

GROUP FOR THE STUDY OF IRISH HISTORIC SETTLEMENT NEWSLETTER

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Annual Outing 2012

Lough Ree

See page 38 for details



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Lon. West from Greenwich. G

Editorial

Welcome to the 2011–12 edition of our Newsletter.

My thanks again to Bernadette Cunningham for her sterling work on the notices of books and research guides which are the backbone of our publication. This year she has also provided a report on our very successful outing to Cavan.

Thanks to our article contributors, James Lyttleton, Eamon Cody, Jonathan Cherry and Brendan Scott for excellent papers. My thanks to our reviewers, Raymond Gillespie (*Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy 111 C (2011). Special issue 'Domestic life in Ireland'*), Jim Galloway (*Life in Medieval Landscapes: People and Places in the Middle Ages. Papers in memory of H.S.A. Fox*) and Margaret Murphy (*Medieval Rural Settlement. Britain and Ireland, AD 800–1600*).

This year our outing is to Lough Ree. We will be based in the Hodson Bay Hotel. The list of speakers and lectures, and information concerning registration and fees may be found on page 38 of this Newsletter. We gratefully acknowledge the support of The Heritage Council, Waterways Ireland, Roscommon Heritage Forum, The Old Athlone Society and Westmeath Heritage Forum.

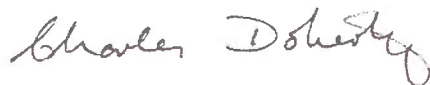
The Group held a very successful fifth thematic conference in All Hallows College, Dublin 24–6 February led by our president Bernadette Cunningham. The theme was *Environment, Settlement and Society. Changing Historic Patterns in Ireland*. The conference was in association with the Irish Environmental History Network and the Discovery Programme. Our thanks go to all our speakers and supporters (The conference was supported by: Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht; University of Limerick Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; University of Limerick Department of History; Trinity Long Room Hub). Especial thanks to our hard working secretary David Fleming and our treasurer Niamh Crowley.

Dr Geraldine Stout and Dr Matthew Stout gave lectures on behalf of GSIHS on Heritage Day, 27 August last in the Helen Roe Theatre of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, 63 Merrion Square. These lectures were beautifully delivered and the large numbers attending demonstrated the interest of the general public in the research that we do. Many thanks to Geraldine and Matthew for kicking off what we hope will be a regular event showcasing our Group.

I hope you will find this issue of the Newsletter of interest. I would make a special appeal to our conference speakers to contribute articles for the next issue. The articles in this issue are a guide to the length required. Our web site is:

<http://www.irishsettlement.ie/>

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



May 1, 2012

James Lyttleton
The Lords Baltimore in Ireland and North America: a study of the Calvert settlements in the Atlantic world

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Figure 1 The locations of the Calvert lands in Cos. Wexford and Longford (the latter sold off by 1641). Elsewhere in Ireland, Grace and Helen Calvert, daughters of the first Lord Baltimore married into an old English family, the Talbots, and resided in Carton in Co. Kildare and Ballyconnell in Co. Cavan respectively (from Mannion 2004/05, 12).

The establishment of the plantations in sixteenth and seventeenth-century Ireland can be placed in the context of English colonial and mercantile expansion across the North Atlantic, with enterprising adventurers involved in colonial projects on both sides of the ocean. One of the more notable of these transatlantic adventurers was the Calvert family, who under the 1st Lord Baltimore, Sir George Calvert, contemporaneously acquired estates in England, Ireland and Newfoundland during the 1620s. Such acquisitions were to be further followed by the establishment of a new colony in Maryland in 1634 after the succession of the 2nd Lord Baltimore, Cecil Calvert. This success was in no small part due to George Calvert becoming secretary of state to James I in 1619, one of the most prestigious and financially rewarding posts in court. Attempts to renew English settlement in Ireland were important as they were the first large-scale enterprises engaged upon by the Crown that were at least a partial success to the extent that they may have provided some

kind of model for subsequent schemes along the eastern seaboard of North America. Efforts to establish English colonies involved complex logistical problems of funding, transporting and settling a wide cross-section of society. Initial failures and successes in both Ireland and North America added to the reservoir of experience, which ultimately ensured the success of overseas settlements.

Following retirement from the London court early in 1625, the newly titled Lord Baltimore moved to the southeast of Ireland, an area with which he was already familiar through his previous work on a commission in 1613 that had dealt with issues relating to the plantation of north Wexford. The arrival of this new English peer in Ireland (who was also a recent Catholic convert) did not go unnoticed: David Rothe, the Catholic bishop of Ossory noted the presence of Lord Baltimore in Ferns Castle, the home of Sir Richard Masterson. Baltimore had established his household there as a temporary measure until his own residence nearby at Clohamon was constructed, probably on the grounds of an earlier MacMurrough Kavanagh castle. By the winter of 1626 Baltimore had moved into his new Wexford manor house, and while he immersed himself in the affairs of the locality, his attention never wavered from North America. Indeed, it was from Clohamon that George Calvert embarked upon two voyages to his Newfoundland colony.

In the spring of 1627 Baltimore decided to visit his colony at Ferryland in Newfoundland, informing Sir Thomas Wentworth that he would have to personally oversee the running of the settlement or else give up the grant. After spending late July to October in Newfoundland, Calvert returned to Clohamon to bring back his large family and settle in Ferryland. His venture was endorsed at the highest levels of officialdom, with Charles I requesting the lord deputy, Viscount Falkland to assist the Calverts in every way, as well as granting the family license to depart from any Irish port. Of the prospective settlers that Lord Baltimore brought with him, little is known of their social and geographical origins, though most were likely to be English Catholics. The travails of their first winter in Ferryland, however, convinced Lord Baltimore of the necessity to abandon this 'the coldest corner of Christendom' and move to warmer climes further south in the Chesapeake. The Virginian colony, already established in that region since 1607, hindered attempts by George Calvert to establish a new set-

tlement in the Chesapeake, and it was only by 1634 that the colony of Maryland eventually came into being after the succession of the 2nd Lord Baltimore, Cecil Calvert. Named after the Catholic wife of Charles I, Henrietta Maria, this was the only English colony where Catholics would enjoy freedom of worship.



Figure 2 The remaining wall of Clohamon Castle, exposed during the course of archaeological investigations. The wall stands on a rock platform, the external side of which slopes down into a shallow rock-cut fosse.

While archaeologists have explored the remains of the settlements established by the 1st and 2nd Lords Baltimore in Newfoundland and Maryland for the last forty years, little attention (besides the notable article by the geographer John Mannion) has focused upon their Irish settlement and the part that it played in creating a new 'Atlantic world' where exploration, conquest, migration and trade saw the burgeoning of an English global presence. A programme of archaeological investigations were carried out by the author in three field seasons between 2009-11, as part of a post-doctoral fellowship held in Memorial University of Newfoundland, and with the assistance of the Royal Irish Academy and the Dept. of Archaeology in UCC. It was decided to focus attention on the site of Clohamon Castle, today only surviving as a short stretch of wall measuring c.6m in length on a rock outcrop overlooking the Slaney river. During excavations, a section of this wall was exposed, revealing it to have been built of shale stone, and bonded with a lime-based mortar. Given that both the external and internal wall faces had been removed, the remaining width of 1.3m indicates this to have been a substantial wall, more so than typical bawn walls which range between 80cm to 1m in width. This wall may be the remains of the tower house that once would have stood on the site. The wall was placed on a rock-cut platform, the exterior of which had been cut away to create an inclined slope which terminated as a shallow fosse, also cut into the bedrock. The fosse had been filled with deposits of shale, mortar, sand, and gravel, pointing to episodic collapses of wall material. In among these destruction layers, wrought nails, a possible arrowhead

and medieval pottery consisting of Leinster Cooking Ware and Wexford-type Ware were recovered.

15m to the NE, a second trench was opened across a ridge of bedrock which appeared to follow the orientation of the wall exposed in the first trench. Excavation of this trench revealed the remains of a wall built of roughly coursed shale, granite and quartzite, held with a clay bond. The wall, 2.3m in length and 80cm in width, was curved. This curvature suggests the presence of a circular structure on the perimeter of Clohamon Castle, possibly a circular corner flanker protecting the eastern and southern approaches to the castle. The wall's dimensions are comparable to up-standing flankers found elsewhere on sites fortified in the plantation era. The presence of a substantial castle enclosure or bawn at Clohamon underpinned the development of a town populated by both English and Irish tenants. Indeed a census taken in 1659 confirmed Clohamon's status as the largest settlement in north Wexford, servicing the needs of an estate whose economic basis depended on farming and timber. The 1st Lord Baltimore had chosen the site of his Irish settlement with care, taking into account the fertility of the land, the abundance of good oak timber, the availability of fishing, and close proximity to well-established seaports on the southeast coastline.



Figure 3 The remains of circular corner flanker exposed in a second trench. This feature originally covered approaches to Clohamon Castle from the south and east.

Both the 1st and 2nd Lords Baltimore appreciated the virtue of having well stocked woodlands – a valuable commodity in a part of the world where woodlands were far less extensive than was the case in the Chesapeake. An extensive timber industry had already evolved in the Slaney river valley during the sixteenth century, accelerating in the late 1630s, with timber products being exported to England, the Netherlands, France and Spain. A lease of the Irish estate was made by the 2nd Lord Baltimore to a timber merchant by the name of William Swanton, who was granted the 'lordshipp, Mannor and towne of Cloghamon'

in October 1637 including all ‘manner of trees woodes and underwoodes’. Another spin-off from the large-scale exploitation of the woodlands in the Slaney Valley was the establishment of ironworks, based on the importation of iron ores from England, their processing in forges fired by local timber, and the re-export of bar iron back to England or to the European continent. In the late 1650s and early 1660s the 2nd Lord Baltimore leased the manor of Clohamon to a London-based syndicate who were developing an ironworks in the area. It was a speculative agreement, in that the leaseholders were allowed to erect ironworks and other mills, as well as operate mining and quarry rights. Yet Baltimore preserved his right to inspect and mark oak trees between 20 and 40 years old now growing on the estate, with the leaseholders specifically forbidden to cut down any of these young oak trees. This is indicative of active woodland management on the part of the proprietor who did not want the natural resources of his estate squandered away for short-term gain. Indeed the woods in the northern portion of the manor were reserved exclusively for his own use.

But the timber industry was not the only activity in Lord Baltimore’s Irish estate. Archaeological testing revealed a concentration of brick and mortar to the north of the castle site on the margins of the modern-day village of Clohamon. It was decided to open a trial trench measuring 3m by 3m in this area. This uncovered the remains of a brick-built structure with an attached stone-built hearth. The brick wall, bonded with a lime-based mortar, survived to two courses in height. The interior floor was covered with shale flagstones, roughly laid and bonded with a lime-based mortar. It was decided to further investigate this building in 2011, revealing not only the full extent of the brick structure and the hearth, but also the remains of a plastered floor, measuring 4m by c.5m in extent. Underneath the plaster floor was a cobble sub-floor surface set into a bed of sand. Lack of wall foundations along the sides of the building suggests that sill beams sitting high on the ground were used as supports for a timber-framed structure. The basic dimensions of the sill beam along the south-west side were still evident on the ground surface, where other deposits and features respected the side of the building. The fill of the foundations for the kiln and hearth produced a pipe stem fragment and the base of a vessel of North Devon gravel-free ware type suggesting a mid-seventeenth-century date for construction of the building. When no longer in use, the hearth was filled in with a deposit of sandy silt that contained a handle, possibly of a Spanish olive jar,

along with a number of tobacco pipe stems whose bore stems spanned between mid to late seventeenth-century, indicating that the building had fallen out of use by 1700.



Figure 4 The remains of a seventeenth-century timber-framed building with flooring still preserved in-situ at Clohamon. A stone furnace and brick-lined kiln are evident to the rear of the building. Identified as a malthouse where barley was converted into malt, an ingredient used in the production of beer.

But what was the function of this building? It was initially thought that this structure probably served as a bakehouse or brewhouse for the occupants of the manor house and village. Many household inventories of the period record the presence of ancillary buildings such as wash houses, dairy houses and brewhouses, and it should come as no surprise that the 1660 lease of Clohamon mentions a number of outbuildings associated with the Calvert manor house. Dr. Colin Rynne, an industrial archaeologist from the Dept. of Archaeology in UCC, inspected the site and deduced that the building did not serve as a bakehouse or a brewhouse, but rather as a malthouse. The provision of a perfectly level floor covered with plaster, along with a brick-built kiln heated by a hearth, suggests that this building was utilised in the processing of barley into malt – an agricultural activity that continues in the area to the present day (the field in which the malthouse is located is currently used to grow barley under contract to Guinness). Gervase Markham in his *The English Housewife* published around 1600 mentions that the floor within a malthouse should be level, and covered in plaster or plaster of Paris. Apparently such floors were good at not only absorbing moisture, but also storing the same, providing the grain with moisture as needed, but not allowing the grain to stand wet. Harvested barley was brought into the malthouse, steeped in vats of water and then spread on the floors and occasionally turned until the grains greened and started to sprout. At this point the grains were then taken to the kiln to be heated where the barley was finally converted to malt, one of the basic ingredients in the making of beer. In a period which saw the increased con-

sumption of beer in Ireland, over the more previously popular wines and spirits, the development of a malthouse was essential for the occupants of villages like Clohamon.

The malthouse uncovered this season is a unique survival of such a building, as low status buildings, whether in the grounds of manor houses or elsewhere, rarely survive. A possible malthouse may be seen on a 1620 map by Thomas Raven of an estate in Co. Derry belonging to Sir Thomas Philips. The map depicts the castle of Sir Thomas, flanked by a renaissance-style garden. Nearby can be seen the village of Limavady with its numerous houses arranged around a crossroads, the intersection of which is marked by a market cross. In between the castle and the village lies a stand-alone structure, a rectangular building with a large chimneystack projecting from one end of the building. Could this be a malthouse? If so, then this cartographic source neatly encapsulates an arrangement also to be found at

Acknowledgements

The author wishes to thank the Royal Irish Academy and Depts. of Archaeology in Memorial University of Newfoundland and University College Cork for providing assistance, both financial and practical, to facilitate this programme of archaeological research.

Further reading

John D. Krugler, *English and Catholic, the Lords Baltimore in the seventeenth century* (Baltimore, 2004).

James Lyttleton, 'The Lords Baltimore in Ireland' in Peter Pope and Shannon Lewis-Simpson (eds), *Exploring New World Transitions*, Society for Post Medieval Archaeology Monograph Series (in press).

John Mannion, 'Colonial beginnings: Lord Baltimore's Irish experience', *Journal of the Wexford Historical Society*, 20 (2004/05), 1-44.

William Smyth, 'Ireland and America - England's first frontiers' in *Map-making, landscapes and memory. A geography of colonial and early modern Ireland c.1530-1750* (Cork, 2006).

