Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement

NEWSLETTER

No. 11   2006

IRELAND

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contents

Annual Outing

2007

Enniskillen

€5 (Free to members)

Editorial

Welcome to the 2006 edition of our Newsletter. I would like to thank our President, Michael O'Hanrahan for his leadership over the past year and for the hard work he has put in at committee meetings, editorial work and other supportive activities on behalf of the *Group*.

I would like to thank Denis Croinin for the years of hard work as Hon. Sec on behalf of the *Group* and I hope he will have the time to keep in touch with us. I would like to welcome Linda Doran as our new Hon. Sec. and wish her well in the coming years. I would also like to welcome our new committee members Brian Ó Dalaigh and Brian Shanahan.

I wish to thank those who have contributed to this issue. First Brian Shanahan has written a very important report and analysis on the *Medieval Rural Settlement Project* that the Discovery Programme in conducting in Roscommon. This project promises to allow us to see medieval settlement, particularly in the Gaelic areas, in a new light. This article marries beautifully with the important work of Linda Doran in the Norman part of the country. Her study area on this occasion is the Suir valley. Once again these studies show how essential it is to use various disciplines to make sense of the past. Again it demonstrates the value of this *Group*, made up as it is by scholars and members of the public who each in a special way has much to contribute to our study. The landscape is our document and we all see it with different eyes.

I would like to thank Bernadette Cunningham once again for her many notices of recently published books. This is tireless work but it is of the utmost importance to our *Group* in keeping us up-to-date with recent publications.

I realize that Bernadette's contribution has been forming a kind of database of publications. I have had it in mind to create an on-line searchable database of publications specifically related to settlement. For example it would be nice to type in 'mills', or 'mills, eighteenth century, Derry' and get a list of articles and books on the subject. Scholars in the *Group* must have their own lists but if the *Group* gathered these materials it would form the basis of an impressive source for us all. I hope to talk informally with members at the Enniskillen outing to see if they consider this to be a feasible proposition. I invite everyone to think about this as a possible project for the *Group*.

Because the newsletter is one year behind I can only note that our conference in 2006 was in Clonmel and was a great success. This year our conference will be held in Co. Fermanagh. Details are at the end of the newsletter. I will make a great effort to bring out another newsletter later this year so that it will become current.

We now have a web site or rather a weblog site (a Blog). Why not visit and give comments on how it could be structured or improved. The address is long. I have hosted it on my .Mac account.

http://homepage.mac.com/charles.doherty/iblog/B1068827693/index.html

After you first log on make a bookmark of the site. Give it a name (why not **GSIHS**). Place it in your menu-bar for easy reference and then all future visits will require just one click.

Charlie Doherty
March 13, 2007

Articles

Recent research in Roscommon by the Discovery Programme's Medieval Rural Settlement Project
Brian Shanahan
(*Assistant Director*,
Medieval Rural Settlement Project)

The Roscommon module is part of the Discovery Programme's Medieval Rural Settlement Project. It focuses on the Gaelic lordship of the O'Conors; a territory that was not under the direct control of the Crown or subject to English settlement during the formative period of the 12th to early 16th centuries. The primary aim is to address the dearth of knowledge about settlement, economy and agricultural practices within the Gaelic parts of Ireland. This is a multi-disciplinary project directed by Dr. Niall Brady.[1] A review, by Anne Connon, of the historical evidence covering the period 1100 to 1650 AD, forms the basis of a study of land-ownership within the O'Conor lordship. Brian Shanahan and Rory McNeary have concentrated on a review and analysis of the archaeological evidence for medieval settlement. This includes mapping relict landscape features, principally field boundaries and deserted settlements. Excavation has been central to the project. The results of excavations at Tulsk and Carns are outlined below.

Tulsk Excavation

Two thousand and six marked the third season of excavation, directed by Dr. Niall Brady, in the village of Tulsk. The earliest undisputed reference to the place is found in the *Cath Maighe Léna*, an early Irish saga which has been dated to somewhere between the second half of the thirteenth century and the early part of the fourteenth century.[2] It became an O'Conor Roe centre following the division of the O'Conor lordship in 1385.[3] The earliest upstanding remains are the Dominican Priory which dates to the fifteenth century. Dressed stone recovered from a mound behind Kelly's pub appeared to support local tradition that this was the site of an O'Conor castle, first mentioned in 1407.[4] Another earthwork classified as a raised rath, was chosen for excavation because it was considered a likely precursor of the castle with the potential to shed light on the nature of Gaelic residences during the elusive thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. Excavations directed by Dr. Niall Brady have revealed that the site has a more complicated history and has prompted a reassessment of medieval and early modern occupation in the village.

The recovery of a ring-pin brooch dating to the 10th or 11th centuries suggests that the core of the mound contains an early settlement. However, the pin was found with significantly later material and intact early medieval levels have yet to be exposed. The excavation has so far revealed two major phases of occupation; the foundations of a demolished late medieval castle and a late 16th or 17th century military occupation above the demolition rubble. Geophysical survey had drawn attention to a major structure on the east side of the mound. Excavation has established that this is a rectangular building, measuring c. 20m long by 10m wide (Figure 1 on page 2). The external wall is c. 3m thick, and retains a battered or sloping profile along its base, with a recessed garderobe, or latrine chute. The entire structure has not been exposed, but an internal cross-wall indicates that it was divided into at least two rooms. These features are typical of tower-house castles. The tower occupied one side of the mound, while the adjacent area appears to have been without substantial buildings. This area probably formed a bawn or enclosed precinct. The castle remains to be precisely dated. A series of annal references during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries indicate a cycle of construction and demolition of castle buildings. A castle at Tulsk had already been destroyed by 1407. A castle was captured 1430. A castle and prison were demolished in 1485 by Ulick Burke. The castle of Tulsk repulsed O'Donnell in 1490. In 1499 Garret, Earl of Kildare took the castle.

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1 Niall Brady, *Exploring Irish medieval landscapes* (Medieval Rural Settlement Project, 2002–2008) Discovery Programme (Dublin, 2003).

2 Kenneth Jackson (ed.), *Cath Maighe Léna* (Dublin, 1938) 36, 43; Eugene O'Curry (ed. and trans.), *Cath Mhuighe Léana or the battle of Magh Leana* (Dublin, 1855) 63, 79.

3 ALC 1385.

4 ALC 1407.
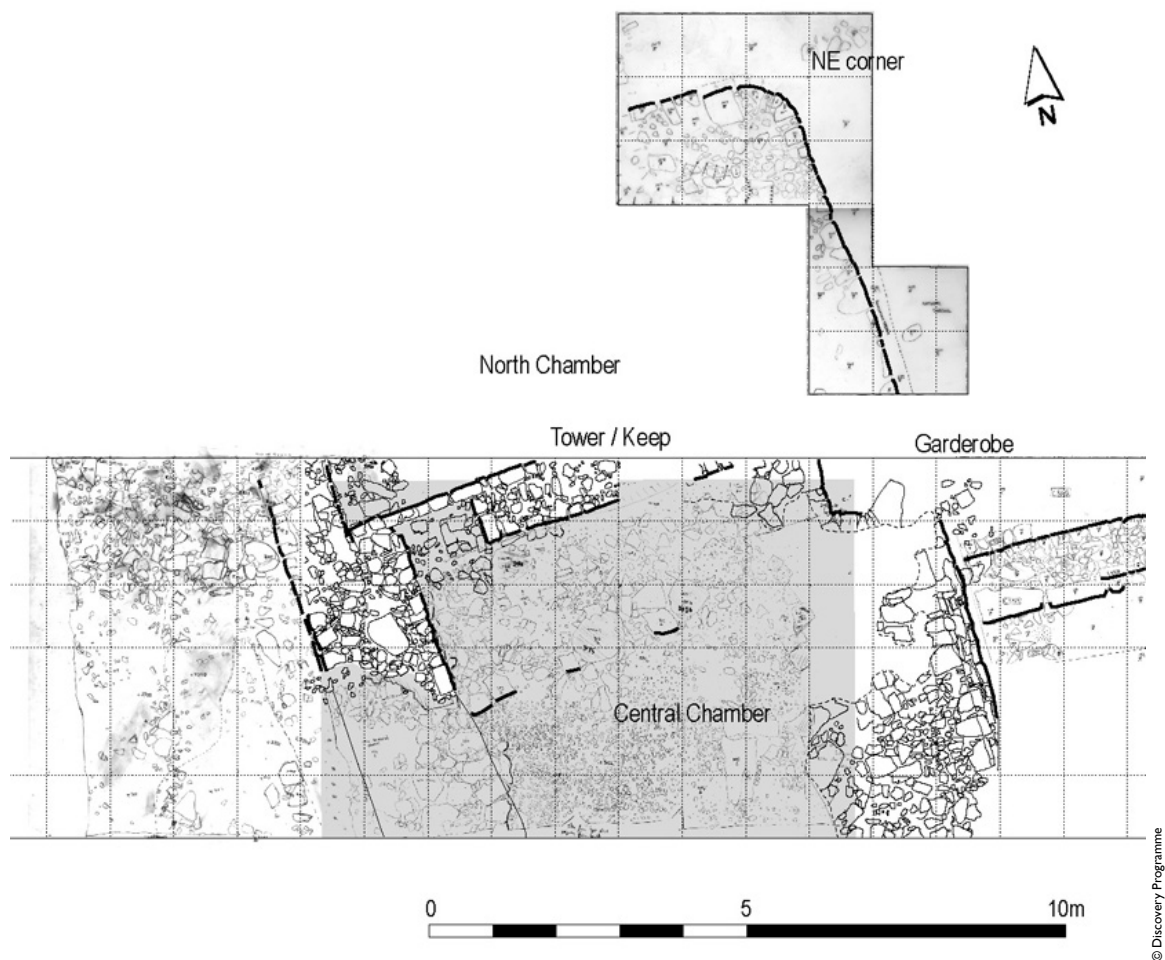
Figure 1   Plan of stone tower at Tulsk

The last reference to a castle there was in 1501 when Brian, the son of Rory MacDermot, was slain by a dart cast from the castle.[5] At this stage these references could relate to either of the castle sites in the village.

