

# Rossmore Forest Park Built Heritage Conservation Management Plan



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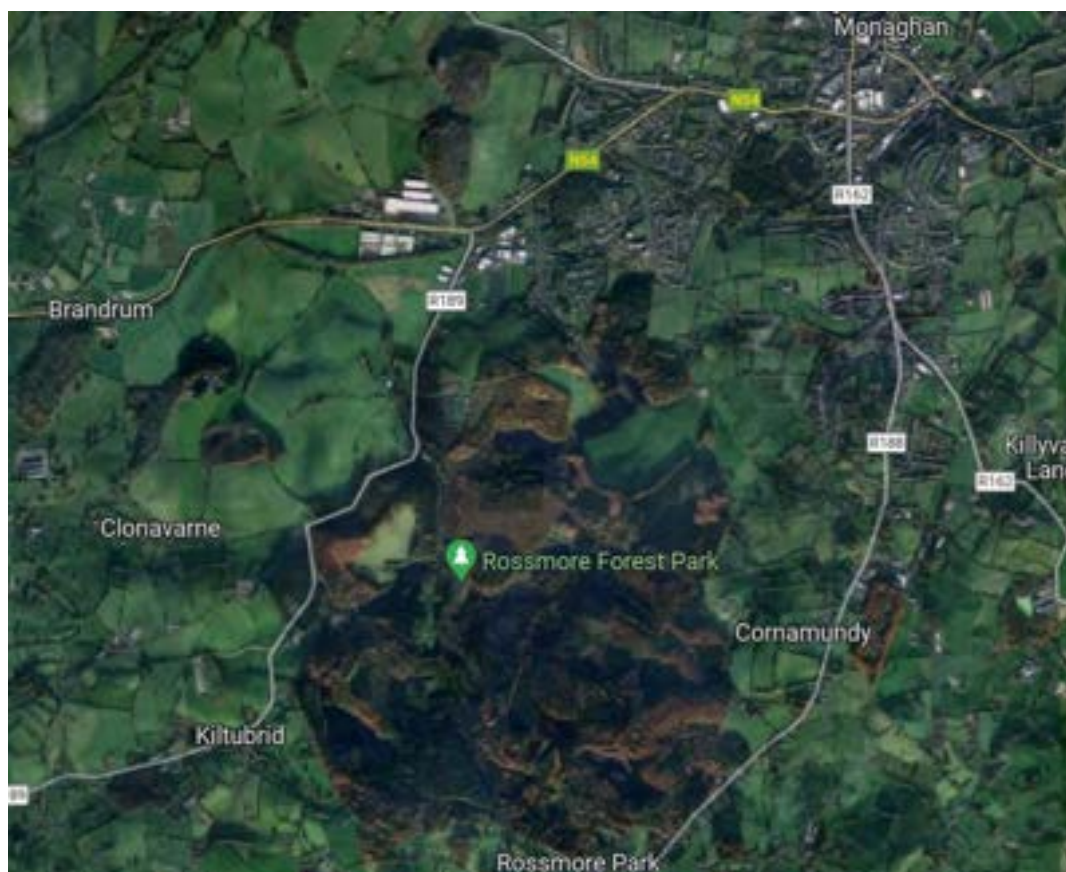
## 1.1 Introduction

The objective of this document is to provide heritage advice on the appropriate conservation and management of the built heritage assets in Rossmore Forest Park. This report was jointly commissioned by Cavan County Council and Monaghan County Council. It is an action of the Rossmore Masterplan.

## 1.2 Site Identification

The site is located to the immediate southwest of Monaghan Town. It lies within the townlands Killydrutan, Gortakeegan, Skeagarvey, Cortolvin, Clonavarn, Kilnamaddy, Ardaghy Kill, Cornaglare, Corlattan and Kilcushil. All the townlands except Cornaglare and Clonavarn are in the civil parish of Monaghan. Cornaglare and Clonavarn are in the civil parish of Kilmore. All the townlands are in the barony of Monaghan. The location of the site is shown in Figures 1.1 & 1.2. The area of the forest park is large (410 hectares). It is in ownership of Coillte. The forest park was purchased by the State from the barony of Rossmore (i.e. the Westenra family) in 1950. The landscape character of the site is that of drumlin foothills (Monaghan County Council, 2019).

Figure 1.1 Location of the Rossmore Forest Park

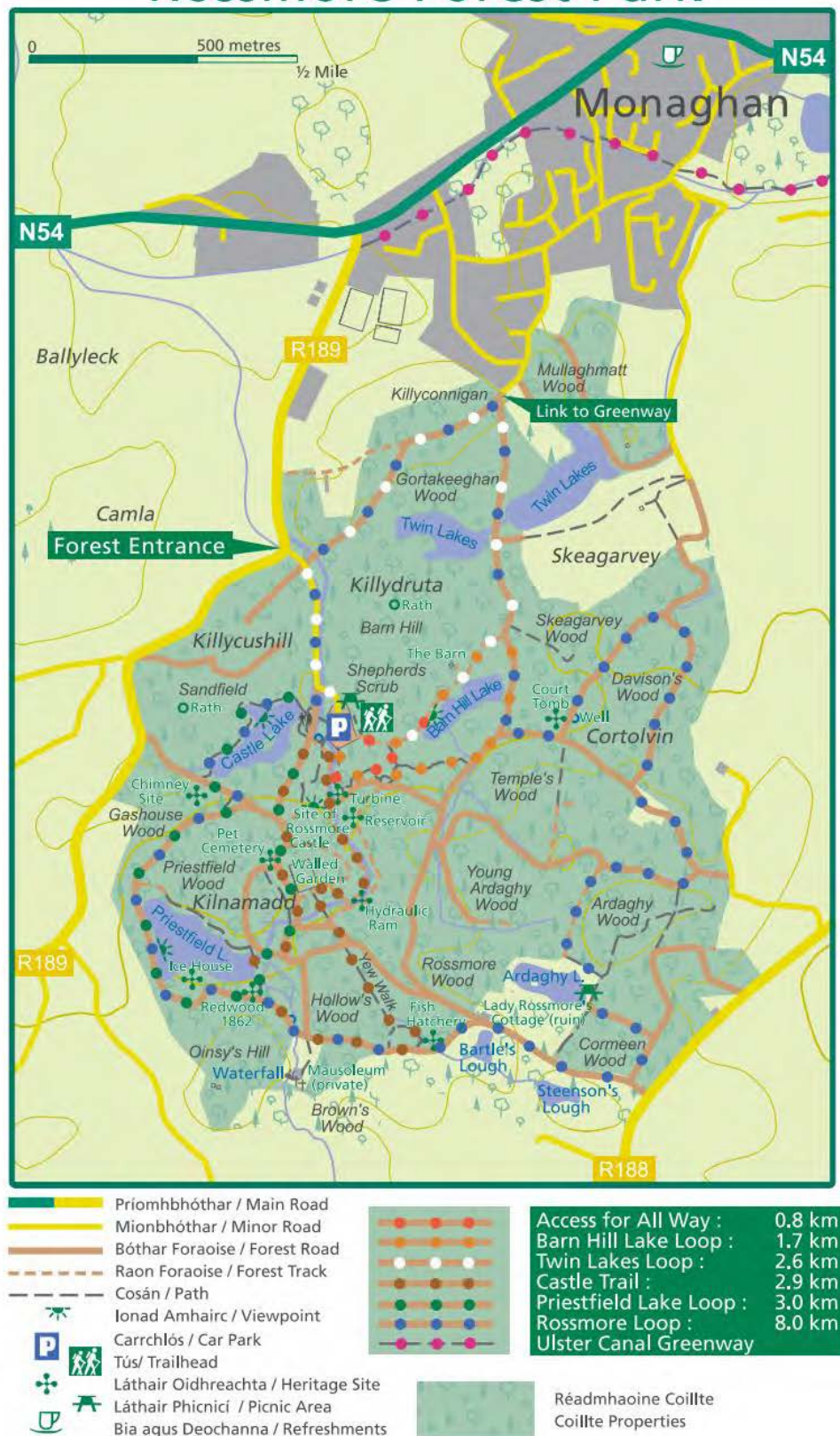


(Source: Google maps, accessed: 2/3/2022)

Figure 1.2

Coillte map of Rossmore Forest Park

# Páirc Foraoise Ros Mhór Rossmore Forest Park



(Source: <https://www.coillte.ie/site/rossmore-forest-park/>)

### **1.3 Statutory Context and Listings**

The study area within Rossmore Forest Park contains four sites as listed in the Record of Protected Structures. As a result, these properties are protected under the Planning and Development Act 2000. Should the building owner wish to make alterations that would change the character of one of these buildings, planning permission must be applied for from Monaghan County Council.

The area contains five archaeological sites listed within the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) (table 3). Being listed provides these places with protection under the *National Monuments Acts* 1930-2004. When the owner or occupier of a property, or any other person, proposes to carry out any work at, or in relation to, a recorded monument, they are required to give notice in writing to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage two months before commencing any work.

The study area of Rossmore Forest Park is not listed as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Nor is it located near a SAC. The study area is not designated a Special Protection Area, Natural Heritage Area nor as a proposed Natural Heritage Area.

### **1.4 Methodology, Limitations & Terminology**

The report is based upon archival research, site visits and consultation with Coillte, Friends of Rossmore Park group. No opening up works were undertaken during the survey of the various sites in the forest park

In order to ascertain the appropriateness of possible solutions to various issues, semi-structured interviews were undertaken with 12 people. Interviewees were selected from a wide spectrum of those that use the site. The strength of semi-structured interviews over questionnaires and other quantitative approaches is that they can be useful in obtaining a person's true perception by allowing complexities and contradictions to be expressed (Valentine, 2005). This is due to interviewees being less guarded during the flow of an unrestricted conversation (Kotler & Keller, 2016).

Due to constraints caused by Covid-19 a programme of online public consultation was engaged in. The online survey received 257 responses (see appendix 1). This allowed the team to discover what people knew about the site, the places were important to them and the ideas they had to sustainably develop the park's heritage assets. This report is also influenced by the strong public engagement programme that was undertaken as part of the park's 2017/2018 masterplan. Aside

from the interviews and stakeholder consultations, a consultant spent several days in the forest park observing how the site was used.

Documentary research was mostly limited to secondary sources. The Rossmore Papers comprise c.5200 documents and c.55 volumes from 1610-c.1959 (PRONI, 2007). Such is the extent of this material, its processing for this report was not feasible. The Rossmore Papers reside in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland. A key primary document source that was investigated, was the 1930s Primary School Folklore Collection.

It is worth noting that Cootehill Gate Lodge and Newbliss Lodge are both located within the traditional bounds of Rossmore Park. However, as they are both residences, they were not included within this CMP.

The report incorporates relevant principles and processes of the *Granada Charter* 1985 and the *Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance* 1999. The terminology used in this report is consistent with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage's *Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines* 2004 and the Burra Charter.

## **1.5 Author Identification**

This Conservation Management Plan has been conducted and prepared by Liam Mannix (BA(Hons) MBA MPhil PGDip MIAI) Conservation Consultant. Additional input was provided by landscape architects James Hennessy (BA MA) and Anna Baxter (BA) of the Paul Hogarth Company. All images are by Research + Dig unless otherwise indicated. Final edits to this document were made by the Paul Hogarth Company.

## **1.6 Acknowledgements**

Research + Dig and the Paul Hogarth Company acknowledges the help of the following in preparing this report.

- Coillte
- Monaghan County Council
- Monaghan County Museum
- Friends of Rossmore Park group

We also appreciate the efforts of all those who participated in the online survey and on-site discussions.

## 2.0 Site History

### 2.1 History

In the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the area now comprising Rossmore Park was owned by the Blayney family (figure 2.1). During that century the family was beset by financial problems. A key reason for this was the negative impact of the 1641 rebellion on their wealth. Indeed, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron Blayney was killed while fighting Irish Confederates at the Battle of Benburb in 1646. Ultimately, these financial issues led to the 5<sup>th</sup> Lord Blayney selling the area of land that was to become Rossmore Estate to Alexander Cairns of Donegal in 1680 (Heritage Plan, 2008). The later Williamite Wars also impacted negatively on the Blayney's wealth.

Figure 2.1 One of the townlands which Rossmore Park is comprised of – Cornaglare (spelt Cornalare) - is shown in the Downe Survey (1656-1658)



(Source: <http://downsurvey.tcd.ie/down-survey-maps.php#c=Monaghan>)

Alexander Cairns was created a baronet in 1707. Dying without a male heir, his eldest daughter Mary inherited the estate. She later married William Fortescue, Earl of Clermont and Governor of County Monaghan. Their marriage resulted in five daughters. Their second eldest daughter, Elizabeth,

married Robert Cuninghame. In 1796, Robert was named the 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Rossmore (ibid). He was succeeded in 1801 by Warner William Westena, son of the fifth daughter and Henry Westena.

The original house on the estate was named Cortolvin Hills. It was described by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Baron Rossmore as 'a paltry cabin, unfurnished and mean' (ibid). It is believed that this house was constructed in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. During that time, Ireland was still not pacified and houses with defensive features were still necessary. However, by the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the house was deemed out of date. Cortolvin Hills is shown in a 1791 map of the estate and in in the first edition 1835 OS map (figures 2.2, 2.3 & 2.4). The house is a north-west facing structure surrounded by a large complex of other buildings. The buildings to the north and northeast were demolished to make way for what became known as Rossmore Castle. The 1791 map names the estate as a 'deer park and paddock'. This is the only evidence for the managed exploitation of deer occurring on the site. Deer parks for the purposes of hunting became a dominant feature of the Irish landscape in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries (Reeves-Smyth, 2017). During the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century the popularity of deer hunting and associated deer parks declined as that of fox hunting increased.

Figure 2.2 **1791 map of Rossmore Park**



(Source: courtesy of Monaghan County Museum)



Figure 2.3 Detail from 1791 showing Cortolvin Hills



(Source: courtesy of Monaghan County Museum)

Figure 2.4 Detail from 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map (1835) showing Cortolvin Hills



(Source: 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS)

In 1824, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lord Rossmore, commissioned the architects Richard and William Vitruvius Morrison to design a new drawing adjoining the existing house. It is believed that the pre-existing gable ended house was turned into the servant's wing and a new set of rooms built to the northeast (PRONI, 2007). The resulting building was an impressive Tudor Gothic country house (figure 2.5). The

new block faced north. There was a two storey Jacobean façade with an entrance tower to its west and a projecting room with a Dutch gable to its east end. The front was topped by crenelations. There were also crenelations on the octagonal tower which terminated the block to its east side (ibid). Completed in the 1830s, the new Rossmore Castle put the family under financial pressure.

Figure 25 Rossmore Castle as shown in 3<sup>rd</sup> edition OS map (early 20<sup>th</sup> century)



(Source: 3<sup>rd</sup> edition OS)

In 1858, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Lord Rossmore commissioned architect Lanyon and Lynn Architects to remodel and extend the house even further. Substantial changes were made to the north front and servants' wing (PRONI, 2007). By contrast, the south elevation remained mostly intact. Lord Rossmore had been in competition with the Shirleys of Lough Fea for who had the largest room in County Monaghan. Because of this rivalry, the drawing room ended up being extended five times. When the final set of additions had taken place, the castle had at least 117 windows of 53 different sizes (figures 2.6, 2.7, 2.8 & 2.9)([www.archiseek.com/2009/1858-rossmore-castle-monaghan-co-monaghan/](http://www.archiseek.com/2009/1858-rossmore-castle-monaghan-co-monaghan/)). Walking correspondent for *The Times* - Christopher Somerville - called the finished castle 'one of Ireland's most extravagant Big Houses' (2010). The steps and terraces in front of the castle were probably built as part of the 1858 works ([www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/41401308/rossmore-forest-park-monaghan](http://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/41401308/rossmore-forest-park-monaghan)). The view from the castle across the terraces was held in high regard. An entry from archives of the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland states that 'the beautiful view

from the terrace in front of the house deserves mention, as being by far the richest example of sylvan scenery in the county of Monaghan' (2007).

Figure 2.6 **View of Rossmore Castle c.1900-1939**



(Source: Eason Photographic Collection, <https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtIs000558965>)

Figure 2.7 **View of Rossmore Castle c.1900-1939**



(Source: Eason Photographic Collection, <https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtIs000558935>)

Figure 2.8

View of Rossmore Castle c.1900-1939 from Monaghan postcard



(Source: Eason Photographic Collection, <https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtIs000558932>)

Figure 2.9

Drawing of Rossmore Castle c.1880



(Source: <https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtIs000546426>)

Comparing the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS maps (c.1835) of the site with those of the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition maps in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century provides clear evidence for systematic alteration of the landscape from one dominated by fields to becoming a designed pleasure ground with services associated with supporting life at the big house. This is reinforced by the placename evidence on both sets of OS maps (figures 2.10 & 2.11). In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century edition, names such as Gasworks Wood, Engine House, Thorney Paddock, Castle Lough and Hollow's Wood appear. These names communicate industry, horse riding, beautiful views and pleasurable walks. This illustrates the morphing of the landscape from predominately farmland to being used to make the lifestyles of the estate's owners more pleasurable. Not marked as formal placenames on maps of the site was the demesne's tennis court, cricket ground and horseracing track. The area of the tennis court to the immediate rear of the castle still exists. Unfortunately, the areas given over to cricket and horseracing are now mostly if not totally covered in forestry plantations (information derived from long-term employee on the site). Another function of the remodelled landscape was to communicate the wealth, power and sophistication of the estate's owners. The movement of agriculture to outside of the demesne walls was common in other estates throughout Ireland (Aalen et al, 1997).

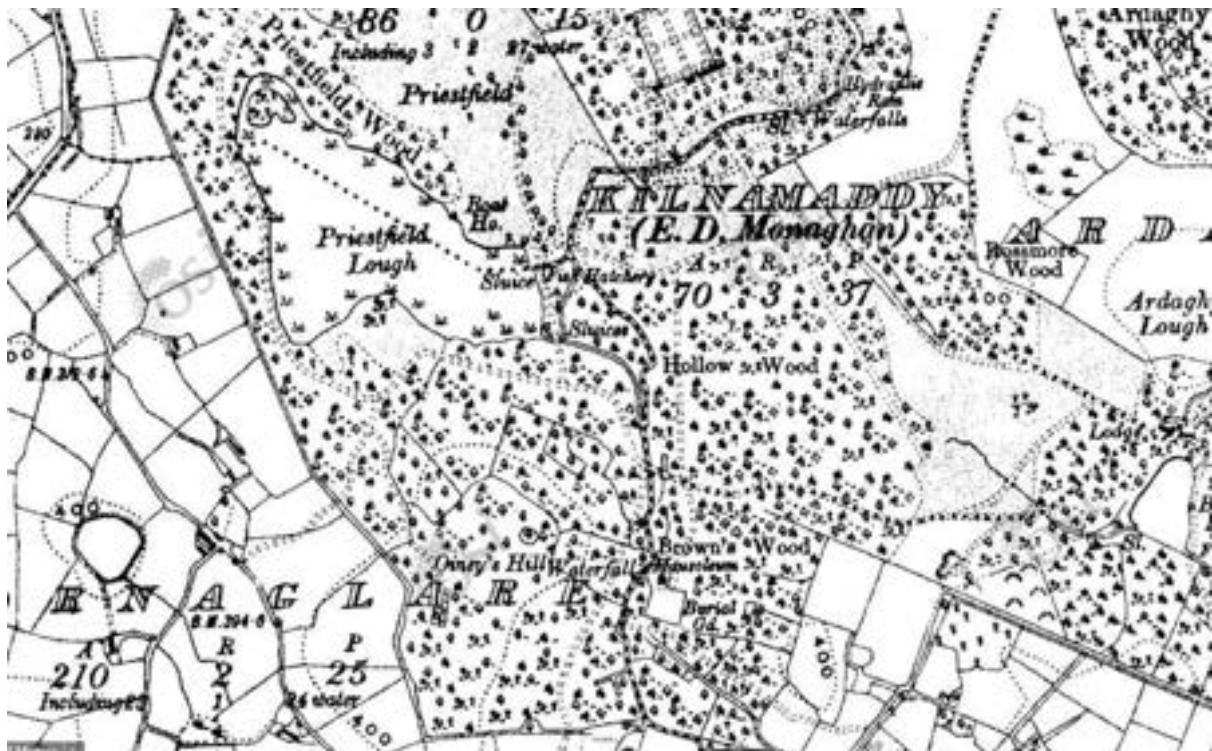
Figure 2.10 **1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map of the park has a sparse number of placenames**



(Source: 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS)

Figure 2.10

3<sup>rd</sup> edition OS map of the park has a high density of placenames



(Source: 3<sup>rd</sup> edition OS map)

The dominant landscape style from the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century to mid-19<sup>th</sup> century was that of ‘naturalised’ parklands (Aalen et al, 1997). Although landscape parks were supposed to work with nature, their construction took considerable effort. Across the country extensive woods were planted, roads built and hundreds of lakes created. In Rossmore, eight lakes were either enlarged or created for the park. It is likely that Rossmore has one of the highest concentrations of manmade or enlarged lakes in any Irish demesne. The 1835 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map shows the beginnings of the parkland scheme. Its full realisation is evident in the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition OS map from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. In Lewis’s *Topographical dictionary of Ireland* (1837), the estate is described as ‘a handsome mansion in the Elizabethan style, situated in an extensive and beautifully diversified demesne, abounding with wild and romantic scenery and commanding some fine distant views’.

The existing walled garden is present in the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS. Although likely built in 1827, it was only in c.1860 that the present main gateway was broken through (<https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/41401309/rossmore-forest-park-monaghan>). This new opening complemented the Yew Walk that had been planted in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Incidentally, according to a previous long-time worker on the site the current main gate for the walled garden was originally from Dartrey Estate. In front of the gate was a fountain that was

dismantled and filled in during the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. At 460m long, Rossmore's Yew Walk is likely one of the longest Yew avenues in Ireland. Tree avenues were common throughout the demesnes of Ireland, even in those with a parkland style landscape (Fennell, 2013). Trees had become a competitive sport for prominent landowners in 19<sup>th</sup> century Ireland. Giant Redwoods were the most prized. Rossmore Park has several, one of which at 44m is the highest tree in County Monaghan (ibid). The creation of demense walls and gate lodges as at Rossmore was common in mid-19<sup>th</sup> century Irish estates (McCullagh & Mulvin, 1987). There are no follies on the estate. However, the presence of two ringforts and three megalithic tombs may have meant additional curiosities - aside from the lakes - were unnecessary.

In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century Rossmore Estate was known for its social life. The 5<sup>th</sup> Lord Rossmore - Derrick - was a friend of Edward, Prince of Wales. Described as being a 'hot-headed, rather foolish youth, a noted patron of the turf', the 5<sup>th</sup> Lord Rossmore had taken over from his brother, the 4<sup>th</sup> Lord - Henry - who died aged 22 eight days after a fall from his horse in Windsor (Fennell, 2013). Queen Victoria was a witness to his fall. The beautiful mausoleum in the estate was built by Derrick for Henry. The mausoleum was built in 1874, according to a design by architect Edward John Tarver ([www.archiseek.com/2009/can-you-help-the-rossmore-conservation-group/](http://www.archiseek.com/2009/can-you-help-the-rossmore-conservation-group/)). Derrick was a celebrated Orangeman. In 1883, he was the subject of a debate at parliament for being dismissed from the Co. Monaghan magistracy due to staging an anti-Parnellite demonstration in Rosslea (PRONI, 2007).

Although men dominate this documentary history about the estate, arguably the most significant Westenera to come from Rossmore was Lady Mary Bailey DBE (1890-1960). Daughter of the 5<sup>th</sup> Lord Rossmore, she was a pioneering aviator ([www.ctie.monash.edu/hargrave/bailey.html](http://www.ctie.monash.edu/hargrave/bailey.html)). Amongst her accomplishments are being the first woman to fly across the Irish Sea and flying solo from London to Cape Town and back.

Despite the estate's reputation for social life in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the economic basis on which the prosperity of the Westenera's depended was being severely eroded. The process of land redistribution from large landowners to tenant farmers which had begun in 1849 with the Encumbered Estates Act was greatly accelerated by a series of land acts (Aalen et al, 1997). By 1919, more than half of the country had been effected by these acts. This led to a large reduction in rental income. Griffith's Valuation illustrates the once sheer scale of the Westenera's land holdings. Griffith's Valuation or the primary valuation of Ireland was carried out between 1848 and 1864 to determine

liability to pay a tax called the Poor rate. In the valuation records there are 1,348 entries for Co. Monaghan where Lord Rossmore is noted as being the landlord (<https://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/index.xml?action=doNameSearch&familyname=rossmore&firstname=&offset=1340&countyname=MONAGHAN&parishname=&unionname=&baronynome=&totalrows=1348&PlaceID=0&wildcard=>).

The massive scale of Rossmore Castle, coupled with a deteriorating financial situation for the family made its upkeep difficult. The many crenelations, changes in roof slope and presence of towers would have complicated efforts to keep the building watertight (O'Brien & Guinness, 1992). When dry rot took hold, the family retreated to unaffected parts of the house. One of the reasons for the advance of the dry rot was that for long periods both the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Lord Rossmore's decided to live in England, rather than Monaghan. Eventually, in the 1940s the 6<sup>th</sup> Lord Rossmore and his family abandoned the house for the nearby dower house – Camla Vale. Located outside the demesne walls, that house also became infested with dry rot. Apparently, the spores of dry rot fungus were brought to Camla Vale when the wine cellar was transferred from the castle ([www.archiseek.com/2014/camla-vale-monaghan-co-monaghan/](http://www.archiseek.com/2014/camla-vale-monaghan-co-monaghan/)). In 1962, Camla Vale was sold and subsequently demolished.

After Rossmore Castle was abandoned in the 1940s, its roof was removed. In 1946 there were two auctions. One was for contents from the castle. The other was for joists, rafters, bricks, slates, fireplaces, doors, windows, shutters, water tanks and fittings (Hicks, 2014). It has been posited that the roof had been removed in an effort to avoid the payment of rates. In c.1974, the castle was demolished by the State ([www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/41401308/rossmore-forest-park-monaghan](http://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/41401308/rossmore-forest-park-monaghan)). An effort to save the ruin from demolition was met with apparent apathy (*The Northern Standard*, 1973). By the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, after falling into the decline, the estate had been divided among local farmers, with the Irish Forestry Division acquiring the forested areas ([www.coillte.ie/site/rossmore-forest-park/](http://www.coillte.ie/site/rossmore-forest-park/)). The Irish Forestry Division would later become Coillte. Coillte still own the vast majority of what would have been the demesne. Since passing to state ownership, the area covered by trees has increased significantly. Joining Rossmore's Giant redwoods, Yew, Scots pine, Cedar and Monkey puzzle were plantations of Sitka spruce, Douglas fir and Norway Spruce (Coillte, n/d). The current Coillte operations manager for Rossmore would like to see the variety of tree species planted in the park expanded to Oak, Beech, Sycamore, Birch, Alder and Hazel.



The last Lord Rossmore to live in the park was the 7<sup>th</sup> (William 'Paddy' Warner Westenra, 7<sup>th</sup> Baron Rossmore). As Camla Vale had been sold, Paddy lived in a lodge called Lady Rossmore's Cottage at the south end of the park. He stayed there until it was destroyed by the IRA in 1981 during an arson attack on the day Bobby Sands died. Fearing for his life, he then fled Monaghan. In 1970, Paddy had been engaged to singer Marianne Faithfull. Marianne had left Mick Jagger for Paddy. It is believed Jagger rammed a set of gates at Rossmore in an effort to see Faithfull. Paddy himself was an accomplished photographer, champion fly fisherman and a pioneer of drug addiction treatment (McNally, 2021). Upon Paddy's death in 2021, the title passed to Paddy's son, Benedict Westenra. Benedict is a musician, living in London.

## **2.2 Archaeology**

There are five archaeological monuments on the RMP within the Rossmore Park. Three are megalithic tombs. Two are early medieval ringforts.

Megalithic tombs were the first permanent structures built in Ireland (Corlett, 2013). The farmers of the Neolithic period (4000-2000BC) had a strong belief in the afterlife. This is manifested in the building of over 1,500 large burial monuments, called megalithic tombs across the country (Power et al, 1997). There are four distinct types of megalithic tombs in Ireland: passage tombs, court tombs, portal tombs and wedge tombs. There are three megalithic tombs in Rossmore Park. Two are unclassified. One is classified as a court tomb. The distribution of Court Tombs is concentrated in the north of Ireland.

Ringforts are early medieval circular enclosures surrounding farmsteads. They generally comprise a ditch and bank with a palisade on top. Ringforts are the most common surviving archaeological monument on the Irish landscape. Most date to between 550-900AD. Generally, the diameter of the rings is between 25m and 50m (ibid). Single ditch and bank ringforts (i.e. univallate) are the most usual form. Double rings and triple rings are rarer. The two ringforts in Rossmore are both univallate and between 29m and 39m in diameter.

Although not listed on the RMP, there is a strong possibility that Rossmore Castle at least partially incorporates elements from an earlier 17<sup>th</sup> century house.

The National Museum of Ireland on Kildare Street contains one of the largest and most important collections of Bronze Age gold in Western Europe. One of the most impressive artefacts on display is a lunula discovered in Rossmore Park. A lunula is a crescent shaped neck ornament produced from gold likely acquired from river gravels and worked into a thin sheet by hammering (Kelly, 2007). Beautifully decorated, the Rossmore lunula was likely produced between 2200 and 1800BC. It was discovered on the park c.1930.

No archaeological excavation has taken place within Rossmore Park. The nearest excavation to take place to the park was test trenching associated with the development of an existing halting site at Gortakeegan. Nothing of archaeological significance was discovered (Lynch, 2006).

## 2.3 Folklore

There are 30 entries concerning Rossmore Park or the various Lord Rossmores in the 1930s National Schools Folklore Collection ([www.duchas.ie/en/src?q=rossmore&t=CbesTranscript&ct=MU](http://www.duchas.ie/en/src?q=rossmore&t=CbesTranscript&ct=MU)). They give a fascinating insight in how the locals interacted and perceived the wealthy landowners. Most entries focus on the quality or otherwise of the Westons as landlords. The majority of these are critical of the Rossmore's as landlords:

The landlord for this district was Lord Rossmore. His family had been in the district for over ninety years. They were bad landlords for the Catholics and put them out of their farms.  
(Mary Murphy)

There are also several entries concerning the politics of the various Lords:

The second Lord Rossmore was a very fine character - not like his father, who representing Monaghan Borough was one of Castereagh's creatures and voted for the Union.  
(No name provided)

The seemingly odd fact that a member of the local landed gentry was Catholic received two mentions:

Grandfather of the present Lord Rossmore his sister was the late Lady Rossmore. She died a Roman Catholic she drove in a coach to Threemilehouse Catholic Church where there was a carpet laid up the aisle for her to walk on. There was a special prie-dieu before the High Altar for her to kneel in.  
(May Murtha)

The collection also has at least two incidences where the love of horses by some of the Lords of Rossmore is noted:

The Lord Rossmore always rode on horseback. He was very fond of hunting and taking part in large horse races.

(Mollie Connolly)

The fairies make appearances concerning a ringfort on the estate and the castle itself. The two entries concerning the ringfort refer to the fort of Lisaraw and the presence of fairies:

Little white clay pipes have been found in both these forts. They are thought to have been owned by the fairy people, who were supposed to have taken the forts after the time of the Danes. In the fort of Lisaraw, a schoolboy that found pipes said he heard music one night in the fort.

(Dympna Magee)

The entry connected with the castle is effectively a ghost story:

Many years ago a young man set out to walk to Monaghan fair. He proceeded all night until he came to a lonely place, when suddenly the sky grew very dark & he heard the tramp of horses' hoofs. On looking round he saw a grandly dressed man mounted on a coal - black horse. The gentleman bade the young man mount the horse behind him, but he refused, because he thought the man was going to take him to the fairies. The gentleman would not accept his refusal however; stooping down he touched the young man on the shoulder, & in a moment the latter found himself on the horse's back.

Away they galloped like the wind till they came to a great castle in the woods (now known as Rossmore Park). The gentleman who was the owner of the castle, ordered his servants to take the young man to his room, where he found a lovely suit laid out for him.

When he came down again he danced till he was tired & he desired to go to sleep. The gentleman would not allow him to do so till he had told him a story. The young man said he had no story, whereupon he was put out of the castle. He was falling asleep on a bench outside when three men passed by carrying a coffin. They made him help them to carry it & away they went till they came to the graveyard. They dug a grave. Then they said they would put the young man into it. He resisted, but although he was strong he felt himself growing weaker. He noticed a hazel twig in the hand of their leader and snatching it from them he whirled it three times at his assailants who dropped to the ground as if dead. The young man fled to the castle then. He related the adventure which had befallen him. The gentleman

ordered a wonderful supper, for the young man, who having eaten it, felt a little dazed & fell down on the ground fast asleep. When he awoke he found himself in his own field. As a result of the trick the fairies played on him his cattle, which his servant had taken to the fair, remained unsold, although everyone else sold his cattle at good prices.

(No name provided)

Finally, there are three songs referring to Rossmore Park. Two of these are called *Rossmore Demense*. Another song about the Irish War of Independence - *Ballybay* - refers to Lord Rossmore.

### 3.0 Site inventory and conservation actions

#### 3.1 Introduction

Rossmore Park is studded by dozens of built heritage sites (table 3.1) (figure 3.1). The following inventory is not exhaustive. Although considerable effort was made to survey all the built heritage sites in Rossmore, some minor buildings associated with servicing the big house were not examined. Nonetheless, general advice on these structures is given (entry 10: outbuildings). On other occasions, such as the complexity and scale of certain interventions in the landscape (e.g. drains and channel system, field boundaries and manmade lakes) that itemised appraisals for every incidence of each would not have been economically feasible. Furthermore, the issues being encountered amongst the various site types were frequently common throughout each category (e.g. disturbances caused by commercial plantations on historic field boundaries). Accordingly, in certain occasions, types of sites are addressed in one entry (e.g. entry 7: field boundaries, entry 8: drains and channel system, entry 9: manmade lakes, entry 16: historic low stone walling).

By contrast, in other situations, such as the demesne walls and gates, large sites have been broken up for analysis. The purpose of this is to ease the understanding and management of the certain built heritage resources that are complex in their character and are usually accessible to the public.

On three occasions seemingly natural heritage sites are included in the inventory (i.e. the Yew Walk, lakes and the Fairy Tree). The Yew Walk was planted in an avenue built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Likewise, the current form of all the lakes was constructed by hand in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Fairy Tree was not planted by people. However, it appears to have at least some intangible heritage value.

Each site/site type has been analysed according to its appearance, condition, heritage significance, conservation needs, visitor experience options and legal status. A set of proposed conservation actions are also provided. These actions are ascribed a prioritisation (i.e. immediate, short term, medium term, long term) (table 3.2).