Lord Baltimore's estate in Clohamon where the malthouse was clearly located between the castle and village, serving the needs of both.

The archaeological fieldwork to date has yielded a valuable insight into the industrial and architectural development of Clohamon under the stewardship of the Lords Baltimore, and provides artefactual and architectural evidence necessary for an ongoing comparative study of the Calvert family's colonial endeavours in Ireland and North America in the formative years of English global expansion. As the geographer, Willie Smyth, admits, 'this field of comparative colonial studies is still a mainly uncharted one', yet such research is important to archaeologists, historians and geographers alike, since rapid and fundamental changes were taking place with European powers, including England, establishing global empires that brought about a 'New World' on both sides of the Atlantic.

SPACE AND SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE AGES

The third Space and Settlement in the Middle Ages conference will take place on Friday 1 June and Saturday 2 June in the Trinity Long Room Hub building. Further information available by email from:

spaceandsettlment@gmail.com

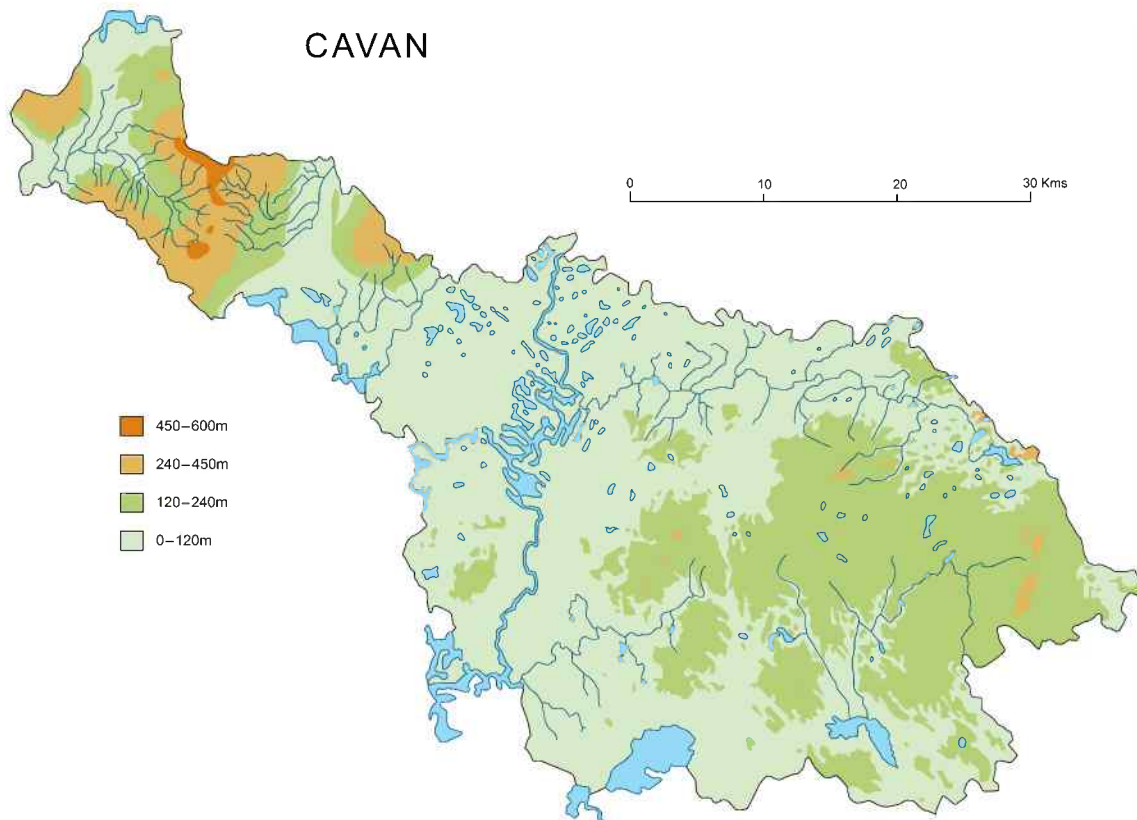


Figure 1 County Cavan – topographical map

Eamon Cody

Early Regional Identity and Local Prehistoric Continuity in the Cavan Area

(Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht)

This look at aspects of the prehistoric of the county Cavan area is based on an examination of the monumental evidence, i.e., the structures that survive, or are known to have existed, from that period. The main published source for such an examination is the archaeological inventory for the county (O’Donovan 1995), supplemented by a detailed study of the Burren area in the north-west of the county (Sherlock 2007). These publications identify some 150 monuments that can be assigned to the prehistoric of county Cavan falling into, successively, the Neolithic, the Bronze Age and Iron Age, covering the period from c.4000 BC to c.500 AD. In particular, and in line with the heading to the piece, attention will focus on an aspect of monument morphology that lends a distinct regional identity to the Cavan area at an early period. As well, attention is also drawn to three areas within the county where there is a notable concentration of monuments largely of a ceremonial nature. These concentrations, accumulated over lengthy time periods, are likely to have an origin ranging from the practical, say suitability of an area for early farming, to a choice based on the perceived ‘otherworldly’ importance of a particular location.

Before turning to the monumental evidence, reference must be made to the first period of human settlement in Ireland, the Mesolithic (c.8000–4000 BC), which accounts for almost half of the entire prehistoric era. The hunter-gatherer groups of this period, largely known from distinctive stone tools, left no enduring monuments. The Ireland inhabited by the hunter-gatherers was a heavily forested country. Scot’s pine, hazel and birch dominated woodland in the early part of the prehistoric period to be replaced c.6500 BC as climate improved by oak and elm and more slowly by alder, ash and yew. The forest and to a greater extent the rivers, lakes and sea provided the food requirements of these early inhabitants. The Cavan area with its extensive lake-lands and river systems would have suited the Mesolithic lifestyle and we can safely presume that the area was well known to our hunter-gatherer ancestors. Lakeside settlements of the period are known from nearby counties, Westmeath and Leitrim (Waddell 2010, 21). Prehistoric groups, like the Mesolithic populations of Ireland, that ‘failed’ to build enduring monuments tend to be at a disadvantage in the competition for the attention of the archaeologist; nonetheless a satisfactory picture has been built up of the lifestyle of the period, and based on ethnographic study of modern hunter-gatherers, we can have little doubt that while they did not build enduring monuments of earth and stone they would have inhabited a world no less rich in fable and sym-

bol than other prehistoric groups. Certain locations and natural features are likely to have been regarded as sacred or mysterious and we cannot rule out that there was construction of timber monuments. This last possibility gains credence from a rare find of human remains dating to this period. At Hermitage, county Limerick, a deposit of cremated bone, accompanied by a small collection of stone tools, was found in a shallow pit in the base of which there was a post-hole, suggestive of the presence of a timber post set in place as a grave-marker. The site has been dated to c.7500–7300 BC (Collins and Coyne 2003; 2006). We see in this county Limerick site possible evidence for the existence of the concept of a burial monument at a very early date in Irish prehistory.

As mentioned, the Cavan area is known for its extensive lakelands that dominate the mid-county area, and also its notable rivers, being as it is home to the source of Ireland’s greatest river, the Shannon, and also to another extensive waterway, the Erne. The overall picture of county Cavan is of a topographically-varied landscape, one that is relatively low-lying in the east and centre of the county, with hills and mountains to the west (see figure 1 on page ??).

As referred to above, Cavan’s monumental record belongs to the three prehistoric periods that followed the Mesolithic and it was in these periods that our early forebears left their signature on the landscape by removing, over time, the forest cover so as to farm the land and by building enduring structures, many of a ritual or ceremonial nature.

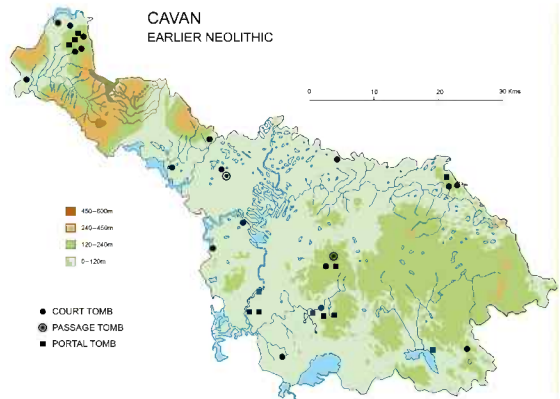


Figure 2 County Cavan – earlier Neolithic monuments

Turning first to the Neolithic (c.4000–2400 BC) this was the period when the practice of farming, the sowing and reaping of cereals and the raising for food of domesticated farm animals, began in Ireland. Also appearing for the first time in Ireland at this time is pottery manufacture and new types of stone tools. We can detect in these innovations influence from outside the island of Ireland as the domesticated animals and the cereals of the first farmers were not native to this

country and had to be introduced. Farming entails a different relationship to the land from that of a hunter-gatherer. Separate hunter-gatherer groups may have laid claim to different swathes of forest or extents of riverside or lakeside but this differs from the field-specific importance of the farmer’s cereal plot, won from the forest by his labour. It was these early farmers and their descendants that during the 4th millennium and into the 3rd built some of Ireland’s most enduring monuments, those known today as megalithic tombs.

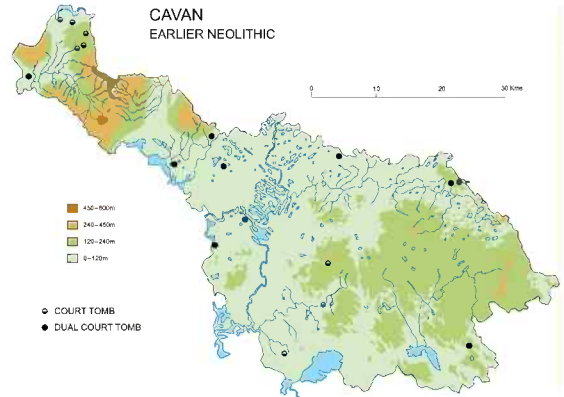


Figure 3 County Cavan – court tombs

Many hundreds of these sturdy stone structures still survive. They are interpreted variously as symbols of social cohesion, as statements of ownership of the land on which they stood, as places deemed sacred because they were the resting places of deceased members of the community. These early monuments and their associated settlements would have been built in forest clearings reached by footpaths through the forest. With their construction we may imagine that these man-made features began to replace natural landmarks in people’s mental geography of an area.

Three types of megalithic tomb are known in the earlier part of the Neolithic, say from c.4000–3200 BC, namely court tombs, portal tombs and passage tombs. In all 18 court tombs, 12 portal tombs and two passage tombs are known in county Cavan today and we can safely assume that some others, how many we cannot say, have been destroyed without trace in the five millennia since construction. Looking at the distribution map (Fig. 2) we note that, in general, the sites tend to cluster in loose groupings on the edge of or on the more upland areas. Such loose groupings suggest that either separate social groups settled in relatively close proximity to each other or it may also be the case that some tombs were closed after a period of use to be followed by the construction of a new one. The role of the different tomb types is also of interest and will be referred to below. Here it is proposed to focus on the preponder-

ance of a particular court tomb design in the Cavan area.



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Figure 4 County Cavan – Cohaw dual court tomb

Court tombs, of which there are over 400 in Ireland, predominantly found in the northern half of the country exhibit regional design differences. For instance, tombs with a full court and two chambers are usual in the western half of the distribution while tombs with an open court with two but also sometimes with three or four chambers are more usually found in the eastern half of the distribution. The relatively rare central court tomb type is confined to the western seaboard counties of Donegal, Sligo and Mayo. It has long been noted that the dual court type, where two sets of burial galleries are set back to back, standing sometimes end to end, sometimes a short distance apart, and each separately entered from opposite ends via its own court are a feature of the south Leitrim and Cavan region (de Valera and Ó Nualláin 1972, 161–2). Some 33 dual court tombs are known in the overall court tomb distribution, representing 8% of the Irish total. Of the 33 examples, 10 are in county Cavan, i.e., 55% of all the court tombs in county Cavan are dual court examples (Figs 3, 4, 5). In a wider area described by a radius of 40 km centred on Belturbet in north Cavan, an area that encompasses most of Cavan, much of Monaghan, south Leitrim, south-eastern Fermanagh and southernmost Tyrone, there are 57 court tombs of which 19 are of dual court type (Cody 2002, 266). The popularity of the dual court design in the wider Cavan area lends this region a distinct monumental identity. What lay behind the design? At a functional level the design provides extra burial space at the same location and it may be in some instances that the two parts of the dual arrangement were built at different times. Whether this was so or not, the design clearly implies a response to some social requirement. It is found that in tombs of this type, both courts and both burial galleries are similar in size, suggesting there is a concern with some notion of equivalence, perhaps so as to accord similar status to two social units however they might be related. Thus it may signify some form of so-

cial alliance between groups. This form of pairing may have had a considerable symbolic significance. Court tombs generally face east suggesting a role for the sun in the belief system of the time; dual court tombs commanding a view in both directions may have had enhanced symbolic meaning, perhaps not dissimilar to the Janus figures of a much later date. As to why dual court tombs have been particularly favoured to the extent they were in this area is difficult to imagine. Detailed study of the setting of dual court tombs at local level may yield some explanation. For now, we can ask if the extensive waterways of the area allowed for a greater degree of contact between disparate groups and thus the development of relationships and alliances more easily than may have been the case in areas where travel would have been through a forested landscape and so perhaps less easy.



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Figure 5 County Cavan – Cohaw dual court tomb

Over time the practice of building monuments continued and when those that can be assigned to the long time interval that includes the later part of the Neolithic and the entire Bronze Age, down to c.500 BC, we can add some 100 monuments (Fig. 6) to the 32 assigned to the earlier Neolithic. Among these is the wedge tomb, a new type of megalithic tomb, which represents a continuation of the earlier Neolithic tradition of communal burial in large stone tombs but in a monument type that invariably faced west, a contrast to the earlier megalithic tomb types that displayed

a marked though not exclusive preference for an eastwards orientation.

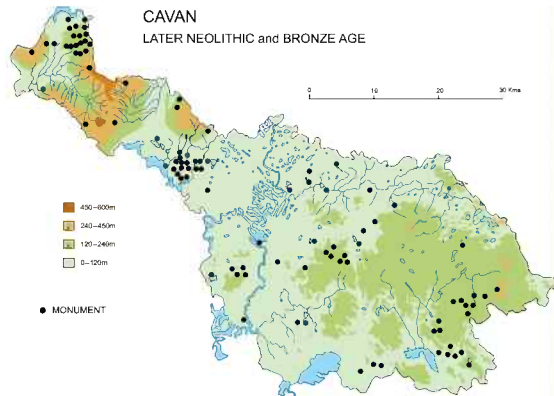


Figure 6 County Cavan – later Neolithic and early Bronze Age monuments

Not long after the inception of the wedge tomb there is the appearance of the practice of single burial, usually with distinctive funerary ware, of one or occasionally more than one person in a small pit or a cist grave. This indicates a move away from the concept of group or communal burial known in megalithic tombs. In the case of megalithic tombs it seems that in at least some cases the tomb was amenable to later access, with the result that the remains of the dead may have been subsequently moved around, sometimes perhaps to facilitate later burials and perhaps also as part of ritual activity that involved handling ancestral bones, the implication being that the dead were still part of the living community. This seems not to have been the case in the single burial tradition where once buried the dead lay undisturbed.