The excavation has established that the castle was gone by the mid to late sixteenth century. Most of the good stone had been systematically removed and the residue of rubble fill formed a thick layer that sealed the wall foundations. Soil layers rich in charcoal and metal slag lay above the demolition rubble and appear to be associated with the foundations of structures located at the west end of the mound. These layers yielded a substantial assemblage of small finds dating to the mid 1500s to the mid 1600s. The dominance of musket balls and traces of activities associated with shot-making and gun-cleaning, and the presence of predomi-

nantly Tudor coins and a gaming die suggest the mound was part of a documented English fortification of the village during the late 1500s (Plate 1 on page 3). This process began in 1582 when the annals noted that English soldiers built a house at Tulsk.[6] It is uncertain if this involved the construction of a new fortification or the renovation of the existing Priory buildings, which were subsequently recorded as part of the English defences. Sir Richard Bingham, the Queen's Governor in Connacht carried out repairs at the priory in 1595 as well as building a fortification to protect a small English garrison.[7] This work can be

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5 AFM 1407; AFM 1430; AFM 1485; AFM 1490; AFM 1499; AFM 1501.
6 ALC 1582.
7 CSPI, 1592-6, 346, 369.

associated with the construction of a tower house at the east end of the Priory church.[8] The priory building was suitable for a small permanent garrison, but the village also accommodated larger forces from time to time. Bingham and his army were camped on the hill, near the gate of Tulsk in 1593, at the start of the Nine Year's War.[9] Activities on the mound might be seen in that context; in fact the hill could refer to the mound. Another temporary encampment was established in 1599 when an English army consisting of twenty eight standards of troops stopped in the village on their way from Roscommon to Boyle.[10]

[8] K. O'Conor, M. Keegan and P. Tiernan, 'Tulsk Abbey', *Journal of the Roscommon Historical and Archaeological Society* 6 (1996) 67–9; N. Brady, A. Connon, A. Corns, R. McNeary, B. Shanahan, and R. Shaw, 'A survey of the Priory and Graveyard at Tulsk, Co. Roscommon', in *Discovery Programme Reports, 7* (Dublin, 2005) 43, 50.
[9] AFM 1593.
[10] AFM 1599.

Plate 1   Elizabethan artefacts recovered during excavation at Tulsk

Carns Survey and Excavation

Work undertaken by Brian Shanahan and Rory McNeary has concentrated on a well-documented network of relict field boundaries that can be traced over many kilometres throughout north Roscommon. A strong argument has been made, based on a relative chronology of earlier and later features, that the system has its origins in the Middle Ages. If this proves to be the case, they will be central to addressing the dearth of knowledge about medieval settlement and agriculture in Gaelic areas that remained outside of English occupation. The Project commissioned an aerial survey of an approximately 70 km-area that focussed on the densest concentration of field systems.[11] The primary product of that survey is a series of orthophotos; high resolution imagery that has been geometrically corrected to mapping accuracy. Earthworks, settlements and field systems have been plotted accurately and to scale. This has facilitated rapid landscape analysis, pinpointing locations for more detailed fieldwork. Carns townland was chosen as a detailed case study because it has a wide range of relict earthworks representing long-term occupation since prehistoric times in addition to a well-documented medieval presence.

[11] This was undertaken by *BKS Surveys Ltd*. Imagery has been processed by Anthony Corns and Robert Shaw, *Discovery Programme*.

Carns takes its name from a prehistoric burial cairn known as Carnfree named after Fraoch, the hero of the Early Irish saga, *Táin Bó Fraích*. This area was traditionally referred to as *Cnoc na Dála* ('The Hill of the Assembly'). A tradition that Saint Patrick chose this location for a church, the *Domhnach Mór Maighe Selga*, indicates a concerted effort to integrate this important assembly point into early Irish Christian tradition.[12]

Figure 2 Deserted settlements and relict field boundaries in Carns townland

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[12] This is mentioned in the ninth century *Vita Tripartita*: Fitzpatrick, *Royal Inauguration in Gaelic Ireland*, 60, 66; Whitley Stokes (ed.), *The Tripartite Life of St. Patrick* (London, 1887) i, 106–109.

A large circular enclosure at the east end of the Carnfree ridge has been identified as this site.[13] It has a diameter of c. 125m and is defined by an earthen bank. This pedigree ensured its central importance to the O'Conor lordship as a place of inauguration. The earliest mention of *Carn Fraích* in the annals is in AD 1225 when Toirdelbach, son of Ruaidrí Ua Conchobair, was inaugurated there as king of Connaught.[14]

Plate 2 Magnetic Gradiometry Survey

A moated site nearby reveals a broader medieval occupation in the vicinity and suggests a broader 'landscape of lordship' comprising of church, res-

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[13] Fitzpatrick, *Royal Inauguration in Gaelic Ireland*, 60, 63, 66; J. O'Donovan, 'Letters containing information relative to the antiquities of the County of Roscommon collected during the progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1837', compiled by M. O'Flanagan, typescript in 2 vols. (Bray, 1927).

[14] AFM 1225.

idence and inauguration site.[15] The most notable example of a Gaelic moated site was the palace and stronghold of Aodh Ua Conchobair constructed nearby at Cloonfree, sometime in the first decade of the fourteenth century.[16]

Chronology of enclosure and settlement

A relative chronology of settlement and land enclosure has been formulated based on analysis of the relict earthworks and by examination of historic maps (Figure 2 on page 4). The majority of relict earthen boundaries are offline and overlain by the 'modern' system of stone walls depicted on the 1837 Ordnance Survey First Edition 6″ map. They form a co-axial field system for which a medieval origin has been proposed.[17] Boundaries splay to avoid the circular enclosure and also respect the moated site, suggesting the system was laid out no earlier than the thirteenth century. The fields reveal evidence for localised modification associated with a number of deserted settlements. The remains of up to twenty-three house sites, associated gardens and more extensive tillage plots are focused into three clusters. The origins and evolution of the settlement is uncertain and it has not yet been established if they were all in contemporary use. The sequence appears to begin after the establishment of the early medieval church enclosure because it was subsequently integrated into the later field system. The resulting pattern of small fields around it suggests that the enclosure continued as a focus of settlement. The final phase is distinguished by the removal and rebuilding of parts of the enclosure and surrounding field boundaries. Up to nine potential house sites lo-

cated inside and around the enclosure are probably associated with this phase. A second cluster of at least eight houses to the west known locally as the *sean baile* may represent an expansion of the aforementioned settlement. Here the houses and clearly defined gardens truncate and are offline with a major boundary of the field system. Although this cluster is clearly secondary to the main field system, it would appear that the inhabitants continued to use most of the earlier field boundaries. A third cluster of five houses, located in the SW corner of the townland, is another later insertion.

Investigations at the church site

The church site was targeted for excavation because it was clearly a long-term focus of occupation and because it had been integrated into the field system. The earthworks around the enclosure reflected a series of buildings and gardens suggesting a settlement and at this stage there was no clear evidence for a late medieval church. Excavation was preceded by geophysical survey, conducted by Dr. Paul Gibson and Dot George, NUI Maynooth. The resistance survey largely mirrored the upstanding earthworks and house sites. However the magnetic gradiometry revealed a remarkable and unexpected picture (Plate 2 on page 5).

A hitherto unknown phase consisting of a figure-of-eight structure enclosed by a bivallate enclosure clearly pre-dates the upstanding earthworks. It has obvious parallels with prehistoric places of assembly, inauguration and kingship in Ireland, such as *Emain Macha*, Co. Armagh and *Dún Ailinne*, Co. Kildare.

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[15] See B.J. Graham, 'Medieval Settlement in Co. Roscommon', *PRIA* 88C (1988) 19–38 and K.D. O'Conor, *The archaeology of medieval rural settlement*, Discovery Programme Monographs 3 (Dublin, 1998) 87–89. See also K.D. O'Conor 'The Morphology of Gaelic Lordly Sites in Northern Connacht', in Patrick Duffy, David Edwards and Elizabeth Fitzpatrick (eds), *Gaelic Ireland: land, lordship and settlement, c. 1250–c. 1650* (Dublin, 2001) 329–46 and K.D. O'Conor, 'The ethnicity of Irish moated sites', in *Ruralia III, památky archaeologické: supplementum 11* (Prague, 2000) 92–102.

[16] K.D. O'Conor and Tom Finan, 'The moated site at Cloonfree, Co. Roscommon', *Journal of the Galway Archaeological and Historical Society* 54 (2002) 72–87, reprinted in *Journal of the Roscommon Historical and Archaeological Society* 9 (2003) 67–73; Katherine Simms, 'Native Sources for Gaelic Settlement', in P.J. Duffy, D. Edwards and E. Fitzpatrick (eds), *Gaelic Ireland: Land, lordship and settlement, c. 1250 – c. 1650* (Dublin, 2001) 249; E.C. Quiggin, 'O'Conor's house at Cloonfree', in E.C. Quiggin (ed.), *Essays and studies presented to William Ridgeway* (Cambridge, 1913) 333–52.

[17] M. Herity, 'A survey of the royal site of Cruachain in Connacht-IV. Ancient field systems at Rathcroghan and Carnfree', *JRSAI* 118 (1988) 67–84; Michael Herity, *Rathcroghan and Carnfree: Celtic royal sites in Roscommon* (Dublin, 1991); K.D. O'Conor, Rory McNeary and Brian Shanahan, 'Medieval settlement, society and land use in the Roscommon area, an introduction', in *North Roscommon in the Later Medieval Period: An Introduction*, Discovery Programme Reports 7 (2005) 3–22.

