
Survey Report

Reference: **Survey Report No.67** In association with:

Author: **Randal Scott and Chris Stevenson**

Location: **Rose Garden at
Mount Stewart
Co. Down**



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First published 2018

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Cover illustration: Members of UAS Survey Team examining features in the Rose Garden.

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1. Summary

1.1 Location.



Figure 1. Location of Rose Garden, and Walled Garden, within Mount Stewart Demesne.

Mount Stewart Demesne is situated on the north east shore of Strangford Lough just off the road between Newtownards and Greyabbey and about 3 km from Greyabbey.

The Rose Garden is sited within the National Trust Mount Stewart Demesne property, in County Down, located at Irish Grid reference J 5570 7027. It is situated about 700m from the main residence in a north easterly direction. The Rose Garden is part of a larger walled garden area that would have been used to produce fruit and vegetables for the estate. Farmyard buildings, including stables and dairy, are adjacent to the walled gardens. (Fig. 1).

1.2 The Site. The Rose Garden site is part of a walled garden area that would originally have been used for food production for the estate. This area is thought to date from the 1780's (Morrow P. 72). The garden area is "T-shaped", with the Rose Garden being the smaller, square shaped area at the southern end, the remainder being the Walled Garden (Fig. 1).

A large ornamental Urn once stood in the centre of the Rose Garden, but only its base remains to mark its position. On the southern wall of the Rose Garden stands a semicircular structure known as the Dairy. In the centre of the dairy there once stood a fountain with a statue of Hermes. This fountain was used to cool or humidify the air. The roof tiles of the Dairy came originally from the old Ice House on Rhododendron Hill. (TM Ferres P1) (NB. In Greek mythology Hermes is the wing-sandaled god associated with commerce and as a messenger and equates to the Roman god Mercury.)

Lady Edith, wife of the 7th Marquis of Londonderry, created the present formal gardens around the House (Fig. 1) in the 1920's. At about the same time it is thought she established a garden for roses in the area now known as the Rose Garden (Morrow P. 74).

The National Trust acquired the house, gardens and parkland around the house between 1955 and 1986. The Walled Garden, Rose Garden and the remaining 900 acres of estate were acquired by the Trust in 2014, opening up the potential for conservation and restoration of the Walled Garden and surrounding areas.



Figure 2. Survey Team in Rose Garden, looking South West.



Figure 3. Team in Rose Garden beside central feature. Looking N-W into Walled Garden.



Figure 4. UAS team in the Walled Garden, looking north towards Greenhouse.

1.3 Aims. The aims of the survey were to produce accurate plan drawings and a photographic record of the site and thus enhance its archaeological record. A report was compiled and copies submitted to the National Trust and archives of the Ulster Archaeological Society.

2. Introduction.

2.1 Background. Members of the Ulster Archaeological Society undertook the survey on 27th August 2016. The survey was initiated by Malachy Conway, Archaeologist of the National Trust in Northern Ireland, and carried out by the Members using some survey equipment purchased from a bequest to the UAS from the late Dr. Ann Hamlin.

2.2. Documentary Material. The earliest known map of Mount Stewart estate is the Geddes Map of 1779. This map shows the general layout of the estate but has no evidence for the walled garden area or the farmyard. (Morrow P. 72). However, estate account records for 1781 - 1789 show significant expenditure on new offices, plantations and gardens. The garden expenditure accounts detail spending on hothouses, seeds and fruit trees etc. It is thought that this expenditure was accounted for by the creation of a walled garden area (Morrow P. 72).