Figure 7 County Cavan – stone row at Shantemon

Entrances to megalithic tombs are relatively small and narrow and the interiors are limited in the numbers that could comfortably access them at any one time. Their design all hints at structures intended to control access. Thus we imagine there may have been a distinction between those, the few, perhaps a priestly caste, members of which were permitted to enter the tomb to conduct ceremonies out of sight and those who stood outside. New monument types of the later Neolithic and early Bronze Age periods point to

a change in this approach with the construction of open monuments, such as stone rows (Fig. 7), stone circles, henge monuments around which large groups could gather to see and perhaps partake in ceremonies.

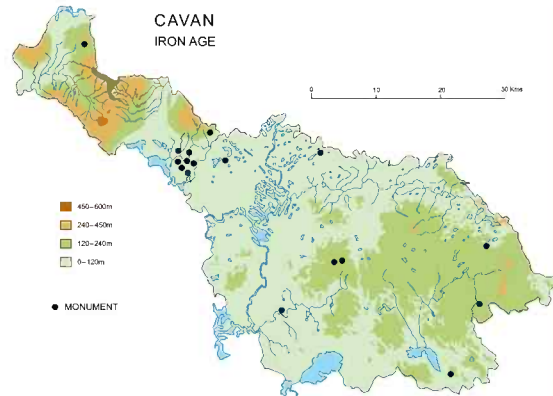


Figure 8 County Cavan – Iron Age monuments

Fig. 8 shows the location of monuments, such as ring-barrows that are considered likely to be of Iron Age date (Newman 1997, 153–70). By this time there is evidence, apparent from the later Bronze Age, of the emergence of tribal groups in Ireland, indicated by the construction of hill-forts, demonstrating a concern with controlling tribal territories and in a county Cavan context we may mention the Black Pig’s Dyke, the Ulster-wide linear boundary, that hints at the emergence of provincial consciousness.

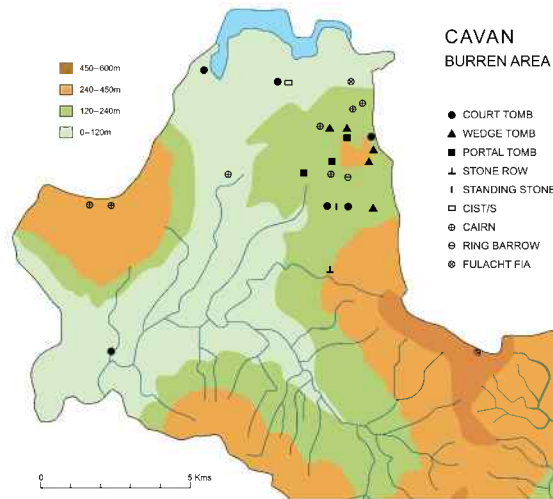


Figure 9 County Cavan – Burren area monuments

When the known prehistoric monuments in county Cavan are plotted (Figs 2, 6 and 8) what is noticeable is that there are a number of areas where there is a striking level of prehistoric continuity. Looking first at the Burren area of north-west Cavan, we note an area of relatively dense monument occurrence (see the right hand side of Fig. 9). In this area (much of it now under commercial forest), where there would have been good dry grazing land, there is a marked concentration of monuments dating in particular to the Neolithic and early Bronze Age. An earlier Neolithic pres-

ence is indicated by the presence of three court tombs and three portal tombs (Fig. 10).



Figure 10 County Cavan – Portal tomb, Burren townland

It is likely these were built by early farming groups who we can imagine would have found this well-drained upland limestone country well suited to their needs. The labour involved in building any one of these tombs was considerable, involving quarrying, splitting, hauling and hoisting by whatever means very substantial blocks of rough stone. The achievement of successfully constructing such monuments must have engendered a sense of community and perhaps also of comfort at having honoured a perceived spiritual or religious obligation. The megalithic tradition was maintained by the construction of five wedge tombs towards the end of the Neolithic period; again we may surmise in the context of a farming population. The new tomb style must reflect a change in ritual requirements. This, though, was a time of change in other respects, as noted above. The single burial tradition is represented in the area by some of the cairns which, given their relatively small size, are likely to be of early Bronze Age date.

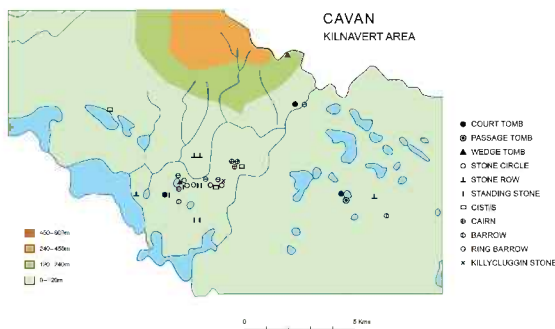


Figure 11 County Cavan – Kilnavert area monuments

A little to the south of the main concentration of monuments in this area there is a stone row, perhaps of later Bronze Age date; as is likely to be a *fulacht fia* at the northern end of the area. An Iron Age presence is suggested by a lone ring barrow. Current fieldwork in the area is also revealing considerable occurrences of instances of rock art (not marked on Fig. 9) and a complex pattern of field fences (Burns and Nolan 2007). Dating of rock art is problematical but it is likely to be at

least as early as the 3rd millennium; the date of the field fences remains to be determined but a prehistoric origin for them cannot be ruled out.

Another dense concentration of monuments is known in the Kilnavert area of the county between Templeport Lough and the Woodford River, close to the border with county Leitrim (Fig. 11). Here the earliest monument, a court tomb, dates to the earlier Neolithic with the megalithic tradition continued perhaps a millennium later by a single wedge tomb.



Figure 12 County Cavan – stone row at Lissanover

However it is the newer tradition of single burial, starting in the early Bronze Age, represented by cist burials and at least some of the cairns and barrows in the area, and the openly accessible ritual monuments such as stone circles, stone rows (Fig. 12) and standing stones that dominate this small area of what is today improved, gently rolling pasture. The focus on this small area continues into the Iron Age, indicated by the presence of a number of ring barrows and spectacularly by the Killycluggin stone, one of only four stones bearing Iron Age La Tène-style decoration in Ireland (Fig. 13).



Figure 13 County Cavan – Killycluggin stone

The notable density of ceremonial monuments largely of Bronze Age and Iron Age date in this relatively small area suggests it was a place of special

ritual significance for a considerable part of the prehistoric period.

A smaller but very interesting group of monuments is located in Banagher townland, some 7 km SW of Cavan town. Here on a broad, flattish top of hill at just over 700 feet OD, itself overlooked by nearby Slieve Glah, there is within a large stone circle a ruined cairn containing the remains of a greatly disturbed passage tomb, one of the dislodged stones of which bears passage tomb art; close-by there is an embanked stone circle, also an internally ditched earthen enclosure and two small barrows (Figs 14, 15, 16).

Not shown on Fig. 15 and some 200 metres down-slope to the east is the site of a now-demolished court tomb and a further 200 metres down-slope is a portal tomb. Located at the northern limit of Ireland's low-lying central plain the hill-top at Banagher commands an extensive outlook to the south and may have been chosen for its elevated character and perhaps some perceived ritual characteristic.

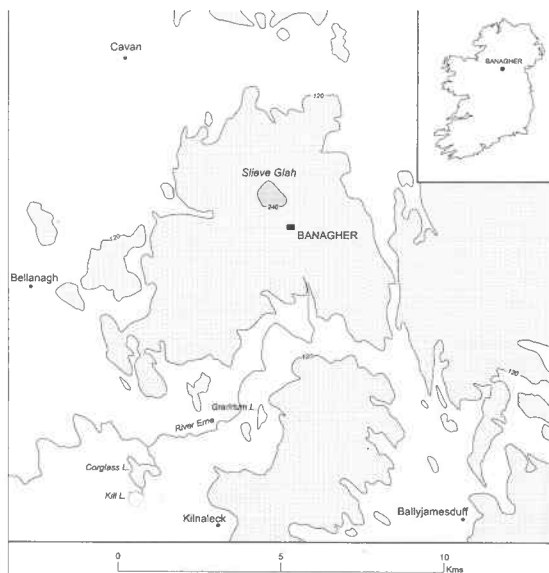


Figure 14 County Cavan - Banagher area

At Banagher it is clear that the earliest monument at the site, the passage tomb which is of Neolithic date, was to be the focus of considerable ritual activity. It has not been dated but we can safely state that it was built some centuries before 3000 BC — as would have been the nearby court tomb and portal tomb already referred to. There is a notable contrast in the siting of the passage tomb on the one hand and the other two tombs on the other which serves to illustrate what seems to have been two differing roles. The court and portal tombs, located on the side of the hill on which the passage tomb stands, are visible from the lower ground below them; in other words they are visibly part of the hill-side locality. The passage tomb, sited well back from the edge of the flat-topped hill, is out of sight of anyone standing

at the other two tombs and of the lower ground around the hill.

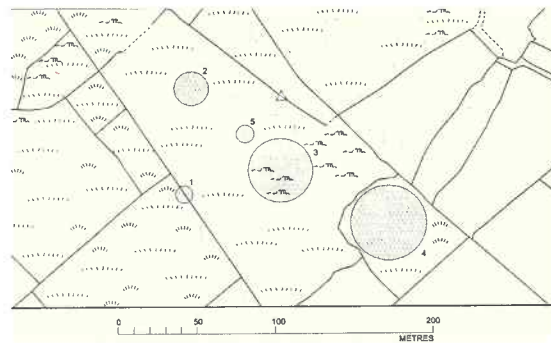


Figure 15 County Cavan - location of monuments at Banagher: ring-barrows (1 and 5), embanked stone circle (2), passage tomb and stone circle (3), embanked enclosure (4)

What seems to have mattered to its builders was the view from the tomb which is a commanding one to the south. Perhaps significantly, the tomb opens to the south-east which is the direction of the Sliabh na Caillighe (Loughcrew) passage tomb cemetery, some 25 km away, its more prominent cairns visible on a clear day. If the court and portal tomb served as statements of the local community's links to the area the passage tomb may be a statement of the community's place in a wider regional power structure, in this case linked to one of the great ritual centres of Neolithic Ireland. As noted the passage tomb was to be the focus of later ceremonial activity. In the absence of excavation there can be no certainty about the exact chronology but it seems that sometime in the later Neolithic, perhaps around the middle of the 3rd millennium BC, three ceremonial circles were built, one an embanked stone circle a short distance to the north-west of the passage tomb, another an embanked enclosure, its inner ditch and outer bank arrangement testifying to its ritual character, a short distance to its south-east, and around the passage tomb cairn was built a large circle of spaced stones, the latter a rare occurrence. This replicates activity in the Boyne Valley area where there are a number of associations of passage tombs and ceremonial circles of various types (Stout 1991). In this we again see the change in ceremonial focus to monuments that would have facilitated easy access to all.

The occurrence of three different types of ceremonial circles in such a small area is striking and hints at the continuing and perhaps enhanced importance of this locale at this time. The circle of spaced stones is the second largest of its type in Ireland, surpassed only by the very large example built around the famous Newgrange passage tomb. In the early Bronze Age the passage tomb cairn was again utilised as the last resting place of a number of individuals whose remains were inserted into the earlier monument; this oc-

currence, dated to the centuries around 2100 BC on the basis of the pottery that accompanied the burials, came to light when the site was disturbed about 40 years ago. Such re-use of earlier megalithic tombs is known elsewhere from this period, a mark of continuing belief in the sanctity of such places. Two ring-barrows, one just north-west of the passage tomb and another to its west, represent what seems to be the final acts of monument construction at this location. Again in the ab-

Acknowledgments

My thanks to Tom O’ Sullivan for the maps and to

sense of excavation it is not possible to state when these monuments were built but the likelihood is that the ring-barrows are of Iron Age date (Newman 1997, 153–70). It is fitting to close with this complex of monuments at Banagher, a long-lived ritual centre that in its make-up echoes some of the major ritual centres of east central Ireland, Sliabh na Caillighe and Newgrange, already mentioned, and also Tara (Cody 2002, 97).

Con Brogan and Tony Roche, Photographic Unit, National Monuments Service.

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Acknowledgments

My thanks to Tom O’ Sullivan for the maps and to Con Brogan and Tony Roche, Photographic Unit, National Monuments Service.



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Figure 16 County Cavan – aerial view of passage tomb cairn and surrounding stone circle at Banagher

Jonathan Cherry

Reconstructing the plantation landscape at

Farnham: 1611–1664

(St. Patrick's College Drumcondra)

Introduction

From 1664 until 2001 Farnham, county Cavan, was the ancestral seat of the Maxwell family, who were at various times barons, viscounts and earls of Farnham. After the death of Barry Owen Somerset Maxwell, the 12th Baron Farnham, the house and extensive demesne of 1,200 acres was sold and the property was developed by the Radisson group with a hotel, spa and conference centre attached to it. In May 2011, the annual conference of the Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement was at Farnham and members had the opportunity to experience the new amenities in an historic setting. This article outlines the evolution of this part of the hinterland of Cavan town as it developed under the ideals of the Ulster plantation during the 17th century.

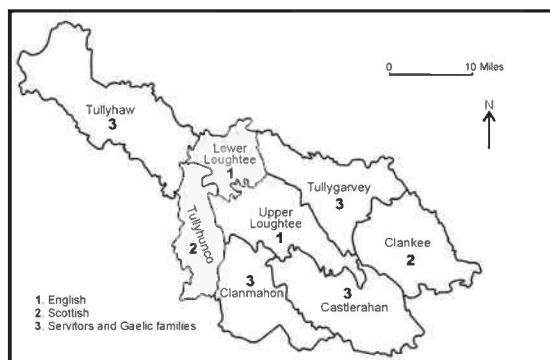


Figure 1 Allocation of Cavan's baronies during the Ulster Plantation

Origins of the Farnham Estate

Under the scheme for the plantation of Ulster implemented during the early 17th century the geographically central baronies of Upper and Lower Loughitee containing the best quality land in the county were reserved exclusively for English undertakers. It was also envisaged that the presence of English settlers in these central baronies would facilitate the dissemination of English 'civility' to the surrounding baronies of Clankee and Tullyhunco which were reserved for Scottish undertakers and those of Tullyhaw, Tullygarvey, Clanmahon and Castlerahan which were to be settled exclusively by servitors and some members of the native Gaelic O'Reilly family who had remained loyal (Figure 1). The clustering of these different ethnic groups within specific geographical locations was to provide the Ulster plantation with its unique regional flavour, each group imprint-

ing the landscape with markers of their own culture and identity, particularly in terms of architecture and agricultural practices.