Plate 3 Church extension

The purpose of the excavation, directed by Brian Shanahan, was to establish a clear function for the later earthworks, buildings and gardens and to establish a clear date for one phase within the field system. Two discrete areas were investigated; a building located near the centre of the enclosure and the boundary of the enclosure, where it adjoined a relict field bank. The building foundations proved to be a church. Significantly, the punch dressed stones used in the building indicate it is fifteenth century or later. An extension to the west may have served as a priest's house (Plate 3 on page 7).

Animal bone was found throughout the demolition layers around the building, on the floors of the buildings and within a possible refuse pit located within the domestic extension. Human burials were also encountered inside and outside the buildings. Some predate the construction of the buildings, indicating a long tradition of burial on site, but others were deposited later, supporting local tradition for the presence of a *cillín* in the

vicinity. Early medieval artefacts and an ogham stone were recovered in the spread of demolition rubble (Plate 4 on page 8). They were in disturbed later levels, but they support the contention that this is the site of the early medieval Patrician church of *Domhnach Mór Maighe Seilge*. This view is further supported by investigations on the perimeter of the circular enclosure that exposed foundations of a 2m thick drystone wall that once enclosed the site. One of the potentially prehistoric enclosing ditches, revealed by the magnetic gradiometry survey, was also exposed in order to establish its depth and in order to retrieve dating evidence. It proved to be c. 1.6m deep and contained a well-preserved assemblage of animal bones that may prove to be the earliest faunal assemblage on the site. A field boundary post-dating the dry stone wall was also excavated and revealed burnt deposits at its base that have recently been sent for radiocarbon dating.

Despite the importance of *Carn Fraích* as the in-

auguration site of the O'Conors there was no mention of a church. It was not included in the papal taxation of AD 1302–6, although the nearby parish churches of Kilcooley and Ogulla are listed.[18] This absence suggests it must have had the status of a chapel within the parish of Ogulla or Kilcooley. In 1593 the quarter of Carns was included in a grant of lands formerly belonging to the Dominican Priory of Tulsk.[19] That Priory was founded in 1448.[20] The punch-dressed masonry in the church at Carns suggests it was constructed after the site became a Dominican possession.

The 2006 season was very successful. The excavation has confirmed O'Donovan's assertion that the circular enclosure was the location of the *Domhnach Mór Maighe Seilge*. It has also raised the possibility that this church site was developed on or deliberately subsumed an earlier prehistoric ritual centre. Excavation has also established that, despite an absence of historical records, the church site was maintained through the later Middle Ages and that a new building programme was initiated, after it became a Dominican possession. The relationship of the church to the larger settlement has yet to be established. Do the other houses and gardens, inside and outside the enclosure belong to church tenants? Are the houses further to the west an extension of this settlement? If so, the possibility remains that this is a church village, at least part of which has its origins in the middle ages. It is intended to address these questions in 2007.

Plate 4   Detail of ogham stone

[18]   H.S. Sweetman and G.F. Handcock (eds), *Calendar of Documents Relating to Ireland, 1302–1307* (London, 1886) 223.
[19]   *Ir. Fiants, 1586–1603* (vol. 3) 224.
[20]   A. Gwynn and R.N. Hadcock (eds), *Medieval religious Houses: Ireland* (Dublin, 1970; repr. 1988) 230–1.

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K.D. O'Conor, Mark Keegan, and Padraig Tiernan, 'Tulsk Abbey', *County Roscommon Historical and Archaeological Society Journal* 6 (1996) 67–9.

K.D. O'Conor, *The archaeology of medieval rural settlement in Ireland*, Discovery Programme Monographs 3 (Dublin, 1998) 87–9.

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B.J. Graham, 'Medieval Settlement in Co. Roscommon', *PRIA* 88C (1988)19–38.

E. Fitzpatrick, *Royal Inauguration in Gaelic Ireland c. 1100–1600. A Cultural Landscape Study* (The Boydell Press, Woodbridge, 2004).

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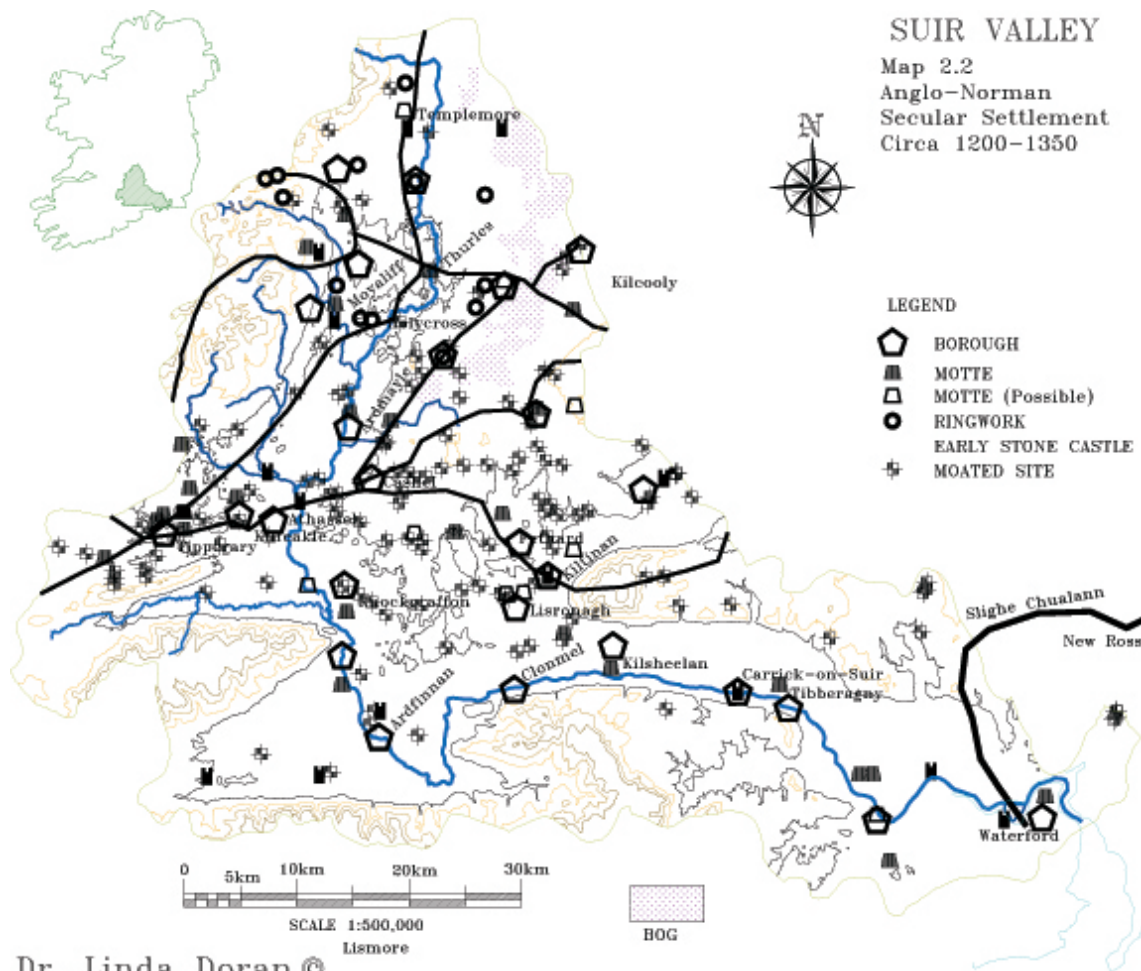
Anglo-Norman Settlement in the Suir Valley: An Overview
Dr Linda Doran
(***Atlas: New Ross***,
Royal Irish Academy)

Settlement patterns and the elements that outline them allow us to glimpse partially the character of communities that lived, worked, and prayed in a particular region. At the apex of its success, in the thirteenth century, the colony in this area, as illustrated by its surviving traces, was wealthy, devout and fashion-conscious. Even in its heyday, however, there was always an *élite* core

— this was situated on the river valley. This reflects a common settlement dynamic — the management and protection of the river to facilitate the development and exploitation of the agricultural resources. While the early castles of Ardfinnan and Tibberagny established by John in 1185 were concerned with the protection of his city of Waterford, other major stone and earthen castles, such as Kiltinan, Ardmayle, Knockgraffon and Kilfeakle, were more directly focused on the river. Even the castles marking lesser grants have the same distributional rationale. In a like manner successful boroughs are almost universally related to the Suir and its tributaries.

Figure 3   Map of Anglo-Norman settlements in Suir Valley

By the mid-thirteenth century the colony in the Suir Valley was well established. The settlement, however, got off to a rocky start. In the south

the initial installation of vital infrastructure had been delayed by John's constant granting, withdrawing and regranting of lordships. This was

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sparked by John's paranoia concerning the loyalty of his barons and coincided with a number of minorities. These factors combined to create a climate of insecurity that was detrimental to the recruitment of settlers to a region still, at the start of the thirteenth century, a frontier zone. By 1212–13, some of the major centres of Anglo-Norman settlement, such as Ardmayle and Knockgraffon, were still lacking the basic elements of manorialisation. The fortunate survival of a number of documents for the Valley provides an indication of the ancillary structures that surrounded the castles and other settlement hierarchy that we see isolated on the landscape today. On the northern frontier manor of Inch in 1303 the *caput* had a variety of manorial buildings constructed around the motte including: a hall, wooden chapel, a fish-house, stables, a granary, a sheepcote, a dovecote and a garden with herbs, fruit and vegetables. A far cry from the remote desolate motte on the edge of the Devil's Bit seen today. Map 1 (Figure 3 on page 10).

