

## Part 1 : Project Proposal Application

To be completed by the lead proposed supervisor(s) and non-HE partner organisation.



Arts and  
 Humanities  
 Research Council

Before completing each section, please consult the Guidance Notes.  
 Failure to provide the required information may result in disqualification.

### SECTION 1: PROJECT PROPOSAL AND CASE FOR SUPPORT

Proposed Project Title:	Mapping Irish Erth: using deep mapping to curate an historic landed estate as a three-dimensional educational and cultural resource		
Project Summary: (Maximum 100 words)	Clandeboyne Estate is one of the few landed estates in Northern Ireland that has been in the same family ownership since the seventeenth century and much of its extensive archive relates directly or indirectly to the evolution of the landscape and the communities that lived and live on it. This project will draw on the layers of historic maps and archives to produce a deep map: a three dimensional spatial and historical narrative of the estate’s rich legacy. It will create a freely-available digital resource that will enable anyone, whether they are online, in the field or in the archive, to understand the history of the place. This PhD offers an opportunity to explore in detail the evolution of the landscape and use that to develop new interpretations of the Irish past and inform planning for its future.		
Name of non-HE Partner Organisation:	Public Record Office of Northern Ireland		
Name of Contact at non-HE Partner Organisation:	Dr Glynn Kelso	Email Address:	Glynn.Kelso@communities-ni.gov.uk
Primary AHRC Subject Area:	History		
Secondary AHRC Subject Area (if <b>Interdisciplinary</b> ):	Archaeology		
Does the project Include a creative practice component?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
If you have listed two subject areas above, do you consider the project to be interdisciplinary?		YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>If Yes, please briefly state why:</b> (Maximum 100 words)			
This project is intrinsically interdisciplinary, in both the research questions and the methodologies it utilises to answer them. It draws on three main disciplinary areas: History, Cultural Geography and Landscape Archaeology. The questions asked are grounded in History and Cultural Geography, orientated towards a place-based agenda and a long chronological span. The source material utilised is hugely varied: archival, object-based, map-based, oral histories, visual and artistic sources – materials used across the three specified disciplines. Lastly, the methodologies will be a three-way mix of historical (archival work and historical contextualisation), archaeological (mapping creation and analysis and GIS methods to create the deep map and			

database) and the cultural geographical (deep mapping).

**Please provide full details of the proposal and make your case for support below:**

*(Maximum 750 words)*

***Research significance:***

Clandeboyne in county Down has been the home of the Blackwood family since the mid-seventeenth century Irish plantation; by c.1800 they owned 18,000 acres and were major political and imperial players. Today the estate comprises 2,000 acres of farmland, parkland, woods, gardens and lakes with a management emphasis on sustainability, the circular economy and afforestation. This project will harness digital technology to the estate archive to build a deep map of the estate, its owners and communities from the seventeenth century to the present. It will result in a freely available, co-produced digital resource which will form the foundation for future decision-making on the estate and surrounding area and provide a template for other landowners (charitable, private and state) in their planning activities.

***Research questions:***

The overarching question asked by this project is:

What insights do deep mapping techniques give contemporary communities of place and interest into the history, environment and future of landscapes to promote collaborative decision-making?

This is supplemented by the following additional questions:

1. How can the potential of GIS and other digital platforms be utilised to bring together the disparate sources of knowledge and information that will be required to create an open ended, open source, deep map of Clandeboyne?
2. How can the creation of an innovative, visual and mapped archival catalogue improve accessibility and understanding of historical practice in contemporary decision-making?
2. How will deep mapping techniques connect communities to the physical place of Clandeboyne and how will it enhance their own connection to the world around them and inspire exploration into their personal deep maps?

