

# GROUP FOR THE STUDY OF IRISH HISTORIC SETTLEMENT NEWSLETTER

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**Annual Outing 2015**

**Belfast**

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## Editorial

As president of a venerable organization I am very aware of tradition. I mentioned in the last newsletter that one of the group's most inspired customs was to travel from province to province for our May conference. Last year we were in Munster, this year we are in Ulster – many of you will be reading this now in Belfast – next year we will be in Leinster, then Connacht and Munster and so it goes. Was this a deliberately devised system or did it just gradually emerge as a fair and logical way to proceed? Regardless, it is now set in stone. Another emerging tradition within the Settlement Group is the *Thematic Conference*. The first of these, on 'Landscape and settlement in Gaelic Ireland c.1350–1600', was the brain-child of Rolf Loeber. Rolf organised a small preliminary seminar on this subject at Trinity College. The idea was then taken up by the Group and the first *Thematic Conference* was held in February 1999. It was a hugely successful event and gave rise to the landmark publication edited by former committee member Elizabeth FitzPatrick, David Edwards of University College Cork and former GSIHS president Paddy Duffy. I spoke at the seminar but could not attend the inaugural *Thematic Conference*. Nonetheless, I remember being none too enthusiastic about the innovation at the time, as it involved a night and two days of lectures without the advantage of accompanying fieldtrips. Getting out in the countryside is always the highlight of the May conference for me. Armed with the Friday and Saturday lectures, participants each May get a real sense of how history is played out in the landscape; above all, isn't that the aspiration of the Settlement Group? Field trips are also a lot of fun.

I was wrong about the thematic conferences, though. They have proved very popular over the years and each has produced a volume published to the very high standards dictated by the Group's long-term relationship with Four Courts Press. The most recent conference on 'Church and settlement: landscape life and legacy' took place at All Hallows at the end of February. It was held in conjunction with the American Society for Irish Medieval Studies. Previous thematic conferences have been held with the Irish Post-Medieval Archaeology Group, the Agricultural History Society of Ireland and the Environmental History Network. The joint thematic conference now seems to be another tradition in the making (For a list see page 28).

The 'Church and settlement' conference arose from a committee meeting early in my 'administration'. It was pointed out that there hadn't been a *Thematic Conference* 'in a while' – nothing more precise than this – and that the president should organise one. But looking back, it seems that there has been a conference, once every three years or so since the first gathering in 1999. This means that each of the last six presidents has overseen a thematic event. This is clearly a tradition that has emerged rather than having been planned, but it wouldn't surprise me if, in the second year of our next president's term, a thematic conference would again be organised, perhaps with the cooperation of another society, held again at All Hallows, and destined for publication by Four Courts Press.

It seems remarkable to me that, while the thematic conferences have all been published to this date, no proceedings of our May conference has ever appeared. Over the years, many of the lectures have appeared in the *Newsletter* and there has been, on occasions, comprehensive conference abstracts available in advance of the May weekend. Nonetheless, field guides like those prepared for the Irish Quaternary Association's annual outings have never been a feature of our gatherings. This gap will be filled for the first time this summer when the (augmented) proceedings of the 2012 Annual Conference will be published by Four Courts Press. The 2012 conference was a special event organised by past-president Dr Harman Murtagh on the shores of his beloved Lough Ree. Harman and Dr Bernadette Cunningham (another past president) have brought *Lough Ree: historic lakeland settlement* to publication in record time. Perhaps this book, based on an annual conference, is yet another GSIHS tradition in the making.

Finally, it is my pleasure to welcome everyone to Belfast and hope that you have an enjoyable and informative weekend.

Matthew Stout (President)  
May 4, 2015



Anngret Simms  
Past President, Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement  
***Tribute to John Bradley ( 11 January 1954 – 7 November 2014)***

Thinking about John Bradley is like thinking about ‘Les Temps Perdus’. John was part of University College Dublin at a time when Professor F.X. Martin, O.S.A., and Denis Bethell encouraged the interdisciplinary MPhil in Medieval Studies and Howard Clarke and I ran the Dublin Historic Settlement Group as an interdisciplinary seminar. Colleagues from UCD and Trinity met and we debated issues of language, continuity of settlement, European parallels and a lot more. The Friends of Medieval Dublin promoted research into the medieval city. The Irish Historic Towns Atlas project was set up in the Royal Irish Academy. In one way or another John was part of all these initiatives.



**Figure 1** John Bradley with Howard Clarke, Anngret Simms and Pat Wallace at the IHTA seminar in St Ann’s Church, Dawson Street, in 2012

John had come to UCD from his beloved Kilkenny in order to study history and archaeology. He explained himself that growing up in a county full of historical monuments made him curious to learn more about their history. He graduated in 1974 in History and Archaeology and in 1977 he was awarded a M.A. in Archaeology for a thesis on, ‘Archaeological Aspects of Towns and New towns in Medieval Ireland’. From 1975–82 John worked on the Knowth Research Excavations in County Meath with George Eogan as director. John moved from being Principal Assistant to Assistant Director on these excavations. He also conducted his own excavations on the crannog in Moynagh Lough also in County Meath. This was a particularly important site for Early Christian Irish art and for information on the internal layout of a crannog. From 1982–91 John was director of the Urban Archaeology Survey commissioned by the Office of Public Works in reaction to the damage done by developers to the historic building fabric in Irish towns. Together with colleagues and friends, Heather King and Andy Halpin, John carried out a survey of all medieval towns in Ireland. When Dublin was celebrated as City of Culture in 1991, Howard Clarke and I, as joint secretaries of the Dublin Historic Settlement Group, wished to mark the occasion by publishing the survey. We were told by the Office of Public Works that as they had commissioned the work it was their property. A disappointment, to put it politely. It would be a fitting way of celebrating John’s life work if Howard Clarke, who has vowed to do so, will succeed in getting the survey published in some form.

Given his research interest it was inevitable that John Bradley was drawn into the Wood Quay campaign by becoming a member of the Friends of Medieval Dublin. When I moved to Germany in 1978 John took over as secretary of the Friends of Medieval Dublin and remained so until 1984. He was the editor of *Viking Dublin Exposed* (1984), a chronicle of the Wood Quay campaign and of the major issues involved as seen from the perspective of different disciplines. John was there with F.X. Martin during the time of the occupation of the Wood Quay site and this experience formed a special bond between the two men. John enthusiastically prepared a Festschrift for F.X. Martin (1988) while colleagues in the history department felt somewhat left out. John also co-edited Festschriften for George Eogan (2004) and for Howard Clarke (2009), both of whom had been his teachers.

John's great knowledge of Irish towns prompted me in the late 1970s to contact the Institute for Comparative Urban Studies at the University of Münster, and suggest that he should lecture there on the topic. I was very proud of John on that occasion. The German colleagues were impressed and we discussed how the rich source material on Irish towns could be presented in the framework of an Irish Historic Towns Atlas. Münster of course was the place from where the German Historic Towns Atlas was published under the direction of Heinz Stoob, who was one of the founders of the European Historic Towns Atlas project. John loved travelling and as his friend Pat Wallace told us in his recent obituary in the *Irish Times* John attended the conference at Kalamazoo every year. He loved Chicago and later East Carolina University.

After the visit to Münster and an excursion to the excavations at the Carolingian royal residence in Paderborn, John and I returned to Bonn where John had promised to play chess with our eldest son Brendan. Chess was one of John's passions. John participated in many chess competitions and even brought Boris Spassky to Kilkenny. His close friend Patricia Ryan told me that a few weeks before his death when he was hardly able to walk because he was so weak, John participated successfully in a chess competition in Dublin Castle. But, back to Bonn: after our return John and I settled down with a bottle of wine. Drinking good wine was, of course, another of John's passions that for many years he coupled with the great joy of meeting his friends and talking until the early hours of the morning. On this occasion John and I agreed that Ireland needed a historic towns atlas and we talked how best to go about it. I had set my eyes on the Royal Irish Academy as the sponsor and so it was to be. John was invited to join the early towns-atlas board because of his unrivalled knowledge of the sources for the history of Irish towns. But, to our dismay after a few months of intensive work on how the atlas was to be structured and which sources should be consulted by future authors, we received a letter from the Academy administration informing us that since John Bradley was employed by the Office of Public Works to carry out the Urban Archaeology Survey there was a clash of interest and John could not continue on our board. Nevertheless, some time later in the year 2000, John did become the author of the Kilkenny fascicle. I believe that it is one of the best in the series and is often used for comparative studies on European towns. The photo shows John in 2012 when he chaired the plenary session at a conference organized by the Irish Historic Towns Atlas team.

From 1977–91 John was appointed as part-time and temporary lecturer in the Archaeology Department in UCD. During this time, from 1980–89 he also taught a course of 25 lectures on 'Archaeology from the earliest times' in the School of Irish Studies in Thomas Prior House, Ballsbridge in Dublin. During all this time John was involved in the major excavations that we already mentioned. He published ten papers on Moynagh Lough alone. With H.A. King he carried out excavations in Kilkenny City. A picture emerges of an extremely productive person. In 1995 he became a director of Dublinia, the Medieval Trust, and in 1996 he became a member of Directorate, The Discovery Programme. John was a firm believer in communicating research results to the public. He published papers in local and regional journals and contributed to the County Histories in the Willie Nolan series. In his survey of planned Anglo-Norman towns in Ireland and in his study of medieval Drogheda he placed the Irish urban experience of the 12th and 13th centuries within the context of Western European urban development. He was the archaeological advisor to the National Heritage Park at Ferrycarrig in Co. Wexford and the Geraldine Tralee project in Kerry. John tried very hard to prevent damage being inflicted on the historic building fabric of Kilkenny by developers. I remember him taking us on a tour of the crumbling medieval walls of Kilkenny which was like one long lamentation.

In 1996 I was invited to sit on the board that appointed John to a full-time permanent position in the History Department in Maynooth. In an interview with Tom Herron from North Carolina University John said: 'Then I was distracted out to Maynooth, which is a wonderful place to be – out on the edge

of Dublin, still surrounded by farmland and countryside. It's an old university, founded in 1795, still gorgeous grounds and beautiful parkland surrounding it, and is a lovely place to work'. John took his great reference library with him that had been housed on the upper floor of Newman House while he lectured in UCD. In Maynooth John blossomed as a teacher. I had often heard that as the director of excavations he could be very strict and even withdrawn, but in the classroom he was inspiring. Apart from his core area concerning historic Irish landscapes, John on request expanded into historiography and I was surprised one day to receive the printed version of one of his PhD students' work on von Ranke, the great German historian from the 19th century.

John was at times a difficult person to pin down. A colleague who wished to talk to him about a publication he had undertaken to edit asked the then Head of Department, how to contact him. To his astonishment the unexpected but truthful answer was: 'This colleague does not wish to be contacted'. John was very fortunate that his academic family in Maynooth was so generous about leaving him to his own devices. When I worked on the Festschrift for Howard Clarke (*Dublin and the Medieval World*) I asked John as one of my co-editors to read through the whole text for the sake of accuracy. I asked him to come up from Kilkenny for an overnight visit and I promised wine that would keep him through the night. John came, we had supper and a general discussion and then he set to work. At breakfast time I met him again, no sleep but some significant corrections concerning Viking kings and similar matters had been inserted into the book.

John's passing fills his friends with great sadness. We all have our stories to tell about John in our lives. My story is mainly related to John the scholar of Irish medieval towns and the friend who had become part of one's life for a period of time. For example for a number of years John Bradley, Pat Wallace and David and I went out for drinks together on Christmas Eve. And even then we would talk towns!

The pain of John's research students at his funeral mass in Maynooth was palpable, the intellectual admiration from his peers was obvious and the sadness of his close friends at losing this most unusual person permeated the gathering at the front of the church in Maynooth with the rain gently falling before the cortege set off for Kilkenny. John had remained a Kilkenny man all his life, where he lived for a long time in his father's house (that he kept a secret from all of us), before more recently renting a flat in Maynooth. His closest friends lived in or near Dublin and when John's health finally broke down, literally, he was taken into the Beacon Hospital. And there I saw him a few days before his death last November holding court surrounded by George Eogan and his wife Fiona, Heather King and Patricia Ryan, Pat Wallace, Michael Potterton, his American friend Tom Herron and myself. His friends from Maynooth had been with him the previous day. John remembered good times and bad times and sank back into his pillows whenever he was too weak to carry on. It was the most heart rendering farewell party I have ever been at. At the age of 60 John left us far too early. There was so much still for him to do, as for example his magisterial book on *The Irish Medieval Town: its Origins and Development*, to be published by Cork University Press. Our consolation is that John has left a large corpus of work in his books, his many chapters contributed to books in Ireland, many in local journals but some also abroad on Irish towns and very significantly as in the case of Dublin on their hinterland. By way of his publications John will be with us far beyond his own lifetime that we were very happy to share with him in many different ways. One image that John described to me with great pleasure was him with Heather King, Patricia Ryan and Michael Potterton sitting in fine attire in a special train running from Dublin to Wexford, with good wines and food being offered. A night at the opera was going to be their delight. No doubt John was an extraordinary person. We will always miss him.

Pat Wallace, 'Inspirational teacher and expert on archaeology of Irish towns', *Irish Times*, November 29, 2014.

# Articles

## Colm Moloney & Damian Shiels

(Managing Director, Rubicon

Heritage Services Ltd)

(Director, Rubicon Heritage Services Ltd)

### *Safe Haven? The Archaeology of Bere Island's Defence, 1763–1815*

#### Introduction

This paper was presented by Colm Moloney at the annual conference of the Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement in May 2014. It is based on extensive research and survey carried out by Rubicon Heritage Services Ltd under the direction of Damian Shiels as part of the Safe Haven research project (Shiels and Moloney 2012). Rubicon Heritage Services Ltd has been involved in a community archaeology project in Bere Island since 2010. Thus far this has been concerned with recording the Napoleonic-era defences of the island with the intention of determining how effective this defensive network would have been if tested through conflict. It is hoped to widen the study to cover the later, extensive coastal defences of the island in the future.

#### Location and topography

Bere Island is a relatively large island located approximately 2km off Castletown Bere on the Beara Peninsula (Figure 1 below). The body of water between the mainland and the island is known as Berehaven and has been identified as a strategic and safe anchorage for many centuries. The island is quite hilly at the centre and west end and more level to the east. The southern coastline is quite rugged and inaccessible while there are a number of natural harbours on the northern coast.



Figure 1 Location of Bere Island

#### Project Aims

The principal aim of the project was to determine the effectiveness of the Napoleonic era defences. The following objectives were also considered pivotal to the project:

- Examine the history of the Napoleonic era defences
- Survey the surviving defences
- Highlight the Island's military archaeology
- Produce a resource for the local community.

#### Our Approach

Our initial investigation focused on available documentary sources. This included the extensive military archives held in Kew in London where a large collection of relevant documents and maps in particular were identified relating to the military installations at Bere Island during the 19th century. This information was compiled into a Desk Based Assessment and a GIS resource which formed the basis for all future study. In particular the ability to carry out digital map regression from modern maps through historic OS maps and back to the original admiralty plans proved of great value to the project. Once the available documentary information was collated it was uploaded onto GPS in order to allow the data to be checked for accuracy on the ground. This work was undertaken by professional archaeological surveyors from Rubicon supported by local volunteers. Outreach was foremost in our minds as we worked through the various stages of the project and a number of talks were presented on the island as well as an intensive social media campaign.

#### Reasons for defence

Between 1793 and 1815 Britain and France were at war with only a short interlude (Shiels and Moloney 2012, 7–10; Kerrigan 1995, 150–1, 198). During this time Ireland was seen by Britain and France as a chink in the armour of the UK and a possible launch pad for an invasion of Britain. Ireland was seen as a particularly attractive target, as the French could hope to garner support from disaffected sections of the Irish community such as the United Irishmen. Neither was this a threat simply limited to the 1790s, when French fleets arrived off Ireland in 1796 and 1798. It continued throughout the

course of the conflict, and prompted a defensive response from the British authorities. This took the form of buildings such as Martello towers and signal stations. When reviewing the construction of such defences in Ireland it is important to remember the perceived threats to the country during this period, rather than viewing these years through a retrospective lens of the threats that actually materialised. By taking a wider view it is possible to chart the major periods of crises that were perceived by the administration, when the potential invasion of Ireland by the French was viewed as a very real possibility. In addition to placing each set of defences around the Irish coast in context, such an approach also brings home the very real threat throughout much of the conflict that the French would exploit Ireland as a means to strike at Britain.

In 1796 the French fleet entered Bantry Bay. French vessels anchored off Bere Island and the Admiral's launch of *La Résolue* even landed there, where it was subsequently captured. It is today known as the 'Bantry Boat' and represents the oldest surviving French Naval vessel in the world. It is currently on display in the

National Museum of Ireland's Soldiers & Chiefs military history exhibition. The shock of the 1796 invasion alerted the administration to the value of the anchorage, and its susceptibility to attack. In February of 1797 Chief Secretary of Ireland Thomas Pelham declared that if Berehaven was put into a state of defence it would provide a secure anchorage for the British fleet, and help to resist the approach of the enemy.

### Coastal defences of Ireland

The Bere Island defences were one component of a network of coastal positions that was developed along much of the Irish and British coastline. The main elements of these coastal defences were Martello towers, batteries and signal towers. The development of Martello towers was a result of the experience of two Royal Navy ships, the *Fortitude* and the *Juno*, in 1794. These vessels came under an effective fire from a circular tower at Mortella Point in Corsica during an attack that year. Impressed with the performance of the tower, the British decided to adapt the design for their own coastal defence, and the Martello tower was born (Clements 2011, 9–22).

### Fear of Invasion

Without going into detail you can see by the long list of events on this list that there was a real perception throughout the first decade of the 19th century that the French would invade Ireland:

Summer 1797:	15,000 French troops massed in the Netherlands
May 1798:	Nelson fears attack on Ireland
22 August 1798:	French land at Killala, Mayo
1803–1805:	Imminent French landing expected
January 1804:	15,000 troops massed in Brest
September 1804:	18,000 troops massed in France
January 1805:	Nelson fears attack on Ireland
July 1805:	Admiralty fears landing of French in Ireland
Spring 1808:	25,000 troops massed in Portugal
January 1809:	Fear of invasion from Spain or Portugal
September 1810:	Napoleon considers Irish invasion
July 1811:	Napoleon considers Irish invasion

### Martello and signal towers

The four examples of Martello towers constructed on Bere Island were part of a wider network of c.50 around the Irish coast, and were among the first to be built, forming part of the group on which construction commenced between 1804 and 1806 – a further group of

towers was built between 1810 and 1815, corresponding with the second wave of invasion fears from France. As with the Martello towers and batteries, the signal tower on Bere Island was a component of a wider coastal network of defence. The construction of these signal towers was carried out between 1804 and 1806



and ultimately consisted of a chain of 81 towers running south from Dublin and around the coast to Donegal. The majority (as is the case with the Bere Island example) consisted of a defensible guardhouse set within a fan-shaped enclosure where a signal post was located. Signalling was carried out using a rectangular flag, a blue pendant and four black balls made of hoops covered with canvas. These were flown from the post in a series of configurations depending on the signal that was to be sent. The post was made up of an old topmast of some fifty feet in height, with a cap, cross-trees and fid securing a thirty foot flagstaff. A thirty-foot spar set at an angle from the mast carried the canvas-covered balls. The signal towers tended to be placed on headlands as they operated on a line of sight basis with other towers in the chain. The Bere Island signal tower

was designed to communicate with the towers on Blackball Head on the mainland to the west and Sheep's Head on the mainland to the east. Whereas the military and militia initially supplied men for the Bere Island towers and batteries, the signal towers fell under the remit of the Sea Fencibles. The Fencibles were made up of local fishermen and merchant seamen under the command of naval officers, including signal Lieutenants who operated the signal posts – a kind of Napoleonic-era homeguard. Bere Island was part of District 13, which covered the four signal stations between Dursey Island and Mizen Head. Berehaven was also the District headquarters. In May 1805 the officer commanding District 13 was Captain Thomas Charles Brodie ([http://www.pbenyon.plus.com/Navy\\_List\\_1805/Officers/Sea\\_Fencibles.html](http://www.pbenyon.plus.com/Navy_List_1805/Officers/Sea_Fencibles.html)).

