

Site:	Templeogue House	Nat. Grid. Ref:	31233/22861
Townland:	Templeogue	OS 6" Sheet No:	Dublin 22
Parish:	Tallaght	Excavation Licence No:	04E 1111
County:	Dublin	Arch-Tech Project Ref:	D015
Planning Ref:	Part VIII		

1.0. INTRODUCTION.

- 1.1. This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological investigations at Templeogue House, Templeogue, Dublin (Refer Fig. 1), undertaken in 2005 and 2006. These include archaeological monitoring for the redevelopment of the carpark and plaza (Phases I-III) and an archaeological test-trench to the rear of Templeogue House for a proposed new extension. The report has been carried out on behalf of South Dublin County Council.
- 1.2. The development associated with the monitoring programme (under Licence No. 04E1111) described herein consists of the development of an additional 57 carparking spaces by the reconfiguration of the existing carpark and extension of the boundary of the carpark and the existing access towards Templeogue Road; the extension of the existing wall and railings to a newly located entrance gate; the construction of a new footpath to connect with the existing footpath and the creation of a new pedestrian entrance; and the development of a small paved area in the public open space to the front of Templeogue House facing the tree-lined axis. This latter paved area will incorporate some of the archaeological findings from the archaeological programme.
- 1.3. This report also includes gathers together in summary form the results of previous archaeological work conducted at Templeogue House by Leo Swan in 1996, Chris Corlett in 1997, Ronan Swan in 1998; Stuart Halliday in 2004 and Antoine Giacometti in 2005. Also included as appendices are specialist reports on the glass and pottery recovered in the 1996 excavations which have not appeared previously.

2.0. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.

2.1. Early history.

- 2.1.1. The Early Christian church foundation at Templeogue was known as *Teach Mealóg* translating as ‘Mealóg’s Church’ (Flanagan & Flanagan 1994, 257). In 1290, a new church was built and given the name *Tempull Og* or *Temple Oge* meaning ‘New Church’ (Project Group 1992, 4).
- 2.1.2. The ruins of the church (RMP No. DU022-00901) lie to the south-west of Templeogue House and probably occupy the site of the earlier foundation as suggested by grave-slabs (RMP Nos. DU022-00904 and 05) found at the site which predate the 13th century foundation of the semi-extant structure. Due to political upheaval along the Dublin-Wicklow border, Templeogue became the dominant church in the area instead of Kilnasantan.
- 2.1.3. The Regal Visitation of 1615 states that the church and chancel at Templeogue were ‘utterly in ruin’ (D’Alton 1838, 388) and nearly 300 years later, at the beginning of the 20th century Ball remarks that only the western part of the south wall and a portion of the end wall remain extant (Ball 1906, 23).

2.2. Dublin Watercourse.

- 2.2.1. During the Medieval period, the importance of Templeogue was increased due to the path of the Dublin watercourse, which ran through the townland and indeed through the grounds of Templeogue House.
- 2.2.2. In 1176, the monks of the Abbey of St. Thomas and the Archbishop, located behind the site of St. Catherine’s Church in Thomas Street, were granted lands west of the Poddle as a far as Kimmage by King John (Sweeney 1991, 18). The monks created the Abbey Stream which runs along the east side of Mount Jerome Cemetery at Harold’s Cross to join with the Poddle in order to provide themselves with a convenient water supply. During times of drought, the water supply of the Abbey Stream would run precariously low.
- 2.2.3. In 1244-1245 under the instruction of Maurice Fitzgerald, Judiciary of Ireland, the monks devised a scheme that would increase the flow of the Poddle by erecting a weir on the Dodder near Firhouse. The Dodder water was therefore diverted into an open channel 3km in length, which ran beneath the Tallaght Road northwards to Templeogue, skirting the wall of the churchyard to pass through the grounds of Templeogue House to join the Poddle at Kimmage Manor (Joyce 1912, 452). The urban portions of the watercourse are now largely underground except for a small portion, which runs parallel with the western side of Kimmage Road Lower, to the north-east of Templeogue House (Joyce 1912, 453).

- 2.2.4. The path of the watercourse through the estate of Templeogue House gave the landowner a certain amount of power. Not only did he have the responsibility of supervising and maintaining the water supply along his stretch, he also had control over the flow of the water source.
- 2.2.5. In 1579, the Commons of the City complained that the flow of water had been disrupted by Mr. Talbot of Templeogue who claimed a legal right to corn from the city mills which had been promised to him in recompense for maintaining the watercourse (Ball 1906, 24).
- 2.2.6. Disruption again threatened in the 18th century when Sir Compton Domville (then resident at Templeogue House), proposed to interrupt the water supply unless his nephew Lord Santry was pardoned from a death sentence imposed for murder (*ibid*, 27). The significance of the water supply is asserted by the fact that the sentence was quashed.
- 2.2.7. As a result of canal construction, the importance of the watercourse declined in the 19th century, but its general upkeep was maintained and it continued to drive the mills at Templeogue up until 1952.
- 2.3. [Medieval Period.](#)
- 2.3.1. The lands of Templeogue were part of the Archbishop's Manor of Tallaght and were held at the beginning of the 14th century by the Harold family whose prominence in the area is remembered in the name Harold's Cross sited to the north (Ball 1906, 24). To date there is no archaeological or historical evidence that the Harolds had a residence at Templeogue.
- 2.3.2. By the 16th century the lands were in the hands of the Talbot family under Richard Talbot, Second Justice of the Common Bench. The Talbot's built the first castle here, possibly in the mid-16th century, the remains of which can still be seen in the basement of the present building. Richard's son John Talbot succeeded him and died in 1580 to be succeeded by his son Robert. Robert died in 1616 and the house passed on to his sons John (died 1627) and so to Henry (Ball 1906, 23-24).
- 2.3.3. In 1639, Henry Talbot was returned to parliament as a representative of Newcastle Lyons. He was later expelled for non-attendance. It was stated that when the rebellion broke out he fled Templeogue seeking refuge with his brother in law, Sir John Dongon in Kildare rather than assist against the rebels as was expected. He later left for England where he was Knighted for services to the King. After the Commonwealth, he appears on a list of those ordered to transplant to Connaught (Ball 1906, 25).

- 2.3.4. By the time of the Commonwealth (1649-1653), there were about 40 inhabitants in Templeogue including Theobald Talbot who is described as steward of the town. The Books of Survey and Distribution record 'a Castle in Repaire, a Tuck Mill and a House out of Repaire' at Templeogue at this time (Simington 1945, 289).
- 2.3.5. Following the Restoration (1660), the castle was rated as containing five hearths. It had for a time been held by Roger Brereton but was subsequently placed into the hands of a caretaker who was paid by the crown. A few years later Sir Henry Talbot was restored to his ancestral home. The castle passed to Henry's son Colonel James Talbot (Ball 1906, 25).
- 2.4. [The Domville Family.](#)
- 2.4.1. At the close of the 17th century, the lands at Templeogue were mortgaged for £3000 by the proprietor Sir James Talbot to Sir Thomas Domville (alternatively spelt Domvile [Ball]) together with several houses in the city of Dublin (D'Alton 1838, 388).
- 2.4.2. Sir Thomas was the second son of King Charles II's Irish Attorney General. On the site of the castle Sir Thomas erected a handsome mansion which incorporated some of the fabric of the castle and which is said to have been built of red brick with a gabled roof (Ball 1906, 25).
- 2.4.3. Sir Thomas and his third wife had one son named Sir Compton Domville who became his successor. Compton, a Privy Councillor made numerous improvements to the house and particularly to the gardens which included ornamental mounds and arches some of which are apparent Rocque's Map of 1760 and on the First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1837-43 (*ibid.*, 26; and refer Figs. 4, 5 and 7). The ornamental gardens included a grand waterfall near the gate which fell approximately 20ft in height; the waterfall was diverted from the flow of the City Watercourse (Handcock 1877, 106).
- 2.4.4. Legend has it that an underground passage leads from the house towards an ornamental mound (RMP No. DU022-011) surmounted by a temple. This is improbable, and the myth may be explained however by the underground conduits and arches that convey the city watercourse in the vicinity (Handcock 1877, 106).
- 2.4.5. Sir Compton Domville succeeded to Santry Court in 1751 owing to the death of his nephew, the last Lord Santry, but he continued to use Templeogue House as one of his minor residences (Ball 1906, 27).
- 2.4.6. On his death he was succeeded by his nephew Charles Pocklington who took the name of Domville. It would appear that he resided constantly at Templeogue until about 1780 when he went to reside at Santry Court leaving Templeogue House in a bad state of repair.

- 2.4.7. In the early 18th century Templeogue become known for its spa, which reached the peak of its popularity around 1730 (Ball 1906, 26). The Chalybeate Spa (meaning impregnated with iron) was located at Spawell House on the south side of the Tallaght Road, to the southwest of Templeogue House (*ibid*).
- 2.5. 19th-20th century.
- 2.5.1. In the early part of the 19th century, Templeogue House was pulled down. Some of the walls of the ancient castle again escaped demolition and were reincorporated into the present residence. Although the building was destroyed, D’Alton (1838, 388) notes that much of the extensive landscaped gardens remained. Templeogue House was entirely rebuilt, and greatly extended with the addition of a western wing. This western wing has since been demolished in the 1980s for the construction of St. Michael’s House.
- 2.5.2. In the early to mid-19th century Templeogue House became the residence of P. Gogarty Esq. (Lewis 1837, 587). In 1843 the house is known to have been occupied by the novelist Charles Lever. Since this time the house has passed through various hands. At the turn of the 20th century, Ball (1906, 23) noted that a Mr. William Alexander was in residence. It was bought by a Bernard Daly in 1919 and sold to a Henry White (Gown Manufacturer) in 1945. In 1958, the house was bought by the Maynooth Mission to China (Columban Fathers) and sold to Crampton Housing in 1972 (Project Group 1992, 7-8).
- 2.5.3. The house was subsequently used as a workshop for the mentally handicapped and renamed St. Michael's. The workshop has subsequently moved to a new building nearby, while the house is now the headquarters of the Bridge Association of Ireland. An extension built to the west of the house after 1998 now houses the Bridge Association.

3.0. **CARTOGRAPHIC, PICTOGRAPHIC AND PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE.**

3.1. General.

3.1.1. An analysis has been carried out of various maps for the study area including the Down Survey, 1654-56, Rocque's Map of County Dublin, 1760 and the First Edition 6" Ordnance Survey Map, 1837-43. Sketches and photographs of the site have also been examined.

3.2. The Down Survey of the Barony of Newcastle and Uppercross, 1654-56. Not to scale (Fig. 3).

3.2.1. The Down Survey Map dating from 1654-56 names 'Templodge' spanning the line of the Dublin water supply along the stretch between the Dodder to the east and the Poddle to the west. This stretch of water is named 'The River that Supplyeth Dublin'. To the east of the water supply a castle (RMP No. DU022-010) is depicted and named '*Castle in Repare*', indicating the location of Templeogue House.

3.2.2. Also in the vicinity of Templeogue, a mill is depicted and named to the south-west of the castle on the bank of the river. No further features are marked in the locality of Templeogue.