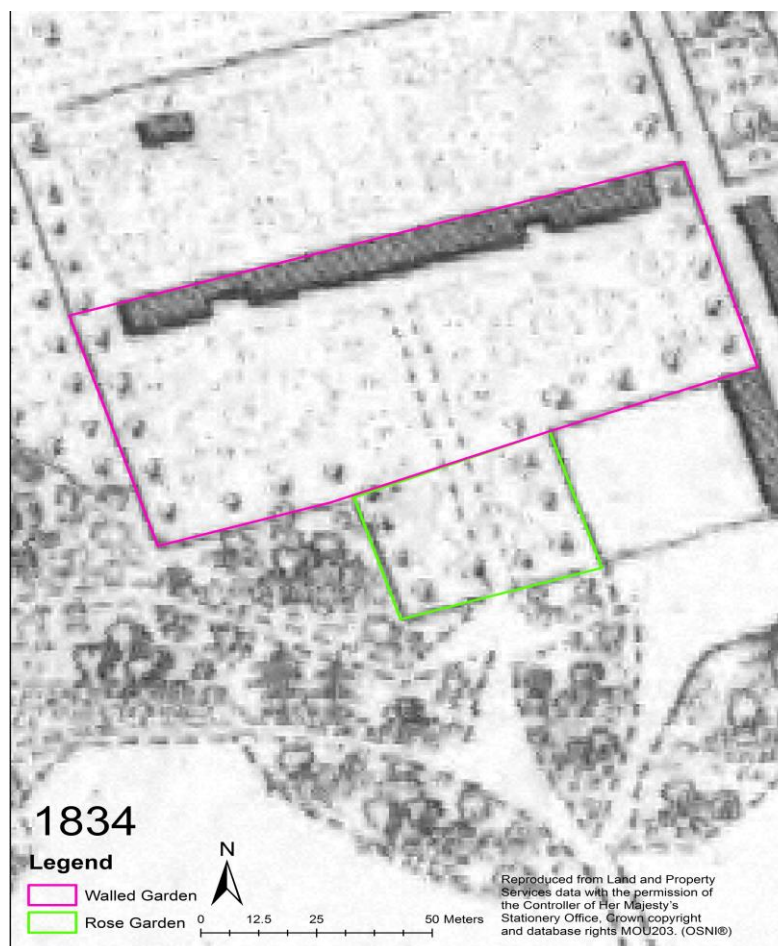


Figure 5. The 1834 Ordnance Survey Map of Walled Garden area.

The walled garden area is clearly depicted in the Ordnance Survey map of 1834. The Walled Garden and Rose Garden are highlighted (Fig. 5). The walled garden area contains within it

the Walled Garden and Rose Garden but the map also shows a further extension in a northerly direction beyond the Walled Garden. Glasshouses are seen along the northern wall of the Walled Garden.

Lady Edith Londonderry is credited with creating the formal gardens around Mount Stewart House in the 1920's. Her garden diaries also describe plans for the transformation of the Walled Garden. It is unclear as to how far these plans were implemented (Morrow P.75). However, the Rose Garden was planted up with rose beds and a pillared pergola constructed for climbing roses. A central feature and paths were also included.

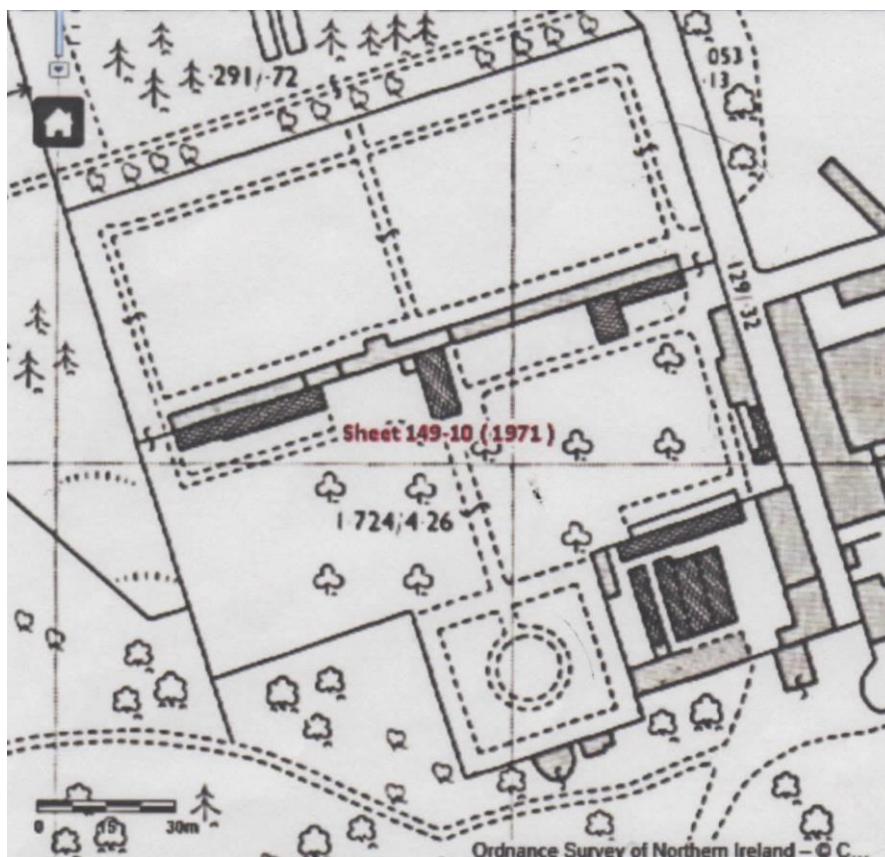


Figure 6. The 1971 Ordnance Survey Map of Rose Garden.