It is important to remember, of course, that these documents are in the main fiscal accounts and not designed to provide an image of society, custom or political relationships. Furthermore, they are survivals. We have no way to discover if they are typical of the region or over what length of time they were an accurate image. Ten years either side of 1303 and the vision may have been significantly altered. What they serve particularly to illustrate is that a number of key timber buildings existed which no longer display above ground traces. The wooden chapel at Inch, for example, is known only because it was financially important enough to be noted. Without this line in a financial account its existence would be lost. The importance of fishing, which we could guess at from the mention of fish ponds on manors and estates abroad, is confirmed by the fact that this account calculates the return for the mill to include the fishing on the mill pond. The diversity of the complex around the *caput* of this military manor in a less than favourable terrain should alert us to the need to fill out the distribution maps of these sites, at least mentally, with a complex of ancillary structures.

Once the settlement established roots an influx of new settlers, signified by building of moated sites, arrived to take advantage of the better status and privileges offered by these lords anxious to populate their grants. The distribution pattern of moated sites in the Suir Valley differs from that of the Carlow Corridor — valleys of the Barrow and the Nore — where they were located away from the main centres. In this area they are concentrated in a quadrangle between Ardmayle, Kiltinan, Knockgraffon and Tipperary town. While some, such as those around Knockgraffon and south and west of Ardfinnan, are in the valley, the majority are situated on the 100–200m contour; the zone of most productive agricultural land. Waterford city was a vital but separate component to economic and social narrative of the Valley. Before the arrival of the Anglo-Normans Waterford was a walled city; it was not a virgin enterprise, such as New Ross in the Carlow Corridor, envisaged to augment the efficient exploitation of a lordship. The region of the Suir was one of the few areas in Ireland that had a fully functioning international trading port in place before the twelfth century.

Perhaps because of its access to the outside world, uncommon in Ireland in the middle ages, this area contained many ecclesiastics committed to church reform. The diocesan centre at Cashel, a focal point for the reform movement, was an emblematic religious centre that echoed generations of power and authority. There were also prominent 'new order' monastic houses, such as Holycross and Kilcooly, both foundations of the Uí Briain dynasty. Despite this pedigree, however, a full functioning parochial network would be the gift of the incoming Anglo-Norman lords. For these barons, with their roots in Latin Christendom and blooded on the crusades, the parish was as integral a part of their existence as the manor. In a manner customary throughout Anglo-Norman Ireland land grants in this region were based on earlier territorial units. In some cases names including the derivation *túath* were employed in charters. When these grantees came to form the parishes they used the precincts of the manor to create the parish. Thus forming a chain from *túath* to manor to parish. Unfortunately the method employed by the Anglo-Norman lords to organise the parochial network — the impropriation of revenues to religious houses, some outside the area — carried within it the seeds of late abuses. Map 2 (Figure 4 on page 12) traces the distribution of churches throughout the Suir Valley. Some of these are parish churches with

recorded histories, even if it is only as a taxation statistic — most have none. The urban parishes are more visible in the narrative and the importance of the urban phenomenon to the Norman world is reflected in the spread of urban centres, of various forms, that are dotted along the river. The number of parish churches recorded for Waterford is a demonstration of its size and significance. For rural farming neighbourhoods many

of the undocumented churches were the centres of their community. Not only were they places of worship; they were the places people gathered in time of trouble, they were a safe haven for refugees and they were a place of security for precious items. At a period when most buildings were of timber these stone churches offered protection not only from thieves but also from fire.
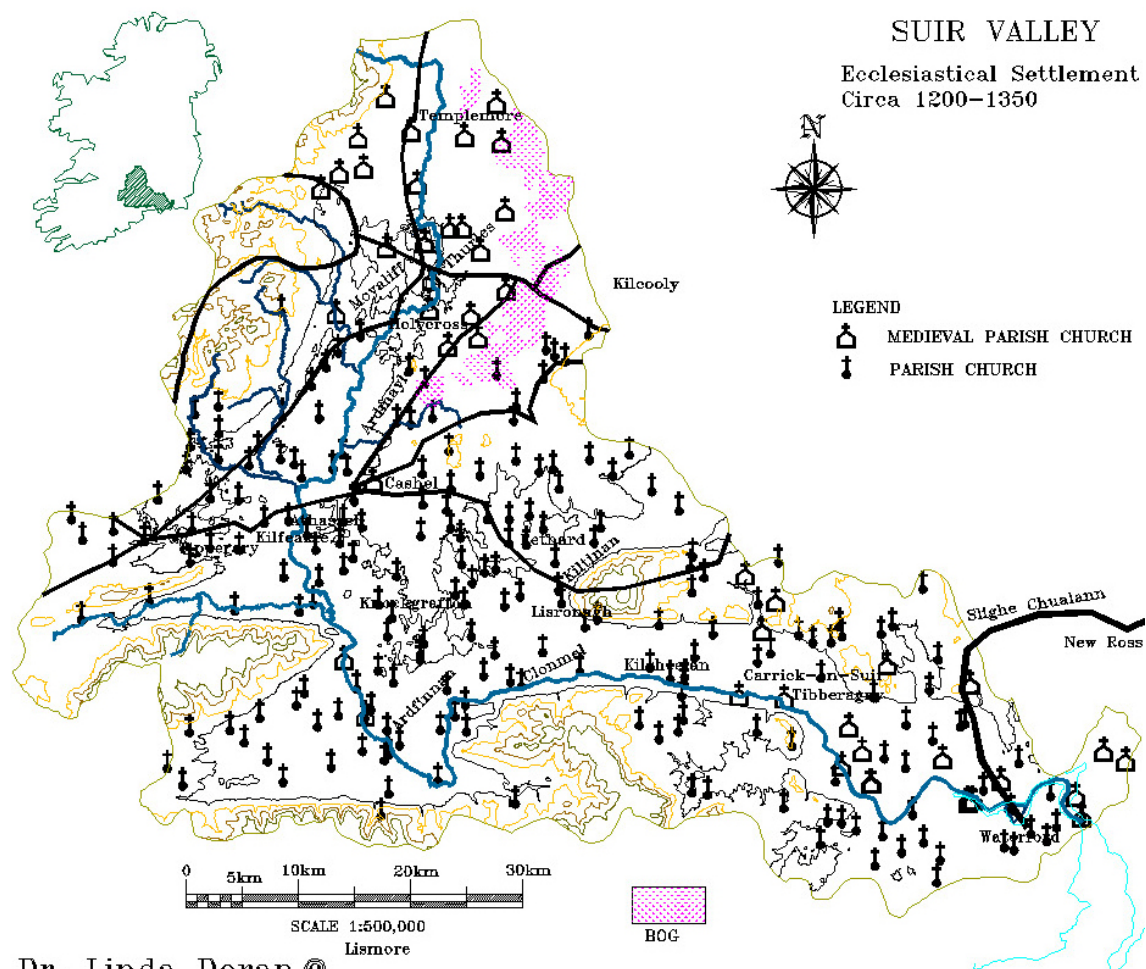
Figure 4   Map of the Distribution of Churches in Suir Valley

The monastic houses in the Suir Valley were, like those of the Carlow Corridor, major landholders and many farmed on a commercial scale. They introduced new techniques and, with the arrival of the Anglo-Normans, took advantage of the new manorial network for trade. The connection with international bankers, seen at the Cistercian abbey of Duisk, was also in place at Holycross.

This is an apt reminder that although monastic houses, in areas such as these, may have had different cultural stances they were part of a European network. Tension in the relationship between the sees of Waterford and Lismore were a simmering undercurrent in the period following the arrival of the Anglo-Normans in the Suir Valley. The temporalities of Lismore were an attractive en-

ticement for the much poorer see of Waterford. While the city was the second port in the country the diocese was more impoverished than its more ancient counterpart. The dispute ground on for another 150 years, poisoning the atmosphere between the Gaelic Irish church represented by Lismore and the bustling, metropolitan and Anglo-centred diocese of Waterford. The dioceses were eventually united in 1336. Initially there was no marked anti-Irish policy displayed by the Normans towards ecclesiastical appointments in the Irish church. Neither Henry II nor John had shown any prejudice in clerical matters. A new anti-Irish policy began to appear at the start of the thirteenth century; of which the Waterford-Lismore saga may have been part. Reflecting the European norm there is an association between mendicant houses and urban centres in the Valley. Many Anglo-Norman lords sponsored priories and friaries in their towns. There are Franciscan houses, for example, at Carrick, Cashel and Clonmel. The Dominicans had establishments at Cashel, Clonmel and Waterford. The Carmelites were at Clonmel and Thurles. Augustinian friar houses were founded at Fethard and Tipperary town before c. 1300. These mendicant houses were part of a European urban religious innovation. In the thirteenth century they were radical and modern; part of a new order that recognised the power of the laity. The endowments of these houses in the heartland regions of the colony highlight the European dimension of the Anglo-Norman enterprise in Ireland. Just as friaries were part of the life of townspeople in Normandy and Tuscany, so they were an intrinsic part of urban life in Ireland. The endowment of these houses and their surviving architectural remains are testimony to the vitality of the urban centres along the Suir. Some towns, such as Clonmel, had more than one order house. At the Dissolution the juries often indicate that the chapels of these houses had been used 'for time immemorial' as parish churches — pointing to the close connection between the friars and the citizens. This may also have been a device to preserve part of a religious building precious to generations of townspeople.

The period between 1350 and 1550 was a time of great change for the colony in the Suir Valley. There had been a radical transformation of the social, political and cultural landscape. Between

Map 1 (Figure 3 on page 10) and Map 2 (Figure 4 on page 12) there is a shift in the settlement emphasis. On the earlier map the distribution of moated sites was concentrated in a quadrilateral area between Ardmayle, Kiltinan, Knockgraffon and Tipperary town. The later map shows a different picture: the settlement in this quadrangle is now less dense and the area around Tipperary has a small scatter of tower houses to the east not really associated with the town. This may be as a result of disruption in this area caused by local wars. There are areas, such as the valley between Kiltinan and Callan, where the tower houses are in the same general area as the earlier moated sites but on lower ground.

