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Editorial

As I near the end of my term as President of the Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement I am reminded of the exchange in the 1984 film *Paris, Texas*. The character played by Harry Dean Stanton is told that he has been away for four years. "Is four years a long time?" he asks. "Well, it is for a little boy. It's half his life", his brother replies. So three years may be 38% of a boy's life but it seems just a wink of an eye to a person of my more mature years. Why the term was set at three years and not four (or longer, or shorter) is known only to those who drew up the original GSIHS constitution. But long or short, this editorial marks my last as President of the Group, and my last year to preside over the annual conference.

It has been a wonderful privilege to head the settlement group. I have tried my best to keep the show on the road and fulfil at least some of my goals. In particular, I wanted to widen the geographical spread of participants and to maintain the strong publishing tradition of the Group. Two books have been published during my administration and they will be launched at the Conference before dinner on Saturday night. *Agriculture and settlement* and *Lough Ree: historic lakeland settlement* were both published by Four Courts Press after our Belfast conference in May. The launch in Ballina will give us another chance to thank the editors, contributors and publishers for their contributions. Our relationship with publishers Four Courts Press is twenty years old next year and we remain grateful for their work on our behalf.

I have made some progress, also, in my efforts to broaden the representation on the committee. We do not meet that often (so much important work can be accomplished via email these days), but when we do meet, members travel to Dublin from Belfast, Carlow, Cork, Julianstown, Limerick and Yougal, round trips exceeding two thousand kilometres each meeting. All of this travel is done at the member's own expense and always with the greatest goodwill. The success of our society is down to the commitment of its members and, especially, the committee.

To ease the transfer from presidency to civilian life, the authors of the GSIHS constitution devised the office of Vice-President. Former Presidents can be honoured with this title and those so honoured hold that office for life. There is no such mechanism for other officers who have provided great service to the Group. The foremost of these is Niamh Crowley. Niamh was Treasurer for thirty-one years (1982–2013), working with ten presidents across two centuries. Niamh was introduced to the Group by her lecturer, Professor (and former GSIHS President) Anngret Simms, and she has remained a member of the group since her student days in UCD in the late 1970s. Since qualifying, Niamh has taught history and geography in the Ursuline Convent in Waterford City and is currently secretary of the Waterford branch of the History Teachers Association of Ireland. More recently, she has come to even greater prominence by representing secondary teachers in their efforts to stave off attempts to downgrade the status of history at Junior Certificate level. This year, the committee decided to honour her extraordinary service to the Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement by naming our student bursaries after her. Two 'Niamh Crowley bursaries' are awarded to students each year, enabling them to attend the annual conference. I hope that future recipients of this bursary will try to emulate Niamh in the service they can offer to their community, to this society, and to the nation.

Before my term ends I have Ballina to look forward to. I hope while you are reading this you are part of an enthusiastic crowd learning about the region and basking in the beauty and heritage of north Mayo. We have made a special effort this year to liaise with the many vibrant local societies in the area. The conference is being held in conjunction with The North Mayo/West Sligo Heritage Group under the leadership of Paddy Tuffy. Welcome support has also come from Leo Leydon of the Sligo Field Club and Guy Racoillet, both active GSIHS members in the west. The Group also welcomes the involvement of Carmen Boland of the Easkey Heritage Society and Noel O'Neill of the Castlebar Historical Society. Finally, I want to acknowledge the generous support of Mayo County Council and their Heritage Officer Deirdre Cunningham. They are hosting our opening reception and have made us feel so welcome in the west, which is unquestionably awake.

Matthew Stout (President) 6 May 2016

Figure 1 Niamh Crowley (second from right) on a field trip to Rindown, Co. Roscommon in June 1978. With Niamh in this photograph are Kevin Whelan (former GSIHS committee member), Katharine Simms, Anngret Simms (former GSIHS president), Arnold Horner and, to the right of Niamh, Máirín Nic Eoin.

Articles

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Shedding Light on Old Roads

Introduction

While modern roads and their construction have been the backbone of commercial archaeology for many years, their origin and archaeological significance are under-appreciated. Little is understood about the nature of the Irish road system before the advent of the turnpike in the eighteenth century. Of what little is known, much is inferred from documentary sources and understood from the perspective of 'routeways' – a way or course taken in order to get from a starting point to a destination. A road, on the other hand, is a physical object, a material artefact of past human societies. This latter concept has been relatively neglected in archaeological research. As part of an ongoing research project looking at the development of medieval agriculture and settlement in Ireland, the author carried out a scoping study looking at the efficacy of second-hand LiDAR data to detect potential archaeological earthworks. The systematic visualisation and analysis of the LiDAR data, generously provided by the Office of Public Works, resulted in the identification of hundreds of sites of potential archaeological significance, including several possible medieval roads, the majority of which were identified in Co. Tipperary. These features may help to reconstruct the ways through which past communities structured and negotiated their way through the landscape.

Research background

Undoubtedly, the bulk of archaeological research into roads in Ireland has focused either on the largely prehistoric bog trackways identified by Barry Raftery and the Irish Archaeological Wetland Unit during the 1980s and 1990s (e.g. see Raftery 1996) or on the subject of the 'highways' of ancient Ireland – the five *slighthe* (e.g. see O'Sullivan & Downey 2015). With the former, the systematic excavation and analysis of these trackways has led to enormous developments in our comprehension of how past societies may have viewed and interacted with their landscapes. Just as impressive was the discovery of the scale and structural complexity of these monuments, and the inputs of time and labour that were necessary to construct them. Unfortunately, this level of understanding and appreciation of the remainder of the historic roadways around Ireland, indeed the road system itself, does not extend largely beyond assumptions and inferences. This field of study is arguably more developed in Britain, originating from a long-standing tradition of research into the medieval landscape and pioneered by researchers such as Hindley (1971) and Hindle (1993; 1998).

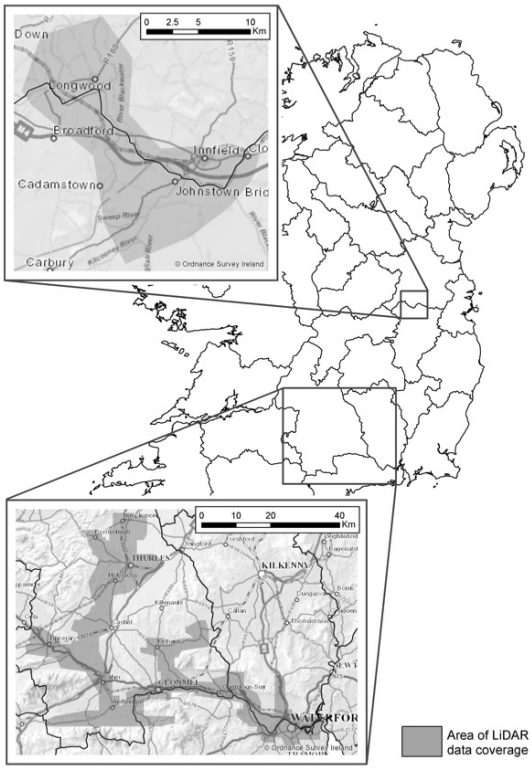

Figure 1 Study areas discussed in this paper (inset base mapping)

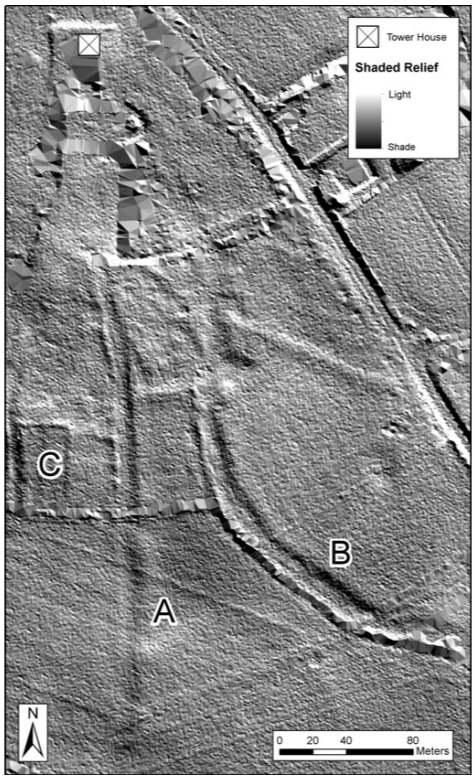

Figure 2 Hill-shaded relief model of Farneybridge, Co. Tipperary, showing sunken roads (A & B) and rectangular fields (C)

In Ireland, however, O'Keeffe (2003, p. 67) estimates that by AD 1608 the total mileage of the road system would have been *c.*6,500 miles, and that much of this network would likely have developed organically with roads appearing and disappearing in tandem with the requirements of local communities. A perusal through

Excavations.ie (2014) shows that at least thirty-seven roadway-type features have been subject to some level of excavation over the years or have been identified following excavation. This is, however, in stark contrast to the 537 sites recorded around Ireland as either "road / trackway" or "hollow-way" (as distinct from other site classifications, e.g. toghers). Notably, ninety-eight of these sites have no recorded location – somewhat of an anomaly for an established archaeological site type. Why is it that there seem to be such large gaps in both our understanding and the recording of road sites? One contributing factor may be the manner in which road sites are identified in the landscape. Often, this is enabled through the observation of aerial imagery whereby roadways, and other archaeological features, are identified as crop- / soil-marks or low-relief earthworks and are frequently observed in large numbers depending on the scale of the imagery coverage. In other cases, their identification is the result of local lore or documentary references which can be potentially rich in detail but lacking in locational information. The combination of these two methods of identification results in a large number of sites that is often beyond the scope of more detailed analysis, particularly of the kind that can generate chronological data. While the evidence presented below follows from largely the same type of broad, landscape-level exercise in prospection that has characterised the systematic use of aerial imagery in Irish archaeology, an effort has been made to discuss these features at least in the context of their parent landscape settings and how they relate to both medieval settlement and the agricultural organisation of the landscape.

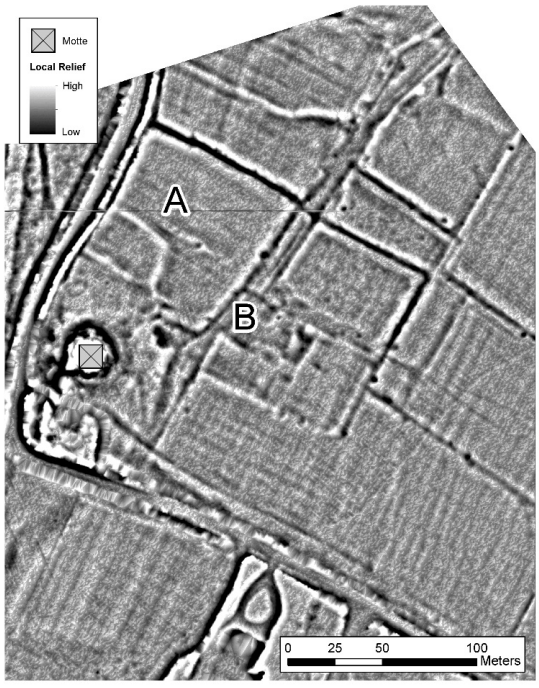

Figure 3 Local relief model of Castlerickard, Co. Meath, showing field system (A) and sunken roadway (B)

The scoping study focused on two areas (see figure 1 on page 1) of OPW LiDAR data coverage. One followed the course of the River Suir and its major tributaries through counties Waterford, Kilkenny and Tipperary, while the other comprised a smaller area around the towns of Enfield and Longwood in counties Kildare and Meath.

Morphology

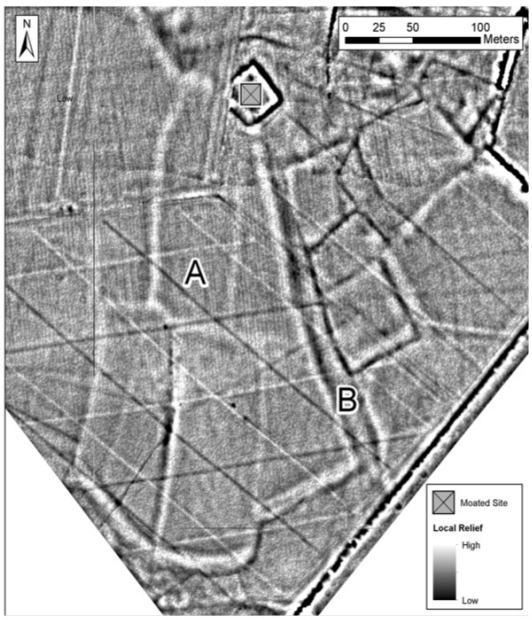

Figure 4 Local relief model of Gorteen, Co. Kildare, showing strip fields (A) and possible roadway (B)

As mentioned above, several medieval and post-medieval roads have been excavated over the years. These structures frequently consist of a band of metalled or cobbled surfacing, bounded by ditches or gullies to either side. A fine example was excavated at Phoenixtown, Co. Meath, by IAC Ltd. (Lyne 2008). This road measured approximately 4m in width and ran for over 38m, and fragments of 13th- / 14th-century pottery were found in the layer sealing the surface, indicating a broad high medieval date for the use of the road itself (ibid. p. 19). Of the several dozen medieval roads that have been identified simply through landscape survey, most appear as either linear bands of sunken ground (also referred to as hollow-ways) or are indicated by the presence of parallel earthen banks or escarpments. The assignment of a medieval date typically derives from the spatial association between the road and known medieval settlement in the area. Two examples have been identified at Ardkill, Co. Kildare. Both are identified as linear depressions in the ground level and seem to be spatially associated with the surrounding late-medieval settlement. One of the roads (National Monuments Service: SMR No. KD008-008004-: Conroy 2011) is 11m in width and traceable for approx. 100m, while the other is only 2m in width and much shorter (National Monuments Service: SMR No. KD008-008005-: Conroy 2011). The visible remains of medieval roads identified during this study vary in size, ranging from under 10m in width to over 20m. As above, they consist of linear depressions in the surrounding ground level, frequently accompanied by earthen banks or apparent escarpments that define their edges along their long axes. For the most part, their courses are not straight, but rather meander across the landscape in response to local topography or settlement and have been traced for up to a kilometre or more in some cases.