Table 3.1 List of built heritage sites

Map number	Site	Townland
1	Bridge close to front gate	Killycushil & Killydrutan
2	Gortakeegan Megalithic Tomb	Gortakeegan
3	The Barn / Pavilion	Killydrutan
4	Fairy Tree	Killydrutan
5	Well	Cortolvin
6	Killydrutan court tomb	Killydrutan

7	Field boundaries	Throughout park
8	Drains and channels	Throughout park
9	Manmade/enlarged lakes	Throughout park
10	Outbuildings	Throughout park
11	Cast-iron cooling chamber	Killicushil
12	Main castle ruins	Corlattan
13	Terrace steps	Corlattan
14	Underground passageway	Killicushil/Corlattan
15	Tank	Killicushil
16	Historic low stone walling within park	Mostly Corlattan
17	Covered well	Corlattan
18	Killicushil ringfort	Killicushil
19	Killydrutan ringfort	Killydrutan
20	Skeagarvey megalithic tomb	Skeagarvey
21	Demense wall	Throughout park
22	Northwest (main) gate	Killicushil
23	West gate	Clonavarn
24	Southeast gate	Tullyard & Ardagh Kill
25	Lady Rossmore's Cottage	Ardagh Kill
26	Fish hatchery	Kilnamaddy
27	Rossmore mausoleum & graveyard	Tullyard
28	Bridge	Cornaglare, Tullyard & Kilnamaddy
29	Bridge	Corlattan/Kilnamaddy
30	Fish hatchery with bridge and well	Cornaglare/Corlattan
31	Bridge	Corlattan/Kilnamaddy
32	1862 Giant Redwood memorial	Cornaglare
33	Cray and Mafeey tree markers	Cornaglare
34	Icehouse	Cornaglare
35	Boathouse	Corlattan
36	Walled garden gates	Corlattan
37	Walled garden	Corlattan
38	Yew walk	Kilnamaddy & Corlattan
39	Hydraulic ram/dam	Kilnamaddy & Corlattan
40	Mill race	Kilnamaddy
41	Tank	Kilnamaddy
42	Engine house (pumping)	Kilnamaddy
43	Brigid's Tree Marker	Kilnamaddy
44	Giant redwood marker	Corlattan
45	Pet cemetery	Corlattan
46	Miscellaneous wells and springs	Throughout park

Fig. 3.1 Location of various heritage sites

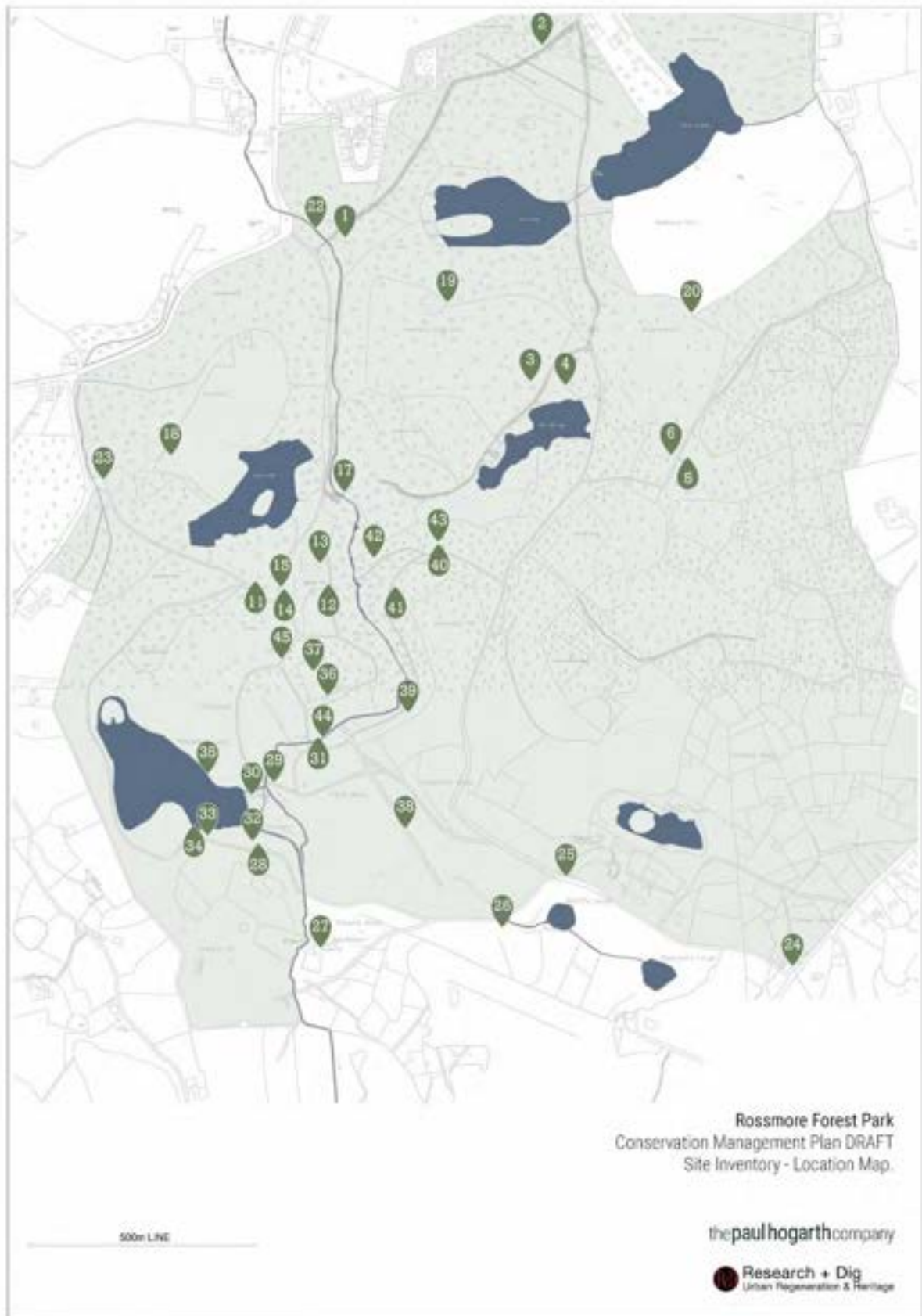


Table 3.2 **Timing of works definitions**

Timing	Justification for timing	Time period to address works
Immediate	Immediate works that are required to ensure the safety of visitors to the site. Often, these actions will mitigate against the deterioration of the structure by controlling water ingress and correcting structural issues.	Within 1 year
Short Term	Works are needed within the near future to create a structurally sound building. This will mitigate against the deterioration of the structure by controlling water ingress and correcting structural issues. These works also relate to security issues.	Within 3 years
Medium Term	Works not directly connected to creating an immediately weatherproof structure, but if left unaddressed may lead to subsequent damage to built fabric. Also linked to issues of security, aesthetics and character of the structure.	Within 5 years
Long Term	Related to aesthetics and character of the structure.	5 years and beyond


### 3.2 Site inventory

**1. Bridge Close to Front Gate**




Bridge looking northeast




	
	Missing parapet stones with slate DPC
Coordinates	54°13'57.7"N, 6°59'53.5"W
Townland	Killicushil & Killydrutan
Description	Simple but elegant 19 <sup>th</sup> century single span masonry bridge. Limestone rubble voussoirs. Roughly dressed limestone spandrels. Peck-dressed limestone parapet with slate dpc under dressed limestone capstones.
Condition	From the areas that were accessible the bridge appeared in reasonable/poor condition. The curve of the arch towards the middle of the underside appears slightly flatter than should be the case. Furthermore, some stones have fallen from the arch at the northern side of the bridge. A large tree was growing from masonry retaining the riverbank to the immediate south of the bridge. Pointing has been lost throughout the bridge. Several parapet stones have been lost on the southern parapet wall. This has allowed water ingress. Movement of several parapet stones is obvious below the area where the missing parapet stones once lay.
Suggested conservation actions	<p><b>Structural issues</b>  Observation: Several stones from the arch have popped out. The underside of the arch also appears flatter than it should be.  Action: Inspection required from a conservation engineer to diagnose the issues and propose solutions.  Timing: Immediate</p> <p><b>Missing parapet stonework and loose stone</b>  Observation: Parapet stonework is missing and some stone is loose  Action: Replace missing parapet stone with matching. Make sure to also reinsert missing section of slate DPC. The parapet stones may be located close by. Reset loose stones underneath. Repoint masonry joints as required with appropriate lime-based mortar. Samples of existing mortar should be analysed to guide replacement mortar.  Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Woody vegetation</b>  Observation: Tree and vegetation with woody roots likely to cause damage</p>

	<p>Action: Carefully remove the large tree and any plants with woody roots (i.e. ivy). Insert appropriate stone infills and point as required. Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Stone pointing</b> Observation: Replace failed pointing throughout the bridge and associated retaining walls with appropriate lime-based mortar. If possible and deemed to not be damaging to the structure, vegetation with non-woody roots (e.g. lichens, small ferns) should be retained. Timing: Short term</p>
Possible visitor experience actions	None
Protected Structure	No
Record of Monuments and Places	No
Significance rating	Local
Category	19 <sup>th</sup> century bridge
Other notes	The full extent of the bridge was difficult to access. Accordingly, only a partial survey was possible.
References	n/a

<p><b>2. Gortakeegan Megalithic Tomb – unclassified</b></p>	 <p>Area where tomb is apparently located</p>
Coordinates	54°14'11.7"N 6°59'29.0"W? (unable to locate)
Townland	Gortakeegan
Description	<p>Located on the crest of a hill in a forested area with commanding views of the Twin Lakes to the south. The remains consist of four deeply set orthostats, aligned E-W, and a large boulder like capstone 0.2m to the north. The capstone rises to a height of c.0.5m above the surrounding ground level and there is a small cavity c.0.25 deep underneath it. No evidence of a cairn survives. (CRDS 1998, 33) (source: <a href="https://maps.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/">https://maps.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/</a>). Not marked on 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS Map or on the historic 25" OS Map.</p>

Condition	Unknown. Was unable to locate. Possibly covered by vegetation. Another possibility is that it has been seriously damaged.
Suggested conservation actions	<p><b>Locate</b></p> <p>Observation: Was unable to locate the tomb.</p> <p>Action: Locate tomb during winter when there is less vegetation. This will inform appropriate conservation actions. A key conservation action is likely to be vegetation management.</p> <p>It is possible that a recommendation could be the removal of trees around the monument and the creation of a 15m buffer zone. Under Department of Agriculture Forest Service guidelines on Forestry and Archaeology the current forestry and archaeology guidelines, once an operation is planned in an area, as part of the felling licence approval, an archaeological plan will be approved by an archaeologist in the Department of Agriculture Forest Service. All Coillte operators must complete training on environmental awareness. This approach significantly reduces the risk of damage being caused to archaeological sites during felling.</p> <p>Timing: Medium</p>
Possible visitor experience actions	Refer to the tomb in the interpretation for the Killydrutan Wedge Tomb.
Protected Structure	No
Record of Monuments and Places	Yes MO009-063----
Significance rating	Regional (category: archaeological)
Category	Megalithic Tomb
Other notes	Unable to locate, probably due to vegetation growth
References	<a href="https://maps.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/">https://maps.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/</a>

<p><b>3. The Barn / Pavilion</b></p>	 <p>Exterior of Barn/Pavilion</p>
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Rear exterior of Barn/Pavilion with window ope visible




Interior of structure

Coordinates	54°13'47.4"N, 6°59'30.3"W
Townland	Killydrutan
Description	Simple four walled structure with large barrell arch for entry/exit. Random rubble walling with dressed quoin stones. One window ope present with holes indicating that iron bars covered ope. Probable barn. Site now known as 'The Barn' but in Historic 25" map it is marked as 'Pavilion'.
Condition	Overall, the structure is in poor condition. It is likely to be dangerous. Pointing has failed throughout this now unroofed structure. Inappropriate concrete repairs are evident, especially around the entrance arch. Individual stones have fallen from the four walls. The wall tops are exposed and uneven. In some areas fallen stones have

	<p>created visible gaps through the masonry. Despite the condition of the stonework, no obvious bulges or leans in the walls were visible. Indeed, the four walls are still well tied together. Hence, there is still time to conserve this structure.</p>
<p>Suggested conservation actions</p>	<p><b>Safety</b>  Observation: The missing stonework and pointing has led to concerns of partial collapse.  Action: Commission a conservation engineer to conduct a full structural survey and create a schedule of repairs. Do not encourage visitation of the site and erect suitable warning signage (during the site visit a campfire was noticed close to the structure). The vegetation within the structure acts a natural barrier to ingress. Nonetheless, suitable safety fencing surrounding the structure should be considered. From previous experience, despite the presence of safety fencing people often force entry regardless. Hence, it is important that the structural survey and associated safety works are completed in a timely fashion. Although the site is not a protected structure, any repair works should be specified and carried out as if it was so (i.e. the use of traditional materials and experienced craftspeople).  Timing: Immediate</p> <p><b>Stone walls</b>  Observation: The walls have missing stones and are uncapped. Pointing has failed throughout the structure.  Action: The following actions – or similar – are likely to be needed to conserve the structure. However, any such works are contingent on the structural report carried out by a conservation engineer.  Cap stone walls with appropriate lime mortar or flat capping slabs of natural stone. Point walls with natural lime mortar. Carefully remove woody vegetation from walls and infill with natural stone and lime mortar as appropriate. Replace missing stones with matching. Infill sections of missing stonework with matching. Take care to match existing coursing. Samples of existing mortar should be analysed to guide replacement mortar.  Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Entrance arch</b>  Observation: Entrance arch has significant concrete repairs  Action: Although the arch has ben subject to concrete repairs, it is still standing and did not appear to be in imminent danger of collapse. Removing concrete may cause more damage than it could solve. Consequently, guidance on how the arch should be addressed will have to wait until after it has been inspected by a conservation engineer.  Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Window opening</b>  Observation: Rear gable window opening is missing stonework  Actions: Rebuild stonework to original profile of window reveals. Take care to match existing. A conservation engineer should appraise if a new lintel is required.  Timing: Short term</p>

Possible visitor experience actions	Once made safe, the site would benefit from interpretation. A well-designed interpretive panel with complementary audio track would be appropriate. Improved signage directing people to the site is needed. However, conservation works are necessary before the site can host visitors.
Protected Structure	No
Record of Monuments and Places	No
Significance rating	Local
Category	Likely 19 <sup>th</sup> century barn
Other notes	Due to vegetation, it was not possible to conduct a full survey.
References	n/a

<b>4. Fairy Tree</b>	
	Fairy Tree with Barn Hill Lake in background
Coordinates	54°13'47.0"N 6°59'25.8"W
Townland	Killydrutan
Description	Single tree, standing in a field adjacent to Barn Hill Lake. The 2021 visitor map for Rossmore notes a fairy tree as a point of interest. However, the Friends of Rossmore Park Group had never heard of any fairy tree on the site. No coins, ribbons, rags or other materials that can be associated with a fairy tree were observed on or near the tree.
Condition	Unknown, survey by ecologist required for this to be ascertained.
Suggested Actions	<b>Exclusion zone</b> Observation: The tree is best left alone. Action: Although its heritage significance is undefined and its recognition as a fairy may be a recent, it would be prudent to avoid removing or damaging the tree, including its roots. No works to take place within 8m of the tree. Timing: Long term

Possible visitor experience actions	None
Protected Structure	No
Record of Monuments and Places	No
Significance Rating	Local, possibly none.
Category	Fairy tree
Other notes	n/a
References	<a href="https://monaghantourism.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Rossmore-Forest-Park-Visitor-Map.pdf">https://monaghantourism.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Rossmore-Forest-Park-Visitor-Map.pdf</a>

**5. Well**



Looking into the well




Well from trackway

Coordinates	54°13'41.9"N 6°59'10.7"W
Townland	Cortolvin

Description	Simple dry stone well immediately adjacent to track. Rudimentary lining of spring with random rubble limestone. Not marked on 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS Map. Marked as 'well' on historic 25" OS Map.
Condition	In good condition due to its simple construction with robust materials. The main danger to this modest structure is roots from nearby trees disturbing the walls. Due to its discrete character within a forest setting, the well is also vulnerable to being obscured from view and as a result, being forgotten about.
Suggested actions	<p><b>Trees and other vegetation with woody roots</b>  Observation: Danger of roots disturbing the stonework.  Action: Any plants with woody roots that either are currently or are likely to disturb the walling should be removed. Cut down the tree and treat root stumps with ecologically acceptable herbicide (make sure to seek expert advice on this matter).  Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Debris and vegetation</b>  Observation: Debris within the well. Vegetation overhanging the well and obscuring it from view.  Action: Regular removal of leaves and other debris from the well is required. Vegetation should be managed so that it does not overwhelm the well. Only hand tools are to be used. This is a maintenance issue.  Timing: Medium term</p>
Possible visitor experience actions	None
Protected Structure	No
Record of Monuments and Places	No
Significance rating	Local
Category	Well
Other notes	n/a
References	n/a



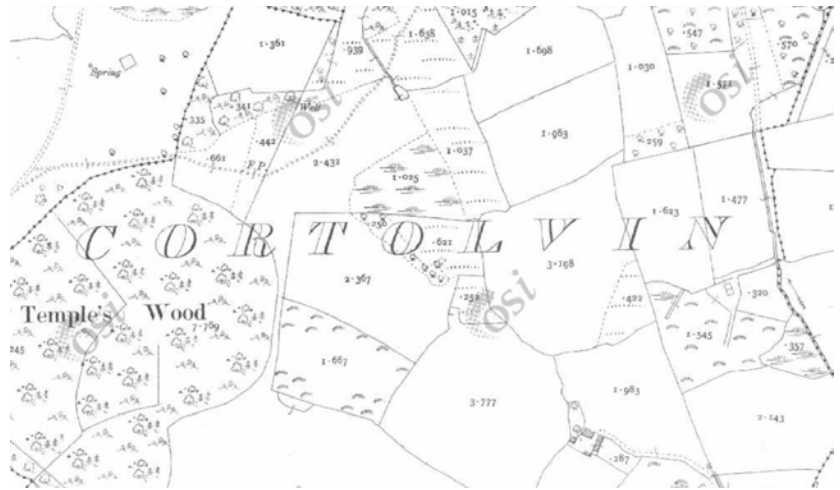
<p><b>6. Killydrutan Court Tomb</b></p>	 <p>View of court tomb with tree growth present amongst the stones</p>
<p>Coordinates</p>	<p>54°13'42.0"N, 6°59'12.8"W</p>
<p>Townland</p>	<p>Killydrutan</p>
<p>Description</p>	<p>Court tomb located in overgrown area, c130m east of Barn Hill Lough. 'There is a shallow court at east consisting of two stones, one on either side of the entry jambs. The chamber (L 3.7m; Wth 1.1m) is aligned E-W and its sides are represented by a single stone to the south and two stones on the north side. A transversely set stone to the west probably indicates segmentation of the gallery. Three large flags 4m north of chamber may be the remains of a kerb' (source: <a href="https://maps.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/">https://maps.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/</a>). Not marked on 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS Map or on the historic 25" OS Map.</p>
<p>Condition</p>	<p>Due to the overgrown nature of the site, it is difficult to fully appraise the monument's condition. Nonetheless, despite being robbed historically of much of its building material, the remaining stones appear in reasonable condition. There was no evidence of anti-social behaviour. Despite being just a few metres from a public trackway, it is not easy to access. The main area of the court tomb is disturbed by natural woodland. The roots of these are likely to be disturbing subterranean archaeology and may disturb the foundations of the remaining standing stones. Although commercial forestry appears to be avoiding the main area of the tomb, planted trees are just a few metres from megalithic stones. The roots of these trees are possibly disturbing subterranean archaeology. There is also the possibility of trees falling on the remaining slabs and causing damage.</p>
<p>Suggested conservation actions</p>	<p><b>Trees</b>  Observation: Tree roots are likely to be disturbing archaeology. Falling trees are also a threat.  Action: Judiciously cut down and remove trees within area of tomb. Allow roots to rot. Treat root stumps with ecologically acceptable herbicide (make sure to seek expert advice on this matter). The Department of Agriculture Forest Service guidelines on Forestry and Archaeology states that a 15m buffer zone should be created surrounding known archaeological sites (Dept. of Environment and</p>

	<p>Local Government and Coillte, n/d). This is not the case at the court tomb. Accordingly, all trees within 15m of the monument's edge should be cut down, removed and their roots remain to rot. Treat root stumps with ecologically acceptable herbicide (make sure to seek expert advice on this matter).</p> <p>Under the current forestry and archaeology guidelines, once an operation is planned in an area, as part of the felling licence approval, an archaeological plan will be approved by an archaeologist in the Department of Agriculture Forest Service. All Coillte operators must complete training on environmental awareness. This approach significantly reduces the risk of damage being caused to archaeological sites during felling.</p> <p>Timing: Medium term</p>
Possible visitor experience actions	<p>This court tomb is the most accessible of the megalithic monuments in the park. It is just 20-30m from a trackway. The remaining stones aligned with good interpretation provide the opportunity to tell the story of the site and introduce visitors to Neolithic Ireland.</p> <p>Accordingly, a well located and designed multilingual interpretive panel should be installed at the edge of the site. The interpretive panel is to be positioned on a frame that does not disturb the archaeology. An accessway needs to be cleared to permit site visits. Furthermore, a simple fingerpost sign is required at the existing nearby trackway to indicate its location. Finally, vegetation needs to be managed around the site. The impact of the site's opening to visitors needs to be monitored and any necessary management actions taken.</p>
Protected Structure	No
Record of Monuments and Places	Yes MO013-007----
Significance rating	Regional (category: archaeological)
Category	Megalithic Court Tomb
Other notes	Some of the site was obscured by vegetation growth.
References	<a href="https://maps.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/">https://maps.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/</a>

7. Field boundaries



Field boundary



Historic 25" OS map from early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Note all the field boundaries.




2005 aerial photo of same location as shown in the map above

Coordinates

Throughout the park

Townland	Throughout the park
Description	There are a variety of simple earthen/stone field boundaries and track boundaries throughout the park. These are likely to date from the 18 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> centuries (Hickie, 2004). Some may be older, particularly those defining townland boundaries. Aside from their built heritage value, they also serve as habitats for flora and fauna. Within the park they exist in various states of repair. The historic 25" OS map (early 20 <sup>th</sup> century) shows a dense network of field boundaries. Many of the field boundaries depicted are shown within what are now forested areas planted by the Westernras, thereby illustrating the change of land use from agriculture to parkland. Many more field boundaries are now located within commercial forest planted by the state.
Condition	From much denuded to good. The thick forest cover has significantly reduced the vegetation cover on most of the remaining field boundaries.
Suggested Actions	<p><b>Awareness</b>  Observation: Field boundaries can be easily taken for granted due to their proliferation and unprotected status.  Action: Site managers and all those planting and harvesting trees within the park should be made aware of the importance of the network of historic field boundaries within Rossmore. If not already done so, the locations of the various field boundaries shown within the historic 25" inch maps should be made easily accessible on digital resources to foresters and site managers. The Department of Agriculture Forest Service guidelines on Forestry and Archaeology does not explicitly address field boundaries (ibid). However, there is a provision within the guidelines that no planting take place within 2m of non-archaeological sites. Going forward, this should be the case for the park's field boundaries.  Timing: Medium term</p> <p><b>Maintenance</b>  Observation: The field boundaries not dominated by dense forest are able to grow a variety of plant species. These boundaries require maintenance.  Action: Any overgrown or neglected boundaries should be managed by coppicing. Otherwise, vegetation should be allowed to grow to a height of at least 1.5m (The Heritage Council, n/d). Any cutting should be done from September to February. Gaps in boundaries should be repaired to match original.  No herbicide, pesticide or fertilizer is to be applied within 1.5m of a hedgerow/field boundary ditch.  Timing: Medium term</p>
Possible visitor experience actions	In at least one location, visitors should be made aware through interpretation of the presence of historic field boundaries and how they illustrate the changing uses within the park (i.e. from agriculture to parkland, to commercial forest to public park).
Protected Structure	No
Record of Monuments and Places	No

Significance rating	Local
Category	Field boundary
Other notes	Only a small quantity of the field boundaries in the park were examined.
References	n/a

<b>8. Drains and channels</b>	 <p>Random rubble stone channel</p>
Coordinates	Throughout the park
Townland	Throughout the park
Description	<p>The park is a patchwork of springs, streams and manmade or enlarged lakes. Throughout Rossmore is evidence of attempts to control the flow of water. From map evidence most of this effort appears to have taken place in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. There is also the work associated with the hydro-electric scheme. Some of these interventions are modest (i.e. simple control of minor streams). Other efforts involve more significant engineering, such as large banks to create a lake. These modifications to the landscape are important pieces of infrastructure that were central to the creation of the historic demense and current amenity.</p>
Condition	From much denuded to good
Suggested Actions	<p><b>Awareness</b></p> <p>Observation: Simple historic drains/channels can be easily taken for granted due to their proliferation and unprotected status.</p> <p>Action: Site managers and all though those planting and harvesting trees within the park should be made aware of the importance of the network of historic drains, channels and banks within Rossmore. An effort to locate and map all possible historic efforts to control water in Rossmore should be conducted. The Department of Agriculture Forest Service guidelines on Forestry and Archaeology does not explicitly address historic drains created for estates (ibid). However, there is a provision within the guidelines that no planting take place</p>

	<p>within 2m of non-archaeological sites. Going forward, this should be the case for the park's historic drainage network. Timing: Medium term</p> <p><b>Repair/reinstatement</b> Observation: Historic drains are easily replaced by modern materials rather than being repaired. Action: Where feasible, any identified historic pieces of infrastructure used in the control of water should be repaired using traditional materials and methods. Timing: Long term</p> <p><b>Legal Protections</b> Observation: There is some protection afforded to the Park's network of drains and channels in the County Development Plan by being part of an area of secondary amenity site (i.e, Rossmore Park and environs). However, this is insufficient given the heritage significance of Rossmore's eight lakes and the role of the channels in feeding and connecting these lakes Action: Include a specific policy in the next County Development Plan providing stronger protections to the lakes and the water system that feeds them. Timing: Medium term</p>
Possible visitor experience actions	In at least one location, visitors should be made aware through interpretation of the presence of the historic drainage system and how they were essential to the creation of the park's lakes.
Protected Structure	No
Record of Monuments and Places	No
Significance rating	National. Combined with the lakes that the drains and channels serviced, the system of manmade and augmented waterways is of national significance. (category: technical)
Category	Drains and channels
Other notes	Only a small quantity of the drains and channels in the park were examined.
References	n/a

**9. Manmade/enlarged  
Lakes**



View across Castle Lough



View across Priestfield Lough



View across the eastern lake of the Twin Lakes



A giant wooden head overlooks Castle Lake. The installation dominates the lake while having no direct connection with the story of Rossmore Park.





1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map (1835) showing area at south of park with no lakes visible




3<sup>rd</sup> edition OS map (early 20<sup>th</sup> century) showing area at south of park with three new lakes (i.e. Ardagh Lough, Bartle's Lough, Steenson's Lough)

Coordinates	Throughout the park
Townland	Throughout the park
Description	The function of the eight lakes was to add beauty to the parkland landscape that the Westena family was creating for the demense. Other functions were to permit the leisure activity of fishing and as a fresh food source for Castle residents. At least one of the lakes could also have been used for swimming. According to a once long-time worker on the site, he had heard that Ardagh Lough was used for skinny dipping by at least one of the later Lords of Rossmore and his visitors.


	<p>From examining the various OS maps of the site, all of the lakes except one were created from scratch. The only water body that existed was Priestfield Lough, albeit in a much smaller form. The name of Priestfield Lough does not appear on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map. By looking at the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map, the original ground of each lake site can be discovered:</p> <p>Twin Lakes – Original ground: marsh/rough ground  Castle Lough – Original ground: pasture  Barn Hill Lake – Original ground: pasture  Priestfield Lough – Original ground: greatly enlarged from small lake in area of marshy ground and pasture  Ardaghy Lough – Original ground: marsh/rough ground  Bartle’s Lough – Original ground: marsh/rough ground  Stenson’s Lough – Original ground: marsh/rough ground</p> <p>The various lakes were handmade. By using hand tools natural hollows were deepened, retaining banks were built and water channels created to fill the lakes. The lakes are likely to have been created/enlarged in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.</p> <p>In 2021, all eight lakes were part of a wetlands field survey commissioned by Monaghan County Council (Crushell et al, 2021). That survey contained an appraisal of the condition of the various lakes as natural heritage habitats. The following wetland conservation rankings were provided in the wetlands survey:</p> <p>Twin Lakes – D rating, local conservation value (moderate value)  Castle Lough – C rating, local conservation value (high value)  Barn Hill Lake – C+ rating, county conservation value  Priestfield Lough – C+ rating, county conservation value  Ardaghy Lough – C+ rating, county conservation value  Bartle’s Lough – C rating, local conservation value (high value)  Stenson’s Lough – C rating, local conservation value (high value)</p> <p>The lakes were fed by an intricate system of channels, sluice gates and pipes that permitted control over water levels in the lakes and other features. For instance, a previous survey of the park’s water features discovered a vertical sluice gate at the southwest end of Bartle’s Lough regulating flow to a nearby fish hatchery tank. According to a once long-time worker on the site, he had heard that at least one of the lakes (Ardaghy Lough) being drained during summer to obtain mud turf to use as a fuel.</p>
Condition	<p>Unknown for built heritage elements. Requires survey from structural engineer with conservation experience. It appears that the levels of some of the lakes has decreased due to lack of maintenance of drains/channels network. Several sluice gates were observed during the survey of the park. All were in a state of serious disrepair.</p>
Suggested Actions	<p><b>Survey</b></p> <p>Observation: Survey is needed to assess condition of banks, channels, sluice gates, etc. The water quality of the lakes should also be monitored.</p> <p>Action: Requires survey from structural engineer with conservation experience.</p> <p>Timing: Immediate</p>


	<p><b>Wetlands field survey implementation</b></p> <p>Observation: A set of recommendations that will protect and enhance the habitat value of Rossmore’s lakes was presented in the 2021 wetland field survey (ibid).</p> <p>Action: Implement recommendations of the 2021 wetland field survey (ibid). This includes forwarding all wetland sites which have been rated as C+ (i.e. of county importance) to the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for inclusion on their list of sites for survey and possible designation. Management recommendations include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. monitor and potentially reducing nutrient inputs from surrounding farmland.</li> <li>2. controlling invasive species.</li> </ol> <p>Timing: Medium term</p> <p><b>Legal Protections</b></p> <p>Observation: There is some protection afforded to the lakes in the County Development Plan by being part of an area of secondary amenity site (i.e, Rossmore Park and environs). However, this is insufficient given the heritage significance of the lakes.</p> <p>Action: Include a specific policy in the next County Development Plan providing stronger protections to the lakes and the water system that feeds them.</p> <p>Timing: Medium term</p> <p><b>Giant’s head overlooking Castle Lake</b></p> <p>Observation: The giant’s head overlooking the lake is visually intrusive and undermines the heritage significance of the lake. It is classified as a temporary folly.</p> <p>Action: Do not replace folly once building materials degrade and it becomes necessary to remove.</p> <p>Timing: Long term</p>
Possible visitor experience actions	<p>Coarse fishing is still a popular activity at Rossmore. Some of the lakes are also used for swimming. Both activities should continue to be facilitated in a manner that protects the lakes’ natural and built heritage. It would be useful to quantify the intensity of coarse fishing and swimming in the lakes in order to track impact and assist management.</p> <p>The lakes are a key aspect of Rossmore’s designed parkland. Indeed, they may be its defining aspect. As a collection they may be of national heritage significance. Such is their scale, heritage significance -both natural and built - and role, that their interpretation should not be limited to panels or an audio guide. Something more interesting and dynamic should be considered.</p>
Protected Structure	No
Record of Monuments and Places	No
Significance rating	<p>Individually the lakes have been assessed to be of local or county natural heritage significance. However, as a collection, they may constitute one of the highest concentrations of manmade lakes in demesne parklands. Accordingly, they may be of national heritage significance. (categories: technical, social, natural)</p>

Category	Manmade/enlarged lakes
Other notes	Gaining access to some of the lakes was problematic with only partial access possible.
References	Crushell, P., O'Hare-Doherty, D., Gallagher, M.C. & Foss, P. (2021) <i>County Monaghan wetlands field survey 2021</i> , Monaghan County Council <i>Historic water system: Rossmore Park (n/d)</i>

<p><b>10. Outbuildings/misc. masonry structures</b></p>	 <p>One of the park's modest masonry ruins</p>
Coordinates	Throughout the park
Townland	Throughout the park
Description	Ruined modest masonry structure associated with servicing the residents of Rossmore Castle.
Condition	Usually severely ruined
Suggested Actions	<p><b>Awareness</b>  Observation: Simple outbuildings and other modest masonry structures can be easily taken for granted due to their proliferation and unprotected status.  Action: Site managers and all those planting and harvesting trees within the park should be made aware of the importance of these structures within Rossmore. An effort to locate and map all modest masonry structures in Rossmore should be conducted. The Department of Agriculture Forest Service guidelines on Forestry and Archaeology does not explicitly address unprotected modest masonry structures associated with demesnes (ibid). However, there is a provision within the guidelines that no planting take place within 2m of non-archaeological sites. Going forward, this should be the case for the park's unprotected modest masonry structures.  Timing: Medium term</p> <p><b>Trees</b>  Observation: Tree roots are likely to be disturbing wall foundations. Falling trees are also a threat.</p>

	<p>Action: Judiciously cut down and remove trees within and immediately adjacent to structures. Allow roots to rot. Treat root stumps with ecologically acceptable herbicide (make sure to seek expert advice on this matter). Timing: Medium term</p> <p><b>Stone walls</b> Observation: The walls may have missing stones and are uncapped. Pointing has likely failed throughout the structure. Action: The following actions – or similar – are likely to be needed to conserve the structure. However, any such works are contingent on the structural report carried out by a conservation engineer. Cap stone walls with appropriate lime mortar. Point walls with natural lime mortar. Remove woody vegetation from walls and infill with natural stone and lime mortar as appropriate. Replace missing stones with matching. Infill sections of missing stonework with matching. Take care to match existing coursing. Samples of existing mortar should be analysed to guide replacement mortar. Timing: Medium term</p>
Possible visitor experience actions	Refer to network of small outbuildings and other structures associated with servicing Rossmore Castle on the interpretive panel at the Barn/Pavilion.
Protected Structure	No
Record of Monuments and Places	No
Significance Rating	Local
Category	Outbuildings
Other notes	Only a small number of outbuildings and modest masonry structures located in forestry was surveyed.
References	n/a

<p><b>11. Cast-iron cooling chamber</b></p>	 <p>Cast iron cooling chamber</p>
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	 <p>Current location of cooling chamber obelisk. 'Chimney' on Historic 25" OS map indicates location of gasworks and likely original location of obelisk.</p>
Coordinates	54°13'33.3"N 7°00'03.3"W
Townland	Killicushil
Description	<p>Cast-iron cooling chamber. Built c.1880 as part of wider gasworks. On historic 25" map a site named 'chimney' is located to the west within 'Gashouse Wood'. No masonry ruins remain of the chimney site. However, some undulations in the landscape may represent its location. According to its NIAH entry, the gasworks were likely demolished in the 1940s, along with Rossmore Castle itself. The surviving cooling chamber element is the most obvious remnant of the gasworks. It may have been moved from another location. The obelisk is fixed with bolts to a predominately red brick pier. There is a stone wall running off to the west.</p> <p>Gasworks were locations where coal gas was manufactured for use as lighting and as a fuel for heating and cooking. By the late 1850s many of Ireland's county towns were lit by gas lighting. The gas was created using a process called carnonisation, whereby bituminous coal was distilled in a refractory vessal (Rynne, 2006). The crude gas was conducted via cast-iron pipes to a condenser where the gas was cooled. A by product of the gas manufacturing process is spent iron oxide. This was sometimes used as weed killer and may have been used by the gardeners at Rossmore.</p>
Condition	The cast-iron obelisk is in excellent condition. One bolt is missing that attaches it to the brick pier. Another bolt is loose. Some of the brick in the pier appears degraded. Despite this, the pier seems to be in reasonable condition.
Suggested Actions	<p><b>Ironwork</b>  Observation: Maintenance needed.  Action: Repaint cast-iron obelisk. Do not paint over any rust. Where existing paint appears sound, it may be possible to use this as a base for a fresh coat. Repaint at least once every five years. Inspect annually. During the inspection, clean the iron with a cloth and water (use a bristle brush if needed for soiling).  Ensure the finial is securely bolted to the pier.  Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Brick pier</b>  Observation: Degraded brick, not helped by hard cement pointing.  Action: Remove vegetation from pier to conduct a full assessment by a conservation engineer.</p>

	<p>It is possible that individual brick replacement may be needed. The pointing also appears harder than the brick itself. This could necessitate the pointing being removed and replaced by an appropriate lime-based mortar, softer than the brick. However, if the pier was built in the 1940s for the finial, the mortar used throughout may be cement. Of course, should the conservation engineer conclude that the pier is structurally sound, then there may be little required in the medium term.</p> <p>Timing: Medium term</p>
Possible visitor experience actions	<p>Well-designed interpretive panel located nearby providing information on the gas works (its scale, cost, function). Include map showing location of chimney and an illustration showing how the gasworks may have looked like.</p> <p>Ultimately, this could mean comprehensive interpretation of the scheme in any new interpretive/information centre at the main car park.</p> <p>Another more dynamic way of interpreting the gas generating heritage of Rossmore would be to restore and reuse – as much as possible – the park’s hydroelectric scheme to once again create electricity. The electricity could then be used to make hydrogen. This hydrogen could then be stored and used during the colder months to heat a proposed visitor/interpretation centre or a reconstructed Lady Rossmore’s Cottage. The interpretive centre would also contain formation on the gasworks.</p>
Protected Structure	No
Record of Monuments and Places	No
Significance rating	Regional (category: technical)
Category	Gasworks
Other notes	<p>Listed on NIAH (Reg. No. 41401330)</p> <p>Due to vegetation coverage, a full assessment of the pier was not conducted.</p>
References	<p><a href="https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/41401330/rosmore-forest-park-killicushil-monaghan">https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/41401330/rosmore-forest-park-killicushil-monaghan</a></p>

**12. Main castle ruins**



Ashlar limestone walls on chamfered plinth with inappropriate railings



Limestone walls and steps





Corner steps, now uneven



Servant's Entrance



Carved sandstone plaque salvaged from demolished castle and inserted into wall by state workers. Inscription reads 'Mount Maria August the 1<sup>st</sup> 1726 AC'.