#### Timeline

When reading through the documentary sources which are relevant to the construction of the defences on Bere Island two things immediately strike one; there is an amazing amount of detail contained therein and they were produced during a time of extreme anticipation when the French fleet was expected to sail over the horizon at any moment:

22 December 1803:	Calder requests protection for victual and store ships in Laurence's Cove
8 January 1804:	Birch ordered to construct batteries and towers particularly at eastern entrance to Berehaven
21 January 1804:	Birch arrives on Bere Island from Whiddy Island
July 1804:	Civilian Engineer Pelham arrives
6 December 1804:	Captain Robert Evans and R.A. detachment ordered to Bere
23 February 1805:	Isaac Burgess appointed as Master Gunner
May 1805:	Clare Militia and R.A. gunners arrive
1808:	4th Royal Veteran Battalion replaced by 1st Garrison Battalion
1811:	Armament stands at eight 24-pounders at four batteries, six 24-pounders at Redoubt No. 5 and six 24-pounders at four martello towers
1815:	Detachment of the Carlow Militia on Bere

#### Bere Island defended!

The shock of the 1796 invasion alerted the administration to the value of the Berehaven anchorage, and its susceptibility to attack. In February of 1797 Chief Secretary of Ireland Thomas Pelham declared that if Berehaven was put into a state of defence it would provide a secure anchorage for the British fleet, and help to resist the approach of the enemy. The years that followed passed with little further action being taken with regard to the Bantry Bay defences. One of the first pieces of evidence of a change in policy that emerges is a plan copied

on 2 June 1802 held in the National Archives, Kew (Public Records Office Kew, ADM352/27: Figure 13 on page 14).

It shows a Royal Navy fleet at anchor off Bere Island, part of a presence that was deemed of key importance in thwarting a potential French invasion. This remarkable piece of cartography is a snapshot of Bere Island immediately before it took on its role as an important naval base for the Royal Navy, a function it would continue to fulfil until 1938. The fleet of nineteen vessels is shown lying in Berehaven, but it is the anno-

tations of this nautical chart that are most important. They reveal the preliminary work that had been undertaken which led directly to the use of the island by the military. The chart is designed to be of future use to Royal Navy vessels and is annotated accordingly, marking out relevant features and providing tidal information. What is today the main landing point on Bere Island, Laurence Cove, was then referred to as 'Hookerbay'. On the island itself the chart highlights a number of useful locations, such as a small stream running into Laurence Cove from Ardagh townland which was marked as a 'convenient watering place'. The area where Loughaunnagower and Lough Alimin are still to be found are noted as 'fresh water ponds', while a 'mass house and burying grounds' are highlighted near present day Ballynakilla. In addition to sites on the island the sailors have also taken note of some of the rich resources to be found around the island and in the haven itself. As a result further locations are denoted as areas of 'good trawling' and sites of 'very fine oysters and scallops'. Although Berehaven was far from an unknown anchorage for the Royal Navy at this date, it is in the context of the ongoing wars with France and the need to defend the Atlantic and Irish coast that the location took on increased strategic importance, as realised in the production of this nautical chart. The following years would see Bere Island become a hive of building activity as it was developed into a key defensive position in Bantry Bay.

#### **HMS Temeraire**

While the fleet was anchored in Berehaven and being sketched for this drawing, an incident took place which shook the entire Royal Navy. One of the ships depicted was HMS *Temeraire*, later to be made famous by Turner's 1839 painting 'The Fighting Temeraire tugged to her last berth to be broken up'. The crew of the *Temeraire* mutinied off Bere Island and lowered the gunports to signal that they would not commence another voyage. The end result was that 12 sailors were hanged and 2 received 200 lashes. There would not be a mutiny of this scale in the Royal navy for another 100 years (Willis 2009, 129–150).

#### **Calder and Birch**

Captain John Francis Birch of the Royal Engineers was on Whiddy Island in 1803 supervising works there. He already had experience of establishing island defences on Minorca, where he had been part of a British team construct-

ing Martello towers in 1800. Birch was asked to reconnoitre Bere Island with a view to placing defences there. However, it was to be Rear-Admiral Calder who took the steps that would finally lead to the defence of Bere Island. On 22 December 1803 he requested protection for victual and store ships due to be stationed at Berehaven, then anchored in Laurence's Cove. The Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, the Earl of Hardwicke, supported Calder's request. On 3 January 1804 he stated that he agreed as to the 'propriety of strengthening the works'. On 8 January 1804 the Commander-in-Chief in Ireland, Lord Cathcart, wrote to Captain Birch with orders to construct some batteries with towers or other works to defend them, particularly at the eastern or upper entrance to Berehaven. Captain Birch arrived on Bere from Whiddy on 21 January 1804 to commence the works (Clements 2011, 71–77, 62; McEnery 2006, 67–68, 100; Kerrigan 1995, 152–200).

#### **Cost**

Bere Island had its own Celtic Tiger economy in the early years of the 19th century! The anticipated cost of defending the island was £7000 on the 10th February 1804. By July 1804 this had risen to £20,000 and £22,000 by December 1805. The bill increased to £31,499 plus £13,644 by March 1807 and finally in August 1808 a further significant increase to £45,140 plus £7,575 for repairs started alarm bells ringing and an official enquiry was called in 1809. In February 1810 the results of the enquiry were published and blamed the increase in costs on the lack of roads and the need to import materials to the island. In April 1810 a request was made for a further £2,520 for repairs (McEnery 2006, 100; Kerrigan 1995, 200).

#### **The sites**

We identified eight sites from the cartographic sources that were relevant to our study. In a number of cases these were depicted as planned rather than as built. Summaries are provided below:

- **Ardaragh East**

- Site largely destroyed by the construction of the Lonehort battery in the late 19th and 20th century
- Probably the first of the Bere island defences to be built (finished in 1805)
- Armed with four 24-pounder guns.

The main purpose of the Martello tower at this

location was to cover a portion of the southern part of Bere Island, facing out towards Bantry Bay, rather than overlooking Berehaven itself. In contrast, the Battery was orientated to cover the eastern entrance to Berehaven. Given the relative positioning of the two emplacements it seems likely that Captain Birch saw the battery as the key position for the defence of the anchorage, with the Martello tower providing a supporting function, designed to defend the battery and prevent a hostile landing on the southern side of the island. It is highly likely that at least a portion of Martello tower No. 1 survives buried beneath the late 19th century raised gun platform at the same location.

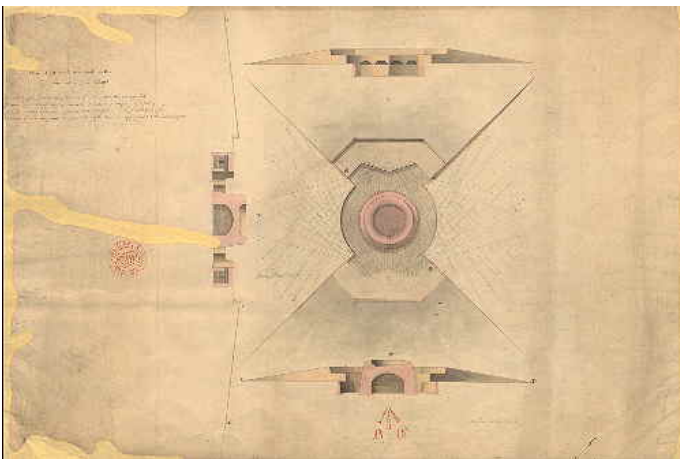
- **Rerrin**

- Martello totally destroyed by later fortifications
- It is probable that a substantial

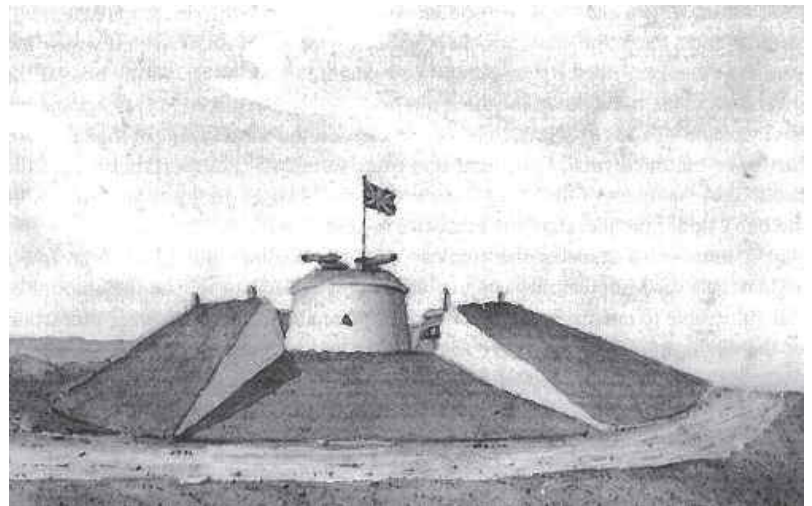
amount of the original surrounding defences/battery that accompanied the tower survive today as part of the later 'Bere Island Fort'

- The situation regarding Battery No. 2 is unique among the island's defensive network
- It appears that the tower and battery were in fact part of the same intimately connected defensive structure.

This location appears to have been chosen as the main accommodation area for the island's garrison and included the site of a hospital. The remodelling of the area in 1898 involved the removal of all earlier buildings and the road network with the exception of one building which survives as a holiday cottage. The original road can still be seen as a cut through the nearby fields.



a) Birch's plan of Martello tower No. 2 and Battery (PRO WO78 969)



b) Painting of Martello tower No. 2 and Battery by Lt A. Alcock, RA dated 1824

**Figure 2** Martello Tower No. 2

There are two depictions of Martello Tower No. 2 from the period of its use (Figure 2: a) and b) above), both of which highlight the fact that this tower appears considerably different in form to any of the other towers on the island, and in fact has its closest parallel to a tower on Minorca where Captain Birch was also involved in the development of that island's defences. It is Birch's plan that indicates the tower and batteries were part of the same structure. Tower No. 2 and Battery No. 2 (that surrounded it) were located on relatively level ground. It seems likely that while the 24-pounders sited on the tower had 360° coverage, the battery split its guns with one covering the north and one the south. Again it seems likely that an important consideration was defence of the island as well as the haven, although the northern gun

in the battery did offer protection to the eastern entrance to Berehaven.

- **Cloonaghlin West (Cloughlan)**

- Well preserved
- Survey fits well with the OS mapping
- Gun battery and Martello tower linked by a well built road
- The Martello tower is enclosed by a bivallate circular enclosure with a possible gatehouse / barracks
- Battery consists of a rectangular enclosure with an internal rectangular guardhouse with multiple gun loops.

The tower and battery were located on prominent neighbouring hills with commanding views on all sides (Figure 3 below). The bat-

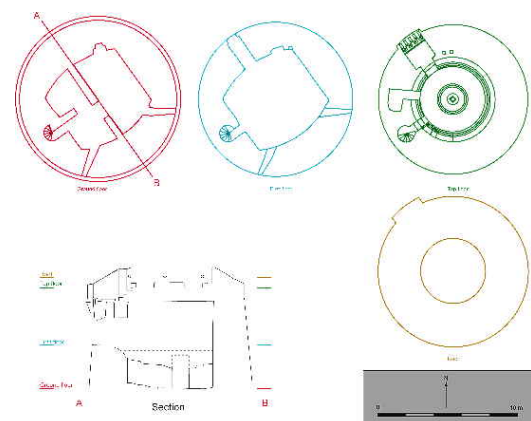
tery was positioned to cover the coast around Cloonaghlin village and harbour while the Martello tower was located to provide cover for the battery from a possible landward attack. As the guns in the battery had a restricted arc of fire they could not be turned to defend against an attack from the west. The guns on the Martello tower could turn through 360° providing excellent support for the battery. The north side of the battery was formed by a terrace that provided a natural line of defence. The Martello tower survives to its full original height and is set within a circular rock cut depression which was prepared in ad-

vance of construction. The edge of this cut is lined internally with mortar-bonded masonry which added an additional line of defence to the tower. The tower was constructed on the levelled ground at the centre of the cutting. The main body of the tower is constructed of coursed rubble. The wall slopes in as it rises until it meets a protruding collar of cut stone which defines the base of the gun platform from which point the external wall becomes vertical. The door was located on the north-west side at first floor level requiring access by ladder or steps.



**Figure 3** General shot of Martello Tower and Battery No. 3 at Cloonaghlin West

A machicolation covered this doorway which was largely constructed of brick supported by a stone platform set on six stone supports. The interior of the building was set on three floors with access through a turnpike stair at the southwest. The fireplace is located in the north corner of the ground floor. There are three internal access points to the gun platform, the first provides access from the turnpike stairs, the second from the shot furnace and the third provides access to the machicolation. The gun platform was designed to take a traversing carriage which rotated on a pivot at the rear of the carriage which was fixed at the centre of the platform (Figure 4 right). The front of the carriage was set on wheels which ran along iron racers. The groove which held the iron racer is cut into a stone step which runs around the edge of the platform. In this case the gun fired *en barbette* although the gun-



**Figure 4** Section through Martello Tower No. 3 and floor plans

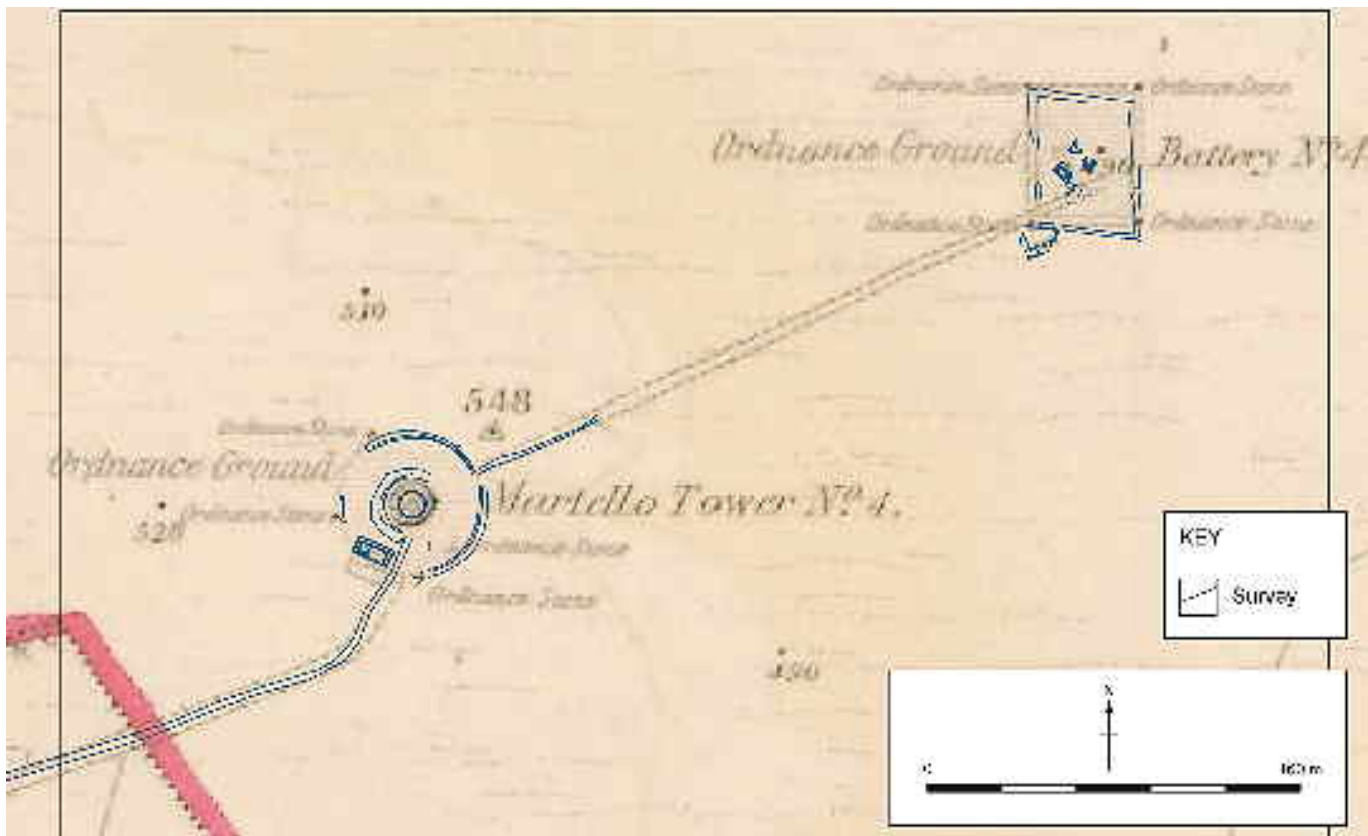
ners were protected behind the parapet.



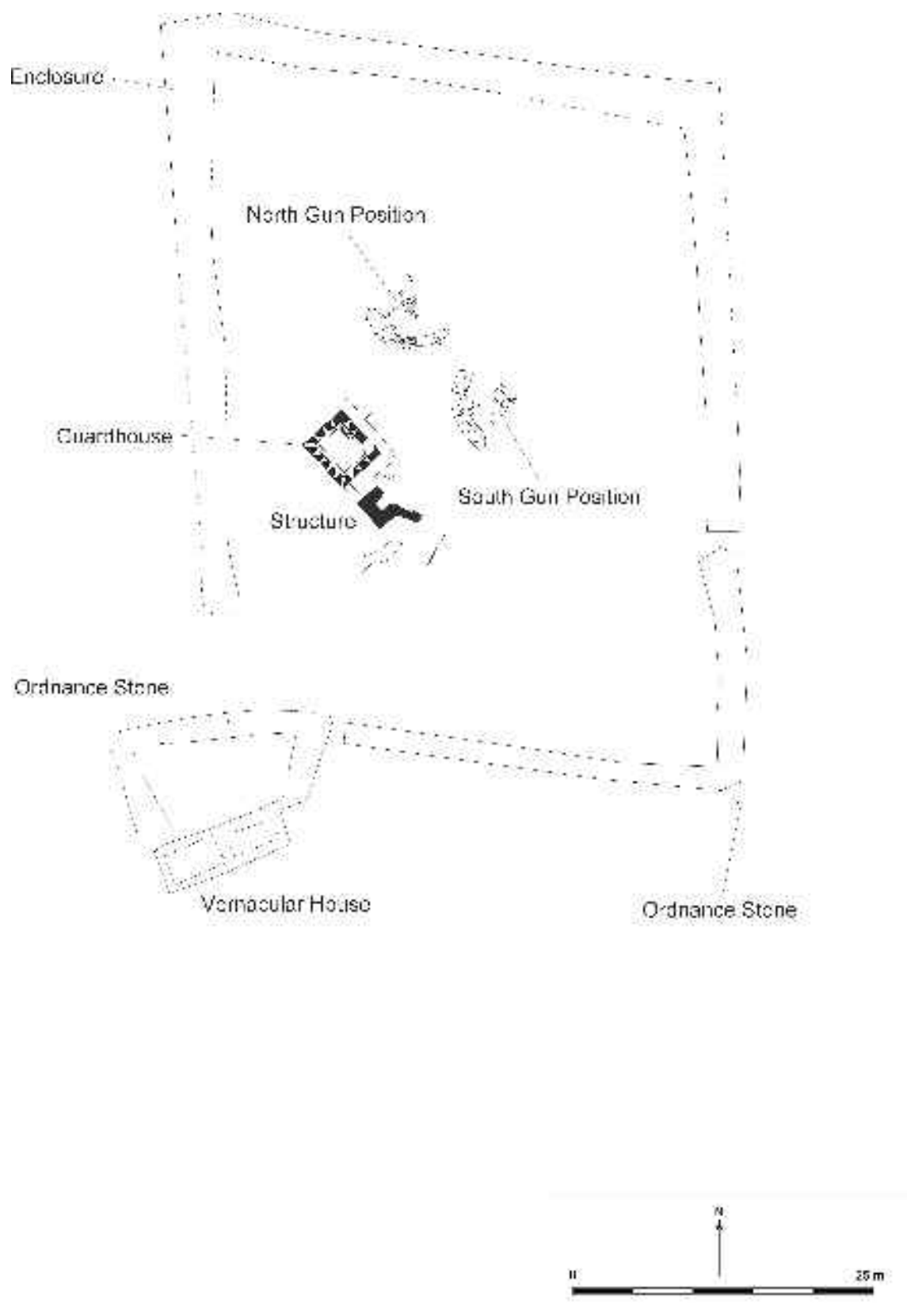
- **Ardagh**

Ardagh was a carbon copy of the general layout of Cloonaghlin only with better preservation in the battery, in fact the best preservation of any site of Napoleonic-era date on the island (Figure 5 below). The Martello tower was of identical construction as Cloonaghlin. The road that connected the tower to the battery was identifiable at either end but the central part of the route was lost in the boggy ground. The site of Martello Tower No. 4 and Battery No. 4 was located on a prominent hill with commanding views on all sides. The battery was positioned to cover the entrance to Laurence Cove while the Martello tower was located to

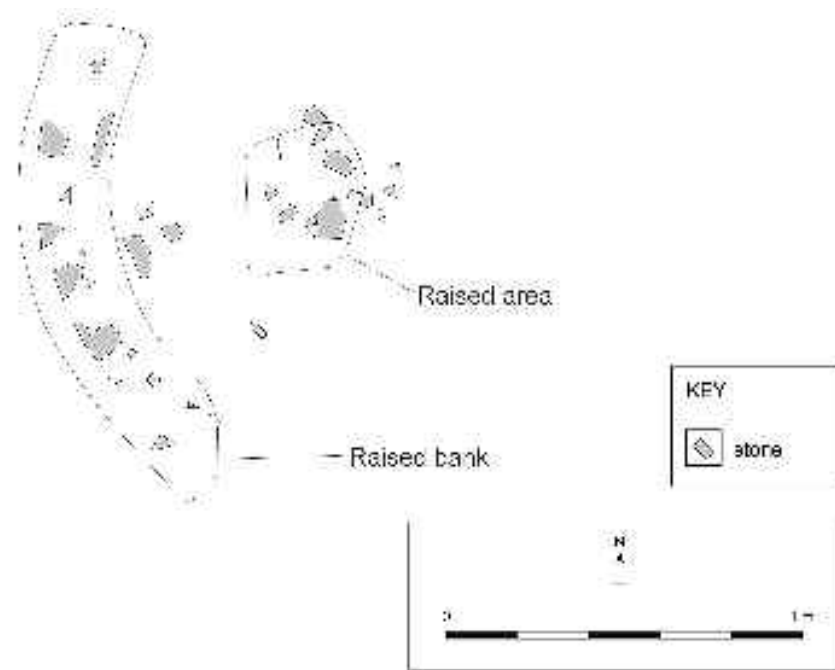
provide cover for the battery from a possible landward attack. However it was the battery that proved to have exceptional preservation (Figure 6 on page 8). It was roughly as depicted on the First edition ordnance survey mapping. The enclosure was formed of a bank with an external ditch with an entrance at the southwest corner. Internal features consisted of two gun platforms and a complex stone building, most notably a 'W.D.' example, for War Department, indicating it was from the first phase of work on the site. Both gun platforms survived as a curving bank with an associated stone setting which would have formed the pivot and racer for the gun carriages (See figure 7 on page 9).