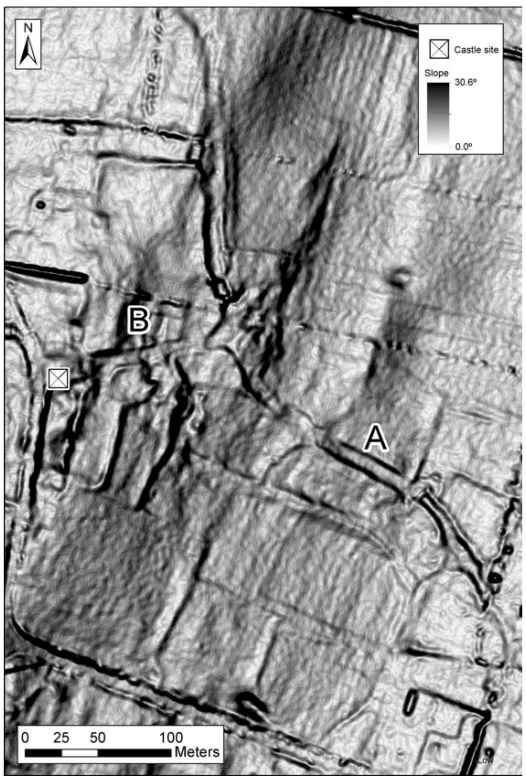

Figure 5 Slope map, using smoothed DEM, of Ardmayle West, Co. Tipperary, showing sunken road (A) and possible 'link-road' (B)

Findings

While it is impossible to determine an exact chronology for these features without more detailed and invasive investigation, several can be seen to interact with recorded archaeological sites. For example, some appear spatially oriented on or around a recorded medieval settlement site while others seem to be structurally integrated into medieval settlement sites. In these cases, at least, it is possible to suggest a date contemporary with the use of their associated medieval settlements. Fifty-eight potential roads were identified, of which seventeen appear associated with medieval archaeological sites (see table 1 on page 3). The formation of these linear earthworks may have been the result of either planned construction or the compound effect of repeated traffic over long periods of time. In some instances, roads that began to develop organically may have subsequently been formalised by the addition of defining features; and some that were formally defined will have been eroded over time. Such is possibly the case at Farneybridge, Co. Tipperary, where a roadway defined by earthen banks running south from a recorded tower house becomes flattened due to subsequent land use (see figure 2 on page 1).

County	Townland	ITM (X,Y)	Associated settlement type
Kildare	Gorteen	677082, 739198	Moated Site
Kilkenny	Tibberaghny	644167, 621848	Motte & Bailey
Kilkenny	Kilmurry	663368, 614108	Tower House
Meath	Castlerickard	671743, 749001	Motte & Bailey
Tipperary	Moloughnewtown	613551, 614216	Church
Tipperary	Cloghabreedy	606105, 627837	Tower House
Tipperary	Ballyvada	600432, 635140	Tower House
Tipperary	Thomastown Demesne South	598683, 635685	Moated Site
Tipperary	Ballymacady	598005, 635440	Tower House; Ringwork
Tipperary	Garranacanty	591333, 636746	Moated Site
Tipperary	Ardmayle West	604773, 646318	Castle (Unclassified)
Tipperary	Moyaliff	604379, 655720	Church
Tipperary	Moyaliff	604432, 656145	Tower House
Tipperary	Farneybridge	606723, 657514	Tower House
Tipperary	Fishmoyne	604710, 666932	Castle (Unclassified)
Tipperary	Ballygriffin	600767, 640308	Fortified House; Church
Waterford	Kilmeaden	651814, 610816	Fortified House; Abandoned Medieval Settlement

Table 1 List of newly-identified possible roads associated with medieval settlement

The possible roads identified during this project could be interpreted as providing one of two functions: some seem to provide an axis and focus for surrounding settlement and agricultural land-use, while others appeared to connect different settlement sites in a nodal manner. An impressive example of the former can be seen at Castlerickard, Co. Meath. Here, a system of regular rectangular fields (see A in figure 3 on page 2) was identified to the north of a recorded Anglo-Norman motte. A broad linear feature was also identified leading away from this motte, and dividing the field system in two (see B in figure 3 on page 2). This feature has a very low profile on the ground, but, using the LiDAR data, it could be seen to consist of two parallel sets of earthen embankments and corresponding gullies, presumably providing a drainage function for either the road or the surrounding fields. The proximity of the motte suggests that this road and its associated field system are of similar medieval date. Another, more ephemeral example, was identified at Gorteen, Co. Kildare. Here, a fascinating system of fields (see A in figure 4 on page 2) was identified stretching southwards from a recorded moated site. Again, a broad linear feature (see B in figure 4 on page 2), consisting of a central area flanked by shallow gullies or earthen escarpments could be seen dividing the fields. What is fascinating is that the fields to either side were morphologically quite different. Those to the west were long, curved

strips, indicative of arable land-use. Those to the east were smaller, square enclosures that may have been the focus of other activities, e.g. enclosing livestock. At this site, therefore, the central roadway may have been designed to divide two distinct areas of agricultural practices.

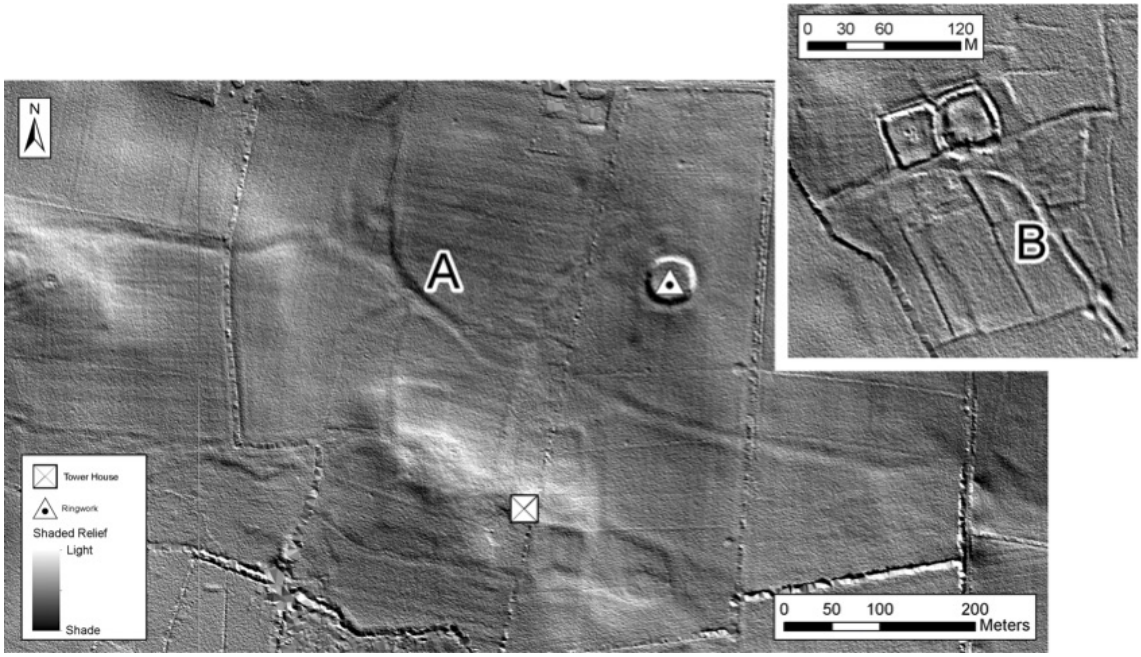

Figure 6 Hill-shaded terrain model of Ballymacady (A) and Thomastown Demesne South (B), Co. Tipperary, showing sunken road system

Several examples of the network-building function of roads were also identified. One such instance can be seen at Ardmayle East and West in Co. Tipperary. Ardmayle East has long been known for the medieval fabric of its landscape. Here we have tower houses, mottes, churches, field systems, deserted settlements and fording points. What has not been recorded so far, however, is a relict roadway running roughly northwest from Ardmayle Bridge for over 700m across the townland of Ardmayle West (see A in figure 5 on page 3). This site is visible on recent Ordnance Survey Ireland aerial orthophotography but, to the author's knowledge, seems not to have been recorded as an archaeological site or otherwise formally recognised. Associated with this road is a regular field system to the south. Along its course, the road seems to 'bulge out' westwards, where a second road (see B in figure 5 on page 3) can be seen to diverge and proceed toward the site of an unclassified castle. The 'main road' cannot be traced beyond a few fields to the north, and it may join up with the modern road network. It is clear, however, that both the 'main' and 'secondary' roads connect the castle site to the bridge and on into Ardmayle East.

A second extraordinary example (see A in figure 6 on page 4) can be seen a little further south in the townlands of Ballymacady and Thomastown Demesne South. This substantial feature can be seen running between an early Anglo-Norman ringwork castle and a later tower house, with distinct 'spurs' branching off to the north and south to the vicinity of both sites. The main east-west stretch of this road is roughly 1km long and between 10m and 15m wide. To the east, its course may have been preserved in a modern field boundary while to the west its path seems to split. One path continues a short distance further west before disappearing while another branch continues southwest almost as far as the River Suir, where there may have been an early crossing point. Other roadways have been identified just to the northeast of the main stretch (see B (inset) in figure 6 on page 4), focusing on a set of conjoined moated sites and an associated field system. These, however, are much narrower (*c.*4m wide) and their paths disappear upon meeting modern field boundaries, presumably indicating subsequent change in land use. There does not appear to be any direct evidence for a link between the road systems. However, taking a look at the wider landscape, it is clear to see that these sets of roads exist as part of a general axis of movement running from the River Suir, through Ballymacady before splitting south toward the River Fidaghta and north toward Moatquarter and Kilfeakle. At Kilfeakle, several more possible roads are visible using aerial imagery and can be seen to join up with the modern road network in places (see figure 7 on page 5).

Conclusion

A considerable amount of material has been excavated over the last few decades, creating an invaluable record of the morphological characteristics of this monument type. However, insufficient data from excavation or survey have been discussed and analysed in order to create much meaningful knowledge of the subject. A systematic study of roads in medieval Ireland would be immensely valuable in facilitating the reconstruction of both the physical and cognitive landscapes of past peoples and societies – to get a better understanding of how communities in medieval Ireland physically ordered and understood their landscape. The availability of high-resolution aerial imagery makes such a study more manageable. Furthermore, the increasing accessibility of three-dimensional terrain data would boost the analytical power of such a study. While it is true that only excavation can properly elucidate the fabric and history

of medieval roads, a broader spatial understanding of these roads in the landscape would provide a crucial framework.

Figure 7 OSi aerial orthophotography of Kilfeakle, Moatquarter, Ballymacady & Thomastown Demesne South, Co. Tipperary, showing archaeological earthworks

Acknowledgements
I wish to thank the supervisors for this project, Prof. Tadhg O'Keeffe and Dr Stephen Davis of the School of Archaeology, UCD and Stuart Green of Teagasc. I also wish to thank Conor Galvin of the Office of Public Works for providing LiDAR data and Ms Amy McQuillan and Mr Bernard Gilhooly for their assistance with this article.

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Reconstructing the quays of seventeenth-century Belfast

Introduction

Belfast is usually cited as the prime example of an industrial city and in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries this was undoubtedly so. Yet before the middle of the eighteenth century it was neither an industrial town nor an administrative centre but was primarily a port.[1] The 1613 charter declared it lawful for the freemen of the town to create 'one wharf or key' where merchants and townsmen as well as strangers, could trade without interference of the customs officials at Carrickfergus provided the traders paid all royal customs due at Carrickfergus.[2] The language is of some significance. The charter granted the quay to the 'sovereign, free burgesses and commonality' of Belfast rather than to the Chichester family, the ground landlords of the town, but failed to provide any means by which the corporation would maintain the quay. Since the corporation did not hold the fee farm of the town, and had little income from other sources, the port infrastructure developed in a rather sporadic way and the funding of such developments gave rise to local political tensions. These problems would not be resolved until the development of private quays by Isaac McCartney at the beginning of the eighteenth century. Given the importance of the port in the development of seventeenth-century Belfast a study of the micro-topography of the quays should cast considerable light on the workings of the town. It is that micro-topography that this essay tries to recreate.