Interior of Servant's Entrance. Passageway blocked.



Leaning piers, especially the pier on the right of the image



Bulge in the screen wall



Site of tennis court to immediate south of Rossmore Castle



Area of tennis court (circled in red). Image taken from historic 25" OS map. Screen wall also indicated by arrow.

Coordinates

54°13'33.0"N 6°59'54.8"W

Townland

Corlattan

Description

'Foundations of country house, built 1827, extended 1858, and demolished c.1974. Ashlar limestone walls on chamfered plinth. Flight of ten limestone steps at north-west corner to former main entrance, flanked by limestone abutments. Single-storey single-bay section of former basement or outbuilding [servant's entrance], to south-west corner of ruins facing west, with crenelated parapet, coursed sneaked cut limestone walls, square-headed infilled window opening comprising recessed panel of coursed limestone blocks with sandstone pointed wall plaque and tooled limestone block-and-start surround having trace of central mullion. Tudor-arch door opening with cut-stone voussoirs and chamfered block-and-start surround. Screen wall to south-west, flanking steps and retaining terrace, and pair of square-plan cut limestone gate piers with round finial to south of house. Flight of eight limestone steps to south descending from terrace to ground floor level of former house, flanked by tooled

	<p>limestone abutments. Positioned on height, overlooking Castle Lough to north-west, and located south of five flights of steps and grass viewing terraces approached from north.' Taken from NIAH entry. Site of tennis court to immediate south of castle.</p>
<p>Condition</p>	<p>Fair to poor. There is evidence of minor concrete repairs throughout the foundations and associated walls.</p> <p>Although works to the main foundations and Servants Entrance appear to be largely cosmetic and required to significantly slow degradation, the screen wall to south-west and pair of square-plan cut limestone gate piers appear to have significant structural problems. The two piers are leaning into towards the walkway. The screen wall is also bulging out. This matter needs immediate surveying from a conservation engineer.</p> <p>The corner steps have loose/uneven steps.</p>
<p>Suggested Actions</p>	<p><b>Structural issues</b></p> <p>Observation: The bulge in the screen wall and leaning gate piers are two issues of concern. Another issue are the loose/uneven corner steps.</p> <p>Action: Inspection required from a conservation engineer to diagnose the issues and propose solutions.</p> <p>Timing: Immediate</p> <p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>Observation: Risk of vegetation with root woody roots causing damage.</p> <p>Action: Carefully remove any plants growing on the walls with woody roots (i.e. ivy, saplings). After cutting down the vegetation with woody roots treat root stumps with ecologically acceptable herbicide (make sure to seek expert advice on this matter).</p> <p>Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Repair of masonry</b></p> <p>Observation: Inappropriate concrete pointing and repairs.</p> <p>Missing/loose stones, degraded stonework.</p> <p>Action: Remove concrete pointing and replace with appropriate lime mortar softer than the surrounding stone.</p> <p>Reset any loose stones. For stones that are missing and cannot be found, replace with matching stones. Replaced severely degraded stones.</p> <p>Remove concrete stone repairs and replace where appropriate with stone indents attached using stainless steel dowels.</p> <p>Ensure that water cannot puddle on ledges or stone.</p> <p>If possible and deemed to not be damaging to the structure, vegetation with non-woody roots (e.g. lichens, small ferns) should be retained.</p> <p>Timing: Medium term</p> <p><b>Railings</b></p> <p>Observation: existing safety railings detract from the setting and may not meet current health and safety codes.</p> <p>Action: Replace with safety railings are that more appropriate to their setting.</p> <p>Timing: Medium term</p>

Possible visitor experience actions	<p><b>19<sup>th</sup> century Archaeology</b></p> <p>There is the opportunity over several summers to conduct a community archaeology programme and expose the remains of the house. This would be a great opportunity to use an archaeological approach to learn about the site specifically, and 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century Ireland, in general. The result would be a tourist attraction and educational tool like no other which would drive visits to the park specifically and Monaghan in general. As the site becomes more exposed and the various research questions become answered, the remaining masonry could be conserved and interpreted to aid the visitor experience. A good first step would be a geophysical survey of the castle site. According to a person who previously worked on the site for several decades, much of the debris from the castle's destruction was retained on site. Such a community archaeology programme should be run in conjunction with Monaghan County Museum.</p> <p><b>Opening the Servant's Entrance</b></p> <p>At present, the tunnel the servant's entrance is blocked up after a few metres. The opportunity should be taken to unblock the entrance and investigate the tunnel. This could be part of the proposed archaeological investigations.</p> <p><b>Tennis</b></p> <p>The site of the Westenra's tennis court still exists. During Heritage Week exhibition lawn tennis matches could take place on the site using early 20<sup>th</sup> century style equipment.</p> <p><b>Interpretation panels</b></p> <p>The castle site would greatly benefit from well designed and discretely located interpretive panels providing information on the site. Although the architecture of the castle was impressive, it is the story of the people, politics, role of women and class stratigraphy that will resonate with visitors. Innovative interpretive actions that are sensitive to the setting and heritage of the site should also be encouraged.</p>
Protected Structure	No
Record of Monuments and Places	No
Significance rating	Regional (category: architectural)
Category	Country house foundations
Other notes	n/a
References	<a href="https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/41401308/rossmore-forest-park-monaghan">https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/41401308/rossmore-forest-park-monaghan</a>

13. Terrace steps



Three of the five sets of steps. Note worn grass in foreground



Uneven top step, gaps between stones, concrete repairs and vegetation growth are all visible

Coordinates

54°13'34.5"N 6°59'55.5"W

Townland	Corlattan
Description	<p>'Man-made stepped platform, built c.1850, comprising five sets of steps with grass terraces descending from foundations of Rossmore Castle, overlooking Castle Lough to north. Flights vary between seven and eight steps, some with nosing, some block-cut without nosing. Flights of steps flanked by tooled limestone copings. Moulded limestone octagonal-plan pedestals on lowest most northerly terrace may have been used for displaying sculpture, possible architectural remains from Rossmore Castle.' Taken from NIAH entry.</p> <p>According to a worker on the site for several decades the steps were radically remodded after demolition of the castle. Apparently, a set of steps were missing and to make up for the loss, material from the other four sets were used to reestablished this missing flight of steps. All the width of all the flights of steps were narrowed to create the material.</p>
Condition	<p>Overall, fair. Beyond some inappropriate concrete pointing and filling in of widening gaps, the steps are unlikely to have received any substantial repairs since reconfiguration post the demolition of the castle. There is evidence of movement and general wear and tear. The longer the cause of the movement remains unchecked, the more damage will be done and the greater the cost of repair. Widening gaps have allowed the growth of vegetation. No vegetation with woody roots was observed. Fragments of limestone nosing have also broken off. The grass from one flight of steps to another is denuded.</p>
Suggested Actions	<p><b>Survey</b>  Observation: Cracking and widening gaps between stones indicates movement. Indeed, at least one step was found to be rocking under foot.  Action: Conservation engineer to examine the steps and ascertain the causes for the movement and specify appropriate repairs.  Ultimately, the steps should be returned to a point where they are flat, further movement is halted, limestone indents are inserted with stainless steel dowels as needed and the concrete pointing is replaced with an appropriate lime mortar. Concrete repairs also to be removed and replaced with appropriate materials.  Timing: Immediate</p> <p><b>Vegetation</b>  Observation: Risk of vegetation with root woody roots causing damage.  Action: Carefully remove any plants growing on the walls with woody roots (i.e. ivy, saplings). After cutting down the vegetation with woody roots treat root stumps with ecologically acceptable herbicide (make sure to seek expert advice on this matter). This is a maintenance matter.  Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Management of grass between flights of steps</b>  Observation: Denuded grass and erosion visible between the flights of steps.  Action: Although some pebbles have been placed on the grass path between the flights of steps, a more preferable action would be to</p>



	stop people walking on the steps and connecting grass during the winter months. The reason for this restriction should be communicated to visitors. A safe route should be indicated along the existing gravelled road. Timing: Short term
Possible visitor experience actions	Possible interpretive panel with associated audio track on how the steps and platforms were connected with creating a landscape designed to impress visitors and communicate the wealth and sophistication of the landowners.
Protected Structure	No
Record of Monuments and Places	No
Significance rating	Regional (categories: architectural, technical)
Category	Steps
Other notes	n/a
References	<a href="https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/41401307/rossmore-forest-park-monaghan">https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/41401307/rossmore-forest-park-monaghan</a>

**14. Underground passageway**




Entrance to passageway with large tree growing from reveal wall head



Entrance to passageway with main routeway from carpark to castle above



Interior of passageway with pipe associated with outside tank

	
Coordinates	54°13'32.6"N 6°59'59.7"W
Townland	Killicushil/Corlattan
Description	<p>Cut and fill underground passageway that apparently led to Rossmore Castle. The passageway is directly under the main access route from the carpark to the castle site. Barrel vaulted with random rubble limestone. Walls also random rubble limestone. Entrance way has a lintel head supported by four iron bars. The passageway was purposely filled in/collapsed after the demolition of the castle. There is a verticle iron pipe that connects with a tank just outside the passageway. This pipe is likely to have led to the castle. The reveal walls at the entrance are random rubble limestone. There are indications of a possible path leading towards Castle Lough.</p>
Condition	<p>The interior of the tunnel appears in reasonable condition. However, an inspection by a conservation engineer is required to fully appraise the conservation needs.</p> <p>The external reveal walls are missing pointing. There is also a large tree growing out from the wall head of one of the reveal walls.</p>
Suggested Actions	<p><b>Survey</b>  Observation: Conservation needs of the tunnel require assessment by a conservation engineer.  Action: Conservation engineer to access condition and repair needs.  Timing: Immediate</p> <p><b>Vegetation</b>  Observation: Vegetation with root woody roots causing damage.  Action: Carefully remove any plants growing on the walls with woody roots (i.e. tree, ivy, saplings). To remove large plants cut them off at the roots. To kill the roots, use a “cut-and-paint” technique: where the plant is cut down and the cut surface is then painted with a herbicide. Fill resulting gaps in the wall as needed with appropriate with lime mortar and limestone, to match surrounding.  Timing: Short term</p>

	<p><b>External reveal stone walls</b></p> <p>Observation: The walls need repointing and capping.</p> <p>Action: The following actions – or similar – are likely to be needed to conserve the structure. However, any such works are contingent on the structural report carried out by a conservation engineer.</p> <p>Cap stone walls with appropriate lime mortar. Point walls with natural lime mortar. Remove woody vegetation from walls and infill with natural stone and lime mortar as appropriate. Samples of existing mortar should be analysed to guide replacement mortar.</p> <p>Timing: Medium term</p>
Possible visitor experience actions	<p>The presence of the passageway could be mentioned in any interpretive panel dedicated to the Servant's Entrance passage. However, due to safety issues, visiting the site should not be encouraged or facilitated.</p> <p>Long term, the feasibility of reopening the passageway fully should be assessed.</p>
Protected Structure	No
Record of Monuments and Places	No
Significance Rating	Local
Category	Underground passage
Other notes	n/a
References	n/a

15. Tank



Iron water pipe (wastewater?) in adjacent underground passage which leads to the tank



Loose steel plate over the hatch. Image taken looking from nearby passageway entrance




Hatch with tank underneath



Tank shown as such on historic 25" OS Map

Coordinates	54°13'32.8"N 7°00'00.2"W
Townland	Killycushil
Description	Described in the historic 25" OS Map as 'Tank'. Possibly associated with water supply to the castle. Also possibly associated with waste water. Iron pipe in nearby tunnel leads to the underground tank. The opening has what appears to be an iron sliding door with piping underneath. The opening is covered by a loose steel plate.
Condition	Appears to be in reasonably good condition, although a full survey by a suitably qualified conservation engineer is necessary to conduct an accurate appraisal.
Suggested Actions	<b>Secure covering</b> Observation: The steel plate simply lies over the opening. Action: Fit a more secure covering for the opening which is accessible to site managers only. Timing: Immediate

	<p><b>Survey</b></p> <p>Observation: For safety reasons, the interior of the tank was not surveyed.</p> <p>Action: A survey by a conservation engineer is required to investigate any structural issues.</p> <p>Timing: Immediate</p>
Possible visitor experience actions	The existence of the tank could be made known on any interpretation focusing on the water ram(s). However, due to safety issues, visiting the site should not be encouraged or facilitated.
Protected Structure	No
Record of Monuments and Places	No
Significance Rating	Local
Category	Tank
Other notes	Tank was not accessed for this study.
References	n/a

<p><b>16. Historic low stone walling</b></p>	 <p>Low stone walling close to the site of the castle</p>
Coordinates	Concentrated in Corlattan
Townland	Concentrated in Corlattan (i.e. close to the castle) but examples could be present throughout the park
Description	<p>Aside from the perimeter wall and earthen/stone field boundaries, there is a network of mostly 19<sup>th</sup> low stone walling within the park. In addition to marking out areas and in certain locations providing a safety barrier, the walls would have functioned as decorative additions to the designed parkland.</p> <p>Low, predominately random rubble limestone walling, mostly located close to the castle. Copings observed include projecting coping and flat projecting coping.</p>
Condition	The condition of such walling varies from good to poor. However, overall, the walling appears to be in a reasonable condition. Caping stone walls with concrete and concrete pointing were observed.

Suggested Actions	<p><b>Survey</b>  Observation: Extent of internal walls and their conservation needs still unknown.  Action: A full survey of the demesne’s internal walls by a conservation engineer is required to quantify what remains and their condition.  Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Vegetation</b>  Observation: Vegetation with root woody roots causing damage.  Action: Carefully remove any plants growing on the walls with woody roots (i.e. ivy, saplings). To remove large plants cut them off at the roots. To kill the roots, use a “cut-and-paint” technique: where the plant is cut and the cut surface is then painted with an appropriate herbicide. Fill resulting gaps in the wall as needed with appropriate lime mortar and limestone, to match surrounding.  Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Repointing and possible grouting of walls</b>  Observation: Pointing required. Some wall cores may be vulnerable and missing substantial material.  Action: Much of the pointing in various walls is now missing or failing. This allows water into the structure and provides locations for vegetation growth.  Retain sound historic pointing. Where pointing has failed, rake out. Retain any pinning stones for later use. Remove vegetation matter and decayed mortar. Samples of decayed mortar should be analysed to guide replacement mortar. Repoint with lime mortar mix to match appearance of original. Use pinning stones and suitable replacement stones as required. Where existing concrete pointing is judged by a conservation engineer to be only causing no/minimal damage to the wall or its removal will cause more damage than it would solve, it should be retained. Only remove concrete pointing has been judged to be causing significant damage. Repoint with appropriate lime-based mortar. Subject to an inspection by a conservation engineer, grouting of sections of wall may be warranted.  Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Rebuilding gaps in the masonry</b>  Observation: Missing masonry leading to a weakened wall and water ingress.  Action: Any gap should be filled with stonework preferably recovered from the site. Single fallen stones should also be reinserted. All stonework should be set in an appropriate lime mortar. Any localised rebuilding should be done to match known historic coursing and coping.  Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Wall heads</b>  Observation: Exposed wall heads allowing water ingress to wall core.  Action: Remove all vegetation and accumulated humus from wall heads. Reset any dislodged stones in lime mortar. In areas where stone capping exists but individual stones or small sections of capping stones are now</p>
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	<p>missing, reinstate with matching stone and repair with lime mortar to match surrounding. Where large areas of no wall copings are present, mortar the wall top in appropriate lime mortar to shed water off the top. The flaunching should allow all water to easily fall off the top and not to puddle. Where concrete capping is deemed to be causing damage to the wall, remove concrete and flaunch with lime mortar or reinstate known traditional capping detail.</p> <p>Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Leans and cracks</b></p> <p>Observation: Cracks and leans indicating possibly significant structural issues.</p> <p>Action: Where defects such as cracking or leaning is visible, obtain advice from a conservation engineer. Repairs should be carried out speedily, to halt continued degradation and resulting increase in costs.</p> <p>Timing: Short term</p>
Possible visitor experience actions	None
Protected Structure	No
Record of Monuments and Places	No
Significance Rating	Local
Category	Walling
Other notes	Only a partial survey of the park's internal walling was conducted.
References	n/a

<b>17. Covered Well</b>	
	Well when visited in August, 2021



Well as photographed by NIAH surveyor in 2012



Limestone gully leading to stream

Coordinates	54°13'39.5"N 6°59'52.9"W
Townland	Corlattan
Description	Semi-circular covered well, set in earthen mounding. Built c.1850, the well has an ashlar limestone façade and semi-circular chamber. The segmental-headed entrance is flanked by square-headed niches. There are two limestone steps to the east. In the historic 25" map the site is marked as 'Well'. Remnants of stone gully leading to nearby stream present. It is not marked in the first edition OS. According to the NIAH survey entry for the site, the existing well likely replaced an earlier version. By its appearance, it would have complemented Rossmore Castle. The well would have provided fresh drinking water.
Condition	Strongly built, the well is in overall good condition. Unfortunately, the half-ring to apex of façade recorded during the 2012 NIAH survey is now gone. Similarly, according to a worker on the site for several decades a set of steps in front of the well are also now gone. There is

	<p>some vegetation growth visible on the façade and within the well. However, none of this has woody roots. Several pieces of rubbish were noticed in the water.</p>
Suggested Actions	<p><b>Debris and vegetation</b>  Observation: View of well being obscured. Danger of excessive/damaging vegetation growth.  Action: Regular removal of leaves and other debris from the well is required. Vegetation should be managed so that it does not overwhelm the well. Any plants with woody roots that either are or are likely to disturb the walling should also be removed immediately. This is a maintenance issue.  Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Limestone gully</b>  Observation: Remaining limestone gully leading to stream is full of debris.  Action: Carefully remove debris and expose gully to ascertain conservation needs.  Timing: Long term</p> <p><b>Reinstate half-ring</b>  Observation: Missing decorative half-ring could be reinstated. The half-ring previously at the apex should be reinstated. If the original cannot be found and repaired, then a replica, matching the original as much as possible should be used. Reattached using stainless steel dowels.  Timing: Long term</p> <p><b>Interpretation</b>  Observation: Role of interpretation in improving visitor behaviour. The well would benefit from sensitively designed heritage interpretation. This may reduce the incidences of rubbish being thrown into the well.  Timing: Long term</p>
Possible visitor experience actions	<p>Site would suit an interpretive panel and/or audio guide entry detailing the importance of this and other wells in obtaining water and the labour involved in transporting water for drinking, cooking and washing. A note on the well's appearance to complement the castle and other aspects of the estate should also be included. The well was very much part of the sophisticated image the estate's owners wanted to project.</p>
Protected Structure	No
Record of Monuments and Places	No
Significance rating	Regional (categories: architectural, social, technical)
Category	Well
Other notes	n/a
References	<a href="https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/41401327/rossmore-forest-park-monaghan">https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/41401327/rossmore-forest-park-monaghan</a>

**18. Killycushil Ringfort**



Tree covered bank with shallow indication of ditch



Interior of ringfort

Coordinates	54°13'42.0"N 7°00'14.2"W
Townland	Killycushil
Description	Raised circular area (diameter 39m N-S, 37.5m E-W) overlooking 19 <sup>th</sup> century man made lake 'Castle Lough'. Circular area now covered in trees and brambles. Bank (c.1.5m high) with some indication of ditch on exterior. Entrance gap (width of top 5.4m) at SSE is now blocked. Taken from Michael Moore 2018 survey for NMS.
Condition	Fair. The bank is still obvious. However, the ditch is now just a shallow dip before the bank. The interior is impenetrable due to vegetation. Natural tree growth is present throughout. The roots of these are likely to be disturbing subterranean archaeology. Although commercial forestry appears to be avoiding the main area of the tomb, planted trees are just a few metres from the ringfort. The roots

	of these trees are possibly disturbing subterranean archaeology. Falling trees are likely to upturn archaeological remains.
Suggested Actions	<p><b>Trees</b></p> <p>Observation: Tree roots are likely to be disturbing archaeology. Falling trees are also a threat.</p> <p>Action: Carefully cut down and remove trees within the Ringfort, including likely area of ditch. After cutting down the vegetation with woody roots, treat root stumps with ecologically acceptable herbicide (make sure to seek expert advice on this matter). Allow roots to rot. The Department of Agriculture Forest Service guidelines on Forestry and Archaeology states that a 15m buffer zone should be created surrounding known archaeological sites (Dept. of Environment and Local Government and Coillte, n/d). This is not the case at the ringfort. Accordingly, all trees within 15m of the monument's edge should be cut down, removed and their roots remain to rot. Treat root stumps with ecologically acceptable herbicide (make sure to seek expert advice on this matter). Reseed any exposed areas with indigenous Irish grass.</p> <p>Under the current forestry and archaeology guidelines, once an operation is planned in an area, as part of the felling licence approval, an archaeological plan will be approved by an archaeologist in the Department of Agriculture Forest Service. All Coillte operators must complete training on environmental awareness. This approach significantly reduces the risk of damage being caused to archaeological sites during felling.</p> <p>Timing: Medium term</p>
Possible visitor experience actions	This ringfort is the most accessible of early medieval ringforts in the park. Signposted access should be provided to the ringfort. Its interior should be rendered accessible. The provision of good interpretation at the site provides the opportunity to tell the story of the early medieval life in Ireland. A well designed and discretely located multilingual interpretive panel should be installed at the edge of the site. The interpretive panel is to be positioned on a frame that does not disturb the archaeology. An accessway needs to be cleared to permit site visits. Furthermore, a simple fingerpost sign is required at the existing nearby trackway to indicate its location. Finally, vegetation needs to be managed around the site. The impact of the site's opening to visitors needs to be monitored and any necessary management actions taken.
Protected Structure	No
Record of Monuments and Places	Yes MO013-006----
Significance rating	Local
Category	Ringfort
Other notes	Access to much of the ringfort was not possible due to dense vegetation.
References	<a href="https://maps.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/">https://maps.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/</a>

**19. Killydrutan Ringfort**



Interior of ringfort




View of tree covered ditch

Coordinates 54°13'52.9"N 6°59'40.4"W

Townland Killydrutan

Description Due to dense vegetation much of the site is impenetrable. The ringfort is a circular brambled covered 'area (diameter 29m NE-SW; 29m NW-SE) defined by an earthen bank (at SE: width 6m; interior height 0.5; exterior height .9m) that has been removed W-N. This bank is separated by a rounded fosse (at SE: width of top 8.6m; exterior depth 1-1.3m) from a complete outer bank (width of base 9-10m); exterior height 5m at NE to 1.5m at SW)' (Taken from NMS survey of site <https://maps.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/>). Entrance is at the


	SE. Internal area of the ringfort planted in coniferous forest in 1968. Site apparently harvested of coniferous forest.
Condition	Fair/poor condition, although this was difficult to ascertain due to the vegetation (predominately brambles). Most of the bank is still visually obvious. Where a ditch was visible, it appeared to be a shallow dip before a bank. Natural tree growth is concentrated on the bank. The roots of these are likely to be disturbing subterranean archaeology. Although current commercial forestry appears to be avoiding the main area of the tomb, planted trees are likely to be planted in what would have been the ringfort's ditch. The roots of these trees are possibly disturbing subterranean archaeology. Falling trees are likely to upturn archaeological remains. The planting of trees within the ringfort in 1968 is likely to have caused significant damage to the site's archaeology.
Suggested Actions	<p><b>Trees</b></p> <p>Observation: Tree roots are likely to be disturbing archaeology. Falling trees are also a threat.</p> <p>Action: Carefully cut down and remove trees from within the Ringfort, including likely area of ditch. After cutting down the vegetation with woody roots, treat root stumps with ecologically acceptable herbicide (make sure to seek expert advice on this matter). Allow tree roots to rot. Reseed bank where required with indigenous Irish grass. The Department of Agriculture Forest Service guidelines on Forestry and Archaeology states that a 15m buffer zone should be created surrounding known archaeological sites (Dept. of Environment and Local Government and Coillte, n/d). This is not the case at the ringfort. Accordingly, all trees within 15m of the monument's edge should be cut down, removed and their roots allowed to rot. Treat root stumps with ecologically acceptable herbicide (make sure to seek expert advice on this matter).</p> <p>Timing: Medium term</p>
Possible visitor experience actions	Due to the difficulty in reaching the ringfort, no on-site interpretation is recommended. The existence of the ringfort should be mentioned on interpretation at the Killycushil Ringfort.
Protected Structure	No
Record of Monuments and Places	Yes MO009-050
Significance rating	Local
Category	Ringfort
Other notes	Only a partial survey was possible to the dense vegetation.
References	<a href="https://maps.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/">https://maps.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/</a>

<p><b>20. Skeagarvey Megalithic tomb</b></p>	 <p>Trees within area of tomb</p>
<p>Coordinates</p>	<p>54°13'52.3"N 6°59'10.3"W</p>
<p>Townland</p>	<p>Skeagarvey</p>
<p>Description</p>	<p>Likely to be a wedge tomb, this monument is composed of a gallery (L 2.5m) orientated NNW-SSE with two east side stones and a large south back stone. A low stone to east side of gallery possibly a buttress. Located in forest. Not marked on 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS Map or on the historic 25" OS Map.</p>
<p>Condition</p>	<p>Due to the overgrown nature of the site, it is difficult to fully appraise condition of the monument. Nonetheless, despite being robbed historically of much of its building material, the remaining stones appear in reasonable condition. There was evidence of anti-social behaviour with a campfire and rubbish located nearby, despite not being easy to access. The main area of the tomb is disturbed by natural woodland. The roots of these are likely to be disturbing subterranean archaeology and may disturb the foundations of the remaining standing stones. Although commercial forestry appears to be avoiding the main area of the tomb, planted trees are just a few metres from megalithic stones. The roots of these trees are possibly disturbing subterranean archaeology. There is also the possibility of trees falling on the remaining stones and causing damage.</p>
<p>Suggested Actions</p>	<p><b>Trees</b>  Observation: Tree roots are likely to be disturbing archaeology. Falling trees are also a threat.  Action: Carefully cut down and remove trees within area of tomb. Allow roots to rot. The Department of Agriculture Forest Service guidelines on Forestry and Archaeology states that a 15m buffer zone should be created surrounding known archaeological sites (Dept. of Environment and Local Government and Coillte, n/d). This is not the case at the likely wedge tomb. Accordingly, all trees within 15m of the monument's edge should be cut down, removed and their roots</p>



	<p>remain to rot. Treat root stumps with ecologically acceptable herbicide (make sure to seek expert advice on this matter).</p> <p>Under the current forestry and archaeology guidelines, once an operation is planned in an area, as part of the felling licence approval, an archaeological plan will be approved by an archaeologist in the Department of Agriculture Forest Service. All Coillte operators must complete training on environmental awareness. This approach significantly reduces the risk of damage being caused to archaeological sites during felling.</p> <p>Timing: Medium term</p>
Possible visitor experience actions	Due to the tomb being difficult to access and not close to any walkway, no visitor experience actions at the site are proposed. Information on the tomb should be provided on the interpretation panel at Killydrutan Court Tomb.
Protected Structure	No
Record of Monuments and Places	Yes MO009-051
Significance rating	Regional (category: archaeological)
Category	Megalithic tomb – unclassified
Other notes	Some areas difficult to survey due to vegetation.
References	<a href="https://maps.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/?REG_NO=41401309">https://maps.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/?REG_NO=41401309</a>

<b>21. Demesne wall</b>	 <p>Demesne wall to north of northwest gate (i.e. the main gate)</p>
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	Demesne wall running south of southeast gate
Coordinates	Throughout edge of park
Townland	Several townlands
Description	<p>Erected c.1830. When erected, the wall defined the limit of the estate and provided some security.</p> <p>At the north western entrance on the R189 (i.e. the main entrance), the wall is coursed, tooled, squared limestone with tooled sandstone copings. At the western gate (in private ownership), the wall is low, random rubble limestone. At the eastern entrance on the R188, the wall is roughly half the height of the the wall by the north west entrance. It is limestone, random rubble, roughly coursed. The section of the wall running north of the eastern gate is capped with concrete. The section of the wall running to the south is capped with limestone projection coping stones.</p>
Condition	<p>Albeit from a limited survey, the remaining standing sections appear to be mostly in reasonable condition. However, there are small sections of collapse along the R189, south of the main gate. There is evidence of some repair/rebuild There is also a large section along the R189 close to the junction with L16005 that appears to have been simply removed.</p> <p>There are also some incidences of inappropriate concrete capping. Incidences of concrete pointing are also visible.</p> <p>There is a significant amount of ivy on the wall head of the boundary wall running north from the northwest gate (i.e. main gate) and elsewhere. Sapling growth from wall heads was also observed.</p>
Suggested Actions	<p><b>Survey</b></p> <p>Observation: Extent of boundary wall and its conservation needs still unknown.</p> <p>Action: A full survey of the wall by a conservation engineer is required to quantify what remains and its condition.</p> <p>Timing: Medium</p> <p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>Observation: Vegetation with root woody roots causing damage.</p>

	<p>Action: Carefully remove any plants with woody roots (i.e. ivy, saplings). To remove large plants cut them off at the roots. To kill the roots, use a “cut-and-paint” technique: where the plant is cut and the cut surface is then painted with an appropriate herbicide. Fill resulting gaps in the wall as needed with appropriate lime mortar and limestone, to match surrounding.</p> <p>Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Wall heads</b></p> <p>Observation: Exposed wall heads are allowing water ingress to wall core.</p> <p>Action: Remove all vegetation and accumulated humus from the structure’s wall heads. Reset any dislodged stones in lime mortar. In areas where stone capping exists but individual stones or small sections of capping stones are now missing, reinstate with matching stone and repair with lime mortar to match surrounding. Where large areas of no wall copings are present, mortar the wall top in appropriate lime mortar to shed water off the top. The flaunching should allow all water to easily fall off the top and not to puddle. Where concrete capping is deemed to be causing damage to the wall, remove concrete and flaunch with lime mortar.</p> <p>Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Repointing and possible grouting of walls</b></p> <p>Observation: Pointing required. Some wall cores may be vulnerable and missing substantial material.</p> <p>Action: Much of the pointing in the wall is now missing or failing. This allows water into the structure and provides locations for vegetation growth.</p> <p>Retain sound historic pointing. Where pointing has failed, rake out. Retain any pinning stones for later use. Remove vegetation matter and decayed mortar. Samples of decayed mortar should be analysed to guide replacement mortar. Repoint with lime mortar mix to match appearance of original. Use pinning stones and suitable replacement stones as required. Where existing concrete pointing is judged by a conservation engineer to be only causing no/minimal damage to the wall or its removal will cause more damage than it would solve, it should be retained. Only remove concrete pointing has been judged to be causing significant damage. Repoint with appropriate lime-based mortar. Subject to an inspection by a conservation engineer, grouting of sections of wall may be warranted.</p> <p>Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Rebuilding gaps in the masonry less than 5m wide</b></p> <p>Observation: Missing masonry leading to a weakened wall and water ingress.</p> <p>Action: Any gap should be filled with stonework preferably recovered from the site. The masonry should be rebuilt in the same character as the surrounding wall. Single fallen stones should also be reinserted. All stonework should be set in appropriate lime mortar.</p> <p>Timing: Short term</p>
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	<p><b>Leans and cracks</b>  Observation: Cracks and leans possibly indicate significant structural issues.  Action: Where defects such as cracking or leaning is visible, obtain advice from a conservation engineer. Repairs should be carried out speedily, to halt continued degradation and resulting increase in costs.  Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Rebuild section along R189 close to the junction with L16005</b>  Observation: long section of wall has seemingly been removed.  Action: Rebuilding to match surrounding using traditional materials and methods.  Timing: Long term</p>
Possible visitor experience actions	The role of the demesne wall to demarcate the site, provide security and communicate prestige could be communicated on interpretive panels associated with the principal entrances to the park.
Protected Structure	Yes Local 47
Record of Monuments and Places	No
Significance rating	Regional (category: architectural)
Category	Estate wall
Other notes	The state of the demesne wall was only inspected at the three main entrance gates to the estate (i.e. the east gate, west gate and north west gate). A visual inspection by car was also carried out where possible.
References	<a href="https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/41400984/rossmore-forest-park-killicushil-monaghan">https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/41400984/rossmore-forest-park-killicushil-monaghan</a>


<p><b>22. Northwest Gate (i.e. main gate)</b></p>	
	<p>Approach to main gate</p>



Main gate with vehicular and pedestrian entrances. Inappropriate planting in front of gate. Plants obscure the gate. The species have no known association with the historic estate.