3.3. Design for the layout of Water Gardens at Templeogue House. National Library. Manuscript Map 16G 42(12). Not to scale (Fig. 4).

The Water Gardens in the grounds of Templeogue House were constructed between 1721 and 1751 by Sir Compton Domville. The plan of the gardens shows their complexity. Templeogue House is shown to the right of the map with a remarkable set of steps. No buildings or garden features are depicted to the west of the house in the vicinity of the Bridge Club.

3.4. John Rocque's Map of the County of Dublin 1760. Not to scale (Fig. 5).

3.4.1. John Rocque's Map of 1760 reflects the rural character of Templeogue at this date. Templeogue House is oriented approximately northwest to southeast and fronts immediately onto a tree-lined driveway, which runs westwards from the Tallaght Road. Formal landscaped gardens stretch southwards from the front of the house towards Wellington Lane. To the north-east of the house a circular feature is marked; this is likely to represent the ornamental temple marked on the First Edition Ordnance Survey Map (refer Fig. 7).

3.4.2. Given the concentration of landscape features and the variable scale of Rocque's map it is difficult to discern any features of possible archaeological significance from the extensive landscaping within the immediate vicinity of Templeogue House. If any such features did exist, it is possible that later landscaping efforts may have resulted in their disturbance.

- 3.4.3. The line of the watercourse is visible running northwards from the Dodder and through the grounds of Templeogue House. It disappears just south of the tree-lined avenue off the Templeogue Road, in the location marked as a gatehouse by the later O.S. maps (refer Fig. 7). From here it presumably ran underground below Templeogue House. It is shown reappearing to the west of the house, just north of the tree-lined avenue, and continuing northwards towards Kimmage and Dublin.
- 3.5. [Sketch of Templeogue House c. 1780 by Beranger. Irish Architectural Archive. \(Fig. 6\).](#)
- 3.5.1. This sketch by Beranger in c. 1780 shows the Queen Ann mansion, which is referred to by Ball (1906) and which was built between 1690 and 1721. These years saw Templeogue Castle pass into the possession of the Domville family who were to become the owners and occupiers of the house and lands for the next century or so. Sir Thomas Domville was the second Son of King Charles II's Irish Attorney-General. On the site of the castle Sir Thomas Domville erected a handsome mansion, in which he incorporated some portion of the ancient building, and which is said to have been built of red brick with a high pitched gable roof. A brick chimney can be seen to the east of the house, and presumably there would have been another to the west of the house.
- 3.6. [First Edition 6" Ordnance Survey Map, Dublin Sheet 22, 1843. Enlarged Scale 1:5,280 \(Fig. 7\).](#)
- 3.6.1. The First Edition of the 6" Ordnance Survey Map shows Templeogue House set in mature landscaped grounds. The house is reached via a driveway exiting off the Templeogue Road. The D-shaped driveway is depicted in detail. The footprint of the house comprises a rectangular structure oriented southeast to northwest. Unusually, the front staircase to the house appears to be marked on the map. A secondary structure of the same orientation abuts the northwestern corner of the main house. Small outbuildings are located to the northwest of the house and contained within the inner estate. The house is set in demesne grounds which comprise wooded land and formal gardens.
- 3.6.2. The line of the Dublin watercourse is depicted running northwards towards Templeogue House within the demesne lands. It disappears just short of the driveway in front of the house, in what appears to be an oval pond. It runs underground in the vicinity of the house. It reappears to the west of the house, where it runs northwestwards along a field boundary, before turning northwards towards the city.
- 3.6.3. On the lands of Templeogue House between the house and the neighbouring estate of Cypress Grove to the north-east, there is a broken circular feature depicted and marked 'Temple'; this can be attributed to a landscaping feature set in the grounds.

- 3.6.4. To the southeast of Templeogue House, a flour mill is marked next to a branch of the City Watercourse. A Church and graveyard are marked to the southwest.
- 3.6. [Second Edition 6" Ordnance Survey Map, Dublin Sheet 22, 1871.](#)
[Enlarged Scale 1:5,280 \(Fig. 8\).](#)
- 3.6.1. The Second Edition of the 6" Ordnance Survey Map shows almost no additional information. The detail is clearer on this edition, in particular of the City Watercourse in the vicinity of the house. The sections where the watercourse run below ground are clearly visible, and the ornamental watercourse is clearly depicted and compares well with the design sketch (refer Fig. 4). Part of the original course of the City Watercourse is visible to the southwest of the gate lodge. A small section of the watercourse is now visible above ground, curving gently from east to west, to the southwest of Templeogue House.
- 3.7. [Sketch of Templeogue House 1890, reproduced in Memorable Dublin Houses.](#)
[\(Fig. 9\).](#)
- 3.7.1. This sketch is taken from a publication called Memorable Dublin Houses published in 1896. It refers to tradition that King James II slept here after the night of his defeat at the Boyne and evidence of its former splendour can be found in the description that accompanies it. It is described as 'the former resort of the Knight Templars, and is one of several mansions in which King James is traditionally said to have slept on the night of this defeat at the Boyne. Its great courtyard, with the impregnably high walls and gate piers twenty feet high, the old Dutch waterfall, terraced walks, gigantic grottos, extensive gardens, and avenues of trees, attest its former importance. Its sweeping avenue is entered by a massive old iron gate, between high piers tipped by globes of granite'.
- 3.7.2. It is now shown in the drawing however, as a modest almost nondescript country house even less impressive than it appears to us today, and this coincides with many descriptions which tell us that in the early part of the 19th century, Templeogue House was pulled down. Some of the walls of the ancient castle however, resisted the house breakers and were again incorporated in the present residence which was built in the first half of the 19th century. All trace of the appurtenances of the Queen Ann mansion have now disappeared.
- 3.7.3. A one-story extension is shown to the west of the house, which is now the location of the modern entrance to the Bridge Club.
- 3.8. [Third Edition 6" Ordnance Survey Map, Dublin Sheet 22, 1912.](#)
[Enlarged Scale 1:5,280 \(Fig. 10\).](#)
- 3.8.1. The Second Edition of the 6" Ordnance Survey Map shows minor changes to the Templeogue House grounds. The ornamental watercourse, including pond and waterfall, appear to have fallen into disuse and have been rearranged, but otherwise

the above-ground and below-ground sections of the watercourse remain the same as in the previous 1871 O.S. map. A small bridge is visible over part of the watercourse directly to the southwest of Templeogue House.

- 3.8.2. Templeogue House seems to have been extended to the northwest. The round tower to the east of the house is clearly visible, as are the front steps. The building directly southwest of Templeogue House has disappeared, replaced by a smaller building or group of buildings of indeterminate shape. New buildings have been erected to the west of the house, oriented north to south, and overlooking a courtyard. The driveway in front of the house has been reconfigured, and a new driveway has been laid out to the rear of the property.

- 3.9. [Third Edition Revised 6" Ordnance Survey Map, Dublin Sheet 22, 1940. Enlarged Scale 1:5,280 \(Fig. 11\).](#)
- 3.9.1. The Revised Third Edition 6" Ordnance Survey Map depicts an unchanged outline of Templeogue House. Additional buildings have been erected around a courtyard to the west of the house. Part of the watercourse directly in front of the house has been opened up, and only a small part now lies underground. In addition, open watercourses are now marked all around the house, for example to the north of the driveway by Templeogue Road.

- 3.10. [View of western wing, 1978. Irish Architectural Archives \(Fig. 12\).](#)
- 3.10.1. The photograph shows a very impressive view of Templeogue House with its western wing, which was pulled down for the construction of St. Michael's House shortly after the photograph was taken (compare with Plate 1). The western wing is partly located over the site of the current Bridge Club. The wing was torn down in the 1980s.

- 3.11. [Front Elevation of Templeogue House, by Una O'Tierney, 1996. Scale 1:50. \(Fig. 13\).](#)
- 3.11.1. The present frontage of Templeogue House is depicted on Figure 13. It shows the location and level of the undercroft (depicted as a dashed line) to the east of the house. Otherwise, the elevation is identical to the 1978 view of the house, except that it clearly shows the tower to the east of the house.

4.0. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.

4.1. [Record of Monuments and Places.](#)

4.1.1. The files of the Record of Monuments and Places (commonly known as the 'RMP', 'Sites and Monuments Record' or 'RMP'), in conjunction with the Recorded Monuments (or Constraint) maps compiled by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland, form part of the archives of Dept. of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government, and are one of the primary repositories of information on the archaeological record.

4.1.2. The Record of Monuments and Places comprise the following elements: (i) Letter or Letters indicating County (DU = Dublin); (ii) A three digit number indicating the relevant Ordnance Survey Sheet Number (e.g. -018); (iii) A three, four or five digit number indicating the dedicated number of the individual site or monument.

4.2. [Recorded Monuments within the study area \(refer Fig. 2\).](#)

4.2.1. The archaeological work took place within the archaeological constraint zone defining two recorded monuments, those being a tower house (RMP No. DU022-010) at the site of modern Templeogue House and the path of the medieval watercourse (RMP No. DU022-003).

4.2.2. The RMP file lists RMP No. DU022-010 as a castle site. The OPW field notes dating from 1979, record that the present house is 'devoid of architectural character, but incorporates two corner towers rising to three storeys possibly belonging to a medieval castle' (refer Plate 1). The interior of the house was inspected some ten years earlier and was noted to contain vaulted stone rooms and Rococo (mid-18th century) plasterwork. At this time it was also noted that ornamental cascades fed by the City Watercourse had disappeared.

4.2.3. The line of the medieval city watercourse (RMP No. DU022-003) ran through the lands of Templeogue House on the stretch which joins the River Dodder with the Poddle to the north. The watercourse was utilised in the garden landscaping attributed to Sir Compton Domville to create an ornamental cascade. The watercourse was partially destroyed in 1973 (Craig 1973).

4.2.4. There are a further four recorded monuments in the vicinity. These are listed below in order to place the site within its wider archaeological landscape.

4.2.5. A mound which supported an ornamental temple located in the grounds of Templeogue House is classified as Recorded Monument No. DU022-011. There is however no evidence to suggest the mound is of antiquity; it was more than likely created as part of the landscaping efforts undertaken by Sir Compton Domville. The archaeological constraint defining the mound is located approximately 140m north-east of Templeogue House.