Port Structure

Despite the creation of a port at Belfast its physical characteristics did not make it a natural site for such a development. Shipping approached the town along Belfast Lough which led into the mouth of the tidal River Lagan. Close to the town mud banks made the river shallow (0.5m at times) and the ford, which was the main reason for any medieval settlement on site, made it impossible for larger ships to go much further upstream than the town itself. This meant that larger ships, especially those over 50 tons engaged in the trans-Atlantic trade from the late seventeenth century, had to anchor in the Pool of Garmoyle – opposite Holywood – and discharge their cargoes into smaller gabbarts, usually 6–10 tons, that could navigate up the shallow river. This was not an unusual situation at ports and seventeenth-century Liverpool, Lancaster and London all had similar arrangements and it meant that the quays at Belfast did not require complex loading mechanisms such as cranes. Maintaining a channel that allowed access through the mud banks to Belfast was difficult for a corporation that had no income. The problem was partially solved in 1674 when the Chichester family granted the office of water bailiff to the sovereign, which provided the corporation with an income that could be used to maintain the port facilities.[3] This arrangement did not last and collapsed in the disputes between the Donegalls and the corporation in the early eighteenth century.

Belfast did have one advantage as a port. Where the rivers Blackstaff and Farset entered the Lagan there were natural docks that provided shelter from the tidal Lagan and it was on the spit of land between these two rivers that the sixteenth-century castle and chapel stood. How long these rivers had been in use as docks is not known. Excavations at the junction of the Blackstaff and the Lagan have revealed a quay with an associated sherd of medieval pottery but this may be a later re-deposit and it is more likely that the dock here was the creation of the late seventeenth or early eighteenth century. It may well be the 'new dock or river up to the sluices of the castle wharfe' mentioned in the town book in 1674.[4] However, the Farset may have been used as a dock in the sixteenth century. In the 1590s, for instance, Sir John Chichester commented that 'boats may be landed within a butt shot of the said castle' of Belfast which might suggest that the mouth of the Farset was being used in this way.[5] This arrangement had the advantage of providing a safe harbour that required little in the way of infrastructure, such as the breakwaters or piers at Carrickfergus or Derry. It was far from ideal, however, and silting meant that in the seventeenth century the corporation struggled with keeping the dock clear. The plan in 1696 to build a sluice between Church Lane and Skipper Street, for instance, was necessary to create a pent up supply of water that could be released through the sluice to scour the dock.[6] The construction of quays to create a working port at the natural dock provided by the junction of the Farset and the Lagan was a product of the seventeenth century.

The entry for 1696 in the town book dealing with the problems of cleaning the dock and scouring the channel referred to vessels lying at anchor on the south side of the dock, in front of the parish church, and others anchored at the north side of the dock also.[7] This would appear to confirm the depiction on John Maclanachan's map of 1715 of 'Merchants' quay' on the north side of the dock and another quay on the south side called 'George's Quay', though that may have been

[1] The transformation is detailed in Norman Gamble, 'The business community and trade of Belfast, 1676–1800', PhD thesis, Trinity College, Dublin, 1978.
[2] R.M Young (ed.), *The town book of the corporation of Belfast* (Belfast, 1892), pp 177–8.
[3] Young (ed.), *Town book*, pp 120–1.
[4] Ruairí Ó Baoill, *Hidden history below our feet: the archaeological story of Belfast* (Belfast, 2011), pp 88–9. I am grateful to Philip Macdonald for a discussion of this site; Young (ed.), *Town book*, p. 121.
[5] *Calendar of State Papers relating to Ireland, 1596–7*, p. 396.
[6] Young (ed.), *Town book*, p. 189.
[7] Young (ed.), *Town book*, p. 189.
[8] Young (ed.), *Town book*, p. 134.

a recent name (see figure 1 on page 8). It seems clear that what Maclanachan called George's Quay had developed over time. According to an entry in the town book for 1675/6 concerning the problems of the quay at Belfast the corporation ordered 'that the old kea or wharf be enlarged and built up upon the strand on the south side of the river of the town of Belfast and next adjoining to the old kea'. The enlargement was to be made 'from the said new stone house [built by George McCartney and Henry Thompson] to the Lagan river at low water mark'.[8] Precisely when this was done is unclear but by the time of Thomas Phillips's map of 1685 the quay in front of the parish church on the south side of the dock had been extended well into the river Lagan (see **C** in figure 2 on page 9). This may have been done as late as 1680 or 1681 when the town book recorded that four quarrymen were admitted to freedom without payment for providing 'stones to the common kea'.[9]

While it is possible to identify this last phase of quay building in seventeenth-century Belfast it is more difficult to chart the evolution of the other phases of quay construction. There are no direct references to the position of quays before the 1660s but there is some indirect evidence for the earliest quay. This may have been of timber and was probably situated on the north side of the Farset (see **A** in figure 2 on page 9). The evidence for this is based on the location of the customs house, since the earliest quay was probably situated beside the customs house for the convenience of both merchants and customs officials. Belfast had a customs warehouse since at least 1659 but its location is not known. However Customs House Lane appears as a street name in 1710 and Maclanachan's plan of 1715 places it off Merchant's Quay on the north side of the Farset (see figure 1 on page 8).[10] If this street name reflects the general area of the early customs house then it is likely that the earliest quay was located on the north side of the Farset near Waring Street.

The final piece in the puzzle of the quays is the older quay on the south side of the Farset, to which the extension of 1675/6 was joined (see **B** in figure 2 on page 9). There is no clear evidence for the dating of this and it is possible that it was created in the early seventeenth century at the same time as Merchants' Quay though this seems unlikely. A more plausible date might be in the 1660s. By 1667 the dock was becoming cluttered with ships getting in each other's way. Moreover, silting was clearly becoming a serious problem and in 1664 and 1667 the corporation ordered the walling of the Farset along what became High Street in the hope of increasing its flow and thus scouring the dock.[11] In this context a new quay to relieve pressure on Merchant's Quay is plausible and is also suggested by the construction of new warehouses on Church Lane in the 1670s.[12] It may be that the fines for admission to freedom of the town of three men in 1665 that were 'to the repair of the key' may relate to the repair of the old quay or the building of this new one.[13] These fines were modest but other payments were made for freedom 'for the use of the town' at the same time and may have been applied to quay construction.

Quays and settlement

This probable three-phase construction for the Belfast quays is given greater plausibility by its links with the development of the town. In the early seventeenth century Sir Arthur Chichester, the landlord of Belfast, abandoned the site of any sixteenth-century settlement around the medieval chapel of the ford on the south side of the Farset and laid out a new town, comprising Broad or Waring Street, on a green-field site on the north side of the river. This new location marked a changed function of the site, no longer focused on the ford as crossing point. Why Chichester should have done this is not clear but the most plausible reason is that he saw his new town primarily as a port and wanted to establish it away from the ford, which could have been a navigational hazard, and chose a new site that would allow for the construction of a substantial quay. This was not possible on the other side of the river because of the presence of the parish church, which occupied the most likely place for a quay on that side of the river. This would explain the building of the first quay on the north side of the river, connected to Waring Street by lanes such as Skipper Street.

The quay's expansion to the south side of the river is probably connected to an attempt to develop the town on the south side of the Farset. The new town hall and market house, constructed in 1664, was located opposite the gate of Belfast Castle on the south side of the Farset and probably replaced an older town hall in Bridge Street. Again the market place moved from Bridge Street to Corn Market about this time. There was also significant house building in this area, reflected in the mention of 'new built' houses in the 1675/6 decision to extend the quay, leases for new building in Church Lane and the fact that excavations on the south side of High Street only produced evidence for late seventeenth-century activity suggesting this was new development.[14] This would certainly have generated economic activity on the south side of the Farset. However, it seems that the quay on the north side of the river remained the main quay in the late seventeenth century since the customs house, rebuilt in 1679, was on Waring Street and the warehousing for the port is certainly clustered in this area according to Phillips' map of 1685 (see figure 2 on page 9). It may be that some merchants tried to develop a market near the new southern quay. One of the three surviving Phillips' surveys (see figure 2 on page 9) shows a building with no chimneys constructed around a courtyard beside the church. What this was is unknown

[9] Young (ed.), *Town book*, p. 286.
[10] Raymond Gillespie and Stephen A. Royle, *Belfast: part 1, to 1840*, Irish Historic Towns Atlas 12 (Dublin, 2003), pp 11, 13, 22.
[11] Young (ed.), *Town book*, pp 98, 183, 184.
[12] Raymond Gillespie, *Early Belfast: the origins and growth of an Ulster town to 1750* (Belfast, 2007), p. 103.
[13] Young (ed.), *Town book*, p. 246.
[14] Gillespie, *Early Belfast*, pp 100–3.

(but given the lack of chimneys it was probably not residential) and, if it was actually built, it did not last long being swept away by Isaac MacCartney's early eighteenth-century development of this area. It is possible that this was a planned market associated with the development of the new quays on reclaimed land in front of and beside the church.

Similar considerations about the development of the south side of the Farset may have conditioned the 1675/6 decision to enlarge the quay on this side of the river. Undoubtedly expansion of quay facilities was needed and extending this quay helped to stabilise the junction of the Farset and the Lagan, which was prone to silting. However the shaping of the Blackstaff into the 'New Cutt River' and the possible quay built there in the 1670s suggests that land reclamation may have been planned in this area by the Chichesters and the corporation responded by upgrading the quay infrastructure in this area.

Conclusions

This short consideration of the possible evolution of the quays around the dock, or port, of Belfast in the seventeenth century demonstrates the close relationship between the pattern of settlement and the topography of economic life. The problems of quays revealed by such a study raise questions other than simply topographic ones. It also highlights the problems that success could bring for a town. The form in which the towns of the early seventeenth century were created left them with little financial freedom to exploit the boom of the late seventeenth century by building new infrastructure. While in the 1670s the Chichesters assisted the corporation, relations quickly broke down in the early eighteenth century leading to disputes over the quays and the emergence of private enterprise solutions in Isaac MacCartney's development with the construction of private quays extending into the reclaimed land on the river. Such micro-topographic explorations of quays and other features are clearly a revealing exercise that touch on a range of political, social and economic issues and similar studies may well yield rewards in other towns.