Vegetation growth on top of piers. Damaged stonework also visible.

	
	<p>Inappropriate concrete pointing. Iron fixing to wall is corroding.</p>
Coordinates	<p>54°13'58.4"N 6°59'57.5"W</p>
Townland	<p>Killicushil</p>
Description	<p>'Freestanding gateway, erected c.1870, at entrance to former demesne of Rossmore Castle. Comprises pair of square-plan channelled dressed limestone piers to each side of vehicular entrance, with moulded cornices and stepped cappings, with moulded bases, and supporting decorative double-leaf cast-iron gate. Piers flanked by short sections of dressed snecked limestone walling with crenellated copings and having decorative wrought-iron scrolls to piers, flanked in turn by square-headed pedestrian entrances having tooled stone pilasters with moulded plinth bases supporting dressed stone lintel and pedimented cornice over, with decorative single-leaf cast-iron gates. Snecked roughly squared stone curvilinear walls to road.' Taken from NIAH entry.</p>
Condition	<p>Overall, the cast iron gates are in good condition. The main area of concern was where iron entered stonework with corrosion being obvious. In only one area was this serious. Nonetheless, no leaning of the gates was noticeable.</p> <p>Some broken/missing ironwork was apparent.</p> <p>The stone pillars and openings, appear to be in overall good condition. However, inappropriate concrete pointing and repairs were leading to water ingress and stone damage. There was vegetation growth on the stonework ledges. Most of this is relatively benign, although at least one sapling was noted.</p> <p>Some stone cracking and broken stonework was observed.</p>
Suggested Actions	<p><b>Maintenance and painting</b></p> <p>Observation: Regular need to paint and inspect</p> <p>Action: Repaint at least once every five years. Inspect annually.</p> <p>During the inspection, clean the iron with a cloth and water (use a bristle brush if needed for soiling). Paint with two coats of appropriate oil-based paint.</p> <p>Where localised corrosion has set in, remove loose material with scraper, clean to a bright finish and feather the edges of the old paint</p>

	<p>with abrasive paper. Treat derusted iron with rust neutralising inhibitor. Then paint area with 1-2 coats of zinc-phosphate primer, two layers of undercoat and two layers of topcoats. Final colour(s) used should match original paint scheme. Grease the pivot points to reduce wear. Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Repairs to cast iron</b> Observation: Areas of cast iron are in need of repair. Action: Repair cracks less than 6mm thick using cold stitching. Pitting in rusted cast iron can be repaired using epoxy car-body filler. Clean metal, apply rust inhibitor, apply epoxy filler, shape and rub down with abrasive paper to match contour. Then prime and paint to match surrounding. For simple breaks in cast iron and the metal in reasonable condition, in situ arc-welding repair is usually possible. Only experienced blacksmith or welding service should undertake this. The weld should be continuous, ground flat, primed and painted. Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Vegetation growth</b> Observation: Risk of vegetation with root woody roots causing damage tops of walls and piers. Action: Carefully remove any plants growing from tops of wall and piers. Gaps in pointing and stonework should be pointed with appropriate lime-based mortar. Consideration should be given to capping vulnerable stonework with lead. Where deemed appropriate, on the verticals of walling retain any vegetation that does not have woody roots. Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Concrete pointing and repairs</b> Observation: Inappropriate concrete pointing and repairs causing damage to stonework and leading to water ingress. Action: Remove all concrete pointing and crack repairs and replace with appropriate lime-based mortar. Gaps in pointing should also be pointed with appropriate lime-based mortar. Where concrete has been used to replace broken stonework, remove and replace with cut stone to match profile of surrounding stonework. Fix with stainless steel dowels and point with appropriate lime-based mortar. Where broken stone fragments are visible replace with cut stone to match profile of surrounding stonework. Fix with stainless steel dowels and point with appropriate lime-based mortar. Timing: Medium term</p>
Possible visitor experience actions	Well designed and discretely located interpretive panel positioned inside the park giving information on this and the other gates to the park. Although this gate and the others are architecturally and technically impressive, the focus of the panel should be about the social messages being communicated (i.e. power, sophistication, exclusivity).

Protected Structure	Yes Local 47 & possibly 41400928 (uncertainty if Ballyleck Gate entry refers to this gate)
Record of Monuments and Places	No
Significance rating	Regional (category: architectural, artistic)
Category	Gates
Other notes	n/a
References	<a href="https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/41400975/rossmore-forest-park-killycushil-monaghan">https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/41400975/rossmore-forest-park-killycushil-monaghan</a>

<p><b>23. West Gate</b></p>	 <p>Gate and pillars with lodge built c.1850 behind</p>
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Wrought iron gate

Coordinates	54°13'40.5"N 7°00'22.5"W
Townland	Clonavarn
Description	Freestanding gateway, at western entrance to former demesne of Rossmore Castle. Comprises pair of square-plan channelled dressed limestone piers to each side of vehicular entrance, with moulded cornices and pyramidal cappings, and supporting decorative double-leaf wrought-iron gate. Piers flanked by low random rubble limestone walling.
Condition	Overall, the gates and limestone piers are in good condition. There is some rust, but this is not significant. There is all some bending of bars but this appears to not be significantly impacting on the ability of the gates to function. The limestone piers are pointed in cement. Despite this, they appear in good condition.
Suggested Actions	<b>Maintenance and painting</b> Observation: Regular need to paint and inspect Action: Repaint at least once every five years. Inspect annually. During the inspection, clean the iron with a cloth and water (use a bristle brush if needed for soiling). Paint with two coats of appropriate oil-based paint.

	<p>Where localised corrosion has set in, remove loose material with scraper, clean to a bright finish and feather the edges of the old paint with abrasive paper. Treat derusted iron with rust neutralising inhibitor. Then paint area with 1-2 coats of zinc-phosphate primer, two layers of undercoat and two layers of topcoats. Final colour(s) used should match original paint scheme. Grease the pivot points to reduce wear. Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Vegetation management</b>  Observation: Danger of vegetation obscuring elements of the gates and piers.  Action: Trim vegetation during September - February.  Timing: Short term</p>
Possible visitor experience actions	Refer to this gate in the interpretation panel at the northwest gate (i.e. main gate).
Protected Structure	Yes Local 47
Record of Monuments and Places	No
Significance rating	Local
Category	Gates
Other notes	n/a
References	<a href="https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/41401306/rossmore-forest-park-killicushil-monaghan">https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/41401306/rossmore-forest-park-killicushil-monaghan</a>

<b>24. Southeast Gate</b>	
	View of gate looking into the park



Broken piece allowing water and debris into the structure. There is a noticeable bend in the gate. Was this caused by Mick Jagger?



View of gate obscured by cars.



Area of collapse. Railings and plinth are still on site, albeit damaged.



Visually obtrusive barrier. The barrier is also an inconvenience to cyclists when main gate is closed.

Coordinates	54°13'05.5"N 6°58'58.2"W
Townland	Tullyard & Ardagh Kill
Description	<p>'Ornate cast-iron gateway, erected c.1850, at east entrance to former Rossmore Castle. Four square-plan cast-iron piers with foliated scrolled ornament to shafts, fleur-de-lys ornament to frieze, and triangular pediments to each side. Central double-leaf vehicular gate, with symmetrical scrolled ornament, flanked by single-leaf pedestrian gates with symmetrical scrolled cast-iron ornament. Low rubble limestone plinth wall, with limestone coping and cast-iron railings having pointed finials, curving to meet large rectangular-plan rusticated outer piers, with block caps having moulded base cornice and Latin cross motif in high relief. Coursed rubble limestone demesne wall. Located to east of Rossmore House with gate lodge inside entrance.' Taken from NIAH entry. Likely to be the finest set of gates associated with the park. These may also be the gates that Mick Jagger apparently tried to ram in his efforts to see Marianne Faithful while she lived in nearby Lady Rossmore's Cottage.</p>
Condition	<p>The southeast entrance to Rossmore Park is in a functional but poor condition. Aside from the large collapsed area of railing to the south of the gate, the ironwork throughout the gate and railing is in need of attention. Several components are broken off. It appears that the ironwork has not been painted for some time.</p> <p>The barrier in front of the pedestrian gate is visually intrusive and an inconvenience to cyclists.</p> <p>Outside the gate is frequently used for car parking. Across the road, the property owner has erected barriers to stop parking. It is likely that the collapsed railings were hit by a car.</p>
Suggested Actions	<p><b>Maintenance and painting</b></p> <p>Observation: Regular need to paint and inspect</p> <p>Action: Repaint at least once every five years. Inspect annually. During the inspection, clean the iron with a cloth and water (use a bristle brush if needed for soiling). Paint with two coats of appropriate oil-based paint.</p> <p>Where localised corrosion has set in, remove loose material with scraper, clean to a bright finish and feather the edges of the old paint with abrasive paper. Larger areas of corrosion may require dry abrasive cleaning or chemical stripping (please note: flame cleaning is not appropriate). Treat derusted iron with rust neutralising inhibitor. Then paint area with 1-2 coats of zinc-phosphate primer, two layers of undercoat and two layers of topcoats.</p> <p>Final colour(s) used should match original paint scheme.</p> <p>Grease the pivot points to reduce wear.</p> <p>Keep ground pivot free of dirt.</p> <p>Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Repairs to cast iron</b></p> <p>Observation: Areas of cast iron are in need of repair.</p> <p>Action: Repair cracks less than 6mm thick using cold stitching. Pitting in rusted cast iron can be repaired using epoxy car-body filler. Clean metal, apply rust inhibitor, apply epoxy filler, shape and rub</p>

	<p>down with abrasive paper to match contour. Then prime and paint to match surrounding.</p> <p>For simple breaks in cast iron and the metal in reasonable condition, in situ arc-welding repair is usually possible. Only experienced blacksmith or welding service should undertake this. The weld should be continuous, ground flat, primed and painted.</p> <p>Where possible, all repairs should take place on site.</p> <p>Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Replacing missing elements</b></p> <p>Observation: Missing or heavily corroded cast and wrought ironwork</p> <p>Action: Missing and heavily corroded structural elements will need to be replaced. This is particularly important for any elements required for the structure's weathering. Accordingly, replacements will have to be ordered to match what would have been there originally. Budget permitting, decorative features that have been lost should also be replaced.</p> <p>Timing: Short term for pieces necessary for weathering of structure. Long term for purely decorative features</p> <p><b>Area of collapse</b></p> <p>Observation: A large section of the railing to the south of the gate has collapsed. The plinth and railings are still on site.</p> <p>Action: Reconstruct limestone plinth wall and repair the railings. Reuse as much of the fallen railings and plinth as possible.</p> <p>Timing: Medium term</p> <p><b>Concrete pointing and repairs</b></p> <p>Observation: Inappropriate concrete pointing and repairs causing damage to stonework. Gaps in pointing should also be pointed with appropriate lime-based mortar.</p> <p>Action: Remove all concrete pointing and crack repairs and replace with appropriate lime-based mortar.</p> <p>Where broken stone fragments are visible replace with cut limestone to match profile of surrounding stonework. Fix with stainless steel dowels and point with appropriate lime-based mortar.</p> <p>Timing: Medium term</p> <p><b>Mick Jagger damage</b></p> <p>Observation: The level of damage caused by Mick Jagger caused to the gates is unknown. These may not be the gates. He also may not have come to Rossmore.</p> <p>Action: Conduct more research on the Mick Jagger incident. If the damage he caused is identified, this should be retained unless it adversely undermines the functionality of the gates.</p> <p>Timing: Medium term</p> <p><b>Steel barrier in front of pedestrian entrance</b></p> <p>Observation: Steel barrier is visually intrusive.</p> <p>Action: Remove. If a barrier is deemed necessary, then it should be more in keeping with setting and suitable for use by cyclists.</p>
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	<p>Timing: Long term</p> <p><b>Damage by cars</b>  Observation: Cars parking in front of the railings could lead to damage of the plinth.  Action: Simple, elegant, contemporary black protective bollards should be installed in front of the railings to protect against damage from cars.  Timing: Long term</p>
Possible visitor experience actions	These are the finest set of gates at Rossmore. Accordingly, a well-designed and discretely located interpretive panel positioned inside the park should be provided giving information on the gate. Unlike the panel at the main gate, the focus of the panel here could be on craft behind their construction and conservation.
Protected Structure	Yes Local 47 & possibly 41401307 (associated with gate lodge)
Record of Monuments and Places	No
Significance rating	Regional (categories: architectural, artistic, technical, cultural)
Category	Gates/Railings
Other notes	Could not access some of the park side of the railings.
References	<a href="https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/41401314/rossmore-forest-park-tullyard-monaghan">https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/41401314/rossmore-forest-park-tullyard-monaghan</a>

**25. Lady Rossmore's Cottage**



From the trackway the cottage is mostly hidden behind vegetation



Behind the vegetation much of the cottage and associated outbuildings still stand



Inside the cottage





Exterior of cottage with outbuilding to left. Note carved limestone arch.



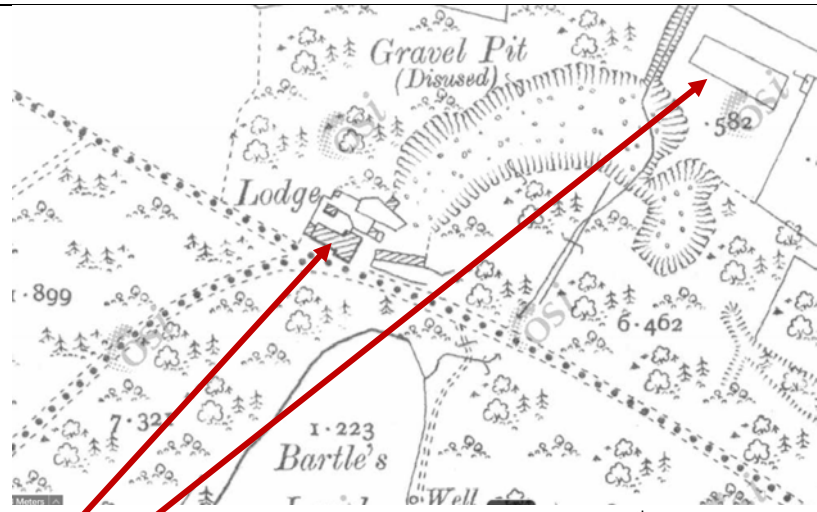
One of the two standing limestone chimney stacks



One of the outbuildings associated with the cottage



Image of Rossmore Cottage from 1973 by Donal McEnroe, courtesy of Monaghan County Museum



Cottage/Lodge as shown in 25" historic map (early 20<sup>th</sup> century). Sunken garden (not surveyed). Pipe connecting Ardagh Lough with Bartle's Lough presented by line.



Large gravel pit to rear of cottage

Coordinates	54°13'12.6"N 6°59'25.7"W
Townland	Ardagh Kill
Description	<p>Former gamekeeper's cottage. Site associated with Lord 'Paddy' Rossmore and Marianne Faithful. Single story lodge with slate pitched roof. Now ruined. Ruins of several associated outbuildings constructed in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries also present. Two impressive limestone chimney stacks still standing. Dressed limestone arch connecting with outbuilding still present. Shown on Coillte map of park as Lady Rossmore's Cottage. Shown on historic 25" map as Lodge.</p> <p>Large gravel pit to rear.</p> <p>Sunken garden to north east.</p> <p>During an earlier survey, an iron pipe was discovered connecting Ardagh Lough to Bartle's Lough (Historic water system: Rossmore Park, n/d). It ran through the disused gravel pit.</p>

Condition	Very poor. The house was burnt in an IRA arson attack in May 1981. Areas of the site are dangerous to access. Sycamore, rhododendron and other vegetation has taken over the site. One of the standing limestone chimney stacks is in danger of collapse.
Suggested Actions	<p><b>Survey</b>  Observation: Full building condition survey and repair specifications required for the cottage and associated buildings.  Action: Due to the cottage's continued degradation, its heritage significance and strategic value, a complete building survey needs to be carried as a matter of urgency. On the team should be a conservation engineer and conservation architect (grade I or II). Following the report, a full programme of conservation and - where appropriate - restoration works should take place.  Timing: Immediately</p> <p><b>Access and interpretation</b>  Observation: This is one of the most interesting places in the park. Its reuse would animate the park as a whole and save the cottage from continued degradation.  Action: The cottage would greatly benefit from reuse. It is of strong social value. Well-designed interpretation would increase levels of appreciation for the site.  Timing: Long term</p>
Possible visitor experience actions	<p><b>Future Reuse</b>  Subject to an appropriate assessment, the lodge could be first saved from further ruin, then sensitivity repurposed for a future use to be determined.</p> <p><b>Interpretation</b>  The story of Paddy Rossmore, Marianne Faithfull and Mick Jagger should be interpreted at the house. For instance, Paddy Rossmore's photography should be used to decorate the house. An interpretive panel outside the house would also serve to tell the story of the lodge to those passing by.</p> <p><b>Amphitheatre</b>  The gravel pit to the rear of the cottage is effectively an amphitheatre. The possibility of hosting cultural events at the site should be appraised.</p>
Protected Structure	No
Record of Monuments and Places	No
Significance rating	Regional. Although now a ruin, the house is culturally important. The house was lived in by Lord 'Paddy' Rossmore until it was destroyed by the IRA in 1981 an arson attack on the day Bobby Sands died. Fearing for his life, he then fled Monaghan. In 1970, Paddy had been engaged to singer Marianne Faithful. Marianne had left Mick Jagger for Paddy. It is believed Jagger rammed a set of gates at Rossmore in an effort to see Faithful. Paddy himself was an accomplished photographer, champion fly fisherman and a pioneer of drug addiction treatment. (Categories: cultural, historical)

Category	Lodge
Other notes	Difficult to access with sections that appear to be in danger of collapse. Also proved difficult to locate the sunken garden due to vegetation.
References	<a href="https://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/faithfull-friend-on-the-late-paddy-rossmore-a-reluctant-celebrity-who-revolutionised-drug-treatment-in-ireland-1.4557566">https://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/faithfull-friend-on-the-late-paddy-rossmore-a-reluctant-celebrity-who-revolutionised-drug-treatment-in-ireland-1.4557566</a> <i>Historic water system: Rossmore Park (n/d)</i> <a href="https://www.independent.ie/irish-news/lord-rossmoreobituary-anglo-irish-peer-who-set-up-the-coolmine-drug-treatment-centre-was-engaged-to-marianne-faithfull-and-had-his-home-torched-by-ira-sympathisers-40430017.html">https://www.independent.ie/irish-news/lord-rossmoreobituary-anglo-irish-peer-who-set-up-the-coolmine-drug-treatment-centre-was-engaged-to-marianne-faithfull-and-had-his-home-torched-by-ira-sympathisers-40430017.html</a>

**26. Fish hatchery**



Image of the hatchery taken from beside the main water intake. The outtake is directly opposite from the intake. Outtake would originally have had an iron sluice gate.



The main water entry point is visible on the left of the image. To the right water can be seen emerging from the base of the retaining wall. The wall is bulging out. The heavy moss growth also indicates that the area behind the plaster is saturated.



The roots from nearby trees are likely to be a significant risk to the structural integrity of nearby retaining walls.

Coordinates	54°13'10.3"N 6°59'34.2"W
Townland	Kilnamaddy
Description	Marked as fish hatchery on Coillte map of site. This tank is part of a larger complex associated with fish production for the estate's lakes (to immediate east of Priestfield Lough). Site not named on 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map or 25" OS map. The shape of the hatchery is not shown in the 25" OS map. Area shown as being a gravel pit on 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map.

	<p>The water flow into the hatchery comes from thick ceramic piping which is fed from water coming from Bartle’s Lough which is itself fed by water from Steenson’s Lough and Ardagh Lough. Bartle’s Lough, Steenson’s Lough and Ardagh Lough are all manmade.</p> <p>In plan, the hatchery resembles an stretched pentagon. The water enters via an opening at the south east apex and exits through an opening in the middle of the north west wall. The five retaining walls are composed of random rubble limestone. Both the walls and floor are plastered. There is no evidence of repairs.</p> <p>There are grooves at the western outlet, indicating that a sluice gate was once here.</p>
Condition	<p>Overall, the tank is in reasonable condition. Although the vast majority of the retaining walling is intact, there are areas of pressure from water pushing out at least one wall. This pressure is likely to increase during heavy rainfall. There is also the danger that water being retained behind plaster and within walls may damage the walls via frost thaw action. In certain sections the plaster has fallen from the walls, exposing the random rubble stonework which is beginning to deteriorate. There is significant debris (natural material washed into the hatchery). The level of damage this has done to the hatchery floor is unknown. Because there are no copings visible on the wall heads, they are exposed and vulnerable to weathering and vegetation growth. Trees located close to the retaining walls are a danger to the wall heads and are significant risk to the structural integrity of nearby retaining walls.</p>
Suggested Actions	<p><b>Survey</b></p> <p>Observation: The presence of a substantial flow of water behind at least one retaining wall requires an appropriate survey by a conservation engineer.</p> <p>Action: Conservation engineer to examine the retaining walls and ascertain the level of damage being done by water. Appropriate repair and water control measures are then to be specified. This may include repairing at least some of the piping coming from Bartle’s Lough to ensure in comes in where it is intended to.</p> <p>Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Leans and cracks</b></p> <p>Observation: Cracks and bulges in retaining walls indicate significant structural issues.</p> <p>Action: Where defects such as cracking or leaning are visible, obtain advice from a conservation engineer. Repairs should be carried out speedily, to halt continued degradation and resulting increase in costs.</p> <p>Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Wall heads</b></p> <p>Observation: Exposed wall heads allowing degradation of retaining wall.</p> <p>Action: The main objective of coping the wall heads is to prevent further degradation of the top of the walls. Accordingly, after repairing the uppermost masonry, a soft-caping approach may be taken. Soft-caping involves the use of appropriate grass sods on the wall tips to absorb rainfall and protect the wall surface. It is important to maintain the</p>

	<p>sodding to ensure plants with woody roots grow. It may also be appropriate to remove all vegetation and accumulated humus from the structure's wall heads and mortar the wall top in appropriate lime mortar to shed water off the top. The flaunching should allow all water to easily fall off the top and not to puddle.</p> <p>Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Trees</b></p> <p>Observation: Trees adjacent to the site are a risk to its built fabric.</p> <p>Action: Cut down and remove trees where roots are likely to be causing pressure to the retaining walls. Allow roots to rot. Treat root stumps with ecologically acceptable herbicide (make sure to seek expert advice on this matter). Any saplings within or close to the hatchery should also be removed.</p> <p>Timing: Short term</p>
Protected Structure	No
Record of Monuments and Places	No
Significance rating	Regional (category: technical)
Possible visitor experience actions	<p>The production of fish for stocking the lakes and later use as food and recreational fishing is a story that should be told through a well-designed interpretive panel complemented by an entry in an audio guide. Any panel should indicate the location of other parts of the fish hatchery (to the immediate east of Priestfield Lough). An accessway needs to be cleared to permit site visits. Furthermore, a simple fingerpost sign is required at the existing nearby trackway to indicate its location. Finally, as we are inviting visitors to look at the site, a safety assessment should be undertaken to understand the risks and plan appropriate measures which are sensitive to the site's heritage. For instance, this may include a well-designed handrail at the area of the hatchery closest to the main access point. The impact of the site's increased facilitation to visitors needs to be monitored and any necessary management actions taken.</p>
Category	Fish hatchery
Other notes	n/a
References	<i>Historic water system: Rossmore Park</i> (n/d)



**27. Rossmore  
Mausoleum and  
Graveyard**



View of the mausoleum with the stained-glass windows no longer present



Missing slates in the roof



Graveyard wall with missing stones



Early 20<sup>th</sup> century view of mausoleum from the Eason Photographic Collection (Source: <https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000558932>)

Coordinates	54°13'07.5"N 6°59'56.2"W
Townland	Tullyard
Description	'Freestanding mausoleum, built c.1876, located in south of Rossmore Park, now vacant. Square plan, with circular apse-end to north elevation, supporting two-stage tower. Pitched terracotta-shingle sprocketed roof with terracotta ridge tiles, timber panelled bargeboards and overhung apex to gable to south, supported on

	<p>curved timber brackets with moulded cornice and smooth rendered pediment. Skirt hipped roof against visible sections of north gable. Stone domical cap to tower, having carved fleury cross finial. Ashlar limestone walls to tower to north elevation, having gable-fronted projection with cross finial and pointed hood-moulding to window opening, extending as impost course around tower. Projection supported below by corbels. Coursed, squared and dressed stone wall to main block, with rusticated stepped plinth. Walls to east, south, and west elevations having recessed panels. Timber bellcote to apex of gable of south elevation supported by timber brackets with decorative carved bargeboard to gable. Pointed-arch window opening to tower, containing stone mullioned tripartite Y-tracery window. Pointed-arch door opening with moulded recessed door surround having engaged Doric-style pillars and pilasters. Carved double-leaf timber door with latticed openwork, recessed panels, and cast-iron strap hinges. Opening onto two limestone steps and limestone platform. Brick walls to interior, mosaic floor to central nave with double moulded brick pointed arcade to east and west, ornate cast-iron screens between piers. Located on height in former quarry, set in graveyard and surrounded by low stepped limestone plinth wall with pointed cast-iron railings. Cast-iron pedestrian gate, flanked by high coursed rubble limestone wall, to boundary wall to south-east.’ Taken from NIAH entry.</p> <p>The mausoleum was built by the 5<sup>th</sup> Lord Rossmore for his predecessor – Henry Cairns Westenra – who died at the Cavalry Barracks, Windsor, in 1874, aged 22, eight days after falling from his horse. His fall was witnessed by Queen Victoria (<i>The Northern Standard</i>, 1874).</p>
Condition	<p>Access to the site was not possible. Nonetheless, for a visual inspection outside of the railings several missing slates and at least one hole in the roof was visible. Apparently, a cause for this are golf balls from the adjacent golf course. The stained-glass windows are gone. Rain can now enter the structure through much of what was covered by the stained glass.</p> <p>The railings that form much of the site boundary appear to be in good condition.</p> <p>The adjacent high random rubble, limestone boundary wall was missing several stones. Much of the pointing was also gone. Towards the tops of the wall, repair work was evident. It was not clear but looking back over images it appears that inappropriate cement may have been used during those repair works. This require clarification.</p>
Suggested Actions	<p><b>Survey</b></p> <p>Observation: Out of date condition survey for a building that continues to degrade.</p> <p>Action: The most recent condition survey of the mausoleum is from early 2007 (Architectural Record and Research). Conservation work has taken place in the interim. Nonetheless, due to its continued degradation and the building’s national importance, a new survey needs to be carried as a matter of urgency. On the team should be a conservation engineer and grade 1 conservation architect. Following the report, a full programme of conservation and – where appropriate</p>

	<p>– restoration works should take place. A survey of the graveyard and boundaries is also necessary to ascertain its conservation needs. Timing: Immediately</p> <p><b>Access and interpretation</b> Observation: According to the 2007 condition report of the mausoleum (ibid), dereliction/lack of use and vandalism are the key reasons for the building’s degradation. Action: The mausoleum would benefit from greater observation by those interested in the Park’s heritage. Increased visitation would improve observation, thereby reducing opportunities for vandalism and increasing the likelihood of building issues being noticed. As per family wishes, access inside the mausoleum should not be permitted. Accordingly, well-designed interpretation should be located outside the site, in a location that would not detract from its setting. Such interpretation would increase levels of appreciation for the site. Timing: Long term</p>
Possible visitor experience actions	<p>The mausoleum is probably the most important site in the park. As a building, it is of national importance. Combined with the surrounding graveyard, it presents a wonderful opportunity to tell the story of the estate’s owners. If deemed appropriate and feasible, access to the public should be permitted to the building and surrounding graveyard. Although the site would benefit from an interpretation panel, such is the beauty of the site, more adventurous actions - appropriate to its heritage values - are welcome.</p>
Protected Structure	Yes 41401305
Record of Monuments and Places	No
Category	Mausoleum
Significance rating	<p>National. In the book <i>The Follies and Garden Buildings of Ireland</i> (1993), architect James Howley contends that the mausoleum at Castle Upton, Co. Antrim is probably the finest mausoleum in Ireland. Unfortunately, the mausoleum at Rossmore was not described in the book. We would contend that the Rossmore mausoleum would rival Castle Upton in architecturally and artistically significance. As such, the mausoleum at Rossmore should be considered as one of the finest mausoleums in Ireland. (Categories: architectural, artistic, historical, social)</p>
Other notes	Access to the building and graveyard was not possible.
References	<a href="https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/41401312/rossmore-mausoleum-tullyard-monaghan">https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/41401312/rossmore-mausoleum-tullyard-monaghan</a>


**28. Bridge**



Missing stones in arch and heavy vegetation growth is obvious



Missing and loose stones in arch. Failed pointing in spandrels.

	 <p data-bbox="539 824 1385 929">Bridge with wire fence in background to protect against falls by pedestrians into the stream below. There are no protective measures for the northern side of the bridge.</p>
Coordinates	54°13'14.5"N 7°00'02.2"W
Townland	Cornaglare/Tullyard/Kilnamaddy
Description	'Low masonry road bridge, constructed c.1876, to north of mausoleum, having round arch with peck-dressed voussoirs, one keystone damaged, springing from ribbon-dressed stone blocks. Coursed rubble limestone spandrel walls, with chicken wire fence to carriageway.' Taken from NIAH entry.
Condition	Poor condition with missing stones on both the north and south sides of the single arch. Other stones appear to be loosening. Vegetation with woody roots is growing from the bridge. Pointing has been lost throughout the bridge. This has allowed water ingress.
Suggested Actions	<p data-bbox="539 1328 1385 1364"><b>Structural issues</b></p> <p data-bbox="539 1364 1385 1435">Observation: Several stones from the arch have popped out. Others appear to be loosening.</p> <p data-bbox="539 1435 1385 1507">Action: Inspection required from a conservation engineer to diagnose the issues and propose solutions.</p> <p data-bbox="539 1507 1385 1543">Timing: Immediate</p> <p data-bbox="539 1579 1385 1615"><b>Parapet</b></p> <p data-bbox="539 1615 1385 1722">Observation: The current parapet on one side only is a simple wire fence. This is visually incongruous. Its robustness is also uncertain. This may be a safety issue. The other side of the bridge has no protective measures.</p> <p data-bbox="539 1722 1385 1830">Action: Replace existing wire fence with more appropriate, robust and reversible intervention. Replicate on the other side of the bridge. Handrails to be appropriate to setting and heritage values of bridge.</p> <p data-bbox="539 1830 1385 1865">Timing: Immediate</p> <p data-bbox="539 1901 1385 1937"><b>Woody vegetation</b></p> <p data-bbox="539 1937 1385 1966">Observation: Vegetation with woody roots likely to cause damage</p>

	<p>Action: Carefully remove the any plants with woody roots. Insert appropriate stone infills and point with appropriate lime mortar as required. Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Stone pointing</b> Observation: Failed/missing stone pointing is obvious Action: Replace failed pointing throughout the bridge and associated retaining walls with appropriate lime-based mortar. If possible and deemed to not be damaging to the structure, vegetation with non-woody roots (e.g. lichens, small ferns) should be retained. Timing: short term</p>
Possible visitor experience actions	None
Protected Structure	No
Record of Monuments and Places	No
Significance Rating	Regional (part of a set of three bridges) (categories: architectural, technical)
Category	Bridge
Other notes	Did not access under the bridge.
References	<a href="https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/41401311/rosmore-forest-park-cornaglare-monaghan">https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/41401311/rosmore-forest-park-cornaglare-monaghan</a>

<p><b>29. Bridge</b></p>	 <p>View of bridge</p>
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Parapet stones rest by the stream. Tree growing from retaining stone wall.



Much of the north parapet has been demolished





Southern parapet wall is covered in vegetation



Brick underside of arch

Coordinates	54°13'19.4"N 7°00'01.2"W
Townland	Corlattan/Kilnamaddy
Description	'Masonry road bridge, constructed c.1850, to east of Priestfield Lough, having round arch with rendered gauged-brick voussoirs and intrados, coursed rubble limestone spandrel walls and parapet walls.' Taken from NIAH entry.
Condition	Good overall condition. Little cracking observed. No sagging of the arch was noticeable. Concrete repairs evident throughout. Several parapet stones rest on the bank of the stream. Integrity of the brick needs inspection by a conservation engineer. Some pointing missing from between brickwork was observed. Ivy and other plants with

	woody roots growing from parapets. At least one tree was growing from associated riverbank retaining stone wall.
Suggested Actions	<p><b>Survey</b>  Observation: The structural integrity of the arch needs to be examined.  Action: Inspection required from a conservation engineer to diagnose any issues and propose solutions.  Timing: Immediate</p> <p><b>Woody vegetation</b>  Observation: Vegetation with woody roots likely to cause damage  Action: Carefully remove the any plants with woody roots. Insert appropriate stone infills and point with appropriate lime mortar as required.  Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Stone pointing</b>  Observation: Failed/missing stone pointing is obvious  Action: Replace failed pointing throughout the bridge and associated retaining walls with appropriate lime-based mortar. Similarly, replace cement pointing judged to be causing damage to the structure with appropriate lime-based mortar. If possible and deemed to not be damaging to the structure, vegetation with non-woody roots (e.g. lichens, small ferns) should be retained. Conduct lime mortar analysis to inform mortar specification.  Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Rebuilding parapet</b>  The northern parapet wall is seriously denuded. The southern parapet is covered in ivy and other vegetation.  Action: Rebuild the northern parapet wall back to its original height using traditional materials and methods. Where possible, reuse materials lying on the riverbank. The rebuild is to match coursing of remaining parapet.  Once ivy has been removed from the southern parapet, it is to be repaired to its original configuration using traditional materials and methods. Conduct lime mortar analysis to inform mortar specification.  Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Concrete pointing</b>  Observation: Considerable amount of concrete is obvious on the bridge.  Action: The immediate removal of the concrete may cause more damage than it solves. However, over time the analysis of this may change. Should that happen, the concrete pointing should be removed and replaced with appropriate lime-based mortar  Timing: Long term</p>
Possible visitor experience actions	None
Protected Structure	No
Record of Monuments and Places	No

Significance Rating	Regional (part of a set of three bridges) (categories: architectural, technical)
Category	Bridge
Other notes	Did not access under the bridge. Access to the southern side of the bridge was not possible due to vegetation cover.
References	<a href="https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/41401311/rossmore-forest-park-cornaglare-monaghan">https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/41401311/rossmore-forest-park-cornaglare-monaghan</a>

**30. Fish hatchery with bridge and well**



East side of bridge. No handrail present.