- 4.2.6. Approximately 170m to the southwest of Templeogue House is the site of the ruined church (RMP No. DU022-00901). The church is enclosed on all sides by housing estates and is well maintained. The church comprises a combined nave and chancel and located within a roughly oval graveyard.
- 4.2.7. The third recorded monument is the dwelling known as Cypress Grove (RMP No. DU022-012) which is situated approximately 310m to the north-east of Templeogue House.
- 4.2.8. The fourth site is the possible site of the Spawell (RMP No. DU022-059) located approximately 450m south-west of Templeogue House. The site is now visible as an enclosed pool in a patio at Spawell leisure complex.
- 4.3. [Topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland.](#)
- 4.3.1. The National Museum of Ireland holds two files concerning Templeogue. The first file lists two finds, a perforated bone disc (Museum Reg. No. 1977:2200) and a perforated shell object (Museum Reg. No. 1977:2201). These objects measuring 1.5cm in diameter and 2cm by 1.5cm respectively were found on the surface of a ploughed field. No further information locational or otherwise is given.
- 4.3.2. The second file concerns the site of Victorian Sluice gates on the medieval watercourse situated to the south-west of Templeogue House at Balrothery, Templeogue (Museum Reg. No. Record only). The file addresses the recording, dismantling, relocation and reconstruction of the sluice gates in 1984-85 and includes an archaeological report submitted by V.J. Keeley (1985, unpublished excavation report). Recovered finds include two pieces of flint and a spud stone (door support).
- 4.4. [Previous archaeological excavations at Templeogue House \(Fig. 14\).](#)
- 4.4.1. A number of previous excavations have taken place in Templeogue House from 1996, and these are discussed below (Sections 5.0 to 11.0). The location of all the archaeological work carried out at the site to date is marked on Figure 14. The plates relate to sections 8.0 and 11.0.

5.0. EXCAVATIONS IN THE TEMPLEOGUE HOUSE UNDERCROFT, 1996.

- 5.1. Archaeological test-trenching was carried out in the undercroft of Templeogue House in the first half of 1996 (Excavation Licence No. 96E 010; Preliminary Report on Archaeological Testing for the OPW, dated 1 May 1996; *Excavations* ref. 1996:144), as part of reconstruction works. Further archaeological work took place subsequently, under the same excavation licence number. The work was conducted by Leo Swan, Arch-Tech Ltd.

- 5.2. Five test trenches were excavated as part of the testing programme, extending the full length and width of the undercroft. All were dug to the level of the underlying natural subsoil. An **early layer of cobbling** was revealed at a depth of between 0.35-0.45m below the present undercroft flooring. This extended over most of the area, but had been cut through by a number of channels. The cobbling appeared to have been set directly into the **underlying natural marl** and was barely clear of the natural water-level. Thus it is suggested that these **channels** were associated with water drainage and that similar circumstances necessitated the raising of the original floor level to its more recent height.

- 5.3. A significant deposit of pottery and glass dating to the late 16th to early 19th century was found, suggesting that the floor level was raised at the end of the 19th century. The glass finds from the excavations comprised a large quantity of broken wine bottles and smaller amount of table glass-ware, the latter being of particular archaeological significance.

- 5.4. There was no evidence of pre-16th century occupation and the construction of the undercroft, which had a vaulted structural arch with wattle and daub ceiling, would appear to confirm the conclusion that the castle belongs to the later 16th or early 17th century. Somewhat surprisingly, the 1996 excavations found that the greater portion of the fabric of this structure appears to have survived and to have been incorporated into the subsequent restoration/early Georgian and the later Victorian phases of reconstruction.

- 5.5. Following the archaeological works, the complete restoration of the structure was undertaken. It is presently in use as a bar for the Templeogue Community Bridge Club.

- 5.6. [Finds from the 1996 excavations.](#)
- 5.6.1. The following is a summary of the finds from the archaeological investigations below Templeogue House in 1996, as far as could be established from the finds catalogue (the finds have not been examined by the author). The finds are catalogued by Excavation No. and Find No. only, as the excavated deposits were badly disturbed. A number of gaps in the database were noted, presumably a result of re-numbering.

The gaps are nos. 96E010:136-141,435-437,439,442-445,447-449,451-474, and 771-784. The finds register is included as Appendix A. Please note that finds 96E010:1001 and 96E010:1002 were recovered from the interior of the house in 2006 (refer Section 12.0).

5.6.2. *Glass.*

Over 1,500 fragments of glass were recovered from the 1996 Templeogue House excavations. The majority of these are green glass bottle fragments (approximately 96E010:133-770) . These have been the subject of a report by Nessa Roche (refer Appendix B), who dated them between the late 17th century and 20th century, with the majority from the early 18th century.

The glass tableware (96E010:01-22) has been analysed by Peter Francis (refer Appendix C, and see also Fig. 15), who dated the assemblage to the 1680s and 1690s. The table-glass is now in the National Museum. The following note on the tableware assemblage was written by Peter Francis.

‘The collection of fine-quality table-glass recovered by the Templeogue House excavation is of both national and international significance, for it appears to be the largest, most diverse assemblage of late-seventeenth century table-glass that has yet been excavated anywhere in the world.’

‘The special significance of this material lies in the fact that each of the individual pieces (15 drinking glasses, 2 flagons, a posset-pot and basin) is made of lead glass (similar to that produced at Waterford today). Lead glass was considered a revolutionary new material when it was developed in the 1670s, but our understanding of its early development has hitherto been hindered by the fact that only a few, scattered fragments of lead glass have been recovered by excavation (in Ireland, England and America). The importance of the Templeogue House assemblage is obvious therefore, in that it provides a complete range of early examples, (at least ten types of drinking glass are recorded, several for the first time), all of them produced within a year or so of the invention of lead glass itself.’

‘Apart from revealing an entirely new series of glass designs (which appear to combine elements of both Venetian and English Styles), the assemblage may also represent the very earliest examples of fine-quality Irish glass. Until recently, the ‘invention’ of lead glass was believed to have occurred in London during the mid-1670’s, but new documentary evidence has shown that a glasshouse on Lazars Hill in Dublin gained a patent for lead-glass manufacture at the same time (1675). It may well transpire that the Templeogue House glasses were indeed produced in Dublin at this time, but direct comparison with glass from English excavations is required to resolve the matter. Such a discovery would dramatically change accepted views of glass history.’

Summary of glass recovered in 1996 excavations.

96E010:1-21	21 fragments of glass tableware, late C17th
96E010:22	1 fragment of glass tableware, late C17th, found by FAS Manager T. Molloy on 20/7/1998.
96E010:133-135	2 glass onion bottles, 1690-1720.
96E010:142-429	287 various glass bottles, late C17th to early C19th.
96E010:475-713	239 various glass bottles, late C17th to early C19th.
96E010:713-736	674 various glass bottles, late C17th to early C19th.
96E010:737-749	229+ various glass bottles, late C17th to early C19th. (exact no. unspecified)
96E010:762	29 ?window glass fragments.
96E010:778-770	3 various glass bottles.
96E010:?	5 various uncontexted glass fragments, in NMI.
Templeogue	5+ (exact no. unspecified) various uncontexted glass fragments, in NMI.

5.6.3. *Pottery.*

Approximately 100 sherds (exact no. unspecified) of post-medieval pottery were recovered from the 1996 excavations. The German stoneware was the subject of a short report by Caroline Sandes in 1999 (refer Appendix D).

Summary of pottery recovered in 1996 excavations.

German stoneware	65%
Unidentified stoneware	2%
North Devon wares	17%
Black-glazed earthenwares, glazed and unglazed red earthenwares	14%
Creamware, pearlware, mottled ware, etc.	5%

Overall the pottery assemblage was mixed and ranged in date from the early 17th century to the early 19th century, in a similar way to the glass assemblage. Of particular interest was the unusually high proportion of German stoneware, constituting 65% of the assemblage. The German stoneware was identified as Frechen ware 'Bartmann' bottles, which were made from the late 16th century to early 18th century. Comparison with pottery assemblages from the southern British Isles, and based on the absence of German stonewares from other centres such as Cologne and Westerwald, the assemblage is most likely to date from somewhere between 1580 and 1650 (Gaimster 1997, 52-103).

5.6.4. *Other.*

Other than the pottery and glass, a ceramic tile (96E010:450,750), a whetstone(96E010:763), a leather possible knife sheath (96E010:765) and a strand of twisted green and red woollen textile (96E010:766) were recovered.

6.0. EXCAVATIONS AT TEMPLEOGUE HOUSE, 1997.

- 6.1. An engineering test-pit was archaeologically monitored on 29th October 1997 (No Licence No., Report on Archaeological Monitoring for the OPW, dated 10th November 1997), in advance of a proposed extension to Templeogue House (being the present Bridge Club) as part of new buildings works at Templeogue House. The test-pit was monitored by Chris Corlett, Arch-Tech Ltd.
- 6.2. The north end of the test-pit was located 7.5m north-east of the current building of Templeogue House. The test-pit measured 2m long, 1.1m wide and 1.8m deep, and was oriented north-south. No finds or features of archaeological interest were noted during the excavation of the test-pit.
- 6.3. The lowest layer noted comprised a **wet compact orange-brown silty-clay**, which may have represented the natural subsoil. Over this was a **wet dark-grey silty-clay**, which may have deposited through water action and measured 0.25-0.30m in thickness. This was covered by **construction or demolition rubble** with stone, red brick and mortar. The uppermost layers of the trench consisted of a 0.40m thick layer of **grey gravel** under a 0.15-0.20m thick layer of **modern brownish-grey loose stony clay and rubble**.

7.0. EXCAVATIONS FOR THE TEMPLEOGUE BRIDGE CLUB BUILDING, 1998.

- 7.1. Archaeological test-trenching was carried out to the west of Templeogue House on the 11th May 1998 (Excavation Licence No. 98E0221; Preliminary Report on Archaeological Testing for SDCC, dated 7th July 1998; *Excavations* ref. 1998:224), in advance of a proposed extension (being the Bridge Club, Planning Reg. Ref: S97A/0229). Subsequently, a programme of archaeological monitoring took place under the same excavation licence number. The work was conducted by Ronan Swan, Arch-Tech Ltd.
- 7.2. For the purposes of the 1998 works Site North was set at c. 45 degrees west of true magnetic North. This was done in order to orient the archaeological works to the building plans, however later works in 2004-2006 set Site North at c. 45 degrees east of true North. The descriptions below refer to the 1998 Site North, however the accompanying figure (refer Fig. 16) shows 2004-6 Site North
- 7.3. [The Testing Programme.](#)
- 7.3.1. Three trenches were excavated as part of the testing programme (refer Fig. 16). Test-Trench 1 was positioned 6m to the north of Templeogue House with an east-west alignment. This Test-Trench was opened in two lengths 1(a) and 1(b) due to the presence of a reinforced concrete floor. Test-Trench 2 was positioned 11m to the east of the house, with a north-south alignment, while Test-Trench 3 extended from the rear entrance of the house for a total of 10m.
- 7.3.2. A consistent stratigraphy was apparent in the three trenches reflecting episodes of construction and destruction works in and around the vicinity of Templeogue House. The stratigraphy of each Test-Trench is outlined below, followed by a detailed description of the individual layers and features.
- 7.3.3. [Test-Trench 1.](#)
This Test-Trench was staggered due to the presence of a reinforced concrete floor which was associated with the extension to the house constructed in the middle of the nineteenth century. On the eastern side of this floor, **rubble deposits** (Layer 1) overlay an **organic deposit** (Layer 2). Stratigraphy of this test-trench varied slightly from west to east. At the western end of this test-trench, these rubble deposits overlay a **marl deposit** (Layer 3). A **wall** (Feature 1) was identified mid-way along the trench, extending east-west. A **ditch** (Feature 2) was also noted to the east of this wall. This ditch was cut into the marl and was backfilled with a deposit of rubble and mortar.
- 7.3.4. [Test-Trench 2.](#)
This Test-Trench was opened at right angles to test-trench 1 and was located 11m to the east of the house. The stratigraphy of this test-trench revealed **rubble** (Layer 1) from previous demolition work, overlying the remains of the **wall** (Feature 1). This

wall appeared to have been knocked in towards Templeogue House itself (Layer 4). There was one distinct break within the line of the wall, which on excavation revealed a **setting of stones** (Layer 5) overlying a **fill layer** (Layer 6). This fill in turn overlay the **natural marl deposits** (layer 3).