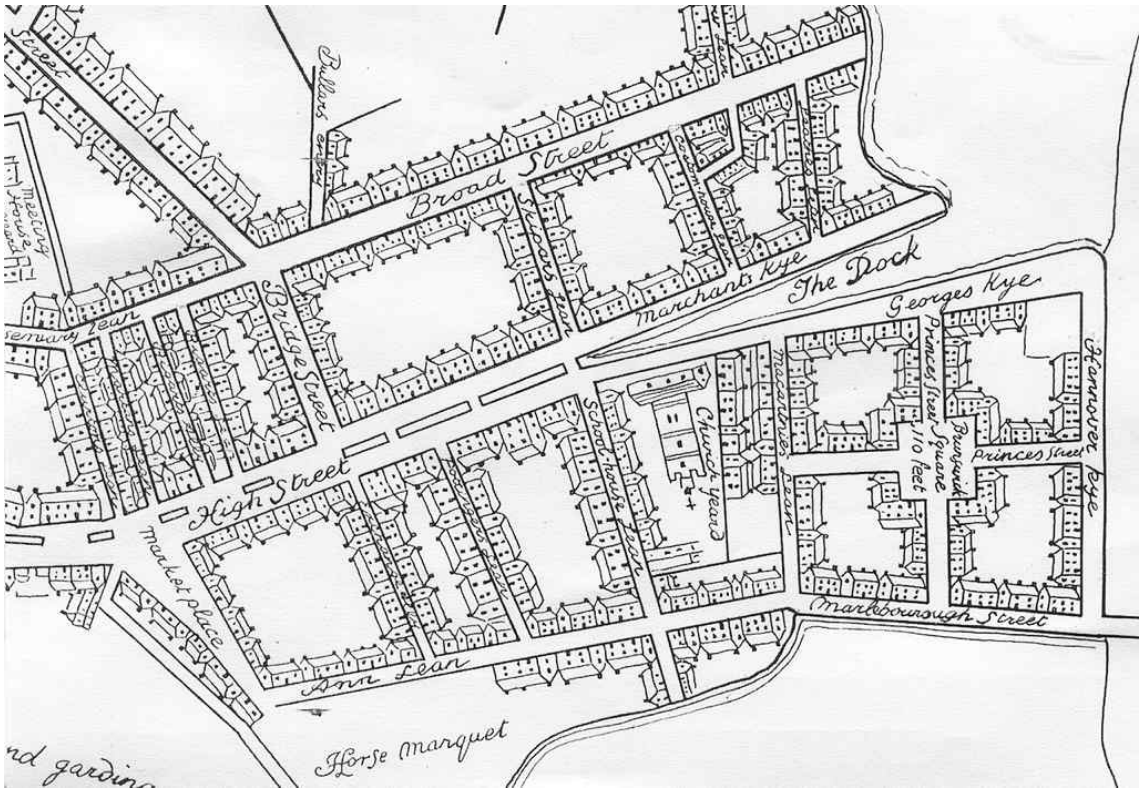

Figure 1 The Belfast quays from John Maclanachan's survey of Belfast, 1715

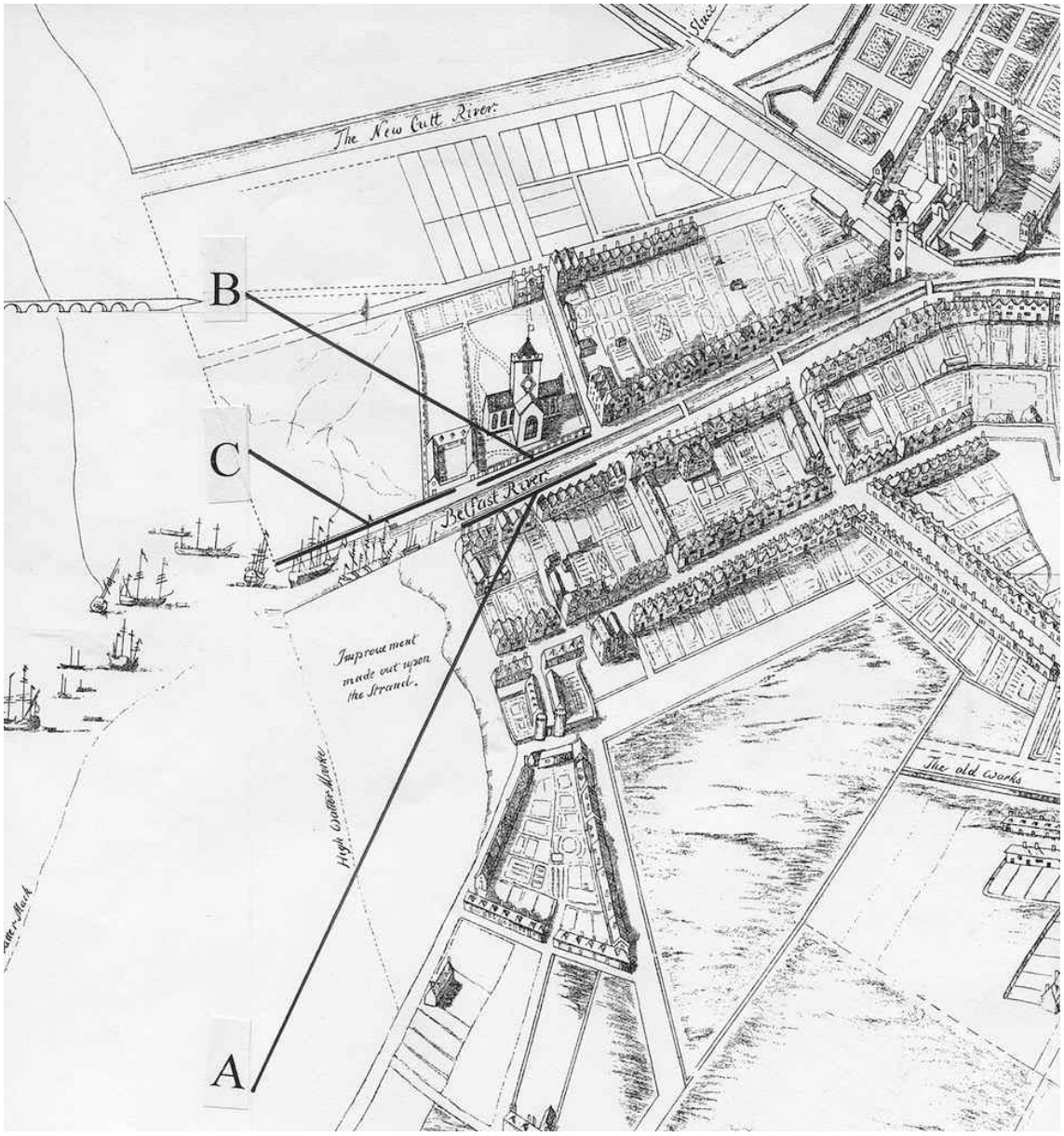

Figure 2 The development of the Belfast quays based on Thomas Phillips' survey, 1685: **A** = constructed *c.*1615–30; **B** = constructed *c.*1665; **C** = constructed *c.* 1676–80.

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.

Ireland's first settlers: time and the Mesolithic
Peter Woodman
(Prehistoric Society Research Paper, 6)
(Oxford: Oxbow, 2015. vii, 366p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781782977780. £50)

This study of the first continuous phase of Ireland's human settlement examines how location, ecology and landscape impacted on when and how the island was colonised. The book also explores how the first settlers evolved their technologies to suit available resources, and asks what happened to them as farming began to be introduced. It concludes by discussing how the landscape should be searched for the often ephemeral traces of these early settlers and how sites should be excavated.

Excavations of prehistoric settlement at Toomebridge, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland, 2003
Colin Dunlop and Peter Woodman
(British Archaeological Reports, British Series, 609)
(Oxford: Archaeopress, 2015. vii, 143p. Illus. Pbk. ISBN 9781407313498. £28)

Construction of a bypass of the village of Toomebridge, Co. Antrim, where the A6 road crosses the River Bann just north of Lough Neagh, was preceded by an archaeological excavation in 2002–3. The process of topsoil stripping of a drumlin uncovered a large quantity of flint artefacts, about 70 per cent of them dateable to the Late Mesolithic period. This book reports on the excavation and the structures ranging in date from the mid-Mesolithic to the late Bronze Age or Iron Age that were identified on the western side of the drumlin.

The archaeology of caves in Ireland
Marion Dowd
(Oxford: Oxbow Books, 2015. xix, 314p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781782978138. £50)

Ranging from the Mesolithic to the present, this is a study of people's interaction with caves on the island of Ireland through the centuries. Prehistoric associations with the dead and the spirit world are considered using evidence for burials, funerary rituals and votive depositions. Caves were used as homes and places of storage in the Christian era, but some sites continued to have religious associations. The study extends into the modern era, asking what the evidence of activities in caves, particularly their ongoing supernatural associations, might reveal about the communities above ground. A list of caves of archaeological significance in Ireland is included in an appendix.

Early medieval dwellings and settlements in Ireland, AD 400–1100
Aidan O'Sullivan, Finbar McCormick, Thomas R. Kerr, Lorcan Harney, Jonathan Kinsella
(British Archaeological Reports. International series, S2604)
(Oxford: Archaeopress, 2014. xi, 532p. Illus. Pbk. ISBN 9781407312279. £68)

This large volume, arising from an INSTAR-funded Early Medieval Archaeology Project supported by the Heritage Council, opens with an overview of the historiography of early medieval settlement excavations in Ireland from 1930 to 2010. This is followed by chapters on 'Early medieval houses and buildings in Ireland', 'The organisation and layout of early medieval settlement spaces', 'Agriculture, economy and early medieval settlements', and 'Early medieval crafts and industry on settlements'. These chapters discuss the physical character, social and economic organisation and chronology of settlements and their related domestic, economic, craft and industrial activities. An appendix itemises all the early medieval settlement sites in Ireland that have been excavated.

Early medieval agriculture, livestock and cereal production in Ireland, AD 400–1100
Finbar McCormick, Thomas R. Kerr, Meriel McClatchie, Aidan O'Sullivan
(British Archaeological Reports, International series, S2647)
(Oxford: Archaeopress, 2014. xii, 688p. Illus. Pbk. ISBN 9781407312866. £83)

The evidence from archaeological excavations is to the fore in this report on agriculture in early medieval Ireland. Evidence for settlements with gardens or small fields is discussed, while it is also shown that much of the landscape was not enclosed. The evidence for plant and animal remains is analysed in subsequent chapters. This volume is one of several very substantial publications reporting on research undertaken for the Early Medieval Archaeology Project funded by the Heritage Council.

Early medieval crafts and production in Ireland, AD 400–1100: the evidence from rural settlements
Thomas R. Kerr, Maureen Doyle, Matthew Seaver, Finbar McCormick, Aidan O'Sullivan.
(British Archaeological Reports, International series, S2707)
(Oxford: Archaeopress, 2015. xv, 731p. Illus. Pbk. ISBN 9781407313580. £88)

This volume deals with the archaeological evidence for crafts and production activity in rural settlements in early medieval Ireland. This is a another thematic volume reporting on research undertaken for Early Medieval Archaeology Project funded by the Heritage Council. The first section is an overview with

distribution maps. Metal-working, glass-working and antler/bone-working are examined in detail in section two. Textile production, dress and personal ornament are discussed in section three. The final section contains a gazetteer of evidence for crafts and production on over 300 early medieval secular sites.

The church in early medieval Ireland in the light of recent archaeological excavations
Edited by Christiaan Corlett and Michael Potterton
(Research Papers in Irish Archaeology)
(Dublin: Wordwell, 2014. xi, 286p. Illus. Pbk. ISBN 9781905569892. €30)

Seventeen chapters consider the findings from specific archaeological excavations at early medieval ecclesiastical sites throughout Ireland. The sites discussed in individual essays are Kilgobbin, Co. Dublin; Lorrha, Co. Tipperary; Ballykilmore, Co. Westmeath; Umhal, Co. Mayo; Laughanstown, Co. Dublin; Cormac's Chapel, Co. Tipperary; Struell Wells, Co. Down; Ballyhanna, Co. Donegal; Armoy, Co. Antrim; Aghavea, Co. Fermanagh; Lusk, Co. Dublin; Drumday, Co. Wicklow; High Island, Co. Galway; Trim, Co. Meath; Caherlehillan, Co. Kerry; Clonfad, Co. Westmeath and Killeany, Co. Laois. Some of the papers were presented at a seminar in the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland in November 2010; others were commissioned later. The publication was supported by the National Roads Authority and the Heritage Council.

A journey along the Carlow corridor: the archaeology of the M9 Carlow bypass
Teresa Bolger, Colm Moloney and Damian Shiels. Academic editor Eoin Grogan
(NRA Scheme Monographs, 16)
(Dublin: National Roads Authority, 2015 [Distributed by Wordwell]. Includes CD-ROM. x, 210p. Illus. Pbk. ISBN 9780957438095. €25)

Archaeological investigations by Rubicon Heritage Services in 2005 and 2006 as part of the Carlow bypass (M9 motorway) uncovered evidence from across the millennia of aspects of settlement in the Carlow region. Major river valleys such as that of the River Barrow have long attracted significant settlement as well as providing important communication routes. This pattern of extensive settlement has continued into post-medieval times with the proliferation of eighteenth-century country houses and large demesne estates. In addition to the essays printed in the book, the technical excavation reports are published on the accompanying CD-ROM.

Through the lands of the Auteri and St Jarlath: the archaeology of the M17 Galway to Tuam and N17 Tuam bypass schemes
Teresa Bolger, Martin Jones, Brian MacDomhnaill, Ross MacLeod, Colm Moloney and Scott Timpany. Academic editor, Jim McKeon
(NRA Scheme Monographs, 17)
(Dublin: National Roads Authority, 2015. x, 138p. Illus. Includes CD-ROM. Pbk. ISBN 9780933231506. €25)

The M17 motorway currently being constructed between Athenry and Tuam gave rise to new archaeological explorations. These have uncovered an early ritual site as well as a series of famine-era cottages, both in Kilskeagh townland. Also discovered was a large ringfort at Rathmorrissy, just where the new M17 intersects with the M6, and a series of burnt mounds in Cloondarone townland, near Tuam, probably used by an extended family over 30 generations. The excavation reports are published in full on the accompanying CD-ROM. (Since this section of the M17 cuts through the farms of both my maternal and paternal grandparents, this is definitely a book for my shelves.)

Illustrating the past: archaeological discoveries on Irish road schemes
Sheelagh Hughes
(TII Heritage, 1)
(Dublin: Transport Infrastructure Ireland, 2015. vi, 112p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9780993231513. €25)

Reconstruction drawings, the result of interpretative collaboration between artists and excavators, are the focus of this large-format book. It explores the art and science of archaeological reconstruction and presents a series of reconstruction drawings that were created to interpret and contextualise recent archaeological discoveries in Ireland. The drawings are categorised by period depicted, from the Mesolithic to the post-medieval, and combine to provide an accessible overview of some recent archaeological research. A profile of each of the artists whose work features in the book is also provided.

The science of a lost medieval Gaelic graveyard: the Ballyhanna research project
Edited by Catriona J. McKenzie, Eileen M. Murphy, and Colm J. Donnelly
(TII Heritage, 2)
(Dublin: Transport Infrastructure Ireland, 2015. x, 219p. Illus. Includes CD-ROM. Pbk. ISBN 9780993231520. €25)

Work on the N15 bypass of the town of Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal, undertaken in 2003, led to the discovery of a graveyard and the foundations of a forgotten stone church at Ballyhanna. Excavations in the winter of 2003–4 revealed one of the largest collections of medieval burials ever excavated in Ireland, spanning a 1,000-year period. This volume focuses on the scientific research undertaken following the excavation to reveal aspects of lifestyle, health and diet in Gaelic Ireland. The publication was supported by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport as well as the newly formed Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

Archaeological networks: excavations on six gas pipelines in County Cork
Kerri Cleary
(Cork: Collins Press, 2015. xviii, 423p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781848892309. €49.99)

Seventy newly discovered archaeological sites were found between 1999 and 2009 during the construction of gas pipelines mostly in Counties Cork and Tipperary. They range in date from the later Mesolithic

to the early nineteenth century. Evidence from the excavations is discussed in nine chapters on aspects of landscape and settlement through the millennia. An inventory of sites, in a series of appendices by specialist contributors, records the environmental remains, pottery, worked stone, metal artefacts and human and faunal remains. A catalogue of radiocarbon dates is also included.