West side of bridge



Fish hatchery looking from bridge



Cast iron sluice gate



Well





Stone quay at Priestfield Lough

Coordinates	54°13'18.7"N 7°00'03.2"W
Townland	Cornaglare/Corlattan
Description	Likely mid-late 19 <sup>th</sup> century. Marked as fish hatchery in historic 25" map, the bridge, sluices and channels part of a larger complex associated with fish production for the estate's lakes (associated tank located to west of Bartle's Lough). Site not marked on 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map. The bridge is composed of round arch with brick voussoirs, coursed rubble limestone spandrel walls. Retaining walls for channels


	are limestone random rubble. Cast iron sluices. There is also a circular brick lined well.
Condition	<p>The bridge is in poor condition with missing brick voussoirs on both the east and west sides of the single arch. Other voussoirs appear to be loosening. Vegetation with woody roots is growing from the bridge. Pointing has been lost throughout the bridge. This has allowed water ingress. There is no parapet present for those walking over the bridge. Some of the masonry in the channels was loosening. Areas of pointing had also failed. Cast iron sluice gates are unable to move.</p> <p>Limestone quayside at Priestfield Lough appears to be in reasonable condition.</p> <p>With the exception of the trackway, the site area has a dense covering of rhododendron and other vegetation making inspection difficult.</p>
Suggested Actions	<p><b>Structural issues</b></p> <p>Observation: Several bricks from the bridge arch have popped out. Others appear to be loosening. The engineer should also examine any conservation needs in the adjacent channels and well.</p> <p>Action: Inspection required from a conservation engineer to diagnose the issues and propose solutions.</p> <p>Timing: Immediate</p> <p><b>Handrails</b></p> <p>Observation: The bridge has no parapet.</p> <p>Action: Install robust and reversible handrail on both sides of the bridge. Handrails to be appropriate to setting and heritage value of bridge.</p> <p>Timing: Immediate</p> <p><b>Woody vegetation</b></p> <p>Observation: Vegetation with woody roots likely to cause damage</p> <p>Action: Carefully remove the any plants with woody roots. Insert appropriate stone or brick infills and point with appropriate lime mortar as required.</p> <p>The rhododendron in the area needs to be controlled to permit adequate management of the site.</p> <p>Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Stone and brick pointing</b></p> <p>Observation: Replace failed pointing throughout the bridge, associated retaining walls and channels and quayside with appropriate lime-based mortar. If possible and deemed to not be damaging to the structure, vegetation with non-woody roots (e.g. lichens, small ferns) should be retained. Conduct lime mortar analysis to inform mortar specification.</p> <p>Timing: Short term</p>
Possible visitor experience actions	The production of fish as food for the estate and a recreational activity is a story that should be told through a well-designed interpretive panel complemented by an entry in an audio guide. Any panel should indicate the location of other parts of the fish hatchery (i.e. the tank to the west of Bartle's Lough).
Protected Structure	No
Record of Monuments and Places	No

Significance Rating	Regional (category: technical)
Category	Bridge and fish hatchery
Other notes	Access to much of this site was very difficult, especially the well. The underside of the bridge was not inspected.
References	<i>Historic water system: Rossmore Park (n/d)</i>

<p><b>31. Bridge</b></p>	
	<p>General view of bridge</p>  <p>View of underside of arch</p>
<p>Coordinates</p>	<p>54°13'22.1"N 6°59'56.3"W</p>
<p>Townland</p>	<p>Corlattan/Kilnamaddy</p>
<p>Description</p>	<p>'Rubble masonry footbridge, built c.1800, to south-west of walled garden, with rubble limestone voussoirs to round arch, coursed</p>

	<p>rubble limestone spandrel walls, and recent unhewn timber handrail to carriageway.’ Taken from NIAH entry.</p>
Condition	<p>Possibly poor. Engineer survey is required to ascertain. There is a heavy vegetation growth throughout this small bridge. Pointing has been lost throughout the bridge. This has allowed water ingress. Water may also be penetrating past the timber walkway into the arch.</p>
Suggested Actions	<p><b>Structural issues</b>  Observation: Heavy vegetation growth and loss of pointing possibly loosening stonework.  Action: Inspection required from a conservation engineer to diagnose the issues and propose solutions.  Timing: Immediate</p> <p><b>Vegetation</b>  Observation: Excessive vegetation likely to cause damage  Action: Carefully remove vegetation likely to be causing damage and/or obscuring inspection. Insert appropriate stone infills and point with appropriate lime mortar as required.  Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Stone pointing and grouting</b>  Observation: Replace failed pointing throughout the bridge with appropriate lime-based mortar. Conduct lime mortar analysis to inform mortar specification. Grouting of the structure may also be required if deemed so by conservation engineer.  Timing: Short term</p>
Possible visitor experience actions	<p>This is probably the most attractive bridge in the park. Accordingly, it would be a suitable place to have a well-designed interpretive panel located in a discrete location providing information on the park’s bridges. The panel could address how they were constructed and why. It could also provide a map locating of all the park’s historic bridges.</p>
Protected Structure	No
Record of Monuments and Places	No
Significance Rating	Regional (part of a set of three bridges) (category: architectural, technical)
Category	Bridge
Other notes	Did not fully access under the bridge.
References	<a href="https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/41401311/rossmore-forest-park-cornaglare-monaghan">https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/41401311/rossmore-forest-park-cornaglare-monaghan</a>




<p><b>32. 1862 Giant Redwood memorial</b></p>	
<p>Coordinates</p>	<p>54°13'15.5"N, 7°00'02.9"W</p>
<p>Townland</p>	<p>Cornaglare</p>
<p>Description</p>	<p>Stone marker commemorating the 1862 planting of a Giant Redwood (Sequoia) tree by Lord Rossmore. Simple granite pillar with rough pyramidal top, positioned on stone plinth. Incised carved letters on one face only. The redwood still survives and can be seen behind the marker in the photo above. At 44m high, it is the tallest tree in Monaghan (Fennell, 2013). Trees had become a competitive sport for prominent landowners in 19<sup>th</sup> century Ireland. Giant Redwoods were the most prized (ibid).</p>
<p>Condition</p>	<p>Very good condition. Although some of the letters are difficult to read, overall, the marker is in very good condition.</p>
<p>Suggested Actions</p>	<p><b>Cleaning</b> Observation: Managing vegetation on the memorial Action: If appropriated treated, granite memorials can have a long lifespan with little maintenance required (Snow, 2013). There may be the temptation to remove the green algae on the stone. This should not be done. Inappropriate cleaning may damage the stone with little gain, as the green algae will likely soon return. Consequently, the only cleaning permitted on the marker should be the careful removal of moss or other excess vegetation with a stiff natural bristle or nylon brush (not wire) or wooden spatula. Warm water may be used with the bristle brush if necessary. If gaps are discovered in the pointing between the column and plinth, repoint with appropriate lime-based</p>

	<p>mortar. Any new vegetation growth (e.g. saplings, brambles) in immediate vicinity of the monument which could obscure or damage the it should be carefully removed. Timing: Medium term</p> <p><b>Legal Protections</b> Observation: The redwood behind the memorial is of sufficient heritage significance to receive protection as a tree of special amenity value. Action: Include the redwood on the list of trees of special amenity value in the next County Development Plan. Timing: Medium term</p>
Possible visitor experience actions	The 1862 Redwood memorial together with the nearby Cray and Mafeey tree markers and Brigid Westenra marker further away have the potential to give visitors insight into the park's social history. This could be done through a well-designed interpretive panel in a discrete location close to the redwood. The panel would provide information and show the location of the Cray, Mafeey and Brigid Westenra stones. The marker in Corlattan for the Giant Redwood should also be mentioned.
Protected Structure	No
Record of Monuments and Places	No
Significance Rating	Local for marker. Regional for redwood (category: natural).
Category	Memorial
Other notes	n/a
References	Fennell, A. (2013) <i>Heritage Trees of Ireland</i> , The Collins Press

33. Cray and Mafeey tree markers



	
Coordinates	54°13'16.0"N 7°00'08.8"W
Townland	Cornaglare
Description	Two simple stone markers: 'Jack Mafeey Tree 1947' and 'David Cray's Tree 1947'. Limestone, rectangular cut slabs with writing on one face. According to a person who had worked for several decades at Rossmore, both Mafeey and Cray were ambassadors.
Condition	Good condition. Moss growth on both with sapling and brambles visible in immediate vicinity of Jack Mafeey stone.
Suggested Actions	<p><b>Cleaning</b></p> <p>Observation: Managing vegetation on the memorials</p> <p>Action: There may be the temptation to totally clean both stones. This should not be done. Inappropriate cleaning may damage the stone with little long-term gain. Consequently, the only cleaning permitted on both markers should be the careful removal of moss or other excess vegetation with a stiff natural bristle or nylon brush (not wire) or wooden spatula. Warm water may be used with the bristle brush if necessary.</p> <p>Timing: Medium term</p>

	<p><b>Vegetation with woody roots</b>  Observation: Over the long-term, the sapling and brambles in the immediate vicinity of the Jack Mafeey stone have the potential to dislodge it.  Action: Carefully weed out the sapling and brambles. The earlier this is done, the better. Monitor for regrowth.  Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Additional research</b>  No information on Jack Mafeey or David Cray was easily available.  Action: Conduct research on Jack Mafeey or David Cray.  Timing: Long term</p>
Possible visitor experience actions	The 1862 Redwood memorial together with the nearby Cray and Mafeey tree markers, other redwood marker and Brigid Westenra tree marker have the potential to give visitors insight into the park's social history. This could be done through a well-designed interpretive panel in an appropriate location close to the redwood. The panel would provide information and show the location of the Cray and Mafeey stones. The location of Brigid Westenra stone and other redwood marker would also be shown.
Protected Structure	No
Record of Monuments and Places	No
Significance Rating	Local
Category	Memorial
Other notes	n/a
References	n/a

<p><b>34. Icehouse</b></p>	 <p>Undulating landscape is likely manmade. Possible location of icehouse.</p>
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Coordinates	54°13'17.3"N 7°00'13.5"W (indicative, exact location unknown)
Townland	Cornaglare
Description	<p>No visible trace. Possible site indicated by undulations in the landscape. According to the Friends of Rossmore Group, the subterranean remains of the icehouse still exist.</p> <p>An icehouse was quite common at landed estates through the Victorian period in Ireland. Generally, they were handmade, subterranean in nature and close to a natural water source, such as the example at Rossmore Park, beside Priestfield Lough. The primary function of an icehouse was to provide a place where refrigeration of perishable foods and ice could be held before electricity and modern refrigeration. The interior of these structures would have been lined with straw, reeds or in some cases sawdust to provide extra insulation for the ice and food. Many had a release gully at the base to allow any melted ice to escape. The use of icehouses started to decline from the 1850s onwards, when modern refrigeration methods slowly started to appear.</p>
Condition	Destroyed. Possible subterranean remains exist.
Suggested Actions	<p><b>Location</b>  Observation: Exact location unknown. This creates issues with management.  Action: Ascertain location and appraise conservation needs.  Timing: Long term</p>
Possible visitor experience actions	Mention presence of the icehouse in interpretation elsewhere concerning domestic life at Rossmore Castle.
Protected Structure	No
Record of Monuments and Places	No
Significance Rating	Local
Category	Icehouse
Other notes	Could not locate
References	n/a

**35. Boathouse**



View of boathouse looking out into Priestfield Lough. Vertical timber visible in the lake is probably associated with the Boat House.



View of boathouse stone foundations/footings.

Coordinates

54°13'20.4"N 7°00'08.8"W

Townland

Corlattan

Description

Boathouses were a common feature of landed estates in Victorian Ireland. The structure was built as an access point to the lake and as a storage for the boats of the estate. Situated in an excavated roughly squared U-shape cut at the shore of Priestfield Lough are the low random rubble limestone remains of the boathouse. Visible nearby in the lake is one vertical timber. It is possible that the boathouse was mostly of timber construction. It may have looked similar to the boathouse in Castle Leslie. As at Castle

	Leslie, the boathouse at Priestfield Lough provided direct access to the lake.
Condition	Very poor. Only low random rubble limestone footings remain of the boathouse. There is one vertical timber visible in the lake.
Suggested Actions	<b>Consolidation of remains</b> Observation: Remaining stonework being disturbed by tree growth. Action: Remove semi mature trees that are pushing out the remaining walls. Reset loose stones and bind with appropriate lime-based mortar. Growth of saplings on or near the wall remains should be monitored and any saplings removed as required. Timing: Medium term
Possible visitor experience actions	Site would suit a well-designed and discretely located interpretive panel focusing on the boathouse and its function as a place where the estate's family could row out onto the lake and fish.
Protected Structure	No
Record of Monuments and Places	No
Significance Rating	Local
Category	Boathouse
Other notes	Timber in lake was not examined.
References	n/a

### 36. Walled garden gates



Looking into the walled garden





The railings and gate differ significantly



The gates are missing various decorative elements. The latch is also partially missing. Later steel additions have been added at the base.



Some of the broken and missing elements of the gate

Coordinates

54°13'25.4"N 6°59'54.2"W

Townland	Corlattan
Description	Walled garden built c.1830. 'Gateway broken through c.1860. Cut limestone piers to centre of south elevation either side of cast-iron vehicular gate, flanked by cast-iron railings, with arrow-head finials, on low plinth, rising to meet full height of garden wall... The symmetrical gated entrance to the south was intended to be appreciated approaching from the Yew Walk, which was planted south of the garden in the mid-nineteenth century, and it is likely the gated entrance may also date from this time.' Taken from NIAH entry. According to a worker on the site for several decades the current gates are from Dartree Estate. In front of the gates was a font that was demolished and filled in in the later half of the 20 <sup>th</sup> century.
Condition	Overall, the cast iron gates are in good condition. No leaning of the gates was noticeable. Some broken/missing decorative ironwork was apparent. Corrosion was also noticeable on some of the bars. The stone pillars and walls for the railings appear to be in overall good condition. However, there was inappropriate concrete pointing and repairs in the piers and bases for the railings. This may be leading to water ingress and stone damage. Some lime staining was noticeable.
Suggested Actions	<p><b>Maintenance and painting</b></p> <p>Observation: Regular need to paint and inspect</p> <p>Action: Repaint at least once every five years. Inspect annually. During the inspection, clean the iron with a cloth and water (use a bristle brush if needed for soiling). Paint with two coats of appropriate oil-based paint.</p> <p>Where localised corrosion has set in, remove loose material with scraper, clean to a bright finish and feather the edges of the old paint with abrasive paper. Larger areas of corrosion may require dry abrasive cleaning or chemical stripping (please note: flame cleaning is not appropriate). Treat derusted iron with rust neutralising inhibitor. Then paint area with 1-2 coats of zinc-phosphate primer, two layers of undercoat and two layers of topcoats.</p> <p>Final colour(s) used should match original paint scheme.</p> <p>Grease the pivot points to reduce wear.</p> <p>Keep ground pivot free of dirt.</p> <p>Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Repairs to cast iron</b></p> <p>Observation: Areas of cast iron are in need of repair.</p> <p>Action: Repair cracks less than 6mm thick using cold stitching. Pitting in rusted cast iron can be repaired using epoxy car-body filler. Clean metal, apply rust inhibitor, apply epoxy filler, shape and rub down with abrasive paper to match contour. Then prime and paint to match surrounding.</p> <p>For simple breaks in cast iron and the metal in reasonable condition, in situ arc-welding repair is usually possible. Only experienced blacksmith or welding service should undertake this. The weld should be continuous, ground flat, primed and painted.</p> <p>Timing: Short term</p>

	<p><b>Replacing missing elements</b>  Observation: Missing or heavily corroded cast and wrought ironwork  Action: Missing and heavily corroded elements will need to be replaced. This is particularly important for any elements required for the structure's weathering. Accordingly, replacements will have to be ordered to match what would have been there originally. Budget permitting, decorative features that have been lost should also be replaced.  Timing: Short term for pieces necessary for weathering of structure. Long term for purely decorative features</p> <p><b>Use of cement</b>  Observation: Extensive cement has been used in the stone piers and bases for the railings. This is likely to be causing damage to the wall.  Action: Replace cement pointing with appropriate lime mortar. Conduct lime mortar analysis to inform mortar specification.  Timing: Medium term</p>
Possible visitor experience actions	Refer to story of the gate as part of the wider interpretation concerning the walled garden and Yew Walk. Refer to this gate in the interpretation panel at the northwest gate (i.e. main gate).
Protected Structure	No
Record of Monuments and Places	No
Significance Rating	Regional (categories: architectural, technical)
Category	Gates/Railings
Other notes	It was not possible to inspect the side of the railings and gates facing the interior of the walled garden.
References	<a href="https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/41401309/rossmore-forest-park-monaghan">https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/41401309/rossmore-forest-park-monaghan</a>

<p><b>37. Walled garden</b></p>	 <p>View across southeast wall with main entrance viewable</p>
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Southeast wall with main entrance. Several missing stones in the wall are visible.



Enclosure wall with missing stones, missing pointing and stretches of extensive ivy growth



Interior of walled garden



Side entrance into the garden



Large crack visible on two storey, pitched roof structure. Concrete pointing and capping also visible on the garden wall.



Image from OS map (surveyed 1858, published 1864) shows a hot house and conservatory. It also gives an idea of the possible configuration of planting within the garden (Source: *Historic water system: Rossmore Park*, n/d).

Coordinates

54°13'26.6"N 6°59'55.1"W

Townland

Corlattan

Description

'Rectangular-plan walled garden, built c.1830, to south of site of Rossmore Castle. Coursed rubble limestone walls with cut limestone coping, and enlarged rubble quoins. Gateway broken through c.1860. Cut limestone piers to centre of south elevation either side of cast-iron vehicular gate, flanked by cast-iron railings, with arrow-head finials, on low plinth, rising to meet full height of garden wall. Two-bay two-storey outbuilding to south-west external corner of garden, having pitched slate roof, brick chimneystack, and brick eaves course, coursed rubble limestone walls with lightly dressed quoins, gauged brick openings, with stone sills and timber-battened fittings. Lean-to

	<p>roofed late twentieth-century structure to exterior of south-east corner. Interior of walled garden laid out in quadrants, with flight of six steps on central axis of garden, minimal hedges and topiary planted flanking axes.</p> <p>The walled garden is likely to have been built in 1827, at the same time as the house. The house was extended in 1858 by Lanyon and Lynn and the walled garden retained its form with the addition of an associated outbuilding. The symmetrical gated entrance to the south was intended to be appreciated approaching from the Yew Walk, which was planted south of the garden in the mid-nineteenth century, and it is likely the gated entrance may also date from this time. During the 1940s Rossmore Park became unoccupied, it was purchased, in the late twentieth century, by Coillte, who maintain the grounds and walled garden. Walled gardens were an integral part of the demesne landscape, providing a sheltered environment, often faced with brick for heat retention, allowing the cultivation of a wide variety of kitchen ingredients for the house as well as a formal walk for residents.’ Taken from NIAH survey.</p> <p>According to a worker on the site for several decades the current gates are from Dartree Estate. In front of the gates was a font that was demolished and filled in in the later half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The presence of a hot house and conservatory would have allowed the Westenra’s gardeners to grow non-native plants that would otherwise not be able to grow in the local climate.</p>
Condition	<p>Little of the plant varieties that once grew in the garden still exist now.</p> <p>The random rubble limestone enclosure wall is in overall good condition. However, missing stones, failed pointing and concentrations of ivy growth were observed.</p> <p>Throughout the surveyed enclosure wall, associated buildings and other low walling, a high amount of concrete pointing was observed. The extensive use of cement has been to both the advantage and detriment of the walls. Although in the short term it had halted further degradation and vegetation growth, over time, it is leading to cracking caused by the cement being harder than the stone. This in turn is providing ledges for vegetation growth and access points for water. Water is also being retained within the wall. Concrete capping slabs were also observed.</p> <p>At the two storey, pitched roof structure a large crack was observed. However, the slate roof appeared in good condition.</p>
Suggested Actions	<p><b>Survey</b></p> <p>Observation: A complete structural survey by a conservation engineer is to be carried out. As part of the survey, the large crack noticed in the two-storey pitched roof structure should be inspected.</p> <p>Action: Inspection required from a conservation engineer to diagnose any issues and propose solutions.</p> <p>Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Woody vegetation</b></p> <p>Observation: Vegetation with woody roots likely to cause damage.</p>



	<p>Action: Carefully remove the any plants with woody roots. Insert appropriate stone infills and point with appropriate lime mortar as required. Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Stone pointing</b> Observation: Failed/missing stone pointing is obvious. Action: Replace failed pointing throughout the bridge and associated retaining walls with appropriate lime-based mortar. Similarly, replace cement pointing judged to be causing damage to the structure with appropriate lime-based mortar. If possible and deemed to not be damaging to the structure, vegetation with non-woody roots (e.g. lichens, small ferns) should be retained. Conduct lime mortar analysis to inform mortar specification. Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Missing stones</b> Observation: In certain locations walls are missing stones Action: Infill sections of missing stonework with matching. Take care to match existing coursing. Samples of existing mortar should be analysed to guide replacement mortar. Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Concrete slab capping</b> Observation: The walls are capped with concrete slabs. Action: Remove concrete capping and replace with flat capping slabs of natural stone. Samples of existing mortar should be analysed to guide replacement mortar. Timing: Medium term</p>
Possible visitor experience actions	<p>In the short term, the site would benefit from a well-designed and discrete interpretive panel providing information on the form and functions of the walled garden. However, given its strong presence in the landscape, something more adventurous should be conducted in the long term.</p> <p>Accordingly, an interesting heritage project would be to instigate a programme of historical and archaeobotanical research to discover what the garden once looked like and what was planted within its walls. The process of data collection could be developed into a community archaeology/research programme. Following this, a restoration programme could be carried out.</p>
Protected Structure	No
Record of Monuments and Places	No
Significance Rating	Regional (categories: architectural, technical)
Category	Walled garden
Other notes	Unable to access interior of garden or associated buildings.
References	<a href="https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/41401309/rossmore-forest-park-monaghan">https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/41401309/rossmore-forest-park-monaghan</a>

**38. Yew Walk**



Ivy growth on the Yew



The Yew are in competition with trees planted by the Westenras and the state. There are also trees that have naturally germinated close to the Yew.

Coordinates

54°13'15.9"N 6°59'44.9"W

Townland

Kilnamaddy/Corlattan

Description

Planted mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. Likely planted at same time as the main entrance to the walled garden was constructed. The entrance was situated to be appreciated by approaching from the Yew avenue. The avenue extends from the walled garden south east for a distance of 460m. This is one of, if not the longest Yew Avenue in Ireland. There are wet ditches bounding a large number of the yews.

Condition

Yews can be incredibly long lived. They can have lifespans of up to 3,000 years. The yews in Rossmore are not yet two centuries old.

	<p>Many of the trees have ivy growing on top of them. Ivy can act as a sail that breaks their branches. There also in direct competition with other trees nearby. Most of these neighbouring trees were planted by the Westensras or the state. There are also trees that have naturally germinated close to the Yew. In addition, to competing for nutrients and space, neighbouring trees may also cause direct damage Yews if they were to fall on them. However, although there is the risk of neighbouring trees falling onto Yew, the wholesale removal of trees may expose the Yew to greater wind forces.</p>
Suggested Actions	<p><b>Arborist survey</b>  Observation: Although Yews may be very long lived, the health of the Yews at Rossmore needs to be monitored to guide their management.  Action: Arborist with experience in ancient trees to survey the Yews every five years and advise on management.  Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Ivy growing on the Yew trees</b>  Observation: Ivy can act as a sail that breaks the branches of the Yew trees. Although ivy does have habitat value, especially during winter, the presence of ivy on the yews in Rossmore is detrimental to the survival of the yews.  Action: Control ivy growth on the Yew trees. Be careful not to damage Yew branches. Any work is to be done from September to February.  Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Neighbouring trees</b>  Observation: Neighbouring non-Yew trees competing for nutrients and space with the Yew. May also be a direct risk of collapse onto Yew.  Action: Obtain advice from an arborist with experience in ancient trees on the strategic removal of neighbouring trees judged to be negatively impacting onto the Yew.  Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Growth management</b>  Observation: Yews often spread out. Limbs that touch the ground may take root. This aids stability.  Action: The best policy is non-intervention with as little pruning as possible (Ball, 2014). Only prune to abate structural defects or control branches seriously impinging on the walkway. This should only be done by a tree surgeon with experience managing ancient trees. No trees are to be pollarded, lopped or topped.  Timing: Medium term</p> <p><b>Compaction</b>  Observation: Yews have shallow roots. The presence of a path and compaction caused by visitors may cause damage. Climbing may also cause damage.</p>

	<p>Action: Ensure the current pathway does not encroach further on the Yews. The area under the trees should not be disturbed. It may be advisable to erect signage at the start/endpoints of the Yew walk informing visitors to not climb on the trees and the reason why. Timing: Medium term</p> <p><b>Legal Protections</b> Observation: The Yew Walk is of sufficient heritage significance to receive protection as trees of special amenity value. Action: Include all Yews in the Yew walk on the list of trees of special amenity value in the next County Development Plan. Timing: Medium term</p> <p><b>Replacements as needed</b> Observation: Although long living, trees may die due to disease or fall during high winds. Action: Well before disease takes hold or a tree is blown over by wind, take cuttings from each tree on the walk, label them appropriately and plant in a suitable location as a back-up stock. This new tree could then take the place of its parent should it die. Timing: Long term</p>
Possible visitor experience actions	The site would benefit from well designed and discretely located interpretive signage giving information about the trees, the meanings ascribed to Yew and use of avenues even in the more natural parkland garden design movement of the 19 <sup>th</sup> century. The panel should also contain information telling people to not climb on the trees or break off any branches.
Protected Structure	No
Record of Monuments and Places	No
Significance Rating	National. The avenue is one of, if not the longest Yew Avenue in Ireland. (category: natural)
Listed on County Development Plan as trees of special amenity value	No
Category	Tree avenue
Other notes	n/a
References	<a href="https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/41401309/rossmore-forest-park-monaghan">https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/41401309/rossmore-forest-park-monaghan</a>

39. Hydraulic ram/dam



Weir just upstream from the dam. Vegetation growth and water erosion visible on retaining walls



Area behind the weir



Dam with dislodged ashlar stones




View of dam and area for ram taken from mill race



Iron brackets for piping



Ram drum is still present. Simple gate still survives. Area contains a large amount of debris.

	
	Severe degradation of walling caused by water erosion
Coordinates	54°13'24.2"N 6°59'44.4"W
Townland	Kilnamaddy/Corlattan
Description	<p>As the the 19<sup>th</sup> century progressed, so did the water needs of big houses such as Rossmore Castle. In order to provide sufficient water for baths, laundries and toilets, a larger scale intervention was needed. In the case of Rossmore Castle, the answer was a hydraulic dam and ram (Carson, 2009).</p> <p>'Hydraulic dam and ram, constructed c.1880. No longer in use. Coursed rubble and cut limestone walls to channel to south of concrete, hemispherical dam wall, and to walls of channel leading to drop to lower level of river to east. Coursed rubble limestone walls to north-east containing square-headed opening with wrought-iron gate in abutment wall. Associated hydraulic ram (not accessible at time of survey) believed to be contained within abutment wall. Rubble stone steps to lower level of river from north-east bank. Series of former sluice gates from west and south-west. Coursed rubble sluice wall, some with socket for timber sluice gate, some with remains of wrought-iron sluice gate fixings. Dam located to south-east of remains of Rossmore Castle and walled garden, on bend of river flowing from west to north.</p> <p>The hydraulic dam and ram are located to the east of the remains of Rossmore Castle and are marked on the 1908 Ordnance Survey map as 'Hydraulic Ram'. Rossmore Park, now in the ownership of Coillte, is arguably one of the most interesting demesne complexes in the county of Monaghan. The demesne also contains gates and lodges, a mausoleum, bridges, walled garden, and wells. In addition, the park has the remains of some pioneering engineering features, many named on the 1908 map, including a pumping works, a gas works, and of course this hydraulic dam and ram, used for generating</p>



	<p>electricity and pumping water. A hydraulic ram is a cyclic hydro-powered water pump that works by building up pressure within a cylinder to force water out in smaller, faster, jets than it entered. The ram was typically used to lift water uphill. The hydraulic ram in the grounds of Rossmore Park was used to pump water to Rossmore Castle, which is located on a height to the north-west of this point of the river. The dam, ram, and sluice gates, illustrate the advanced engineering works undertaken at Rossmore Park in the late nineteenth century, particularly regarding the manipulation of water courses.'</p> <p>Taken from NIAH entry.</p>
Condition	<p>During the 19<sup>th</sup> century hydraulic rams were installed as a cheap means of ensuring a pumped water supply in large country houses (Rynne, 2006). When electrical driven pumps became common, the use of hydraulic pumps declined.</p> <p>The remains of the dam/ram complex appear to be on overall good condition. The weir still functions. The riverbanks have been canalised. Most of this is still in reasonable condition. However, pointing has failed throughout. Vegetation growth was visible along the quays. There are also areas of collapse, this is likely caused by a combination of water and tree roots pushing the stones out into the stream. The dam and associated walls have had considerable concrete repairs. Some movement of ashlar stones in the dam is visible. One of the walls before the ram drum has been severely undermined by water erosion. A section of the mill race connecting with the dam is also missing. Finally, a pipe which was carried on brackets along the quay is no longer present..</p>
Suggested Actions	<p><b>Survey</b>  Observation: The presence of substantial flow of water requires an appropriate survey by a conservation engineer.  Action: Conservation engineer to examine all walling, including the dam and ascertain the level of damage being done by water and vegetation. Appropriate repair and water control measures are then to be specified.  Timing: Immediate</p> <p><b>Ram drum</b>  Observation: Rare Ram drum still in situ and requires survey from conservation engineer.  Action: Conservation engineer to survey ram drum and immediate surroundings to provide advice on future conservation. A key question to be answered is if the ram drum can be conserved on site or is best moved to a location such as Monaghan County Museum or the proposed new visitor/interpretive centre for the park.  Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Vegetation</b>  Observation: Risk of vegetation with woody roots causing damage.  Action: Carefully remove any plants with woody roots (i.e. ivy, saplings) either on or close to the structure that is currently causing or likely to cause damage. To remove large plants cut them off at the roots. To</p>

	<p>kill the roots, use a “cut-and-paint” technique: where the plant is cut and the cut surface is then painted with an appropriate herbicide. Fill resulting gaps in the wall as needed with appropriate with appropriate mortar. Where deemed possible and appropriate, retain any vegetation that does not have woody roots. Ensure that site is not overwhelmed by vegetation. Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Managing debris obstructing access</b> Observation: Excessive debris on or close to the dam and ram making surveying and repair works difficult. Action: Any debris impeding inspection of ram and dam should be removed, with hand tools if necessary. This will also facilitate maintenance. Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Repointing</b> Observation: Pointing required. Action: Much of the pointing in various walls is now missing or failing. This allows water into the structure and provides locations for vegetation growth. Retain sound historic pointing. Where pointing has failed, rake out. Retain any pinning stones for later use. Remove vegetation matter and decayed mortar. Samples of decayed mortar should be analysed to guide replacement mortar. Repoint with lime mortar mix to match appearance of original. Use pinning stones and suitable replacement stones as required. Where existing concrete pointing is judged by a conservation engineer to be only causing no/minimal damage to the wall or its removal will cause more damage than it would solve, it should be retained. Only remove concrete pointing has been judged to be causing significant damage. Repoint with appropriate lime-based mortar. Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Rebuilding gaps in the masonry along the quays</b> Observation: Missing masonry leading to a weakened quay wall and water ingress which in turn pushes out more stonework. Action: Any gap should be filled with stonework preferably recovered from the site. Single fallen stones should also be reinserted. All stonework should be set in an appropriate lime mortar. Any localised rebuilding should be done to match known historic coursing and coping. Area behind the wall should be infilled with material to match surrounding. Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Rebuilding gaps in the masonry in freestanding walls</b> Observation: Missing masonry leading to a weakened freestanding walls and water ingress which in turn pushes out more stonework. Action: Any gap should be filled with stonework preferably recovered from the site. Single fallen stones should also be reinserted. All stonework should be set in an appropriate lime mortar. Any localised rebuilding should be done to match known historic coursing and coping.</p>
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	<p>Subject to an inspection by a conservation engineer, grouting of sections of wall may be warranted. Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Maintenance and painting of brackets and gate</b> Observation: Regular need to paint and inspect gate and brackets Action: Repaint at least once every five years. Inspect annually. During the inspection, clean the iron with a cloth and water (use a bristle brush if needed for soiling). Paint with two coats of appropriate oil-based paint. Where localised corrosion has set in, remove loose material with scraper, clean to a bright finish and feather the edges of the old paint with abrasive paper. Larger areas of corrosion may require dry abrasive cleaning or chemical stripping (please note: flame cleaning is not appropriate). Treat derusted iron with rust neutralising inhibitor. Then paint area with 1-2 coats of zinc-phosphate primer, two layers of undercoat and two layers of topcoats. If known, final colour(s) used should match original paint scheme. Otherwise, another historically appropriate colour should be used. Grease the pivot points of the gate to reduce wear. Ensure brackets are securely fitted to quay walling. Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Legal Protections</b> Observation: The hydroelectricity and water pumping scheme at Rossmore exhibits more than enough technical sophistication to warrant the listing of all its main elements (dam/ram, engine house, tank) as a protected structure Action: Include the dam/ram as a protected structure in the next County Development Plan. Timing: Medium term</p>
Possible visitor experience actions	<p>The dam/ram is a key aspect of the wider hydroelectric and water supply scheme in the park. Water was taken from this area and piped to a tank before falling at speed to the Engine House where electricity was generated and DC current wired to the castle. Given the growing importance of renewable energy, this early scheme has great education potential to teach people about hydroelectric power and electricity generation in general. At the very least a well-designed interpretive panel and audio track should be considered focusing on how hydroelectricity was used to power the castle. However, given the significance of the hydroelectric scheme as a whole and the societal shift being made to a net zero economy, something more interesting and dynamic should be considered. The role of the ram in supplying water to the castle should also be interpreted using an interpretive panel and audio track.</p>
Protected Structure	No
Record of Monuments and Places	No
Significance Rating	Regional (categories: architectural, technical)
Category	Hydraulic dam and ram

Other notes	n/a
References	<a href="https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/41401310/rossmore-forest-park-monaghan">https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/41401310/rossmore-forest-park-monaghan</a>

**40. Mill race**



The beginnings of the mill race. Photo taken from dam.  
Taken from dam, beginning of mill race. Section missing that connected with stream.