7.3.5. *Test-Trench 3.*

This test-trench was positioned to the east of the House, for a total length of 10m. It revealed a considerable amount of recent disturbance within this area, with a **modern drain** cut through the **rubble layer** (Layer 1) in the western end of the Test-Trench and a **water pipe** cut through the central portion of the Test-Trench. Also identified was the **wall (Feature 1) and its associated collapse** (Layer 4) in the eastern end of the trench. Indications of a **ditch** feature similar to that identified in Test-Trench 1 (Feature 2) were also apparent. The ditch was overlain by a **garden soil** (Layer 7). A **cobbled layer** was also identified at the eastern end of the Test-Trench. **Marl deposits** (Layer 3) were identified at the base of this Test-Trench.

7.3.6. *The Layers.*

Layer 1 was a mixed deposit of heavy building debris, with mortar, large stones, bone and asphalt. This context was probably deposited when the western extension to the house was knocked down. This was present in both sections of Test-trench 1.

Layer 2 was a greenish black organic deposit, which had a very sticky consistency. Present within this context were fragments of brick, slate and shell. This was only present within the western section of Test-Trench 1.

Layer 3 was a pale bluish grey deposit. It consisted of a compact silt, from which no artefacts were recovered and it would thus appear to be the natural marl.

Layer 4 was an indurate yellow layer, which would appear to be the remains of the collapsed wall. It consisted of a lime mortar interspersed with fragments of brick.

Layer 5 was a layer of cobbling which is located within a break in the line of the wall (Feature 1).

Layer 6 was a dark brown fill, which is highly saturated, and quite sticky. Fragments of mortar and brick and modern delft were recovered from this context.

Layer 7 was a dark brown garden soil, quite well sorted, which has inclusions of brown and black-ware and delft.

7.3.7. *The Features.*

Feature 1 was the remains of a mortared stone wall, of which only three courses survived. It was constructed from roughly cut stone and cut into Layer 3. It had two faces with a central rubble core. It was apparent in all trenches cut. It had a northwest-southeast alignment.

Feature 2 was a ditch on the eastern side of the wall; a recut was visible in Test-Trench 1 where it was overlain by rubble deposits. In Test-Trench 3 it was overlain by a garden soil deposit (Layer 7). It is possible that this feature dates to the construction of the water gardens in the late 18th century.

7.4. *Monitoring Programme.*

7.4.1. The monitoring programme took place on 29th and 30th June 1998. A relatively small amount of new ground was opened during the monitoring, as the previous test-trenching programme had been quite extensive. This new ground was located directly beneath the doorway to the east of buildings giving direct access to undercroft, and along the foundations of the northern end of the west-facing wall of Templeogue House.

7.4.2. In both places the foundations of the present walls were exposed. The foundations consisted of very large limestone boulders, extending for one to two courses beneath the visible wall base, which were themselves sat on a rough stone plinth to depth of 0.80-0.90m below present ground level. At the north end of the west-facing wall, the foundations were laid directly on the natural heavy grey sticky boulder clay with frequent stones at a depth of 0.60-0.65m below the existing surface.

7.5. *Discussion.*

There was no indication that either the wall or the associated ditch date to an early phase of activity (i.e. 16th century). Rather, it is more likely that they were constructed in the eighteenth century, as part of Sir Compton Domville's water features, even though they are not indicated on the sketch map (Fig. 4). From the results of the testing, it is clear that there has been extensive construction and demolition activity within the area of Templeogue House dating from the middle of the sixteenth century.

8.0. TEST-TRENCH AT REAR OF TEMPLEOGUE HOUSE, 2005.

8.1. A test-trench was excavated to the rear of Templeogue House on 22nd June 2005 (Excavation Licence No. 04E1111; Summary report dated 27th June 2005) by Antoine Giacometti in advance of a proposed small single-story extension, which has not yet been built (refer Plate 2). The test-trench was located to the northwest of Templeogue House, near the possibly original early post-medieval castle tower (refer Fig. 17). The trench measured 9.7m in length and 1.5m in width. It was oriented northwest to southeast, and was excavated to a depth of 1.3-1.4m (refer Plate 5).

8.2. Stratigraphy.

8.2.1. The lowest deposit within the trench was a greyish-yellow very compact sterile **natural clay**, identified at a depth of 1.05-1.35m below the current ground surface. It sloped down to the southeast and measured at least 0.15m in thickness. Above this was a **grey soft and friable sterile sand** that varied in composition from fine sand to coarse sand with small pebbles. The deposit was thought to have formed naturally, perhaps through water activity. It measured 0.10-0.25m in thickness and was noted at a depth of 0.75-1.10m from the present ground surface. Stratigraphically above this was a layer of **greyish-brown pale clay**, 0.12-0.20m in thickness, with fragments of red brick and small stones, noted at a depth of 0.72-0.81m below the current ground surface.

8.2.2. Three features were cut through the clay layer. **Masonry foundations belonging to the tower** to the east of Templeogue house were revealed in the southern corner of the test-trench. The modern rendering of the tower extended for 0.40m below the ground. The older stone foundations were found below this, and extended to at least 0.80m below the current ground surface. The foundations were offset 0.08m inwards from the modern rendering of the tower. Construction was of limestone blocks bonded by a lime mortar. **Masonry foundations belonging to the northern side of Templeogue House** were found on the southwestern side of the northwestern part of the trench. The foundations were in very bad condition and had been truncated by modern drains and pipes. They were noted from 0.30m below the current ground surface to a depth of 0.80m below the current ground surface. A possible quoin stone was noted, which lined up with the existing wall, suggesting the wall was once angled at 90 degrees. Construction was of limestone blocks.

8.2.3. The last of the three features cutting the clay layer was a **possible stone-lined cesspit** at the southeastern end of the trench (refer Plate 6). The cess-pit would have been located just outside the test-trench to the southeast, and only the rear of the stone-lining was exposed. This comprised large limestone blocks, with no mortar, and one fragment of red-brick which may have been a repair. The wall of the pit was noted at a depth of 0.90m below the current ground level, and extended below the base of the trench at 1.40m below current ground level. A strong cess-pit-like smell emanated

from the feature. A **red brick floor** (refer Plate 7) was associated with the cess-pit, abutting the top of it and extending for 2.40m northwestwards before being truncated by a drain. The brick surface, likely to have been an outhouse floor, was noted at a depth of 0.70m below the current ground surface, sitting directly over the clay layer.

8.2.4. The **upper layers** of the trench were highly disturbed, due primarily to the tangle of modern plastic pipes criss-crossing the area. Where the layers were undisturbed, they consisted of a dark brownish-black sandy-silt with frequent brick and charcoal flecks, 0.12m-0.80m in thickness. The black silt overlay the features noted above.

8.3. Artefact assemblage.

A single sherd of North Devon Sgraffito pottery (bowl or jug) was noted in the uppermost layer (04E1111:1), which is generally dated to the 17th century. Two sherds of glass (04E1111:2-3) were also noted, both seemingly 18th century bottle glass but not examined by a specialist. No other finds were recovered from within the trench. A large cut decorated granite slab (refer Plate 8) was found near where the test-trench was excavated, and may have come from one of the older phases of Templeogue House. This was retained for possible reuse, and is presently located to the north of the house in a flower-bed.

8.4. Conclusions.

The archaeological assessment noted that the stone foundations for the tower and existing building of Templeogue House would not be affected by the proposed extension. The possible cess-pit and associated brick floor were situated to the southeast of the proposed extension and similarly would not be affected by it. The summary report recommended that all future sub-surface works associated with either extension be subject to a programme of archaeological monitoring under licence from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

9.0. TESTING AND MONITORING OF THE EXTENSION TO THE BRIDGE CLUB, 2005-2006.

9.1. Introduction.

9.1.1. A test-trench was excavated to the west of the present Bridge Club (Excavation Licence No. 04E1111; report dated 4th July 2005 for Templeogue Bridge Club) by Antoine Giacometti of Arch-tech Ltd. on the 23rd June 2005 in advance of a proposed extension. Based on the results of the test-trenching, archaeological monitoring of all groundworks associated with the development was required by Condition 2 on the Decision to Grant Planning Permission (Reg. Ref. SD05A/0695) by South Dublin County Council.

9.1.2. A programme of archaeological monitoring (Excavation Licence No. 04E1111; report dated 20th March 2006 for Templeogue Bridge Club) took place between 28th February and 2nd March 2005 during the construction of the new extension, again by Antoine Giacometti. All archaeological material impacted upon by the development was fully recorded (refer Figs. 18 and 19), and no further archaeological work was recommended in the context of that development.

9.1.3. The test-trench was located to the northwest of Templeogue House, near the modern extension holding the Bridge Club. It measured 10.70m in length, 1.50m in width and varied between 0.90m and 1.15m in depth. It was oriented north to south. Due to the large amount of services encountered and the flooding of the trench the underlying natural subsoil was not reached. The test-trenching programme revealed a very high level of disturbance to the ground, which was in keeping with the results of the earlier test-trenching programme for the original Bridge Club extension in 1998.

9.1.4. The monitoring comprised the excavation of shallow trenches to remove existing services and of deeper trenches for the wall foundations under archaeological supervision. In general the ground was very badly disturbed by modern services. The deeper wall foundation trenches measured 1m in width and were excavated to a depth of 1.60-1.90m. They measured c. 14m north-south and c. 7m east-west.

9.1.5. The stratigraphy was roughly similar in every trench (both testing and monitoring) and is presented below in summarised format. Features of interest are discussed separately below.

9.2. Stratigraphy.

9.2.1. *1.10-1.70m to 1.60-1.90m plus below existing ground surface.*

The **natural geological strata** on the site were characterised by an orange-grey sandy clay with frequent gravel inclusions. This was visible in pockets in the eastern and western sides of the excavation, where the foundation trenches were particularly deep or where the riverine silts were absent or shallow. The natural strata to the north were

different, in that they consisted of a greyish-brown silty-clay without separate pockets of sand. This better-sorted material is likely to have been water deposited.

9.2.2. *1.30-1.40m to 1.60-1.90m plus below existing ground surface.*

A layer of **riverine silts** overlying the natural deposits was revealed over most of the area examined. These were absent to the southwest of the excavations due to modern disturbance, and in two small areas to the north and west where the natural geological strata were slightly raised. They comprised a dark brownish-grey clayish-silt with no inclusions, and represent a silted-up pond or watercourse.