***Research Context and Methodologies:***

This research will apply the concept of deep mapping to Clandeboyne as an exemplar of how digital systems can be utilised to explore place and time to enhance the connection to the land for those who live, work or visit it. Deep mapping was William Least Heat-Moon's answer to his perception that Americans were losing their connection with the land and he wrote *Prairy Erth* (1999) to demonstrate its power to bring communities back into their own histories. Deep mapping has been widely adopted by humanities scholars increasingly aware of the importance of geographic information and spatial tools of analysis (Bodenhamer, Corrigan & Harris, 2015; Earley-Spadoni, 2017; Roberts, 2018). The theoretical literature on deep mapping is well developed but concrete (and non-academic) outputs are relatively rare: this project will provide both. It will also be situated in the academic historical literature on landed estates and families, which traditionally focuses on their status as sites of aristocratic power: political, economic and social (Cannadine, 1990; Purdue, 2009; Dooley, 2001). This project will set new parameters for the study

of landed estates by imposing a much longer chronological *durée*, drawing on a much wider set of sources and by remaining open-ended and future-focused.

**Stage one** will be to digitise and georeference the estate maps that are held at PRONI, in partnership with Land and Property Services (LPS) of which the Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland (OSNI) is part. The candidate will have access to not only Ordnance Survey's authoritative mapping data, but other geospatial information from multiple providers across the public and private sectors. The GIS system of choice will be ArcGIS and as part of **Stage two**, the candidate will link this with the archival material via the PRONI eCatalogue, a fully searchable database which includes the existing Dufferin & Ava catalogue (D1071). This stage will be supported by cataloguing and digitisation work to be undertaken by PRONI and supported by a placement for the candidate. **Stage three** will introduce the 'soft' applications that will facilitate the social, open source, multi-media aspects of the deep map. This may create instability, which will challenge the custodians of the knowledge base, but also excite the deep mapping community. In the words of Clifford McLucas: 'Deep maps will be unstable, fragile and temporary. They will be a conversation and not a statement,' (McLucas, 2000).

**Outcomes:**

As well as the thesis and online deep map, its associated database and archival digitisation, this CDA centres on significant public engagement in partnership with PRONI and local community and charitable partners such as the Woodland Trust NI and Northern Irish Forest Schools. These will be utilised to co-produce the research and help inform the future of the management of Clondeboyne and other landed properties (e.g. National Trust; Forest Service NI). This project will be an innovative template for collaborative approaches to heritage and community engagement and Clondeboyne and PRONI will strengthen their status as sites for knowledge exchange and community programmes across a wide range of disciplines and interests, benefitting the NI region as a whole by improving knowledge of the past and making it accessible for future interpretation.

**Please provide details of any resources and facilities, including details of any high cost equipment, fieldwork, training, etc., that may be required to complete the project successfully, and where you will seek these resources (e.g. NBCDTP; partner resources; departmental/school funds). Please include estimated costs:**

*(Maximum 200 words)*

The training and development support required by the candidate will be carefully planned and managed by the project team to maximise the ease of transition into doctoral study and build added value into the project for the academic and non-academic partners. PRONI's extensive resources will be utilised to support the research project at no cost to NBC. This will include the conservation and digitisation of the archival, photographic and mapping material used by the candidate to construct the deep map of Clondeboyne, to be made freely available together to the public on completion. The candidate will require access to and training on specialist landscape and mapping programmes, all of which are already licenced to Newcastle University. The candidate will need to spend significant periods of time in PRONI (central Belfast) and the Clondeboyne estate (near Bangor) but the distance between the sites are only 20 minutes by public transport. Where required, accommodation will be made available to the candidate – again for free – on the Clondeboyne estate to save time and travel costs. Aside from disciplinary conferences/workshops that the candidate will be encouraged to go to, the costs of delivering this project will be supported by the universities and partner organisation.

**Please outline the arrangements for communication between the partner organisation and academic host organisation in regard of the project management and the monitoring of academic progress:**

*(Maximum 150 words)*

This project team has been working together across different project configurations already, successfully testing the partnership and co-productive spirit, demonstrating that we can effectively manage the project and academic progress of the candidate. As the candidate will be registered at Newcastle, the lead supervisor will ensure they receive the expected academic support from their primary institution, as well as co-ordinating communication between the rest of the supervisory team. Monthly meetings between the candidate and all the supervisors will take place, primarily remotely via Zoom, but at least four times a year together in person, hosted by PRONI (lockdown restrictions allowing). This will allow for a genuine exchange of ideas as well as monitoring the academic progress of the candidate. All meeting records will be shared across the team; clear goals and targets mapped onto a project timeline agreed and assessed and any concerns on progress flagged as soon as possible.