The 1971 Ordnance Survey map shows the Rose Garden, still with its central feature and paths. The map also shows a path into the Walled Garden and the outline of three greenhouses (Fig. 6).

2.3. Credits and Acknowledgements. The following members of the Ulster Archaeological Society Survey Group took part in this survey on 27th August 2016: Colin Boyd, Hilary Boyd, Olive Campbell, Michael Catney, David Craig, Ian Gillespie, Lee Gordon, David Irving, Janna McDonald, Liz McShane, Par O'Neill, George Rutherford, Paula Sandford, Randal Scott, Chris Stevenson, Harry Welsh and June Welsh. Harry Welsh led the team. The Society is particularly grateful to Malachy Conway, Archaeologist of the National Trust, Northern Ireland, who worked closely with the survey team in choosing the site and facilitating access.

3. UAS Survey 27th August 2016.

The Survey was mainly focused on the Rose Garden. However, on the day the greenhouse in the Walled Garden was also surveyed and the results recorded in this report,

3.1 Methodology. It was decided that the survey would take the form of the production of plan drawings and elevations, accompanied by a photographic survey. This report was compiled using the information obtained from these sources, in addition to background documentary material.

3.2 Production of plan drawings. Plan drawings and elevations were completed, using data obtained from the field survey. Measurements were obtained by using the society's Leica Sprinter 100 electronic measuring device. Sketch plans were completed on site by recording on drafting film and backing up the data in a field notebook. Field plans were later transferred to a computer-based format for printing.