**Figure 5** Rubicon survey at Ardagh superimposed on 1st edition OS



**Figure 6** Survey of Battery No. 4



South gun position facing north.

**Figure 7** Battery No. 4 showing detail of gun platform

The banks in both cases appeared to originally have been stone built and would have held the rear racer, which was the foundation on which the rear wheel of the traversing gun carriage would have travelled. The stone setting to the east of the bank would have held the pivot on which the front of the traversing carriage

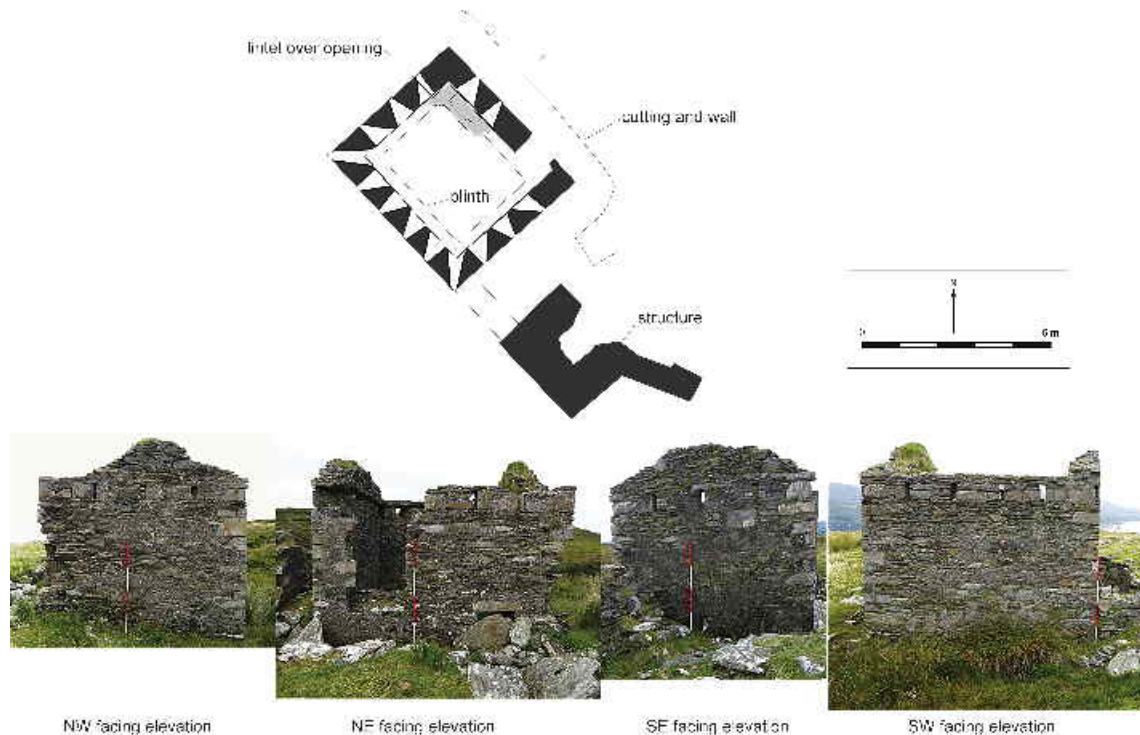
would have rotated. This system resulted in an arc of fire from the northeast to northwest on the north gun platform and from northeast to southeast of the south gun platform.

A stone structure, probably a guardhouse, was identified to the southwest of the gun plat-



forms which originally held a pitched roof as demonstrated by the surviving gables (Figure 8 below). Two openings were identified on the northeast side which would have provided access to the structure. These included a lower opening which may have provided access from the base of the surrounding cut to a 'basement' level. The second access point was probably the main door to the structure and corresponded

to the position of the internal floor which was suspended on a step constructed into the interior of the wall. Gun loops were positioned at regular intervals around the top of the wall. The complex was positioned between the gun platforms and the battery entrance and may have been intended to form a line of defence against an attack through this weak point in the external defensive circuit.



**Figure 8** Battery No. 4 showing plan and elevations of guardhouse

- **Reenduff**

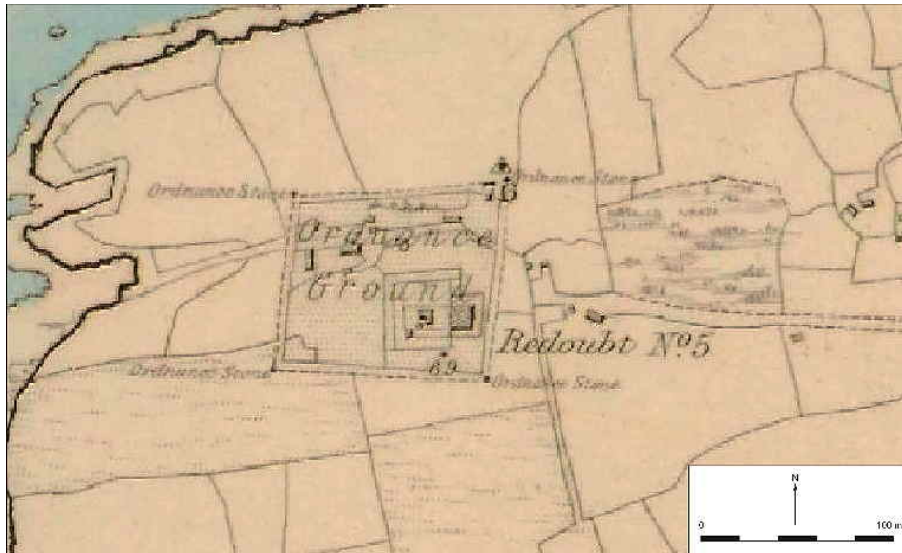
- Largely obliterated by the redevelopment of the site as a gun battery during World War II
- Some elements of its original curtilage may survive
- Detailed investigation of the current condition of the monument could not be undertaken during this survey due to restrictions on access imposed by the landowner.

The First Edition Ordnance Survey mapping shows Redoubt No. 5 close to the western shore of Bere Island (Figure 9 on page 11). The redoubt is shown as a square enclosure with an ordnance stone at each corner. A large rectangular building and associated compound is de-

picted in the southeast quadrant of the enclosure with ancillary buildings indicated at the centre of the compound. Additional rectangular structures are shown scattered across the northern half of the enclosure. A small pier is indicated to the north of the redoubt which may have been related to the complex. This is the only defensive element on the west end of the island and it became more prominent in the complex as time went on with a complete redevelopment during the early 20th century.

The redoubt was positioned at the west of the island near the shore in order to control access to the west side of the Berehaven. This is the narrowest point of the Berehaven and any vessels entering at this point would have been well within the range of the guns in the redoubt.





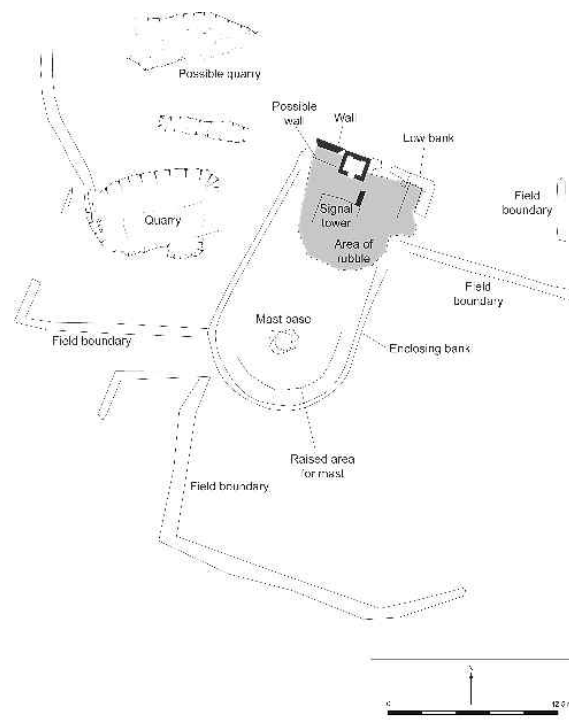
**Figure 9** Reenaduff redout on the 1st edition of the OS

- **Derrycreeveen**

The site of the signal station is located on a prominent hill with commanding views over Berehaven and onto the mainland, particularly to Castletownbere and on to Black Ball Head. The adjacent signal stations were located on Black Ball Head to the west and Sheep's Head across Bantry Bay to the south-east and these lines of site were critical to the functioning of the tower.

The signal tower was set in a rectangular enclosure with an elliptical southern end (Figure 10 below). The enclosure was bounded by a dry

stone wall which survives to three courses in places. The principal components identified in the interior were a structural complex at the north end and the open socket for the mast foundation at the south end. The mast was on a foundation which was set into a large square pit at the south end of the enclosed area. The ground in this area was artificially levelled by creating a terrace which ran parallel to the enclosure at the south end. The mast was used to send signals through the use of a ball and flag system which was raised and lowered in an early form of semaphore.



**Figure 10** Plan of Derrycreeveen Signal Tower

The structural remains at the north end which represents the remains of the tower were very difficult to interpret, as a large proportion of the complex had blown down in 1964 and survives as a low mound of rubble. A rectangular structure survives at the north central edge of the enclosure to approximately 2 m in height. A fireplace and chimney are located in the centre of the north wall and a doorway is located in the south wall which provided access into a second room / building to the south. This southern extension to the structure survived as two walls on the east and west protruding out of a large mound of rubble. Collapsed walls are identifiable to the east of the structure as horizontal layers of mortared stone. This complex

of buildings would have served as accommodation for the Sea Fencibles who manned the complex. Of particular interest are two separate incidences of graffiti at this site, one on the interior of the ancillary building in the render, which appears to bear a nineteenth century date and 'R.E.' (Royal Engineers) while the other is on the eastern exterior wall of the signal tower and has names and dates from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries (Figure 11 below).

Two quarries were identified to the west of the signal tower which were used to procure local stone for the construction of the complex.



**Figure 11** Example of graffiti on the east wall of the signal tower

- **Ardaragh west**

An isolated and largely forgotten element of the defensive complex consists of a small rectangular building overlooking Scart beach at the east of the island (Figure 12 on page 13). While surveying this we identified a stone with

a metal pin stuck in it which may have served as some form of signal apparatus. We believe this building was positioned to monitor activity on this small inlet. The guardhouse was in clear view of Ardaragh East and Cloonaghlin West and may have also served as a communication link between these two sites.





**Figure 12** Guardhouse at Ardaragh West overlooking Scart Bay

- **Rerrin village and the commissariat store**

The position of Rerrin is predicated on access to Laurence Cove, the best harbour on Bere Island. The naval buildings constructed here were designed to take advantage of this anchorage on the island's northern coast, protected as it was by Berehaven and the mainland beyond. The site of Rerrin village, situated as it is at Laurence Cove is the key reason for the act of constructing the military defences on Bere Island, in response to Rear-Admiral Calder's 1803 request for defence of his victuallers anchored there. The construction of the Commissariat Store and quay here at this time provided the Royal Navy with their focal point on the island and in Berehaven itself. Given the nature of the buildings in Rerrin village there is less documentary evidence available than for the towers and batteries elsewhere on the island. However the Commissariat Store and what later became known as the 'Coal Yard' (effectively a clear area for storage) were both extant by the time of the First Edition Ordnance Survey Map. Although the Commissariat Store was largely demolished in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries with the construction of new British military buildings and dwellings on the main street of the village such as Cahill's bar, the 'Coal Yard' survived

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- Kerrigan, P., *Castles and Fortifications in Ireland 1485–1945* (The Collins Press: Cork, 1995).
- McEnery, J.H., *Fortress Ireland: the Story of the Irish Coastal Forts and the River Shannon Defence Line* (Wordwell: Bray, 2006).
- Shiels, D. and C. Moloney, *Safe Haven; the ef-*

with limited modification into the latter part of the twentieth century.

#### Conclusions

In July 1806, Arthur Wellesley, later the Duke of Wellington visited Bere Island and inspected the defences. He concluded that the defences as laid out would not be able to completely protect the anchorage. In order to determine the potential range and capability of the various gun positions, we added the gun positions and known ranges and arcs of fire of the guns to our GIS (Figure 14 on page 15). The results of this were quite revealing and indicated two main objectives of the defensive network. The first concentrated on the west and east entrances to the Berehaven and the second focused considerable fire power on Laurence's Cove. As the original brief set by Calder was to defend Laurence's Cove it would appear that this was effectively achieved by the defensive network as built. Wellington was correct in stating that the defensive network did not completely protect the Berehaven but this was never the intention. The other conclusion drawn from our work was that the Martello towers on their own were of limited defensive value but combined with gun batteries provided a formidable complex when placed in strategic locations.

*fectiveness of the defensive network of Bere Island in the early nineteenth century* (Unpublished report by Rubicon Heritage Services Ltd: London, 2012).

Willis, S., *The Fighting Temeraire* (Quercus: London, 2009).

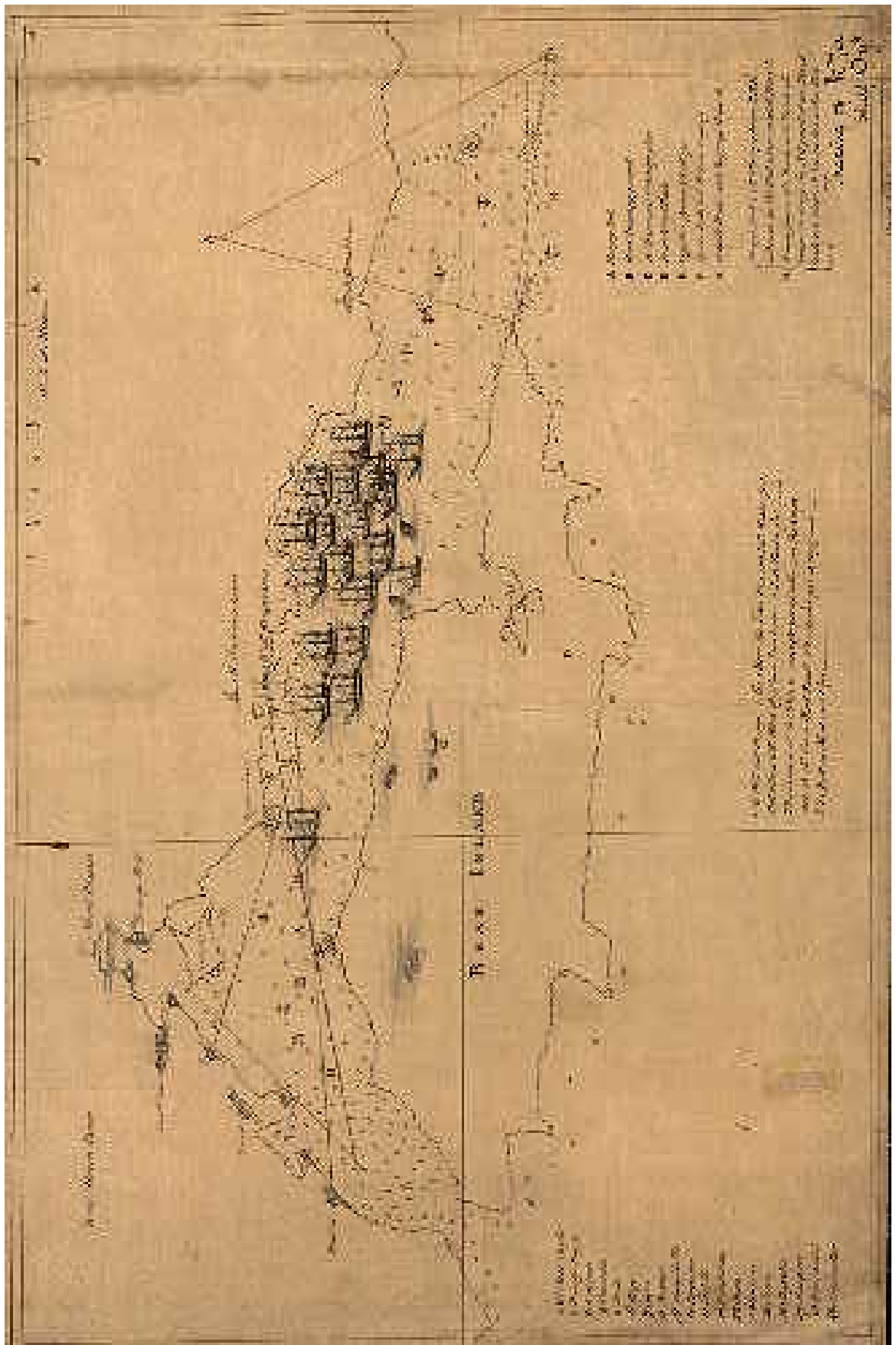
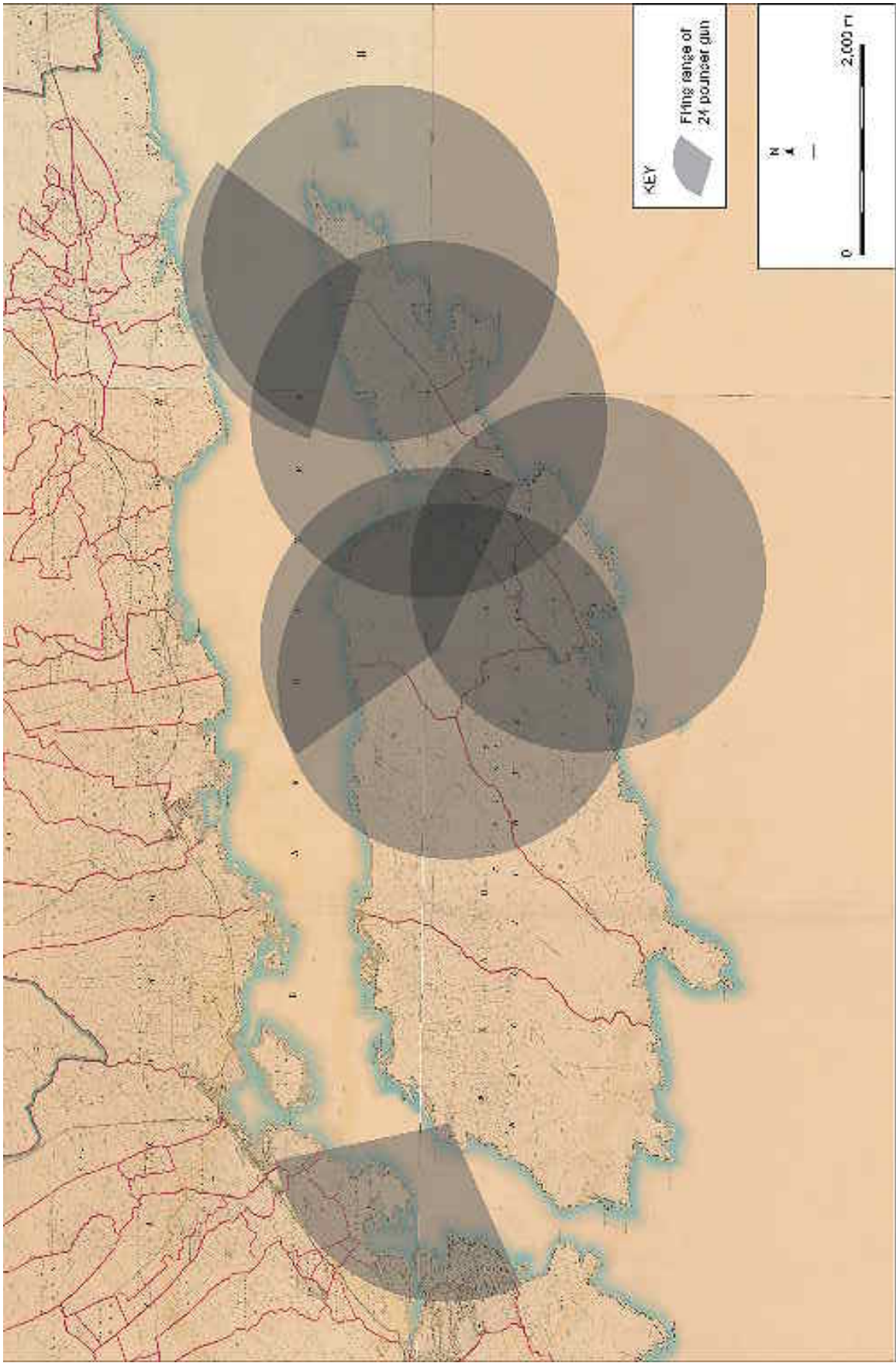