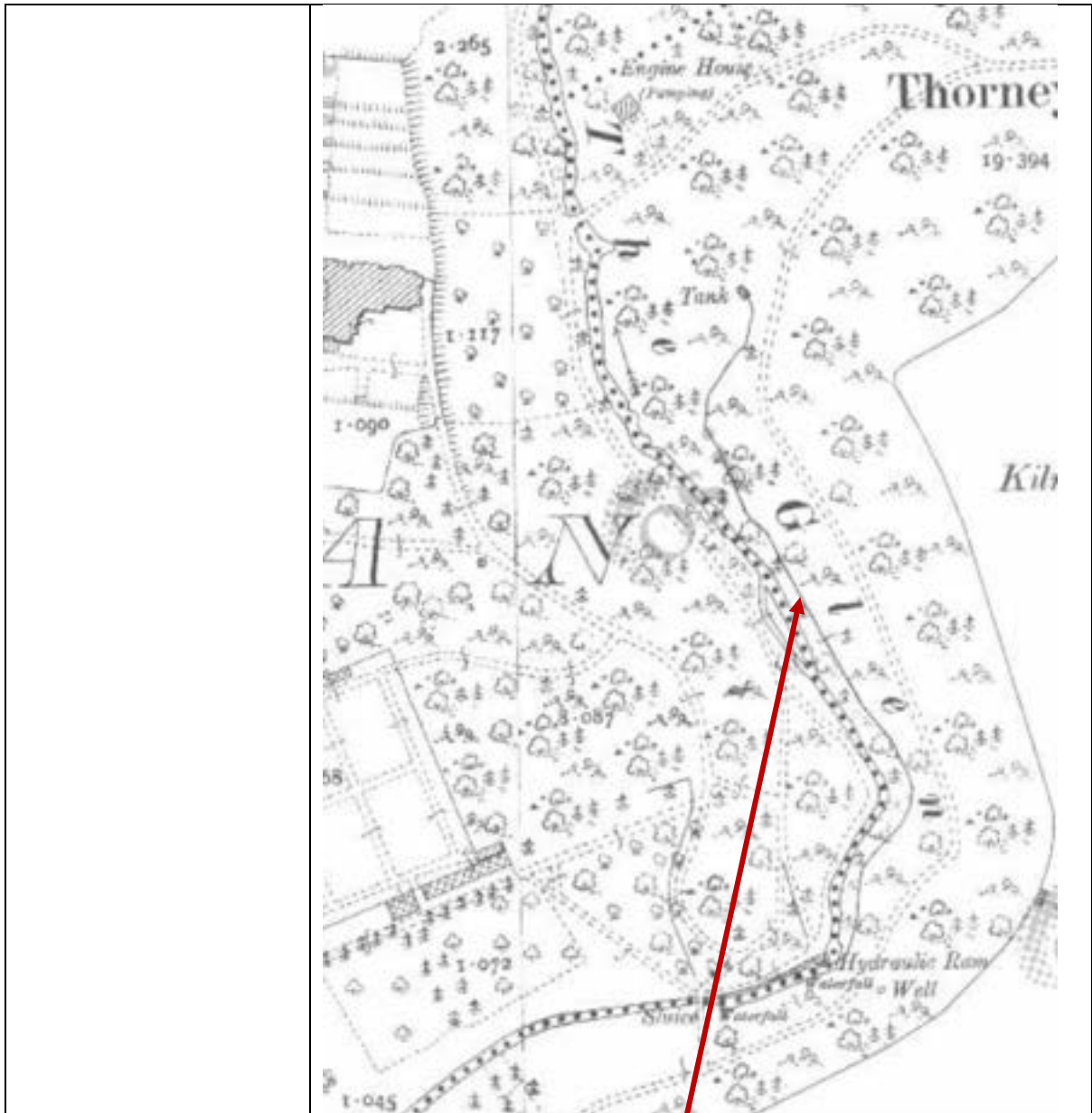
Length of mill race, falling gently towards the tank



Inside the mill race are rendered walls



Roughly half way along the mill race is this structure. A previous long-term worker on the site speculated that it could have been the location of another ram associated with pumping water.



Route of water to tank from the area of the hydraulic ram/dam along the mill race as indicated by a line in Historic 25" OS map. Engine House to northwest of tank.

Coordinates	54°13'36.0"N 6°59'41.3"W Check!
Townland	Kilnamaddy
Description	Simple, uncovered mill race with random rubble walls and base, rendered in what looks like early cement. Begins at the dam/ram before falling gently, following the contours of the hill to the tank.
Condition	Varied. The area closest to the dam has been lost. Perhaps this was of masonry construction. However, it may also have been a pipe connecting water at the dam to the mill race. A large section leading to the tank is also missing. Aside from these sections, the vast majority of the mill race is present. Although it was difficult to ascertain the condition of these intact sections, due to areas being difficult to access and the sheer accumulation of debris in the race, most of the walls appear intact. There were areas where the render

	<p>failed. This showed that the race was of random rubble masonry construction. The exposed areas were degrading.</p>
Suggested Actions	<p><b>Survey</b>  Observation: The interaction between historic render and stonework requires attention by a conservation engineer. Due to access issues, only small amount of the mill race was surveyed.  Action: A full survey of the structure by a conservation engineer is required to assess condition and specify a full programme of appropriate repairs.  Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Managing debris and vegetation obstructing access</b>  Observation: Excessive vegetation and debris on or close to the mill race making surveying and repair works difficult.  Action: Any debris or plant growth impeding inspection of the mill race should be removed, with hand tools if necessary. This will also facilitate maintenance.  If cleaning of render is eventually deemed necessary, the only cleaning permitted on the marker should be the careful removal of moss or other excess vegetation with a stiff natural bristle or nylon brush (not wire) or wooden spatula. Warm water may be used with the bristle brush if necessary.  Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Vegetation</b>  Observation: Vegetation with root woody roots causing damage.  Action: Carefully remove any plants with woody roots (i.e. ivy, saplings). To remove large plants cut them off at the roots. To kill the roots, use a "cut-and-paint" technique: where the plant is cut and the cut surface is then painted with an appropriate herbicide. Fill resulting gaps in the wall as needed with appropriate mortar, limestone, and render to match surrounding. Where deemed possible and appropriate, retain any vegetation that does not have woody roots.  Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Legal Protections</b>  Observation: The hydroelectricity and water pumping scheme at Rossmore exhibits more than enough technical sophistication to warrant the listing of all its main elements (dam/ram, mill race, engine house, tank) as a protected structure  Action: Include the mill race as a protected structure in the next County Development Plan.  Timing: Medium term</p>
Possible visitor experience actions	<p>The mill race is a key aspect of the wider hydroelectric scheme in the park. Given the growing importance of renewable energy, this early scheme has great education potential to teach people about hydroelectric power and electricity generation in general. At the very least a well-designed interpretive panel and audio track should be considered focusing on how hydroelectricity was used to power the supply of water to the castle. However, given the significance of the</p>

	hydroelectric scheme as a whole and the societal shift being made to a net zero economy, something more interesting and dynamic should be considered. Ultimately, this could mean comprehensive interpretation of the scheme in any new interpretive/information centre at the main car park. Another possibility is to restore and reuse the scheme as much as possible to once again create electricity. The electricity could then be used to make hydrogen. This hydrogen could then be stored and used during the colder months to heat the proposed visitor centre or restored Lady Rossmore's Cottage. The creation of hydrogen for zero emission heating would also tie in nicely with the heritage of gas production at Rossmore.
Protected Structure	No
Record of Monuments and Places	No
Significance Rating	Regional (category: technical)
Category	Mill race
Other notes	Access to much of the mill race was not possible.
References	n/a

<p><b>41. Tank</b></p>	
	<p>Tank with circular outtake visible towards base of wall</p>





Tank in heavily wooded area, looking north west



Iron bars and screed



Rendered walls with cracking and vegetation growth



Probable wrought iron piping leading from the tank to the Engine House. This piping is not indicated on the Historic 25" OS map.

Coordinates	54°13'32.8"N 6°59'46.5"W
Townland	Kilnamaddy
Description	<p>Labelled as 'Tank' on the historic 25" OS map. Late 19<sup>th</sup> century tank is associated with the wider hydro electric scheme (possible resevoir). The scheme began with water flowing along a mill race beginning at the dam/ram on the nearby stream to the tank before flowing at speed down to the Engine House (pumping) located to the northwest. At the Engine House, electricity was generated and sent via DC current to Rossmore Castle.</p> <p>Rectangular shaped tank with random rubble walls rendered in what could be early concrete. The tank was fed by a rendered random rubble mill race that began at the dam/ram (route indicated on historic 25" OS map). Water entered at the south east, flowed through a iron screed and exited by a circular opening near the base</p>

	<p>of the north west wall. The screed separated debris from the water. The water then flowed down an iron pipe and fed the turbine at the engine house. Remnants of a circular iron pipeline were found during the survey for this report going in the direction of the pump house. Interestingly, the pipe from the tanks to the Engine House is not indicated on the historic 25" OS map. Located in woodland.</p> <p>An interesting second hand story told by someone who had worked at the site for several decades was about when the power failed a local boy having to go and clear debris from the screed in the tank to ensure there was a flow to the turbine below.</p>
Condition	<p>Good. The random rubble walls appear in good condition. The metal ties and screed are still intact. The large metal pipe is severely degraded. It is possible that much of the piping to and from the tank was removed for scrap. The wall core towards the southeast end is exposed with some minor collapse visible. There is significant vegetation growth at the wall heads and interior of the walls. Some cracking was also visible in the rendered walls.</p>
Suggested Actions	<p><b>Survey</b>  Observation: The interaction between historic render and stonework requires attention by a conservation engineer.  Action: A full survey of the structure by a conservation engineer is required to assess condition and specify a full programme of appropriate repairs.  Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Wall heads</b>  Observation: Exposed/damaged wall heads allowing water ingress into wall core.  Action: Remove all vegetation and accumulated humus from the structure's wall heads. Reset any dislodged stones in appropriate mortar. Cap wall head in appropriate mortar so that water will fall off the top and not puddle. Conduct mortar and render analysis to guide mortar and render specification.  Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Vegetation</b>  Observation: Vegetation with root woody roots causing damage.  Action: Carefully remove any plants with woody roots (i.e. ivy, saplings). To remove large plants cut them off at the roots. To kill the roots, use a "cut-and-paint" technique: where the plant is cut and the cut surface is then painted with an appropriate herbicide. Fill resulting gaps in the wall as needed with appropriate mortar, limestone, and render to match surrounding. Where deemed possible and appropriate, retain any vegetation that does not have woody roots.  Timing: Immediate</p> <p><b>Trees</b>  Observation: Trees growing closely to structure causing danger of damage from roots and tree falls.</p>

	<p>Action: Carefully cut down and remove trees where roots are likely to be causing pressure to the retaining walls. Allow roots to rot. Treat root stumps with ecologically acceptable herbicide (make sure to seek expert advice on this matter). Any saplings within or close to the hatchery should also be removed. Timing: Medium</p> <p><b>Iron bars and screed</b> Observation: Corrosion on iron Do not paint over any rust. Where existing paint appears sound, it may be possible to use this as a base for a fresh coat. Repaint at least once every five years. Inspect annually. During the inspection, clean the iron with a cloth and water (use a bristle brush if needed for soiling). Timing: Medium term</p> <p><b>Legal Protections</b> Observation: The hydroelectricity and water pumping scheme at Rossmore exhibits more than enough technical sophistication to warrant the listing of all its main elements (dam/ram, engine house, mill race, tank) as a protected structure. Action: Include the tank as a protected structure in the next County Development Plan. Timing: Medium term</p>
Possible visitor experience actions	<p>The tank is a key aspect of the wider hydroelectric scheme in the park. Given the growing importance of renewable energy, this early scheme has great education potential to teach people about hydroelectric power and electricity generation in general. At the very least a well-designed interpretive panel and audio track should be considered focusing on how hydroelectricity was used to power the supply of water to the castle. However, given the significance of the hydroelectric scheme as a whole and the societal shift being made to a net zero economy, something more interesting and dynamic should be considered. Ultimately, this could mean comprehensive interpretation of the scheme in any new interpretive/information centre at the main car park.</p> <p>Another possibility is to restore and reuse the scheme as much as possible to once again create electricity. The electricity could then be used to make hydrogen. This hydrogen could then be stored and used during the colder months to heat the proposed visitor centre or restored Lady Rossmore's Cottage. The creation of hydrogen for zero emission heating would also tie in nicely with the heritage of gas production at Rossmore.</p>
Protected Structure	No
Record of Monuments and Places	No
Significance rating	Regional (as a part of wider hydroelectric scheme) (category: technical)
Category	Tank
Other notes	Unable to access interior base of tank.

References

<https://monaghtourism.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Rossmore-Forest-Park.pdf>

**42. Engine House  
(pumping)**



The engine house



Pumping machinery in detail



Pumping machinery in detail. Note corrosion on underside of large pipe which carried water from the tank to the south east up on the hill



Feeder pipe to the Engine House from the Tank is not shown on Historic 25" OS map. The mill race from the stream to the tank is indicated with a line. Rossmore Castle is to the southwest of the Engine House.

Coordinates	54°13'34.9"N 6°59'49.1"W
Townland	Kilnamaddy
Description	<p>Labelled as 'Engine House (pumping)' on the historic 25" OS map. The late 19<sup>th</sup> century Engine House is associated with a wider hydro electric scheme bring water from a nearby stream to power the turbine.</p> <p>Between the late 19<sup>th</sup> and the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, many Irish towns and villages had turbines supplying power locally (Aalen et al, 1997).</p>

	<p>Some ‘big houses’ such as Rossmore and Kylemore Abbey also had their own hydroelectric scheme.</p> <p>The scheme at Rossmore began with water flowing from the area of the dam along a constructed mill race to a tank overlooking the Engine House before flowing at speed down to the Engine House (pumping). At the Engine House, electricity was generated and sent via DC current to Rossmore Castle.</p> <p>The Engine House is composed of a low wall footings with machinery in one corner. The surviving machinery is possibly composed of a combination of wrought and cast iron and gunmetal. Gunmetal is an alloy of copper and tin (or zinc) to avoid corrosion over a long period of time (ibid). The large iron tube entering the machinery likely begins at the tank to the south east.</p>
Condition	<p>Fair/poor. Little remains of the pump house but what is left is mostly in reasonable condition. The large intake pipe is severely corroded. The vegetation that is present is largely not damaging to the structure (i.e. no woody roots). However, there are several trees located nearby which could cause damage to the site via their roots or falling on the site.</p>
Suggested Actions	<p><b>Painting the machinery</b></p> <p>Observation: External of exposed machinery requires protection through painting.</p> <p>Action: Clean the metal with a cloth and water (use a bristle brush if needed for soiling). Paint with two coats of appropriate oil-based paint. Where localised corrosion has set in, remove loose material with scraper, clean to a bright finish or as best as reasonably possible. Treat derusted iron with rust neutralising inhibitor. Then paint area with 1-2 coats of zinc-phosphate primer, two layers of undercoat and two layers of topcoats.</p> <p>Final colour(s) used should match original paint scheme or historically appropriate scheme. Repaint at least every 5 years.</p> <p>Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Machinery</b></p> <p>Observation: The machinery is exposed to the elements. Some of the machinery is corroding. Although painting will provide some protection, something more comprehensive is required.</p> <p>Action: Create a well-designed, architecturally contemporary protective structure over the existing machinery. This structure should also be used as a place to interpret the machinery and the whole of the hydroelectric scheme.</p> <p>Timing: Short term.</p> <p><b>Vegetation</b></p> <p>Observation: Vegetation obscuring features. Risk of vegetation with woody roots damaging the engine house.</p> <p>Action: Carefully remove any plants with woody roots (i.e. ivy, saplings). To remove large plants cut them off at the roots. To kill the roots, use a “cut-and-paint” technique: where the plant is cut and the cut surface is then painted with an appropriate herbicide. Fill resulting gaps in the wall as needed with appropriate with appropriate mortar.</p>

	<p>Where deemed possible and appropriate, retain any vegetation that does not have woody roots. Ensure that site is not overwhelmed by vegetation. Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Trees</b> Observation: Trees growing closely to structure causing danger of damage from roots and tree falls. Action: Carefully cut down and remove trees where roots are likely to be causing pressure to the retaining walls. Treat root stumps with ecologically acceptable herbicide (make sure to seek expert advice on this matter). Allow roots to rot. Any saplings within or close to the hatchery should also be removed. Timing: Medium term</p> <p><b>Legal Protections</b> Observation: The hydroelectricity and water pumping scheme at Rossmore exhibits more than enough technical sophistication to warrant the listing of all its main elements (dam/ram, engine house, tank, mill race) as a protected structure. Action: Include the engine house as a protected structure in the next County Development Plan. Timing: Medium term</p>
Possible visitor experience actions	<p>The engine house is a key aspect of the wider hydroelectric scheme in the park. Given the growing importance of renewable energy, this early scheme has great education potential to teach people about hydroelectric power and electricity generation in general. At the very least a well-designed interpretive panel and audio track should be considered focusing on how hydroelectricity was used to send DC power to the castle. However, given the significance of the hydroelectric scheme as a whole and the societal shift being made to a net zero economy, something more interesting and dynamic should be considered.</p> <p>This could be realised by creating an architecturally high-quality protective structure of the machinery and using it as a space for interpretation. Information on the scheme could also be provided in any new interpretive/information centre located at the main car park. Another possibility is the comprehensive interpretation of the scheme in any new interpretive/information centre at the main car park.</p> <p>There is also the possibility of restoring and reusing the scheme as much as possible to once again create electricity. The electricity could then be used to make hydrogen. This hydrogen could then be stored and used during the colder months to heat the proposed visitor centre or restored lady Rossmore's Cottage. The creation of hydrogen for zero emission heating would also tie in nicely with the heritage of gas production at Rossmore.</p>
Protected Structure	No
Record of Monuments and Places	No
Significance Rating	Regional (as part of hydroelectric scheme) (category: technical)




Category	Engine House
Other notes	n/a
References	<a href="https://monaghantourism.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Rossmore-Forest-Park.pdf">https://monaghantourism.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Rossmore-Forest-Park.pdf</a>


**43. Brigid's Tree Marker**




Smashed stone


	
	Stone with associated tree immediately behind
Coordinates	54°13'36.0"N 6°59'41.3"W
Townland	Kilnamaddy
Description	Modest tree marker honouring Brigid Westenra (b.1928). Smashed. There is some fragmentary lettering and a date of 1936. Brigid was the daughter of the 6 <sup>th</sup> Baron Rossmore. Marker associated with pine tree immediately behind.
Condition	Poor. Apparently, the marker was deliberately smashed by someone. The fragments are not present nearby. The remaining marker is in reasonable condition.
Suggested Actions	<p><b>Managing debris and vegetation</b></p> <p>Observation: Managing vegetation and debris on or close to the memorial.</p> <p>Action: This is a maintenance action. The memorial should be monitored annually for the growth of vegetation and accumulation of debris. Any debris or plant growth in danger of obscuring the marker should be removed with hand tools if necessary to ensure that the marker is visible for visitors and accessible for inspection. If cleaning is eventually deemed necessary, the only cleaning permitted on the marker should be the careful removal of moss or other excess vegetation with a stiff natural bristle or nylon brush (not</p>

	wire) or wooden spatula. Warm water may be used with the bristle brush if necessary. Timing: Medium term
Possible visitor experience actions	Information on the marker to be included in interpretive panel near the 1862 Giant Redwood Memorial in Cornaglare.
Protected Structure	No
Record of Monuments and Places	No
Significance Rating	Local
Category	Marker/memorial
Other notes	n/a
References	n/a

<p><b>44. Giant Redwood marker</b></p>	 <p>The marker could easily become fully hidden from view by vegetation growth</p>
Coordinates	54°13'22.3"N 6°59'56.0"W
Townland	Corlattan
Description	Stone marker commemorating the planting of a Giant Redwood tree. Simple granite pillar with rough pyramidal top, positioned on stone plinth. Incised carved letters on one face only. The redwood no

	longer survives. This monument is nearly identical to the 1862 Giant Redwood memorial in Cornagliare.
Condition	Fair. Although the structure of this simple memorial appears to be good, the inscription is now almost totally illegible. The vegetation close by has the potential to hide the marker from sight. Woody roots also have the potential to disturb the marker.
Suggested Actions	<p><b>Vegetation with woody roots</b>  Observation: Over the long-term, any saplings or brambles in the immediate vicinity of the memorial have the potential to disturb the monument.  Action: Carefully weed out any saplings and brambles within 5m of the marker. The earlier this is done, the better. Monitor for regrowth.  Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Obscured from view</b>  Observation: The marker is surrounded by holly and other vegetation. If vegetation growth was permitted without adequate control, the marker could easily be lost from view and forgotten about.  Action: Control excessive vegetation growth with hand tools to ensure that the marker is visible for visitors and accessible for inspection.  Timing: Short term</p> <p><b>Cleaning</b>  Observation: Managing vegetation on the memorial.  Action: If appropriated treated, granite memorials can have a long lifespan with little maintenance required (Snow, 2013). The only cleaning permitted on the marker should be the careful removal of moss or other excess vegetation with a stiff natural bristle or nylon brush (not wire) or wooden spatula. Warm water may be used with the bristle brush if necessary. If gaps are discovered in the pointing between the column and plinth, repoint with appropriate lime-based mortar.  Timing: Medium term</p>
Possible visitor experience actions	Information on the marker to be included in interpretive panel near the 1862 Giant Redwood Memorial in Cornagliare.
Protected Structure	No
Record of Monuments and Places	No
Significance rating	Local
Category	Memorial
Other notes	n/a
References	n/a

<p><b>45. Pet Cemetery</b></p>	 <p>Simple wall surrounds area of pet burials</p>
Coordinates	54°13'27.9"N 6°59'59.9"W
Townland	Corlattan
Description	Pet Cemetery for pets of the estate owners. Simple rectangular random rubble stone wall enclosing an area of pet burials.
Condition	Good overall condition with some area of disturbed stonework. Cement pointing used throughout.
Suggested Actions	<p><b>Enclosure wall</b></p> <p>Observation: Concrete pointing used in wall.</p> <p>Action: Remove cement pointing and replace with appropriate lime-based mortar. If possible and deemed to not be damaging to the structure, vegetation with non-woody roots (e.g. lichens, small ferns) should be retained.</p> <p>Reinstate any loose stonework and bed in appropriate lime-based mortar. Conduct lime mortar analysis to inform mortar specification.</p> <p>Timing: Medium term</p>
Possible visitor experience actions	The site would benefit from a well-designed and discretely located interpretive panel discussing the importance of pets to the estate's owners and the existence of pet cemeteries in estate grounds throughout Ireland.
Protected Structure	No
Record of Monuments and Places	No
Significance rating	Local
Category	Pet Cemetery
Other notes	n/a
References	n/a

<p><b>46. Miscellaneous Wells and Springs</b></p>	 <p>Marked well on historic 25" OS map</p>
<p>Coordinates</p>	<p>Throughout the park</p>
<p>Townland</p>	<p>Throughout the park</p>
<p>Description</p>	<p>The Coillte operations manager for Rossmore is aware of 17 locations of wells/springs within the park. There may be more. Only the two most prominent of the known wells were surveyed (see sites 5 and 17 in this inventory). Just a handful of the 17 wells and springs are marked on the historic 25" OS Map. Most of the 17 sites are away from formal trackways and are difficult to access.</p>
<p>Condition</p>	<p>Aside from sites 5 and 17 in this inventory, the condition of the remaining 15 known wells/springs is unknown. There may also be other wells.</p>
<p>Suggested actions</p>	<p><b>Record location and check condition</b>  Observation: Condition of at least 15 wells is unknown.  Action: Conservation professional to locate and assess condition of wells/springs identified by Coillte operations manager. Their location should be marked on a map for use by site managers.  Likely conservation actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management of vegetation with woody vegetation</li> <li>• Removal of debris</li> </ul> <p>Any proposed conservation actions should be in keeping with the policies and principles of this document and be specified by an appropriate conservation professional. For certain sites, it is likely that nothing will be required.  The Department of Agriculture Forest Service guidelines on Forestry and Archaeology does not explicitly address historic wells created for estates. However, there is a provision within the guidelines that no planting take place within 2m of non-archaeological sites. Going forward, this should be the case for the park's historic wells.  Timing: Medium term</p>
<p>Possible visitor experience actions</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Protected Structure</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Record of Monuments and Places</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Significance rating</p>	<p>Local</p>
<p>Category</p>	<p>Wells and springs</p>
<p>Other notes</p>	<p>n/a</p>
<p>References</p>	<p>n/a</p>

Rossmore Forest Park Built Heritage - Conservation Management Plan  
Site Inventory

No.	Name <i>Action</i>	Condition	Action			
			Immediate	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term
1	<b>Bridge Close to Front Gate</b>	Reasonable / Poor Condition				
	a. Structural Issues		■			
	b. Missing parapet stonework and loose stone			■		
	c. Woody Vegetation			■		
	d. Stone Pointing			■		
2	<b>Gortakeegan Megalithic Tomb - unclassified</b>	Unknown				
	a. Locate				■	
3	<b>The Barn/ Pavilion</b>	Poor				
	a. Safety		■			
	b. Stone Walls			■		
	c. Entrance Arch			■		
	d. Window Opening			■		
4	<b>Fairy Tree</b>	Unknown				
	a. Exclusion Zone					■
5	<b>Well</b>	Good				
	a. Trees and other vegetation with woody roots			■		
	b. Debris and Vegetation				■	
6	<b>Killydrutan Court Tomb</b>	Reasonable				
	a. Trees				■	
7	<b>Field boundaries</b>	Denuded / Good				
	a. Awareness				■	
	b. Maintenance				■	
8	<b>Drains and Channels</b>					
	a. Awareness				■	
	b. Legal Protections				■	
	c. Repair/ Reinstate					■
9	<b>Manmade /enlarged Lakes</b>	Unknown				
	a. Survey		■			

	<i>b. Wetlands field survey implementation</i>					Yellow	
	<i>c. Legal Protections</i>						
10	<b>Outbuilding/misc. masonry structures</b>	Mix /Several Ruined					
	<i>a. Awareness</i>					Yellow	
	<i>b. Trees</i>					Yellow	
	<i>c. Stone Walls</i>					Yellow	
11	<b>Cast-Iron Cooling Chamber</b>	Excellent					
	<i>a. Ironwork</i>				Orange		
	<i>b. Brick Pier</i>					Yellow	
12	<b>Main Castle Ruins</b>	Fair to Poor					
	<i>a. Structural Issues</i>		Red				
	<i>b. Vegetation</i>			Orange			
	<i>c. Repair for Masonry</i>					Yellow	
	<i>d. Railings</i>					Yellow	
13	<b>Terrace Steps</b>	Fair					
	<i>a. Survey</i>		Red				
	<i>b. Vegetation</i>			Orange			
	<i>c. Management of Grass</i>			Orange			
14	<b>Underground Passageway</b>	Reasonable					
	<i>a. Survey</i>		Red				
	<i>b. Vegetation</i>			Orange			
	<i>c. External reveal stone walls</i>					Yellow	
15	<b>Tank</b>	Reasonable					
	<i>a. Secure covering</i>		Red				
	<i>b. Survey</i>						
16	<b>Historic Low Stone Walling</b>	Good to Poor					
	<i>a. Survey</i>			Orange			
	<i>b. Vegetation</i>			Orange			
	<i>c. Repointing Grouting</i>			Orange			
	<i>d. Rebuilding gaps in Masonry</i>			Orange			
	<i>e. Wall heads</i>			Orange			
	<i>f. Lean and Cracks</i>			Orange			
17	<b>Covered Well</b>	Good					
	<i>a. Debris and vegetation</i>			Orange			
	<i>b. Limestone Gully</i>						Green
	<i>c. Reinstate half-ring</i>						Green
	<i>d. Interpretation</i>						
18	<b>Killyushil Ringfort</b>	Fair					
	<i>a. Trees</i>					Yellow	
19	<b>Killydrutan Ringfort</b>	Fair/Poor					
	<i>a. Trees</i>					Yellow	
20	<b>Skeagarvey Megalithic Tomb</b>	Unkown					
	<i>a. Trees</i>					Yellow	



21	<b>Demesne Wall</b>	Reasonable				
	a. Vegetation					
	b. Wall heads					
	c. Repointing and Grouting					
	d. Rebuilding gaps in Masonry					
	e. Lean and cracks					
	f. Survey					
	g. Rebuild section along R189 close to the junction with L16005					
22	<b>Northwest Gate (Main Gate)</b>	Overall Good.				
	a. Maintenance and Painting					
	b. Repairs to cast iron					
	c. Vegetation Growth					
	d. Concrete pointing and repairs					
23	<b>West Gate</b>	Good				
	a. Maintenance and Painting					
	b. Vegetation					
24	<b>Southeast Gate</b>	Poor				
	a. Maintenance and Painting					
	b. Repairs to cast iron					
	c. Area of collapse					
	d. Concrete pointing and repairs					
	e. Mick Jagger Damage					
	f. Replacing missing elements					
	g. Steel Barrier in front of pedestrian entrance					
	h. Damage by cars					
25	<b>Lady Rossmore's Cottage</b>	Very Poor				
	a. Survey					
	b. Access and interpretation					
26	<b>Fish Hatchery</b>	Reasonable				
	a. Survey					
	b. Lean and cracks					
	c. Wall heads					
	d. Trees					
27	<b>Rossmore Mausoleum and Graveyard</b>	Unknown				
	a. Survey					
	b. Access and Interpretation					
28	<b>Bridge</b>	poor				
	a. Structural Issues					
	b. Parapet					
	c. Woody Vegetation					
	d. Stone Pointing					
29	<b>Bridge</b>	Good				
	a. survey					
	b. woody vegetation					
	c. Rebuilding Parapet					

	d. Stone Pointing									
	e. Concrete Pointing									
30	<b>Fish Hatchery with bridge and well</b>	Poor								
	a. Structural Issues									
	b. Handrails									
	c. Woody Vegetation									
	d. Stone and brick pointing									
31	<b>Bridge</b>	Possible poor								
	a. Structural Issues									
	b. Vegetation									
	c. Stone Pointing and Grouting									
32	<b>1862 Giant Redwood memorial</b>	Very Good								
	a. Cleaning									
	b. Legal Protections									
33	<b>Cray and Mafeey Tree Markers</b>	Good								
	a. Vegetation with Woody Roots									
	b. Cleaning									
	c. Additional Research									
34	<b>Icehouse</b>	Destroyed								
	a. Location									
35	<b>Boathouse</b>	Very poor								
	a. Consolidation of remains									
36	<b>Walled Garden Gates</b>	Good								
	a. Maintenance and Painting									
	b. Repairs to cast iron									
	c. Use of cement									
	d. Replacing missings Elements									
37	<b>Walled Garden</b>	Mix								
	a. Survey									
	b. woody vegetation									
	c. Stone Pointing									
	d. Missing stone									
	e. Concrete slab capping									
38	<b>Yew Walk</b>	Relatively Good								
	a. Arborist Survey									
	b. Ivy growing on the Yew Trees									
	c. Neighbouring trees									
	d. Growth management									
	e. Compaction									
	f. Legal protections									
	g. Replacements as needed									
39	<b>Hydraulic ram/dam</b>	Relativley Good								
	a. Survey									
	b. Ram Drum									

	<i>c. Vegetation</i>							
	<i>d. Managing debris obstructing access</i>							
	<i>e. Repointing</i>							
	<i>f. Rebuilding Gaps in the masonry along quays</i>							
	<i>g. Rebuilding gaps in the masonry in freestanding walls</i>							
	<i>h. Maintenance and painting brackets and gate</i>							
	<i>i. Legal protections</i>							
40	<b>Mill Race</b>	Varied						
	<i>a. Survey</i>							
	<i>b. Managing debris and vegetation obstructing access</i>							
	<i>c. Vegetation</i>							
	<i>d. Legal Protections</i>							
41	<b>Tank</b>	Good						
	<i>a. Vegetation</i>							
	<i>b. Survey</i>							
	<i>c. Wall heads</i>							
	<i>d. Trees</i>							
	<i>e. Iron Bars</i>							
	<i>f. Legal protections</i>							
42	<b>Engine house</b>	Fair/Poor						
	<i>a. Painting the machinery</i>							
	<i>b. Machinery</i>							
	<i>c. Vegetation</i>							
	<i>d. Trees</i>							
	<i>e. Legal Protections</i>							
43	<b>Brigid's Tree Marker</b>	Poor						
	<i>a. Managing debris and vegetation</i>							
44	<b>Giant Redwood Maker</b>	Fair						
	<i>a. Vegetation with woody roots</i>							
	<i>b. Obscured from view</i>							
	<i>c. Cleaning</i>							
45	<b>Pet Cemetery</b>	Good						
	<i>a. Enclosure Wall</i>							

## 4.0 Assessment of Significance

### 4.1 Introduction and previous assessments of significance

According to Historic England's *Conservation principles, policies and guidance for sustainable management of the historic environment* 'conservation is the process of managing change to a significant place in its setting in ways that will best sustain its heritage values' (2008, p.22). Conservation strategy and management is a process by which a site's significance is maintained whilst permitting continued sustainable use.

The study of the physical remains alone rarely provides sufficient understanding of a site. Its significance needs to be set in the context of the social and cultural circumstances that produced the place. This is particularly true in the case of Rossmore Park. For all Irish sites, significance should be assessed according to the following criteria set down in *Architectural heritage protection: guidelines for planning authorities* (n/a, 2011):

- architectural interest
- historical interest
- archaeological interest
- artistic interest
- cultural interest
- scientific interest
- technical interest
- social interest

Although assessing the natural heritage importance of Rossmore Park and its constituent sites was not part of the remit of this CMP, as natural heritage is an integral component of our heritage (see definition of 'heritage' in the *Heritage Act, 1995*), a note on this issue is given in section 4.3.

Ideally, all the identified heritage values of a place should be conserved. However, on occasion what is necessary to sustain one criterion will be in conflict with another. If this is the case, then understanding the relative contribution of each criterion to the overall significance of the Rossmore Park as a whole and its constituent spaces and places, will be essential to objective decision making.

## 4.2 Previous assessments of significance

There is no pre-existing plan of comparative scale that has analysed the heritage of Rossmore Park. The only conservation management plan has been found that dealt with a place within the site boundary is the one previously created in 2007 for the mausoleum. The conclusion of the assessment of significance in that report was the Rossmore Mausoleum was:

of significant architectural, artistic, social, historical and technical interest and as such is a very important protected structure in County Monaghan. Despite its current derelict condition and the vandalism which threatens its future survival, Rossmore Mausoleum is an irreplaceable and unique structure, there being no other known example of a mausoleum by E.J. Tarver in Ireland. Therefore it is of the utmost importance that the Rossmore Mausoleum be protected and repaired to ensure its future.'

(Heritage Plan, 2007, p.23)

There are significance assessments for the 11 sites located within the study area listed in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage. All 11 sites were rated as being of 'regional' importance (table 4.1). In our analysis of individual site significance, we agree with all these 'regional' ratings except for the mausoleum. We have assessed the mausoleum as being of national importance.

Table 4.1 **NIAH sites in study area**

Site	NIAH no.	Rating	Categories of special interest
Main gate	41400975	Regional	Architectural, Artistic
Demesne wall	41400984	Regional	Architectural
Covered well	41401327	Regional	Architectural, Social, Technical
Steps	41401307	Regional	Architectural, Technical
Rossmore Castle	41401308	Regional	Architectural
Walled garden	41401309	Regional	Architectural, Technical
Gasworks cooling chamber	41401330	Regional	Historical, Technical
Hydraulic ram/dam	41401310	Regional	Technical
Set of three bridges	41401311	Regional	Architectural, Technical
Mausoleum	41401312	Regional	Architectural, Artistic, Historical, Social
Southern gate	41401314	Regional	Architectural, Artistic, Technical

In 2021, all eight lakes in the park were part of a wetlands field survey commissioned by Monaghan County Council (Crushell et al, 2021). That survey contained an appraisal of the condition of the various lakes as natural heritage habitats. The following wetland conservation rankings were provided in the wetlands survey:

- Twin Lakes – D rating, local conservation value (moderate value)
- Castle Lough – C rating, local conservation value (high value)
- Barn Hill Lake – C+ rating, county conservation value
- Priestfield Lough – C+ rating, county conservation value
- Ardagh Lough – C+ rating, county conservation value
- Bartle’s Lough – C rating, local conservation value (high value)
- Steenson’s Lough – C rating, local conservation value (high value)

### **4.3 Assessment of significance**

The following is an analysis of the relevance of the architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, technical, social and natural criteria to the significance of Rossmore Park.