By early summer 1610 a listing of the English undertakers allotted lands in the barony of Loughitee had been prepared (Moody 1938, 226). Initially the manors of Dromhill and Dromellan – later collectively referred to as the Farnham estate – were in this original listing designated to become the property of Sir John Davies, the attorney general. He, however, did not take ownership of these lands in Cavan and instead developed his lands in Fermanagh and Tyrone. As Davies was so deeply involved in the confiscation of lands in Cavan he may have considered his role thereafter as an undertaker inappropriate. In July 1610 Davies sold his interest in these 7,000 acres of land to Sir Richard Waldron, from Leicestershire (Hunter, 1973). The lands granted to Waldron lay contiguous to one another in a block, a distinguishing feature of Ulster plantation estates (Duffy 1995, 22). Each manor was comprised of a number of townlands or polls and some of the names recorded in the original grant are instantly recognisable today, including that of Farnam – probably derived from the Irish *Fearnan* meaning the place of the alder tree – the early spelling of Farnham.

The development of the plantation castle and village: 1611–1622

Sir Richard Waldron was now responsible for settling his estate with English tenants, and he himself was obliged to hold 600 acres of his land in demesne, thus encouraging his residency in Cavan. He was required within two years to have constructed a 'castle with a strong court or bawn about it' (Hill 1877, 82). However Waldron was delayed in coming to Ireland at this stage and he petitioned the Privy Council to be excused from taking up residence for five years and recommended to them that he might be allowed appoint a deputy. In February 1611, the Lords of Council licensed Clement Cotterill, 'an agent of good demeanour and qualities', to act as a substitute for Waldron (Moody 1938, 248). In 1611 when the first of four governmental surveys assessing the progress of the plantation was undertaken it was noted that Cotterill had restored and equipped an Irish house, a blacksmith's forge and a watermill (Calendar Carew 1603–1664 1873, 61–63). This 'Irish house' was most likely the former home of one of the O'Reilly family, who had occupied these lands before the plantation and was probably located in the townland of Farnham, which was then part of the manor of Dromellan. In February 1613 Sir Josias Bodley undertook

the second major report recording the plantation successes (Hastings Manuscript 1947). Waldron's estate seemed less well developed when compared with others in the barony of Lough-tee at this time and the poor quality stewardship provided by Cotterrill was blamed. However Waldron had lately arrived at Farnham and it was noted that he 'useth all possible diligence to end his tasks within the time limited' having brought with him from England 'divers masons, carpenters and labourers', with the foundations to a 'fair and strong' building laid with most of the building materials required in readiness. His temporary home, a 'thatched house with an upper loft other necessary lodgings within a place well fenced with ditch and rampier of earth. . . was well watched by his people at night'. Such sentiments provide an insight into the security concerns that occupied this alien, isolated community who were, according to Bodley, quite well equipped in terms of the weaponry and armoury at their disposal; an important requisite for their protection and survival. By 1614 a village settlement had emerged on the landscape at Farnham. A contemporary visitor noted that Waldron had 'made a very handsome village where there was not one stone laid these twelve months, and intends to enlarge his own house a great deal more' (Hastings Manuscript 1947, 14, quoted in Hunter 1973, 481).

Sir Richard Waldron died in 1617 and was succeeded by his eldest son Sir Thomas, who was the owner of the lands when Sir Nicholas Pynnar visited the place during his survey tour in 1618 and 1619 (Hill 1877, 462). By this stage Waldron was in residence with his mother in 'a stone castle or house' known as Dromellan Castle and its location was most likely in close proximity to the existing Farnham House. The fortifications of the property were described as being 'a bawn of sods of 200 feet square, and four flankers' – however it was noted 'that much of it is fallen down' (Hill 1877, 462). It is possible that one of these flankers with some later additions and alterations remains today at Farnham (Figure 2). In his survey of the castles of county Cavan, Oliver Davies suggested that 'what must have been the south-east corner-tower of the bawn survives' (1948, 112). While this assertion has been questioned in recent times (Wilsdon 2010, 175) the retention of this rather unusually shaped building in such close proximity to the mansion house at Farnham is puzzling. I suggest that as the Maxwell family renovated and enlarged their ancestral seat during the 18th and 19th centuries, employing the then fashionable architects James Wyatt and later Francis Johnston, the flanker building may have been delib-

erately retained by them to (in some way) connect themselves back to an earlier historical period, thus cementing their connection and 'seatedness' at Farnham. The village recorded in 1613 continued to thrive and Pynnar noted that 'there is built a town consisting of 31 houses all inhabited with English' (Hill 1877, 462). A windmill had also been constructed and each of the cottagers held two acres and enough commonage to allow each graze twelve cattle.



Figure 2 Aerial view (2003) of site of Farnham House, with inset showing location of possible south-east flanker

The final survey of the progress of the plantation was undertaken in 1622 (O'Gallachair 1958). From it we can glean some further information relating to Waldron's home – we learn that it was constructed from stone, brick and lime and measured 53 foot in length and 44 foot in breadth. The village near the house remained a solely English settlement, occupied by some 30 families. Safety concerns remained paramount amongst the settlers and some '71 proper men, very well armed with a leader and a drum before them in a warlike manner' were recorded in 1622 and eight years later a Muster Roll recorded the names of 54 men on the Waldron estate (Hunter and Maxwell 1977). Unsurprisingly English surnames such as Chapman, Woodyear, Parker, Throne, Twig and Greene are prevalent. Despite the previous reports of the English settlers being well equipped with weaponry only eight of the 54 held arms in 1630, a realisation, which Hunter noted 'produced disquieting evidence about the military preparedness of the colonists at large' (1973, 488).

The 'lost' village at Farnham

During the 1641 Rising the English settlement that had been established on the Farnham estate and the village were upheaved. Thomas Waldron was imprisoned in Clogh Oughter castle during the early part of the rising. However he was later released and it appears that he returned to his home in Leicestershire. However his English tenants and villagers at Farnham did not fare as well. The 1641 Depositions held at Trinity Col-

lege Dublin include that of Robert Barowe, who claimed that, 'all the English inhabitants of Farnham were robbed also' (MS 832, fols 186r-186v). It appears that the village at Farnham fell into complete decline after the rising. Neither manuscript nor cartographic evidence has allowed the exact location of the village to be identified to date. In addition contemporary field studies of the site have failed to unearth any clues and it may be suggested that the extensive landscape re-organisation and ornamentation during the 18th and 19th centuries has erased all evidence of its site. The use of lidar data and a geophysical survey such as ground penetrating radar, coupled with an archaeological excavation of sites identified through this process would hopefully throw some more definite light on the nature of this village and the earlier sites and buildings from the plantation period.

The sale of the Farnham estate

In 1650, Sir Thomas Waldron facing financial ruin from unpaid mortgages sold his estate in England (Waldron-Patterson 1927, 72). It has been suggested that these financial problems were accentuated by Sir Thomas' love of gambling (Potter 1842, 105). By the mid 1650s, Waldron once again faced financial difficulties and turned to his Cavan lands as securities on which to raise mortgages (Farnham Papers NLI, MS 41126/1 & Clayton Papers NAI, D.3634). These remained unpaid and the lenders forced the sale of the estate. In September 1664 Dr Robert Maxwell purchased the lands for just over £2,000 (Clayton Papers NAI, D.3639). Maxwell had become Bishop of Kilmore in 1643, in succession to William Bedell and by 1661 he was also holding the diocese of Ardagh alongside Kilmore. Bishop Maxwell died in 1672 (Burke's Peerage 1959, 840) and over the next 80 years his descendants purchased several other estates in county Cavan so that by the mid 18th century they were the owners of the largest landed estate in the county extending to over 30,000 acres (Cherry 2006). Farnham was the estate core and

here the Maxwell family constructed and created for themselves, a mansion house and demesne reflective of and suited to their social, economic and political status, using the name of the place in their ennobled title.

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Brendan Scott

Attitudes between native and settler in

Cavan, 1610–41

(NUI Maynooth)

Following the death of Bishop William Bedell in early 1642, his son and namesake wrote a biography of his father's life. In it, he made a short mention of the state of Cavan, which was filled with hindsight. He said that Cavan was 'meetly well planted with English, but scatteringly here and there which facilitated their ruine ... [and] the Irish were more than five times their number and all of them obstinate papists'.¹ The Ulster Plantation forever altered the make-up of Ireland and its society and this short paper will discuss the relationships between the Irish natives and British settlers in Cavan from the establishment of the Ulster Plantation up to the 1641 rising.

Religion was one of the most divisive factors in Plantation Ulster from 1610–1641. Having been out of the reach of the Pale reforms for much of the sixteenth century, now the Church of Ireland and Trinity College Dublin were among the beneficiaries of the division of lands in the plantation. Although some clerics, most notably William Bedell, were popular with the Gaelic Irish, cases such as this were few and far between and the Irish held much animosity towards the Church of Ireland and its practitioners.

That a Catholic church pledging its allegiance to Rome existed alongside the established Church of Ireland was a fact of life which could not be ignored. Bishop Moyne of Kilmore and Ardagh, in a frank statement from 1622, admitted that as well as his own clergy, jurisdiction was also exercised by a number of Gaelic Irish clergy 'established by the popes authoritie'.² This was a problem which the Church of Ireland attempted to counteract through the conversion of Catholic Gaelic Irish

clergy to the Protestant faith, but the attempts were often half-hearted. Even those native Irish clergy, such as Murtagh King, who assisted Bedell in his Gaelic translation of the Old Testament, and who remained within the fold of the Church of Ireland often had Catholic wives and children, much to the exasperation of church leaders.³

The English view of the Gaelic Irish's stubborn nature in resisting the religious reforms was commented upon by more than one observer of Irish affairs at this time and it was almost felt by some that it was the fault of the Gaelic Irish that they were not accepting the religious reforms. In essence, bishops were saying that there was no point in having a resident vicar, as no Gaelic Irish would attend the service anyway. As Aidan Clarke has noted, 'no systematic effort to arrange for the reception of Catholics was made, and the Church's considerable intellectual energies were directed towards Protestant theological controversy rather than towards debate with Catholics'.⁴ Another problem the Irish Catholics had with the Church of Ireland were the recusancy fines, which could be paid by anyone not attending the State Church of Ireland services. The fines were not always collected nor the excommunications carried out – but Kilmore cathedral just outside Cavan town was reported in 1622 as having been 'newly built and repaired' with £175 in recusancy fines, so they did have some effect in Ulster.⁵

These attitudes and fines led towards a resentment and hostility on the part of the native Irish towards the Church of Ireland, often demonstrated brutally during the 1641 rising. Fears were rife among the Catholic community that what religious rights they had, which were implicitly recognised by Charles I, were going to be taken away from them.⁶ One Irish priest claimed that a statute had been passed in England, forcing all Catholics either to attend Protestant services or face banishment.⁷ An Irish insurgent claimed that 'the English thought to cut the throats of the

¹ E.S. Shuckburgh, *Two biographies of William Bedell, bishop of Kilmore* (Cambridge, 1902), pp 56–7.

² T.C.D., MS 550, fo. 206.

³ Shuckburgh (ed.), *Two biographies of William Bedell*, p. 342.

⁴ Aidan Clarke, 'Varieties of Uniformity: the first century of the Church of Ireland' in W.J. Shiels and Diana Wood (eds), *The churches, Ireland and the Irish* (Oxford, 1989), pp 105–22 at p. 119.

⁵ Brendan Scott, *Cavan, 1609–1653: plantation, war and religion* (Dublin, 2007), p. 27.

⁶ Deposition of Thomas Taylor (TCD, MS 833, fo. 70); deposition of William Watters (TCD, MS 832, fo. 114; TCD, MS 833, fo. 200); deposition of Thomas Crant (TCD, MS 832, fos 74, 212).

⁷ Deposition of Henry Reynolds (TCD, MS 832, fo. 62; TCD, MS 833, fo. 57).

⁸ Deposition of William Hoe (TCD, MS 832, fo. 135).

⁹ Deposition of John Anderson (TCD, MS 832, fo. 68); deposition of Richard Parsons (TCD, MS 832, fo. 91).

¹⁰ Deposition of John McSkemeine (TCD, MS 832, fo. 110; TCD, MS 833, fo. 187); deposition of William Watters (TCD, MS 832, fo. 114; TCD, MS 833, fo. 200).

¹¹ Deposition of James Stewart (TCD, MS 832, fo. 72); deposition of Simon Gream (TCD, MS 832, fo. 106); deposition of Arthur Culme (TCD, MS 832, fo. 115); deposition of William Sharpe (TCD, MS 832 fo. 84).

¹² Deposition of James Mardoghe (TCD, MS 832, fos 110, 112; TCD, MS 833, fo. 174); deposition of James Stewart (TCD, MS 832, fo. 72).

Irish for their religion but the Irish would prevent them, and cut their throats first for their religion'.⁸ The Catholics burned the Bible and Protestant books at the high cross in Belturbet and elsewhere throughout the county.⁹ They insulted the Protestants, denying their status as Christians and instead labelled them heretics.¹⁰ The Irish also refused to bury Protestants in graveyards, with many examples of this in Cavan.¹¹ When the insurgents came across a Protestant ceremony in Cavan, they said that those attending were at 'the Devil's service and it were a good deed to burn the roof over their heads'.¹² When the Protestants suffered a military setback near Drogheda, the Catholics jeered at them in Cavan, saying 'you English Protestants where now is your god. Now you see that your religion is nought for your god has forsaken you'.¹³ In Belturbet, two insurgents dipped copies of the Bible in dirty water and slapped Thomas Taylor and other local Protestants on the face with them, saying 'I know you love a good lesson here is a most excellent one for you and come tomorrow and you shall have as good a sermon as this'.¹⁴

Despite the latent hostility which eventually erupted in 1641, social links did develop between settler and native in the thirty or so years following the plantation. Following an initial 'settling in' period in which settlers felt that they had to be on their guard, attitudes towards the natives relaxed, which was to prove disastrous for the settlers in 1641. The 1611 commission estimated that Stephen Butler of Belturbet could arm two hundred men with weapons, even though he was only responsible for one hundred and thirty nine adult men at the time. These arms he kept in his castle and also had weapons dispersed among his tenantry. In the face of a threatened insurrection in 1624, however, what little gunpowder there was in the town was no longer held by the settlers, but was in the hands of the native Irish, forcing the settlers to flee to other towns to obtain gunpowder for themselves. The arms situation steadily deteriorated and by 1630, Butler had

only thirty swords and seven pikes between one hundred and sixty four men. In 1641, it was reported that Arthur Culme, a settler who was in charge of Clogh Oughter Castle, 'had in his house (when he was taken prisoner) ten pounds worth of sugar and plums, yet he had not one pound of powder, nor one fixed musket for the defence of it'.¹⁵ In 1630, the townsmen of Cavan could only produce at muster three swords, one musket and a pike.¹⁶ When the rising began, Myles O'Reilly, the sheriff of Cavan, visited the planters and took their weapons, as he said, to help protect them.¹⁷ Once he had received the weapons, he joined the rebellion and used them against the settlers. Although it ended badly for the settlers, this episode indicates the level of trust between settler and native, an attitude which would have serious consequences in 1641.