9.2.3. *0.60-1.00m to 1.30-1.40m below existing ground surface.*

A **compact brown clay layer** with frequent small stones was noted over the riverine silts. To the north and east this layer could be further subdivided into a lower pale brown clay and a higher dark brown clayish-silt. The layer contained occasional fragments of red brick, and is therefore post-medieval in date. It is likely to represent the reclamation of the wet ground. This was noted in the preceding testing programme as layers of compact clay C09 and C10.

9.2.4. *0m to 0.60-1.00m from existing ground surface.*

The **uppermost layers** revealed were heavily disturbed and contained frequent plastic and other modern material. Oil, water and electrical services were noted in the upper half of every foundation trench. This material was referred to as C13 during the preceding testing programme.

9.3. [The streams and banks.](#)

9.3.1. The raised ridge of natural clay revealed to the north separated two deposits of riverine silts, and probably represents a bank between two stream branches. A banded bank of sand lay against the eastern side of the natural clay ridge. Sand banks like this are commonly deposited at the edges of rivers or streams where they bend and slow their course. On the western side of the natural clay ridge the riverine silts contained frequent limestone cobbles, again likely to have been associated with river or stream water-action.

9.3.2. The stratigraphy thus suggests the presence of a number of winding streams running through the excavated area, located to the west of Templeogue House. The cartographic sources do not appear to mark any streams in this particular location, and no dating material was found in association with the stream deposits. Despite this, it is possible that the streams formed part of the late medieval City Watercourse.

9.4. [The wall.](#)

9.4.1. A masonry wall foundation running east-west was revealed during the monitoring programme. This wall was noted in both the testing and the monitoring programme. The wall foundation was found in the easternmost trench from a depth of 0.65m to

1.25m, and it measured 0.60m in width. Construction was of limestone blocks (the largest measuring 300mm by 280mm by 120mm) bonded with a soft friable lime mortar. Fragments of red-brick were found in the centre of the wall foundation. The wall was constructed over a thin layer of sand that may have been laid down to provide a level ground.

9.4.2. In between the masonry forming the wall were pockets of highly-organic red soil that appeared to be compost. Unworked fragments of wood were found along the southern side of the foundation. These were initially interpreted as part of a timber support for the foundation trench, possibly a lining to stop the trench from flooding as the masonry was being laid, however they are more likely to represent roots following the course of the wall. To either side of the wall was a deposit of black organic silt (recorded as C12 in the testing programme) with inclusions of red-brick fragments, mortar and charcoal.

9.5. Results.

9.5.1. The testing and monitoring programme revealed a very high level of disturbance to the ground, in keeping with the results of the test-trenching programme conducted for the car park to the south of Templeogue House, and the results of the earlier test-trenching programme in 1998.

9.5.2. Two features of interest were noted during the archaeological work. The first was the remains of a wall foundation. This wall was previously noted during test-trenching by Rónán Swan in 1998 and by the author in 2004. The wall foundation may belong to a back wall or outhouse structure associated with the Queen Anne Mansion. Alternatively it may relate to Domville's ornamental gardens laid in the mid-18th century, which is perhaps more likely as it was of very rough construction and surrounded by organic material similar to compost.

9.5.3. The second feature of interest was the silted course (or courses) of a relict stream (or streams). This may relate to the City Watercourse, which is known to have ran through the grounds of Templeogue House. Cartographic sources such as the Rocque's map of 1760 (refer Fig. 5) and the First Edition O.S. map of 1837-1843 (refer Fig. 7) depict the City Watercourse as flowing underground through the Templeogue House grounds. Its course was probably formalised and culverted, unlike that of the meandering streams found in the excavation. Earlier sources such as the Down Survey of 1654-56 (refer Fig. 3) depict the City Watercourse running some way to the west of Templeogue Castle.

9.5.4. There are several possible interpretations for the relict streams found in the monitoring programme, perhaps the most likely is that they represent an early minor stream running immediate west of Templeogue House (and possibly Templeogue Castle) that was partially diverted to form part of the City Watercourse in 1244-1245,

which would have been located nearby but outside the monitored area. The results of the botanical analysis by Gráinne Kelly (refer Appendix E) suggest the stream ran through a wild and unmanaged landscape, which would support this.

10.0. TEMPLEOGUE CARPARK AND GROUNDS TESTING PROGRAMME, 2004.

10.1. A programme of archaeological test-testing was carried out in advance of development works for the new car park and grounds at Templeogue House on the 14th September 2004 (Excavation Licence No:04E1111, report by Stuart Halliday dated 1st October 2004.). Three trenches were excavated, using a 3-tonne mini-digger fitted with grading bucket (refer Fig. 20).

10.2. Trench 1.

Trench 1 was located on the western side of the present entrance gate and measured 10m in length. It was orientated northwest-southeast and topsoil was found to measure 0.6m deep on average. The **topsoil** contained frequent inclusions of medium to large rounded stones, red brick and plastic bottles. The topsoil directly overlay a **pale yellowish-brown silty-sand** with occasional fragments of red brick in its upper surface. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified.

10.3. Trench 2.

10.3.1. Trench 2 was located to the south of Templeogue House and measured 22m in length, aligned east-west. **Topsoil** measured 0.25m in depth and overlay a 0.3m deep layer of hardcore associated with the landscaping in front of the house. Below this was a 0.6m deep layer of rounded stones mixed with 10% sand and occasional red brick fragments. This layer was subject to collapse and made the trench very unstable. A **pale yellowish-brown silty-sand** was identified below this layer at the eastern end of the trench, while at the western end it overlay a layer of **dark greyish-brown silty-sand** that was excavated to a depth of 0.8m. This layer continued downwards but could not be excavated further due to the limited reach of the mechanical excavator. No finds were retrieved from this layer.

10.3.2. A **masonry wall foundation** running north-south was identified 4.1m from the eastern end of the trench. It measured 0.6m in width and mortared rubble was identified in the section above this base. Only one course of this wall survived, and the foundation cut of the wall was found measuring 0.9-1.1m either side of the wall. The construction fill within the cut comprised a dark greyish-brown silty-sand, in which was noted C17th/C18th century pottery. More of this wall was identified to the south in the subsequent monitoring programme.

10.4. Trench 3.

Trench 3 was located to the south of Templeogue House and measured 5.5m in length, aligned north-south. **Topsoil** was found to measure 0.4m in depth and contained fragments of plastic and stones and plastic bottles. It directly overlay a **pale yellowish-brown silty-sand**. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified in this trench.

10.5. Testing conclusions.

The only feature of archaeological interest found in the testing programme was the masonry wall foundation in Trench 2. Given the width of the wall and the date of the associated pottery, it seems likely to belong to the landscaping outside the Queen Anne Mansion, dating c. 1700-1750. The natural subsoil was not found in any of the test-trenches, so further archaeological material may survive deeper than the presently proposed groundworks. Archaeological monitoring of all further groundworks was recommended.

11.0 TEMPLEOGUE CARPARK AND GROUNDS MONITORING PROGRAMME (PHASES I-III), 2005-2006.

11.1. Introduction.

- 11.1.1. The programme of archaeological monitoring for the carpark works (Phases I-III) took place from 4th March 2005 and ended on 23rd August 2006. The development consisted of re-landscaping the existing roadway and car-park to the front (south) of Templeogue House (refer Plates 3 & 4). The majority of disturbance was restricted to tree roots and areas previously developed such as the existing roadway. There was relatively little disturbance from the laying of modern services such as water and electricity.
- 11.1.2. All groundworks associated with the carpark redevelopment were conducted under archaeological supervision (by Antoine Giacometti, Grainne Kelly and Maedbh Saunderson). Phase I was situated to the east of the grounds, near the entrance gate. Phase II was situated in front of the house, and Phase III was situated to the west of the grounds. Topsoil was stripped using a mechanical digger with a toothless bucket to the level desired or the uppermost level of archaeology where present, which was at a depth of between 0.10m and 1.00m. At no point was the natural geological subsoil encountered, and undisturbed archaeological material still potentially survives *in-situ* below the entire area which was archaeologically monitored. When features or deposits of archaeological interest were encountered, groundworks were halted and archaeological hand excavation was carried out.
- 11.1.3. The majority of the area monitored revealed nothing of archaeological significance (refer Fig. 14). Subsurface groundworks for the Phase I carpark works, Phase III carpark works, and eastern part of the Phase II carpark works were too shallow to reach layers of archaeological interest. In the centre of the Phase II areas below the existing tar-macadam road, modern disturbance extended deeper than the base of the groundworks.
- 11.1.4. Archaeological material was therefore only encountered during the Phase II carpark works, directly in front of Templeogue House in the area of the planned plaza, to the north and south of the existing tar-macadam road (refer Figs. 14 and 21). For the purpose of this report, these areas where archaeological material was encountered are divided into three areas: (i) directly in front of the house, (ii) to the south of the house, and (iii) to the southwest of the house. A shallow service trench was also excavated in Phase III, and although this revealed nothing of archaeological significance, it is discussed below as it exposed the underlying stratigraphy to the west of the site which had not been previously tested.

11.2. [Archaeological material directly in front of the house.](#)

11.2.1. *Introduction.*

Sub-surface ground works directly in front of Templeogue House reached a depth of 0.10m to 0.90m below present ground level, and covered an area 350m east-west by 10m. The primary findings of interest here were two earlier phases of steps into Templeogue House associated with various phases of pathways and ditches (refer Figs. 21 and 22).

11.2.2. *Earliest Phase.*

In front of the house, the earliest material encountered was a layer of loose white sandy mortar packed with **demolition rubble** including roof tile and red-brick. This was encountered from 0.65m below the ground surface, and measured at least 0.35m in thickness but was never bottomed. It was piled up in front of the house as if to make a path. This was sealed by a thin (0.10m) layer of loose **dark grey silty-sand and gravels**. This material appeared to be of riverine origin, but was obviously redeposited, perhaps as part of the construction of the hypothetical path.

Directly in front of the existing steps up into the house was a set of **three limestone steps**, the uppermost badly damaged and situated some 0.35m below the existing ground level (refer Plates 9 & 10). Construction was of large limestone blocks (c. 340mm in length) bonded by a hard white lime mortar with no trace of red brick. The steps measured 0.35m in width and the risers were 0.15m high. The steps extended to the east and west beyond the excavation limits and beyond the present staircase for at least 6m across. The relationship between these three early steps and the demolition rubble layer was not established, however both were sealed by later layers and it seems likely that the steps belonged to the ruined building represented by the rubble.

11.2.3. *Middle Phase.*

Both of the earlier layers and the early steps were sealed by a compact band of beige or **pale brown sterile clay** with occasional stone inclusions that measured 0.12-0.20m in thickness (refer Plate 12). This material was also encountered in the testing and subsequent monitoring for the Templeogue Community Bridge Club extension 2005-2006 at a depth of 0.60m-1m below the existing ground surface, and in the testing for the carpark in 2005 at a depth of 0.40-0.6m below the existing ground surface. The pale brown clay followed the contours of the earlier layers and rose up along a hypothetical path leading to Templeogue House.