Sacred histories: a Festschrift for Máire Herbert
Edited by John Carey, Kevin Murray and Caitríona Ó Dochartaigh
(Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2015. xxvi, 423p. Hbk. ISBN 9781846825644. €55)

Most of the 33 contributors to this volume focus on the textual culture (in Latin and Irish) of medieval Ireland. For readers concerned with the medieval landscape, the essays by Brian Lambkin on 'Colum Cille and the *lorg bengánach*: ritual migration from Derry', and by Kay Muhr on 'The paruchia of St Lúrach of Uí Thuirtre' (west and north of Lough Neagh) may be of particular interest.

Viking Dublin: the Woodquay excavations
Patrick Wallace
(Dublin: Irish Academic Press, 2015. 592p. Illus. Hbk. 9780716533146. €60)

Public controversy about the proposed destruction of the Viking sites at Wood Quay and Fishamble Street in Dublin in the 1970s and 1980s prompted the most extensive urban excavations then undertaken in Europe. Dozens of often near-intact building foundations, fences, yards, pathways, and quaysides, as well as thousands of artefacts and environmental samples, were unearthed. This illustrated book, in 13 chapters written by the chief archaeologist who directed the Wood Quay and Fishamble Street excavations, discusses the most important finds. It explores the implications of these archaeological discoveries for Viking-Age and Anglo-Norman Dublin by placing them in their national and international contexts. Themes discussed include origins and sites; buildings; the port, defences and town wall; engineering and ships; urban regulation; environment and hinterland; wood, leather and textiles; dress and personal ornament; coins and commerce; ethnicity; and international context.

The Vikings in Ireland and beyond: before and after the Battle of Clontarf
Edited by Howard B. Clarke and Ruth Johnston
(Pathways to our past series)
(Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2015. xxxiv, 526p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781846824951. €40)

A conference held in Dublin in 2011 on the theme of 'Viking-age Ireland and its wider connections', hosted by Dublin City Council, partnered by the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, was the starting point for this essay collection. Further essays from specialists were subsequently commissioned, making for a very substantial book of 28 essays on Viking age Ireland, many with a strong archaeological flavour. The opening essay by the editors surveys the recent historiography of Viking-age Ireland, and this is followed by 13 essays on the Vikings before the Battle of Clontarf. Two essays deal with key participants in the events of 1014, followed by a further 11 essays on the period after 1014. Some essays focus on particular archaeological finds while others range much more broadly. The volume concludes with two overview essays one by David Griffiths on Irish Sea identities and interconnections, and the last word going to Donnchadh Ó Corráin who takes the opportunity to challenge received wisdom and ask incisive new questions of the extant documentary evidence.

Clerics, kings and Vikings: essays on medieval Ireland in honour of Donnchadh Ó Corráin
Edited by Emer Purcell, Paul MacCotter, Julianne Nyhan and John Sheehan
(Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2015. xxvii, 537p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781846822797. €60)

Among the 44 essays in this volume topics that may be of particular interest to readers of *Áitreabh* include Edel Bhreathnach's essay on the context and landscape of the West Ossory crosses and Charles Doherty's essay on the terminology of roads in early Ireland. Michael Monk discusses the significance of tillage in early medieval Irish agriculture. Seán Duffy examines the Welsh conquest of Ireland while Paul MacCotter writes on the medieval rural dean and rural deanery.

Soldiers of Christ: the Knights Hospitaller and the Knights Templar in medieval Ireland
Edited by Martin Browne and Colmán Ó Clabaigh
(Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2015. xxi, 249p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781846825729. €50)

The Military and Hospitaller Orders that arrived in Ireland in the twelfth century were granted vast landholdings and special privileges. Essays in this volume trace the history of these Orders in Ireland down to the sixteenth century. Aspects of their agricultural, artistic, economic and religious activities are discussed and the archaeology of some of their sites is explored. Tadhg Ó Keeffe and Pat Grogan discuss the architecture of the military orders; Kieran O'Conor and Paul Naessens provide a detailed case study of Temple House castle in County Sligo and Eamonn Cotter looks at the archaeology of the Irish Hospitaller preceptories of Mourneabbey and Hospital. Paul Caffrey considers effigies and portraiture as well as architecture. Margaret Murphy investigates the evidence for Templar agriculture and Edward Coleman examines landholding and litigation of the Knights Templar. Essays on other aspects are contributed by Helen J. Nicholson, Gregory O'Malley, Brendan Scott, Declan M. Downey, Paulo Virtuani and Colmán Ó Clabaigh.

Agriculture and settlement in Ireland
Edited by Margaret Murphy and Matthew Stout
(Dublin: Four Courts Press for the Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement, 2015. xxx, 236p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781846825071. €50)

Farming systems in each period of Irish history had a powerful influence on the development of settlement. The essays in this volume discuss the evolution of farming systems through the centuries, from

the Neolithic to the eighteenth century. Some of the essays originated in a special joint conference held by the Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement and the Agricultural History Society of Ireland, while others were commissioned subsequently. Patrick Cunningham interprets the genetic evidence for the evolution of cattle and cattle farming systems. Matthew Stout writes on the farm in the early medieval period while Geraldine Stout discusses the farming systems of medieval Cistercian granges throughout the country. Margaret Murphy looks at the settlement and agricultural systems associated with medieval manor centres and Katharine Simms examines the phenomenon of the *creaght* as both a farming system and a social unit. Raymond Gillespie looks at agricultural change in the seventeenth century while a team led by Matthew Stout investigates the landscape legacy of an eighteenth-century estate at Collon, Co. Louth. In the closing chapter, Brendan Riordan uses a series of maps to illustrate his overview of the main trends in agriculture and settlement in Ireland from the fifth to the eighteenth centuries. The very extensive bibliography in the book is testament to the range and diversity of source material available for the history of agriculture and settlement in Ireland, and is a useful resource for further research.

Anglo-Norman parks in medieval Ireland
Fiona Beglane
(Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2015. xii, 227p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781846825699. €50)

Beglane discusses the size and layout of medieval parks in Ireland, along with their functions as economic units and the uses of parks for hunting in both Gaelic and Anglo-Norman contexts. The idea of deer-parks as symbolic landscapes is discussed at some length, with particular reference to Earlspark, near Loughrea, Co. Galway and Maynooth, Co. Kildare, in the period from the mid-twelfth to the mid-fourteenth century. Other parks discussed include Ballydonegan, Co. Carlow, Carrick, Co. Wexford, Dunamase, Co. Laois, Glencree, Co. Wicklow and Nenagh, Co. Tipperary, and some aspects of their later history are also briefly sketched.

Space and settlement in medieval Ireland
Edited by Vicky McAlister and Terry Barry
(Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2015. xv, 237p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 97818468450002. €55)

The eleven essays in this volume, drawn from papers presented at three 'space and settlement' conferences at Trinity College Dublin since 2010, will be of particular interest to readers of *Áitreabh*. Rebecca Wall Forrestal considers early medieval Irish urbanization in a study of Waterford. James Galloway examines the economic hinterland of Drogheda in the later middle ages. Mary Valante looks at pre-Norman fortifications in Connacht. In discussing the late medieval archaeology of the barony of Overk in south Kilkenny, Linda Shine argues for a more nuanced interpretation of the evidence for demarcation between Gaelic and Anglo-Norman regions. Three essays discuss aspects of tower houses. Rory Sherlock looks at the spatial dynamic of tower house halls, Gillian Eadie discusses the style and function of tower houses in Co Down and Vicky McAlister writes about the end of the tower house tradition. Specific landscapes are examined in essays by Damian Shiels on battlefield landscapes and Fiona Beglane on deer parks. Patrick Wadden explores the Irish Sea world in the Norman period, while in the opening essay, Benjamin Hudson goes in search of 'Lothlind' and concludes that it is not a Scandinavian place-name but rather a derogatory term found in Irish sources in reference to Viking invaders.

Meath history and society: interdisciplinary essays on the history of an Irish county
Edited by Arlene Crampsie and Francis Ludlow. Series editor, William Nolan
(Dublin: Geography Publications, 2015. xxxiii, 999p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9780906602799. €60)

Thirty-four essays on Meath from prehistory to the present are assembled in this very substantial volume. Robert Meehan describes the physical landscape while Steve Davis provides an overview of Meath in prehistory. A.S.K. Abraham studies seigneurial residences in late medieval Meath. Arnold Horner and Rolf Loeber contribute a joint essay on the late seventeenth-century build environment while Kevin V. Mulligan examines country house demesnes in the eighteenth century. John McCullen studies agriculture from the beginning of the twentieth century, and William Nolan looks at the consequences of the work of the Land Commission. Frank Ludlow teams up with Joan Mullen to explore the Meath field-names research project and with Brianán Ludlow to present a photographic essay on natural and human landscapes in the county.

Medieval Irish buildings, 1100–1600
Tadhg O'Keeffe
(Maynooth Research Guides for Irish Local History, 18)
(Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2015. 320p. Illus. Pbk. ISBN 9781846822483. €24.95)

This is the latest addition to an established series of research guides to Irish local history. O'Keeffe provides a well-illustrated guide to the types of medieval buildings that survive, mostly in ruined form, in the Irish landscape. He explains how to examine medieval buildings to assess the evidence of date, architectural style, and other characteristics. A very substantial chapter is devoted to medieval Irish ecclesiastical architecture. Two chapters are devoted to the study of castles in the landscape, divided chronologically in the mid-14th century. Little-known buildings that are rarely written about are considered alongside well-known examples.
See page 20 in this issue for review.

Gowran, Co. Kilkenny, 1190–1610: custom and conflict in a baronial town
Adrian Empey
(Maynooth Studies in Local History, 119)
(Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2015. 65p. Pbk. ISBN 9781846825798. €9.95)

This study of Gowran explores the function of towns within medieval feudal society. Empey explains how Gowran did not emerge as a by-product of 13th-century trade, but was created by, and existed for, the requirements of lordship. The town allowed the lord to exploit the profits of agriculture, and to draw on the skills of the burgesses when the services of craftsmen were needed. Empey makes skilful use of documents surviving among the Ormond deeds, relating to a dispute between the earl of Ormond and the Gowran townmen, to cast light on the role of towns in Anglo-Norman Ireland.

Lords and towns in medieval Europe: the European Historic Towns Atlas project
Edited by Anngret Simms and Howard B. Clarke
(Farnham: Ashgate (now Routledge), 2015. xxii, 552p. Hbk. ISBN 9780754663546. £85)

These essays focus on the ways in which seigneurial power influenced the creation of towns throughout medieval Europe. There is particular emphasis on analysing patterns of urban topography in contrasting parts of Europe, drawing on the evidence of some of the 500 town atlases published as part of the European Historic Towns Atlas project over the past 50 years. Methodological issues such as utilizing urban plans in comparative historical research are discussed. The final part contains critical essays by an archaeologist, an art historian and a historical geographer. This book of essays is derived from papers presented at an international conference in the Royal Irish Academy in 2006.

Youghal
David Kelly and Tadhg O'Keeffe
(Irish Historic Towns Atlas, No. 27)
(Dublin: Royal Irish Academy, 2015. 32p. 21 large format maps and views. Illus. Includes CD-ROM. Pbk. ISBN 9781908996466. €30)

This urban atlas traces the history and development of the medieval town of Youghal from its foundation through to the late nineteenth century. A series of loose maps illustrates the evolution of the town. The maps are accompanied by detailed topographical data on street-names and on administrative, military, ecclesiastical and other elements of the urban built environment. An introductory essay provides an authoritative account of the evolution of the town through the centuries. A CD-ROM presenting the text in searchable form along with high resolution digital versions of some maps is also included.

Galway c. 1200 to c. 1900: from medieval borough to modern city
Jacinta Prunty and Paul Walsh
(Dublin: Royal Irish Academy, 2015. 1 folded map, with 17 page introduction. Pbk. ISBN 9781908996831. €10)

The pocket map is an ancillary publication of the Irish Historic Towns Atlas project. The composite map encompasses almost 700 years of history, down to the end of the nineteenth century, highlighting the most significant features and sites of the evolving city. The principal ecclesiastical, administrative, manufacturing, military and defensive sites are marked, together with the most substantial houses. Of Anglo-Norman origin, the layout of the old city between the Corrib and the bay is complex, and even those who have known the city all their lives will learn much about its topography from this map.
(The full Irish Historic Towns Atlas of Galway is due for publication later in 2016.)

The Tudor discovery of Ireland
Christopher Maginn and Steven G. Ellis
(Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2015. 207p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781846825736. €50)

How did Tudor administrators tasked with governing Ireland acquire knowledge of its geography and its peoples? The authors of this book scrutinise an early sixteenth-century manuscript known as the 'Hatfield Compendium' to reveal aspects of the process of knowledge acquisition and its implementation by English administrators in Tudor Ireland. The manuscript is preserved among the Cecil Papers in the Hatfield House Archives, Hertfordshire, and a transcript of the text is provided. Part 2 of the book is an extended essay on 'Discovery and reform' in Ireland in the era of Henry VIII.