The settlers were also unhappy at the number of native Irish still living in Belturbet in 1618/19 who were willing to pay higher rents for properties, feeling that they could 'gett no reasonable bargains till the Irish be removed'.¹⁸ On John Fische's estate it was reported that 'some of them have and continue Irish upon the lands, whereof Sir John Fish complains'.¹⁹ The Irish were normally given only short leases, often at a high rent, which left them frustrated.²⁰ So the settlers and natives were living side by side in the plantation towns and indeed Cavan town's corporation also included representatives of the Old English and native Irish, the first sovereign being Walter Brady.²¹

Joseph Cope has recently highlighted the role which Philip McHugh McShane O'Reilly played in helping and saving British settlers in Cavan during the 1641 rising.²² The links which had grown up between settler and native – many natives had been employed by the settlers, such as James Brady, who before taking part in the 1641 rising had been a 'late servant to the Lady Wirrall' of Ballyconnell – in some cases saved the lives of those attacked in 1641, pointing to the warm rapport

¹³ Deposition of William Cole (TCD, MS 832, fo. 87); deposition of George Creighton (TCD, MS 833, fo. 227).

¹⁴ Deposition of Thomas Taylor (TCD, MS 832, fo. 98).

¹⁵ Shuckburgh (ed.), *Two biographies of William Bedell*, p. 190.

¹⁶ Robert Hunter, 'The English undertakers in the plantation of Ulster', *Breifne*, 4:16 (1973–75), pp 471–98 at pp 465, 488, 491–2.

¹⁷ Scott, *Cavan, 1609–1653*, p. 31.

¹⁸ Victor Treadwell (ed.), *The Irish commission of 1622: an investigation of the Irish administration 1615–22 and its consequences 1623–24* (Dublin, 2006), p. 518.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 517.

²⁰ Hunter, 'The English undertakers in the plantation', p. 490.

²¹ Jonathan Cherry, 'The indigenous and colonial urbanization of Cavan town, c.1300–c.1641' in Brendan Scott (ed.), *Culture and society in early modern Breifne/Cavan* (Dublin, 2009), pp 85–105 at pp 93–4. It is also interesting that following the uprising, the natives of Belturbet retained the English corporation system and re-elected Irish burgesses and a provost (Hugh O'Brady), in the place of the English one: Deposition of Henry Baxter (TCD, MS 832, fo. 81); Deposition of Joanne Woods the younger (TCD, MS 832, fo. 166).

²² Joseph Cope, 'The experience of survival during the 1641 Irish rebellion', *Historical Journal*, 46 (2003), pp 295–316.

²³ Deposition of George Butterwick (TCD, MS 832, fo. 49); Cope, 'The experience of survival', p. 311.

which existed between at least some of these people. George Butterwick from Drumlane was confronted by a band of native Irish insurgents who threatened his wife with violence unless she disclosed the whereabouts of rent money which they believed to be hidden in the settler's house. The Butterwicks were only saved when their native Irish servant intervened with the insurgents, convincing them to leave empty-handed.²³ At a massacre in Belturbet in early 1642, a settler called William Gibbs was also due to be hanged and the noose was actually around his neck before he was saved through the intercession of one of the insurgents, Donnell O'Reilly, an acquaintance of his.²⁴ A parish priest staying with a settler family called Reynolds in Lissanore in Cavan managed to protect them from a band of insurgents who threatened their lives, and continued to help them during the rising.²⁵ Likewise, James Stevenson of Leitrim was hidden by some of his Irish servants away from the insurgents who threatened to cut off the planter's head if they found him.²⁶ Richard Parsons, the Church of Ireland vicar of Drung & Larah, and George Creighton, vicar of Lurgan, were both saved through their familial links, although both experienced privations of varying degrees.²⁷

One of the big issues which proved to be so divisive between the settlers and natives was that of money, land tenure and finance. In the early seventeenth century, Ulster was in ruins following the Nine Years' War which had devastated much of the province.²⁸ Throughout the early seventeenth century, the native Irish across Ulster also had to battle unemployment and struggle with crop failures in financially straightened circumstances. Many of the native Irish now felt that they occupied an inferior social position to the settlers and began to harbour resentment towards the newcomers. Many of the Irish began to fall into debt and were often forced to

enter into loan agreements with the British settlers. Clodagh Tait has recently mentioned Philip O'Reilly of Kildrumferton who owed a total of £100 to fifty-five people on his death in 1638.²⁹ Once the rising began, many of the native Irish took their opportunity to destroy land contracts, mortgages, leases and evidence of debts. Nicholas Canny has pointed out that 'the determination of the insurgents to find and destroy [bonds and specialities that bore testimony to native indebtedness] indicates how widespread was their worry over the level of their indebtedness'.³⁰

Again, there are many examples of this in Cavan and through the seizure of the settler's property and the destruction of any evidence of debts owed to the Protestant settlers, most of the native Irish were displaying an interest in addressing their more immediate economic problems.³¹ Edmund Sherwin's tenants were also threatened with death if they refused to divulge the whereabouts of a 'great bowle' which their landlord used to drink from.³² Peter Cross, a tanner from Belturbet, was hanged specifically because he would not tell the rebels where his money was.

The double forge and furnace for iron-smelting at Doobally in west Cavan owned by Charles Coote was ransacked of valuables by the O'Rourke's of Leitrim along with others during the rising.³³ That this was one of the first acts undertaken by the insurgents in this part of the county, indicates their prior interest in the site and probable jealousy of the man who owned it.

Robert Hunter has estimated that the amount of land granted in fee to native Cavanmen amounted to 22.5% of the total area given over to plantation.³⁴ But most of those who were granted lands were often forced to move from their homes to poorer lands, for example in the barony of Tullyhaw in west Cavan.³⁵ Ciaran Brady has estimated that of the county's seven baronies, the land in

²⁴ Deposition of William Gibbs (TCD, MS 832, fo. 140).

²⁵ Deposition of Ellenor Reynolds (TCD, MS 832, fo. 167); Scott, *Cavan*, 1609–53, p. 42.

²⁶ Deposition of James Stevenson (TCD, MS 831, fo. 6).

²⁷ Deposition of Richard Parsons, (TCD, MS 832, fo. 88).

²⁸ Ciaran Brady, 'The end of the O'Reilly lordship, 1584–1610' in David Edwards (ed.), *Regions and rulers in Ireland, 1100–1650* (Dublin, 2004), pp 176–200 at pp 185–7.

²⁹ Clodagh Tait, 'Cavan in 1638: natives and newcomers' in Scott (ed.), *Culture and society in early modern Breifne/Cavan*, pp 188–99 at p. 194.

³⁰ Nicholas Canny, *Making Ireland British, 1580–1650* (Oxford, 2001), p. 476.

³¹ Scott, *Cavan, 1609–1653*, pp 40–1. A cursory glance through the depositions for practically every county demonstrate the settlers' preoccupation with recovering lost money and goods and their (soon to be dashed) hopes that the 'Commission for the despoiled subject' would facilitate some form of compensation: Aidan Clarke, 'The commission for the despoiled subject, 1641–7' in Brian Mac Cuarta (ed.), *Reshaping Ireland, 1550–1700: colonization and its consequences* (Dublin, 2011), pp 241–60.

³² Deposition of Edmund Sherwin (TCD, MS 832, fo. 97; TCD, MS 833, fo. 64).

³³ Canny, *Making Ireland British*, pp 359, 492.

³⁴ Robert Hunter, 'The Ulster plantation in the counties of Armagh and Cavan, 1608–41' (unpublished M.Phil. thesis, University of Dublin, 1969), p. 324.

³⁵ Brady, 'The end of the O'Reilly lordship, 1584–1610', p. 197.

³⁶ *Ibid.*, pp 197–98.

three of them, Castlerahan, Tullygarvey and Tullyhaw, were reported in 1622 and 1629 to have remained in the hands of the native Irish and independent Pale rentiers who had established their presence in the territories pre-plantation. In Clanmahon, 96.5% of the land was held by the natives post-plantation. The greatest planter penetration took place in Loughtee barony, the most central barony in the county, which took in Cavan town and Belturbet, the two biggest towns in the county. Nor do these figures take into account the lands sublet by planters to Irish.³⁶

Nevertheless, the high rents and challenging economic circumstances which faced the native Irish caused them to look enviously upon the fortunes and lands of the new settlers. One group of insurgents, for example, claimed that 'it was time for them to look for their own lands that the English had kept from them for 33 years' and many others expressed similar sentiments that the English should be expelled from Ireland.³⁷ The aforementioned Thomas Brady, vicar of Lavey, told one deponent that 'that house & land therto belonging then in this deponentes possession was his fathers [Brady] & that it did belong to him'.³⁸ Henry Hocklefield of Castletara was told by the insurgents that 'they would have their Ancestors lands

which had long been held from them by the Englishmen'³⁹

Local tensions between the Protestant settlers and the local Irish had evinced themselves sporadically throughout the early seventeenth century. The Protestants felt that the native Irish were given too much leverage, whereas the native Irish felt just the opposite. The examples mentioned above, however, of settlers who were saved from attack through the intervention of native Irish servants and friends, demonstrate the cordial relationships which had been forged between certain sections of the native Irish and settler communities.⁴⁰ These were rare cases, however, and threatened insurrections as far back as the 1620s attest to the long-standing fears and grievances of both communities. Using the rising in 1641 as cover, many of those who participated in the insurrection welcomed the opportunity to settle old scores, eliminating debts and claiming the settler's possessions as their own. The grievances held by the native Irish for a period of over thirty years caught the leaders of the rising and their British settler neighbours unaware, who were unable to prevent it quickly spiralling out of their control.

³⁷ Deposition of John McKeown (TCD, MS 832, fo. 71); deposition of William King (TCD, MS 832, fo. 103); deposition of George Cooke (TCD, MS 832, fo. 105); deposition of John McSkemeine (TCD, MS 832, fo. 110; TCD, MS 833, fo. 187); deposition of Musgrave Arrington (TCD, MS 832, fo. 134).

³⁸ Deposition of Richard North (TCD, MS 832, fo. 169).

³⁹ Deposition of Henry Hocklefield (TCD, MS 832, fo. 48).

⁴⁰ Gibbs and Butterwick stand in contrast to Arthur Champion who was murdered partly as a result of his refusal to forge links with his native Irish neighbours: Raymond Gillespie, 'The murder of Arthur Champion and the 1641 rising in Fermanagh', *Clogher Record*, 14:3 (1993), 52-66.

Bernadette Cunningham

Notices of Recently Published Books

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.

The natural history of Ulster

Edited by John Faulkner and Robert Thompson (Holywood, Co. Down: National Museums Northern Ireland, 2011. Xviii, 590p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9780900761492. £25)

Nature in Ulster is uniquely varied and reveals much about how humanity relates to the natural world. This is the first comprehensive book on natural history in the nine-county province of Ulster. The heart of the book deals with the habitats that characterize Ulster’s landscapes. Chapters cover farmland and woodland, bogs, mountains and lakes, the coast, the sea and urban habitats.

Contributions from some of Ulster’s most experienced naturalists have been carefully woven together to produce an engaging narrative. The book is lavishly illustrated with over 600 photographs, including some excellent aerial landscapes.

The making of Ireland’s landscape since the Ice Age
Valerie Hall
(Cork: Collins Press, 2011. Xii, 180p. Pbk. ISBN 9781848891159. €17.99)

Valerie Hall’s story of Ireland’s changing landscape begins when the last ice age ended. The fascinating interplay of natural forces and human hands on the landscape, its plants and animals, is described and explained. Early chapters describe how evidence locked within peat bogs and lake sediments has been interpreted and how natural forces shaped the landscape. People’s activities have also had a major influence, not least through farming, and the human impact over the last 5,000 years is summarized here from a scientific perspective.

Gathering Time: dating the early Neolithic enclosures of southern Britain and Ireland
Alasdair Whittle, Frances Healy, and Alex Bayliss
(Oxford: Oxbow Books 2011. 2 vols, 992p. Illus. ISBN 9781842174258. £45)

Gathering Time presents the results of a major dating programme that re-writes the early Ne-

olithic of Britain by more accurately dating enclosures, a phenomenon that first appeared in the early Neolithic: places of construction, labour, assembly, ritual and deposition. The project has combined hundreds of new radiocarbon dates with hundreds of existing dates. The project helped to date two Irish enclosures: Donegore, Co. Antrim and Magheraboy, Co. Sligo. As well as establishing a new chronology for enclosures, *Gathering Time* also places these results into their wider context, by considering the chronology of the early Neolithic as a whole. Well over a thousand other radiocarbon dates have been critically assessed and modelled in a Bayesian framework – for settlement, monument building and other activity, region by region across southern Britain and across Ireland as a whole. Chapter 12 is on Ireland.

Guide to the passage tombs at Brú na Bóinne
George Eogan and Peigín Doyle
(Revealing Heritage Series)
(Dublin: Wordwell, 2010. 32p. Pbk. ISBN 9781905569 519. €5)

The majestic stone tombs of Brú na Bóinne were built, in a great outpouring of religious and creative energy, over a relatively short period of time, between 3200 BC and 2800 BC. This guide tells what we know of the builders of Brú na Bóinne; who they were, how they lived, and what compelled them to create their mighty monuments. This is the story also of the tombs themselves, how they were built and how their use and the ceremonial activity that centred on them evolved over time.

