



15<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Administrative Officer,  
Forward Planning,  
Aras Chill Dara,  
Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare,

Subject: Gowran Grange House & Demesne – Record of Protected Structures

Ref. Draft Kildare County Development Plan, 2023-2029, Chapter 11 Built & Cultural Heritage, Protected Structures.

Please find attached our submission requesting that Gowran Grange House and Estate be included in the County Kildare Register of Protected Structures,

Yours Sincerely,

Anne Breen

Cllr NMD & KCC - Local Historian, member of Clane Local History Group & National Federation of Local History Societies.

Larry Breen

Local Historian, Member of Clane Local History Group, National Federation of Local History Societies, PRO and Journal Editor.

Anne Breen: Cllr Anne Breen - Date: 15/5/2022 -

Larry Breen: Larry Breen Date: 15/05/2022

Submission to the Kildare County Development Plan Ref. Chapter 11 Built & Cultural Heritage.

Subject: Gowran Grange House, its Curtilage and Demesne.

This submission is that Gowran Grange House, its Curtilage and Demesne be added to the Co Kildare List of Protected Structures

As Local historians we are acutely aware of the importance that we protect our history and heritage. We believe that Gowran Grange Demesne is of great historical, social, architectural and landscape significance and should be protected.

### **Background**

Gowran Grange Demesne consists of a historic Country House and Parkland Estate on approximately three hundred and seventy acres in total. Its landscape is a distillation of history, land use and underlying conditions of the area. It is a designed parkland landscape of early-mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century design and inspired by design in England, the political power base of Anglo-Irish Ascendancy. The house is surrounded by woodland on the Woolpack Road and the Ballymore Eustace Road and this remains a feature of the estate. On the Woolpack Road, low stone walls along with the woodlands form the borders of Gowran Grange.

### **Historic Importance of Gowran Grange and its Curtilage**

Gowran Grange House is a well-maintained country house dating back to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The original family still resides in the house,

The demesne is fundamental to the history of the area, the house and its curtilage being of great historic importance both architecturally and socially,

JHE Fock (4th Baron de Robeck) commissioned the building of Gowran Grange at Swordlestown Demesne, Naas, Co Kildare between the years 1857-59,

The house was designed by the architect John McCurdy, who designed the Shelbourne Hotel (1865) and the Royal Marine Hotel in Dun Laoghaire to name a few,

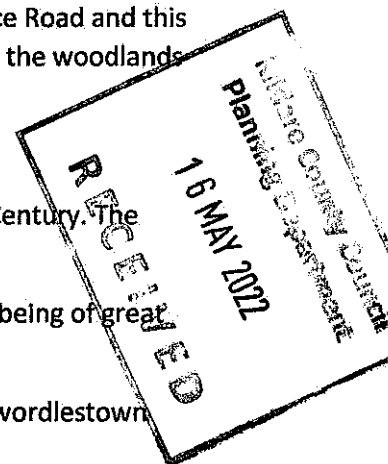
A substantial Gothic revival manor house, Gowran Grange was designed in collaboration with W.H. Lynn, who was called in to improve the Gothic detailing of the interior,

The de Robeck family were very active members of the Kildare Hunt and made a huge contribution to its development and wellbeing,

The "Great Southern & Western Railway" line runs to the extreme southwest corner of the estate. Racegoers from Tullow alighted the train near Gowran Grange at Harristown Station and using the rights of way walked through the lands of Gowran Grange Demesne to Punchestown races,

According to into Kildare ([intokildare.ie](http://intokildare.ie)), just three of Kildare's "Big Houses" remain in the hands of the families that lived there a hundred years ago, namely Killadoon, Burtown House and Gowran Grange,

The house and demesne continue to be maintained to a high standard with the known archaeological monuments and woodlands safeguarded,



Gowran Grange is included on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage and we are asking that it be promoted to Kildare County Council's Record of protected Structures,

**Landscape significance of Gowran Grange Demesne**

The Gowran Grange Demesne supports features of Historic Parkland Landscape. This includes formal gardens, a collection of interesting trees and less formal natural habitats, water channels, artificial ponds and mixed broadleaf woodland.

Water features in the Gowran Grange area are concentrated in the core/central area of the Demesne, where artificial ponds support beautiful fringing aquatic and emergent vegetation.

We ask that the entirety of Gowran Grange Demesne be recognised as an important historic entity and that the buildings and landholdings be protected in their entirety,

The Heritage of the Gowran Grange Demesne is hugely significant and it provides the county with a strong sense of place , character and distinctiveness.





Fig. 3 – Map showing location of Gowran Grange Demesne marked in orange



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Fig. 4 – Gowran Grange as viewed from the west



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