It is in the north of the Valley that the radical changes in land use patterns can be seen. The foothills between Ardmayle and Thurles and to the north and northwest are densely settled. This was a period of increased export of wool and hides through Waterford. In fact the revival of the city's fortunes was largely based on the wool trade. Today this area is prominent in sheep production and this was probably also true at the end of the middle ages. Here a note of caution needs to be sounded, however, in relation to this distribution pattern. There were many more castles, identified by non-specific references or unclassified remains in the field, than fall under the strict category of upstanding or established tower house ruins. The destruction of these monuments is well reported. Donnelly's statistics, indicating that between 1650 and 1840, 216 castles in Limerick had disappeared leaving no trace of their exact location, are enough to ensure circumspection.[21] There is an affinity between the medieval settlement patterns of the valley of the River Suir and the southern Carlow Corridor. To take an obvious example the early stone castle at Castlegrace, Carlow Castle and even Lea Castle in the west of the Corridor are linked to castles, such as Lahon in France, by a common cultural thread. This cohesion is also seen later with the effigal tombs at Knockgraffon, Gowran and Kilcooly and, similarly, these recall others in England and France. In the southern Corridor and the south Suir Valley were some of the more affluent fiefs in the coun-

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[21] Colm Donnelly, 'Sectionally constructed tower houses: a review of the evidence from county Limerick', *JRSAI* 128 (1998) 26–34.

try; those at Thomastown, Knocktopher and Inistioge in the Corridor and Knockgraffon, Clonmel, and Carrick in the Valley. There is a similarity in the distribution of the boroughs and major religious institutions focused on the rivers.

Both the southern Corridor and the south Valley have a dispersal of tower houses along the rivers. Control of the water communications and trade were obviously a major contingent on settlement. A number of tower houses in both regions are strategically located at river bends in order to command a view along the water. Tower houses also form part of the fortifications at bridges: Thomastown and Thurles being two examples. The major urban centres contain urban tower houses: Fethard and Inistioge, for instance. The pattern of tower house distribution in the north of the Suir Valley may have been propelled by a specific economic motivation, the wool trade being one possibility.

The fortunate survival of a number of documents for both regions allows a look at the manors in the area across a broad time span. The survival of instruments of lordship, such as the manorial court, signify the endurance of cultural traits across a number of generations. Even the Ordnance of Kilcash, designed to deal with the spread and abuse of the Gaelic system of coyne and livery, contains the element of consent. The Gaelicised junior branches of the Butler family controlled most of the Suir Valley in the latter part of our period. While they may have been culturally at ease in a Gaelic milieu and referred to in the official sources as 'English rebels' they were Butler in their politics. The relationship between these 'twilight lords' of the marcher areas, their Gaelic neighbours, and clients, was a vital element in retaining control of the Butler lordship of both regions. This was especially true following the retreat of central authority. Empey has noted the contribution of the Butlers in facilitating the Norman quality of the colony. The dynasty was also a central dynamic in giving the settlement in the south of Carlow Corridor and Suir Valley their singular temperament.

Anglo-Norman settlement in the Valley of the Suir is just one side of the settlement dynamic in this region in the medieval period. Undoubtedly the traces left by these warrior-farmers is easier to read on the landscape than that of their Gaelic neighbours. That does not imply, however, that their cultural traces were more profound. In the phenomeon of the tower house — built and occupied by strong farmers from both traditions — we begin to see what was obscured somewhat by the glamour of royal castles and military manors. The economic success and increased regional stability, which the spread of these domestic buildings indicates, was the result of an accomodation based on mutual advantage. That is not to say that there were not limited regional disputes — however, increased trade, the building of expensive and in some case elaborate houses in stone, the walling of towns (as much for prestige as security) and the burgeoning of the arts are all signs of security and wealth. The mode of living examplified in tower houses draws from both the ringfort and moated site models; domestic accomodation with an element of security. It was a manner of settlement well suited to the new reality of the Suir Valley in the later Middle Ages where a contracted colony and their increasingly confident and powerful Gaelic neighbours lived, worked and prayed.

Notices of Recently Published Books
Bernadette Cunningham

Ireland: space, text, time
Edited by Liam Harte, Yvonne Whelan and Patrick Crotty
(Dublin, Liffey Press, 2005, xvii, 247p, ISBN 1904148832, Pbk, €24.95)

The nineteen essays in this collection are divided into three sections, 'Landscape, heritage, memory,' 'geographies of belonging' and 'negotiating migrant and diaspora spaces'. The essays explore aspects of the ways in which discourses of time, space and textuality have shaped historical and contemporary understandings of the relationship between place and identity in Irish culture, both at home and abroad. Topics covered range in date from the early eighteenth to the late twentieth centuries, and many of the essays adopt interdisciplinary perspectives and approaches in the study of Irish culture and society.

Engaging spaces: people, place and space from an Irish perspective
Edited by Jim Hourihane
(Dublin, Lilliput Press, 2003, xiii, 130, ills, 8pls, ISBN 1843510340, Pbk, €12.99)

Recognising that space is mental as well as physical, the eight essays in this small book seek to illuminate its wonder and complexity. The essays analyse how we live in contexts from the local to the global. In the words of Brendan Kennelly's foreword, they move 'from the county and the region to dreams, nightmares and rural idylls, to the political character of urban areas, to the effect of globalization on the sense of belonging, and hence of loyalty, to a place'. These essays were originally broadcast as radio lectures in the Thomas Davis Lecture series in 2002. The published volume is enhanced by a selection of colour illustrations, the last two of which intriguingly juxtapose a supermarket in Prague with the monastic remains at Clonmacnoise.

Handbook and select calendar of sources for medieval Ireland in the National Archives of the United Kingdom
Edited by Paul Dryburgh and Brendan Smith
(Dublin, Four Courts Press, 2005, 394p, ISBN 9781851827992, €65)

The National Archives at Kew holds a wealth of material relating to medieval Ireland. This handbook provides a guide to records relating to many aspects of the medieval Irish past, including relations between natives and settlers, the church, life on the manor, trade and commerce, land-holding, and the operation of the law.

Foundation myths: the beginnings of Irish archaeology

John Waddell
(Bray, Wordwell, 2005, xii, 286p, ills, ISBN 9781869857981, Pbk, €40)

This book charts the development of the study of Irish archaeology from medieval times to the twentieth century. Waddell explores the ways in which archaeological interpretation was coloured by belief in a series of mythical invaders, a heroic pre-Christian era and a golden age of early Christian saints and scholars, ideas that persisted into the twentieth century. Beginning with an enlightening essay on medieval antiquarianism, developments in the early modern period and the eighteenth century are documented in subsequent chapters. The contribution to archaeology of nineteenth-century antiquarians is the focus of a substantial section of the book, followed by the era of professional archaeology with the foundation of the National Museum in 1890, and the appointment of archaeologists to chairs in the National University of Ireland in the early years of the twentieth century. The book offers important insights into the influence of archaeologists' own preconceptions on their approach to their discipline.

The kingdom and landscape of Tara
Edited by Edel Bhreathnach
(Dublin, Four Courts Press for the Discovery Programme, 2005, xxi, 536p, ills, ISBN 185182 9547, Hbk, €50)

This substantial collection of essays offers many new insights into prehistoric and early medieval Tara. It is the culmination of an inter-disciplinary project undertaken as part of the Discovery Programme involving archaeologists, historians, linguists and place-name experts. Part one contains a range of essays and editions of texts relating to the theme of kingship. These include editions of the texts *Baile Chuinn Chétchathaig* and the Airgíalla charter poem edited by Edel Bhreathnach and Kevin Murray, with additional essays that place these texts in context. Also included are two chapters on the prosopography of the kings and queens of Tara from mythology to the eighth century. Part two contains four essays on landscape and place-names, by Conor Newman, Edel Bhreathnach, Dónall Mac Giolla Easpaig and Nollaig Ó Muraile. The essays provide an important re-assessment of the nature of the kingship of Tara as well as an analysis of the archaeology and topography of the kingdom of Brega.

Duma na nGiall: the mound of the hostages, Tara
Prepared for publication by Muiris O'Sullivan
(Bray, Wordwell, in association with the UCD School of Archaeology, 2005, x, 307p, ills, ISBN 9781869857936, €65)

The excavations at the 'Mound of the Hostages', Tara, Co. Meath, took place in the 1950s, initially directed by Seán P. Ó Ríordáin, and later by Ruaidhrí de Valera, and the report on their findings, supported by post-excavation analysis, has now been compiled by Muiris O'Sullivan. The mound itself is a mantle of soil, approximately a metre deep, covering a cairn which encloses a passage tomb. The tomb consists of three successive compartments separated by low sill stones. Discoveries at the site included a large array of human bones, burnt and unburnt, accompanied by a rich array of artefacts, some of which are decorated, together with some megalithic art. The various layers of use are dated and described in this well-illustrated volume.

Underworld: death and burial in Cloghermore cave, Co. Kerry
Michael Connolly and Frank Coyne, with Linda G. Lynch
(Bray, Wordwell, 2005, x, 309, ills, ISBN 1869857879, €50)

Cloghermore cave, near Tralee, Co. Kerry was excavated in 1999 and 2000, and the findings are fully reported in this well-illustrated volume. The evidence from the site suggests that pagan burial practices lingered on among small family groups well into the eighth century and that Christianity had not yet fully penetrated all levels of Irish society. The cave was subsequently used by a Scandinavian group, for burial as well as for ritual purposes. The findings at Cloghermore illustrate that not all Scandinavian settlement in Ireland was urban, and the research suggests that rural farmsteads seen in other areas settled by Scandinavians may well have been a regular feature of the settlement in Ireland also.

The bog body from Tumbeagh
Nóra Bermingham and Máire Delaney
(Bray, Wordwell, 2006, xi, 233p, ills, ISBN 1869857771, €40)

The story of the discovery in 1998 of a bog body in County Offaly in the course of an official archaeological excavation is documented in detail here. The Tumbeagh discovery is the only bog body that was not a chance find, and hence a more thorough analysis has been possible in this instance. The book is designed to appeal to anyone with an interest in local history and archaeology, forensic science, death and ritual.