Figure 13 Map of Berehaven in 1802 with 19 Royal Naval vessels depicted





**Figure 14** Map of Bere Island showing range of guns

## Notices of Recently Published Books

Bernadette Cunningham

This is a selection of recently published books thought likely to be of interest to readers of *Áitreabh*. Some notices are partly derived from information supplied by the publishers.

***Settlement in the Irish Neolithic: new discoveries on the edge of Europe***

Jessica Smyth

(Prehistoric Society Research Paper, 6)

(Oxford and Philadelphia. Oxbow Books & Prehistoric Society, 2014. xii, 192p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781842174975. Stg £35)

The Irish Neolithic has been dominated by the study of megalithic tombs, but the defining element of Irish settlement evidence is the rectangular timber Early Neolithic house, the known numbers of which have more than quadrupled in the last ten years. This book explores the wealth of evidence for settlement and houses throughout the Irish Neolithic in relation to Britain and continental Europe. The settlement evidence scattered across the landscape, often found as a result of developer-funded excavations, provides the social context for the more famous stone monuments that have traditionally shaped our views of the Neolithic in Ireland.

***Poul nabrone: an early Neolithic portal tomb in Ireland***  
Ann Lynch. Edited by Conleth Manning and Ann Lynch

(Archaeological Monograph Series, 9)

(Dublin: Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht, 2014. 226p. Illus. ISBN 9781406428179. €30)

Archaeological excavations were carried out at Poul nabrone portal tomb in the Burren, Co. Clare, during the period 1986–88, under the direction of Ann Lynch of the National Monuments Service. The entire chamber and part of the cairn were excavated resulting in the retrieval of the remains of at least 36 individuals, an assemblage of chert / flint tools, bone / antler and stone artefacts, animal bone and palaeoenvironmental samples. Analysis of these remains has thrown light on the lifestyle and burial practices of some of Ireland's earliest settlers.

***Archaeological survey of County Fermanagh, volume 1, part 1: the Prehistoric period; volume 1, part 2: the Early Christian and Medieval periods***

Claire Foley and Ronan McHugh

([Newtownards] Northern Ireland Environment Agency with Colourpoint Books, 2014. 1009p. (in two parts). Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781907053764. Stg £30)

In this encyclopaedic gazetteer, individual descriptions are provided of each site and monument, and many are accompanied by photographs or specialist drawings. In addition to the inventory of prehis-

toric sites and monuments, part one includes a substantial essay by Kay Muhr on 'The place-names of County Fermanagh', and an essay by Ronan McHugh and Brian G. Scott on 'The Prehistoric archaeology of County Fermanagh'.

Part two of this volume provides an inventory of early Christian and medieval secular, ecclesiastical and miscellaneous sites and monuments. These inventories are accompanied by a further series of analytical essays by Ken Neill, Terence Reeves-Smyth, Katharine Simms, Helen Lanigan Wood and Cormac Bourke. The final part of this volume comprises a selection of essays on 'Archaeology in the landscape: sites in context'. There is a comprehensive bibliography, and an index of sites by townland. A second volume is planned.

***The origins of Ireland's holy wells***

Celeste Ray

(Oxford: Archaeopress, 2014. ii, 172p. Illus. ISBN 9781784910440. Stg £33)

This book reassesses archaeological research into holy well sites in Ireland in the context of evidence for votive deposition at watery sites throughout north-west European prehistory. Ray considers how and why sacred springs are archaeologically-resistant sites and what has actually been found at the few excavated in Ireland. Drawing on early Irish literature (myths, saints' lives, penitentials and annals), the author gives an account of pre-Christian wells in Ireland and what we know about their early Christian use for baptism, and concludes by considering the origins of "rounding" rituals at holy wells.

***The archaeology of Slieve Donard: a cultural biography of Ulster's highest mountain***

Sam Moore

(Down Survey, 2012)

(Downpatrick: Down County Museum, 2012. vi, 176p. Illus. ISBN 9780956727862. Stg £10)

There are two prehistoric cairns at the summit of Slieve Donard, a Neolithic passage tomb and a Bronze Age cist cairn. This book examines the stories associated with these sites, and also the pilgrimage traditions associated with Slieve Donard. It also documents the changes to the sites as a result of nineteenth- and twentieth-century activity.

***Late Iron Age and 'Roman' Ireland***

(Discovery Programme reports, 8)

(Dublin: Wordwell, 2014. xv, 219p. Pbk. ISBN 9891905569861. €30)

Contributors to this volume are Terry Barry, Jacqueline Cahill Wilson, Ger Dowling, Michael Ann Bevivino, Gabriel Cooney, Ian Elliot, Roseanne Schot, Ingelise Stuijts, Seamus McGinley, Aaron Potito, Christopher Standish, and Elizabeth O'Brien. Chapter 8, by Ger Dowling, is an extended essay on 'Landscape and settlement in late Iron Age Ireland: some emerging trends'. The final chapter, by Jacqueline Cahill Wilson summarises 'Findings and priorities for future research', on Ireland in the first five centuries AD.

***The quiet landscape: archaeological investigations on the M6 Galway to Ballinasloe national road scheme***

Edited by Jim McKeon and Jerry O'Sullivan

(NRA Scheme Monographs, 15)

(Dublin: National Roads Authority, 2014. xi, 232p. + CD-ROM. Pbk. ISBN 9780957438071. €25)

Archaeological investigations along the route of the recently constructed M6 motorway from Ballinasloe to Galway have uncovered a variety of interesting sites in this rural landscape. Among the highlights noted are a hunter-gatherer camp site at Ballynaclogh, a Bronze Age lead mine at Treanbaun, a great prehistoric hillfort at Rahally, early medieval farmsteads at Coolagh, Carnmore West, Loughbown and Mackney and an eighteenth-century spade mill at Coollola, none of which was previously recorded. The book opens with an essay on 'landscape and people' in the east Galway area now traversed by the motorway. The essay provides an overview of the area that was subject to archaeological examination, and offers a broad interpretative context for the new discoveries. Thereafter, the book is arranged geographically, progressing from west to east. The final excavation reports are published in full on the accompanying CD-ROM.

***Archaeology and Celtic myth: an exploration***

John Waddell

(Dublin: Four Courts, 2014. xv, 203p. illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781846824944. €45)

In this book John Waddell contends that elements of pre-Christian Celtic myth preserved in medieval Irish literature shed light on older traditions and beliefs not just in Ireland but elsewhere in Europe also. He focuses on aspects of the mythology associated with four well-known Irish archaeological landscapes: Newgrange and the Boyne Valley, the royal sites of Rathcroghan in Co. Roscommon, Navan in Co. Armagh, and Tara in Co. Meath. Their mythological associations permit the pursuit of the archaeological implications of several mythic themes, namely sacral kingship, a sovereignty goddess, solar cosmology and the perception of an Otherworld. The book is based on the Rhind Lectures delivered in Edinburgh in 2014. See page 35 in this issue for review.

***Ireland in the medieval world, AD 400-1000: landscape, kingship and religion***

Edel Bhreathnach

(Dublin: Four Courts, 2014. xiv, 293p. illus. Pbk. ISBN 9781846823428. €24.95)

Aimed at the student and general reader, this interdisciplinary book provides an authoritative overview of Ireland's people, landscape and place in the world from late antiquity to the eleventh century. It narrates the story of Ireland's emergence into history, using anthropological, archaeological, historical and literary evidence. Subjects covered include the king, the kingdom and the royal household; religion and customs; free and unfree classes in society; exiles and foreigners. The rural, urban, ecclesiastical, ceremonial and mythological landscapes of early medieval Ireland anchor the history of early Irish society in the rich tapestry of archaeological sites, monuments and place-names that have survived to the present.

See page 33 in this issue for review.

***Early medieval Ireland, AD 400-1100: the evidence from archaeological excavations***

Lorcan Harney, Thomas R. Kerr, Finbar McCormick, Aidan O'Sullivan

(Dublin: Royal Irish Academy, 2014. xxiii, 584p. Hbk. ISBN 9781904890607. €60)

How did people create and live in their own worlds in early medieval Ireland; what did they actually do; and to what end did they think they were doing it? This book focuses on the evidence from excavations conducted between 1930 and 2012 and uses that evidence to explore how people used their landscapes, dwellings and material culture to effect and negotiate social, religious and economic continuities and changes during the period AD 400-1100. The most extensive chapter is on early medieval dwellings and settlements.

***Art and architecture of Ireland, Volume 1: Medieval, c.400 - c.1600***

Edited by Rachel Moss

(New Haven, London and Dublin: Yale UP, for the Royal Irish Academy and The Paul Mellon Centre, 2014. 574p. illus. Hbk. ISBN 9780300179194. €95)

Looking at all media from c. AD 400-1600, this well-illustrated volume aims to provide a reference source for identifying and contextualising the visual culture of medieval Ireland. The editor, Rachel Moss, is the primary contributor, but essays are also contributed by other specialists on particular topics. The book is arranged in broad thematic sections, of which two may be of particular interest to readers of *Áitreabh*. Section 4 (pp 121-224) is devoted to 'Monuments of Christianity'. It opens with discussion of the most important early ecclesiastical sites including Armagh, Clonmacnoise, Glendalough, Kells, Devenish and others. Later parts of this section deal with shrine chapels, round towers, high crosses, cathedrals, parish churches, holy wells, and medieval religious houses. Contributors include Tomás Ó Caragáin, Conleth Manning, John Sheehan, Raghall Ó Floinn, Roger Stalley and Stuart Kinsella as well as the editor, Rachel Moss. Section 6 (pp 329-93) is devoted to 'Settlement and Society', and deals with all aspects of medieval architecture and landscape, including both rural and urban housing, towns and town walls, castles, tower houses, gardens, bridges,

etc. There is also discussion of medieval settlement and the sixteenth-century plantations of Laois / Offaly and Munster. Contributors on the theme of settlement and society include James Lyttleton, Kieran O'Connor, C.J. Lynn, Conleth Manning, Maurice Hurley, Rory Sherlock and Rachel Moss.

***Sacral geographies: saints, shrines and territory in medieval Ireland***

Karen Eileen Overbey

(Studies in the Visual Cultures of the Middle Ages, 2)

(Turnhout: Brepols, 2012. xix, 258p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9782503527673. €90)

Overbey argues that the patrons of reliquaries, usually prominent secular rulers or Church leaders, employed performance, ritual, and narrative (both visual and textual) to reinforce the efficacy of relics and thereby authorize political relationships. Consequently, the space of the holy body functioned as a foundation for the social geographies of early Ireland. The book discusses the intersections of devotional holy places with the territories of secular kingship and with the hierarchies of medieval monastic enclosures.

***High Island (Ardoileán), Co. Galway. Excavation of an early medieval monastery***

Georgina Scally

(Archaeological Monograph Series 10)

(Dublin: Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, 2014. Pbk. ISBN 9781406428285. €35)

This volume reports on excavations carried out at the early medieval monastic site on High Island, Co. Galway between 1995 and 2002. The monastic remains are described in detail and are placed in their physical and historical context. A chapter on 'High Island and the cult of St Féichín' by Padraic Moran re-assesses the evidence for the early history of the island and considers the wider circumstances that may have shaped the monastery during the lifetime of its occupation. The excavations have revealed different building episodes within the monastic enclosure ranging from the eighth to the early thirteenth century at which stage the settlement appears to have gone into decline. Over 50 cross-slabs, many decorated, have been found on the island and a detailed analysis of these by Christine Maddern is presented. The small assemblage of finds recovered (mostly stone) is described and the analysis of palaeoenvironmental samples and faunal remains throw light on the diet and economy of the early medieval occupants of the island. The different strands of evidence are discussed together in a concluding chapter.

***Cluain Mac Nóis i nDeilbne hEthra: the landscape of Clonmacnoise, County Offaly, Ireland***

John Feehan

([Tullamore]: Offaly County Council in association with Bord na Mona. 2014. vi, 120p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9780957453340. €45)

In this large-format, illustrated volume, John Feehan presents the latest research on the landscape of the parish of Clonmacnoise. There are chapters on the geology of Clonmacnoise; the Ice Age and its aftermath; the story of the bogs; Finough and the Blackwater; the trees and woods of Clonmacnoise, The Shannon Callows, and people in the landscape from 7000 BC to farming in the nineteenth century. The superb maps and photographs make this a volume to treasure.

***The high crosses and round towers of County Down: a field guide***

Peter Harbison, with geological contributions by Ian Meighan

(Down Survey, 2014)

(Downpatrick: Down County Museum, 2014. 72p. Illus. Pbk. ISBN 9780992730017. Stg £5)

This well-illustrated guidebook, designed for the visitor to County Down, opens with essays by Peter Harbison on the religious and artistic context of high crosses and on the architectural context of round towers. Ian Meighan writes from a geological perspective on the granitic high crosses of the county and on the geology of the round towers. The later part of the book takes the form of a tour of the key sites, and is accompanied by full-colour maps. There are entries on the high crosses at Downpatrick, Drumgooland, Kilbroney, Donaghmore and Dromore, and on the round towers at Maghera, Drumbo and Nen-drum.

***Celtic-Norse relationships in the Irish Sea in the middle ages, 800–1200***

Edited by Jón Vidar Sigurdsson and Timothy Bolton

(The Northern World, 65)

(Leiden: Brill, 2014. xvii, 233p. Hbk. ISBN 9789004255111. €109)

Proceedings of a conference held in Oslo in 2005 are published here. The papers offer historical, archaeological, art-historical, religious-historical and philological views on the inter-dependence of Celtic and Norse maritime populations in the Irish Sea region, AD 800–AD 1200. Clare Downham contributes a chapter on 'Vikings' settlements in Ireland before 1014', and includes two distribution maps. Other contributors are Colmán Etchingham, Fiona Edmonds, Barbara Crawford, Ian Beuermann, David Wyatt, Jan Erik Rekdal, Alan Lane, Zanette Tsigaridas Glorstad, Julie Lund and John Hines.

***Fragments of lives past: archaeological objects from Irish road schemes***

Edited by Bernice Kelly, Niall Roycroft and Michael Stanley

(Archaeology and National Roads Authority Monograph Series, 11)

(Dublin: National Roads Authority, 2014. 140p. illus. Pbk. ISBN 9780957438088, €25)

Proceedings of the 2013 NRA National Archaeology Seminar, 'Fragments of Lives Past: archaeological objects from Irish road schemes', are published



here. The archaeologists involved focus on individual objects, and attempt to explore the human or individual aspects behind each object. The artefacts considered here range in date from the early Bronze Age to the late seventeenth century, and aspects covered include metalwork, pottery, food and cooking, dress and ornament and military activity.

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*Archaeological excavations at South Main Street, 2003–2005*

**Edited by Maurice F. Hurley and Ciara Brett; based on excavations by Hilary Kelleher, Máire Ní Lóingsigh and Deborah Sutton**  
(Cork: Cork City Council, 2014. xv, 570p. Illus. Pbk. 9780902282193. €40)

Between 2003 and 2005 two major archaeological excavations took place that have added to our knowledge of the formation and development of Cork city. The excavations were at 36–39 South Main Street and at 40–48 South Main Street. Both excavations produced significant evidence for land reclamation. A sequence of twelfth-century house levels was identified, which represents the most comprehensive discovery of late Viking-age domestic architecture ever made in Cork City.

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*Woodstown: a Viking-Age settlement in Co. Waterford*  
**Edited by Ian Russell & Maurice F. Hurley**  
(Dublin: Four Courts, 2014. xxiii, 413p. Pbk. ISBN 9781846825361. €40)

One of the major archaeological discoveries of the construction boom, the Viking site at Woodstown, Co. Waterford, is of international significance. This monograph reports on the archaeological excavations undertaken. It draws together all the existing evidence from the site and discusses it in its national and international context. Occupation at Woodstown encompassed domestic, industrial and craftworking activities and it was also an important centre for trade and exchange with abundant evidence of an on-site trading economy. The site is also notable for the presence of one of the most richly furnished Viking warrior burials in Ireland or Britain, the contents of which are now on display at Treasures of Viking Waterford in Reginald's Tower. Aside from the editors, contributors include Stephen H. Harrison, Susan Hegarty, James Bonsall, Tim Young, Ragnall Ó Floinn and Cormac Bourke.

*See page 32 in this issue for review.*

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*A history of the medieval diocese of Cloyne*  
**Paul MacCotter**  
(Blackrock, Co. Dublin: Columba Press, 2014. 243p. Hbk. ISBN 9781782181187. €24.99)

Episcopal succession provides the framework for this history of Cloyne diocese up to the beginning of the seventeenth century, with the tenure of each bishop discussed within its historical context. One chapter deals with the late-medieval monastic life of the diocese, and there is also a chapter on the establishment of the parish system and deaneries of the diocese. A gazetteer of the 133 medieval parishes found in the diocese is included. Each entry details

the place-name, earliest record, dedication, physical location, appropriation and impropriation, and finally its location within the modern Catholic parish system.