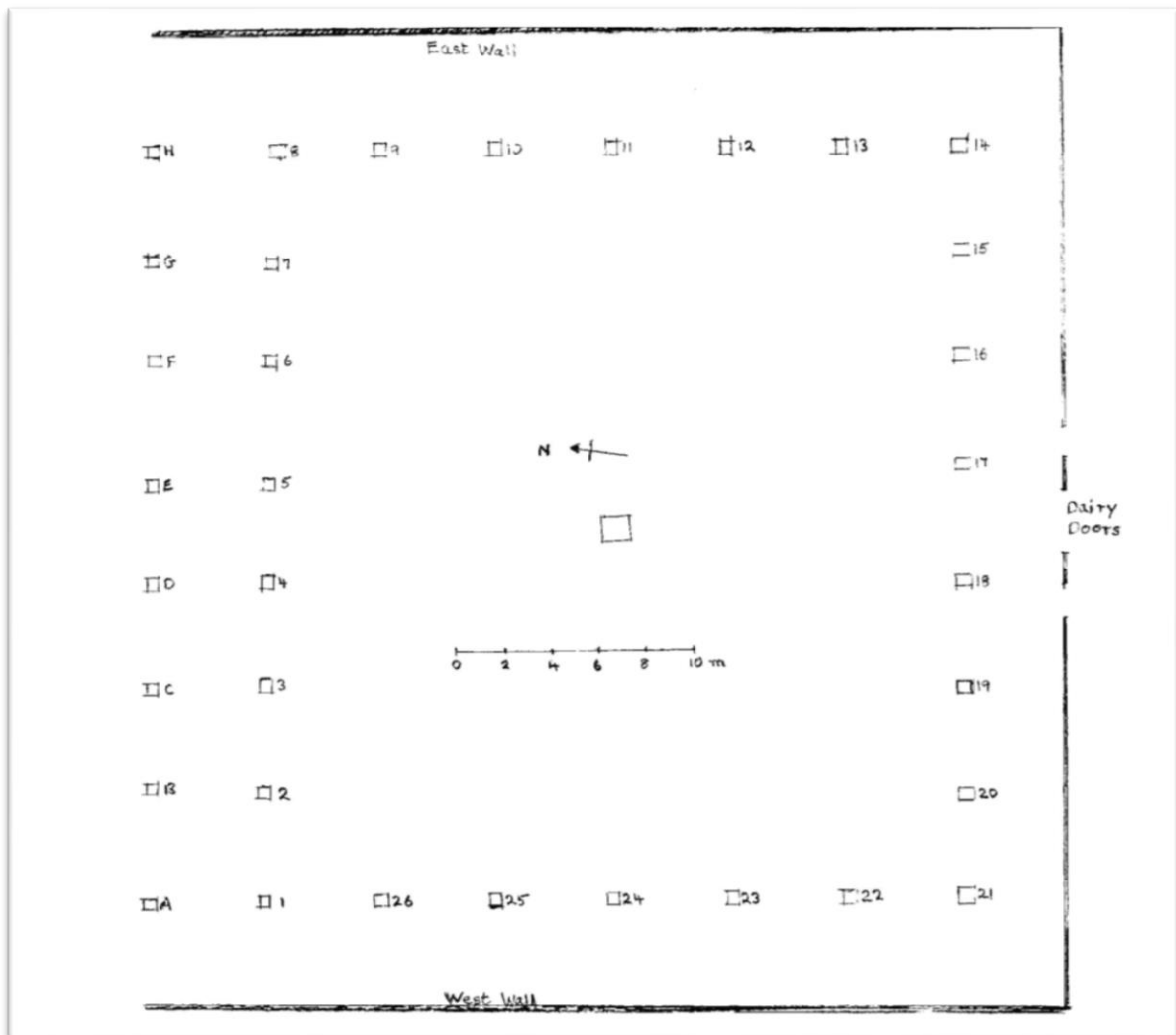


Figure 7. Scale Plan of Rose Garden

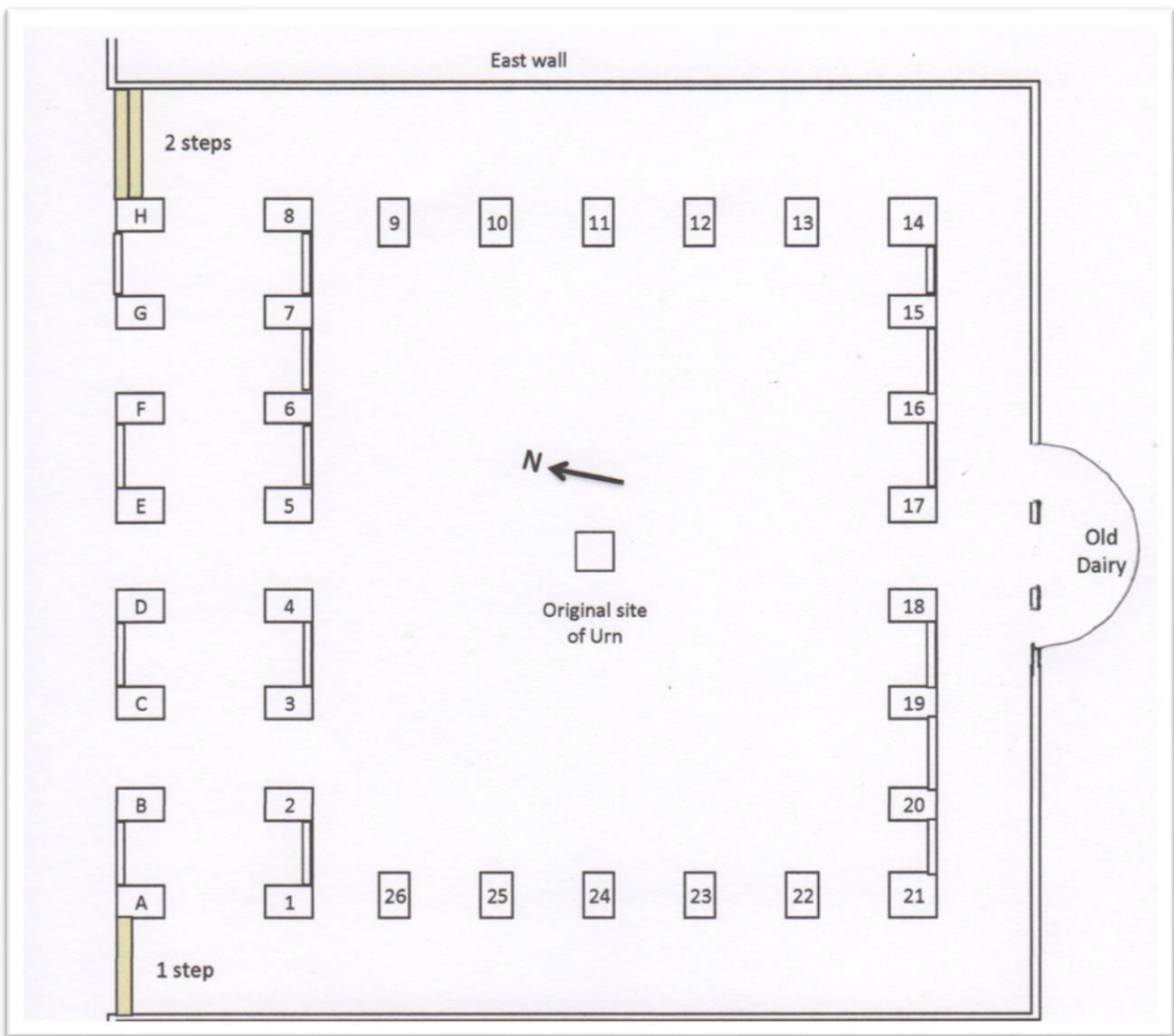


Figure 8. Sketch Plan of Rose Garden.

1. Pillars 14 & 21 are 60 cm x 60 cm, all others are 60 cm x 45 cm. Some pillars have small walls between them, typically 40 cm high x 30 cm wide.
2. Typical height of the pillars is 3.3 m, but pillar B is only 1.05 m high.
3. The average distance between pillars is 4.3 m.
4. Three sides of the garden are bordered by brick walls 3.6 m high, with the north side open. The east wall has 'supporting holes' 75 cm below coping bricks.