Past times, changing fortunes: proceedings of a public seminar on archaeological discoveries on national road schemes, August 2010
Edited by Sheelagh Conran, Ed. Danaher and Michael Stanley
(Monograph Series No. 8)
(Dublin: National Roads Authority, 2011. Vii, 170p. Illus. Pbk. ISBN 978056418050. €25)

Excauation results from the M1 in County Louth reveal how early medieval people built subterranean defences known as souterrains in re-

sponse to Viking incursions and other strife. A previously unknown medieval settlement discovered on the Cashel Bypass in County Tipperary provides a rare insight into the vicissitudes of rural peasant life beyond the walled town. And the very people who wrought so much change on the Irish landscape also feature through vivid skeletal remains. Paradoxically, rather than shedding light on the cause of death, analysis frequently reveals more about the often difficult life of an individual, the living people who buried them and the complex evolving relationship between the living and the dead from pre-history onwards. Aspects of long-term environmental change are related here too, as reflected in the study of the natural archives of bog and lake sediments, palaeobotanical remains and insect remains, which enable the reconstruction of past vegetation and land use. Moreover, such studies help illuminate broader themes of intricate human–environment interactions at a range of time-scales. Contributors to this volume are: Niall Roycroft, Joanne Hughes, Mícheál Ó Droma, Ken Hanley, Karen Molloy and Michael O’Connell.

Archaeological excavations at Tullahedy, County Tipperary: Neolithic settlement in north Munster
Rose M. Cleary and Hilary Kelleher
 (Cork: Collins Press, 2011. 459p. Illus. ISBN 9781848 891333. €49.99)

Conducted in advance of the construction of a link between the N7 and N52 roads, an archaeological investigation uncovered an enclosed Neolithic settlement at Tullahedy, to the west of Nenagh, County Tipperary. The site was located on an esker with Neolithic activity dated to between 3670–3460 BC. The settlement comprised three Neolithic houses, two within a natural hollow and a third near a former lakeshore. Lavishly illustrated, this volume presents the findings in an attractive and comprehensive manner. There is a lengthy report on the excavation by Hilary Kelleher and a discussion of the findings by Rose M. Cleary, accompanied by specialist technical reports on the finds. Many high quality artefacts were recovered. Located on marginal agricultural land, to the east of Lough Derg, the finds show evidence of trade as well as domestic habitation at the site. Evidence was found of wheat, barley and flax growing, and it is suggested that the surrounding landscape comprised a patchwork of open fields, woodlands, water channels and mire. In addition to the Neolithic phase, evidence was also uncovered of early medieval re-use of the site, with further enclosure, in the 8th to 10th centuries, with later evidence for late 13th to late 15th

century settlement also.

Landscapes of cult and kingship
Edited by Roseane Schot, Conor Newman and Edel Bhreathnach
 (Dublin: Four Courts, 2011. xviii, 322p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781846822193. €50)

This volume offers new perspectives on kingship and royal landscapes in Ireland and abroad in thirteen essays that consider how topography, monuments, place-names, myths and histories were symbolized, interwoven and forged into one of the most enduring institutions of human culture – kingship. Bringing the most recent Irish research to the international study of kingship, these essays explore how the worldwide phenomenon of sacral kingship, with its emphasis on harmonizing the human and divine spheres, found expression in Ireland. Contributors are Edel Bhreathnach, Marion Deane, Colm Donnelly, Ann Dooley, Ger Dowling, Elizabeth FitzPatrick, Claire Foley, Brian Lacey, Marie Lecomte-Tilouine, Ronan McHugh, Kay Muhr, Eileen Murphy, Conor Newman, Muireann Ní Bhrolcháin, Roseanne Schot, Bridgette Slavin and John Waddell.

Glendalough, city of God
Edited by Charles Doherty, Linda Doran and Mary Kelly
 (Dublin: Four Courts, 2011. xxx, 383p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781846821707. €50)

Glendalough is one of the most enchanting archaeological and monastic sites in Ireland. This book explores its archaeology, history, liturgy and intellectual concerns so that a clear picture emerges of the highly developed society which has left us a profoundly beautiful site. This well-illustrated book is based on lectures given to the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, as well as the ‘Lectures for the curious’ series at Glendalough, and at the International Medieval Congress, Leeds.

Settlement in early medieval Ireland in the light of recent archaeological excavations
Edited by Christiaan Corlett and Michael Potterton
 (Research papers in Irish archaeology, no. 3)
 (Dublin: Wordwell, 2011. xii, 355p. Illus. Pbk. ISBN 9781905569564. €40)

Ireland contains probably the richest, best-preserved early medieval settlement archaeology anywhere in Europe. In no other country is

it possible, as it is here, to point to a national map depicting upwards of forty to fifty thousand early medieval settlement sites (ringforts or raths) and say: 'These are only the early medieval settlements that we know about from maps and other sources; a lot more have been discovered through recent archaeological excavations'. Our uniquely well-preserved early medieval settlement evidence has recently been augmented by many archaeological excavations. This book presents a collection of papers describing some of the key early medieval settlement excavations of recent years. The essays convey a sense of people inhabiting a place, enclosing their dwelling spaces in various ways between the sixth and twelfth centuries AD, and how this changed across time. All of this must have been contingent on the waxing and waning fortunes of households and extended kin-groups, as populations grew or fell and as people worked the land, cultivated crops and managed livestock through different times, of plenty and famine.

New voices on early medieval sculpture in Britain and Ireland

Edited by Michael F. Reed

(BAR, British series, 542)

(Oxford: Archaeopress, 2011. Iv, 74p. Pbk. ISBN 9781407308401. £28)

New technologies and evidence, coupled with increased methodological awareness, is generating compelling new interpretations of the role(s) of public art in memorial contexts. The papers in this volume reflect new research on early medieval sculpture. Contents: 'Approaching pre-Conquest stone sculpture: historiography and theory' by Michael F. Reed; 'Another perspective on the origins and symbolic interpretations of animals in Early Medieval sculpture in Northern England and French Burgundy' by Nicole M. Kleinsmith; 'Putting memory in its place: sculpture, cemetery topography and commemoration' by Zoë L. Devlin; 'A cross-head from St Mary Castlegate, York, and its affiliations' by Victoria Whitworth; 'Commemoration at York: the significance of Minster 42, 'Costaun's' grave-cover' by Heather Rawlin-Cushing; 'Aspects of the Anglo-Saxon tradition in architectural sculpture and articulation: the 'overlap' and beyond' by Malcolm Thurlby; 'Laser scanning of the inscribed Hiberno-Romanesque arch at Monaincha, Co. Tipperary, Ireland' by Orla Murphy.

Life in medieval landscapes: people and places in the middle ages

Edited by Sam Turner and Bob Silvester

(Bollington: Windgather Press, 2011 [distributed by Oxbow Books]. 240p. Illus. Pbk. ISBN 978190511940. £30)

New studies on key themes in the economic and social history of the medieval landscape are presented in this book. It draws together papers by medieval historians and archaeologists, with contributions by leading scholars in each field. The first part explores the nature of landscape regions in Britain and Ireland. Chapters explore the use and experience of different types of landscapes including marshlands, uplands, woodland and woodpasture. The papers analyse a wide variety of sources from detailed archival work on medieval records to place-names, archaeological survey and the study of veteran trees. A particular theme in several papers is the exploration of social, economic and spatial marginality. The second part presents new studies of labour and lordship. The main themes of the book reflect the interests of Professor Harold Fox, whose death in 2007 was marked by a number of conferences in different parts of the UK. The papers in this volume showcase some of the best research in the fields of medieval landscape and social history. Chapter 8, by Mark Gardiner, is entitled: 'Time regained: booley huts and seasonal settlement in the Mourne Mountains, County Down, Ireland'. Other contributors include Chris Dyer, Bruce Campbell, Andrew Fleming, Della Hooke, Jem Harrison, Ros Faith, Peter Herring, Angus Winchester, Andrew Jackson, Alan Fox, Mark Page, Mike Thompson, Mike Thornton, Matt Tompkins, Penelope Upton and Richard Jones.

Medieval rural settlement: Britain and Ireland, AD 800-1600

Edited by Neil Christie and Paul Stamper

(Bollington: Windgather Press, 2011 [distributed by Oxbow Books], 304p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781905119424. £30)

This essay collection reassesses the origins, forms and evolutions of medieval rural settlement in Britain and Ireland across the period c.AD 800-1600. It offers a comprehensive analysis of early to late medieval settlement, land use, economics and population, bringing together evidence drawn from archaeological excavations and surveys, historical geographical analysis and documentary and place-name study. It is the flagship publication of the Medieval Settlement Research Group and offers systematic appraisal of 60 years' work across the whole field of medieval settlement, designed to inspire the next generation of

researchers.

Part I comprises a set of papers exploring the history of medieval rural settlement research in Britain and Ireland, the evolving methodologies, the roots of the medieval landscape and the place of power in these settlements and landscapes. Part II contains a series of regional and national surveys extending over England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland, detailing contexts, histories of study, forms, evolutions and future research needs. Chapter 11, by Audrey Horning, is on 'Ireland: medieval identity, settlement and land use'. A final section provides guidance on how to research and study medieval rural sites – from lap-top to test-pit. Extensively illustrated in colour and black and white, and written by expert contributors, the volume includes a comprehensive, integrated bibliography.

Medieval Dublin XI: proceedings of the Friends of Medieval Dublin Symposium 2009

Edited by Seán Duffy

(Dublin: Four Courts, 2011. 342p. Hbk. ISBN 9781846822759. €50; Pbk. ISBN 9781846822766. €24.95)

This eleventh volume of proceedings of the annual Friends of Medieval Dublin Symposium has two important reviews of our state of knowledge on the archaeology of medieval Dublin: Linzi Simpson updates her 'Forty years adigging' study of archaeological digs in Dublin City (published in vol. I of the series) to take in the ten 'Celtic Tiger' years; while Lorcan Harney, Jonathan Kinsella and Aidan O'Sullivan of the Early Medieval Archaeology Project (EMAP) present the findings of their research on the results of excavations in Co. Dublin from 1930 to 2005. The volume also contains reports on archaeological excavations: Teresa Bolger discusses excavations at Ormond Quay Upper that provide evidence about the original topography of 'the Pill' at the confluence of the rivers Liffey and Bradogue; Rosanne Meenan reports on her excavations at 23–27 Stephen Street Lower, in the vicinity of the medieval St Peter's church; Edmund O'Donovan's excavation at St Nahi's church in Dundrum revealed a series of fortified enclosures around the early monastic foundation; while Colm Moriarty's dig at Portmarnock found evidence of occupation from an early medieval enclosure to the remains of its late medieval vill.

Limerick c.840 to c.1900: Viking 'longphort' to Victorian city

Eamon O'Flaherty and Jennifer Moore

(Dublin: Royal Irish Academy, 2011. 20p. +

Folded map. Pbk. ISBN 9781904890713. €10)

This large fold out map is an ancillary publication to Eamon O'Flaherty, 'Limerick' (*Irish Historic Towns Atlas*, no. 21, Dublin: Royal Irish Academy, 2010). It depicts 264 sites over 1000 years of the city's history on a modern map. Streets are colour coded to show the direction and development of the city from a conjectural Viking street to the vast rectilinear network of streets and warrens of lanes of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Limerick's walls and defences are illustrated alongside the principal topographical sites ranging from St Mary's Cathedral, ball alleys, bacon manufactories and Turkish baths, to schools, prisons, tower houses, markets and monuments. An introductory essay is included in the booklet that is intended to give readers a real flavour of Limerick's past. Many of the sites documented on the map are no longer extant, but a stroll around Limerick using the map should be a revealing experience.

Carlingford: Irish Historic Towns Atlas

Harold O'Sullivan and Raymond Gillespie

(*Irish Historic Towns Atlas*, no. 23)

(Dublin: Royal Irish Academy, 2011. 15p. + maps + CDROM. Pbk. ISBN 9781904890768. €30)

From its Anglo-Norman foundation, the picturesque town of Carlingford, Co. Louth, attracted many artists and travellers. This new historical atlas of the town details the growth of this port and fishing town at the gateway to south Ulster and north Leinster on Carlingford Lough. Twenty maps and views are included on loose sheets along with thematic maps and contemporary vignettes throughout the text section. A topographical gazetteer details c.450 sites that contributed to the urban growth of the town. Also included is a CD-ROM of the publication where the text is word searchable and the maps and images are in high resolution allowing for detailed examination.

Trim castle, Co. Meath, excavations, 1995–8

Alan R. Hayden. General editors Ann Lynch and Conleth Manning

(*Archaeological Monograph Series*, 6)

(Dublin: Stationery Office, 2011. Xvi, 454p. illus. Pbk. ISBN 9781406415321. €35).

Trim Castle, Co. Meath is the largest and finest of the Anglo-Norman stone castles built in Ireland. It is sited on a low hill on the southern bank of the River Boyne overlooking the early medieval river ford that gave the town its name. David Sweet-

man undertook the first archaeological excavations in the castle in 1971–4. The castle was finally purchased by the State in 1993 and conservation work was begun soon after. More extensive conservation works were planned in the mid 1990s and required advance archaeological excavations. These excavations were undertaken in three seasons between 1995 and 1998 and are the subject of this volume. After the completion of the excavation and conservation works the castle was reopened to the public in 2000. The excavations reported on here will enhance our understanding of the castle’s history and function.

If a towerhouse could talk: the history of Dunsoghly Castle and the Plunkett family
Eddie Jordan
 (Dublin: Original Writing, 2011. V, 228p. Illus. Pbk. ISBN 9781908024039. €16)

Dunsoghly Castle in north County Dublin is a four storey, fifteenth-century tower house and ancestral home of a branch of the Plunkett family. The castle lies in a flat plain in Fingal and dominates the surrounding rural landscape. The castle still retains its original trussed oak roof, the only one on a towerhouse to survive in Ireland. In addition to discussing the structure itself, the book tells the story of its builders, the Plunkett family who lived there for over 400 years.

Blarney Castle: an Irish tower house
James Lyttleton
 (Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2011. Xv, 157p. Hbk. ISBN 9781846822742; Pbk. ISBN 9781846823145. €19.95)

Blarney Castle, the medieval home of the MacCarthy lords of Muskerry, is one of Ireland’s best-known castles. Illustrated in full colour, this book brings the castle’s architecture to the fore, placing it in the context of an expansive native lordship in late medieval Munster, and showing how changes in the layout and appearance of the building can be attributed to the castle’s occupants, who continued to redefine their social standing and cultural identity through the Tudor reconquest and beyond. The book includes a timeline to help situate developments at Blarney in a wider context, as well as a walking guide that will add an extra dimension to any tour of the castle.

Castles and colonists: an archaeology of Elizabethan Ireland
Eric Klingelhofer
 (The Manchester Spenser)

(Manchester UP, 2010. Xiv, 176p. Illus. ISBN 9780719082467. £60)

In this volume Eric Klingelhofer displays how a generation of English ‘adventurers’, including such influential intellectual and political figures as Sir Edmund Spenser and Sir Walter Raleigh, tried to create a new kind of England, one that gave full opportunity to their Renaissance tastes and ambitions. There are chapters on ‘Archaeology and empire’; ‘Fortification’; ‘Settlement’; ‘Vernacular architecture’; ‘Kilcolman Castle’; and ‘Spenserian architecture’.