**What benefits will accrue to the student and the partner organisation as a result of your collaboration?**

*(Maximum 300 words)*

This project should be prioritised because of its emphasis on working in partnership between and within academic institutions and with external partners, in order to build a sustainable network of expertise and collaboration. **For PRONI**, this project represents an opportunity to increase academic and public accessibility to the scope and content of one of the most important archives in its possession. As such, one of the chief benefits to them will be in a greater understanding of the archive and the capacity to share that with local communities living and working on the estate and surrounding area to develop heritage and public history projects (for instance, public workshops on local history; object-based learning; resources for the Forest School based on the estate; mapping for community cohesion and collecting oral histories). The key focus of that will be shared between PRONI and the Clondeboy Estate, cementing links between them and providing two public engagement platforms for activity to be delivered in partnership with the student.

**The student** will benefit from this research collaboration through developing several layers of public engagement activity, with a broad reach geographically and thematically, supported by the expertise of colleagues working within both academia and PRONI, enhancing their research environment and exposing them to a range of postdoctoral career paths. The candidate will be involved in the heritage and archive management programme from day 1, including the establishment of the re-cataloguing and digitisation of the Dufferin & Ava archive but also wider cross-community programmes of public engagement and education.

**Please briefly state what financial (if any) or in-kind contribution the partner will be making over the duration of the award:**

*(Maximum 100 words)*

PRONI will be making a significant in-kind contribution in the following key ways. (1) A principal part of the contribution will be in the form of the time and expertise of Dr Glynn Kelso, mapping expert and archivist at PRONI and the partner supervisor for this project. Dr Kelso will, on behalf of PRONI, induct the candidate into PRONI's professional environment, providing training on the archival collection including its scope, management and cataloguing structure and practical support around handling, conservation and digitisation processes. (2) The time resource of other PRONI employees will also contribute to this project, including that of colleagues in the LPS and OSNI sections, and colleagues who lead PRONI's education and engagement programmes. (3) Lastly, significant in-kind contribution will be made via the agreed conservation and digitisation of the archival and mapping material utilised in the deep map and its database, so that it can be freely accessible to the public.

**Please describe the nature of the collaborative arrangement and the activities the student will be taking with the organisation:**  
(Maximum 300 words)

This has been an organic collaborative development between the project team members, with an emphasis on co-production of research and the impactful development of its outcomes, and the activities planned for the candidate reflect this. A **planned placement** with the PRONI at the start of Year Two has been mapped out, which will have in-built training elements in archives management as well as public engagement and impact. Firstly, a cataloguing project relating to the material relevant to the project will be completed. The candidate will receive training on the catalogue system from PRONI colleagues and would centre on developing the image and GIS features, towards the eventual goal of having each and every item fully catalogued, complete with related images, films, archival entries, provenance and literature information. Secondly, the placement would consist of **work engaging with local communities** on the project and how it will uncover their stories about the estate and support innovative and creative thinking about its future and the future of local people and communities. The candidate will effectively open up the archive and contribute to educational programmes offered at PRONI and Clandeboye, while being supported by the PRONI PR team, giving him valuable experience in these areas. The candidate will be given the opportunity to contribute a lecture and help design and deliver an exhibition on their research findings in PRONI's education and public events programming.

## SECTION 2: SUPERVISION AND EXTERNAL ADVISORS

First Supervisor:	Professor Annie Tindley	School/Department:	School of History, Classics & Archaeology, Newcastle University
Second Supervisor:	Dr Glynn Kelso	School/Department:	Public Record Office of Northern Ireland
Additional Advisor:	Dr Olwen Purdue	Organisation/Institution:	School of History, Anthropology and Politics, Queen's University Belfast
Additional Advisor:	Professor Sam Turner	Organisation/Institution:	School of History, Classics & Archaeology, Newcastle University

**Explain how the expertise of the supervisory team and external advisors will allow them to support the proposed project and the selected student:**

(Maximum 500 words)

Having developed organically from within the partner institutions' research environments, this project and the candidate's needs will be accurately predicted and met. By drawing on their wide range of experience, research interests and public engagement and impact expertise, the supervisory team will build a supportive environment for the student, while offering them a range of perspectives – institutional, disciplinary and methodological.