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*Medieval Fore, County Westmeath*

**Rory Masterson**

(Maynooth studies in local history, 112)

(Dublin: Four Courts, 2014. 72p. Illus. Pbk. ISBN 9781846825132, €9.95)

In the history of Norman monasteries founded in Ireland, the Benedictine priory of Fore stands apart. While many foundations were independent entities and others were cells or priories of English foundations, Fore was a cell of the French monastery of St Taurin, Evreux, in Normandy. As such, it was one of only two alien priories in Ireland in medieval times. While the kings of England were still dukes of Normandy, the priory was considered their own property. As conflict between England and France grew, the priory came to be seen as alien property and by the fourteenth century was considered 'French', resulting in its seizure by the English crown. By the early fifteenth century the priory had become the property of the local gentry of the region. This book charts the rise and fall of the priory and the surrounding area of Fore in the medieval period. Along the way, the story reveals how far distant events such as the Great Western Schism and the Hundred Years War impinged on localities in medieval Ireland.

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*The Round tower at Roscrea and its environs*

**George Cunningham**

(Roscrea: Parkmore Press, 2014. xiv, 282p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9780950536880. €60)

This book traces the story of the round tower at Roscrea from the context in which it was built in the twelfth century down to the present day. Two early chapters deal with the historic early Christian background of Monaincha and St Cronan's Roscrea. The study of the tower at Roscrea is placed in the context of other towers in the Irish midlands. The book contains over 350 illustrations, mostly in colour, including antiquarian drawings and prints, photographs, maps and commissioned drawings.

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*Medieval Dungarvan above and below ground*

**Dave Pollock**

(Stradbally, Co. Waterford: Archaeografix, 2013. 44p. Illus. Pbk. ISBN 9781782800439. €8.50)

This booklet, aimed at the general reader, uses high quality visual imagery to reconstruct the story of Medieval Dungarvan, as uncovered in recent development-led archaeological excavations.

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*Medieval Waterford above and below ground*

**Dave Pollock**

(Stradbally, Co. Waterford: Archaeografix, 2014. 44p. Illus. Pbk. ISBN 9781782802372. €8.50)

Reconstruction diagrams are a major feature of this accessible booklet which summarises the findings of recent medieval archaeological excavations in Waterford city.

*Aspects of medieval north Munster: collected essays*  
Brian J. Hodkinson

(Limerick: Thomond Archaeological and Historical Society, 2012. ix, 301p. illus. Hbk. ISBN 9780957416604. €35)

This collection of 28 essays on aspects of the medieval archaeology and history of the North Munster region was published in 2012. There is a particular focus on Limerick city and county, while some chapters deal with Clare and Tipperary, and include articles on medieval Nenagh, O'Briensbridge in the early sixteenth century, and on the castles at Quin and Clarecastle. Many of the essays reprinted here were first published in the *North Munster Antiquarian Journal*.

*The woods of Ireland: a history, 700–1800*

Nigel Everett

(Dublin: Four Courts, 2014. xii, 313p. illus. Hbk. ISBN 978184682 5057. €50)

Everett focuses on the fundamentally pragmatic and commercial view of trees adopted within medieval Gaelic society, and the attempts of the various Anglo-Irish administrations to introduce more conservative woodland practices. By the late seventeenth century, the re-forestation of Ireland had become a badge of respectability for Irish landowners. In addition to its impact on landscape design, this trend gave rise to a distinctive body of landscape painting exemplified by the works of Thomas Roberts and William Ashford.

*Medieval Dublin XIV: proceedings of the Friends of Medieval Dublin symposium 2012*

Edited by Seán Duffy

(Dublin: Four Courts, 2014. 309p. illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781846824982. €45; Pbk. ISBN 9781846824999. €24.95)

Contributors to this volume of essays on Viking and medieval Dublin are Ian Riddler, Nicola Trazaska-Nartowski, Rebecca Boyd, Gwendolyn Sheldon, Leonore Fischer, A.R. Hayden, Geraldine Stout, Linzi Simpson, Charles Smith, Randolph Jones and Eoin C. Bairéad. There are reports on some important archaeological investigations in the Dublin area, including Alan Hayden's work on the riverine environment in Temple Bar and Linzi Simpson's work on the medieval nave at St Patrick's Cathedral. Geraldine Stout analyses the role of Dublin's great Cistercian abbey, St Mary's in Oxmantown, in relation to the market economy of Fingal. Rebecca Boyd reports on her experiment at living in a reconstructed Viking-Age house. The final third of the book is taken up with detailed prosopographical appendices to Eoin Bairéad's essay on the mayors, bailiffs, provosts and sheriffs of the city of Dublin.

*Tales of medieval Dublin*

Edited by Sparky Booker and Cherie N. Peters

(Dublin: Four Courts, 2014. xii, 203p. illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781846824968. €45. Pbk. ISBN 978184682.

€24.95)

Like a prose version of the Canterbury tales, the essays in this volume tell the stories of individuals from Dublin's past, including housewives, tax collectors, masons, lawyers, notaries, farmers and slaves. Aside from the editors, the contributors include Howard Clarke, Edward Coleman, Seán Duffy, Áine Foley, Poul Holm, Gillian Kenny, Colm Lennon, Margaret Murphy, Michael O'Neill, Katharine Simms, Linzi Simpson and Caoimhe Whelan.

*Clerical and learned lineages of medieval Co. Clare: a survey of the fifteenth-century papal registers*

Luke McNerney

(Dublin: Four Courts, 2014. xx, 324p. Hbk. ISBN 9781846823916. €55)

This book explores the connections between hereditary learned families and the medieval Irish Church. Through a systematic examination of fifteenth-century church appointments in Co. Clare, the study reveals how extensive those connections were. The old clerical lineages retained their influence in the medieval Irish Church, alongside members of the learned class and aristocratic families. The richness of the sources used will be of interest to the historian, archaeologist and genealogist alike.

*Gaelic Ireland, c.600–1700: politics, culture and landscapes*

Edited by Katharine Simms

(Studies for the Irish Chiefs' Prize)

(Dublin: Wordwell, 2013. viii, 148p. illus. Pbk. ISBN 9781905569793. €25)

Katharine Simms has edited a selection of short essays by new researchers on aspects of Gaelic Ireland in the medieval and early modern periods. The contributors to this book are Denis Casey, Chris Lawlor, Brian Ó Curnáin-Ó Sioradáin, Anthony Cronin, Pierce A. Grace, Edward O'Loughlen, David Reid, Ruairi Ó hAodha, Patrick B. Clark, Benjamin Hazard, Mícheál Ó Néill-Mockler, Gerard Beggan, Seosamh Mac Eochagáin, Colette Allen and Raphael McGranaghan.

*The Welsh and the shaping of early modern Ireland, 1558–1641*

Rhys Morgan

(Irish Historical Monograph Series)

(Woodbridge: Boydell Press, 2014. xii, 230p. Hbk. ISBN 9781843839248. Stg £75)

Based on extensive original research, this book demonstrates that there was significant Welsh involvement in Ireland in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries, a theme hitherto overlooked in most writing about early modern Ireland. Morgan explores how the Welsh established themselves as soldiers, government officials and settlers in Ireland, and how they retained their Welsh identity and sustained strong social and economic networks with their fellow countrymen.

***Mayo history and society: interdisciplinary essays on the history of an Irish county*****Edited by Gerard Moran and Nollaig Ó Muraíle; series editor William Nolan****(Dublin: Geography Publications, 2014. xxiv, 920p. illus. Hbk. ISBN 9780906602683. €60)**

**B**ernard O'Hara opens this collection with an essay on the archaeological monuments of Mayo, and this is followed by Seamas Caulfield's summary of twentieth-century research on Céide Fields. Michael Gibbons examines the archaeological evidence for an ancient pilgrimage at Croagh Patrick, while Pádraig Ó Riain looks at the documentary evidence for early names associated with the mountain. Fiachra Mac Gabhann has an essay on the place-names of Mayo and Yvonne McDermott writes on the late medieval friaries of the mendicant orders in the county. Later contributions that relate to settlement are John Cunningham on Cromwellian County Mayo and Arnold Horner on early nineteenth-century topographical maps. Marie Boran and Brigid Clesham provide a helpful guide to finding and using sources for the history of landed estates in Mayo.

***Cavan history and society: interdisciplinary essays on the history of an Irish county*****Edited by Jonathan Cherry and Brendan Scott; series editor William Nolan****(Dublin: Geography Publications, 2014. xxxii, 721p. illus. Hbk. ISBN 9780906602690. €60)**

**A**mong the 28 essays in this collection, those that deal most directly with issues of landscape and settlement include Susan Hegarty on physical geography, Linda Shine on frontier settlement in the high medieval period, Brendan Scott on the Ulster Plantation in Cavan, Arnold Horner on road-making and mapping in the work of William Larkin, Jonathan Cherry on the structure and demise of landlordism, 1870–1970, Michael O'Neill on Cavan's towns and villages since the plantation, and Ruth McManus on recent settlement change in the county (since 1981).

***Glimpses of Tuam through the centuries: proceedings of a seminar 28th September 2013*****Edited by Anne Tierney****(Tuam: Old Tuam Society, 2014. 82p. illus. Pbk. ISBN 9780953025015. €10)**

**T**hese essays on the town of Tuam, spanning the centuries from early Christian times to 1925, are the proceedings of a conference held in 2013. Tony Claffey writes on pre-twelfth century Tuam; Griffin Murray discusses the Cross of Cong, Turlough O'Connor and the creation of an ecclesiastical capital for Connacht in the twelfth century; Raymond Gillespie examines the development of Tuam from 1660 to 1750. Other essays are contributed by Ruairí Ó hAodha, Matthew Potter, Paul Duffy and Gabriel O'Connor.

***Dublin: the making of a capital city*****David Dickson****(London: Profile Books, 2014. xviii, 718p. illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781861973092. Stg £30)**

**D**ickson surveys the history of the capital city from 1600 to the present. Beginning with a brief introduction to the medieval town, he takes the reader through the early modern period to the patrician eighteenth century, the social and religious divisions of the nineteenth century and finally to the sprawling city at the end of the twentieth century. In a wide-ranging and erudite book, he tells an engaging story of how a modest medieval urban settlement evolved into a major political and cultural centre.

***Aspects of Irish aristocratic life: essays on the FitzGerald and Carton House*****Edited by Patrick Cosgrove, Terence Dooley and Karol Mullaney-Dignam****(Dublin: UCD Press, 2014. 235p. 8 pls. illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781906359713. €50)**

**F**or almost 800 years, from their arrival with the first wave of Anglo-Normans in 1169, the FitzGerald – Earls of Kildare and, from 1766, Dukes of Leinster – were the pre-eminent noble family living in Ireland, dominating the social, political, economic and cultural worlds. Individual essays discuss how the family first settled in Kildare and rose to ascendancy and how they maintained political status through court connections in England and beyond. Thematically, the essays cover such topics as the architecture and material culture of the Big House, the creation of the great eighteenth-century aristocratic demesne and landscape at Carton, the final break-up of the family's estates and its subsequent economic decline in the twentieth century.

***Art and architecture of Ireland, Volume 4: Architecture, 1600–2000*****Edited by Rolf Loeber, Hugh Campbell, Livia Hurley, John Montague and Ellen Rowley****(New Haven, London and Dublin: Yale UP, for the Royal Irish Academy and The Paul Mellon Centre, 2014. 562p. illus. Hbk. ISBN 9780300179224. €95)**

**T**his large-format, illustrated volume seeks to expand and challenge traditional understanding of architecture by including all aspects of the built environment and infrastructure throughout Ireland. The editors have adopted a broad view of the processes leading to the creation of buildings – examining the participation of patrons, architects, builders, craftsmen and developers. They argue that 'Ireland's architecture constitutes a dynamic stream of concerted creative endeavour that is distinct from the architecture of Britain and Europe'. A thematic approach is adopted, with sections on 'Protagonists'; 'Building materials, construction and interior decoration'; 'Architectural styles and discourse'; 'Infrastructure'; 'Civic, institutional and military architecture'; 'Industrial and commercial architecture'; 'Ecclesiastical architecture'; 'Rural domestic architecture'; 'Urban environment and housing'; 'Architecture of recreation and public resort'; and 'Heritage and conservation'. It seems designed to be read as a series of extended essays rather than consulted as a reference work.

***Wicklow through the artist's eye: an exploration of County Wicklow's historic gardens, c.1660 – c.1960***  
 Patricia Butler and Mary Davies  
 (Dublin: Wordwell, 2014. x, 356p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9891905569823. €40)

This well-illustrated book explores some of County Wicklow's gardens and demesnes through the work of the artists who painted or sketched them and the detailed accounts of travellers who visited them. More than 20 demesnes and gardens have been selected, ranging from the well known ones at Powerscourt and Killruddery to lesser known ones such as Glenart and Hollybrook. Gardens such as Bellevue and Blessington that have now disappeared are also discussed, as are places such as Pollaphuca and Devil's Glen that were once important tourist destinations.

***Charlemont's Marino: portrait of a landscape***  
 Office of Public Works  
 (Dublin: Stationery Office, 2014. 80p. Illus. Pbk. 9781406428223.)

'Paradise Lost: Lord Charlemont's Garden at Marino' is the title of a 2014 exhibition relating to the vanished gardens at Marino on Dublin's north side. Some elements of Charlemont's beautifully designed landscape still remain today, and these were highlighted in the exhibition and accompanying catalogue entitled *Charlemont's Marino: portrait of a landscape* with text by Ruth Musielak.

***The Decline and fall of the Dukes of Leinster, 1872-1948: love, war, debt and madness***  
 Terence Dooley  
 (Dublin: Four Courts, 2014. 288p. 8 pls. Illus. Pbk. ISBN 9781846825330. €24.95)

This book tells the story of the decline and fall of Ireland's premier aristocratic family – the dukes of Leinster – who, for almost 300 years, lived amidst glorious splendour in their grand Palladian mansion, Carton House, Co. Kildare. From the 1870s they were engulfed by public events including the Land War, Home Rule, the Great War, revolution and global economic collapse, but the family's fortunes were also affected by the activities of individual family members, including extramarital affairs and unwise spending.

***'That field of glory': the story of Clontarf from battleground to garden suburb***  
 Colm Lennon  
 (Dublin: Wordwell, 2014. xxi, 304p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781905569816. €40)

Lennon tells the story of Clontarf, beginning with the events of 1014 and the subsequent passage into legend of the Irish king, Brian Boru, who died at the battle. The succeeding ages have seen the growth of Clontarf as a manor and fishing port under the ownership of a number of proprietors, ranging from crusading knights to gentry landlords. In a well-told story, Lennon traces the evolution of Clontarf from medieval manor through early modern estate to modern suburb, these latter two phases being largely un-

der the auspices of the Vernon family, whose tenure as lords of Clontarf lasted 300 years.

***The island imagined by the sea: a history of Bull Island***  
 Kieran McNally; illustrations by Jean Shouldice  
 (Dublin: Liffey Press, 2014. vii, 197p. Illus. Pbk. ISBN 9781908308580. €16.95)

In 1820, an island appeared from the sea in Dublin Bay. Within years of its appearance several nearby islands had disappeared. Dublin's Bull Island, which lies just off Clontarf, has apparently existed for less than 200 years. This book tells the story of this 'new' island in a weave of social, ecological and personal history. As Bull Island is an internationally famous bird sanctuary and nature reserve, the text covers the emergence of the island's bird life, its rich botany, the various historic threats to the island's ecology and the efforts of environmental activists and conservationists to protect this exceptional habitat, a stone's throw from Dublin city centre.

***Dublin, part III, 1756 to 1847***  
 Rob Goodbody  
 (Irish Historic Towns Atlas, No. 26)  
 Dublin: Royal Irish Academy, 2014. 106p. 29 large format maps and views. Pbk. and CD-ROM. ISBN 9781908996343. €30)

This third instalment of the Irish Historic Towns Atlas of Dublin city traces the history and development of the city through the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century when many of the city's modern streets were laid out. A series of loose maps present a variety of views that illustrate Dublin's evolution. Large-scale colour maps depict the city in 1847 at two different scales. Historical maps, illustrations and paintings such as those by Rocque, Scalé, the Wide Street Commission and the Ordnance Survey, are produced in large format. Thematic maps depict notable elements of the evolving urban landscape, for example, brewing and distilling, churches, city estates and growth phases. The maps are accompanied by a detailed gazetteer and an introductory essay on the growth of Dublin from 1756 to 1847. A CD-ROM presenting the text and all the maps in high resolution is also included.

***Charles Tisdall of County Meath, 1740-51: from spend-thrift youth to improving landlord***  
 Marion Rogan  
 (Maynooth Studies in Local History, 114)  
 (Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2014. 66p. Pbk. ISBN 9781846825156. €9.95)

When Charles Tisdall came into his inheritance in 1740 Ireland was devastated by frost, famine, disease and death. He was a middling-sized country landowner, lower than the aristocracy, but higher than the large tenant farmer. Rogan tells the story of his extensive travel on the Grand Tour, his ex-



penditure on material acquisitions, his lifestyle and leisure pursuits. She examines the management structure Tisdall established on his Meath estate and his relationships with his tenants. An early proponent of the 'improving' ethos, his legacy is imprinted on the Meath landscape in the Richard Castle-designed Charlesfort House, the two demesnes with their large plantations of trees and the extensive surviving stonework. The study ends 1751, when the country was experiencing significant economic growth.

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***Russborough: a great Irish house, its families and collections***

**William Laffan and Kevin V. Mulligan**  
(Blessington, Co. Wicklow, Alfred Beit Foundation, 2014. 401p. illus. Hbk. ISBN 9780957170100. €45)

Located near Blessington in County Wicklow, Russborough was built in the 1740s by Joseph Leeson, a wealthy Dublin brewer, to designs by Richard Castle. As Castle's masterpiece it is one of the most architecturally significant neo-Palladian buildings in Ireland. The book offers a comprehensive account of Russborough's architecture and the development of the demesne across 250 years. Through the story of the house and its families over three centuries, this book explores the histories of Irish architecture, interior design, collecting, sociability and display. Drawing on new research, the work is a significant contribution to the study of the Irish country house.

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***The houses and landed families of Westmeath***  
**Donal O'Brien**

([Athlone]: The author, 2014. [Available from Irish Georgian Society bookshop]. 232p. illus. Hbk. No ISBN. €55)

This is a comprehensive, illustrated gazetteer of the big houses of Westmeath, their owners and occupiers. Aspects of the history of the families that owned the houses, and when and how they acquired the property, are included in most entries. It is a useful work of reference for the architectural and local history of the county. There are over 700 illustrations of Westmeath houses, many of them in colour.

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***An introduction to the architectural heritage of County Donegal***

(Dublin: Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. National Inventory of Architectural Heritage, 2014. 147p. illus. Pbk. ISBN 9781406426236. €12)

Buncrana House (1781–8), Wardstown Castle (1739–40), Lough Eske Castle (1859–61) and Glenveagh Castle (1867–73) are among the buildings featured in the 32nd volume to be published in the NIAH series. The more significant buildings in the towns of Ballyshannon, Letterkenny, Lifford and Raphoe also feature. The volume is fully illustrated and the text

is by Duncan McLaren and T.J. O'Meara.

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***Glimpses of Ireland's past – the Ordnance Survey Memoir drawings: topography and technique***

**Angélique Day**  
(Dublin: Royal Irish Academy, 2014. ix, 350p. illus. Pbk. ISBN 9781908996459. €30)

The depictions of landscape, ancient sites and monuments, objects and curiosities published here, are a visual documentation of Ulster in the decade before the Famine. Selected from the Ordnance Survey archive in the Royal Irish Academy, they provide an insight into the working methods and innovations of the Ordnance Survey's project of mapping Ireland in the 1830s and early 1840s. The drawings give glimpses of Ireland that are neither contrived nor commercial. They are an intriguing complement to the more standard views of contemporary topographical art and provide a unique insight into the nineteenth-century Ordnance Survey and its continuing significance for Irish scholarship today.

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***The Irish land agent, 1830–60: the case of King's County***

**Ciarán Reilly**  
(Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2014. 206p. illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781846825101. €55)

Reilly examines over 100 land agents in King's County (Offaly) as a social group in the mid-nineteenth century. He considers their role and function and investigates how qualified they were to deal with the challenges that confronted them, particularly in the Famine years.

