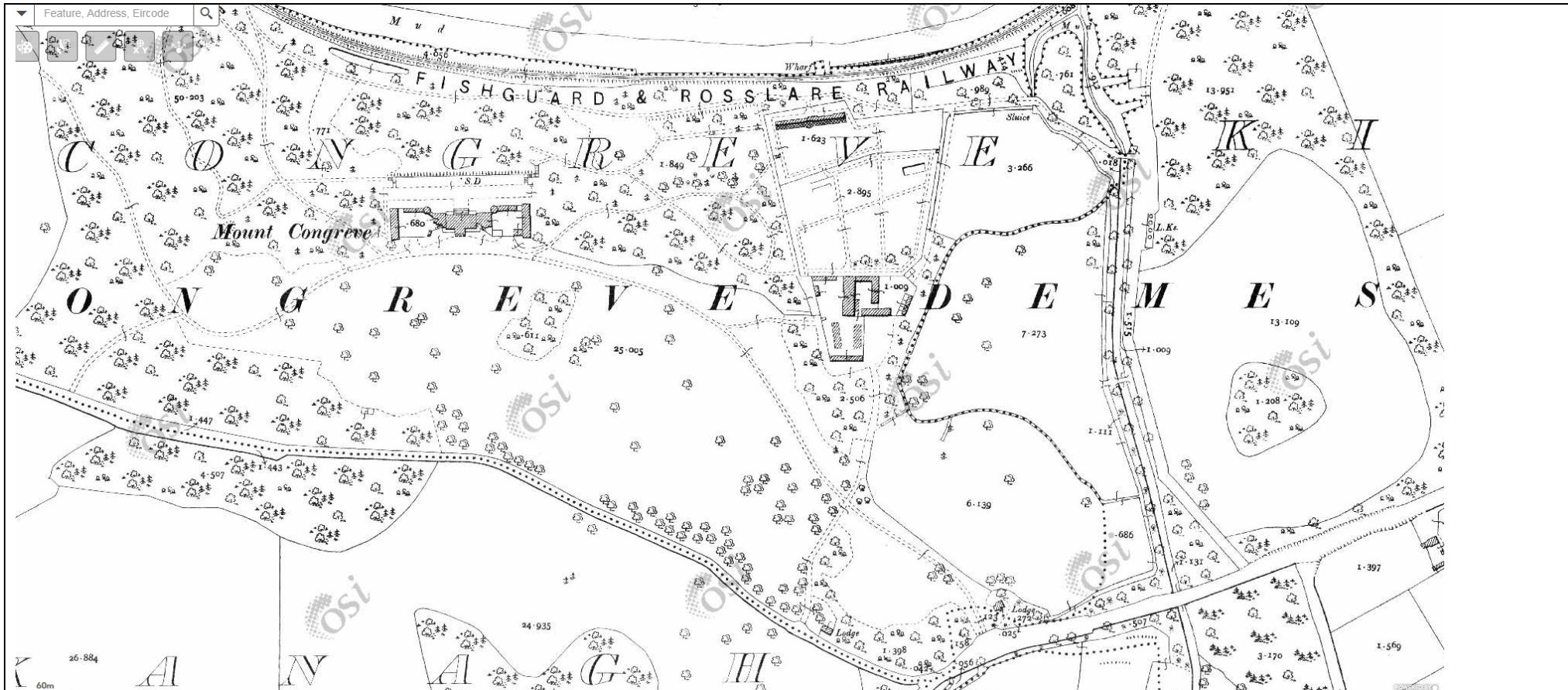


6 inch Ordnance Survey Map 1837-1842 (not to scale) ↑ North



6 inch Ordnance Survey Map 1837-1842

↑ North



25 inch Ordnance Survey Map 1888-1913 (not to scale) ↑ North

OS license CYAL50178465