**Prof. Annie Tindley's** (<https://www.ncl.ac.uk/hca/staff/profile/annietindley.html#background>) expertise lies in the modern history of rural Britain and Ireland and deals with themes of land use and management and the relationship between landed elites and government in rural areas. She is also experienced in collaborative and interdisciplinary research, giving her valuable expertise in developing new methodological frameworks in support of innovative research which can be utilised by the candidate. She has supervised to completion three PhDs, including one CDA with Argyll Estates and is currently supervising four others, one an NBC NPIF CDA with the National Trust and another an NBC CDA with the Buccleuch Living Heritage Trust. She is a

Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, established in 2015 the Centre for Scotland's Land Futures, and has published on estate mapping histories. Her book on Clondeboyne, *Lord Dufferin, Ireland and Empire: rule by the best?* will be published in early 2021.

**Dr Glynn Kelso** works as an archivist at PRONI performing duties around public engagement, student development, and the use of archives in improving wellbeing and cultural participation. Glynn has a particular expertise in maps and is actively involved in the world of maps and mapping through the British Cartographic Society (BRICMICS), the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) (as Fellow), the American Association of Geographers, and as a Visiting Tutor at universities in Belfast, Princeton and Padua. His research interests and PhD thesis are located around early modern Ulster and Ireland, complementing the nineteenth and twentieth century expertise of Annie and Olwen.

**Dr Olwen Purdue** ([https://pure.qub.ac.uk/portal/en/persons/olwen-purdue\(14eeffb5-33df-4e0d-b393-b5a20c11e3d2\).html](https://pure.qub.ac.uk/portal/en/persons/olwen-purdue(14eeffb5-33df-4e0d-b393-b5a20c11e3d2).html)) specialises in the social and economic history of nineteenth and twentieth-century Ireland. Her research focuses on Irish landed estates and poverty, welfare and public health. She also has a strong interest in Public History, working closely with the cultural and heritage sectors across Northern Ireland in research, teaching and public engagement. She is Director of the Centre for Public History and convenes the MA in Public History at QUB and has experience of supervising collaborative doctoral projects: she is currently supervising an NBC NIPF doctoral project in collaboration with Belfast City Council, and another NBC CDA with National Museums NI. She has supervised five successfully completed PhDs.

**Prof. Sam Turner** (<https://www.ncl.ac.uk/hca/staff/profile/samturner.html#research>) is a landscape archaeologist and director of the McCord Centre for Landscape. His research interests focus on how landscapes have developed from ancient times onwards and on medieval archaeology (particularly early medieval religion). His contribution to the project will be to advise on landscape archaeology methods and data visualisation.

Each member of the supervisory team brings networks and connections to the table that will benefit the student, including access to links with community and local enterprise partners in Northern Ireland to generate impact from the doctoral research. Taken together, this team will carefully guide the candidate through the PhD process, and give it added value through the ambitious programme of public engagement and research impact.

### SECTION 3: RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT

**Please provide details about the research environment the selected student will be joining and its suitability:**

*(Maximum 500 words)*

The strength of this project lies in the **three active and diverse research environments** that the student will be able to take advantage of: Newcastle and Queen's Belfast universities and PRONI. The first two offer different academic networks and expertise and PRONI offers expertise in public and community engagement approaches.

**At Newcastle**, the student will benefit from the support of membership of the McCord Centre for Landscape (<https://www.ncl.ac.uk/mccordcentre/>) hosted by the School of History, Classics & Archaeology, and the perfect collaborative

research forum for this project. It will support the candidate through its innovative and vibrant environment, including regular methodologies master classes, reading groups, workshops and work in progress sessions. We propose that the candidate will plan and deliver a one-day workshop under the aegis of the Centre on the theme of 'Deep Mapping and Heritage Futures', to share their ideas and help establish their credentials in the field. At **Queen's Belfast**, the Centre for Public History (<https://www.qub.ac.uk/research-centres/CentreforPublicHistory/>) will provide a second very active research environment, which encourages the involvement of postgraduate students, build their skills and widen their perspective on the impact of research and seeks to promote collaborative projects. The candidate will deliver a workshop for the Centre on interdisciplinary approaches to heritage. Within **PRONI** (<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni>), the student will be joining a diverse and active range of archival professionals who strive to maintain a robust research and public-centred environment, giving the candidate a strong model. A day-long workshop (virtual if necessary) is planned at PRONI to mark the beginning of the PhD project (if awarded) in November 2021, to establish a public profile for the project and kickstart the engagement and impact programme. PRONI is highly experienced in engaging hard-to-reach audiences, and the candidate will benefit from this expertise and by being linked into PRONI's extensive regional networks.