A feature was noted cut into the layer of pale brown clay (refer Plate 13). Only the western part survived, measuring at least 0.35m in depth (the base was not found) with a steeply-sloping side. The feature may have been a drainage **ditch** running along the side of the old pathway toward the house.

11.2.4. *Latest Phase.*

The ditch was filled by a **dark brown silty-clay**, which also extended out over the entire area and sealed the pale brown clay layer. This layer measured 0.15m-0.20m in thickness. Immediately over this was a **cobbled surface** which extended for 5.5m across (east-west) level, then sloped down gently for a further 1.5m to the east (refer plates 13 and 14). The cobbles were in a good state of preservation and represented a pathway leading to the entrance to Templeogue House. The cobbles were abutting (and therefore associated with) a single **granite step** (refer Plates 14 and 15) which sat directly on the surface. Construction was of six granite slabs (c. 800mm by 340mm by 100mm) laid end-to-end. Both the cobbled path and the granite step were offset 200mm to the east from the existing Templeogue House stone steps, which are later.

A series of **19th and 20th century layers and features** were also noted. The cobbled surface was truncated by a modern pit to the east, and following that a layer of tightly-packed gravels covered pit and surface. A later mortar surface likely to be associated with the modern Templeogue House building was noted to the east of this area, and this was overlain by topsoil.

11.2.5. *Other features.*

The southwest **corner of a building** (refer Plate 16) was noted in front and to the west of Templeogue House, located approximately 13m south of the present house's southeast corner. Only the lowest course or two of the masonry wall foundations survived, c. 1m in length to the north and to the east, and it was truncated to the north by a previous test trench where it was also identified. The top of the wall was at a depth of 0.72m below existing ground level. Construction was of masonry to a width of c. 0.55m, bonded by a lime mortar with inclusions of red brick. The corner was marked by a large cut quoin stone measuring 600mm in length. It was not possible to establish the level from which the wall foundation was cut or the phase to which it belonged, however, it seems likely that the destruction of the upper parts of the wall was represented by the earliest demolition rubble layer.

A north-south running **drain** (refer Plate 17) was also noted in front of the house, located 4.50m west of the centreline of Templeogue House. This drain ran north-south for a distance of at least 5.5m, extending to the south below the roadway and to the north truncated where it was identified during the preceding test trenching programme. Internally it measured 0.33m wide and 0.13m deep and contained large quantities of snail shells. Construction was with brick along the sides laid end-to-end roofed by rectangular slate capstones measuring c. 650mm by 560mm. The capstones were located 0.80-1.10m below surface.

A **modern pit** measuring 0.70-1.10m in diameter and 0.52m in depth directly below the road surface was found 1m to the east of the drain. It was filled by a dump of broken red brick overlain with charcoal.

11.3. [Archaeological material to the southwest of the house.](#)

11.3.1. Sub-surface ground works to the southwest of Templeogue House reached a depth of 0.58m below present ground level, and covered an area c. 15m by 15m. The primary finding of interest here was a masonry wall which may have been related to an early phase of the Templeogue House watercourses (refer Fig. 21).

11.3.2. An east-west running **masonry wall** (refer Plate 18) was found to the far south of the site. Construction was of limestone blocks 0.49m in thickness, bonded by an off-white mortar with frequent brick inclusions. A layer of very thin lime-based render was found along the northern face of the wall, absent on the southern face which was constructed of rougher and smaller stones. This suggests that the wall comprised the southern part of a masonry lined underground chamber, most likely a culvert. The wall measured at least 0.45m in depth (and probably significantly deeper) and was encountered 0.60m below the existing ground surface, however traces of mortar along the top of the wall suggest it once stood higher and was deliberately levelled off.

11.3.3. To the south of the wall was a thick layer of rubble packed with redbrick, mortar and occasional stone, which may have been related to the construction of the culvert lining. To the south of the wall (and filling the possible culvert) was a thick layer of **organic dark brown silty-peat** with infrequent inclusions of small stones, eroded brick fragments, mortar, charcoal and 18th century pottery, that measured a minimum of 0.20m in depth.

11.3.4. Both layers and the masonry wall were sealed by an undulating layer, 0.01-0.30m in thickness, of **demolition rubble** packed with red brick, stone and 19th century pottery. This material is likely to represent the destruction of the upper portions (including the brick arch) of the culvert. Above this was **topsoil** comprising a dark-brown loose rooty silty-clay c. 0.30-0.60m in thickness and containing inclusions of modern rubbish.

11.4. [Archaeological material to the south of the house.](#)

11.4.1. Sub-surface ground works to the south of Templeogue House reached a depth of 0.50m-1m below present ground level, and covered an area c. 45m east-west by c. 15m. The primary findings of interest here were the ornamental watercourse culvert, a cobbled surface and an associated building (refer fig. 21).

11.4.2. [Walls predating cobbled surface.](#)

Two masonry walls were noted below the level of the cobbled surface (refer Plate 19). The longer ran east-west for 5.20m, and was abutted by a second shorter wall running southwards for 1.60m. The east-west wall was broken to the east, but the excavation was unable to follow the wall westwards due to upstanding trees. Construction was of masonry bonded by lime mortar, to a width of 0.50m, with a thick course of render surviving on the northern face of the longer wall, but absent elsewhere. The wall had

been razed to the level of the cobbled surface, and survived to two courses (0.40m) in height. The rendering on the longer wall, also noted on the probable culvert wall to the southeast of the house, might suggest that this wall formed part of a culvert.

11.4.3. *Cobbled surface.*

An extensive cobbled surface (refer Plate 20) was found covering the entire area to the south of Templeogue House at a depth of 0.85m below existing ground level. The cobbles were laid over the culvert and the earlier walls, but abutted the north-south running wall to the east. Construction was of rough sub-rounded cobbles, generally 0.10m in diameter. A hard packed layer of lime mortar survived in patches over the surface, laid over a thin levelling-layer of sand, demonstrating that at one time the surface had been plastered or partly plastered over. The cobbles were arranged in a sort of drainage gully 0.06-0.15m in width and running north-south where they abutted the north-south running wall to the east.

The cobbles were laid over a construction layer of greyish-brown gritty sandy-clay with occasional red brick, mortar and small stone inclusions. This measured a minimum of 0.33m in thickness.

11.4.4. *North-south running wall.*

This wall (refer Plate 21) measured 7m in length and defined the eastern edge of the cobbled surface. In general, it was encountered at 0.35m below the present ground level. The excavation was unable to follow the wall northwards or southwards due to upstanding trees. Construction of the foundations, which had a minimum depth of 0.70m, was of limestone blocks 0.45m in thickness, bonded by an off-white mortar with frequent brick inclusions. A layer of very thin lime-based render was found along the eastern face of the wall foundation. A super-structural element of red-brick laid side to side survives in patches one course high along the wall, the top of the bricks flush with the present ground level. The wall forms a tied-in corner with the east-west running wall to the southeast of Templeogue House, and is abutted to the west by the cobbled surface.

11.4.5. *Ornamental watercourse.*

Part of the culvert forming the ornamental watercourse was exposed to the south of Templeogue House. The main part of the culvert ran east-west for at least 37m, extending to the west beyond the excavation limits. The culvert was constructed entirely out of masonry, with rare red brick occasionally used in the culvert roof (refer Plate 22). The culvert roof was constructed of larger and flatter stones than its sides, and it was heavily mortared over. The cobbled surface was laid directly over the culvert.

To the east, the culvert turned sharply to the south, and the construction changed (refer Plate 23). The culvert was now roofed with a red brick arch, which measured 0.50m higher than the roof of the east-west culvert. This brick-roofed culvert ran southwards outside of the limits of the site. The brick cobbled roof stuck up over the level of the cobbled surface, and was heavily mortared and stepped on its upper surface, as if to disguise it.

Four access points were noted. The first was located to the east in the top of the brick-roofed part of the culvert, where it ran south. It comprised a hole in the culvert roof capped by a huge flat yellow granite capstone 80mm thick measuring 1550mm by 540mm across. Two further access points were noted at c. 8m and at c. 16m to the west, in through the stone-roofed east-west running part of the culvert. Each of these were covered by two rectangular slabs of limestone 100mm thick measuring 1000mm by 700mm across (refer Plate 24). These last two capstones were laid at the same level as the cobbled surface, which respected them and was clearly contemporary.

The fourth access point was located just inside the culvert corner, and slightly off the line of the culvert. It comprised a stone-lined opening, measuring up to 1.20m in diameter, leading diagonally into the culvert, and was sealed by a circular flat stone (refer Plate 25), measuring 590mm in diameter and c. 95mm in width. This final access point was later than the others, and was cut through the layer of cobbles. The capstone was found at a depth of 0.60m below ground level.

11.4.6. *Drain.*

A drain was noted running northwards into the culvert. It measured at least 4.40m in length, extending south beyond the excavation limits, and measured internally 0.46m in width and 0.41m in height. It was more substantial than the drain found directly in front of Templeogue House. It was located immediately below, and sealed by, the cobbled surface. The area where the drain should have run into the main body of the culvert was heavily disturbed and full of modern rubbish.

11.4.7. *Topsoil.*

Covering all the features and the cobbles was topsoil 0.30-0.80m in depth and comprising a loose organic dark-brown humic layer and roots.

11.5. *Phase III stratigraphy to the west of the grounds.*

11.5.1. Monitoring for an electric cable took place on 23rd August 2006. The trench was 5m in length, 0.30m in width and 0.60m in depth (refer Fig. 14). The excavation was carried out by mini digger equipped with a thin flat-edged bucket. At no point did the excavation reach the top of the archaeological deposits.

- 11.5.2. The stratigraphy in the trench was very simple. Modern tar-macadam and **hardcore** extended to a depth of 0.20 to 0.40m below the surface. Below this, and extending to a depth of at least 0.65m below the surface, was a **dark brown silty-clay garden soil** with frequent inclusions of brick fragments, roof tile and mortar. No pottery was found, however a large piece of concrete was noted at 0.65m below the surface, demonstrating modern disturbance.
- 11.6. [Tree planting programme.](#)
- 11.6.1. Nine holes were excavated in order to plant trees to the front of Templeogue House on 8th December 2006. The holes measured up to 1m in diameter and up to 1m in depth, and were excavated by mechanical digger under archaeological supervision.
- 11.6.2. All of the trees were located in areas that had previously been subject to archaeological monitoring or excavation, and none of the tree-holes were deeper than the previous work. As a result no additional information was obtained, and the insertion of the trees had no archaeological impact.

12.0 INVESTIGATION OF THE TIMBER FLOOR, 2006.

12.1. Introduction.

12.1.1. An assessment of the first-floor timber floor and ground-floor decorated plaster ceiling was carried out in Autumn 2006 by White Young Green engineering consultants (Apex Business Centre, Blackthorn Road, Sandyford, Dublin 18) on behalf of South Dublin County Council. The results of this assessment will be presented by White Young Green.

12.1.2. During the lifting of floorboards as part of the assessment, deposits of potential archaeological interest were exposed, and the author was called out to inspect these on two occasions during October and November 2006. Following consultation with the Planning Archaeologist with the National Monuments Section, DoEHLG, the investigation was carried out under the pre-existing licence number for the original excavations in 1996, being 96E010. All finds (only two were recovered) were numbered from No. 1001 in order to avoid confusing with the previous excavation.

