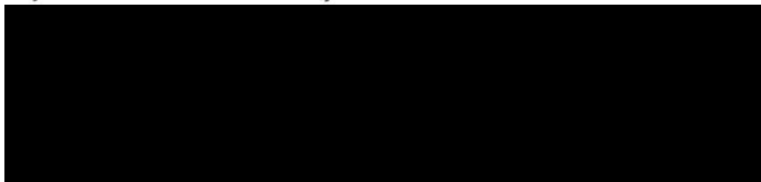


SUBMISSION TO DRAFT KILDARE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2023-2029

C/O The Administrative Officer,
Forward Planning,
Áras Chill Dara,
Devoy Park,
Naas,
Co. Kildare.

**Please find attached Architectural assessment of Gowran Grange,
Punchestown, Co. Kildare in support of its addition to the Record of
Protected Structures (RPS) for Co. Kildare. For Punchestown Community
Group**

By Dr Andrew Tierney





05/05/2022

Re: Architectural assessment of Gowran Grange, Punchestown, Co. Kildare in support of its addition to the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) for Co. Kildare. For Punchestown Community Group.

Gowran Grange is an important Victorian country house in County Kildare. The house has been attributed to the youthful John McCurdy by Bence-Jones (1978) but is more likely the work (in overall conceit at least) of Belfast-based architectural firm Lanyon & Lynn (later Lanyon, Lynn & Lanyon) (Casey 2005; Tierney 2019), possibly with McCurdy as collaborator and executant (in which capacity he also worked with Deane and Woodward at the Museum Building in Trinity College Dublin 1853-7). Additional work is recorded in 1872. The firm, founded by Sir Charles Lanyon and William Henry Lynn in 1854, was among the most successful country house practices working in Ireland in the mid-19th century. Major works of these architects, working alone or in collaboration, include Stranmillis, Co. Antrim (1857-8), Killashee, Co. Kildare (1859-62), Rossmore Park, Co. Monaghan (1858), Belfast Castle (1862), Ballymena Castle (begun 1865), Stradbally Hall, Co. Laois (1866-7), and Castle Leslie, Co. Monaghan. In many ways Gowran Grange is typical of this oeuvre, with an irregular plan, a mix of Gothic and Tudor/Jacobean detailing, including canted bays, oriel windows, crenellations, buttresses, and finally a lively roofline of gabled dormers and tall stacks.

Like many of the Tudor revival houses of the nineteenth century, Gowran Grange's architectural profile was designed as a picturesque addition to the landscape. It is resonant with nostalgia for the Elizabethan golden age, inspired by the work of lithographers such as Joseph Nash, author of the hugely popular four volume *The Mansions of England in the Olden Time* (1839-49), which did much to popularise the style. Given its size, architectural quality, and regional significance, as well as its importance to the local history of Punchestown, in my opinion the house, its demesne, and any associated historic structures should undoubtedly be added to the county's Record of Protected Structures.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Andrew Tierney'.

Dr Andrew Tierney

