



Dangan Castle, near Summerhill, County Meath

A view of the shell of Dangan Castle, County Meath, the eighteenth-century seat of the Wellesley family and the childhood home of Arthur Wellesley (1769-1852), first Duke of Wellington. A large provincial Georgian country house, Dangan Castle shows a five-bay two-storey front over a vaulted basement and with a moulded cornice supporting a parapet. Sold in 1793 to Captain Thomas Burrowes, Dangan Castle was burnt down in 1809 and has been a ruin ever since. A fine stable yard centring on a pedimented block also survives, albeit in a dilapidated state.

In addition to the new house, the surrounding estate was embellished and improved at considerable expense by Richard Wesley (c.1690-1758), first Baron of Mornington. Legend has it that the estate once boasted over one hundred follies and garden buildings including at least twenty-five obelisks. Only one obelisk survives today and, measuring almost forty-five feet in height, consists of a yellow brick "needle" on an arcaded open pedestal. The obelisk has recently been restored under the Built Heritage Jobs Leverage Scheme 2014.