Walls 400: studies to mark the 400th anniversary of the founding of the walls of Londonderry
Edited by Brian G. Scott
(Derry: Guildhall Press [for Holywell Trust], 2015. xiv, 159p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781906271992. No price given)

In this essay collection Brian Lacey writes on Derry before Londonderry, James Stevens Curl writes on the background to the building of the walls. Brian G. Scott looks at the background in European military architecture. Paul Logue considers the local context, while Annaleigh Margey looks at the evidence from surveys and maps, *c.* 1600–1625. Manus Deery examines the fabric of the city walls and Marie-Claire Peters and W.P. Kelly discuss the function of the walls in the seventeenth century.

Lough Ree: historic lakeland settlement
Edited by Bernadette Cunningham and Harman Murtagh
(Dublin: Four Courts Press for the Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement, 2015. 264p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781846825767. €55)

Combining archaeology, historical geography, history and literature, the ten essays in this book explore the settlement history of Lough Ree through the centuries. Some of the essays are derived from proceedings of the 2012 annual conference of the Group for the Study of Irish Historic settlement held in Athlone. Themes include place-names, mythology and literature, the architecture and context of ecclesiastical and secular buildings on the islands and surrounding shores, demesne landscapes, boating on the lake and modern island living. These studies of key themes associated with the historic settlement of this lakeland region are a valuable resource to inform future work on the heritage landscape of Lough Ree and the River

Shannon. The book was awarded a Heritage Council community-based heritage grant in 2015.

Irish demesne landscapes, 1660–1740
Vandra Costello
(Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2015. 256p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781846825064. €50)

This book traces the development of formal gardening in Ireland in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. Grand geometric-style gardens were particularly fashionable between 1660 and 1740, and the book examines the people who created these gardens, the materials they employed and the landscape interventions that were undertaken. A paperback edition is being issued in 2016.

The Chapel Royal, Dublin Castle: an architectural history
Edited by Myles Campbell and William Derham
(Trim: Office of Public Works, 2015. 151p. Illus. ISBN 9781496428902. €15)

Described as 'a captivating confection of plaster ornament, carved wood and jewel-like glass', the Chapel Royal of the early nineteenth century was an architectural expression of the aspirations of the British administration. In the two centuries since then, the chapel has evolved to reflect changing times. Aside from the editors, contributors to this volume are Rachel Moss, Judith Hill, Rita Larkin, Angela Alexander, Joseph McDonnell, David O'Shea and Roy Byrne.

The Mansion House Dublin: 300 years of history and hospitality
Edited by Mary Clark
(Dublin: Dublin City Council, 2015 [Distributed by Four Courts Press]. 178p. Illus. Pbk. ISBN 9781907002205, €34.95)

Dublin's Mansion House is the oldest free-standing house in the city. Constructed by Joshua Dawson in 1710, it was purchased in 1715 by Dublin Corporation as the official residence of the Lord Mayor and has served that purpose ever since. This lavishly illustrated book charts the history and architecture of this important Dublin house, a rare example of Queen Anne style architecture in the city.

Georgian Dublin: the forces that shaped the city
Diarmuid Ó Gráda
(Cork: Cork University Press, 2015. xii, 390p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781782051473. €39)

In the eighteenth century Dublin city struggled to cope with an increasing population that needed to be housed and fed; civil unrest threatened to destabilise the city. Newspapers, pamphlets and parish records are the principal sources consulted for this study of the urban planning and development that became necessary in the period 1740 to 1810 to cope with the needs of an expanding urban population.

Exercise of authority. Surveyor Thomas Owen and the paving, cleansing and lighting of Georgian Dublin
Finnian Ó Cionnaith
(Dublin: Dublin City Council, 2015 [Distributed by Four Courts Press]. xii, 143p. Illus. Pbk. ISBN 9781907002304, €29.95)

Georgian Dublin was a growing city and many public initiatives to improve the urban environment became the responsibility of the Dublin Paving Board, established in 1774. Practical matters such as public lighting, road works and waste removal were managed by the Paving Board. Drawing on the detailed minute books that survive, this study follows the sometimes controversial career of Thomas Owen (d. 1788), a surveyor who worked with the Paving Board from 1774 to 1787, in an era of political and financial scandals.

Bridges of Dublin: the remarkable story of Dublin's Liffey bridges
Annette Black and Michael B. Barry
(Dublin: Dublin City Council, 2015 [Distributed by Four Courts Press]. 256p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781907002250, €34.95; Pbk. ISBN 9781907002212, €24.95)

Striking photographs and reproductions of historical maps accompany this account of each of the 24 bridges that span the River Liffey in Dublin city. Prompted perhaps by the construction of the Rosie Hackett Bridge, immediately east of O'Connell Bridge, in 2014, this book tells the story of each bridge back to the oldest surviving one, Mellows Bridge (1768). If you don't know which one is Mellows Bridge, or want to know what it was called before it was renamed in memory of Liam Mellows, or when it was re-named, you need this book.

Troubled geographies: a spatial history of religion and society in Ireland
Ian N. Gregory, Niall A. Cunningham, C. D. Lloyd, Ian G. Shuttleworth, and Paul S. Ell
(The Spatial Humanities)
(Bloomington, Indianapolis: Indiana UP, 2013. xv, 243p. 194 maps. Pbk. ISBN 9780253009739. US$45)

Ireland's landscape is marked by fault lines of religious, ethnic, and political identity that have shaped its history. This book is concerned with how a geography laid down in the 16th and 17th centuries' plantations led to an amalgam based on religious belief, ethnic/national identity, and political conviction that has continued to shape the geographies of modern Ireland. It explores the responses to major cultural shocks such as the Famine and to long term processes such as urbanization.

Medieval ecclesiastical buildings in Ireland, 1789–1915: building on the past
Niamh NicGhabhann
(Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2015. xiv, 257p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN9781846825088. €55)

Ruined monastic and cathedral buildings outside Dublin, as well as medieval parish churches, are the focus of this monograph. As well as analysing the actual changes in the fabric of the buildings from the late eighteenth to the early twentieth century, the book considers the role of these buildings as sites of memory within devotional landscapes. The evolving professionalization of architectural restoration in the

nineteenth century is also considered within a developing legal framework for the protection of what was seen as an ancient and national heritage. The final part of the book on 'Gothic and the idea of Ireland', draws attention to the increasingly nationalist views of medieval antiquities that emerged in the era of the Celtic revival, complicated by the continuing significance of many medieval ecclesiastical sites as sacred spaces.

Dublin 1847: city of the Ordnance Survey
Frank Cullen
(Dublin: Royal Irish Academy, 2015. xii, 108p. Illus. Pbk. ISBN 9781908996350. €15.)

A detailed map of Dublin, at a scale of five feet to one mile, was published by the Ordnance Survey in 1847, having been researched over the previous eleven years. It required 33 sheets to print the full set of maps for the city, with buildings and streets delineated in extraordinary detail. A selection of representative extracts from the maps is reproduced here with lively and enlightening commentary on themes such as streets, planning, defence, administration, manufacturing, transport and leisure, to evoke the world of Dublin in 1847.

An introduction to the architectural heritage of Dublin North City
Merlo Kelly
(Dublin: National Inventory of Architectural Heritage. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. 2015. 144p. Illus. Pbk. ISBN 9781406428773. €12)

Ireland's capital city has a distinguished architectural legacy. This book highlights the most significant structures of Dublin North City, exploring the social and historical context of the buildings and their setting. The survey includes many well known public buildings alongside many rarely-noticed domestic structures and aims to facilitate a greater appreciation of the built heritage of the city. The NIAH survey of the architectural heritage of Dublin City can be accessed online at www.buildingsofireland.ie

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Lady Mayo's garden: the diary of a lost 19th-century Irish garden
Kildare Bourke-Borrowes
(London: Double-Barrelled Books, 2014. 120p. Hbk. ISBN 9780957150089. £25)

A walled garden attached to Palmerstown House, Johnstown, Co. Kildare, is the focus of this study. Geraldine Ponsonby, Lady Mayo, took a particular interest in the garden, and kept a diary recording work there from the 1880s down to 1922. The diary was illustrated by watercolour paintings, some by Geraldine and some by her father Gerald Ponsonby, a member of the Royal Watercolour Society. These illustrations, together with Geraldine's notes on the garden, are reproduced here. (The house was destroyed in January 1923, but was replaced and is now in use as a hotel.)

East Galway agrarian agitation and the burning of Ballydugan House
Ann O'Riordan
(Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2015. 69p. Pbk. ISBN 9781846825828. €9.95)

Ballydugan, a middle-sized country house on the 1,500 acre estate of Michael Henry Burke, near Loughrea in east Galway, was burned in 1922. The agitation of the Land League and the United Irish League on behalf of land-hungry tenants provides the context for the rise of unrest in the area. The house was subsequently rebuilt and Ballydugan is still the home of Michael Henry Burke's granddaughter. This continuity allows scope to explore the experience of the landlord's family in subsequent decades.

An island community: the ebb and flow of the Great Blasket Island
Mícheál de Mórdha. Translated by Gabriel Fitzmaurice
(Dublin: Liberties Press, 2015. 628 + [48]p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781910742143. €29.99)

This is a social and cultural history of the rise and decline of the community on the Great Blasket island. The book is well written, skilfully translated, generously illustrated and beautifully produced. Those who attended the GSIHS annual conference in Dingle in May 2010 may recall the author's presentation there, and will relish this opportunity to read his very comprehensive study of the world of the Great Blasket island.

Notices of sources and guides to sources
Bernadette Cunningham

Viking graves and grave-goods in Ireland
Stephen H. Harrison and Raghnall Ó Floinn
(Medieval Dublin Excavations, 1962–81. Ser. B. Vol. 11)
(Dublin: National Museum of Ireland, 2015. Illus. xxiii, 783p. Hbk. ISBN 9780901777997. €50)

Graves and grave-goods from Viking-age Ireland are fully catalogued in this large volume. While most of the evidence relates to Dublin, the scope of this catalogue extends beyond the city to document all known Viking graves from Ireland. Some of the more important finds are illustrated, and location maps of the principal excavations are also provided. In the introductory section, the history of cataloguing of Irish museum collections is told.

Calendar of state papers Ireland, Tudor period, 1547–1553
Edited by Colm Lennon
(Dublin: Irish Manuscripts Commission, 2015. xvii, 261p. Hbk. ISBN 9781906865504. €50)

Original documents summarised here are preserved in the National Archives in Kew (SP/61). The documents in the State Papers, Ireland, series provide an invaluable guide to the workings of central government while also casting light on life in local communities, particularly the towns. They are important sources for English colonial policy in Ireland, as well as providing glimpses of local responses to the gradual extension of Tudor rule in the Irish provinces.

Historic Settlement: Belfast and Region

Report on the Forty-Fourth Annual Regional Conference of the Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement, Belfast, 8–10th May 2015

The forty-fourth annual conference of the Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement was held in Belfast, Co. Antrim, in association with The Ulster Archaeological Society and The School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology at Queen's University. The venue was the Malone Lodge Hotel, located amongst the Victorian town houses of Eglantine Avenue in Belfast's leafy Queen's Quarter. In addition to two excursions to landmark heritage sites, the conference played host to nine thoroughly engaging talks from researchers at the forefront of settlement studies, covering aspects of the history and prehistory of the varied landscapes of Belfast City and its surrounding countryside.

Friday 8 May 2015

Following registration and a relaxed welcome reception, this year's conference was officially launched by Nick Brannan, former Director of Built Heritage at the Environmental and Heritage Service. In his keynote talk, Nick challenged the often assumed and thoroughly misguided conception of Belfast as a wholly modern foundation, without significant historical lineage. He presented the audience with a synopsis of the recent (within the last twenty-or-so years) excavations around the city and the structural and artefactual evidence these excavations have provided for Belfast's early modern and indeed medieval origins. Nick's talk, having stirred up the creative waters of the attentive audience, was followed by a generous wine reception during which conference attendees discussed, debated and deliberated into the evening.

Saturday 9 May 2015

The first full day of the conference was chaired by Dr Geraldine Stout of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland, and kicked-off by Barrie Hartwell, President of the Ulster Archaeological Society. The talk laid the prehistoric foundations of this year's theme by presenting research into the Giant's Ring – a colossal, near-circular henge in Ballynahatty, Co. Down, measuring over 200m in diameter. Barrie presented a comprehensive and thought-provoking overview of both the history of the landscape and the Dungannon estate and of past antiquarian and archaeological investigations throughout. He then discussed some of the more recent advances in the archaeological understanding of this ceremonial landscape, including some intriguing recent discoveries, which added to the group's excitement ahead of the field trip later that afternoon.

The next speaker of the day was Dr Philip Macdonald, excavation director with the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork at Queen's University. Dr Macdonald presented a thorough, insightful and critical review of the available landscape, cartographic and historical evidence for the development of medieval Belfast, integrating the geography of the area and the archaeological record.