5. The semi-circular old dairy has a central arched doorway 2.72m wide x 2.5m high, it is flanked by 2 rectangular doors. The left door is 1.4 m wide x 2.17 m high. The right door is 1.29 m wide x 2.18 m high, each spaced 1.3 m from the main door.
6. There is a step at pillar A and two steps at pillar H.
7. The central structure of the garden measures 1.14 m x 1.17 m and originally featured a large urn.

8. There is a footpath approximately 4 m wide on all four sides, partially paved with concrete flags, with some flowerbeds adjacent to the walls.



Figure 9. Vine with trunk growing from outside the greenhouse (Courtesy of NT)

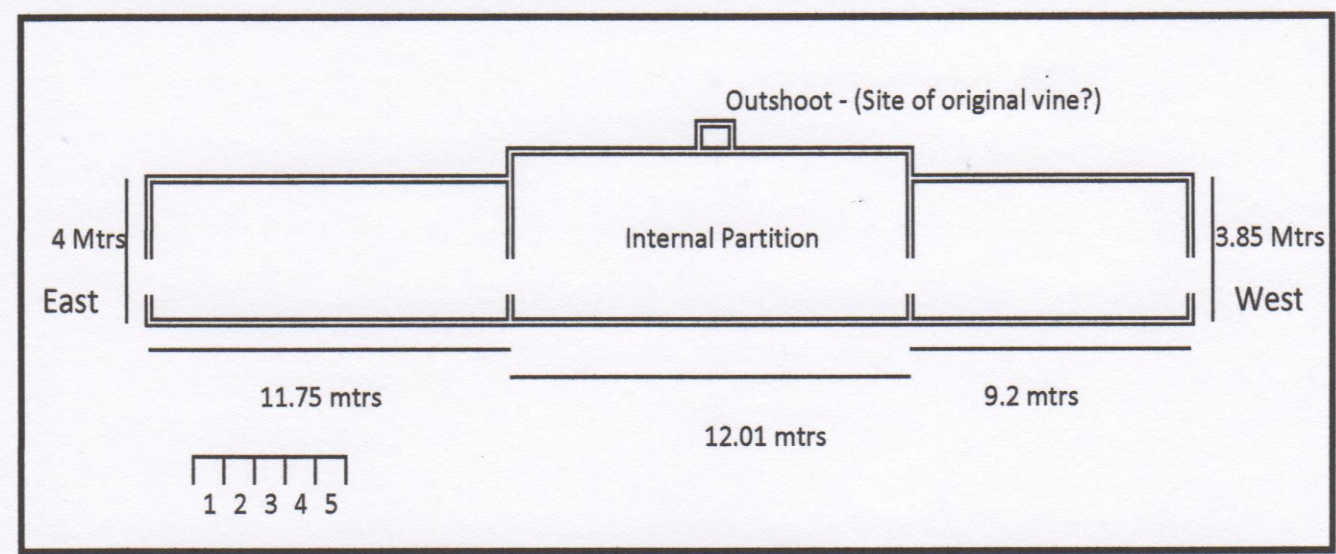


Figure 10. Floor plan of Greenhouse.