The roots of English colonialism in Ireland
John Patrick Montaña
 (Critical perspectives on empire)
 (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011. xiii, 426p. Illus. ISBN 9780521198288. £65)

Montaña traces the roots of colonialism in the key relationship of cultivation and civility in Tudor England and shows the central role this played in Tudor strategies for settling, civilising and colonising Ireland. The book ranges from the role of cartography, surveying and material culture – houses, fences, fields, roads and bridges – in manifesting the new order to the place of diet, leisure, language and hairstyles in establishing cultural differences as a site of conflict between the Irish and the imperialising state and as a justification for the civilising process. It argues that the ideologies and strategies of colonisation which would later be applied in the New World were already apparent in the practices, material culture and attitudes of the Tudor regime. Contents: ‘Introduction: nature is a language’; 1. ‘Planting a landscape: cultivation and reform in Ireland’; 2. ‘Planning a landscape I: cultivation as reformation’; 3. ‘Planning a landscape II: cultivation through plantation’; 4. ‘Inscribing a landscape: maps, surveys and records’; 5. ‘Material signs: ordering the built environment’; 6. ‘A civil offer: the failure to adopt English customs’; 7. ‘Bad manners, nasty habits: the elimination of Irish customs’.

Reshaping Ireland 1550–1700: colonization and its consequences: essays presented to Nicholas Canny
 Edited by **Brian Mac Cuarta**
 (Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2011. 374p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781846822728. €55)

Plantation cartography and building, colonial discourse, the peerage, Caroline political culture, language change and evolving views of the Irish past are among the themes discussed in this

collection of essays. For the 1640s, the administrative framework of the Depositions, revolt in one county, and the role of the Ulster Scots are explored. A final section considers how identities established earlier were shaped by late 17th-century developments: the recasting of the 1640s; the fate of the Catholic elite in the wake of military defeat; and Irish Catholic emigrés in England.

The Plantation of Ulster: the British colonisation of the north of Ireland in the seventeenth century
Jonathan Bardon
 (Dublin: Gill & Macmillan, 2011. Xxiv, 400p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9780717147380. €26.99)

The Plantation of Ulster was the one of the largest European migrations of the early modern period. In this vivid account, the author punctures some generally held assumptions: despite slaughter and famine, the province on the eve of the Plantation was not completely depopulated as was often asserted at the time; the native Irish were not deliberately given the most infertile land; some of the most energetic planters were Catholic; and the Catholic Church there emerged stronger than before. Above all, natives and newcomers fused to a greater degree than is widely believed. Nevertheless, memories of dispossession and massacre, etched into the folk memory, were to ignite explosive outbreaks of inter-communal conflict down to our own time.

Plantation castles on the Erne
Bill Wilsdon
 (Dublin: History Press Ireland, 2010. 252p. Illus. Pbk. ISBN 9781845889807. €18)

Plantation Castles on the Erne is a guidebook of Ulster Plantation castles in the Erne basin (Counties Fermanagh, Cavan and parts of Donegal and Tyrone) that still survive, to a greater or lesser extent. The guide is broken into two parts. The first part sets the scene for the conditions that led to the creation of the Ulster Plantation in 1610 and gives an account of the conditions that accompanied the grants to the various undertakers, including those articles relating to castle building. The section continues with a brief summary of the political conditions prevailing in Ireland and more specifically in Ulster, in the seventeenth century, which impacted on the castles' survival. It concludes with a short section outlining the reasons why the castle-building tradition finally ended. The second part of the guide describes three suggested castle itineraries that could be followed in a day's outing. The history of each castle site is then outlined in detail followed

by a description of the surviving ruins, complete with illustrations.

Burren archaeology: a tour guide
Hugh Carthy
 (Cork: Collins Press, 2011. Ix, 166p. Illus. ISBN 9781848891050. €12.99)

The Burren in County Clare contains one of the densest concentrations of archaeological remains in Ireland. This guide helps make the 'stones and bones' of the Burren intelligible by telling the stories behind the monuments. Monuments are grouped by location in order to assist in the planning of routes and tours.

Connemara: a little Gaelic kingdom
Tim Robinson
 (Dublin: Penguin Ireland, 2011. Viii, [2], 422p. ISBN 9781844882373. €25)

This is the final volume of Tim Robinson's extraordinary Connemara trilogy. Robinson writes about the people, places and history of south Connemara – one of Ireland's last Gaelic-speaking enclaves – with the encyclopaedic knowledge of a cartographer thoroughly familiar with the landscapes he describes.

The River Shannon: a journey down Ireland's longest river
Aiveen Cooper
 (Cork: Collins Press, 2011. V, 250p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781848891074. €24.99)

Aiveen Cooper set out from the source of the Shannon at the foot of the Cuilcagh Mountains to travel the river's length to the Atlantic Ocean. In towns such as Drumshanbo, Carrick-on-Shannon, Athlone, Shannonbridge, Banagher, Portumna, Castleconnell and Limerick, she discovered stories of the river and how these are intertwined with the story of Ireland, from eels and otters, eskers and islands to ancient kings, myths and monastic settlements, from Viking raids and Napoleonic fortifications to transportation, power generation and tourism. The book interweaves history, natural history, science, archaeology and much else.

Lough Swilly: a living landscape
Edited by Andrew Cooper
 (Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2011. 208p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781846823077. €35)

This book explores Lough Swilly from the evolu-

tion of the present landscape during the geological past through to contemporary human uses of the Lough. Set on important global migration routes for fish and birds, the Lough has a rich diversity of wildlife including the basking shark. The Lough's position on the Atlantic seaboard of Europe has also influenced its human history. It was once a major oceanic hub for trans-Atlantic maritime trade, as evidenced in its fortifications and shipwrecks and the fact that for a time the headquarters of the British Grand Fleet was at Buncrana. Chapters provide a vivid picture of the history of the Lough and its maritime archaeology. The book also describes the modern inhabitants of the Lough and contemporary activities (fishing, fish farming, conservation, recreation and tourism) and concludes with some insights into present challenges to preserve the Lough's value for future generations.

Atlas of the Irish rural landscape

Edited by F. H. A. Aalen, Kevin Whelan, and Matthew Stout Revised and expanded 2nd ed. (Cork: Cork University Press, 2011. [8], 422p. illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781859184594. €59) (Published in North America by Toronto University Press)

This is a major update of a work first published in 1997, and this edition contains much entirely new material. The *Atlas of Irish Rural Landscape* comprises a well-illustrated series of studies on the hidden riches of the Irish landscape. Topics include archaeology, field and settlement patterns, houses, demesnes, villages and small towns, monuments, woodland, bogs, roads, canals, railways, mills, mines, farmsteads, handball alleys, and a host of other features. The *Atlas* combines superbly chosen illustrations and cartography with a text amenable to a general reader. Excellent maps, diagrams and other illustrations allow the *Atlas* to present a mass of scholarly information in an accessible way.

The *Atlas of the Irish Rural Landscape* also has a significant practical dimension. It increases the visibility of the landscape within national heritage and establishes a proper basis for conservation and planning. It explores contemporary changes resulting from the Celtic Tiger, and proposes how to implement necessary change in sympathy with inherited landscape character. The principal contributors are F. H. A. Aalen, Geraldine Stout, Matthew Stout, Gillian Barrett, Kevin Whelan, Ruth McManus and John Feehan.

Reading the maps: a guide to the Irish Historic Towns Atlas

Jacinta Prunty and H. B. Clarke (Dublin: Royal Irish Academy, Irish Historic Towns Atlas, in association with Blackrock Education Centre, 2011. Xxi, 242p. illus. Pbk. ISBN 9781904890706. €25)

Comparative, thematic approaches to the study of Irish towns, using the *Irish Historic Towns Atlas*, are illustrated in this handbook. Samples from 22 published atlases are used to illustrate specific themes in Irish urban history. Various town-types, from monastic to modern, show the numerous origins of urban culture portraying similarities and differences across the island of Ireland. The book is heavily illustrated with maps and views taken from the IHTA series along with sets of questions and observations that can be drawn from the detailed information. *Reading the maps* is geared towards teachers and users of the atlas from primary through to post-graduate students.

Stopping by woods: a guide to the forests and woodlands of Ireland

Donal Magner (Dublin: Lilliput, 2011. Xiv, 530p. illus. Hbk. ISBN 9784813511700. €35)

The author has provided a fascinating guide to 340 forests and woodlands open to the public throughout Ireland. The book is the first of its kind ever produced in Ireland and Europe, detailing not just forests and tree species, but their associated flora and fauna, history and heritage. The book features all the forests featured in the State's open forest policy now enshrined by Coillte, the Forest Service Northern Ireland and the National Parks and Wildlife Service. In his six-year journey the author has explored all our native and naturalized woodlands, and the State forests established since the beginning of the twentieth century.

The Irish country house: its past, present and future

Edited by Terence Dooley and Christopher Ridgway (Dublin: Four Courts, 2011. 267p. illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781846822346. €55)

Contributions to this volume include Patrick Walsh on 'William Conolly and Castletown'; Finola O'Kane on 'The making of Mount Merrion, Co. Dublin'; Judith Hill on 'The uses of the past in Adare, Co. Limerick'; Patrick Cosgrove on 'Irish landlords and the Wyndham Land Act, 1903'; Ciarán J. Reilly on 'The burning of country houses

in Co. Offaly during the revolutionary period, 1920–3'; Olwen Purdue on 'Big house society in Northern Ireland, 1921–69'; Terence Dooley on 'Social life at Castle Hyde, 1931–88'; Christopher Ridgway on 'Making and meaning in the country house'; and Allen Warren on 'The twilight of the ascendancy and the big house'.

St Stephen's Green, Dublin, 1660–1875

Desmond McCabe

(Dublin: Stationery Office, 2011. Viii, 381p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781406425864. €35)

Sponsored by the Office of Public Works, this lavish history of Dublin's premier square, from its creation in the mid seventeenth century, is well researched and handsomely produced. It is an important contribution to the study of Irish urban history and architecture, and attitudes towards public space.

Cork's St. Patrick's Street: a history

Antóin O'Callaghan

(Cork: Collins, 2010. 240p. Illus. Pbk. ISBN 9781848890572)

Cork's principal street reopened in 2004 as a pedestrian-friendly space, retaining the natural curve of the one-time river channel and bringing a continental flavour to the streetscape. This history takes us from its beginning in the 1780s to the present day. The people and buildings and its evolution into primarily a retail street are outlined in some detail. The rebuilding of the street after 'the burning of Cork' in 1920 is described for the first time. This is also the place where Cork people come to assemble, in celebration or in sorrow, in religious processions and parades. The book is copiously illustrated with maps, plans and photographs, both new and old.

The gleam of the lines: an illustrated journey through two centuries of Irish railway history

Tom Ferris

(Dublin: Gill & Macmillan, 2011. 191p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9780717150021. €24.99)

Railways have been an endless source of folklore, romance and social history. Dating first from the 1830s, the Irish rail network was one of the earliest established systems in the world. The main line system, radiating from Dublin and built to standard Irish gauge of 5' 3" was firmly established by the 1850s. The various narrow gauge lines followed in successive decades. The system reached its apogee just before the Great War of 1914. After that, two things combined

to diminish it. First the invention of the internal combustion engine made road travel much more feasible. Second, the inherent unprofitability of many lines, especially on the narrow gauge system, forced their closure. This social history of the railways is illustrated with photographs of stations and trains, together with advertising posters, old paintings, postcards and other private and public memorabilia.

Donegal's farming heritage

Jonathan Bell and Mervyn Watson

(Donegal Heritage Series, 1)

(Letterkenny: County Donegal Heritage Office, 2011. 18p. Illus. Pbk. Free.)

This illustrated booklet is based on an audit of heritage objects associated with farming and fishing in County Donegal commissioned by the County Donegal Heritage Office, Donegal County Council and The Heritage Council. It highlights the hand-held implements (such as spades, loys, rakes, sickles and flails) and horse-operated implements (such as swing ploughs, drill ploughs, harrows, seed drills, reaping machines and threshing machines) used in farming in the county. The mechanization of agriculture and the conservation of Donegal's farming heritage are also addressed. A glossary of selected farming heritage objects and practices is included.

The west of Ireland: new perspectives on the nineteenth century

Edited by Carla King and Conor McNamara

(Dublin: History Press Ireland, 2011. 240p. ISBN 9781845887056. €25)

Featuring contributions from some of Ireland's leading historians, as well as the work of a younger generation of rising academics, this book shines a light on those people on the margins of a rural society undergoing an intense period of change. It examines the lives of ordinary people in the west of Ireland and the political organisations that represented them throughout the nineteenth century. Areas covered include the urban poor, the plight of tenant farmers, the role of charities, and the development of the Western seaboard.

Clanricarde's planters and land agitation in east Galway, 1886–1916

Miriam Moffitt

(Maynooth Studies in Local History, 97)

(Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2011. 68p. Pbk. ISBN 9781846822957. €9.95)

In 1886 the earl of Clanricarde evicted the tenants of Woodford on his east Galway estate. The ramifications of his actions echoed through Ireland in the late nineteenth century. This book recreates the world of those people from Protestant Ulster who were attracted into Galway by Clanricarde's agent after the evictions. For some 30 years these men and women made a new life for themselves sometimes in difficult conditions with the media of the day creating victims as circumstances suited. Religious sectarianism, politics and land all combined within a volatile environment in which intransigent politicians and landlords refused to reach any agreement. The result, the 1903 Land Act, changed the shape of Irish landownership forever.

Tullamore: a portrait

Michael Byrne; drawings by Fergal McCabe
(Tullamore: Esker Press for Offaly Historical and Archaeological Society, 2010. 273p. Hbk. ISBN 9780954872052. €30)

Much has changed in the physical fabric of Tullamore in recent years with new and renovated buildings, out-of-town shopping and the demise of the small independent grocer. Michael Byrne, a long-time member of the GSIHS, comments on those changes, noting that living over the shops is practically gone while more people live in the town centre in new apartment developments built in the old lanes, often on the site of the condemned housing of the 1900s to the 1950s. Notwithstanding so much that is new and different over the past thirty years, there is also great continuity and Fergal McCabe's drawings in the book illustrate that, at its central core, Tullamore is essentially a late-eighteenth-century town. This survey of Tullamore comprises drawings, some twelve maps of the town and district from the 1720s to date and almost 250 photographs and the town's history is mediated through the surviving buildings of Tullamore and its physical development over the period from 1700 and 2010.

Dublin 1911

Edited by Catriona Crowe, with contributions from Paul Rouse, Mark Duncan and William Murphy
(Dublin: Prism, 2011. ix, 245p. Pbk. ISBN 9781904890799. €20)

This illustrated book draws on the 1911 census, contemporary newspapers and pamphlets to describe the lives of Dubliners in 1911. Themes include law and order, education, religion, poverty and transport.