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***Tiarnaí talún agus tionóntaí***

**Mícheál de Mórdha, eagarthóir**  
(Ceiliúradh an Bhlascaoid, 17)

(Baile Átha Cliath: Coiscéim, 2014. 167p. illus. No ISBN. €10)

The lands of the Blasket islands had been leased by the Feiritears from the Fitzgeralds before the Boyles, earls of Cork, gained control in the mid-seventeenth century, and remained as landlords until 1907. This collection of essays discuss various aspects of the relationship between landlords and tenants on the islands through the centuries. Contributors are Cathal Póirtéir, Siobhán Ní Chorca, Seán Ó Dubháin, Cormac Ó Gráda, Niall Ó Ciosáin, Breandán Mac Gearailt, Pat Nelligan and Seán Ó Dubhda.

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***Loughrea, that den of infamy: the Land War in County Galway, 1879–82***

**Pat Finnegan**  
(Dublin: Four Courts, 2014. 190p. illus. Pbk. ISBN 9781846825118. €14.95)

During the Land War of 1879–82, Galway was regarded as ‘dangerously disturbed’ because of the large number of agrarian incidents reported. Drawing on extensive original research in primary sources, newspapers and official records, Finnegan places the events of these years in the social and political context of the time and illustrates the contribution made by local activists during a tumultuous period in Irish history.

#### *The field names of County Louth*

Eve Campbell

([Drogheda]: Louth Field Names Project, 2014. xiv, 386p. Illus. Pbk. ISBN 9780904081084. €20)

This illustrated book is not a list of field names, but rather contains a series of thematic essays by Eve Campbell and other contributors. Following an introduction which explains the methodology adopted, there are chapters on ‘Enclosing the land’; ‘From the house out: place names and rural settlement’; ‘A living from the land: field names and farming’; ‘The past in the present: archaeology in the fields’; ‘From linen to lime: field names and rural industry’; ‘Topography and landscape’; ‘Hunting and wildlife’; ‘Rundale’; ‘Stories in places’; and ‘A hidden reservoir of Irish language’. A similar volume on the field names of County Meath was published in 2013.

#### *Romancing Ireland: Richard Hayward, 1892–1964*

Paul Clements

(Dublin: Lilliput, 2014. xxi, 402p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781843516248. €40)

Richard Hayward was one of Ireland’s best-loved cultural figures of the mid-twentieth century. A popular Irish travel writer, actor and singer, he led an intense and productive life, leaving behind a remarkable body of work through his writing and recordings. Hayward opened up an unknown Ireland to thousands of people. Published to mark the fiftieth anniversary of his death, *Romancing Ireland* draws extensively on Hayward’s original notebooks, private papers and hitherto unpublished letters. Paul Clements brings to life the flamboyant personality of an extraordinary man with limitless energy and passionate perceptions, who captured a newly independent Ireland in all its changing hues.

#### *Dublin 1930–1950: the emergence of the modern city*

Joseph Brady

(Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2014. 496p. Illus. Pbk. ISBN 9781846825200. €29.95)

This is the fifth volume in ‘The Making of Dublin City’ series. The series adopts a geographical perspective, exploring the evolution of Dublin’s streetscapes and attempting to understand the complex variety of actors and processes that brought about change. Dublin between 1930 and 1950 was the capital of a recently emerged state and it looked to the

future with some confidence. The city was growing in population and spreading out beyond its boundaries. For the poor, there was a serious problem with the provision of decent housing, and this became the main focus of Dublin Corporation’s activities. The middle classes had a different experience. New suburbs emerged as the city grew and the city centre was a bright and vibrant place where shoppers could enjoy the latest international trends in consumer goods. The city developed as a tourist destination. A location for the city’s airport was chosen. There were plans to reconfigure the entire transport network and though these were not realized during this time period, they framed the city’s infrastructural development agenda for decades to come.

#### *Irish farming life: history and heritage*

Jonathan Bell and Mervyn Watson

(Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2014. xii, 212p. Illus. Pbk. ISBN 9781846825316. €24.95)

Family farms as the basic social units of Irish rural society are at the heart of this study. There are chapters on family, neighbours, farm labourers and servants. Themes include the ways in which community bonds are constructed and sustained, the value of oral evidence, and the development of interest in the history and heritage of Irish rural life. The book does not neglect the negative aspects of rural life, but overall the approach of the authors is celebratory, presenting past experience as a victory over almost impossible odds, and a triumph of decency, intelligence and generosity.

See page 32 in this issue for review.

#### *Ireland’s western Islands: Inishbofin, the Aran Islands, Inishturk, Inishark, Clare & Turbot Islands*

John Carlos

(Cork: Collins Press, 2014. 256p. Illus. Pbk. ISBN 9781848892057. €19.99)

The islands off Ireland’s west coast form a rich cultural landscape, the result of a unique combination of the forces of nature and humankind. This collection of some 250 photographs spans almost fifty years and celebrates the islanders and their environment, and reflects on disappearing traditions and values. Aside from brief captions, there is virtually no accompanying text.

#### *Connemara and elsewhere*

John Elder, Nicolas Fève, Tim Robinson; edited by Jane Conroy

(Dublin: Royal Irish Academy, 2014. xi, 147p. Illus. Pbk. ISBN 9781908996374. €30)

This photographic essay by Nicolas Fève is a response to Tim Robinson’s Connemara trilogy. Fève’s photographs are combined with extracts from Robinson’s writings. There is an introduction by John Elder discussing both Robinson’s work and Fève’s

photographs. The book also features new, autobiographical material by Tim Robinson, reflecting on his 30-year project interpreting the landscapes of the Aran Islands, the Burren and Connemara.

#### *Islands: nature and culture*

Stephen A. Royle

(Earth series)

(London: Reaktion Books, 2014. 224p. Illus. Pbk. ISBN 9781780233468. Stg £14.95)

Islands have been sites of immense scientific, political, and creative importance. An inspiration for artists and writers, they can be lively holiday resorts or remote, isolated places; places of escape or of exile. Many islands have faced population loss in recent decades, and some have been developed as tourist destinations to combat economic instability. In this cultural and geographical survey of islands worldwide, Stephen A. Royle tells the story of their great variety, their economies, and the animals, plants, and people that live on them. There are chapters on the definition and formation of islands; island characteristics, island identity, the island as laboratory, islands and the visual arts, and islands and tourism. The Aran Islands are among the Irish places discussed in this worldwide geographical overview.

*Les Mac Cartan de Kinelarty: Racines irlandaises de Charles de Gaulle. Neuf siècles d'histoire, archives et traditions familiales. The McCartans of Kinelarty: Charles de Gaulle's Irish roots. Nine centuries of history, archives and family traditions*

Thérèse Ghesquière-Diéricks, in collaboration with Sean Mac Cartan. Translation: Éamon Ó Ciosáin, Ginger Nally

(Lille: Éditions La Voix, 2013. 176p. Illus. Pbk. ISBN 9782746668355.)

When Charles de Gaulle lost a referendum in France in 1969, he disappeared from public view. Eventually, it was revealed that he was in Ireland. This book traces Charles de Gaulle's Irish roots through nine centuries of Ulster history. The text is in both French and English.

#### *Palimpsest: intervention and change in Irish architecture*

Niall McCullough

(Dublin: Anne Street Press, 2014). 221p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 0951536451. €30)

Adaptation of old buildings to new uses throughout the centuries is the core theme of this study. Castles were reused because their status had a legitimising function. They symbolised power in the landscape. The same thinking lies behind many architectural adaptations through the centuries, and these are discussed in a thought-provoking way. This book is itself a re-use of an older one, being a revised and reshaped edition of the author's work first published with a different subtitle in 1994. In each edition photographs are central.

#### Monastic Europe: Landscape and Settlement 22–25th August 2015 Ennis, Co. Clare



The Irish Research Council-funded Monastic Europe: Landscape and Settlement project is a research partnership between the Department of the History of Art and Architecture, Trinity College Dublin, the Discovery Programme and the Department of History, University College Cork. The project is examining the unusually well preserved remains of late medieval monastic buildings in Ireland within their broader European context, with a particular emphasis on their architecture and impact on the landscape around them.

The project team is holding an international conference, on 22 – 25 August 2015 in Ennis, Co. Clare. There will be a combination of sessions of papers and site visits. The aim is to stimulate a focused academic debate on the impact of monasticism in shaping the development of the physical environment across Europe between c.1100 and c.1700.

Conference themes will include:

- The topography of medieval monastic settlement (1100–1700), in both urban and rural environments
- The impact of Church reforms on the physical structures and landscapes of the monastic Church
- Monastic space (liturgical, social and architectural aspects)
- Patronage networks
- Architecture and identities
- Written sources for understanding the monastic environment

<http://www.discoveryprogramme.ie/research/current-projects/monastic-ireland.html>

## Recently Published Editions of Sources

Bernadette Cunningham

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### *State papers Ireland: Tudor period, 1547–1553*

Edited by Colm Lennon

(Dublin: Irish Manuscripts Commission, 2014. xvii, 261p. Hbk. ISBN 9781906865504. €50)

Documents in the National Archives in London relating to policy towards Ireland and its governance in the mid-Tudor period are calendared here. These state papers for the reign of Edward VI reveal not only how the institutions of central government were extended into the provinces, but also the tenor of life in the local communities, especially the towns. For those interested in the history of Anglo-Irish relations in the early modern period, this edition provides valuable information on the roots of English colonial policy in Ireland, and early evidence of native responses to Tudor social, economic and religious policies.

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### *1641 Depositions. Vol 1. Armagh, TCD, MS 836; Louth, TCD, MS 834, Monaghan, TCD, MS 834*

Edited by Aidan Clarke

(Dublin: Irish Manuscripts Commission, 2014. xlv, 357p. Hbk. ISBN 9781906865252. €50)

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### *1641 Depositions. Vol 2. Cavan, TCD, MS 832 & MS 833, Fermanagh, TCD, MS 835*

Edited by Aidan Clarke

(Dublin: Irish Manuscripts Commission, 2014. xli, 592p. Hbk. ISBN 9781906865269. €50)

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### *1641 Depositions. Vol 3. Antrim, TCD, MS 838, Derry, TCD, MS 839, Donegal, TCD, MS 839, Down, TCD, MS 837, Tyrone, TCD, MS 839*

Edited by Aidan Clarke

(Dublin: Irish Manuscripts Commission, 2014. xlv, 489p. Hbk. ISBN 9781906865276. €50)

There are 19,010 manuscript pages preserved in TCD manuscripts department containing witness testimonies of individuals who incurred losses in the 1641 rebellion. The entire corpus of documents has been transcribed in recent years. Originally conceived as an online resource, the project team have wisely decided that the transcribed texts are worth

preserving in print. The first three of a projected twelve printed volumes of transcripts of the '1641 Depositions' were published in 2014. Each individual volume is accompanied by an index of people and places, and the production quality of the printed edition is high.

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### *Ordnance Survey letters, Wexford: Letters relating to the antiquities of the County of Wexford containing information collected during the progress of the Ordnance Survey 1840*

Editor Michael Herity; assistant editor David McGuinness

(Dublin: Fourmasters Press, 2014. xxv, 211p. illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781903538203. €70)

In 1840 John O'Donovan, William Wakeman and Anthony Curry did fieldwork in County Wexford on behalf of the Ordnance Survey. O'Donovan spent some two months in the county between May and July, reporting his findings daily in the form of letters to Thomas Larcom. Rooted in the evidence of the landscape, and those who lived on it, the scholarly researches of O'Donovan and his co-workers are preserved in these letters, now made more accessible in Michael Herity's handsome new edition.

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### *Ordnance Survey letters, Limerick: Letters relating to the antiquities of the County of Limerick containing information collected during the progress of the Ordnance Survey 1840*

Editor Michael Herity; assistant editor David McGuinness

(Dublin: Fourmasters Press, 2014. xvii, 215p. illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781903538210. €70)

John O'Donovan, together with Patrick O'Keeffe and Anthony Curry of the Ordnance Survey commenced fieldwork in County Limerick in late July 1840. William Wakeman provided sketches of the more significant antiquities encountered. The letters written by O'Donovan and O'Keeffe to report on their findings are newly edited here in an edition that also includes many of Wakeman's sketches.



## Historic Settlement: Bantry

### *Report on the Forty-Third Annual Regional Conference of the Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement, Bantry, 9–11th May 2014*

The forty-third annual conference of the Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement was held at Bantry, Co. Cork in May. The Maritime Hotel, overlooking the spectacular Bantry Bay, was the venue for the gathering. The focus of the conference was the historic settlement of Bantry and West Cork, with experts straddling the disciplines of archaeology, architecture, geography and history sharing insights into various aspects of the historic settlement of western Cork.

#### **Friday 9 May 2014**

Dr Colin Breen of the University of Ulster officially launched the conference programme, laying the groundwork for the weekend's lecture series with his keynote address – 'A Remote Landscape? Bantry and Beara – a landscape cultural history'. Guiding us through 15,000 years of history of our surrounding environs, Dr Breen traced the development and continuity of settlement in the Beara peninsula from the end of the last ice age to its more recent times elaborating on its geology and agricultural and industrial pasts and upon themes such as Bronze Age ritual activity, medieval fisheries and Cromwellian architecture, noting its significant role in the wider North Atlantic social world.

#### **Saturday 10 May 2014**

Saturday's agenda was separated into two events: a morning of papers followed by an afternoon field trip around the Mizen Peninsula led by Prof. William O'Brien of UCC and Dr Connie Kelleher of DAHG.

Dr Paul MacCotter of UCC instigated the morning session with his paper 'Medieval Bantry, Beara and *An Fonn Iartharach*', providing a synthesis of the medieval settlement and politics of the Bantry area and its neighbouring Beara, Mizen and Sheep's Head peninsulas. Commencing with a brief overview of prehistoric myth and legend, involving key deities of the Celtic pantheon such as (Teach) Donn, Caillech Bérrí and Lug, a discussion of the early Church through to the settlement patterns of the later medieval period ensued before ending on a consideration of the Irish genealogies and surnames and the vindication of DNA testing.

Dr Connie Kelleher of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DAHG) followed with her insightful paper on the archaeological and historical evidence for the operation of pirates in 17th century south-west Cork and showed how the West Cork coastline proved to be the perfect pirate haven, rife with flourishing clandestine businesses, facilitating a network that extended from Bantry to the New World and North Africa. Beginning with a review of documentary evidence of pirate activity in the area and biographies of key individuals, Dr Kelleher then speculated on the potential archaeological evidence for the illicit smuggling activities and pirate communities of the Beara area, divulging the locations of latent pirate bases such as the rock-cut smuggler steps at Crookhaven and lantern spaces at Dutchman's Cove.

The second session of the day began with an examination of Dún na Séad Castle, a 17th century fortified house at Baltimore, Cork. Eammon Cotter guided us through an overview of the architectural composition of the building, focusing on the curious intermixing of 13th and 17th century elements found in its fabric and the layout of the building. A synopsis of the recent archaeological undertakings and conservation followed. Cotter then turned to an enlightening discussion of whether the building was of medieval origin or a 17th century construct recycling elements from an existing medieval castle ruin.

Colm Moloney of Rubicon Archaeology closed Session 3 with a discussion of some of the findings of his ongoing research into the archaeology of the Napoleonic-era defensive networks on Bere Island, during the years 1796–1815. Moloney provided us with an overview of some of the mapped defences and a description of how these military installations functioned, how effective they were, or would have been, if they had actually ever been required. What was really brought across was the incredible paranoia abound in Cork at that time, in their fear of French invasions – a fascinating example of an archaeology of the manifestations of sheer hysteria.

Saturday afternoon was devoted to a guided tour of the Mizen Peninsula by Prof. William O'Brien and Connie Kelleher. For the most part, the weather was favorable. The first stop on our trip was Kilmoe church; Kilmoe being the most southerly village in Ireland, overlooking Crookhaven Bay. This was followed by a circuit of the peninsula by bus, where a variety of sites and monuments including standing stones; drowned monuments including field walls; fish palaces and oyster farms; signal towers; Black Castle; Barley Cove; Aderrawinny portal tomb and the famed Mount Gabriel copper mines were pointed out to us. Following a brief stop at Crookhaven, our destination was the Altar wedge tomb, one of a dozen wedge-shaped tombs in the Mizen peninsula and the first national monument in the area. Prof. O'Brien described the deliberate orientation of the tomb so that it is perfectly aligned with the Mizen Peak at the setting of the sun on All Souls Day and discussed the finds discovered within it including cremated human bone and whale and dolphin remains, the Bronze and Iron Age ritualistic fire and deposition practices associated with it and its 18th century association with Penal Masses.

St Mary's Old Church, the main parish church of Schull was our final stop where we were treated to some fine ship graffiti on the plaster render inside dated to the 1720s. Time, unfortunately, did not permit a stop at the Mount

Gabriel mining site but the group passed through the scenic Mount Gabriel pass en route back to the conference venue, where a wine reception and conference dinner awaited us.

#### Sunday 11 May 2014

Following the Annual General Meeting on Sunday morning, Prof. David Dickson of Trinity College Dublin commenced Sunday's itinerary with his enlightening lecture on exactly what was so special about the landscape of 18th century Cork; comparing the evolution of farming and agriculture in the area with that of East Munster and Northwest Ulster. He concluded by suggesting that we should understand that it was a case of timing rather than character than ensured the success of West Cork at this time.

Prof. William Smyth of UCC continued from Dickson with his enthralling, interdisciplinary examination of the Great Famine in West Cork drawing insights and evidence from documentary and oral accounts, first-hand artistic depictions, prose and poetry; discussing demographics, harrowing mortality statistics, economics, politics, folklore and the ability to speak the Irish language, in order to represent the reality of the Great Irish Famine in Cork and to place its experience into its wider framework of South Munster and Ireland.

James Hourihane brought the conference to its close with his fond synopsis of Bantry – 'A Place Apart' was a geographical slideshow of the beautiful Bantry area, with images of the landscape and town through time, including Bantry House and its ornamental gardens and the now defunct Bantry Railway Station, leaving us with the sentiment 'Bantry: the only place where you can see the weather coming at you', a wholly appropriate sentiment for the weekend and a perfect conclusion to the conference programme, entirely complementing Breen's inaugural lecture.

Two fieldtrips were organized for the remainder of Sunday afternoon; a tour of Bantry House and Gardens, which this author opted for, or a tour of Bantry and its environs led by James Hourihane. Reports indicate that both tours were very enjoyable and successful.

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School of Geography, Archaeology & Palaeoecology, QUB

GSIS Student bursary recipient 2014

#### Thematic conferences and their associated publication

**February 1999** – 'Landscape and settlement in Gaelic Ireland c.1350–1600'. P.J. Duffy, David Edwards and Elizabeth FitzPatrick (eds), *Gaelic Ireland, c.1250–c.1650: land, lordship and settlement* (2001)

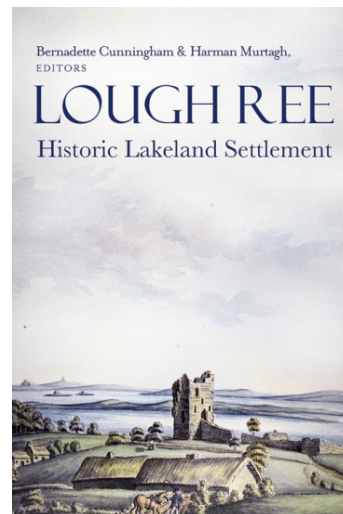
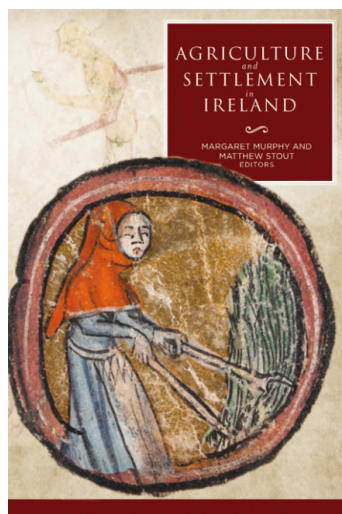
**February 2003** – 'The parish in medieval and early modern Ireland: community, settlement and pastoral care'. Elizabeth FitzPatrick and Raymond Gillespie (eds), *The parish in medieval and early modern Ireland: community, territory and building* (2006)

**February 2006** – 'Plantation Ireland: settlement and material culture, c.1550–c.1700'. James Lyttleton and Colin Rynne (eds), *Plantation Ireland: settlement and material culture, c.1550–c.1700* (2009)

**March 2009** – 'Farming systems and settlement, c.1200–1914'. Margaret Murphy and Matthew Stout (eds), *Agriculture and settlement in Ireland* (2015)

**February 2012** – 'Climate, environment, settlement and society: changing historic patterns'.

**February–March 2015** – 'Church and settlement in Ireland: landscape, life and legacy'.



New publications of the Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement

# Space, place and community on the Courtown Estate, 1650–1931

## Introduction

The origins of the Courtown Estate lie with the Stopford family, a landed family associated with Lancashire and Cheshire. Captain James Stopford was an officer in the parliamentary army and, following his engagement in Ireland, he was granted a significant amount of land. Over the next three hundred years his descendants acquired, consolidated and divested themselves of land as a result of both considered strategies and changing fortunes. This article outlines doctoral research currently being undertaken which considers the interaction between space, place and community on the Courtown Estate.