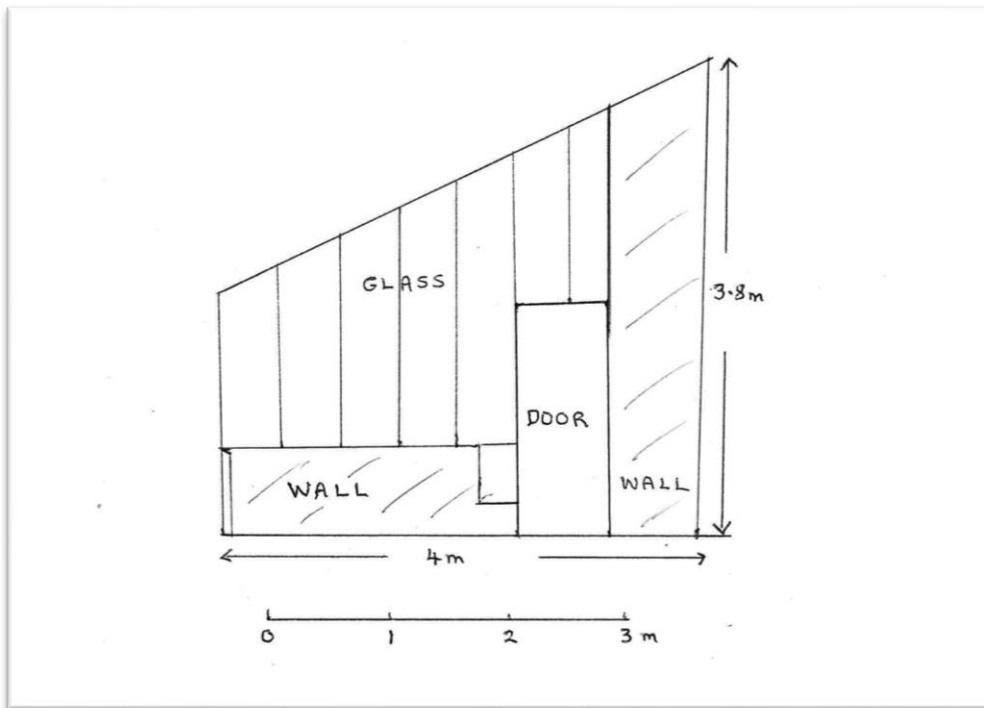


Figure 11. Eastern elevation of the greenhouse.

3.3 Photographic Record. A photographic record of the site was taken using the Society camera. A photographic record sheet was employed, corresponding to photographs taken during the site survey on 27th August 2016. David Craig - irishsights.com, also produced drone images. All images have been compiled in jpeg format and saved to compact disc.



Figure 12. Rose Garden looking south towards the Dairy.



Figure 13. East side of Rose Garden, showing roses in foreground., looking NE.



Figure 14. Rose Garden west side, looking south.



Figure 15. Rose Garden North and West sides, looking north.



Figure 16. View of Greenhouse from Walled Garden, looking NW



Figure 17. Inside the Greenhouse showing vines, looking west.



Figure 18. Inside Dairy with fountain (less statue). Photograph courtesy of NT



Figure 19. Dairy from the east – Photograph courtesy of NT.



Figure 20. Rose Garden in its prime c. 1960 – Photograph courtesy of NT.



Figure 21. Drone image of Rose Garden - Courtesy of Irishsights.com



Figure 22. Original position of ornamental urn in centre of Rose Garden - Courtesy of NT.