12.2. Summary of dating of timber floors.

12.2.1. A programme of dendrochronological dating on the timbers from the floor of the first floor was carried out by David Brown (c/o White Young Green). A summary is provided here courtesy of David Brown and White Young Green (refer Fig. 23).

<i>RefNo</i>	<i>Building Ref</i>	<i>Rings</i>	<i>Start date</i>	<i>End date</i>	<i>Estimated felling date</i>
Q10809	Main joist 1	82 rings	AD1514	AD1595	After AD1627
Q10810	Main joist 2	140 rings	AD1372	AD1511	After AD1543
Q10811	Main joist 3	80 rings	AD1528	AD1607	AD1639 +/- 9 years
Q10812	Main joist 4	135 rings	AD1475	AD1609	AD1641 +/- 9 years
Q10813	Main joist 5	99 rings	AD1475	AD1573	After AD1605
Q10814	Secondary joist	26 rings	-	-	-
Q10815	Fireplace beam	91 rings	AD1539	AD1629	AD1642 +/- 9 years
Q10816	Random timber	89 rings	AD1515	AD1603	After 1635
Q10817	Main joist 6	27 rings	-	-	-

12.2.3. In summary, the most likely felling date range for the timbers used on the floor would be either in the very late 1630s or the early 1640s.

12.3. Description of timber floor.

12.3.1. The timber floor on the upper (first) floor of Templeogue House comprises a number of elements, being the beams, joists, floorboards, later plaster ceiling below and earlier ceiling below.

12.3.2. *Beams (main joists).*

Six beams (referred to as main joists in the table above) span the full space of the upper floor of the original house (not the later extensions to the north). These do not extend into the tower to the northeast. The beams run north-south and are not aligned to the existing opes in the wall, which to the south appear to be original to the building. All of the beams were dendrochronologically dated (see table above), and were numbered from east to west.

12.3.3. *Joists (secondary joists).*

Joists run east-west between the beams. The joists are connected to the beams by means of wooden dowels. No evidence for earlier joining mechanisms were found, and it is likely that the present configuration of beams and joists is original to the floor. The timber from a single joist (between beams 2 and 3) was dendrochronologically dated to the same age as the beams, supporting this conclusion.

12.3.4. *Floorboards.*

The floorboards are laid along a north-south orientation over the joists. They are attached to the joists and beams by means of square-sectioned shank cut iron nails with slightly expanded or L-shaped heads (a 'floor brad' in U.S. terminology), averaging 650mm in length. Once the floorboards were lifted, dowel holes for wooden pegs were noted in the joists and beams that would have fastened an earlier set of floorboards onto the joists. This suggests that the present timber floorboards are not original to the floor, although one of the floorboards had dowel-holes and may have been original.

12.3.5. *Later plaster ceiling.*

This decorated plaster ceiling is visible from the lower floor (upper ground floor) in the front room to the west of Templeogue House. The style of the plasterworks dates it to approximately 1730 (pers com. Seamas Ó hEocha Teoranta, ornate plaster conservation specialist, 2006), which is the same time that the Domville's engaged in a period of refurbishment to the grounds of Templeogue House. Seamas Ó hEocha Teoranta, who examined the ceiling, has also pointed out that the beams of the timber floor just over the ceiling were already sagging quite markedly when the ceiling was constructed in c. 1730 (pers com.).

12.3.6. *Earlier ceiling.*

An earlier ceiling was revealed behind the ornate plaster ceiling once the floorboards had been lifted. The ceiling was in poor condition, with missing parts, and was completely concealed by the later ceiling. Construction was similar to the later plaster ceiling above. The finish on the ceiling appeared to be simple white plaster with no decorative elements, but this was difficult to establish from the top. The date for this earlier ceiling must be between 1630 (the earliest possible date for the floor) and 1730 (the later ceiling), thus probably placing it in the 17th century. It may be

contemporary with the timber floor. This ceiling was only seen to the west of the house, in the same location as the later ornate plaster ceiling.

12.4. Finds.

- 12.4.1. Following the lifting of the floorboards, the space between the floorboards and the underlying ground floor ceiling was examined for archaeological finds that may have fallen in from the 17th century. This was done by carefully sifting through the dust and fragmented plaster by soft brush or trowel.
- 12.4.2. Two artefacts were found, both to the southwest between beams 5 and 6, next to the window opening to the south and close to beam 5. One was a ceramic bottle stopper (96E10:1001), and the other was a fragment of modern pottery (96E10:1002).
- 12.4.3. The ceramic bottle stopper (96E10:1001) is in the form of a pale fabric unglazed sphere of c. 15mm diameter came from an old-fashioned style of glass bottle, sometimes called a 'codd' bottle. These bottles was filled in an upside-down position so that as soon the filling stopped, the ball, sinking to the bottom of the inverted bottle, was seated against a rubber seal located in the interior of the vessel's throat. The carbonation pressure of the bottle contents inside the bottle would keep the marble in its seat. Opening the bottle required pressing it down, and once the seal was broken the marble would sink and be trapped in an additional distinctive structure of the glass of the neck, a neck chamber. Many of these bottles were likely broken by children attempting to acquire the marble. These are generally of later 19th century date. The modern pottery (96E10:1002) was a green-patterned transfer-printed pearlware rectangular-shaped dish of 19th or 20th century date.

13.0. FINAL CONCLUSIONS FROM TEN YEARS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK AT TEMPLEOGUE HOUSE, 1996-2006.

13.1. [Introduction.](#)

13.1.1. From the 1996 to the present-day, Templeogue House has been the subject of numerous relatively small-scale archaeological excavations conducted by various archaeologists. This report has attempted to bring the results of these isolated investigations together, and, hopefully, to enable a broad picture of the history of the site to emerge.

13.2. [Earliest evidence for activity and the Dublin Watercourse.](#)

13.2.1. To this day, no medieval artefact or evidence for medieval activity has ever been found at Templeogue House. As a result we have recovered no evidence for the crucial period of the diversion of the Dodder into an open channel through Templeogue House, forming the Dublin City Watercourse, in the mid 13th century. Despite this, a record exists to suggest the path of this original watercourse through the Templeogue House grounds.

13.2.2. A design for the layout of the water gardens (refer Fig. 4 and Section 3.3) dating to the early-mid 17th century labels an apparently disused branch of the City Watercourse 'old water course of river'. This old watercourse runs along the line of Templeogue Road, into an 'old pond', and onwards towards Templeogue House. A comparison with the later Ordnance Survey maps (e.g. from 1871 refer Fig. 8 and Section 3.6) shows that a small visible section of watercourse just southeast of the Templeogue House gate lodge is part of this old watercourse. This watercourse is likely to be the original medieval City Water, and its course can therefore be suggested (refer Fig. 24). From the south it runs past the church and graveyard and along the line of Templeogue Road until the gate lodge just south of the modern entrance to the grounds. From here the watercourse probably curved north and west, running slightly in front of, or directly below, Templeogue House from east to west, then running some 400m to the west of the house before returning north and heading towards the city.

13.2.3. The City Watercourse is likely to have powered a medieval mill or mills situated in the same position as the later 19th century mill (refer Fig. 8) to the south of Templeogue House near the main road, and depicted on the Down Survey (refer Fig. 3).

13.2.4. Archaeological evidence for early watercourses at Templeogue House has been recovered to the west of the house under the present Bridge Club in 1997 and 1998 and extension in 2005, to the northwest of the house in 2005, and directly below the house under the undercroft in 1996. This evidence comprised the remains of silted water, described in 1996, 1997 and 1998 as a wet dark grey silty-clay or pale bluish-

grey compact sterile silt, and in 2005 as a dark brownish-grey compact sterile clayish-silt. In all cases this predated all cultural activity. In the 2005 excavation to the west of the house, sand banks were found separating branches of these riverine silts, suggesting they represented streams meandering through the grounds. This image was further reinforced by botanical analysis of the silted material (refer Appendix E), in which the plant species present in the silts suggested that the streams ran through a wild and unmanaged landscape.

- 13.2.5. These early watercourses clearly predate the construction of Templeogue Castle in *c.* 1550 (as demonstrated in the 1996 excavations), but there is no clear evidence that they represent the 13th century City Watercourse. No formalisation or ditches defining the waters have been noted, and it would appear that the medieval route of the City Watercourse must lie elsewhere, perhaps directly in front of the house (if it still survives) and has not yet been found.

- 13.2.6. It seems likely that the establishment of a single defined watercourse through the Templeogue House grounds in the medieval period allowed the previously wet ground, criss-crossed by meandering streams, to become a suitable site for the 16th century castle.

- 13.3. [Templeogue Castle \(c. 1550-1690\).](#)
- 13.3.1. The historical sources suggest that Templeogue Castle was built sometime around 1550 by the Talbot family, who appear to have resided there until 1690. This date at the beginning of the what archaeologists refer to as the post-medieval period (*c.* 1550-1800) tallies well with the archaeological evidence, which as mentioned has not uncovered a single medieval artefact at Templeogue House and grounds despite extensive excavation.

- 13.3.2. The extent to which parts of the original castle (which should perhaps be thought of as a fortified house) may survive in the fabric of the present building is unclear. The front part of the present building (refer Fig. 13), lower and upper ground floors and upper floor, with its thick walls and defended window openings, clearly predates the 18th century mansion. Leo Swan's excavations in the undercroft in 1996 revealed late 16th or early 17th century fabric from the original castle. The early layer of cobbling forming the undercroft floor may date to the original castle also, however the raising of the floor level there appears to date to the 19th century. The tower to the northeast of the house is surely originally part of the castle, and an archaeological test-trench excavated in 2005 exposed its masonry foundations.

- 13.3.3. The first floor timber floor, subject of a conservation report in 1995 and further analysis in 2006, and to be preserved and retained in the ongoing refurbishment of Templeogue House, is thought to date to before 1700 on the basis of its construction technique. Dendrochronological dating on the beams of the floor has demonstrated

that the trees used in the floor support were cut down in the 1630s or early 1640s. The floor must therefore have been laid during or after this period, and prior to the 1730s, when it appears to have been in disrepair during the Domville's extensively remodelling of the castle into a contemporary mansion. This date range refers to the beams and joists of the floor, and not the floorboards which may be later. It is also possible that a badly preserved ceiling behind the ornate 1730s plaster ceiling of the room to the west of the lower ground floor is 17th century in date.