The North Munster project: volume 1: the prehistoric landscape of North Munster; volume 2: the later prehistoric landscape of south-east Clare (Discovery Programme Monograph, no. 6)
Eoin Grogan
(Bray, Wordwell, 2005, ISBN 1869857887 (vol. 1); 1869857895 (vol. 2), €95 set of two)

The North Munster project commenced in 1992 and was designed to provide an integrated regional landscape assessment of the lower catchment of the River Shannon in later prehistory (middle Bronze Age to Iron Age). The project has revealed the extent and complexity of familial, local and sub-regional landscape organisation. Later prehistoric communities demonstrated their separate and distinct character through choices in the range of artefacts and sites they utilised. The place of landscape histories, natural boundaries and route-ways in the formation of these systems is also explored.

Monu-mental about prehistoric Dublin
Tom Fourwinds
(Dublin, Nonsuch Publishing, 2006, 160p, ills, ISBN 9781845885601, €17.99)

From megalithic tombs to stone circles, barrows and standing stones, this is a gazetteer and field guide to the monuments of County Dublin. Individual monuments are described in the context of their relationship to each other and to the surrounding landscape.

Stories from a sacred landscape: Croghan Hill to Clonmacnoise
Caimin O'Brien
(Tullamore, Offaly County Council, 2006, distributed by Mercier Press, xiv, 230p, ills, ISBN 185635489X, Hbk, €40)

Four of the five ancient provinces of Ireland met in Offaly, and its monasteries played a crucial economic and political role in Irish history. Caimin O'Brien's beautifully designed and lavishly illustrated book recounts the stories of Offaly's monastic foundations from medieval to modern times. The study draws on archaeology, history, poetry, folklore and legend to create vivid portraits of the medieval sacred places of County Offaly.

Cenél Conaill and the Donegal kingdoms, AD 500–800
Brian Lacey
(Dublin, Four Courts Press, 2006, 351p, ills, ISBN 9781829781, €45)

Drawing on evidence from archaeology, history and early Irish literature, this book challenges much of the traditional understanding about the Uí Néill dynasty. It argues particularly that the so-called northern branch of the Uí Néill, believed to have included the Cenél Conaill, was a propagandist construction of the early eighth century. The book proposes alternative origins for the Donegal kingdoms and details their monuments and their landscapes, and presents their history in appropriate political and cultural contexts.

From megaliths to metals: essays in honour of George Eogan
Edited by Helen Roche, Eoin Grogan, John Bradley, John Coles and Barry Raftery
(Oxford, Oxbow Books, 2004, xziv, 263p, ills, ISBN 9781842171516, £45)

This interdisciplinary collection of thirty-one essays on Irish archaeology has been assembled in honour of George Eogan, former professor of Archaeology at University College Dublin. The essays mostly focus on the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods, with some later contributions. A list of George Eogan's publications from 1957 to 2004 is also included.

Medieval Trim, history and archaeology
Michael Potterton
(Dublin, Four Courts Press, 2005, 464p, ills, ISBN 9781851829262, €55)

Trim was an important medieval urban settlement, and this major academic study draws on an array of documentary, archaeological, architectural and cartographic evidence to reconstruct its history. The topographical layout of the town, and the story of its origins through to the fifteenth century are analysed in depth. The presentation is enhanced by a large number of high quality maps and illustrations.

Above and beyond: essays in memory of Leo Swan
Edited by Tom Condit and Christiaan Corlett
(Bray, Wordwell, 2005, xiii, 511p, ISBN 1869857860, Hbk, €70)

This collection of forty-five essays by archaeologists, local historians, historical geographers and others, has been published in memory of Leo Swan who died in 2001. There are essays on aspects of the archaeology or local history of Counties Meath, Dublin, Sligo, Kerry, Westmeath and Wicklow. Topics include the Vikings, early Christian Ireland, museum artefacts, aerial photography and the post-medieval period.

Irish sea studies, 900–1200
Benjamin Hudson
(Dublin, Four Courts Press, 2006, 256p, ills, ISBN 9781851829835, €60)

The Irish sea region has been a meeting ground for commerce, religion and war through many centuries, and this collection of previously published essays focuses on topics such as the end of the Viking age, the earliest contacts with the Normans, economic change and religious reform.

Ireland and Europe in the twelfth century: reform and renewal
Edited by Damien Bracken and Dagmar Ó Riain-Raedel
(Dublin, Four Courts Press, 2006, 280p, ills, ISBN 9781851828487, €55)

This collection of twelve essays examines the attempt to reform the Irish church in the twelfth century, the development of new ideas of Irish nationhood, and the revolutionary impact of new artistic ideas on Irish literature, art and architecture. There is a particular emphasis on the European dimension of art, literature, politics and religion in twelfth-century Ireland. Among the varied essays are studies of the medieval cities of Cork and Waterford, of St Flannan's oratory at Killaloe, and of Cormac's chapel at Cashel. The essays were originally presented at a conference held at University College Cork and Cashel in 2001 to commemorate the nine-hundredth anniversary of the Synod of Cashel.

The Gaelic lordship of the O'Sullivan Beare: a landscape cultural history
Colin Breen
(Dublin, Four Courts Press, 2005, 256p, ills, ISBN 185182 9555, Hbk, €45)

Colin Breen's study of the O'Sullivan Beare lordship in West Cork uses the methodologies of both history and archaeology to present an innovative analysis of a late medieval Gaelic lordship. The economic focus of this Gaelic maritime lordship was on fishery resources and trade and communications with continental fishing fleets, and the settlement patterns reflected these interests. The book traces the changes that occurred in the early modern period under the influence of plantation, which undermined Gaelic dominance in the region. The reactions to the developments in this era of transformation are traced through the surviving evidence for architectural and landscape change.

South Tipperary 1570–1841, religion, land and rivalry
David J. Butler
(Dublin, Four Courts Press, 2006, 336p, ills, ISBN 9781851828913, €55)

David Butler adopts a geographical approach to the study of the interaction between Protestant and Catholic communities in South Tipperary from the late sixteenth century to the eve of the Great Famine. He pays particular attention to mapping the changing distribution and territorial organisation of denominational groups in the region, as a means of explaining their changing relationships with each other and with central government.

Medieval Dublin VII
Edited by Seán Duffy
(Dublin, Four Courts Press, 2006, 249p, ills, ISBN 9781851829743, Hbk €50; ISBN 1851829792, Pbk, €24.95)

This volume presents the lectures given at the seventh annual symposium on Dublin held by the Friends of Medieval Dublin in 2005. There are reports on archaeological excavations in Dublin city and county, while several essays are devoted to aspects of Christ Church cathedral in the medieval period. Of particular interest to settlement historians is Linzi Simpson's research using John Rocque's map of Dublin (1756), which she argues is a modern source for medieval property boundaries.

The parish in medieval and early modern Ireland: community, territory and building
Edited by Elizabeth FitzPatrick and Raymond Gillespie
(Dublin, Four Courts Press for the Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement, 2006, 352p, ills, ISBN 1851829474, Hbk, €55)

In recent years the function of the parish in the early medieval world has been significantly re-evaluated, and in the early modern world too its political and religious role is now understood to transcend the divisions of reformation and counter-reformation. The parish was the theme of an interdisciplinary conference hosted by the *Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement* in 2003 that brought together some of Ireland's leading geographers, ecclesiastical historians, settlement historians and archaeologists. The papers from that conference are published in this book.

Map making, landscapes and memory: a geography of colonial and early-modern Ireland, c. 1530–1750
William J. Smyth
(Cork, Cork University Press, 2006, xxiii, 584p, ISBN 9781859183977, €69)

This geographical study of the process of colonisation in early modern Ireland combines attention to the regions with the development of an overall perspective. The book explores the geographies of resistance or accommodation to conquest and colonisation and seeks to identify the distinctive cultural forms that emerged in different Irish regions in the early modern period. The administrative strategies of the English government in Ireland are also analysed, with particular attention being given to the mapping surveys undertaken as part of the governmental process. In addition to elucidating the evidence preserved in historic manuscript maps, the arguments of the book are supported by a large number of newly constructed maps of the geography of colonisation and settlement in early modern Ireland.

William Petty, observateur des îles Britanniques **(Classiques de l'Économie et de la Population, Études & Enquêtes Historiques)**
Sabine Reungoat
(Paris, Institut National d'Études démographiques, 2004, vi, 341p, ISBN 9782733210307, Pbk, €22)

This is a study of the demographic researches of William Petty (1623–1687), the first scholar to produce realistic estimates of the population of Britain and Ireland. The book assesses Petty's intellectual achievement and offers a critical analysis of his writings on population.

The diary of Nicholas Peacock, 1740–1751: the worlds of a County Limerick farmer and agent
Edited by Marie-Louise Legg
(Dublin, Four Courts Press, 2005, 251p, ills, ISBN 9781851828999, €45)

Nicholas Peacock, a small farmer who lived in east county Limerick at Kilmoreen, near Adare, worked as land agent to the Hartstonges of Court, in the same area. His diary and account book for the years 1740–1751 survives in the National Library of Ireland, as MS 16,091, and has now been published in full with an informative introduction by Marie-Louise Legg. The diary documents his activities as farmer and agent as well as recording details about his family life, and provides important insights into the rural world of mid eighteenth-century Ireland.