## Research Outline

A combination of traditional and digital research techniques are being used to examine the interplay of space, place and community on the Courtown Estate. The work falls into two main sections. Section one investigates the evolution of the Courtown Estate from the 1640s through to 1858, drawing on surveys, deeds and estate papers to piece together the development of the estate over a two hundred year period and analyse land acquisition strategies employed by the landlord. Section two focuses on the period from 1858, when the fifth earl succeeded to the title, to the break-up of the estate in 1931. It provides a detailed comparison of the six distinct locations that made up the Courtown Estate, in terms of factors such as landscape and population. Three of these locations have been selected for further analysis into the nature of landholding on the Courtown Estate to assess the extent to which place plays an active role. Data for this analysis is being extracted from estate rentals and valuation records, and entered into a geographical information system (GIS) for querying and visualisation.

## Origins of the Courtown Estate, 1650–1694

In the mid-seventeenth century the Stopfords were an established, but minor, gentry family with branches in Lancashire and Cheshire, England. James Stopford inherited property in Cheshire c.1650 through his maternal line; this included land, buildings and a townhouse in Macclesfield, and a 1,500 acre estate in the remote hamlet of Saltersford, close to the Derbyshire border (The National Archives Kew, C 6/110/92). Stopford first came to Ireland as a captain in the parliamentary army during the 1640s. The outcome of this was that he was granted a significant amount of land and succeeded in positioning himself at the heart of the administration in Ireland. Analysis shows that by 1670 Captain James Stopford held in excess of 18,000 plantation acres across counties Carlow, Kildare, Kilkenny, Meath, Tipperary, Westmeath and Wexford. These lands were acquired by two means: as part of the settlement in lieu of his pay as a soldier, and through the purchase of land from other soldiers and adventurers. Following the death of his English wife, James Stopford married the daughter of Sir Robert Forth. By this time he was living at New Hall, Co. Meath, and his two daughters by his second wife subsequently married prominent members of Irish society: Baron Newtown Butler and the fourth Earl of Meath (Lodge 1789, 118–9).

## Expansion and Consolidation, 1695–1858

After the death of James Stopford in 1685, there followed a period of expansion and consolidation of lands. James was succeeded by his grandson, James, who married Frances Jones, the sole daughter and heiress of Roger Jones of Kilbride, Co. Wexford c.1695. Through this marriage he acquired the Manor of Prospect, Co. Wexford (NLI, D. 18,749–18,811). It appears that Capt. James Stopford may have over-extended himself when accumulating his estates since in 1703 James Stopford, the younger, found himself forced to pay off debts that could not be charged against the estate by vesting ‘certain lands and hereditaments ... lying in the Co. Meath, in trustees to be sold for payment of debts and portions, and for other purposes’ by means of a private act (1703 (2 Ann.) c. 4P). In 1711 James Stopford purchased substantial estates from John Chichester who was heavily in debt (NLI, D. 18,749–18,811). These townlands, along with the Manor of Prospect, were to form the core of the Kiltennel Estate, where Courtown House, the demesne and home farm would be located.

James Stopford, the younger, died in 1721, his eldest son, another James, inheriting (Brydges, 323). He married Elizabeth Smyth, only daughter of Edward Smyth, Bishop of Down and Connor, and this brought to the marriage more than 4,000 acres of land across Dublin, Kildare, Roscommon and Wexford (RoD, Lib 50, Page 516, No. 34071). In 1758 James Stopford was created Baron Courtown in the County of Wexford, entitling him to take a seat in the Irish House of Lords (*Pue's Occurrences*, Vol. LV, Numb. 70, 1) and in 1762 he was created Earl of Courtown (*Pope's Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette*, 99). He died in 1770 (Brydges 1868, 323).

Over the following century the estate was further consolidated, the focus being on lands in Cheshire, Wexford and Carlow. The family spent a good deal of time in England where, through marriage, they had now entered court circles. In 1842, the fourth Earl purchased lands at Medophall, Co. Wexford from Lord Mount Norris, for £40,000 (TCD MS 11183/P59/1). This expenditure, along with the inability of tenants to pay their rents during the Famine years, did nothing to ease his financial situation, forcing him to sell some of his property on the Macclesfield estate, and to put his Kerry and Kilkenny estates up for auction under the Encumbered Estates Court in 1849 (LEC rentals). By 1883 the Courtown Estate consisted of 23,000 acres in just three counties: Cheshire, Wexford

and Carlow (Bateman 1883, 108). The estate remained intact until the 1923 Land Act, which saw the compulsory purchase of untenanted land, and the 1931 Land Act when tenants became vested in their holdings.

#### Land and Landholding on the Courtown Estate, 1858–1911

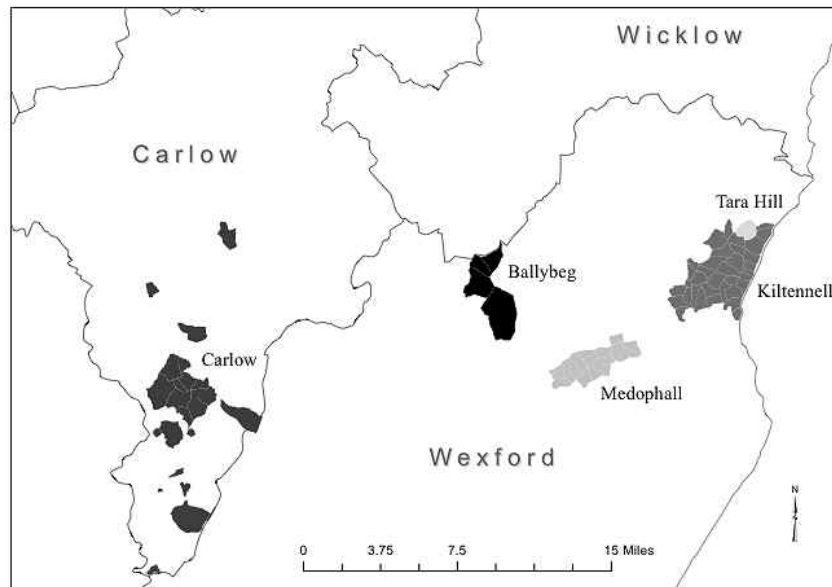


Figure 1 Lands held in Ireland by Earl of Courtown c.1858

Figure 1 above shows the lands held in Ireland by the fifth earl of Courtown when he succeeded to the title in 1858. From a spatial and administrative perspective, the Irish estate was divided into five land groupings: Ballybeg, Carlow, Kiltennell (which included the Courtown demesne), Medophall and Tara Hill. Saltersford in England also remained part of the estate. These lands are compared and contrasted with a particular focus on the following factors: geology, landscape, population, farming activities, valuation and proximity to communications. As such, the research is inter-disciplinary in nature drawing on historical, geographical and archaeological information. Three distinct areas – Kiltennell, Medophall and Saltersford – have been selected for further in-depth analysis, which focuses on the period 1858–1911, which includes the Land Acts and Land War.

#### Creating a GIS

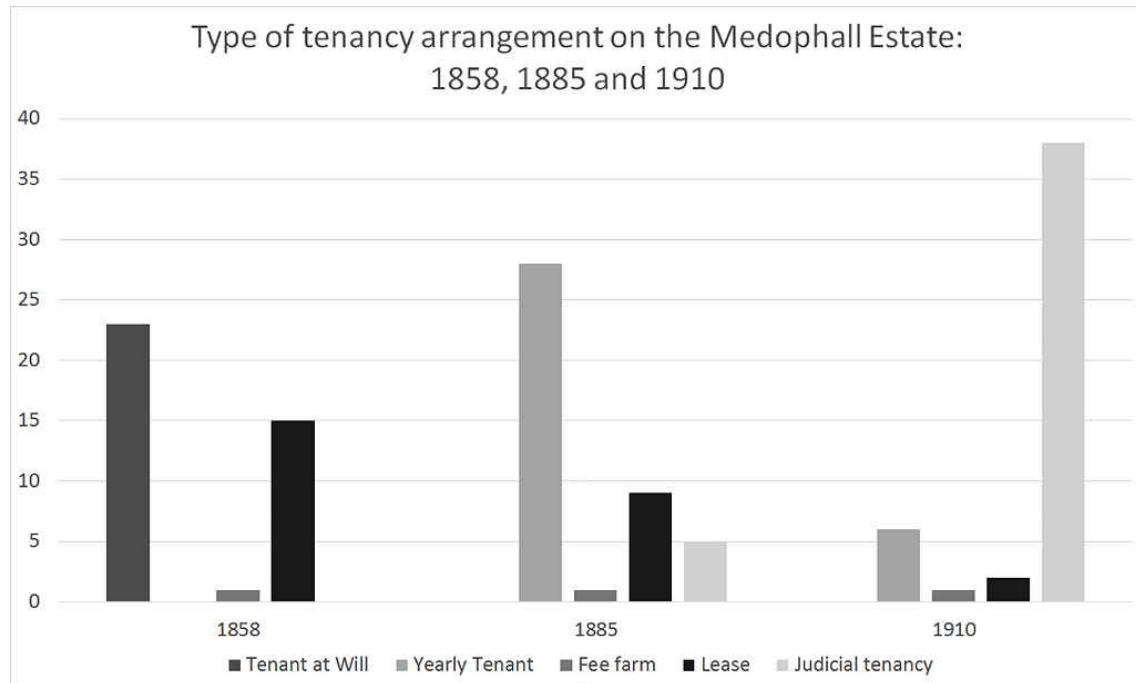
Each of the sample locations is being mapped to field level; first edition Ordnance Survey maps are scanned and uploaded into a GIS where they are georeferenced and field boundaries digitised. This spatial data is combined with attribute data extracted from estate rentals and valuation office books and collected in a database. Data includes each tenant's place of birth and religious affiliation where known, and the type of tenancy arrangement. When the information has been fully collated it will be possible to query the data and visualise the findings in map format, making any patterns within the data easily discernible.

#### Analysis of Tenancy Arrangements

The following analysis, based on just one aspect of one location on the estate, shows how the sources can be employed to build up a more refined understanding of the mechanisms that were at play. The Medophall estate, amounted to just over 3,284 acres, and was acquired in 1842. Preliminary analysis shows that in 1858 there were thirty-six direct tenants, some holding more than one plot. Figure 2 (on page 36) provides a breakdown of holdings by tenancy type; twenty-three plots were held at will, fifteen under a lease and one under a fee farm arrangement. Fourteen of the leases had been created between 1802 and 1825, prior the fifth earl's purchase of Medophall. All fourteen of these were leases for lives and were still in force through to the 1860s, demonstrating the longevity of such arrangements. Lord Courtown had effected just one lease following the purchase; this was for a term of twenty-one years. A charge made against Lord Courtown in 1869 was that he seldom granted leases, and preferred tenants who were Protestants, like himself. (*Dublin Evening Mail*, 4). While the latter requires further research, evidence suggests that the former charge was accurate; certainly by 1885 there were only nine plots with leases attached; the fee farm remained, as well as twenty-eight tenants 'from year to year'. The 1881 Land Act enabled tenants to have their rents fixed by judicial arbitration for a period of fifteen years. This gave rise to a new category of tenancy, and in 1885 five tenants were 'judicial tenants'. By 1910 the overwhelming majority of tenancies



were judicial. Other than the fee farm, all of the previous leases had expired, though Lord Courtown made two new leases in 1901 in relation to the Catholic burial ground. There were only six yearly tenants.



**Figure 2** Comparison of tenancies on the Medophall Estate: 1858, 1885 and 1910

Similar analysis is being conducted for other areas of the estate to understand the extent to which there was variance between different locations, and if so, why.

### Conclusion

Large estates such as Courtown are frequently dispersed across county and even national boundaries. This lack of contiguity can often be attributed to the organic way in which they developed in space and in time; some lands were strategic purchases, but others were granted, inherited or part of a marriage settlement. While such estates are cohesive entities with regard to ownership, variances often exist between their component spaces, in terms of landscape, history and community, and it is in identifying these variances that a greater understanding of the interaction of space, place and community can be reached.

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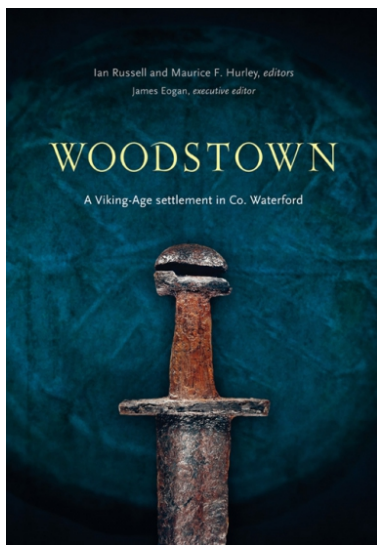
## Reviews

### ***Woodstown: a viking age settlement in Co. Waterford***

Edited by James Eogan, Ian Russell and Maurice F. Hurley

(Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2014. 413p. Pbk. ISBN 978-84682-536-1. €40)

On 4 March 2004, at the height of Celtic tiger expansionism, the *Irish Times* announced to the world the discovery of a Viking ‘fortress’ at Woodstown in Co. Waterford that Donnchadha Ó Corráin hailed as ‘of international importance’. However, the discovery was not a particularly welcome one as it had been made as part of the preparatory works for the new N25 Waterford City bypass. Given the then recent difficulties over the Carrickmines site near Dublin city and the impending legal challenges over the M3 motorway route through the Skreen Valley, the discovery of Woodstown seemed only to bring difficulties. In fact, as later became apparent, the then Minister for the Environment knew about the discovery almost a year before its announcement to the public but was presumably unwilling to deal with the consequences of such an announcement. Indeed consequences there were. Despite calls for full excavation of the site on the grounds that, in the words of Pat Wallace, ‘moving the road is insane’, it was decided in February 2005 to preserve the site in situ and it was declared a national monument in May 2005.



This volume is the report of the limited excavations carried out on the site in 2003–5 in advance of the proposed road construction and of some further limited excavations in 2007. Undoubtedly the high profile of the site has contributed to the speedy production of a very handsome and impressive volume in an age when most publishers are reluctant to produce such technical yet vital volumes. If anyone still inclines to the view expressed by Brian Duffy, the state’s chief archaeologist, in September 2003 (and printed in the *Irish Times* on 20 June 2005) that the idea that Woodstown was a Viking longphort was a ‘speculative notion . . . with absolutely no archaeological evidence to support it’, then this report will finally confute them. Despite the limited area of the excavations the yield in both structures and finds has been rich and the main function of this volume is to report on them. Thus, there are specialist reports on metal; ceramics, glass and amber; stone; organic material (antler, bone and textiles) and human and faunal remains as well as on the structures uncovered. This material is, of course, important for the study of Viking archaeology not only in Ireland but elsewhere.

For the reader with an interest in settlement, as opposed to material culture, the most important part of the volume is Maurice Hurley’s discussion of the significance of the site in the final chapter. This highlights the arrangement of the site as two ‘D’ shaped structures that contained within them houses, though only one fairly complete ground plan was recovered, and an industrial area with evidence of iron working and possibly glass and silver working. There is also evidence, as one might expect, of ship repair, if not actual shipbuilding. Given the limited amount that is known about the character of settlement in late tenth- and early eleventh-century Ireland the detail that this report provides adds considerably to our understanding, drawn mainly from existing urban excavations in Dublin and Waterford. Rural Viking settlement has, until now, been a little explored subject not least because of the invisibility of such settlements, even one as rich as Woodstown has turned out to be, through traditional methods of field survey or aerial photography. All this should remind us that the history of settlement in Ireland is a story of a subject in flux and the Woodstown report provides evidence of that.

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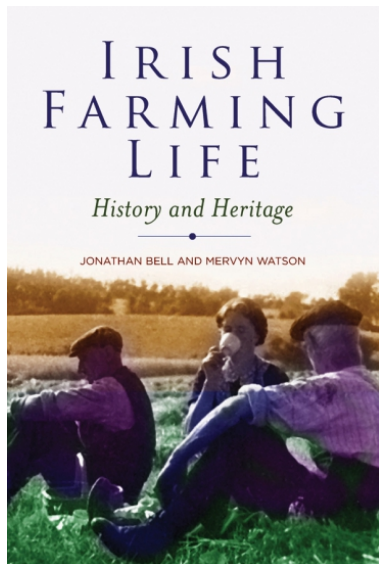
### ***Irish farming life: history and heritage***

Jonathan Bell and Mervyn Watson

(Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2014. 212p. Pbk. ISBN 978-84682-531-6. €24.95)

Over the last decade Jonathan Bell and Mervyn Watson have constructed a formidable partnership that has shaped the way in which we view the history of modern agriculture. Their 2009 history of Irish farming provided a model overview of the evolution of Irish agricultural practice since 1750 that is rivalled only by John Feehan’s magisterial *Farming in Ireland*. A development from that 2009 book was their 2012 work on the history of cottage gardens and allotments in Ireland, *Rooted in soil* (reviewed in *Áitreabh* no. 18, 2013–14). In some ways this departed from the ‘horn and corn’ school of agricultural history to look at the arguments used to encourage gardening on small plots and it was an essay on agricultural and social ideas rather than the practice of agriculture.

This book too is different, though related, to the first one. While there is a good deal in this book about the mechanics of agriculture it is not really about the soil but about the sociology, or perhaps the anthropology, of the people who gained their living from it. However, even that does not capture its essence for, as the authors themselves say, 'this book is about the past, but also about the way people remember the past, and how and why they celebrate it'. The institutional celebration of that agricultural past, for example, is considered in a chapter on heritage centres and museums. The main form of evidence deployed in this volume is that of oral history (discussed in chapter 1) and what that oral evidence has to say about family, neighbours, farm labourers and servants, belonging, and ploughing matches, the subjects of each of the chapters of the volume.



Some of the best chapters engage effectively not only with the reality but also the perception of the rural past. Chapter 6 on ploughing matches, for example, is a wonderful exploration of a neglected subject that examines not just the technicalities of ploughing but also the social implications of the regular meeting of neighbours to create a sense of local 'community' through competition. The long running debate about the nature of 'community' is thoroughly aired in chapter 5 dealing with the idea of belonging. This dismisses the idea of a mythic cohesive community in the past that is continually in decay but equally recognises that present-day stories of the decline of the cohesive farming family and increasing isolation do have a validity. Such disjunctures between perception and real stories should prompt those who study the local past to reflect on exactly what they mean when they use words such as 'community' which certainly retain a validity despite attempts to brand them as manifestations of 'romanticism'. However the volume is rather uneven. Chapter 2 on the family draws on a very eclectic body of sources. The extent to which the chosen sources are representative of reality is doubtful (clear from the juxtaposition of a 1906 photograph of an interior near Clogher with the cover of 'Big Tom's' greatest hits album (p. 21) on the basis that Big Tom's songs contain messages about motherhood). Overall, this is an impressionistic volume that is in-

tended to provoke and by juxtaposing past and present to force new questions about how Irish rural society worked in the past. It is not simply a nostalgic picture book of Irish farming (although there are a number of wonderful illustrations in this volume) and the darker side of poverty in rural life is depicted here as well. Most fundamentally this book forces us to examine the assumptions that we make about the recent rural world and how it can, or should, be studied and presented either in writing or in a physical way and for prompting such an examination we should be very grateful.