#### *Architectural interest*

Walking correspondent for *The Times* - Christopher Somerville - called the castle ‘one of Ireland’s most extravagant Big Houses’ (2010). Unfortunately, all that remains of the castle are effectively its foundations. Nonetheless, these and the associated screen wall, servants’ entrance and terrace steps are of architectural interest. Elsewhere in the Park, other elements of architectural interest include several masonry bridges, a covered well, the estate wall, several gates and the walled garden. The impressive dam is also significant. It is associated with the hydraulic ram that supplied water to the castle and the hydroelectric scheme that provided electricity.

By far the most architecturally important element in the Park is the mausoleum. It is one of the most architecturally sophisticated and visually impressive mausoleums in the country. Both its design and construction are of high quality.

#### *Historical interest*

The whole estate is a wonderful manifestation of the role the ‘Big House’ played in the development of Ireland from the 17<sup>th</sup> century to today. The Park’s landscape and ruins display the emergence and wealth of the Westenra’s, their decline and subsequent attitude of the new Irish state towards this once powerful family. The park also exhibits fallout from the Troubles in Northern Ireland and Irish society’s recent shifting - but still contested - perceptions about former estates such as Rossmore Park. Specific elements of interest include the involvement of several Lords of Rossmore in pro-Union politics and their connections with the British royal family, the destruction of the then roofless castle by the Irish state in the 1970s and the burning of Lady Rossmore’s Cottage by the IRA in 1981.

Although much of the story of the Park is the story of men making decisions, the only two people of international significance to live in Rossmore were both women. Lady Mary Bailey DBE (1890-1960) was a pioneering aviator. She was the first woman to fly across the Irish Sea and flew solo from London to Cape Town and back. Singer, songwriter and actor, Marianne Faithful lived for a brief time on the estate during her engagement with Lord 'Paddy' Rossmore.

#### *Archaeological interest*

The park contains two ringforts and three modest megalithic tombs of archeological interest. No archaeological excavations have taken place at these sites.

The National Museum of Ireland on Kildare Street contains one of the largest and most important collections of Bronze Age gold in Western Europe. One of the most impressive artefacts they hold is a lunula discovered in Rossmore Park. A lunula is a crescent shaped neck ornament produced from gold probably acquired from river gravels and worked into a thin sheet by hammering (Kelly, 2007). Beautifully decorated, the Rossmore lunula was likely produced between 2200 and 1800BC. It was discovered in the Park c.1930.

Rossmore Park offers the interesting possibility of learning more about 'Big House' Ireland through using archaeological methods and comparing these to the known historical records.

#### *Artistic interest*

The main element of artistic interest in Rossmore Park is the mausoleum. The structure is one of the finest mausoleums in the country. Although access inside the building was not possible for this study, from previous reports it is obvious that the interior with its cast iron grills, mosaic floor and architectural carvings is artistically significant. Regrettably, the main stained-glass window has been lost.

Other elements of artistic interest in the Park are the northwest (main) gate and southeast gate. The ironwork at the southeast gate is especially ornate.

#### *Cultural interest*

Lady Rossmore's Cottage is associated with singer, songwriter and actress Marianne Faithful who lived there during her brief engagement with Lord 'Paddy' Rossmore. Marianne had left Mick Jagger for Paddy. It is believed Jagger rammed a set of gates at Rossmore in an effort to see Faithful. Paddy

himself was an accomplished photographer. Lady Rossmore's Cottage is also associated with uilleann pipes and traditional music. The house - including its uilleann pipes and sheets of traditional music - was destroyed in 1981 during an arson attack by the IRA after the death of hunger striker Bobby Sands.

#### *Scientific interest*

No results of scientific research can be seen in the execution of a structure in Rossmore, nor do materials used in any structure have the potential to contribute to scientific research. Finally, no structure is associated with scientific research. Accordingly, the built heritage of Rossmore Park is not of scientific interest. It is worth noting that there may be natural heritage material of research value in the Park. However, a full appraisal of this is required by an ecologist.

#### *Technical interest*

The management of water dominates the elements of technical interest in Rossmore. The most important of these are the eight manmade or enlarged lakes and associated water management system. The reported ability of the Westenra's to drain at least one of the eight lakes and then refill it illustrates the sophistication of the engineering works employed.

The dam/ram that supplied running water to the castle and possibly elsewhere in the estate is of technical interest. The possible wastewater system tank and associated piping to the west of the castle is also of technical interest. Associated with the dam was the hydroelectric scheme that sent DC current to the castle. Water from the area of the dam flowed via a millrace to a screening tank and fell via an iron pipe to the engine house where the kinetic energy was converted to electricity. Other elements of technical interest incorporating the management of water are the fish hatchery areas and covered well. Rossmore has a fine collection of masonry bridges that carry people over the Park's streams and channels.

Aside from works associated with managing water, the fine sets of gates at the southeast entrance and walled garden are of technical interest. The ironwork at the southeast entrance are particularly sophisticated. Another iron element of significance is the gas condenser chamber. Finally, the terrace steps in front of the castle remains are of technical interest.

#### *Social interest*

The whole park is of social interest. It is the manifestation of the control and modification of a landscape by a social elite over several centuries. The Westenra's created a pleasure ground designed to make their



lives easier and present an image of a powerful, sophisticated family. During a time when the vast majority of people in rural Ireland lived in simple cottages, the castle had gas, running water and electricity. The Westenras and their visitors could play tennis or cricket, race horses, fish in their private lakes or walk in the gardens.

The park is also the manifestation of the decline of the 'Big House' system that dominated rural Ireland from the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century until the early-20<sup>th</sup> century. This is exhibited by the economic deterioration of the Westenra's, the castle's subsequent liquidation for assets, the demolishing the castle ruins in the 70s and finally, the destruction of Lady Rossmore's Cottage in 1981. The social history of Rossmore Park is complex. In many ways it is the story of the making of contemporary Ireland. It is certainly worthy of considerable research.

On an individual site level, the mausoleum - one of the finest in the country - exhibits the love of one brother for another.

A newer layer of social significance is being imprinted on the Park by its increasing use as a place of recreation by local residents and those from further afield. New memories and advocates for Rossmore are being created. This is evidenced by the emergence of the Friends of Rossmore Park group.

#### *Natural interest*

Although the site is not an SAC, NHA or pNHA, three of the eight lakes in the park have been recently assessed to be of county conservation value. The Yew Avenue - given its overall length - is likely to be of national importance. Overall, the park is known for the variety of tree species present. Indeed, the book *Heritage Trees of Ireland* (Fennell, 2013) - which was an initiative of the Tree Council of Ireland - includes one of the park's Redwoods (i.e. Lord Rossmore's Tree). A full appraisal of the park by an ecologist is required to ascertain its natural heritage value.

### **Statement of significance**

Owing to its high number of manmade or enlarged lakes and associated water management system, Rossmore Park is of national significance. The lakes and water management system were constructed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century as part of the Westenra's efforts to create a landscape oriented around facilitating a life of comfort and communicating the image of a powerful, sophisticated family.

The Park encapsulates the wider national story of the rise and fall of the powerful families and estates that once dominated rural Ireland. It also shows how these estates are becoming increasingly valued as a place of amenity and heritage. The reading of over three centuries in economic and political change is manifested by the Park's buildings, bridges, paths, trees and placenames. Some of these features such as the mausoleum and Yew Walk are of national significance. Other elements are of regional significance (e.g. hydro-electric scheme, walled garden) or local importance (e.g. pet cemetery, simple wells). Finally, the Park has been resident to two women - Lady Mary Bailey DBE and Marianne Faithful - who succeeded in traditionally male dominated fields.

#### **4.4 Threats to significance**

##### **Increased visitor numbers**

Tourism can support the local economy, provide services that would otherwise not exist and encourage the conservation of the sites and landscapes people come to experience. However, increased visitor numbers, if not managed carefully, could lead to the sustained degradation of the places being visited.

Future development of the park should not involve the further construction of car parking. Improving links with the town and encouraging visitors to walk or cycle between the commercial centre and Rossmore is likely to substantially improve linger time and the economic yield per visitor. By contrast, increasing parking could lead to tourists bypassing the town for the Park, before driving on elsewhere. What is important is not the overall number of tourists to the park but the total economic benefit to Monaghan, while managing to cause as little damage as possible to the asset, i.e. the historic parkland. Not increasing the number of car parking places will also curb the risk of collisions for pedestrians and thereby enhance the amenity value of Rossmore. The final case against increasing on site car parking is environmental. A key threat to the built and natural heritage of the park is climate change. Hence, significant efforts should be made to encourage sustainable travel practices.

In February 2020, Rossmore had 10,399 visitors (Coillte, 2021). By December that year, the monthly figure had increased 138% to 24,713 people. Over that time and beyond, the Park has become a vitally important community amenity. Although the sharp rise is associated with the move towards outdoor living caused by Covid, the usage of Rossmore is still likely to grow - albeit more gradually - into the future. A continued focus on car usage is not environmentally sustainable. Nor is it compatible with the heritage significance of the site. It will also lead to additional congestion on nearby roads.

At 410 hectares, the park is large. However, usage of the site appears concentrated in certain areas. A way of countering this is by conserving and presenting the Park's numerous, well distributed heritage assets, encouraging movement via walking and cycling, and improving interpretation. This will relieve pressure on certain areas of the Park under pressure from high visitor numbers. It will also enhance the visitor experience and increase linger time. Ultimately, it will allow the sustainable economic and environmental use of the site for tourism purposes while maintaining its community amenity value and ensuring the heritage significance of the park is not reduced. Such an approach will increase Rossmore's carrying capacity. By contrast, a focus on accommodating more and more cars is likely to increase pressure on a small number of places close to car parks and lessen the ability of the Rossmore's carrying capacity to grow.

### **Climate change and our reaction to it**

Climate change is both an immediate and growing threat to Ireland's built and natural environments (Fealy et al, 2009). Due to climate change, Ireland is projected to experience more frequent storms. Rain patterns will also become longer in duration and higher in intensity. This will lead to more flooding during winter and water scarcity during late summer and autumn (ibid). Finally, after already rising by 0.8degC since 1900, the country's average annual temperature is expected to rise 1-1.6degC above the 1981-2000 reference period sometime between 2041-2060 (Daly, 2019). Another consequence of climate change is an expected longer growing season of 35-40 days by 2041-2060 (ibid).

The consequences for Rossmore Park are that some plants and animals will become stressed and deteriorate locally. The growing season will change. The increase in temperatures, coupled with more visitors to the site will raise the chance of forest/ground fires occurring (caused by BBQs and campfires). The Park's lakes and associated waterways are likely to be affected by more frequent storms and damage from localised flooding (Fealy et al, 2009). There is also danger that some of the wetlands and smaller lakes may at least partially dry out. Concerning built heritage, historic structures in Rossmore will also be affected by more frequent storms and damage from localised flooding. Both the localised flooding and droughts will negatively impact on archaeological sites. Even slight changes to the burial environment can damage subsurface remains (ibid).

Another aspect of the impact of climate change is how we react to it. The historic landscape of Rossmore Park has been assessed as being of national importance. Thus, the installation of large energy generating infrastructure - such as large wind turbines - that would negatively impact on the character of the Park is to be avoided. By contrast, there is scope for well located micro-generation projects that would be used to power Park operations and mitigate the carbon expended by people as they travel to and from Rossmore. Indeed, the installation of micro-generation projects would fit in with the Park's heritage of electricity generation.

It is worth noting that through its forests, lakes and wetlands, Rossmore acts as a significant carbon sink. This feature of the Park should be sensitively managed. Finally, the role of the Park's habitats in supporting biodiversity should also be acknowledged and managed appropriately.

### **Insufficient conservation work and a lack of awareness of appropriate built heritage management practices**

Since the Park's acquisition by the state, the management of Rossmore's built heritage has until recently broadly fallen into three categories: 1. neglect, 2. inappropriate repair and 3. gradual removal. To be fair, when it comes to heritage management such a pattern was seen across the country and followed by wide sections of Irish society.

The first - neglect - is where sites have experienced little to no conservation work. In these circumstances, the built heritage sites were simply left to deteriorate.

The second scenario - inappropriate repair - refers to well-meaning repair work undertaken in the past to make good fallen walls and other features. This work was typically done using non-traditional materials (e.g. concrete). Interestingly, the knowledge levels by the operatives of traditional building methods were often good. While much of this type of repair work halted further degradation, the use of incompatible modern materials has also led to conservation issues (e.g. cracking of stone walls).

The third broad category - gradual removal - was discovered during fieldwork and interviews. By gradual removal we mean the practice of 'cleaning up' areas to reduce what is seen as untidy messes and as a way of reducing the maintenance needs of certain locations. This entailed the removal of historic features where it was deemed easier and more efficient to reduce upkeep obligations rather than sensitively repair. This practice was carried out over several decades. The most obvious example of the

cleaning up approach was the removal of the castle itself in the 1970s. However, other smaller examples were discovered. These include the likely removal of a fountain outside the walled garden (1970s or 1980s?) and the failure to repair/replace the half-ring to apex of façade of the covered well recorded during the 2012 NIAH survey. The full impact of these cleaning-up practices over seven decades is unknown. However, it is likely to have significantly reduced the sheer amount of historic material present in the Park. That this happened is not surprising. This approach was common throughout the country. Consequently, no blame should be apportioned to the staff. It is essentially a problem of awareness and resources. The purpose of this CMP is to address such issues. It is worth noting that in certain instances the clearing up of fallen tree limbs and the control of vegetation growth was to the benefit of built heritage sites.

All of the Park's listed archaeological sites and many of the built heritage sites associated with the Westenra Estate have commercial forestry planted inappropriately close to or even within their boundaries. In certain locations, the planting is actively damaging built heritage sites. In other places, the possibility of falling trees and root disturbance is a risk to both upstanding and subterranean remains. Such planting practices are a legacy issue from before the implementation in the early noughties of the Department of Agriculture Forest Service guidelines on Forestry and Archaeology (Coillte, n/d). Nonetheless, the inappropriate planting of commercial forest too close to built heritage sites is threat that still needs addressing.

### **Insufficient listings/protections**

There are several gaps in the legal protections afforded to several important sites within Rossmore Park. The eight lakes and associated waterways are possibly one of Ireland's finest examples of the use of waterbodies in 19<sup>th</sup> century landscaping. None of this is legally protected under built heritage legislation. They are not listed as protected structures under the *Planning and Development Act 2000* or as archaeological sites under the *National Monuments Act 1930-2004*. Furthermore, they are not afforded specific protection under the *Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025*. This situation is replicated for the Yew Walk, 1862 Redwood Tree and dam/ram and hydroelectric scheme.

### **Anti-social behaviour**

Evidence of campfires and drinking were discovered close to several built heritage sites (figure 4.1). Campfires at archaeological sites can damage remains. They could also cause forest fires during periods of hot weather. Little graffiti was noticeable. Some casual littering was observed. A large proportion

of this was disposable coffee cups. Hopefully, the expected arrival of a disposable coffee cup levee will encourage the use of reusable coffee cups and thereby reduce littering. Overall, although a threat, antisocial behaviour is likely not a major source for the degradation of Rossmore's built heritage.

## 5.0 Opportunities and constraints

### 5.1 Background

The role of the conservation policies is to provide specific guidelines for the conservation and development of the Rossmore Park so that its heritage significance is appropriately maintained.

Development of a set of conservation policies involves the consideration of the following issues:

- requirements of those recreational users, the site's owners and other principal stakeholders (i.e. Monaghan County Council);
- constraints and opportunities presented for the use and development of the site arising from the statement of significance;
- the principles of the relevant charters and declarations (e.g. *Burra*);
- relevant legislation, guidelines and development plans.

### 5.2 Stakeholder requirements

#### Requirements of Coillte

Rossmore Park is legally owned by Coillte. To ascertain the requirements of Coillte, the operations manager with responsibility for Rossmore was interviewed. The relevant Business Area Unit strategic plan (i.e. *Midlands Five Year Forest Plan 2021-2025*) was also reviewed.

The long-term vision for the Midlands Business Area Unit is:

one of forestry management at an intensity and scale that is appropriate to the environmental sensitivity and productivity of its land resource. By adopting policies that ensure our efforts are concentrated on timber production in some Forests, habitat restoration in other, along with recreational usage being prioritised in many woodlands close to urban areas we will maximise the benefits to the environment, local communities and the timber processing industry.

(*Midlands Five Year Forest Plan 2021-2025*, p.23)

The use of Rossmore Park as a place of recreation is now Coillte's primary objective for the site. Commercial forestry is a secondary but still important function in the Park for Coillte. As crops of plantation forest are felled, they will be replanted. Uses of the Park that would unduly impinge on Coillte's ability to extract commercial timber would not be welcomed. This may impact on the desire to create additional walking and cycling trails through forest. There are no plans for the reinstatement of pasture in areas planted by the State.

Coillte recognise the legacy of previously tree planting immediately adjacent or even within archaeological monuments and other heritage sites. They are committed to abiding by the archaeological management guidelines brought in during the early 2000s. This will entail the gradual retreat of trees from built heritage sites which will provide the necessary buffer zones as they harvest trees according to their commercial plan for the Park. A specific buffer zone (c.30m) is acknowledged as being needed for the Yew Walk.

There is a very good working relationship with Monaghan County Council. This is enabled through a framework of understanding with the Council. There is also a good relationship with the Friends of Rossmore Park Group.

Overall, demands on the park of increased considerably. There are no connections to electricity, mains water or the town's sewage system. The toilets by Castle Lake are connected to a septic tank. It is acknowledged by Coillte that visitor numbers are likely to continue to increase and that improved facilities are required. This will necessitate connecting to main utilities.

### **Requirements of Monaghan County Council**

The requirements of the Council for the Park are manifested in several statutory and non-statutory documents. These are: the *Monaghan County Development Plan 2017-2023*, the *Monaghan Biodiversity & Heritage Plan 2020-2025*, the *Monaghan County Council Tourism Statement of Strategy and Work Programme 2017-2022*, the *Monaghan Local Economic and Community Plan 2015 – 2021* and the *Rossmore Park Masterplan*. The relevance of each of these plans is overviewed in section 5.4. It is worth noting that this conservation management plan is one of the proposed projects in the *Monaghan Biodiversity & Heritage Plan 2020-2025*.

The *Rossmore Park Masterplan* was commissioned by Monaghan County Council in collaboration with Coillte. The masterplan sets in a place a vision for the park's future. Its purpose is to guide all future management, infrastructure and activities in Rossmore. The plan probably best encapsulates the requirements of the Council. The document contains a set of seven objectives, seven principles and a total of 17 projects designed to realise the site's potential.

The seven key objectives involve:

1. protecting Rossmore's natural and built heritage
2. maintaining its tranquillity
3. being environmentally sustainable
4. being a socially inclusive place
5. ensuring the financial viability of the park
6. increasing accessibility to the surrounding community
7. being a tourist destination that draws people to Monaghan

### **Requirements of recreational users**

Due to constraints caused by Covid-19 a programme of online public consultation was engaged in. The online survey received 257 responses. Sixty one percent of respondents used the site at least once a week. A further 32% used it at least once a month. This allowed the team to discover what people knew about the site, the places were important to them and the ideas they had to sustainably develop the park's heritage assets. Complementing the online consultations was a set of 12 semi-structured interviews. Interviewees were selected from a wide spectrum of those that use the site. Finally, an on-site meeting was held with members of the Friends of Rossmore Park group.

Overall, there is a desire to know more about the park's heritage and increase its accessibility through comprehensive waymarking and interpretation. The Park is large and it is easy to lose your bearings. The reuse of historic structures was also mentioned. Associated with the reuse of heritage sites, the conservation of the built and natural heritage of Rossmore was a key issue the Friends of Rossmore Park wanted to see addressed. Additional walks and family cycle paths were requested during both the online survey and site interviews. The capacity issues of the car parks at peak times came up during several interviews. Finally, on a very basic level, the absence of bins was repeatedly mentioned during both the online survey and site interviews.



## 5.3 Constraints arising from significance

### 5.3.1 Assessed Heritage Values

Rossmore Park has been deemed to be of national importance. The park is a dense tapestry of c.38 built heritage places of local, regional and national importance within a landscape created by the decisions of 19<sup>th</sup> century barons and 20<sup>th</sup> century forestry managers (table 5.1). Its future management should take account of the constraints arising from its identified heritage values.

Aspects of identified significance include:

Table 5.1 **Heritage significance of identified built and intangible heritage sites within Rossmore Park**

Site	Significance rating
Drains and channels	National
Manmade/enlarged lakes	National
Rossmore mausoleum & graveyard	National
Yew Walk	National
Gortakeegan Megalithic Tomb	Regional
Killydrutan court tomb	Regional
Cast-iron cooling chamber	Regional
Main castle ruins	Regional
Terrace steps	Regional
Covered well	Regional
Skeagarvey megalithic tomb	Regional
Demesne wall	Regional
Northwest (main) gate	Regional
Southeast gate	Regional
Lady Rossmore's Cottage	Regional
Fish hatchery	Regional
Bridge	Regional
Bridge	Regional
Fish hatchery with bridge and well	Regional
Bridge	Regional
Walled garden gates	Regional
Walled garden	Regional
Hydraulic ram/dam	Regional
Mill race	Regional
Tank	Regional
Engine house (pumping)	Regional
Bridge close to front gate	Local
The Barn / Pavilion	Local
Fairy Tree	Local

Well	Local
Field boundaries	Local
Outbuildings/misc. masonry structures	Local
Underground passageway	Local
Tank	Local
Historic low stone walling within park	Local
Killycushil ringfort	Local
Killydrutan ringfort	Local
West gate	Local
1862 Giant Redwood memorial	Local
Cray and Mafeey tree markers	Local
Icehouse	Local
Boathouse	Local
Brigid's Tree Marker	Local
Giant redwood marker	Local
Pet cemetery	Local
Miscellaneous wells and springs	Local

Opportunities to retain, and where appropriate reinstate these heritage values should be investigated and implemented.

### 5.3.2 Guiding Heritage Principles

The conservation and development of Rossmore Park and constituent heritage sites is to be carried out in accordance with the relevant principles of the Granada and Burra Charters. The principles contained within the charters provide specific guidance for works to the site. Relevant principles include the following:

#### *Granada Charter Article 12*

While recognizing the value of permitting public access to protected properties, each Party undertakes to take such action as may be necessary to ensure that the consequences of permitting this access, especially any structural development, do not adversely affect the architectural and historical character of such properties and their surroundings.

#### *Burra Charter Article 1.2*

Cultural significance means aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations. Cultural significance is embodied in the place itself, its fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places and related objects. Places may have a range of values for different individuals or groups.

*Burra Charter Article 2.4*

Places of cultural significance should be safeguarded and not put at risk or left in a vulnerable state.

*Burra Charter Article 12*

Conservation, interpretation and management of a place should provide for the participation of people for whom the place has significant associations and meanings, or who have social, spiritual or other cultural responsibilities for the place.

*Burra Charter Article 13*

Co-existence of cultural values should always be recognised, respected and encouraged. This is especially important in cases where they conflict.

*Burra Charter Article 22.1*

New work such as additions or other changes to the place may be acceptable where it respects and does not distort or obscure the cultural significance of the place, or detract from its interpretation and appreciation.

*Burra Charter Article 24.2*

Significant meanings, including spiritual values, of a place should be respected. Opportunities for the continuation or revival of these meanings should be investigated and implemented.

*Burra Charter Article 25*

The cultural significance of many places is not readily apparent, and should be explained by interpretation. Interpretation should enhance understanding and engagement, and be culturally appropriate.

*Burra Charter Article 27.1*

The impact of proposed changes, including incremental changes, on the cultural significance of a place should be assessed with reference to the statement of significance and the policy for managing the place. It may be necessary to modify proposed changes to better retain cultural significance.

*Burra Charter Article 27.2*

Existing fabric, use, associations and meanings should be adequately recorded before and after any changes are made to the place.

Following on from the relevant principles outlined above, adverse impacts on aspects of Rossmore Park's significance and the significance of the various heritage sites within the park should only be permitted where:

- there is sufficient information to understand the impact of the proposal onto the significance of the specific site and Park as a whole;
- a full assessment of alternative options has been undertaken to minimise adverse impacts;
- it makes possible the recovery of aspects of greater significance (only applicable for items of little significance or that are intrusive);
- it helps ensure the continued occupation and use of individual sites of significance and the place as a whole;
- there is no feasible alternative to meet safety and/or legal requirements, and
- the area or element has been adequately recorded.

## **5.4 Heritage Planning Context**

Elements of Rossmore Park are protected under international treaties and conventions, national legislation, and both statutory and non-statutory guidance. These include the *Planning and Development Act 2000*, the *National Monuments Acts 1930-2004*, the *European Birds (1979) and Habitats (1992) directives*, *Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations 2011*, the *Wildlife Acts 1976*, and the *Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000-2010*, and *Monaghan County Development Plan 2017-2023*. Other local government initiatives such as the *Monaghan Biodiversity & Heritage Plan 2020-2025*, *Monaghan County Council Tourism Statement of Strategy and Work Programme 2017-2022* and *Monaghan Local Economic and Community Plan 2015 – 2021* have a bearing on any proposed policies and actions. Obviously, the *Rossmore Park Masterplan* has a significant impact on this report. Certain State initiatives such as *Heritage Ireland 2030* and the *Climate Action Plan 2021: securing our future* also have a bearing on any proposed policies and actions. The relevance of all these documents to the future management of Rossmore Park are discussed below.

The current *National Landscape Strategy 2015-2025* does not have a bearing on this plan. The strategy essentially focuses on research, awareness building and training. Its objective is to provide the data that will allow for better decision making concerning how we manage our landscape.

### **5.4.1 Planning and Development Act 2000**

There are four structures in the study area listed in the County Monaghan Record of Protected Structures (RPS) (table 5.2). As a result, these properties are protected under the Planning and Development Act 2000. All are within the ownership of Coillte. Should the building owner wish to make alterations that would change the character of one of these buildings, planning permission must be applied for from Monaghan County Council. Depending on the scope of works proposed, a declaration under Section 57 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 about the structure may be sufficient and can be applied for from the local authority.

Table 5.2 **Protected structures in the study area**

RPS No.	NIAH Ref.	Structure name	Description
41401305	41401312	Rossmore Mausoleum	
41401307	41401313 & 41401314	Cootehill Gate (refers to the southeast gate)	Detached three bay single storey gate lodge
41400928	41400975	Ballyleck Gate (possibly refers to the main gate)	
Local 47	41400984	Estate Wall	

(Source: Monaghan County Council Record of Protected Structures, accessed 6/3/2022)

Although there is some uncertainty if the Ballyleck Gate entry refers to the main gate for Rossmore Park, it is likely to do so. It is worth noting that Cootehill Gate Lodge (RPS Np. 41401307) and Newbliss Lodge (RPS No. 41401306) are both protected structures. However, as they are both residences, they were not included within this CMP.

Within the study area there are 11 entries listed in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) (Table 5.3). Ascription in this inventory does not provide legal protection. However, the inventory is used to inform future judgment on whether a building should be listed as a protected structure. There are no Architectural Conservation Areas in the study area.

Table 5.3 **NIAH entries in study area**

Site	NIAH no.
Northwest (main) gate	41400975

Demesne wall	41400984
Covered well	41401327
Terrace steps	41401307
Rossmore Castle	41401308
Walled garden	41401309
Gasworks cooling chamber	41401330
Hydraulic ram/dam	41401310
Set of three bridges	41401311
Mausoleum	41401312
Southeast gate	41401314

#### 5.4.2 National Monuments Acts 1930-2004

The area contains five archaeological sites listed within the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) (table 5.4). Being listed provides these places with protection under the *National Monuments Acts* 1930-2004. When the owner or occupier of a property, or any other person, proposes to carry out any work at, or in relation to, a recorded monument, they are required to give notice in writing to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage two months before commencing any work.

Table 5.4 **Archaeological sites listed within the Record of Monuments and Places in the study area**

RMP No.	Class	Townland
MO009-063----	Megalithic tomb - unclassified	Gortakeegan
MO009-051----	Megalithic tomb - unclassified	Skeagarvey
MO013-007----	Megalithic tomb – court tomb	Killydrutan
MO013-006----	Ringfort – rath	Killycushil
MO009-050	Ringfort – rath	Killydrutan

(Source: <https://maps.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/>, accessed 6/3/2022)

#### 5.4.3 Natural Heritage

Protection to a number of species and designated landscapes are provided under the European Birds (1979) and Habitats (1992) directives, Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations 2011, the *Wildlife Acts* 1976 and the *Wildlife (Amendment) Act* 2000-2010. Where development is proposed that impacts upon a protect species or protected place, a derogation license must be sought from the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

The study area of Rossmore Forest Park is not listed as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Nor is it located near a SAC. The study area is not designated a Special Protection Area, Natural Heritage Area nor as a proposed Natural Heritage Area.

#### **5.4.4 Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025**

The County Development Plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements and provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). It sets out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the functional area of County Monaghan, over the period 2019-2025 and beyond.

Within the plan is a specific sub section on Rossmore Forest Park (10.10.3). The park is not within the development envelop of Monaghan Town. Nonetheless, given its close proximity, the county development plan notes that the park is an important asset for the town. There are two Monaghan Town Recreation, Amenity and Open Space Objectives in the plan of relevance to Rossmore Forest Park. One objective specifically mentions the park.

##### Monaghan Town Recreation, Amenity and Open Space Objectives

MPO 11 To provide sufficient open space and amenity areas within and adjacent to the town.

MPO 12 Encourage and facilitate the provision of appropriate and sensitive recreational development within Rossmore Park

Aside from the objectives that specifically mention Rossmore Park, there are a number of objectives and policies protecting the archaeological and natural heritage of the county in general, that are of relevance to the site. Aside from the policies and objectives that focus on heritage, there are other policies and objectives covering tourism and climate change that impact directly on the future management of the site. Relevant objectives and policies from the development plan include:

##### Heritage, Conservation and Landscape Objective

HCLSO 1 To promote and encourage the conservation and preservation of the County's natural environment, cultural heritage and amenities in accordance with legislation, plans

and policies developed to specifically address these areas and to ensure a rich cultural landscape, healthy environment and the full provision of ecosystems services in the county.

Rossmore Forest Park is contained within an area categorised as a Drumlin Foothills landscape character type. Relevant conservation and landscape policies include:

#### Heritage Conservation and Landscape Policies

HLP 1 To implement in partnership with all relevant stakeholders the objectives and actions detailed within the County Monaghan Heritage Plan 2017- 2022 and any subsequent versions

HLP 5 To recognise that nature conservation is not just confined to designated sites and acknowledge the need to protect non-designated habitats and landscapes and to conserve their biological diversity and provide ecosystem services

HLP 8 To ensure the preservation of the County's landscapes, by having regard to the character, value and sensitivity of the landscape as identified in the County Monaghan Landscape Character Assessment (2008) or any subsequent versions when considering planning applications.

HLP 9 To protect the landscapes and natural environments of the County by ensuring that any new developments in designated sensitive rural landscapes do not detrimentally impact on the character, integrity, distinctiveness or scenic value of the area. Any development which could unduly impact upon such landscapes shall be resisted.

HLP 21 To cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management, including compliance with EU Directives - including the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC, as amended), the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (2011/92/EU, as amended by Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 115 Heritage, Conservation and Landscape Policies 2014/52/EC) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC) – and relevant transposing Regulations

The county development plan has identified sites through Monaghan County Council surveys as being of biodiversity importance. These are listed in Table 6.4 of the development plan. Rossmore Forest Park is



not contained within any identified site of biodiversity significance. Similarly, the site does not lie within an identified County Geological Site. Finally, the site is not located along a Scenic Route as designated in the county development plan.

Although there no Trees of Special Amenity Value on the site, the county development plan does contain a policy associated with trees and hedgerows that is of relevance to this report:

Trees and Woodlands Policy

TWP 1 To minimise loss of tree(s) and hedgerow associated with any development proposal and encourage the retention of existing mature trees, hedgerows and woodlands in new developments. Where removal is unavoidable consideration should be given to transplanting trees and/or providing compensatory planting on the site.

The site is designated as an Area of Secondary Amenity (Rossmore Park and Environs). Areas of Secondary Amenity provide an important community, recreational and tourism resource. It is an objective of the council to protect these sites (see relevant policy below):

Policy for Areas of Secondary Amenity

SAP 1 To limit development in Areas of Secondary Amenity Value and to only permit compatible amenity developments where they do not unduly impact on visual amenity.

Rossmore Forest Park is likely to qualify as green infrastructure. Accordingly, there are a number of policies within the current county development plan that are of relevance to the future management of Rossmore:

Green Infrastructure Policy

GIP 4 Development proposals located within or adjacent to areas of Green Infrastructure shall incorporate any important biodiversity features into the overall development in a sustainable manner.

GIP 5 Any development which impacts on the integrity of existing Green Infrastructure shall be resisted; an exception to this may be where compensatory features can be provided.

GIP 6 To contribute towards the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological connectivity, including woodlands, trees, hedgerows, wetlands, rivers, streams, other landscape features and associated wildlife where these form part of the ecological network and/or may be considered as ecological corridors or stepping stones in the context of Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.

Rossmore Forest Park is a place dense in wetland. The entirety of Rossmore Forest Park (Site code 450) is included in the Monaghan Wetland Map (2010). Wetland types at the site include: lake, acid lake, wet woodland (oak, ash or willow alder), scrub, reed swamp. As a result, policies within the current county development plan are relevant to this report. Relevant policies include:

#### Wetlands Policy

WLP 1 Development that would destroy, fragment or degrade any wetland will be resisted.

WLP 2 Where it is proposed to infill or reclaim a wetland area, an Ecological Impact Assessment will be required.

WLP 3 To implement the relevant parts of the Planning and Development (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2011 and the European Communities (Amendment to Planning and Development) Regulations 2011 which require planning permission to be applied for where the area impacted by works relating to the drainage or reclamation of a wetland exceeds 0.1 hectares or where such works may have a significant effect on the environment. Such planning applications would need to be supported by an Appropriate Assessment where necessary.

Although there no Trees of Special Amenity Value on the site, the county development plan does contain a policy associated with trees and hedgerows that is of relevance to this report:

#### Trees and Woodlands Policy

TWP 1 To minimise loss of tree(s) and hedgerow associated with any development proposal and encourage the retention of existing mature trees, hedgerows and woodlands in new developments. Where removal is unavoidable consideration should be given to transplanting trees and/or providing compensatory planting on the site.

TWP 2 To preserve trees and/or groups of trees that have a significant amenity value, and to designate Tree Preservation Orders where appropriate.

The absence of designated Trees of Special Amenity Value is interesting, considering the presence of impressive Giant Redwoods and the avenue of Yew.

The site contains several protected structures. The county development plan contains a strong set of policies designed to support the retention of protected structures. Relevant policies in the county development plan include:

#### Protected Structures

Policy BHP 1 To protect and conserve all structures included in the Record of Protected Structures and to encourage the sympathetic re-use and long-term viability of such structures without detracting from their special interest and character.

BHP 2 To contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection and sympathetic enhancement of archaeological heritage, in particular by implementing the relevant provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the National Monuments Act, 1930 (as amended).

BHP 6 To ensure that any new development proposed to or in the vicinity of a Protected Structure will complement and be sympathetic to the structure and its setting in Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 131 Protected Structures Policy terms of its design, scale, height massing and use of materials and to resist any development which is likely to impact on the building's special interest and/ or any views of such buildings and their setting.