After a short coffee break, Dr Mark Gardiner, senior lecturer in Medieval archaeology at Queen's University, brought the Group on a tour (de force) of the Antrim uplands, comparing the archaeological signatures of medieval and post-medieval settlement at Garron Point and Unshinagh. Dr Gardiner presented interesting evidence for agricultural settlements, including ridging and the footings of oval-plan buildings. Using a combination of geospatial and cartographic approaches, he explored some possible interpretations of these features. Do the remains represent typical late medieval Gaelic settlements, that were of year-round occupation rather than seasonal?

The second session of the day was finished with a talk by Prof. Audrey Horning, Professor of Archaeology at Queen's University. Her task was to outline the origins, growth and success (or lack thereof) of early modern towns in Ulster. Deciding to avoid the insular perspective Prof. Horning explored the phenomenon of the early town in its geo-historical context of the expanding North Atlantic colonial enterprise. She also compared English views of early modern Irish settlement with the contemporary settlements of colonists in America and explored the under-appreciated influence of Native American material and demographics on these colonial settlements.

Saturday's line-up was crowned by two exhilarating excursions that afternoon. The first of these took the group not far from the conference room, just a few miles south of Belfast to the townland of Ballynahatty and the landscape of the Giant's Ring. Barrie Hartwell, having introduced this enigmatic monument and its landscape earlier in the day, took the group on a tour of the structure and its internal space. Then, atop its massive earthen bank, he drew the groups attention to the wider landscape and the plethora of other ceremonial features hidden below ground, including 'miniature passage tombs'!

Leaving this enigmatic monument, the group made its way to Nendrum, on the Ards Peninsula, Co. Down, to be led by Tom McErlean, Senior Research Fellow with the School of Environmental Sciences at Ulster University. It should also be noted that Tom also provided the narration throughout the bus journey for a tour of important historic and archaeological sites and sights along the route. This was then surpassed by a guided ramble of Nendrum monastic site that could only be carried out by someone with an intimate knowledge of and passion for the archaeology of this early ecclesiastical settlement and astonishing feat of maritime engineering.

Thanks to the quality of the morning's talks, the energising field trips and the affability of the company present (not to mention the extra chips provided), the conference dinner that rounded off the day's proceedings was one to be remembered.

Sunday 10 May 2015

Once the proceedings of the group's Annual General Meeting were concluded, Dr Paul MacCotter of University College Cork chaired Sunday's series of talks. First up was Prof. Ruairí Ó Baoill of Queen's University Belfast, who kicked off the day's programme with an in-depth look at the growth Carrickfergus town. Using the wealth of excavation, survey and historical information gathered over the last fifteen years, Prof. Ó Baoill described in vivid detail the various phases of expansion, fortification and urban development of the town and its socio-economic position in county Antrim up to and following its eclipsing by the growing port of Belfast further south. The talk took the audience on a journey from de Courcy's foundations, through the establishment of St Nicholas' parish church, the strengthening of its defences following Gaelic raids in the 1500s, to Sir Arthur Chichester's developments in the 1700s.

Bringing things 'home' to Belfast city, Prof. Raymond Gillespie of NUI Maynooth continued the session with a review of the history of this great city during the two hundred years from 1550 to 1750. Prof. Gillespie eloquently presented some of the curiosities regarding Belfast's growth. For example, there was the apparently unsuitability of its location as a port, which meant that larger vessels, initially, needed to anchor some distance out in the estuary, ferrying goods across via smaller boats. However, due to demands from landlords, local government and a broader interest in the establishment of towns as bases of income generation and political loyalty, harbour development continued, largely privately-led, on the back of large-scale land reclamation.

After a brief break for tea and coffee, the fifth and last session was charged to two speakers from Queen's University Belfast. Professor of Island Geography, Stephen Royle, began with a critical appraisal of the progress of Belfast's social and economic development over the nineteenth century. While this was a century during which Belfast seemed (to some) briefly to overtake Dublin as the principal city in Ireland, Prof. Royle's talk shed light on the often forgotten by-products of economic boom.

Finally, bringing the weekend's series of talks to a close, Dr Elizabeth Thomas gave us a glimpse at new research at the forefront of historical and social archaeology in the form of her post-doctoral research project looking at the 'Sailortown' district in the north of the city. Her ongoing research looks to shed new light on the origins and history of an area that is often unrecognised and whose social / cultural identity is severely threatened.

Mick Corcoran
PhD candidate (Teagasc Walsh Fellowships Programme)
School of Archaeology
University College Dublin
GSIHS Student Bursary recipient 2015

Eugene Costello
Irish Research Council and NUIG Hardiman PhD Candidate
School of Geography and Archaeology
National University of Ireland, Galway
GSIHS Student Bursary recipient 2015

National Heritage Week
Discover the past. Build the future.

In 2015 the GSIHS continued the practice of organising public lectures for National Heritage Week. The lectures took place on Saturday 29th August in the Helen Roe Theatre, 63 Merrion Square and coincided with the Royal Society of Antiquaries Open Day.

Last year's lectures marked the publication of ***Lough Ree: Historic Lakeland Settlement.*** Dr Harman Murtagh's lecture was entitled *2000 Years of Boating on Lough Ree* and was a masterful overview of boating on the lake from prehistoric log boats to modern pleasure cruisers. This was followed by Gearoid O'Brien's lecture on *Island Living: Life on the Islands of Lough Ree*. Gearoid focussed on the 19th and 20th centuries when almost every island on the lake sustained a population of self-sufficient farmers and fishermen.

The lectures attracted a good audience and were followed by a lively question and answer session. Several attendees went away armed with a copy of the new publication.

Reviews

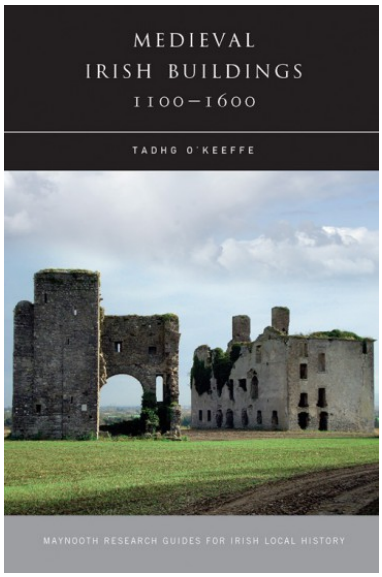
Medieval Irish buildings 1100–1600

Maynooth research guides for Irish local history: Number 18

Tadhg O'Keeffe

(Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2015. 320pp. Pbk. ISBN 978-1-84682-248-3. €22.45)

This is number 18 in a remarkable series of research guides edited by Mary Ann Lyons, which has become an indispensable source not only for local historians and university students but for all researchers dealing with Irish history and cultural heritage. The author sets out to teach the uninitiated how to understand and read medieval buildings and in that way gain insights into and a better understanding of the medieval period in Ireland.



The book is divided into five chapters. The first is a very handy guide to the different styles of medieval architecture and also discusses the temporal scope and subdivision of the medieval period in Ireland and terms such as Anglo-Norman. Chapter 2 builds on this with guidance on how to analyse and date buildings and describes how they were planned, built and used. The final three chapters form two thirds and the main meat of the book, with the first of these devoted to ecclesiastical buildings and the last two to castles.

The chapter on ecclesiastical buildings is an important overview of the main categories of these buildings and of the present state of knowledge and research on the subject. Its coverage is broad and good examples are chosen to illustrate the different types of buildings. There is also a most useful collection of comparative plans of different religious houses covering six pages. In a useful discussion on medieval rural parish churches the author laments the lack of a systematic and comprehensive survey of these buildings, the ruins of which are such a feature of the Irish countryside. This is indeed a neglected area of study apart from work done in a handful of counties.

The two chapters (122 pages) devoted to castles are alone almost sufficient to have formed a reasonable sized book. The author contests the interpretation of castles as predominantly defensive structures and rightly places great emphasis on their residential, social and administrative roles in medieval society. It is nice to see little-known castles being used as examples, such as Kinlough and Castlemagarret, Co. Mayo, Mocollop, Co. Waterford, and Brittas and Clonamicklon, Co. Tipperary. The comparative plans of early castles and gatehouses are very useful. He fulminates against 'hall-house' as a descriptive term and argues, correctly in many cases, that the large room in these towers was not the great hall of the castle but rather the great chamber. Halls are definitely the author's hobby-horse and in the final chapter he disputes the description of the large upper rooms of tower houses as halls.

The author has an opinion, sometimes hastily arrived at, on almost every building mentioned. I would disagree with some of these such as the description of the tower at Kilteel, Co. Kildare, as a tower house, his contention that the Record Tower at Dublin Castle was the first of the towers to be built there, and the inclusion of the lost tower at Finnea, Co. Westmeath, among those built by Gaelic families. In fact the reference given for Finnea actually states that it was built by the Earl (Roger Mortimer, fourth earl of March and Lord of Meath) in 1397. Also some misidentifications of placenames from medieval documents have crept in such as Clone, identified as Dunkitt, Co. Kilkenny, when it is clearly Clonamery, and the manor of 'de Insula', identified as Inch, Co. Kerry, when it is undoubtedly the major Desmond manor of Castleisland.

If I might indulge in a hobby-horse of my own it is the fact that the referencing system used, which was probably not the author's choice, is quite simply not fit for purpose, when it comes to trying to identify the full source reference for any particular piece of information. The full reference is given in a footnote when it is first cited and thereafter an abbreviated version is given. This is fine if you happen to be reading through the entire book from start to finish and are blessed with a photographic memory. Those not so blessed might have to spend considerable time rooting back through hundreds of footnotes to pin down a particular reference. To my mind a far better system is that used in Britain in the Antiquaries Journal and Medieval Archaeology, whereby footnotes are used with references adapted from the Harvard System, referring to a full list of published sources at the end.

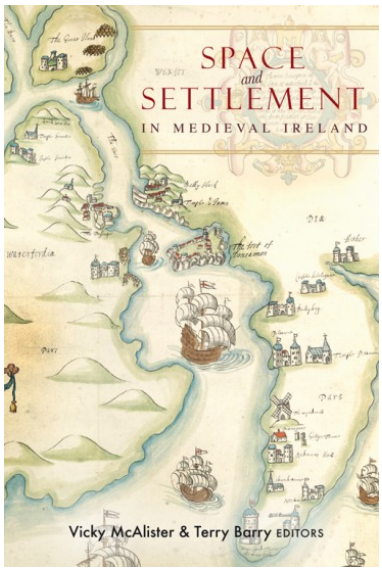
There is no doubt but that this is a very useful, thought provoking and inspiring book, which should be read by every university student taking the subject and every practicing archaeologist and architectural historian dealing with the medieval period in Ireland. It has the potential to become a classic like Ó Ríordáin's *Antiquities of the Irish countryside* or Harbison's *Guide to National Monuments*. However, such is the range of the book that the complete

neophyte coming to it looking for basic information will either end up reeling under the weight of a bewildering amount of data or become hooked for life by the subject. The book is beautifully produced and very good value.

Conleth Manning
National Monuments Service

Space and settlement in medieval Ireland
Edited by Vicky McAlister & Terry Barry
(Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2015. 256pp; ills. Hbk. ISBN 978-1-84682-500-2. €49.50)

This book is a collection of essays edited by Vicky McAlister and Terry Barry, and written by scholars who have contributed to the *Space and Settlement* conference which has been held in the Long Hub Building in Trinity College Dublin for the past number of years. This interdisciplinary conference has sought to promote the latest research on medieval settlement and society in Ireland, and this edited collection of essays certainly builds on this key objective. Benjamin Hudson explores the use of the place-name 'Lothlind' in ninth-century Irish sources to describe the homeland of some of the Vikings who were active in Ireland at the time, concluding that the name did not represent a place *per se*, but instead was a term of derision masquerading as a settlement. Patrick Wadden provides an intriguing account of pre-conquest Norman activity in the Irish Sea basin, looking at documentary evidence for contact between Normandy and the Viking settlements with a particular emphasis on the Irish political scene in the late tenth and eleventh centuries. Rebecca Wall Forrestal, in her article on early medieval Irish urbanization, suggests that there should be a broad reassessment of the early stages of town development which takes into account regional settlement patterns, land-use and evolving networks of political, social and economic exchange. Mary Valante writes on the geography of Toirdelbach Ua Conchobair's lordship and how the Irish king used fleets, fortifications and bridges in his bid for the high-kingship of Ireland. One of the issues covered is the early appearance of the word *caistél* to describe several of these fortifications, suggesting that castles were built in Ireland before the Anglo-Norman conquest. Linda Shine examines the impact of interactions between the Gaelic-Irish and the Anglo-Normans on settlement patterns in the later medieval barony of Overk in the south of Co. Kilkenny. An important aspect of her work interrogates the concept of frontiers in later medieval Ireland, and how they may be more usefully conceived as zones of cultural contact, rather than just simply as lines on a map.