4. Discussion.

4.1. History of Mount Stewart Demesne. In 1603 Conn O'Neill was the Lord of Clondeboye and Great Ardes, but was in prison at Carrickfergus, charged with war against Elizabeth. Hugh Montgomery, from a powerful family in Scotland with influence with King James, agreed to aid in Conn's escape from prison and to seek a pardon for him from the King, in return for a share of his estate. The escape was carried out successfully and Hugh's brother George secured the pardon, but only on condition that a James Hamilton also obtained a share of Conn's lands. Hamilton was a Scottish advisor to King James VI, and was involved in the negotiations that brought James to the English throne as James I. Under the terms eventually agreed Conn got half of Upper Clondeboye centred on Castlereagh and Montgomery and Hamilton shared the remainder. Montgomery was knighted in 1605 and his lands now included the areas around Comber, Newtownards, Donaghadee and Greyabbey. Sir Hugh went on to lead a migration from South - West Scotland into the Ards and North Down. He was made Viscount Montgomery of the Great Ardes in 1622. Meanwhile James Hamilton, who had based himself in Bangor, was knighted in 1608 and became Viscount Clondeboye. A Sir Robert Colville bought the Montgomery estates of Newtownards and Comber around 1675. The Colvilles sold the estate of Mount Pleasant to Alexander Stewart in 1744 and he changed the name of the estate from Mount Pleasant to Mount Stewart. His son, Robert Stewart, was an MP in 1769, made a peer in 1783, and followed a distinguished career in politics. He ultimately became Marquis of Londonderry in 1816. Lady Edith, wife of the 7th Marquis of Londonderry, transferred care of the formal gardens around Mount Stewart House to the National Trust in 1955. The National Trust then went on to acquire the Temple of the Winds, House and burial ground (Tir-na-nOg) from Lady Mairi (Lady Edith's daughter) in 1963, 1977 and 1986 respectively. Finally, in 2014, the National Trust acquired the remainder of the demesne from Lady Rose, Lady Mairi's daughter. This latter acquisition included the farmyard buildings, walled gardens and about 900 acres of land.

4.2 Walled and Rose Gardens. Walled gardens were an important part of demesne living from medieval times up into the 19th century. They would have been used to produce a range of fruit and vegetables for the demesne. Their use for this purpose declined in the 20th century as horticultural produce became more widely available.

The walled garden area was probably established between 1781 and 1789 (see 2.2). It was close to the farmyard and thus a ready supply of manure for soil improvement was available. The Walled Garden and Rose Garden were originally all one area (see O.S. 1834 Map, Fig. 5) with glasshouses extending all the way along the north wall - only the western part of the greenhouses remains today. Ground Penetrating Radar surveys carried out in 2015 showed evidence of ploughing suggesting that the whole area was used for vegetable and fruit growing (Morrow P. 33). Later, as horticultural use declined, more flowers may have been grown. The 6th Marchioness, in an account written in 1911, recounts entering the old walled garden and describes seeing a whole range of flowering shrubs and herbaceous borders (Morrow P. 73).

Finally, in the 1920's, Lady Edith is credited with creating the Rose Garden (see 1.2) with all the features described earlier in this report.

5. Summary and Recommendations. The National Trust has been involved with the Mount Stewart estate from 1955. In 2014 the Trust acquired the Rose Garden, Walled Garden, farmyard and the remaining 900 or so acres of land thus completing its ownership of the entire demesne. This created an opportunity to extend the public areas of the property and illustrate the full extent of life within the demesne as it was through the period of its ownership by the Londonderrys.

The aim of the Ulster Archaeological Society's survey on 27th August 2016 was to provide a record of the Rose Garden (and Walled Garden) as it was on that date. A detailed study of the Walled and Rose Gardens had already been carried out for the National Trust in 2015 (Morrow 2015) and it is anticipated that the Society's survey will also provide some background information.

Conservation work on the Rose Garden has already commenced and the intention of the National Trust is to restore the Rose Garden to its 1920's condition and to consider how the Walled Garden might be best restored to reflect its use during the life of the demesne.

6. Bibliography.

Morrow, C. 2015. 'Conservation of a Walled Garden: Planning a Future for the Walled Garden and Rose Garden at Mount Stewart', *MSc Heritage Science, School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queens University Belfast*, September 2015.

TM Ferres' undated blog under the pseudonym 'Lord Belmont' on his revisit to Mount Stewart Gardens. lordbelmontinnorthernireland.com/2014/mount-stewart-dairy-rose-garden.html refers.

Photographic Record. Mount Stewart 27th August 2016

Frame no	From	Details
DSC 6441	NE	Team in Rose Garden
DSC 6395	S	Team in Rose Garden, view into Walled Garden
DSC 6399	SE	Greenhouse viewed from Walled Garden
DSC 6433	N	Rose Garden, south side and dairy
DSC 5447	SW	Rose Garden, east side
DSC 6473	N	Rose Garden, west side
DSC 6455	S	Rose Garden, north and west sides
DSC 6400	SE	View of Greenhouse
DSC 6409	E	View inside greenhouse, showing vines