BHP 7 To facilitate the retention and sympathetic re-use of protected structures and their settings in circumstances where the proposal is compatible with their character and special interest. In certain instances, land use zoning restrictions and site development standards may be relaxed to secure the conservation and reuse of a protected structure and to provide a viable use for any building which is at risk by virtue of being derelict or vacant.

The site is not part of any designated Architectural Conservation Area.

The current county development plan contains a strong set of policies concerning the protection of the county's archaeological heritage. Especially relevant policies include:

Protected Monuments & Places Policy

PMP 1 To protect the Record of Monuments and Places listed in Appendix 5 (and any subsequent additions by the National Monuments Service) to ensure that the setting of the recorded monument or site is not materially injured and to co-operate with all recommendations of Statutory bodies in the achievement of this objective.

PMP 2 To ensure that any development adjacent to an archaeological monument or site shall not be detrimental to the character of the archaeological sites or its setting and shall be sited in a manner which minimises the impact on the monument and its setting. Development which is likely to detract from the setting of such a monument or site shall be resisted.

PMP 5 To identify where appropriate Archaeological sites in the Plan area to which public access could be provided or improved in consultation with landowners.

Rossmore Park is listed in the County Development Plan as one of Monaghan's Historic Houses/Demesnes. There are two policies within the plan relating to designated landscapes:

Designed Landscapes Policy

DLP 1 To ensure that any new development will not adversely affect the site, setting or views to and from historic houses, gardens and designed landscapes.

DLP 2 To require that any proposals for new development in the vicinity of historic houses or demesnes landscapes are accompanied by an evaluation of the impact of the development on the landscape, designed views and vistas to /from such a site.

Due to the site's ownership by Coillte and the large area of commercial planted forestry, Rossmore is subject to the current county development plan's agricultural and forestry policies. Particularly relevant policies include:

Agricultural and Forestry Policies

ARGP 7 To protect natural waters, wildlife habitats, conservation areas, heritage areas, prominent landscape features, archaeological sites, nature designations and scenic routes within forest sites and from pollution or injury.

ARGP8 To protect access to forestry and other amenity facilities in cooperation with Coillte and private owners/operators for walking routes, nature trails for the benefit of local communities and tourists.

Tourism is a key aspect of the county's economy which the local authority wishes to develop. Given the significant role heritage plays in attracting overseas tourists to Ireland and the variety of heritage sites with the park (e.g. historic gardens, ringforts, megalithic tombs, wetlands), there is a strong likelihood that Rossmore could make a positive impact on Monaghan's tourism offering. The current county development plan contains several relevant tourism policies:

#### Tourism Policies

TMP 1 To promote the development and strengthening of Monaghan as a destination, by mirroring the quality of the natural environment with improving the appeal of the built environment of settlements.

TMP 2 Applications for tourism development will be considered in line with usual planning criteria and will be subject to high standards of design and materials, particularly when sensitively located.

TMP4 To support the development of angling tourism initiatives throughout the County and particularly at Lough Muckno, building on the amenity and recreational potential of the angling sector. In this regard the Council shall facilitate the development and upgrading of angler access, stands, car parks and their associated facilities, in accordance and in consultation with relevant management strategies, key stakeholders and bodies including Inland Fisheries Ireland.

TMP 7 To facilitate, where appropriate, the provision of high quality tourism products and services within the County in order to increase the level of activity and the sustainability of the tourism market. In particular the provision of quality hotels and visitor accommodation

facilities, and the development of tourism projects, facilities, activities, and attractions shall be a priority.

TMP 8 To promote events, festivals and the development of linked tourist trails that showcase the wealth of natural, historical and cultural heritage of the County and contribute towards its unique identity and quality of life.

TMP 15 To seek to manage any increase in visitor numbers in order to avoid significant effects including loss of habitat and disturbance, including ensuring that any new projects, such as greenways, are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities, such as riparian zones.

Given the heritage of hydroelectric generation at Rossmore and the need to reduce carbon emissions associated with activities at the park, the renewable energy measures in the development plan are particularly relevant. These include:

Environment, Energy & Climate Change Strategic Objective

EECSO 1 To afford a high level of environmental protection in County Monaghan through the provision of quality environmental services which adhere to the precautionary principle, to provide for sustainable development through the promotion of energy efficiency and renewable energy to deliver a low carbon future for County Monaghan, to implement measures to reduce the human causes of climate change and to consider its effects when formulating development plan policies.

Renewable Energy Development Exemptions Policy

EP 1 To support and advance the provision of renewable energy resources and programmes in line with the Government's National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP), the Governments' Energy White Paper "Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future (2015-2030) and any other relevant policy adopted during the lifetime of this plan.

EP 3 To facilitate the sustainable development, renewal and maintenance of energy generation infrastructure in order to maintain a secure energy supply while protecting the landscape, archaeological and built heritage and having regard to the provisions of the Habitats Directive.

EP 4 To support the production of sustainable energy from renewable sources such as wind, solar, bio-energy and the development of waste to energy/Combined Heat and Power Schemes at suitable locations and subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive

The county development plan contains one policy concerning climate change that is of particular relevance to the future management of the site:

Climate Change Policies

CCP 6 To support and assist a shift to a low carbon society and a reduction in the dependence on fossil fuels in County Monaghan by implementing measures to deliver energy efficiency, compact urban forms and sustainable transport patterns.

**5.4.5 Monaghan Biodiversity & Heritage Plan 2020-2025**

A county heritage plan is a non-statutory document created local authorities. Such plans identify priorities and establishes a framework for the management of heritage within a county. The current heritage plan for Monaghan is combined with biodiversity considerations to create an overall heritage and biodiversity strategic plan for the county. Demesnes and Estates is one of 13 priority strategic themes of the plan. A stated outcome of this theme is a conservation plan for Rossmore Park.

**5.4.6 Monaghan County Council Tourism Statement of Strategy and Work Programme 2017-2022**

The County Monaghan tourism statement of strategy and work programme is a non-statutory document setting out the priorities and key actions to be undertaken to develop Monaghan's tourist sector. There are two goals for the plan. The second is of particular relevance for Rossmore Park:

2. To develop, protect, enhance and maximize the potential of the natural, cultural and heritage resources of County Monaghan.

Rossmore Park along with Lough Muckno and the Sliabh Beagh Mountain area were noted as being key natural resources. However, it was also noted in the plan that each needed substantial investment to develop their amenities. There is one action in the work programme that specifically mentions Rossmore Park:

Action 6.4.1 Improve access and infrastructure at: Lough Muckno, Dartrey Forest and lakes, Rossmore Park, Ulster Canal, Patrick Kavanagh Country, Black Pigs Dyke, Sliabh Beagh.

#### **5.4.7 Monaghan Local Economic and Community Plan 2015 – 2021**

Action 6.4.1 above was taken from the *Monaghan Local Economic and Community Plan 2015 – 2021*. Published by the Monaghan County Council Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), the Monaghan Local Economic and Community Plan 2015 – 2021 provides a roadmap for collection action in relation to the county's economic and community development. Action 6.4.1 is the only action in the document that explicitly mentions Rossmore Park. Nonetheless, there are a goal of the plan that is of particular relevance to Rossmore Park and its future development:

High Level Goal 6 To protect, enhance and maximise the potential of Natural, Cultural and Heritage Resources of County Monaghan.

Following on from this there two actions of relevance relating to enhancing access to waterways and lakes.

6.2.1 Encourage and enhance access to our waterways and lakes

6.3.4 Develop Monaghan as the Premier Angling County in Ireland

The plan also contains a strategic objective and actions concerning renewable energy. Given the presence of an early hydroelectric system in the Park, the objective on renewable energy and some of the associated actions are of relevance:

Strategic Objective

6.1 Facilitate renewable energy infrastructure development

Actions

6.1.1 Support projects that have the potential to deliver sustainable energy alternatives.

6.1.4 Provide support for the provision of training and supports targeted at raising awareness and capacity in relation to renewable energy technologies. Support R&D in the application of new technologies locally.

#### **5.4.8 Rossmore Forest Park Masterplan**



In late 2016, a masterplan was commissioned for the site by Monaghan County Council in collaboration with Coillte. The masterplan sets in a place a vision for the park's future. Its purpose is to guide all future management, infrastructure and activities in Rossmore. The document contains a set of seven objectives, seven principles and a total of 17 projects designed to realise the site's potential. One of the proposed projects is this conservation management plan.

The seven key objectives involve:

1. protecting Rossmore's natural and built heritage
2. maintaining its tranquillity
3. being environmentally sustainable
4. being a socially inclusive place
5. ensuring the financial viability of the park
6. increasing accessibility to the surrounding community
7. being a tourist destination that draws people to Monaghan

The seven key principles to be used to inform decision making are:

1. the park is to be accessible to all
2. interventions are appropriate to the park's character
3. high quality materials and construction to be used
4. high environmental standards are to be followed
5. a bespoke aesthetic, unique to the park
6. interventions are to be respectful of the park's heritage
7. innovation is to be embraced

#### **5.4.9 Heritage Ireland 2030**

In February 2022, Ireland's new national heritage plan - Heritage Ireland 2030 - was published. It provides a framework for the protection, conservation, promotion and management of Ireland's heritage. Its vision is that

Recognised for its contribution to society and well-being, Ireland's heritage will be valued, nurtured and protected and placed at the very centre of our decision making around Ireland's future.

Within the document climate change and biodiversity loss are a key focus. Objectives are grouped under three themes:

- Theme 1 Communities and Heritage
- Theme 2 Leadership and Heritage
- Theme 3 Heritage Partnerships

Particularly relevant objectives in the plan include:

Theme 1 Communities and Heritage

2. Improve the involvement of young people in understanding, caring for and celebrating their heritage and biodiversity

6. Enhance physical and digital access to heritage in public and private ownership

8. Support the contemporary presentation and interpretation of heritage, including through better use of technology

10. Integrate the role of heritage in place-making, economic development and sustainable tourism into all relevant strategies

11. Foster opportunities and training for community partners to be directly involved in the care and stewardship of our national heritage.

Theme 2 Leadership and Heritage

9. Identify opportunities for, and realise the potential of, heritage-led economic regeneration and sustainable business and tourism development

To realise the plan's objectives, a set of 158 actions was created. Both the objectives and actions will be added to, reviewed and amended as required. Relevant actions in the plan include:

11. Work with the Northern Ireland Executive to deliver the flagship cross border Ulster Canal project in order to restore the all-island inland water system as a premier tourism attraction.

26. Support nature-based solutions for land-use management.

31. Improve access to heritage through expanded visitor services and interpretation at national parks, nature reserves, monuments and historic properties in the care of the State.

36. Increase and improve universal access to heritage for the elderly, people with disability and children, including through the use of new technologies.

37. Integrate heritage considerations into urban and rural regeneration to ensure that built and natural heritage objectives underpin the planning and development process and inform the 'Town Centres First' policy approach.

58. Improve interpretation and visitor management at our national monuments, national parks, national nature reserves and at national heritage properties.

98. Support nature-based solutions for land-use management.

108. Promote our inland waterways and their heritage to increase recreational and tourism access and participation, working also with the Northern Ireland Executive and supporting the work of Waterways Ireland across the island.

#### **5.4.10 Climate Action Plan 2021: securing our future**

The 2021 Climate Action Plan lays out the government's pathway to achieving a 51% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and reaching net-zero by 2050. The plan follows on from commitments made in the Programme for Government and the Climate Act 2021. The plan's implementation will transform every aspect of economic and social life in Ireland. This includes areas of particular relevance to Rossmore Park: forestry, tourism and building reuse. The public sector is to lead from the front in the shift to a net-zero society.

Relevant actions in the plan include:

Action no. 47 Promote sustainable destination management

Action no. 55 Introduce a Climate Action Mandate for every public body

Action no. 57 Support the retrofit of public sector buildings

- Action no. 58 Mandate the inclusion of green criteria in all procurements using public funds, introducing requirements on a phased basis and providing appropriate support to procurers
- Action no. 89 Minimise negative environmental impact of tourism
- Action no. 97 Invest in developing our outdoor tourism offering, including outdoor activities, that enhances Ireland's international reputation of being a green, clean and sustainable destination
- Action no. 98 Increase nature connectedness and promote pro-environmental behaviours by developing outdoor recreation
- Action no. 206 Build public awareness of the risks of climate change (in general and for heritage) and of efforts to mitigate it and adapt to it
- Action no. 207 Integrate climate change adaptation into all heritage-management plans and policies as these are updated
- Action no. 231 Continue the improvement and expansion of the Active Travel and Greenway Network
- Action no. 234 Encourage an increased level of modal shift towards Active Travel (walking and cycling) and away from private car use
- Action no. 276 Enable greater EV infrastructure roll-out for passenger cars and vans
- Action no. 332 Promote ecosystem restoration and conservation through Payment for Ecosystem Services and investment in actions that increase carbon sinks while promoting biodiversity e.g. woodlands, bogs, soil management, hedgerows
- Action no. 334 Increasing Climate resilience in our Forest Estate

Action no. 367 Increase the level of afforestation to meet targets

Action no. 376 Encourage increased use of alternative forest management systems

Action no. 390 Protect, enhance, and increase the number of hedgerows and trees on farms

Action no. 410 Engage stakeholders in all sectors to protect biodiversity in order to increase resilience to climate change

## **6.0 Conservation Policies and Principal Actions**

### **6.1 Introduction**

It is important to acknowledge that change is inevitable. The purpose of this report and the various policies and actions it contains, is to help manage that change. The conservation policies and actions below take into account the relevant constraints, opportunities, stakeholder requirements and following principles:

- retention of heritage significance;
- the use of professional advice and competent contractors where required.

The actions suggested in the document are not exhaustive. Nor do the authors of this report have a monopoly on ideas. The policies presented are a framework for decision making and resulting actions. Accordingly, any actions that are in keeping with the principals and policies of the plan are to be welcomed.

The following conservation policies and actions take account of the relevant constraints, opportunities, stakeholder requirements, and the following principles:

- retention of heritage significance;
- retention of significant fabric;
- conservation having regard to the relative significance of individual components;
- the use of professional advice and competent contractors;
- the maintenance of records;
- the potential to highlight the place's significance through interpretation; and
- permitting change while retaining key elements of significance.

### **6.2 Policies, actions and measuring success**

#### **General policies**

- This CMP should provide the basis for all future decisions on the conservation and management of built heritage sites in Rossmore Park.
- Where changes to the physical fabric or appearance of a site and its immediate environs are proposed that are not specifically dealt with in this CMP, these will need to be reviewed within the context of current policies and the statement of significance.

## **Increased visitor numbers**

### **Policy**

Ensure that the impact of visitors to Rossmore Park does not lead to the degradation of the asset they are coming to enjoy, i.e. the historic landscape.

### **Actions:**

- Monitor the number of visitors and their distribution within the Park.
- Monitor the impact of visitors onto the various built heritage sites accessible to the public. Should visitors be seen to be negatively impacting on various heritage sites, then sensitive management actions in keeping with this conservation plan should be carried out.
- Monitor the water quality of the various lakes. If water quality is poor/declining, ascertain reason(s) and take appropriate corrective management actions in keeping with this conservation plan.
- If visitors seen to be negatively impacting on the various lakes, then sensitive management actions in keeping with this conservation plan should be carried out.
- Encourage through the enhancement of trails and heritage interpretation the distribution of visitors across the Park.
- Create a visitor centre at the main car park as per the Rossmore Forest Park Masterplan.
- Well designed and thoughtful heritage interpretation can not only enhance the enjoyment of those visiting a place, it can also positively impact behaviours. While a number of interpretation actions have been suggested in section 3, a coherent interpretation strategy is needed. Such a strategy would detail the interpretation themes, audiences, strategic objectives and final actions.
- A community archaeology programme focused on the castle site offers the possibility of using archaeological methods to learn more about the site specifically and 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> century Ireland, in general. The result would be a tourist attraction and educational tool like no other. It would drive visits to the park and wider county. As the site becomes more exposed and the various research questions become answered, the remaining masonry could be conserved and interpreted to aid the visitor experience. A good first step would be a geophysical survey of the castle site. This would aid the creation of a set of research questions.

### **Measuring success:**

- Visitors having little/no negative impact on to the built heritage of Rossmore or its eight lakes.
- New visitor centre constructed which improves the Park's amenity value for locals and tourists.

- Interpretation strategy created and implemented. Directional signage installed.
- Community archaeology programme initiated.

## **Climate change and our reaction to it**

### **Policy**

Rossmore Park to be managed in a fashion that helps solve the climate crisis while not undermining its heritage significance.

### **Actions:**

- Quantify the carbon expended through non-forestry human activities in Rossmore (including maintenance work) and by visitors travelling to and from the Park. This data will form the basis of measuring success in efforts to reduce carbon emissions associated with non-forestry related activities in the Park.
- Sustainable transport should be at the core of bringing people to and from Rossmore Park.
- Strong cycling and walking connections should be created with Monaghan Town, especially, the town centre and its main residential areas.
- Appropriate cycling infrastructure should continued to be provided across the site. This includes bike racks and a bike repair station. There should also be charge points for electric bikes in the main car park. Bike hire could be made available at any new visitor centre.
- Evaluate the possibility of including the main car park in Rossmore Park as a stop on the M1 Local Link bus route.
- Where feasible, both car parks should have charge points for electric cars.
- The day-to-day operations of any new visitor centre in the existing car park area should - at a minimum - be carbon neutral. Indeed, sustainability should be at the core of the ethos behind the visitor centre. The use of solar panels across its roof should be considered.
- The carbon expended during any future construction, restoration or demolition in the Park should be quantified. This will provide the data needed to ascertain how landscape management at Rossmore and in land owned by Monaghan County Council could mitigate at least some of the carbon emitted.
- Inspired by the heritage of energy generation on the site, the feasibility of restoring and reusing as much of the Park's hydroelectric scheme as possible should be explored. The electricity could then be used to make hydrogen via electrolysis. This hydrogen could then be stored and used during the colder months to heat the proposed visitor centre and/or Lady Rossmore's Cottage. The creation of hydrogen for zero emission heating would also tie in nicely with the heritage of gas production at Rossmore.



- A core part of the visitor centre could be an interactive exhibition on renewable energy. As part of this, in addition to the possible micro hydro generation scheme and solar panels, a small wind turbine - no higher than the tree line - could be installed. This would broaden the learning experience for visitors. The prime target of the renewable energy exhibition should be secondary school pupils and families. The exhibition would be complemented by on-site interpretation at the historic hydro scheme. Any excess electricity generated could be sold back to the national grid.
- In any future café franchise contract, sustainability should be a scored element of the tender. Scoring on sustainability could include sourcing more locally produced food, waste reduction, recycling, water usage, electricity usage.
- As much grassland in the Park as deemed reasonable should be managed for biodiversity.

**Measuring success:**

- The carbon emissions created by non-forestry related activities at the park and by people travelling to and from the park is quantified. Subsequent carbon emission reduction and mitigation actions implemented.
- Quantity of renewable energy produced at the Park exceeds non-forestry related electricity needs. Excess electricity sold back to the national grid.
- The quantity of people travelling to and from Rossmore Park by sustainable transport far exceeds those doing so by car.
- Visitor centre constructed and operated in an environmentally sustainable manner. Visitor centre renewable energy exhibitions attracts at least 20,000 people per annum. Centre is a top three tour destination for secondary school pupils in Co. Monaghan and attracts a significant number of school tour groups from outside the county. Café successfully operates with environmental sustainability issues at the core of its operations.
- Majority of the Park's remaining grasslands is managed for biodiversity.

**Insufficient conservation work and a lack of awareness of appropriate built heritage management practices**

**Policy**

To manage, conserve and reuse Rossmore's built heritages sites in accordance with best international standards.

**Actions:**

- Each of Rossmore’s built heritage site has been assessed as to their conservation and management needs (see section 3). The proposed actions for each site should be carried out, with immediate suggested actions taking precedence.
- All those who work on Rossmore should be made aware as to its heritage significance and to any specific heritage management issues they may encounter during their work.
- In general, conservation work of built heritage at the Park should follow the principal of doing as much as necessary and as little as possible.
- All conservation work should be specified and supervised by an appropriately qualified conservation professional (e.g. Grade 1 or 2 RIAI accredited architect, conservation engineer).
- All contractors working on built heritage sites in the Park should be appropriately qualified and experienced in traditional building techniques and the use of traditional building materials.
- Appropriate records before, during and after conservation works should be taken and deposited with Monaghan County Council.
- To aid better landscape management, more knowledge is required as to the various unrecorded and recorded placenames in Rossmore. Accordingly, a placename survey should be completed for the Park.
- To aid better landscape management, a full survey and appraisal of Rossmore’s natural heritage is needed.
- During built heritage conservation work a programme of appropriate community engagement actions should be carried out. For guidance see *Public engagement during works to traditional buildings* (Mannix, 2021).
- The management of archaeological sites in Rossmore should be carried out in accordance with national and international legislation and best practice. Details of this is provided in section 6.3.

**Measuring success:**

- Substantial progress made on conserving Rossmore’s built heritage. No serious collapses occur.
- Conservation work carried out to a high quality with appropriate records taken.
- Placename survey carried out.
- Survey and appraisal of natural heritage in Rossmore carried out.
- Community engagement actions carried out on all built heritage conservation projects.

**Insufficient listings/protections**

**Policy**

Provide additional legal protections to heritage sites as deemed necessary.

**Actions:**

- All surviving main elements associated with the water pumping and hydroelectric scheme at Rossmore Park warrant inscription as protected structures. The various sites include the dam/ram, mill race, engine house, tank(reservoir). These properties would then be protected under the *Planning and Development Act 2000*.
- The redwood behind the 1862 Redwood memorial is of sufficient heritage significance to receive protection as a tree of special amenity value. Accordingly, the redwood should be included on the list of trees of special amenity value in the next County Monaghan Development Plan.
- The Yew Walk is of sufficient heritage significance to receive protection as trees of special amenity value. Accordingly, all the Yews in the Yew Walk should be on the list of trees of special amenity value in the next County Monaghan Development Plan.
- There is some protection afforded to the Park's eight lakes and associated network of drains and channels in the County Development Plan by being part of an area of secondary amenity site (i.e, Rossmore Park and environs). However, this is insufficient given the heritage significance of the eight lakes and the role of the channels in feeding and connecting these lakes. Accordingly, there is a need to include a specific policy in the next County Monaghan Development Plan providing stronger protections to Rossmore's lakes and the water system that feeds them.

**Measuring success:**

- All sites listed above are conferred with the appropriate legal protections.

**Anti-social behaviour****Policy**

Foster a culture of custodianship with all those that visit Rossmore.

**Actions:**

- Heritage interpretation is a key tool in improving heritage awareness and behaviours of all those that visit the Park and even work within its boundaries. While a number of interpretation actions have been suggested in section 3, a coherent interpretation strategy is needed. Such a strategy would detail the interpretation themes, audiences, strategic objectives and final actions. More details are provided in section 6.4.
- Have a stronger information campaign on the Leave no trace approach.
- Effectively communicate to visitors the forest fire risk caused by campfires and disposable BBQs.

- Litter is a problem, especially at weekends. According, it may be worth considering trailing having bins - with comprehensive recycling options - at the weekend in the main car park/picnic area. This could be coupled with a strong Leave no trace awareness campaign.
- In any future café franchise contract, sustainability – including reducing and managing waste - should be a scored element of the tender.

**Measuring success:**

- Heritage interpretation strategy completed and being implemented.
- Noticeable decline in litter both around the main car park and throughout the site.
- Decline in campfires and post-party rubbish.

### **6.3 Archaeological Management**

Research value is a key driver for determining the methodology of investigation (i.e. what should be recovered, how and why). Specific management of archaeological resources should be tailored so that it is appropriate for realising this research value. One of the suggested actions of this report is the creation of a set of research questions to be answered for the castle.

#### **Approach**

If in the event of excavations being stipulated by the planning authority and/or National Monuments Service, the objectives of any physical investigation of the site should be focused towards realising the research potential of the site. Only those areas that would be physically affected by the proposed development would be investigated and the depth of archaeological investigation would be limited to the depth of the proposed excavation for the purposes of the development project. Before any works are designed, great care should be taken by designers to avoid as much archaeology as reasonably possible.

Concerning the use of excavation to aid in the answering of research questions, it is only when all other non-invasive methods have been exhausted should excavation be considered. The locations of any such excavations should be guided by the knowledge gained from pre-existing studies. Once all research questions are answered, and the research need for excavation is deemed unwarranted, all archaeological excavations must stop.

#### **Monitoring**

Archaeological monitoring refers to the observance by an archaeologist of excavation or grading works by a mechanical excavator within areas assessed as having archaeological potential. The objective of

monitoring is to determine the nature and extent of surviving features and/or deposits, to identify and record these features and/or deposits and to determine if further investigation is warranted.

In the event that monitoring of the stripping of soil is stipulated by the local authority and/or National Monuments Service within the site's curtilage, the following methodology should be complied with:

The archaeologist will be able to provide guidance to the excavator on excavation methods, protective measures and/or stabilisation requirements. The initial stripping of soil should be undertaken well in advance of construction works. This will permit any necessary excavations to take place without interrupting the programme of works. It also provides the opportunity to possibly revise the design to avoid areas of archaeological deposits.

The archaeologist would require that site works be halted, as required, to undertake further investigation or detailed recording of any elements exposed during the monitoring process, or to address any conservation requirements. Monitoring of excavation will continue until:

- the archaeologist is satisfied that the research potential of the subsurface deposits has been realised; or
- culturally sterile deposits have been encountered across the site; or
- the maximum depth and extent of excavation have been reached.

### **Archaeological Excavation**

Archaeological excavation refers to the manual excavation of an area to carefully recover physical evidence from the site. Archaeological excavation may be necessary in areas due for construction that have been found to contain archaeological material and for which the design cannot be suitably amended to avoid. Another reason for excavation is research need. Any archaeological excavation should be undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeologist and carried out according to best practice.

### **In Situ Retention of Archaeological Features**

Archaeological fabric should only be removed in two circumstances. The first is where it is deemed essential for research purposes. The second valid reason is when removal is essential for the construction of any proposed development where the design cannot be suitably amended to avoid, in the areas identified in the architects'/engineers' drawings, and to the depth required to allow new elements to be installed. All other archaeological material should be retained in situ. Where excavation of archaeological material has taken place to the level required to enable construction, a layer of geotextile will be placed

over the remains. This in turn will be covered by a layer of sand. This should protect any remaining archaeology and provide a separation barrier between old and new.

### **Archival recording and monitoring**

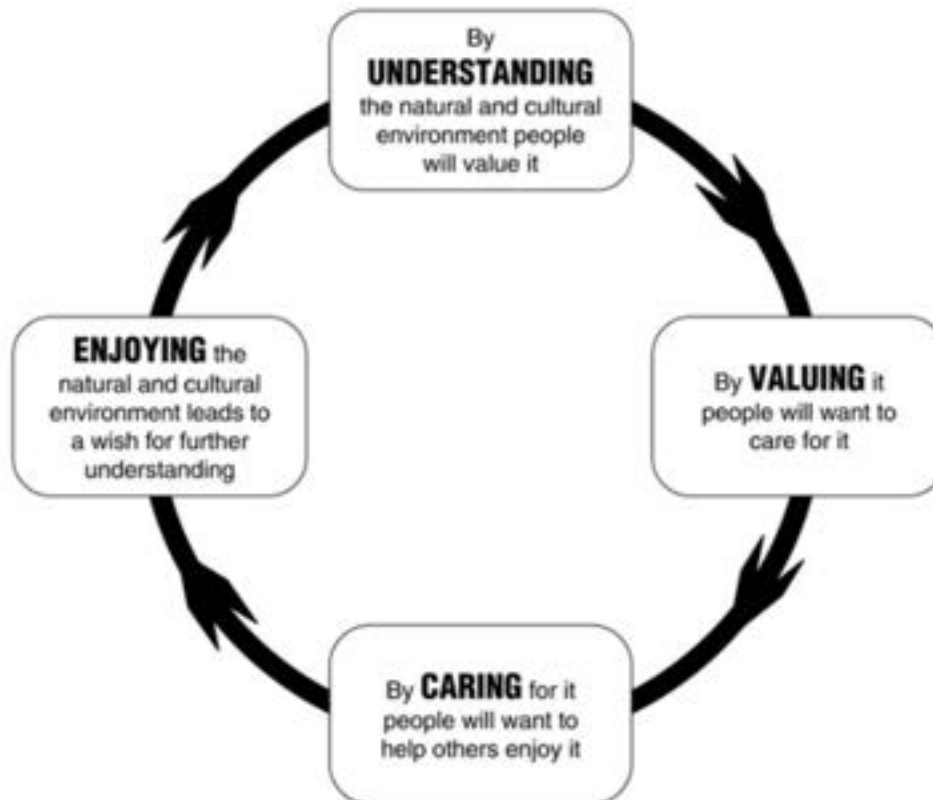
Detailed records are to be taken by a qualified archaeologist before any works to the site are carried out. All archaeological recordings, surveys and excavation reports are to be completed in a timely fashion and copies deposited with the National Monuments Service, National Museum of Ireland, Monaghan County Library and Monaghan County Museum.

The archaeological sites at Rossmore Park are to be monitored annually to ascertain any damage being done by visitors, and other uses. This will inform changes to the site's management both at a tactical and strategic level.

## **6.4 The role of interpretation**

Overall, Rossmore Park is a site of national significance. Within the park are four sites of national importance (the Yew Walk, the network of manmade lakes, network of channels and drains associated with those lakes, and the mausoleum). Unfortunately, its status as such is under threat. Within this, the use of heritage interpretation has an essential role to play. Strong, incisive interpretation has the ability to connect people with the story of a place more deeply than would otherwise happen. This in turn leads to an increase in the level of interest as to its management, improved personal behaviours and the advocating for its protection (figure 6.1). It also enhances the level of enjoyment.

Figure 6.1 **Heritage interpretation virtuous circle**



(Veale & Burke, 2008)

Another benefit of strong interpretation is by enhancing the visitor proposition the local economy is improved. The economic gains realised through environmentally sustainable tourism have in turn been shown to improve wider conservation behaviours (Park et al, 2019). Despite the possible threats concerning inappropriate or badly managed tourism levels, there are benefits beyond the obvious economic ones. For instance, a place's uniqueness, attractiveness and coherence can be consolidated and strengthened when it needs to be articulated to a wider audience.

At present, there is very little onsite interpretation at Rossmore. Online, the Rossmore app and Rossmore Castle Minecraft tour provide valuable information on the site. Although the present situation regarding interpretation is very limited, it offers a great opportunity to create an exciting interpretive programme. Such a programme should enhance the visitor experience. It would also encourage appropriate visitor behaviour and help create environmentally sensitive economic benefits for the locality. This report contains key suggestion on the interpretation of the park's various built heritage components. However, further consideration and clear direction on the themes, audiences, strategic objectives, media and final manifestation of heritage interpretation at Rossmore Park would best be enabled by a complementary heritage interpretation plan.

## 6.5 Funding

While it is desirable to carefully ascribe likely State, EU and non-governmental funding sources for the suggested actions, owing to the dynamic nature of funding streams in Ireland, this is of limited value. Nonetheless, the organisations listed below have through various grant programmes provided funding for tourism and heritage initiatives similar to those being recommended. Careful observation should be maintained of their grant programmes and how they could help fund the suggested actions. It is important to find the right fit between an action and the aims of the various grant schemes. The following list of relevant State and NGO funding sources is not exhaustive:

- Creative Ireland (interpretive events)
- Fáilte Ireland (interpretation and infrastructure, INSTAR archaeology research grant run intermittently)
- Heritage Council (conservation and interpretation)
- National Monuments Service (conservation and interpretation)
- Royal Irish Academy (Archaeological Research Excavation Grant runs annually)

## **6.6 Implementation**

There is an existing framework of understanding between Coillte and Monaghan County Council. It is recommended that the implementation of this CMP form part of the framework of understanding. A series of three-year action plans derived from the CMP could act as a guide for built heritage conservation activities in the Park. Progress should be reviewed at least annually. News on activities carried out could be published on Monaghan County Council's website. The involvement of other stakeholders in progressing the CMP should be considered at an early stage (e.g. Fáilte Ireland, Friends of Rossmore Park). Although the involvement of other groups will add complexity, it is likely to both broaden and deepen conservation efforts in Rossmore Park.



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# Appendix A Online consultation survey results



## How often do you visit Rossmore Forest Park?



Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin  
Wexford County Council

Rossmore Forest Park Conservation Management Plan

the paul hogarth company



## How would you describe your current knowledge of Rossmore Forest Park's Built Heritage?



Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin  
Wexford County Council

Rossmore Forest Park Conservation Management Plan

the paul hogarth company



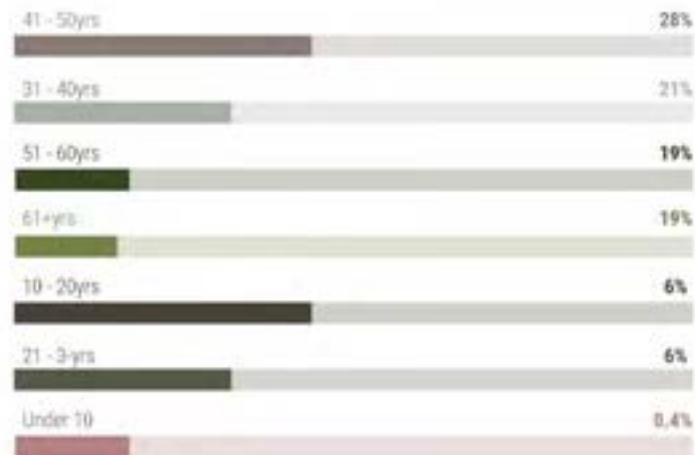
### What age range do you fall under?

Rossmore Forest Park Conservation Management Plan



Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin  
Wexford County Council

the paul hogarth company



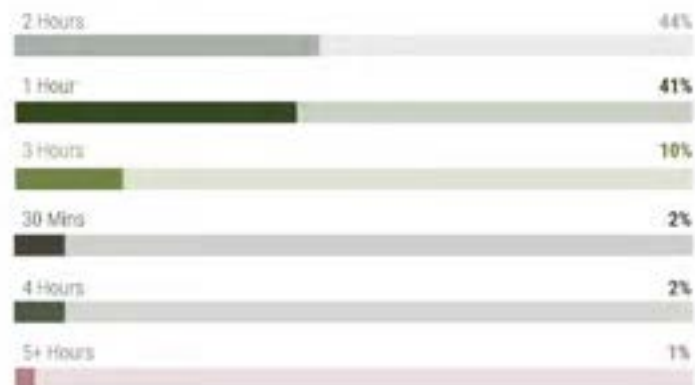
### On average how long do you spend at Rossmore Forest Park?

Rossmore Forest Park Conservation Management Plan



Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin  
Wexford County Council

the paul hogarth company



How would you describe your current knowledge of Rossmore Forest Park's Natural Heritage?



Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin  
Maighdeon County Council

Rossmore Forest Park Conservation Management Plan

the paul hogarth company



How would you describe your current knowledge of the folklore and stories connected with Rossmore Forest Park?



Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin  
Maighdeon County Council

Rossmore Forest Park Conservation Management Plan

the paul hogarth company