Given the theme of the book, it is appropriate that one of the more visible remains of later medieval settlement — the tower house — is discussed in three articles. Rory Sherlock writes on the social significance of the hall in tower houses, and how understanding its form, layout and positioning within these buildings can tell us much about how lordly households evolved between the fifteenth and seventeenth centuries. Gillian Eadie presents a thought-provoking study of tower houses in Co. Down, in which she posits that stylistic similarity between tower houses does not necessarily equate with functional similarity. She uses Kilclief Castle, Audley's Castle, and Jordan's Castle as a case study. These three towers, which at first glance appear so similar, exhibit variations in design and layout, and which in turn, reflect the different social and cultural demands that were made of these buildings. One of the book's editors, Vicky McAlister examines the decline of the Irish castle in the seventeenth century, and dwells on the processes that brought about this change, namely the arrival of new building styles with renewed colonization, advances made in warfare with the adoption of artillery, and economic changes including changing trade patterns and evolving estate structures.

Fiona Beglane throws light upon one of the most overlooked later medieval monuments in the Irish landscape — the deer park. She discusses how these parks can be identified through place-names, documentary sources, maps and physical evidence. As examples, she highlights a number of deer parks that have been found including Earlspark in Co. Galway and Dunamase in Co. Laois. James Galloway explores the structure and extent of the economic hinterland of Drogheda, one of the more important coastal ports in medieval Ireland. In particular, he looks at grain production, wood supply, as well as the trade in meat, animal products and fish, tracing the commercial linkages that supported the development of the town. Finally, Damian Shiels looks at another neglected aspect of the Irish landscape — the battlefield — what factors may have influenced where and how battles were fought, and illustrates how they can be reconstructed using a combination of historical and archaeological approaches. He uses the Battle of Vinegar Hill in Co. Wexford as an example of how a battlefield may be reconstituted in the modern landscape. The book is published in an attractive format, and the articles are written in interdisciplinary spirit by historians and archaeologists, supporting Terry Barry's assertion in his concluding afterword to the book that settlement studies are in a vibrant state in Ireland at the moment.

James Lyttleton / Independent Scholar / Adult Ed. Maynooth University

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

Sarah Gearty, Cartographic editor

Figure 1 Tadhg O'Keeffe and David Kelly (authors), outside the Mall House, Youghal, where the atlas was launched by Lord William Burlington on 18 June 2015 (photograph courtesy of Gerry O'Mahony).

Youghal

Youghal by David Kelly and Tadhg O'Keeffe was a welcome addition to the IHTA series (no. 27) in May 2015. The town's long main street, North Abbey (in ruins just off Tallow Street), St Mary's Collegiate Church and the town walls are enduring topographical features of Youghal's early history as a thirteenth-century Anglo-Norman borough and port. A rich cartographic history allows aspects of the development of the modern-day 'Heritage Town' to be traced effectively – from 1585 onwards – through the many historic maps (and views) reproduced in the atlas. William Jones's representation (*c.*1602) from the Hardiman atlas in Trinity College, Dublin and Bernard Scalé's maps of Devonshire lands in and near the town (1776) from the Chatsworth Estate, Derbyshire are highlights. The essay and gazetteer of topographical information accompany, as always, presenting documentary references and interpretation thematically structured to allow comparison with the other towns produced in the IHTA series. The Youghal atlas will be the topic of discussion at the annual Youghal Celebrates History conference from 23–5 September 2016.

Galway

Next in line for publication is the Galway atlas by Jacinta Prunty and Paul Walsh, due at the end of 2016. In advance of this, a pocket map *Galway c.1200 to c.1900: from medieval borough to modern city* was published by the same authors in November 2015. This follows the same format as other historical composite pocket maps produced by the IHTA for Belfast, Dublin, Limerick and New Ross. Over 200 sites and streets from the 700-year period are plotted in colour on a detailed Ordnance Survey Ireland modern base. Town walls, bridges, churches, gallows, public buildings, schools, theatres and wells are among the sites shown, many of which no longer survive in the present-day cityscape.

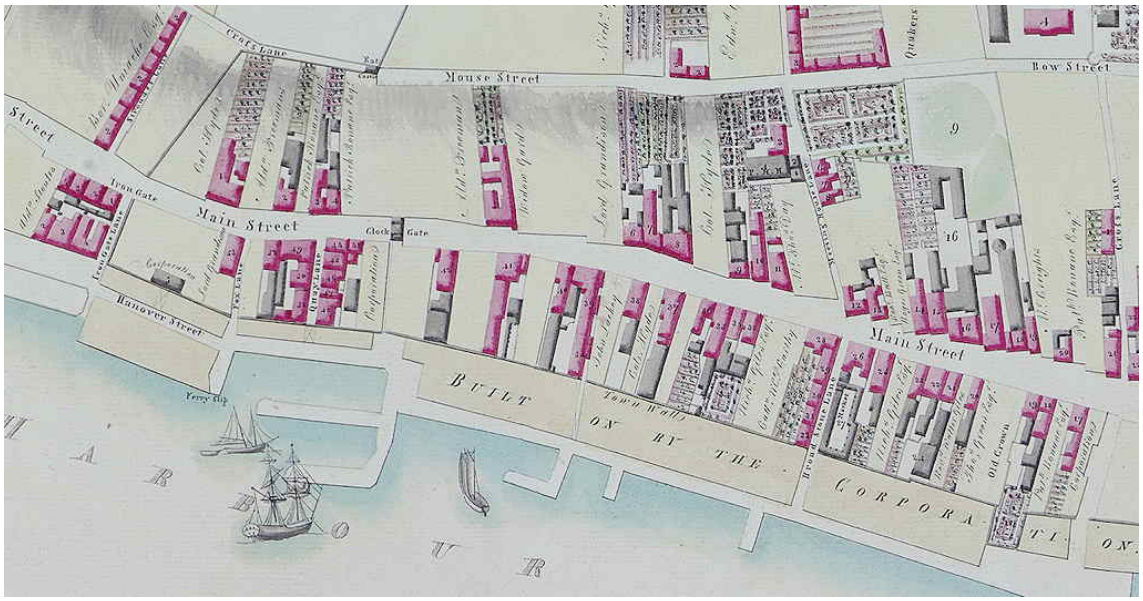


Figure 2 Extract from map of the town and gardens of Youghal, 1776, by Bernard Scalé (Devonshire Collection, Chatsworth). Reproduced in full as Map 10 in IHTA, no. 27, *Youghal*.

Comparing British and Irish towns

The annual IHTA seminar takes place on Friday 20 May 2016 in the Royal Irish Academy. This year the Irish project has teamed up with colleagues working on the British Historic Towns Atlas to carry out comparisons of towns and cities in the two neighbouring islands. Bristol and Galway, Kilkenny and Norwich, Limerick and York, Caernarfon and New Ross, and London and Dublin will be under discussion at 'Medieval townscapes: comparative perspectives through the Irish and British historic town atlases'. A full programme can be downloaded here http://www.ria.ie/research-projects/irish-historic-towns-atlas/seminar.

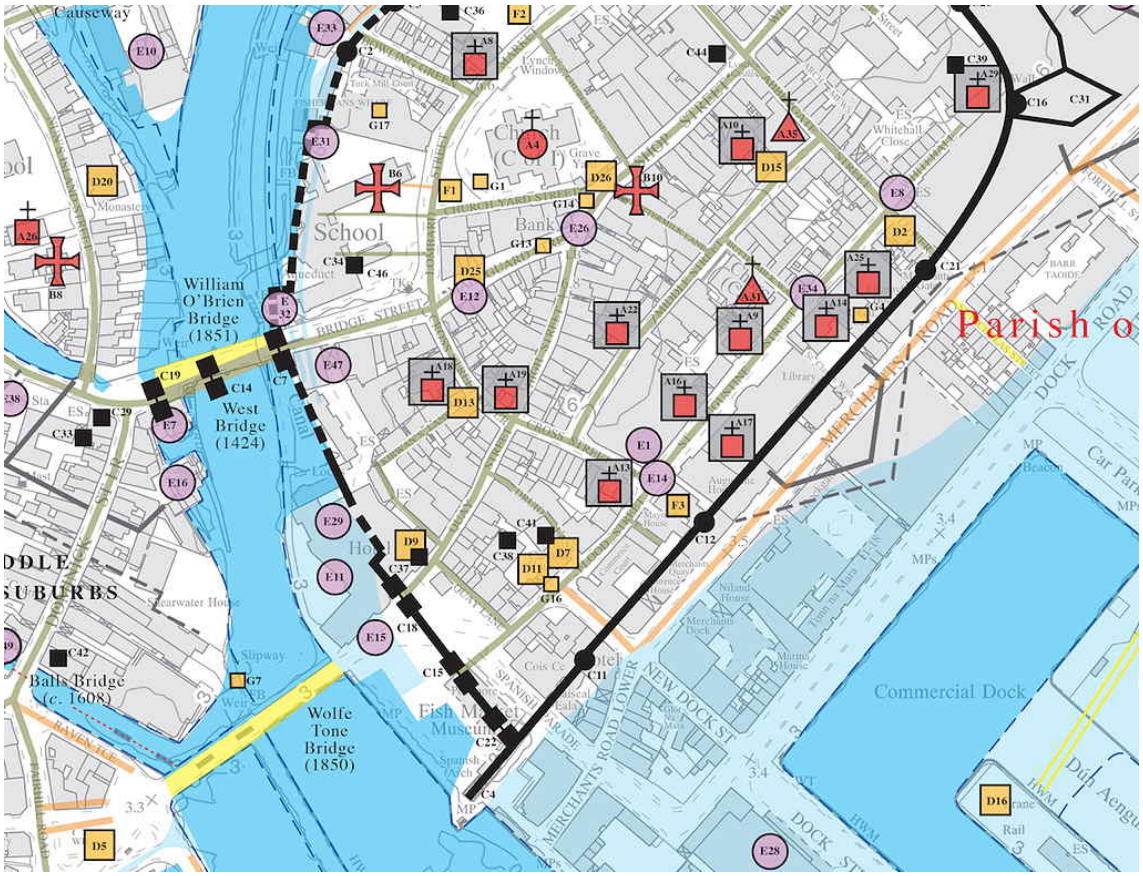


Figure 3 Extract from pocket map *Galway c.1200 to c.1900: from medieval borough to modern city* by Jacinta Prunty and Paul Walsh. Blue shadings show the approximate lines of the river/shore in the mid 17th and mid 19th centuries. Black indicates the medieval defences. Symbols have thematic categories (religious, manufacturing etc.) and are named and dated in an accompanying key.

FORTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Twin Trees Hotel, Ballina

6–8 MAY 2016

Historic Settlement in County Mayo

In association with
The North Mayo/West Sligo Heritage Group

7:00 pm (Friday) Registration and Opening
Reception: Loch Conn Suite

Speakers:
Keynote speaker: Bernard O'Hara (Former Registrar GMIT)
An overview of Mayo's archaeological and historical settlement
Dr Graeme Warren (Lecturer, School of Archaeology, UCD)
What does it mean to build a wall? Perspectives on prehistoric enclosure in North Mayo
Dr Nollaig Ó Muraíle (Senior Lecturer, School of Irish, NUIG)
Patrician place-names in and around Co. Mayo
Dr Yvonne McDermott (Lecturer in Heritage Studies, GMIT)
Moyne and Rosserk: Franciscan architecture in the late medieval period
Rory Sherlock (Director of the Galway Archaeological Field School, NUIG)
The Use and Abuse of Tower Houses in Co. Mayo
Marie Boran and Brigid Clesham (Landed Estates Project, NUIG)
Mayo landed estates and their owners, 1750–1914: a view from the archives
Fiona White (Lecturer BA in History and Geography, GMIT)
Louisa Moore: a life in letters. The management of the Moore Hall estate in the early nineteenth century
Dr Arnold Horner (School of Geography, UCD)
Mapping Mayo in the early nineteenth century
Dr Ruth McManus (Senior Lecturer in Geography, St Patrick's Drumcondra DCU)
Tigers, textiles and tax incentives: recent settlement change in Enniscrone and Killala Bay

Field Trip: Saturday 2:00 pm by bus to Rosserk Friary, Killala, Belderrig Neolithic and Bronze Age Fields and Céide Fields.
(Leaders: Dr Seamus Caulfield will be our guide at Belderrig and Céide Fields)
Field Trip: Sunday 2:00–4:00 pm: Guided visit to the Jackie Clarke Collection, Ballina

Reception: Saturday 7:15 pm: Wine Reception and Launch (sponsored by Four Courts Press) of
Agriculture and settlement in Ireland
and
Lough Ree: historic lakeland settlement

Conference Dinner: Saturday 8:00 pm: €25

Conference Fee: €50/£40. Students €20/£16. *Fee includes coffee and bus for fieldtrip*
Individual Sessions [Saturday/Sunday]: €20/£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

SUBSCRIPTION NOTICE

The annual subscription for 2016–2017 (€15 / £13, students €7 / £6) is due on 1st. May 2016. A subscription renewal form may be downloaded from http://www.irishsettlement.ie/

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

The easiest way to pay is online via paypal. Details may be entered on the Membership page of the Group's internet site:

http://irishsettlement.ie/membership/

Application for membership of the Group can be made via the form in the webpage:

http://irishsettlement.ie/membership/

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
Contributors are requested, where possible, to send materials, text and graphics by e-mail.
For further information visit our web-site.

http://www.irishsettlement.ie/