A landlord's garden: Derreen demesne, County Kerry
Nigel Everett
(Bantry, Hafod Press, 2005, 96p, ills, €15)

The estate town of Kenmare, developed in the 1770s by the Petty-Fitzmaurice family, earls of Shelburne, and later Marquises of Lansdowne, together with the demesne and gardens at Derreen are the subject of this attractive small book. The present garden at Derreen was developed by the fifth Marquis of Lansdowne (1845–1927), whose primary home was the Bowood estate in Wiltshire. The property had previously been in the possession of the family of O'Sullivan Beare, who had developed their own garden adjoining an oak wood. Evidence of the sophisticated garden at Derreen before the Lansdowne era can be recovered through the Ordnance Survey records compiled for the Kenmare region by John O'Donovan. For the late nineteenth century there are extensive estate records from which the development of the demesne and gardens can be traced, supplemented by a plant book for the garden dating from 1870, and numerous Victorian and Edwardian photographs, many of which are published in this volume for the first time.

A social history of the Wicklow uplands
Brian F. Gurrin
(Dublin, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2006, ix, 102p, ISBN 9780755716937)

This illustrated overview of the evolution of Wicklow society from the last ice age to the twentieth century is an attractive book designed to appeal to a wide audience. It is broadly chronological in arrangement and discusses landscape, archaeology, architecture, ecclesiastical structures, social history and politics over an extended period of time.

A treasured landscape: the heritage of Belvoir Park
Edited by Ben Simon
(Belfast, Forest of Belfast, 2005, 178p, ills, ISBN 9780955158308, £10)

Belvoir Park is regarded as one of the finest examples of urban woodland in Ireland or Britain, and this interdisciplinary book explores the landscape, natural history and cultural heritage of an important Belfast park.

Tollymore, the story of an Irish demesne
The Earl of Roden
(Belfast, Ulster Architectural Heritage Society, 2005, xii, 195p, ills, ISBN 0900457643 Hbk, £20, 97809004 57654 Pbk, £15)

Tollymore demesne in County Down was opened as a forest park in 1955, the estate having been bought by the government of Northern Ireland from the eighth earl of Roden between 1930 and 1941. The story of Tollymore is that of the evolution of an Irish demesne, with its designed landscape, woodlands, gardens and follies. It is well told in this handsomely illustrated book.

The Blessington estate, 1667–1908
Kathy Trant
(Dublin, Anvil Books, 2004, 240p, ills, ISBN 9781901737516, €16)

The late eighteenth-century estate town of Blessington, County Wicklow, and the estate of which it formed part are the subject of this study. The book tells the story of the Boyles, Viscounts of Blessington and the Hills, Marquises of Downshire, in the context of the social history of an Irish estate. The complexities of landownership, and the history of the relationships between landowner, agent, middleman and tenant are at the core of the book.

A class apart: the gentry families of County Kildare
Con Costello
(Dublin, Nonsuch Publishing, 2005, 128p, ills, 8 pls, ISBN 9781845885045, €25)

Kildare is renowned for the great houses of Carton and Castletown, but the county was also home to many lesser known gentry families such as the Archbolds, Aylmers, Borrowes, de Burghs, Eustaces, La Touches, Robecks, Scotts, Sherlocks, and Wogans. Their 'big houses' too, are discussed in this illustrated volume, but the author points out that in addition to a rich architectural heritage they have also left wonderful tales of sport and wit, murder and adultery. The colourful stories of their lives are related here, within the context of their time, by a specialist with an unrivalled knowledge of the sources for County Kildare history.

Painting Ireland: topographical views from Glin castle
Edited by William Laffan
(Tralee, Churchill House Press, 2006, 269p, ills, ISBN 9780955024610, €45)

Selected topographical paintings from the collection of Desmond FitzGerald, knight of Glin, are discussed in this lavishly illustrated volume. Particular attention is paid to views of great houses, but townscapes, gardens, castles and archaeological remains are also included. The accompanying descriptions draw on local and social history as well as on the disciplines of art and architecture.

Irish rural interiors in art
Claudia Kinmonth
(New Haven and London, Yale University Press, 2006, xii, 286p, ISBN 9780300107326, Hbk, $75)

This evocative book recalls the lives of men and women from all walks of live from the eighteenth to the twentieth century as depicted in oil paintings, watercolours, drawings, prints, postcards and cartoons. These visual records of the material culture of rural life in Ireland are used as the basis of a new social history of Ireland's rural population.

The buildings of Ireland. Dublin: the city within the Grand and Royal canals and the Circular Road, with the Phoenix Park (Pevsner Architectural Guides)
Christine Casey
(New Haven & London, Yale University Press, 2005, xx, 756 pp, ISBN 0300109237, Hbk, £29.95, €46.12)

Three volumes have now been published in the 'Buildings of Ireland' series. The latest in the series describes the buildings and monuments of central Dublin. The descriptions are accompanied by a selection of maps and plans together with specially commissioned colour photographs. The gazetteer is preceded by a scholarly introduction that traces the history of the city from medieval to modern times.

Cork: historical perspectives
Henry Alan Jefferies, with contributions by Gerard O'Brien and Eilis C. Stack
(Dublin, Four Courts Press, 2004, 261p, ISBN 978185826001, Hbk, €35)

The book opens with five chapters by Henry Jefferies that explore the history of Cork from St Finbarr through the middle ages and down to its emergence as a significant Atlantic seaport in the seventeenth century. Later chapters include contributions by Eilis Stack and Gerard O'Brien, and these survey the modern history of the city, from the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries, in a series of essays that offer economic as well as political perspectives on the past.

Atlas of Cork city
Edited by John Crowley, Robert Devoy, Denis Linehan and Patrick O'Flanagan. Cartography by Michael Murphy
(Cork, Cork University Press, 2005, xiv, 465p, ills, maps, ISBN 1859183808, €59)

This atlas explores the development of Cork city over time, using over 200 newly drawn maps to supplement older maps of the city. It also draws on an impressive range of photographs, drawings and other images. Each section comprises a series of specialist essays on interconnected topics. The opening section on 'the city in the landscape' describes Cork's environmental setting and traces its physical development using recent archaeological findings where appropriate. Part two, describes the transformation from medieval town to the eighteenth century, while part three studies the city in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. A fourth section is

devoted to culture in the city, mainly sport, but with some attention to literature while the final 'contemporary transformations' section focuses on the present state of the city.

Derry ~ Londonderry: Irish Historic Towns Atlas, no. 15
Avril Thomas
(Dublin, Royal Irish Academy, 2005, 47 p, 30 pls, ISBN 190489013X, €30)

The fifteenth volume in a well-established series, this substantial volume is devoted to one of the larger cities mapped in the Irish Historic Towns Atlas project to date. Avril Thomas's introductory traces the development of the urban settlement on the site from earliest times to the end of the nineteenth century, and this is followed by detailed tabulated topographical information. The accompanying maps, reproduced in full colour range in date from c. 1600 to 2000.

Maps and views of Derry, 1600–1914, a catalogue
W.S. Ferguson, with a foreword by J. H. Andrews
(Dublin, Royal Irish Academy in association with Derry City Council, 2005, xiv, 108p,
ISBN 1904890075, €20)

This catalogue was originally compiled by W.S. Ferguson c. 1970. It was not published at that time but was preserved as a typescript in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland. Ferguson's catalogue was designed to include all maps and plans of Derry or the fort at Culmore that predated 1914. An updated version of his catalogue has now been published as an ancillary publication to the Irish Historic Towns Atlas series, and some of the maps described here are published in Avril Thomas's *Derry ~ Londonderry Irish Historic Towns Atlas*.

Ulster farming families, 1930–1960
Jonathan Bell
(Belfast, Ulster Historical Foundation in association with the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum, 2005, viii, 132p, ills, ISBN 9781903688540, £10)

Oral history is used here to explore life on Ulster farms in a period of rapid social and economic change between 1930 and 1960. Increasing government intervention, globalisation of markets and the impact of the Second World War together prompted changes in almost every aspect of farming. The book documents these changes, set against a backdrop of the regional distinctiveness of particular Ulster localities.

The slow failure: population decline and independent Ireland, 1920–1973
Mary E. Daly
(Madison, University of Wisconsin Press, 2006, xiv, 438p, ISBN 9780299212902, $60)

The reasons for the decline in Irish population for much of the twentieth century, along with the responses to that decline by politicians, journalists, church leaders and academics, are analysed in this book. The ideology that encouraged large rural farm families, and the political reluctance to embrace economic development are emphasised in this assessment of the social and economic history of twentieth-century Ireland.

Such happy harmony: early twentieth century co-operation to solve Dublin's housing problems **(Sir John T. Gilbert commemorative lecture, 2004)**
Ruth McManus
(Dublin: Dublin City Libraries, 2005, 28p, ills, ISBN 0946841748, €7)

The improvement of Dublin's housing stock was an urgent requirement in the early twentieth century, and a variety of strategies were adopted to address the problem. This pamphlet, based on the 2004 annual lecture in the Gilbert Lecture Series, examines developments in the aftermath of the 1925 Housing Act when Dublin Corporation in collaboration with public utility societies was involved in a range of innovative housing schemes, particular in the inner suburbs of Marino, Drumcondra and Glasnevin in north Dublin.