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#### ***Ireland in the Medieval World AD 400–1000: landscape, kingship and religion***

Edel Bhreathnach

(Dublin: Four Courts, 2014. x, 316pp. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 978-1-84682-341-1; Pbk. 978-1-84682-342-8. Hbk. €50.00, Pbk. €24.95)

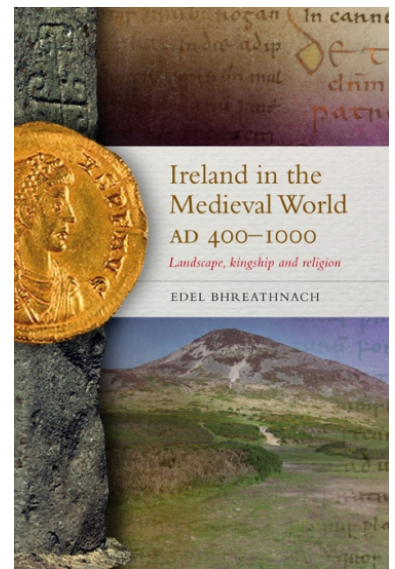
Edel Bhreathnach has written on almost every aspect of early Irish history. This monograph is a distillation of her ideas on many aspects of the subject. Following an introduction the book is divided into three main parts – after which there is a conclusion. In writing the book her aim has been 'To them [her family] and to all young scholars willing to read this book, I offer it in the hope that it will inspire them to explore the fascinating culture and history of early medieval Ireland'.

The introduction is an important discussion of the tradition of writing history in medieval Ireland. This lays emphasis upon *senchas* 'the collective consciousness of the Irish as expressed by their historians'. The purpose of this is to demonstrate that 'Recourse to history, myth and tradition has always been a critical element of the Irish construct of their place in the known world and the world's view of them'. It also provides an introduction to the varying types of source materials available to the historian. The early Irish themselves used the oral traditions from their past and the new written materials they encountered as a result of becoming Christian in the process of history-making. This is a most useful discussion setting up the reader for the encounter with the sources that are used as examples throughout the book.

Chapter 1 deals with 'The landscapes of early medieval Ireland'. The plural is used to reinforce the idea that there were a myriad of landscapes – multi-layered in which the populations worked, fought, worshiped, conducted ceremonial activities – in which they read the history of their past in the light of the present; and which gave soul to early medieval Ireland. In this we are introduced to the natural environment and then the settled landscape – rural, urban and semi-rural. Trading hubs of the late antique period are traced up to and including Viking coastal towns.

The introduction of trading hubs is new (at least for historians) and begins an emphasis upon communications between Ireland and the outside world – a theme that is constant throughout the book. Through the use of place-names a view of the medieval landscape gradually begins to emerge. The results of archaeological excavations are used in tandem with the use of other sources from the beginning and this continues throughout. The story of early Ireland is always kept close to the soil. Traditionally medieval Ireland has been presented as an almost entirely rural landscape but this is challenged by reference to Christian concepts and ideas and a re-examination of church sites and other site types that have been revealed more recently. Here it is suggested that not sufficient attention has been paid to models elsewhere in Europe and the Near East and that clustered settlements, ecclesiastical or lay, market places or places of assembly might be better understood if they were discussed in light of similar places elsewhere. The implication is (a recurring theme) that we should discover that Ireland has a great deal in common with developments taking place in Europe during much the same periods.

Chapter 2 is entitled ‘Kingdoms, kings and people’. The linguistic terms for the divisions of the population are discussed and then the earliest peoples of Ireland are introduced by way of Ptolemy’s Geography, ogham stones and the earliest annals and genealogies. The chronological sequence is implied rather than spelled out. Like the layering of the landscape the layering of the populations that occupied it – from the politically dominant at the top to the barely visible subject peoples at the bottom are brought into view. This is followed by a discussion of the evolution of a prehistoric sacral kingship into a kingship ‘ordained by God’. This again is closely tied to the landscape and in particular to great sites such as Tara, Cashel, Emain Macha and Cruachan. The narrative moves from the ideal of kingship to what is known about kings and their subjects in the historical period. The method is to use an historical event and examine it in detail – a microcosm that can be replicated throughout the island. The role of noble women is examined, consorts, sisters and mothers. This is a very important aspect of society that has begun to be explored in recent years and provides greater depth to political motivation and strategies. Again archaeology is brought into play since modern scientific techniques have revolutionised our understanding of death and burial and has thrown a flood of light upon the life of children and women of all ages.



The nature of a royal house and its household in literature and archaeology is examined. What was the life of a king like? How did he die? Where was his place of burial? How was his successor chosen? Chapter 2 comes to a close dealing with these matters.

Chapter 3 has as its theme, ‘Religion, ritual and ritualists’. The evidence for pre-Christian beliefs is explored. Anthropological and cognitive scientific models are applied in a search for the old belief system of the pre-Christian Irish. This presents us with the ongoing debate concerning the degree to which ‘paganism’ has survived into the historical period. Rites of passage are explored (from birth, puberty to death and rebirth) and the role of springs and watery places are examined in relation to the importance of baptism in the Christian religion. Questions are asked of who conducted the rituals, traces of which are noted at sites such as Newgrange and elsewhere; and this naturally leads to a discussion of the evidence for the earliest Christian activity in the island. Using archaeology and literature the progress of Christianisation is charted. The nature of ecclesiastical sites from the ascetic hermitage to the church on a lord’s estate, to the bustling monastic ‘cities’ is probed and the relationship of such sites to each other and to the lay population living on and beyond the ecclesiastical estates is examined. Again much of this discussion is placed against the continental background. Particular attention is paid to Armagh – how and in what way did this church emerge as the chief church in Ireland. How far did Christian ideals penetrate society in general? This is approached through a discussion of models of pastoral care, ecclesiastical legislation, pilgrimage, graves and cemeteries.

The conclusion contains a statement: ‘Understanding these profound connections with our landscape and our culture can only deepen our appreciation of our country’s past, and out of that depth of knowledge might emerge a new energy and stability. This book is an introduction to this medieval world. It guides its readers to a threshold beyond which there is so much to learn and investigate’. This is indeed a wonderful introduction because of the clarity of the writing and presentation. But it is more than an introduction for it offers the professional historian challenges through the ideas and suggestions that have been offered – and for the first time the history of early Ireland may be read in parallel with that of early Europe. Dr Bhreathnach is to be congratulated for opening a new window on early Ireland.

Charles Doherty / Editor / Áitreabh



**Archaeology and Celtic Myth: an exploration**

John Waddell

(Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2014), 232pp. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 978-1-84682-494-4. €40.50)

John Waddell in the preface to this book refers to Stuart Piggott's suggestion that 'Innovation and radical change were exceptional, the conservatism of barbarian Europe, as he called it, led to the preservation of accustomed modes and the retention and transmission of tradition down the generations'. As he points out Piggott meant a time scale that spanned not just centuries but millennia. Waddell's study 'is an exploration and its central premise is that elements of pre-Christian Celtic myth preserved in medieval Irish literature shed light on older traditions not just in Ireland but elsewhere in Europe as well'. The subject of his exploration concerns the transmission of cosmographic beliefs and concepts of kingship and how this may be correlated with archaeology.

The opening chapter introduces the reader to the variety of scholarly opinion concerning the value (or not) of medieval Irish literature in gaining access to the pagan past. This is a debate that is ongoing but it is no longer as divisive as it has been. Archaeologists may have been reluctant in the past to engage with early Irish literature but when attempting to come to an understanding of sites such as Navan fort, Tara, Cashel and Rathcroghan it was simply unavoidable. There has been a flood of literature by archaeologists, literary scholars and historians in more recent years that allows for comprehensive interpretation to be undertaken. Using the work of Marion Deane on the birth-tale of Cú Chulainn Professor Waddell sets the scene for his exploration throughout the remainder of the book: 'This interpretation of the birth-tale of Cú Chulainn introduces a modern reader to themes such as solar imagery linked to kingship and divinity, a sovereignty goddess associated with land and prosperity, sacral kingship and the Otherworld. These loom large in early Irish tradition and in different ways may have left their mark in archaeological contexts not just in Ireland but further afield'.

An examination of Newgrange, Brú na Bóinne, is the subject of chapter 2. The discovery of the 'roof-box' allowing the rays of the rising sun to penetrate the chamber on the midwinter solstice was an amazing discovery by Professor O'Kelly. The role of the sun could no longer be ignored in relation to the nature of many archaeological sites and objects, and this is a theme that runs through the book. Following a discussion of the archaeology of the tomb, emphasis is placed upon the importance of the River Boyne in relation to the monument. The medieval literature concerning the goddess, Bóand and other mythological figures is introduced. Parallels in the *Rig Veda* as identified by George Dumézil and discussed by other scholars are brought to bear to throw further light on the role of the river showing that it 'had a creative part in the story of the tomb'.

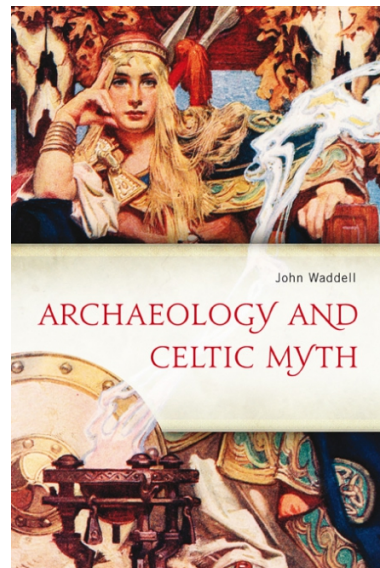
From a massive monument in the landscape attention is directed to objects such as the Petrie Crown, bronze discs from Monasterevin, the Battersea shield, mirrors, buckets, boats incised on Scandinavian rocks, the Trundholm 'chariot of the sun' among many others. This is a very exciting chapter of detective work. Unlikely scrolls, circles, dots, wheels and distorted, almost abstract animals are looked at afresh revealing symbols concerning the movement of the sun across the heavens and its disappearance, seemingly, under the earth. The interpretation of the objects is mirrored by an examination of the literature showing how the mythology, yet again, complements the archaeology and that the solar theme spanned two millennia.

The monuments are then discussed as 'portals to the otherworld' and this leads to an important consideration of the nature of the world beneath our feet. The reason for the deposition of offerings of food, animals and objects in both dry land and in wet is examined. The Otherworld can be the home of malevolent creatures and the caves, fissures and openings in the earth that allow them to enter this world are sought in the literature. The Otherworld was not just a land of beauty and light but one of dark and foreboding.

The remaining chapters approach the archaeology of kingship in a number of ways. The nature of the horse goddess is explored in the literature and the equine associations of the sacred sites are discussed, not merely in Ireland but throughout the Indo-European world. This in turn leads to the appearance of the goddess of sovereignty in the literature and the objects found in an archaeological context, such as cups, bowls and cauldrons that may provide a link with this myth. The final chapter on sacral kingship follows on logically from this. Perhaps the most important outcome from this discussion is that the rich mythology of early Ireland not only illuminates the archaeology of our sacred sites but calls for a re-examination of famous continental burials.

Professor Waddell began with a consideration of the role of the sun in the life of early peoples and he ends with the statement that: '... there is the evident bond between the Otherworld and sacred kings that brings us full circle – just like that diurnal and nocturnal voyage of the sun that must have raised so many questions in ancient Europe'. This is an important, rich and beautifully written book that illuminates both archaeology and mythology.

Charles Doherty / Editor / Áitreabh



## News from the Irish Historic Towns Atlas (IHTA), Royal Irish Academy

Sarah Gearty, Cartographic editor



Figure 1 Rob Goodbody and Roddy Doyle at the launch of Dublin, part III, Academy House, 6 November 2014

### New publications: Dublin and Youghal

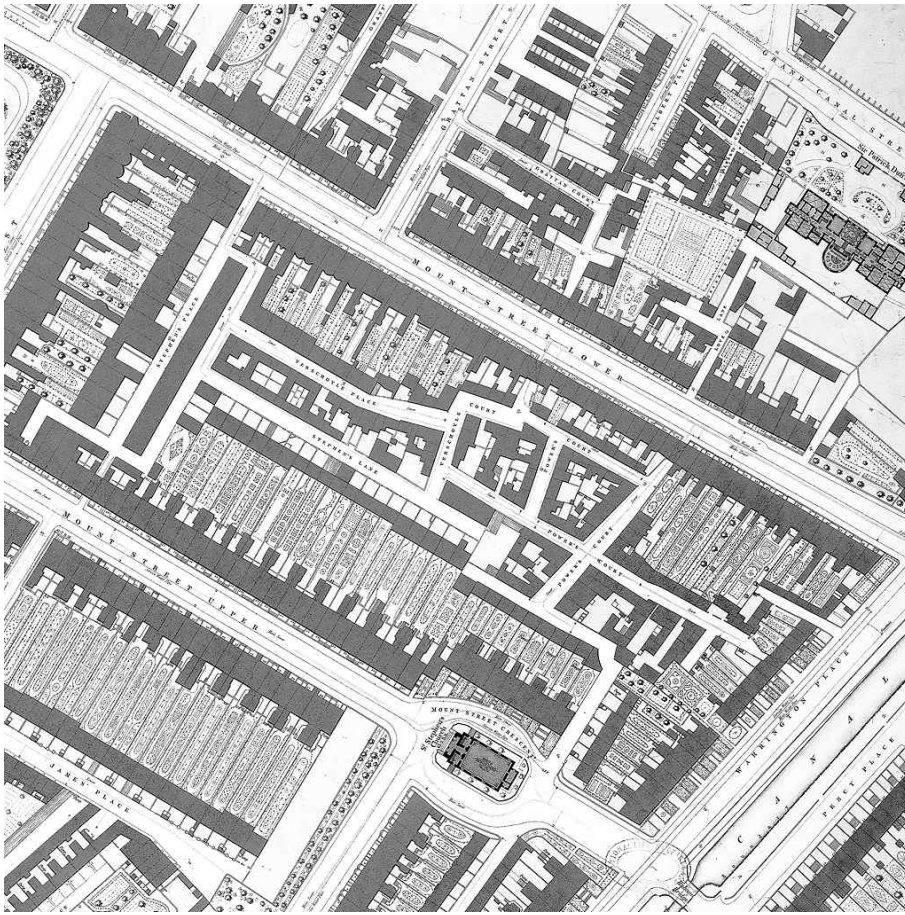
The third part in the Dublin Irish Historic Towns Atlas (IHTA) series was published in November 2014. Compiled by author Rob Goodbody, it continues from *part I*, to 1610 (by Howard Clarke) and *part II*, 1610 to 1756 (by Colm Lennon), and brings the story up to 1847, the date of the first printed large-scale Ordnance Survey town plan of the city. No. 26 in the IHTA series, *Dublin, part III, 1756 to 1847* is the largest atlas produced to date with over 10,000 entries contained in the topographical information section. Roddy Doyle launched the new atlas in Academy House on 6 November 2014 and entertained the audience to his reaction to exploring the Dublin atlas as well as his general love for maps and the city. You can watch his speech online at <http://www.ria.ie/research/ihta> (scroll down).

IHTA, no. 27, *Youghal* by David Kelly and Tadhg O’Keeffe will be published in the first half of 2015 and will be followed in due course by No. 28 *Galway* by Jacinta Prunty and Paul Walsh. See <http://www.ria.ie/research/ihta> for a full listing of published towns, ancillary publications and forthcoming atlases.

Frank Cullen’s *Dublin 1847: city of the Ordnance Survey* is due for publication in March 2015. It will contain forty-five extracts from the large-scale (1:1056) town plan of Dublin (1847), taken from a full set of the thirty-three sheets in the National Library of Ireland (see figure 2 on page 37). Extracts range from particular sites or buildings of various functions, such as Aldborough House, King’s Bridge railway terminus and the Meath Hospital; to areas such as the North city markets district, St Mark’s maritime quarter and Grand Canal Harbour.

### Western towns: learning from the past, mapping our future?

In October 2014 the IHTA ran their first regional comparative seminar, based on western towns, in collaboration with the Hunt Museum and Clare County Library. The seminar was entitled ‘Learning from the past: mapping our future?’ and was hosted by the Hunt Museum. The overarching issue was to discuss what can we learn from the evidence provided by urban experiences that can usefully inform planning and building decisions into the future? Atlas authors Fíona Gallagher (Sligo), Brian Ó Dálaigh (Ennis), Marc Caball (Tralee), Paul Walsh (Galway) and Eamon O’Flaherty (Limerick) introduced their towns and discussed the historical influences that affected the present-day townscapes. Grainne Shaffrey, Merrit Buscholz and Gerard Carty responded offering the practitioner’s perspective, as urban architects working, researching and teaching using sources such as the IHTA.



**Figure 2** Extract 22 from Frank's Cullen's *Dublin 1847* depicting Verschoyle and Power's Courts, Mount Street, from large-scale Ordnance Survey town plan of Dublin (1847)

### Irish towns as shared European Heritage

This year's IHTA annual seminar will take place on Friday 22 May 2015 in the Royal Irish Academy, and will take a different, broader perspective. The theme is 'Irish towns as shared European Heritage' and speakers Ferdinand Opll, Marjaana Niemi, Eamon O'Flaherty, Roman Czaja, Mark Hennessy, and Jacinta Prunty will compare Irish towns with counterparts in Austria, Finland, France, Poland and Ukraine. The plenary paper will be presented by Professor Michael Conzen, University of Chicago who will look at the challenges of comparative urban history.

The European Historic Towns Atlas project has published over 500 atlases to date and 2014 saw the publication of the first *Ukrainian Historic Towns Atlas* edited by Myron Kapral. Another development was the launch in 2014 of the Institute for Comparative Urban History in Münster's Urban History information web portal [www.staedtegeschichte.de](http://www.staedtegeschichte.de) featuring a significant section dedicated to the European HTA project. It includes a brief project history, a database of published HTAs and an interactive distribution map that provides a searchable visual aid to find towns with published atlases (for the English version, see <http://www.uni-muenster.de/Staedtegeschichte/en/portal/staedteatlanten/index.html>). An additional resource with a downloadable list of published towns atlases and static map can also be found in the European project section of IHTA website.

FORTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Malone Lodge Hotel, Belfast

8–10 MAY 2015

Historic Settlement: Belfast and Region

*In association with*

*The Ulster Archaeological Society*

*and*

*School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology, QUB*

**7:00 pm (Friday) Registration and opening reception**  
(School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology,  
Elmwood Avenue, QUB)

**Speakers:**

**Keynote speaker:** Nick Brannon (Former Director of Built Heritage at the Environment and Heritage Service, Belfast)

*An Historical Archaeology of Belfast*

Barrie Hartwell (President of the Ulster Archaeological Society)

*Ballynahatty, an emerging prehistoric landscape*

Dr Philip Macdonald (QUB)

*The search for medieval Belfast*

Dr Mark Gardiner (QUB)

*The character of medieval and later settlement on the Antrim uplands*

Professor Audrey Horning (QUB)

*'If you build it, will they come?' Exploring the early modern town in Ulster*

Ruairí Ó Baoill (QUB)

*Seventeenth-Century Carrickfergus*

Professor Raymond Gillespie (Maynooth University)

*Belfast 1550–1750*

Professor Stephen Royle (QUB)

*'We are very proud of ourselves'. Really? Life in Belfast in the long 19th century*

Dr Elizabeth Thomas (QUB)

*Sailortown, Belfast. A historical and archaeological study of a dockland town 1800–1975*

**Field Trip:** Saturday 2:00 pm by bus to Ballynahatty, Nendrum and Downpatrick  
(Leaders: Barrie Hartwell, Thomas McErlean and Rachel Tracey)

**Field Trip:** Sunday 2:30 pm Carrickfergus Castle, Town and Church (by train or car)  
(Leaders: Tom McNeill and Ruairí Ó Baoill)

Cranmore House (by foot) with Barrie Hartwell

**Reception:** Saturday 7:15 pm

**Conference Dinner:** Saturday 8:00 pm (Malone Suite, Malone Lodge Hotel): £22.50

**Conference Fee:** €50/£40. Students €20/£16. *Fee includes coffee and bus for fieldtrip*

**Individual Sessions [Saturday/Sunday]:** €15/£13

**Annual membership fee:** €15/£13

**Annual student membership fee:** €7/£6

**Sunday 9:30 am** Annual General Meeting of Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement  
(Malone Suite, Malone Lodge Hotel)



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*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, 13 Bancroft Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24; or e-mail: [charles.doherty@upcmail.ie](mailto:charles.doherty@upcmail.ie)*

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