- 13.3.4. The possible date for the construction of the timber floor is interesting because it lies at the end of the Talbot's tenure of the castle. An earlier 16th century timber floor must have replaced by the present floor two or three generations before the castle was sold to the Domville family at the turn of the 17th century.
- 13.3.5. If much of the fabric of the present building indeed dates to 1550 or thereabouts, what of the present orientation of Templeogue House, with its grand staircase facing south? Archaeological monitoring of the carpark and plaza works in 2006 uncovered the remains of three limestone steps, directly in front of and below the present staircase and likely to belong to Templeogue Castle. A thick layer of demolition rubble directly in front of the steps is likely to represent the partial demolition of the castle and reconfiguration into the Queen Anne mansion in c. 1700. If the ground level at the time of the castle (not reached in the excavation) is below this demolition rubble, c. 1.35m below the present ground level, the castle staircase would have been exceptionally imposing. In any case the evidence appears to suggest that the entrance to Templeogue Castle/House has not changed location since it was constructed, and was always from the south.
- 13.3.6. Perhaps surprisingly, artefacts from the period of use of the castle (c. 1550-1690) are rare. Although some of the finer glassware found in the 1996 undercroft excavations dates to the end of this period, they were probably deposited there by the Domvilles rather than the Talbots, and should perhaps be seen as part of the material culture of the later Queen Anne Mansion. The lack of artefacts from this period is likely due to two factors. Firstly, the absence of easily dateable artefacts, notably pottery, from the 15th and 16th centuries, is common on many archaeological sites in Ireland (e.g. Fitzpatrick 2004, 361-362). Secondly, the house and grounds of Templeogue House seems to have been in a constant state of reconstruction and improvement from c. 1550 to the present day, and all of the archaeological work herein has noted the extensive disturbance from these works.
- 13.4. [The Domville family at Templeogue \(c. 1690-1810\).](#)
- 13.4.1. In or about the 1690s the Domville family bought the Templeogue lands, which remained in that family for just over a hundred years. An impressive house was constructed on the grounds, and as we have seen this involved the renovation of the pre-existing castle rather than a new construction. A sketch of the house in 1780 by

Beranger (refer Fig. 6 and Section 3.5.) shows what looks like an 18th century Georgian building, quite different from the description of the original building, described as built of red-brick with a high-pitched gable roof by Ball (1906, 25). The house was remodelled sometime between 1690 and 1721, when Sir Thomas Domville died, and for that reason is sometimes referred to as the Queen Anne Mansion (Queen Anne reigned 1702-1714).

- 13.4.2. Despite the partial demolition of the house in 1810, the majority of it still survive in the present building. The overall footprint of the house appears to have followed that of the castle, including the main entrance to the south.

- 13.4.3. Archaeological monitoring for the plaza directly in front of the house found evidence for two or three phases of entrance-related features which are likely to belong to this phase. The earliest was the construction of a raised path leading towards the front of the house, built by piling up demolition rubble from the partially destroyed castle overlaid with sand. The path was never formalised and may have been served as a construction path during the building and renovation works in *c.* 1700.

- 13.4.4. A layer of pale brown sterile clay was laid over and consolidated the pathway, which was now defined by a possible drainage ditch running down its eastern side. This possibly secondary path led up to a granite step, the single surviving part of the house's grand outer stair, which was found directly below and in front of the present steps. This step was slightly offset from the present stair. The secondary path is likely to have been in use from *c.* 1700 until *c.* 1730, when the grounds were landscaped. The layer of sterile clay noted here was also found to the west of the Bridge Club during the archaeological monitoring for the new extension in 2005 where it consolidated the marshy ground, and in the testing programme for the carpark in 2004 where it formed the earliest layer noted. The layer must represent the re-levelling of the Templeogue House grounds during the *c.* 1700 construction works.

- 13.4.5. The pathway was cobbled in the *c.* 1730s; the cobbled surface abutting the granite front step, and like it slightly offset from the modern steps and pathway. The ditch defining the east side of the earlier pathway was filled in, however a dip in the cobbles along the same line was found which would have continued the drainage function. This improved pathway was part of an extensive programme of improvement for the Templeogue House grounds conducted by Sir Compton Domville, and which included extensive cobbling and the construction of an ornamental water garden (described further below). During the carpark and plaza monitoring programme in 2006, the cobbled surface was found to extend over a large area in front of the house, measuring at least 33m north-south by 47m east-west. A patchily surviving layer of hard lime mortar over the cobbles demonstrating that at one time the surface had been plastered or partly plastered

- 13.4.6. A number of demolished masonry wall foundations were found to the southwest of the house during the testing and subsequent monitoring of the carpark and plaza in 2004 and 2006. Not enough of these buildings survive or were exposed to suggest shapes or functions, however their demolition appears to be contemporary with the cobbled surface in the 1730s. Fragments of a wall were also found to the west of the house during the archaeological testing and subsequent monitoring of the extension to the Bridge Club in 2005 and 2006. This wall was interpreted as being ornamental and may have retained a flowerbed.
- 13.4.7. The wall of a structure contemporary with the cobbled surface was found to the southwest of Templeogue House during monitoring for the carpark in 2006. The wall defined the eastern edge of the cobbles, which formed a small drain along the side of the wall, and parts of a red brick superstructure survived over the masonry foundations. No building or wall is marked on any of the maps of the grounds, and it is presently unclear what exactly the wall represented.
- 13.4.8. Part of an outhouse was found during the excavation of a test-trench in 2005. It was situated directly behind and to the north of the tower standing in the northeast corner of the house. The outhouse lay mostly outside the trench, but it appeared to comprise a red-brick floor which led to a square or rectangular stone-lined pit, which may have been a cesspit. It was not excavated and therefore no finds were recovered from the feature, so its date cannot be established, however it is likely to date to this 18th century phase of Templeogue House.
- 13.5. [Artefacts from the Domville phase \(c. 1690-1810\).](#)
- 13.5.1. The 1996 excavations in the undercroft of Templeogue House recovered a hugely important collection of artefacts. The artefacts were found jumbled up in construction fill from the raising of the undercroft floor level higher above the water table. The artefacts consist of glass and pottery vessels (documented fully in Appendices A-D) dating from the 17th century to the 19th century, with the majority dating to the beginning of the 18th century. The assemblage consists almost exclusively of glass bottles, along with some imported ceramic bottles and some unusual wine-glass fragments.
- 13.5.2. The table-glass finds from this excavation were of exceptional quality, and may be amongst the largest and most diverse assemblage of late-seventeenth century table-glass that has yet been excavated anywhere in the world. Furthermore they were made of lead glass (similar to that produced at Waterford today), a revolutionary new material when it was developed in the 1670s. The tableware from Templeogue provides a complete range of early examples, (at least ten types of drinking glass are recorded, several for the first time), all of them produced within a years or so of the invention of lead glass itself.

- 13.5.3. The wine-glass fragments have been dated by Peter Francis to the 1670s or 1680s, and the German stoneware *Bartmann* bottles can be dated approximately to the period 1580 to 1650. Such a date range seems at first to indicate that the artefacts belong to the Templeogue Castle phase of activity which ended in 1690, however such an interpretation is not necessarily warranted. The assemblage as a whole dates to the period of occupation of the Domville family at Templeogue House, and is best interpreted as an accumulation of debris, either relating to a wine cellar (hence being mostly bottles), or else resulting from a desire to see dangerous rubbish (hence mostly glass) disposed of in an out-of-the-way location in the days before garbage collection.
- 13.5.4. The most likely scenario is that the fine glassware and *Bartmann* bottles arrived at Templeogue in c. 1690 and were among the new resident's possessions. The association of the German '*Bartmann*' bottles with contemporary drinking glasses and glass bottles are of particular interest. Stoneware decanters and fine drinking glasses have also been found together in a brick-lined latrine in Duisberg, Germany, in archaeological layers dating 1580-1640 (Gaimster 1997, 121) (refer Fig. 25). German stoneware, like glass, was particularly suited for the storage and transportation of liquids. Originally used both for drinking at the table and for storage off the table, during the period 1580-1650 German stoneware was increasingly used on the table in a decanting function, primarily for beer and wine (*ibid.*, 117-120). The Templeogue stoneware bottles, which are likely to be broadly contemporary with the drinking glasses, predate the Templeogue glass bottles.
- 13.5.5. A series of early 17th century Dutch still life paintings (refer Fig. 24) show the association of German stoneware bottles and fine drinking glasses (all from Gaimster 1997, 130-2). Although these paintings predate the Templeogue assemblage, they are of interest as they depict these objects with other desirable and high status goods, demonstrating how they could have been valued and retained long after they were made. In the still-life by Georg Flegel in 1635 (refer Fig. 24), a contemporary drinking glass is depicted alongside a German stoneware bottle made approximately 100 years earlier (*ibid.* 131). The Domville's may have held on to the glasses and bottles not only because of the objects themselves, but also for what they contained; consider, for example, if the *Bartmann* bottles had been filled with a 17th century version of a Château Lafitte wine.
- 13.6. [Domville's ornamental water-gardens.](#)
- 13.6.1. As previously mentioned, Sir Compton Domville made numerous improvements to the gardens of Templeogue House in the c. 1730s, including building dramatic ornamental watergardens. A small parts of these were exposed during the 2006 monitoring of the plaza in front of Templeogue House, and it now possible to reconstruct their layout and present location by comparing the findings, the ordnance

survey maps, and the design for the layout of the water gardens (refer Fig. 4) dating to the early-mid 17th century. Figure 23 presents the suggested route of the various watercourses.

- 13.6.2. The watergardens were situated to the south of the house in an area of parkland. An old pond fed into a cascade that ran northwards to a small pond located just outside the current grounds of Templeogue House. The location of the cascade and small pond can be traced by following the presently standing rows of trees, which presumably date to the period.
- 13.6.3. The watergarden works involved the diversion of the old City Watercourse, and it would appear that a new millpond and millrace were created to the south of Templeogue House at the same time.
- 13.6.4. A stone-lined culvert was found during the archaeological monitoring of the carpark and plaza in 2006, and is likely to have been constructed during the 1730s works. The culvert, marked on the watergarden designs, carried water from the new millpond and millrace, and, a little further along, also carried the water from the cascade and ornamental pond. This culvert was probably constructed in the same location as the medieval City Water ditch, in which case very little will survive of this older feature.
- 13.7. [Present condition of archaeological and historical features.](#)
 - 13.7.1. During all the reconstruction and archaeological works at Templeogue House and Grounds from 1996 to 2006, great care has been taken by South Dublin County Council and the Office of Public Works to preserve as much of the archaeological heritage as has been possible.
 - 13.7.2. Following the 1996 excavations in the undercroft, this early feature belonging to Templeogue Castle has been restored and is now in use as a bar. Other features of the castle and earlier phase of the house, such as the tower and timber ceiling on the first floor of the house, have also been retained, and a project of conservation work and analysis is presently being carried out on the floor.
 - 13.7.3. The features of interest that were noted to the south of Templeogue House, found in the archaeological works 2004-2006 associated with the reconfiguration of the carpark and grounds, are for the most part still *in-situ*. As features were exposed, for example the 18th century culvert, the proposed development plans were altered in order to minimise the impact to the features and preserve them below the ground. For this reason, it was possible to preserve all of the features (walls, culverts, drains, etc.) in this area, with the exception of the 18th century cobbled surface which was partially removed by hand. These cobbles have been partially re-laid in the present plaza in

front of the house, and it is presently proposed to show the course of the old culverts and walls in the modern plaza by means of different coloured paving. Both of the earlier phases of the front steps into the house have been preserved *in-situ* also.

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