Upcoming Events

Twenty-First Irish Conference of Medievalists
28th–30th June 2005
Mary Immaculate College, Limerick

Lectures will be given on archaeological, historical, literary, liturgical, musical, linguistic and onomastic topics. There will be a reception; trips to King John's Castle and to the Irish night at Bunratty; the Annual Dinner; a field trip to Iniscealtra and hopefully a ceilidh. There are also Summer Schools in Old Irish; Beginners level: 13th–23rd June and Intermediate/Advanced level: 9th July–20th July also in Mary Immaculate. Enquiries should be sent to **Dr Catherine Swift, Mary Immaculate College, South Circular Road, Limerick E-mail: Catherine.Swift@mic.ul.ie**

Dublin Medieval Society

Thursday March 8 [NOT February 22 as previously announced] Room 5025
Colmán Ó Clabaigh OSB, 'The hermits and anchorites of medieval Dublin'

Tuesday March 6 [Unfortunately this meeting has had to be cancelled]
Joseph Canning, 'How can we know who holds legitimate political power? Dante Alighieri on the right and the wrong use of knowledge'
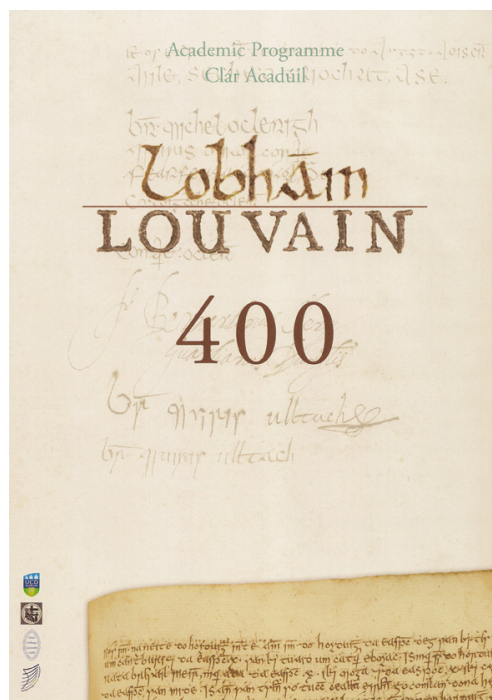
Thursday April 5 Room 5052
Alice Jorgensen 'Shame and the Saintly Saxon: Aelfric and the Concept and Vocabulary of Shame'

For further information on the 2007 programme or the *Dublin Medieval Society* in general contact:

Edward Coleman, School of History and Archives, UCD,
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College Dublin, dodonova@tcd.ie

Celebrating the 400th anniversary of St Anthony's College Louvain
1607–2007
Ireland, Louvain, Paris

This year is the 400th anniversary of the founding of St Anthony's college in Louvain and the flight of the Earls. This is a celebration of the achievements of the Irish Franciscans. It will be celebrated with academic lectures, conferences music and liturgy. Contacts are provided for each event in the programme which may be found on the next page.

Celebrating the 400th anniversary of St Anthony's College Louvain

Date	Event
3 February 2007	**CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC AND DRAMA, DUBLIN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY** Conference *'Musical Journeys with the Flight of the Earls'* Contact: Kerry.Houston@dit.ie
1 March 2007	**ROYAL HOSPITAL KILMAINHAM** RTÉ Concert Orchestra and Cór na n-Óg will perform a specially commissioned piece of music composed by Michael McGlynn
6 March 2007	**CAMBRIDGE GROUP FOR IRISH STUDIES** *'Seventeenth-century interpretations of the past: the case of the Annals of the Four Masters'* Dr Bernadette Cunningham, Royal Irish Academy Contact: jpab4@cam.ac.uk
22-23 March 2007	**SCHOOL OF HISTORY AND ARCHIVES AND UCD MÍCHEÁL Ó CLÉIRIGH INSTITUTE** Conference *'Early Irish saints and early modern scholars'* Contact: elva.johnston@ucd.ie
31 Márta-1 Aibreán 2007	**SCOIL AN LÉINN CHEILTIGH, OLLSCOIL NA HÉIREANN MÁ NUAD** Léachtaí Cholaim Cille *'An Eoraip agus litríocht na Gaeilge 1600-1650'* Contact: Tadhg.ODushlaine@nuim.ie
April-June 2007	**KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT LEUVEN (CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY LEUVEN)** Exhibition *'Documents relating to the Irish in Louvain'*
3-5 May 2007	**KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT LEUVEN (CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY LEUVEN)** Conference *'From Ireland to Louvain: Celebrating the philosophical and theological achievements of the Irish Franciscans in Louvain'* Contact: martin.stone@hiw.kuleuven.ac.be and jan.roegiers@arts.kuleuven.ac.be
21-25 May 2007	**THE LOUVAIN INSTITUTE FOR IRELAND IN EUROPE, LEUVEN** Summer School *'The Irish in Europe: 400 years'.* Contact: edel.bhreathnach@ucd.ie
21 May 2007	**GROOTE BEGIJNHOF, LEUVEN** Mass celebrating the foundation of St Anthony's College Celebrant: José R. Carballo, OFM, Minister General of the Franciscan Order. Homilist: Cardinal Godfried Danneels
14-15 September 2007	**SCHOOL OF HISTORY AND SCOIL AN LÉINN CHEILTIGH, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND MAYNOOTH** Conference *'Irish Europe: texts, languages and cultures'* Contact: raymond.gillespie@nuim.ie
14-15 September 2007	**THE IRISH COLLEGE, PARIS** Conference *'The Earls' legacy in France 1607-1815'* Contact: Liam.Chambers@mic.ul.ie
12-13 Deireadh Fómhair 2007	**SCOIL NA GAEILGE, OLLSCOIL ÉIREANN GAILLIMH** Comhdháil *'An Lobháin 1607-2007'* Tuilleadh eolais: micheal.maccraith@nuigalway.ie
26-28 October 2007	**THE IRISH COLLEGE, ROME** Conference *'Awakening Irish identities: the Ulster Earls in Baroque Europe'* Contact: thomas.oconnor@nuim.ie or marian.lyons@spd.dcu.ie
16-17 November 2007	**CARDINAL TOMÁS Ó FIAICH LIBRARY, ARMAGH** Conference *'The departure and exile of the Earls in 1607'* Contact: e.magennis@qub.ac.uk

**Group for the Study
of
Irish Historic
Settlement**

2007

**Thirty-sixth Annual Conference
in association with Clogher Historical Society**

Enniskillen

(Manor House Hotel Killadeas)

Friday May 18—Sunday May 20

Speakers

Dr Colm Donnelly   Prof Raymond Gillespie
Dr Thom Kerr   Mr Jack Johnston
Dr Katherine Simms   Dr Mervyn Busteed
Mr Robert Hunter   Michael Ahern

Saturday
Boat Trip: Lower Lough Erne (Devenish Island)
Guides: Helen Lanigan Wood, Con Manning
Sunday
Field Trip: Castle Coole (National Trust) and to Cornashee
Inauguration site
Guide: Dr Liz FitzPatrick

Main Conference Hotel: Manor House Hotel, Killadeas,
Enniskillen Co Fermanagh (Tel: 028/048 – 68622211)

Further information from Dr Linda Doran (Hon. Sec.),
Tel.: 01-6600996 E-mail: linda@billdoran.net

THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REGIONAL CONFERENCE
in association with Clogher Historical Society
MANOR HOUSE HOTEL, KILLADEAS
MAY 18th–20th, 2007

HISTORIC SETTLEMENT IN FERMANAGH

Registration, Reception and Official Opening by Chairman of Fermanagh District Council in Enniskillen Castle Museum.
Speakers:
Dr Colm Donnelly, *Prehistoric Fermanagh*
Dr Thom R. Kerr, *The rise of the platform rath in county Fermanagh*
Dr Katherine Simms, *The strongholds of the medieval Fermanagh chiefs*
Mr Robert Hunter, *The 'Ulster Plantation' in county Fermanagh*
Professor Raymond Gillespie, *Saints and landscape in early modern Fermanagh*
Mr Jack Johnston, M.Litt., *Settlement and society in the barony of Magherasteffana*
Dr Mervyn Busteed, *Land and life on a Fermanagh estate; Castle Caldwell, 1750–1800*
Dr Toby Barnard, *The Caldwells of Castle Caldwell: local, national and international dimensions*
Sites to be visited: Saturday: Boat Trip on Lower Lough Erne (Devenish Island) and Sunday: Castle Coole and Cornashee Inauguration Site (Lisnaskea)
Annual Dinner: Manor House Hotel, Killadeas, Enniskillen.
Tour Guides: Helen Lanigan Wood (President, Clogher Historical Society), Dr Elizabeth Fitzpatrick and Conleth Manning.
Conference Fee: €60 / £40, Students €30 / £20. *Please note this fee includes coffee, admissions and bus/boat on field trips.*
Individual Sessions: Sat. and Sun. €18 / £12
Saturday Lunchtime Soup and Sandwiches may be had for £5 per person.
Sunday Buffet Lunch Buffet Lunch (choice of 1 meat dish or 1 fish dish with selection of salads and potatoes, dessert, tea/coffee for £11.50 per person.

COMMITTEE

Michael O'Hanrahan (President)	Elizabeth FitzPatrick
Linda Doran (Hon. Secretary)	James Lyttleton
Niamh Crowley (Hon. Treasurer)	Brian Ó Dalaigh
Bernadette Cunningham	Brian Shanahan
Charles Doherty	Matthew Stout

SUBSCRIPTION NOTICE

The annual subscription for 2006–7 (€10 / £7, students €5 / £4) is due on 1st. May 2007. This may be sent direct to Ms. Niamh Crowley, Hon. Treasurer, 45, Orchard Drive, Ursuline Court, Waterford, or paid by Bank Standing Order (the preferred method). A subscription renewal form incorporating a standing order mandate, is included with this *Newsletter*.

Members in Great Britain and Northern Ireland may now pay their annual subscription in sterling, by cheque or standing order.

Application for Membership and information about the *Group***:** Please contact Dr. Linda Doran, Hon. Secretary, Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement, 7, St Mary's Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4. (Tel.: 01-6600996 E-mail: linda@billdoran.net)

The views expressed in articles and reviews are the responsibility of the authors and are the copyright of The Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement Newsletter and the individual contributors.

Contributions are invited on topics related to historic settlement in Ireland and the Irish-sea region, the history, conservation and interpretation of the cultural landscape and on local and regional studies. These should be sent to the Editor, Mr Charles Doherty, Early Irish History, School of History, John Henry Newman Building, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4; or e-mail charles.doherty@ntlworld.ie. Contributors are requested, where possible, to supply material both in typescript and on disk, stating PC/MAC, name of programme used to create document, and version number of programme.
http://homepage.mac.com/charles.doherty/iblog/B1068827693/index.html