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**Public Record Office  
of Northern Ireland**

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Northern Bridge Consortium  
Scrutiny Panels

**Our Ref:** CO1-18-22401  
2 October 2020

Dear Colleagues

### **NORTHERN BRIDGE CONSORTIUM: LETTER OF SUPPORT**

I am writing as the Director of PRONI to confirm my wholehearted support for this Collaborative Doctoral Award application entitled 'Mapping Irish Erth: using deep mapping to curate an historic landed estate as a three-dimensional educational and cultural resource.'

The Dufferin and Ava archive is one of PRONI's most important holdings, for both the history of the island of Ireland and for Ireland's connections to Britain and its empire. It is an amazingly varied collection: firmly rooted in Ulster but stretching to the four corners of the world and covering over four centuries. It is one of the great archives of the British imperial age and particular sections of it have attracted much attention from scholars from around the world. Despite this, and like many estate archives, the material relating to the land and its management has been neglected by researchers, despite the fact that this the area which draws in the most public and community interest. This project will be the first to explore in-depth the uncatalogued materials and understudied areas of the Dufferin and Ava collection, family and estates history and archive and make the findings freely and accessibly available online to our local and global audience.



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As the custodian of Northern Ireland's archival heritage, and a nationally Accredited Archive Service, PRONI has a key role in the preservation of its archives and records that help to inform a significant part of our local story across the last nine centuries. PRONI cares for over 3 million unique items and its archives and records are of immense social, economic and historical value to a wide range of individuals, communities and enterprises. PRONI's vision is centred on 'Protecting and Providing Archives for All', supported by our mission to identify, preserve and promote public access to Northern Ireland's archival heritage. Our strategic goals are:

- A visible and accessible archive and records service
- Growth and development of PRONI staff to build capacity for the future of the archive
- Strategic leadership
- Fulfil statutory obligations for the selection, preservation and making available the archives and records in PRONI's care
- Collaboration and partnerships
- Enhancing PRONI's digital capacity

All of these priorities are encapsulated in this project, the parameters of which have been developed organically between Prof Annie Tindley, Dr Olwen Purdue, [...] and the team at PRONI; as priorities, they are firmly rooted within our organisation, and can be effectively supervised from our side. The research will entail work on original source material at PRONI. The work in the archives will be supported by PRONI archivists and enabled by our conservation, digitisation and public services teams, specifically Dr Glynn Kelso, our mapping expert.

PRONI is committed to developing the intellectual capacity and access to its hugely significant archival collections, and already has a proven track record in doing so. Recent success includes two collaborative PhD projects with Queen's University Belfast, and Ulster University, including two new post-graduate projects starting in October 2020 examining Female Criminality and Ulster Society 1880s-1930s and Voices of Ulster Poor, 1850s-1930s.

In addition to the intellectual value of this project, we are excited by the opportunities to develop community outreach and education activities, fieldwork and a placement of up to six months' duration. As such, we propose that [...] will undertake this placement with PRONI, which will focus on the outreach and community engagement results of the archival work through our education, exhibition and public engagement programmes, and a cataloguing project.

Once again, PRONI is delighted to be working in partnership with academic colleagues in order to uncover the rich histories and geographies of landed estates and their communities in Ulster and to ensure the benefits and insights from this research are disseminated as

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widely as possible for the benefit of academic scholarship and our present day and future local communities.

We look forward to receiving the Northern Bridge Consortium assessors' feedback on this joint application to the Collaborative Doctoral Awards competition.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Willis". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

MICHAEL WILLIS (Dr)

*Director and Deputy Keeper of the Records*