The Land Commission and the making of Ráth Cairn: the first Gaeltacht colony

Suzanne M. Pegley
(Maynooth Studies in Local History, 99)
(Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2011. 72p. Pbk. ISBN 9781846822971. €9.95)

In 1935 a Gaeltacht colony was created in the townland of Ráth Cairn, Co. Meath, for twenty-seven Irish-speaking families. The Fianna Fáil party had achieved an overall majority in the wake of the 1933 election and they turned to resolving the overcrowding and poverty in the west of Ireland. Within the context of the wider land reform policies they perceived that migration was the most effective approach and that political credibility would be achieved if they were to alleviate congestion in the western counties and spread the Irish language. In 1934 the party announced they would create a Gaeltacht colony in the townland of Ráth Cairn. This was ground-breaking social engineering and against some opposition, fertile grasslands in the midlands were acquired and the land divided into small farms which would become the first Gaeltacht colony. This study argues that, despite the expense and attention to detail, the project was fundamentally flawed.

Bernadette Cunningham

Newly published sources and guides to sources

Bibliography of publications on Irish placenames
Donna Thornton and Kevin Murray
(Irish Texts Society Subsidiary Series 22)
(London: Irish Texts Society, 2011. xviii, 297p. Pbk. ISBN 9781870166698. €21)

This *Bibliography* was compiled as a by-product of the work of the *Locus* Project, an ongoing collaboration, based in the Department of Early and Medieval Irish, University College Cork. The *Locus* project, in association with the Irish Texts Society, is currently publishing a new fascicular

Historical dictionary of Gaelic placenames to replace Edmund Hogan's *Onomasticon Goedelicum* (Dublin, 1910). During the process of excerpting from texts unknown to Fr Hogan or not yet available in printed editions at the time of the *Onomasticon*, record was also made of numerous articles on various aspects of place-name study. These are noted at the end of the relevant entries in the *Dictionary*, but some years ago it was decided that those references should also be made available to researchers in a separate volume. This has now been brought to completion. In total, the *Bibliography* contains nearly 3,000 items with up to 8,000 entries in the index.

Edmund Hogan's Onomasticon Goedelicum: reconsiderations

Edited by Kevin Murray and Pádraig Ó Riain
(Irish Texts Society Subsidiary Series, 23)
(London: Irish Texts Society, 2011. ix + 178p.
Pbk. ISBN 9781870166683. €21)

Proceedings of the twelfth annual seminar of the Irish Texts Society held in conjunction with the Combined Departments of Irish at University College Cork in November 2010 are published in this volume. The seminar was held to celebrate the centenary of the publication of Fr Edmund Hogan's monumental *Onomasticon Goedelicum* and focuses, *inter alia*, on the centrality of the *Onomasticon* as a scholarly tool to Gaelic place-name scholarship in Scotland and Ireland.

Excavations 2008: summary accounts of archaeological excavations in Ireland

Edited by Isabel Bennett
(Dublin: Wordwell, 2011. lx, 386p. Illus. Hbk.
ISBN 9781905569601. €40)

Just 1,322 excavations are reported on this year, down from 2,066 in the previous year. Road schemes were still very much a driving force in the excavation of many of the sites reported on, but this is now coming to an end. While the number of sites has declined, the range of sites is, as ever, varied and interesting, with more and more sites relating to underwater activity being investigated, both riverine and marine. Dublin, Cork, Galway and Tipperary are the most strongly represented regions in this volume.

A calendar of material relating to Ireland from the High Court of Admiralty, 1641–1660

Edited by Elaine Murphy

(Dublin: Irish Manuscripts Commission, 2011. Xvi, 402p. Hbk. ISBN 9781906865146. €50)

This calendar of documents in the archives of the High Court of Admiralty covers a broad range of subjects including trade, shipping, fishing, piracy and privateering. It also sheds light on the commercial interest of Irish merchants and on the activities of Dutch and English merchants in Ireland during the mid-seventeenth century. As such it will be a valuable resource for students of maritime history and those with interests in related economic, social and colonial themes. This volume continues on from that of John Appleby, *A calendar of material relating to Ireland from the High Court of Admiralty Examinations, 1536–1641*, published by the Irish Manuscripts Commission in 1992.

Pauper Limerick: the Register of the Limerick House of Industry, 1774–1793

Edited by David Fleming and John Logan
(Dublin: Irish Manuscripts Commission, 2011. Xxxvii, 109p. Hbk. ISBN 9781906865108. €45)

Of the twelve houses of industry established under the Irish poor law of 1771–2, the Limerick register edited here is the only admission book known to have survived. It contains information on the age, sex, place of origin, religion, medical condition, admission and discharge, amongst other details, of 2,747 inmates for the period 1774–1793. While revealing the mechanisms employed to administer a significant institution, the register also provides a singular record for a social group whose history is necessarily elusive. There is evidence of individual strategies for dealing with poverty, infirmity, disease and lunacy.

Ordnance Survey letters: Longford and Westmeath. Letters relating to the antiquities of the counties of Longford and Westmeath, containing information collected during the progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1837

Edited by Michael Herity
(Dublin: Fourmasters, 2011. Xiv, 262p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781903538173. €75)

The correspondence of John O'Donovan and others, produced in the course of fieldwork in counties Longford and Westmeath in 1837 are edited here from the original manuscripts in the Royal Irish Academy.

Landscape and historic settlement in Cavan

Regional Conference Cavan, 6–8 May, 2011

Bernadette Cunningham

The Fortieth Annual Regional Conference of the Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement was held in association with Cumann Seanchais Bhreifne in County Cavan, on the weekend of 6–8 May 2011. The principal venue for the conference was the Farnham Estate hotel, just outside Cavan town.

Friday 6 May 2011

The opening lecture at the conference was delivered by Professor P.J. Duffy, Department of Geography, NUI Maynooth, on the theme of 'Land, landscape and memory: reading Cavan's heritage'. Prof. Duffy provided an overview of the layers of landscape development from the thirteenth to the twenty-first century, illustrating how earlier developments are not obliterated. He revealed some of the ways in which we still occupy an eighteenth-century landscape and a nineteenth-century roadscape, a slow landscape inherited from a pedestrianized world. He offered various criteria for studying historic landscapes, emphasizing the importance of patterns of landownership, the influence or absence of landlord involvement, and allowing in particular for the impact of population change.

Saturday 7 May 2011

The first speaker in Cavan on Saturday morning was Eamon Cody, National Monuments Service, who presented a paper on 'Early regional identity and local prehistoric continuity in the Cavan area'. The Burren area in north-west Cavan is an area with rich evidence of prehistoric settlement, with examples of court tombs, passage tombs and portal tombs all surviving from this period. There was a strong social impetus behind such tomb building, as these places devoted to the memory of ancestors served as markers of ownership of land, and shaped identifiable localities. The discovery of neolithic house remains in the course of road excavations has added further to the known monuments surviving from c. 4000 – c.3000 BC in the Cavan area. The extensive early field system associated with hut sites in the Burren has not yet been excavated and so is not definitely dated. For the late neolithic and bronze age (c.3000–500 BC) the main concentration of monuments in Cavan is again in the Burren area and also in the richer lands of the Kilnavert area in the centre of the county.

Linda Shine, Trinity College Dublin, discussed 'Frontier settlement in Cavan in the high medieval period', using the barony of Clanmahon as a case study. She examined contact zones between Gaelic and Anglo-Norman regions as areas of social, cultural and economic exchange, emphasizing that much peaceful interaction took place across frontiers, as well as instances of hostility. She categorized various settlement types including moated sites which were areas of Gaelic settlement for the highest social class; platform ringforts associated with farming and located in the areas of most fertile soil; and cashels which were occupied down to the seventeenth century and may have been raised as a response to other earthwork monuments of Anglo Norman settlement. Her research on high medieval settlement in Cavan is part of a broader comparative study that also involves analysis of the contrasting settlement history of the Kilkenny region.

In a paper entitled 'Cloghoughter 1200–1653: at the heart of Cavan's history', Con Manning (National Monuments Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht) introduced the audience to Cloghoughter castle, one of the sites to be visited in the conference field trip. The castle, built at a strategic location, on an island in the midst of a complex interconnected series of lakes, was excavated by Con Manning in 1987 and has been the subject of subsequent publications by him. He described some of the more significant finds from the excavation, mostly of seventeenth-century date, but also including a book clasp similar to that which survives on the earliest known binding of the Book of Lecan, suggesting that a similar medieval manuscript may have been in the castle when it was partly destroyed. While approximately one third of the castle was blown away by Cromwellian forces in the mid-seventeenth century, a number of earlier building phases can be discerned, including evidence of the original thirteenth-century first floor, and a cross-wall with fireplace probably added in the 1640s. In addition to comparing its architectural features with other similar castles including Dundrum, Co. Down, and Aghadoe, Co. Kerry, Con Manning placed the building of the castle in the context of Gaelic and Anglo-Norman politics in south Cavan in the thirteenth century, while also tracing the key elements of its later history down to its partial destruction in 1653.

Liam Kelly, Cumann Seanchais Bhreifne, presented an illustrated talk on 'Photography and settlements in County Cavan, 1839–1939'. Opening with a brief explanation of the development of photographic techniques through the late nineteenth century, he placed the practice of photography in the Victorian period in its social and cultural context, emphasizing the link with the society of the big house. He also noted the parallel development of the camera and the railway with consequences for the ability of photographers to travel to record their subject matter. The photography of individual buildings and streetscapes from the 1860s to the 1930s provide a rich store of evidence for the study of the built heritage of Cavan in this period.

Sunday 8 May 2011

Following the early morning AGM of the Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement, the first paper of the day was presented by Dr Brendan Scott, NUI Maynooth, on 'Native and settler in the plantation towns of Cavan, 1610–41'. The focus of this talk was the towns of Cavan and Belturbet, where the religious and social structure and the economy of the towns as they evolved under the scheme for the Ulster plantation were examined. The nature of the relationship between settler and native was discussed, and evidence provided for the proportion of planted lands that remained in native hands.

Jonathan Cherry, St Patrick's College, Drumcondra, traced the development of the Farnham estate from its inception under the Ulster plantation in 1610 down to the time of its sale to Robert Maxwell in 1664. Dr Cherry discussed the allocation of land under the plantation, and the evidence for the clustering of ethnic groups which gave areas a particular regional flavour both in terms of architecture and agricultural practices. He used the evidence of contemporary cartographers and surveyors to help trace the development of the estate within the plantation scheme, and drew on other documentation to contrast the English settlement at Farnham with the more Gaelic identity retained by the nearby town of Cavan.

The final paper on Sunday morning was presented by Mary Sullivan on 'Emigration and its impact on nineteenth-century Cavan'. Having outlined the earlier development of a habit of emigration from Cavan to America, she focused on pre-famine emigration to Canada and the US, but also to Scottish towns such as Glasgow and Dundee. She analysed the pattern of migration and the social groups most affected. Drawing on the evidence of contemporary newspapers, obituaries and immigration papers, she described the fortunes of some Cavan migrants particularly in Ontario and New York City. The impact at home of the ensuing population decline was greatest in the east of County Cavan which had previously had some of the largest population densities in Ireland. Migration became the dominant feature of local society, and there was a large-scale abandonment of inferior quality houses, mostly the one-room dwellings of the poorest Cavan inhabitants, some of whom found later themselves among the 'idle and starving' of New York.

Walking tour of Cavan town

On Sunday afternoon, Jonathan Cherry led a lively and informative walking tour of Cavan town, the first Ulster plantation town to receive a charter. Because Cavan was already an urban centre before the plantation it was never laid out like a typical plantation town, and a strong Gaelic presence continued until the 1640s. Cavan is renowned as one of the few Gaelic market towns, and a map of 1590 illustrates the character of the pre-plantation urban landscape. The walking tour began in the new part of the town as developed by the Farnhams from the early nineteenth-century – the 'official' and ecclesiastical quarter – which contains a significant number of large townhouses as well as four churches. The tour then moved into the older more complex part of the earlier urban foundation, visiting both secular and ecclesiastical sites on which later developments have been superimposed.

The programme of events for the weekend conference was ably coordinated by Dr Brendan Scott and Dr David Fleming with Niamh Crowley providing expert attention to detail to ensure the smooth running of events throughout the weekend. The conference received funding from the Heritage Council under its 2011 Heritage, education and outreach grants scheme.

MEDIEVAL SETTLEMENT RESEARCH GROUP



Since 2008, a journal entitled *Medieval Settlement Research* has been published annually by the Medieval Settlement Research Group in Great Britain. Prior to that, the same Group published research articles in the *Annual Report of the Medieval Settlement Research Group*, which has appeared annually since 1986. Details of the contents of these publications, together with information about how to subscribe, or simply to join the online mailing list may be found on the Group's website, <http://www.britarch.ac.uk/msrg/>

Irish History Online. A bibliography of writings on Irish history

Irish History Online includes bibliographic information on books and pamphlets, articles from journals published in Ireland or internationally, and chapters from books of essays, including Festschriften and conference proceedings. Coverage aims to be comprehensive for material published since 1936. Selected items published before 1936 are also included. Searches can be made by author/editor, by title or keyword from title, by subject, by person as subject, by place as subject, by journal title or series, or by publication details.

The Irish History Online home page also provides useful links to a wide range of institutions and databases containing source material for Irish history and local studies. The free information available through these links includes place-names, Ordnance Survey maps, reports on archaeological excavations, editions of annals and other texts, and a range of library and archival resources. Links are also provided to key subscription-based resources, such as the Dictionary of Irish Biography and JSTOR.

Irish History Online was established in 2003 with funding from the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS), during which time a fully searchable online database was created, based on 'Writings on Irish History', originally published in *Irish Historical Studies*, later on microfiche, and subsequently in booklet form. The online project was developed in conjunction with the Royal Historical Society Bibliography of British and Irish History from 2003 to 2009, with the assistance of Peter Salt (RHS).

Since 2010 Irish History Online has functioned separately from the RHS bibliography, so as to allow Irish History Online to continue as a free service. In January 2010, Irish History Online transferred to the Royal Irish Academy, Dublin, and is now maintained and updated by a team of voluntary editors and compilers comprising Máirín Cassidy (formerly UCD Library), Ciaran Nicholson (formerly TCD Library), and Bernadette Cunningham (RIA Library), with the assistance of the Academy's IT Department and the Academy Library. The convenor is Prof Jacqueline Hill (NUI Maynooth).

At the beginning of 2012 the Irish History Online database contained over 77,000 records, with further data being added every week. More than 3,000 new entries were added during 2011. Irish History Online offers a much more comprehensive guide to publications on all aspects of the history of Ireland since the 1930s than has ever been made available in any other bibliographic resource. Irish History Online is updated regularly and is free to use.

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Reviews

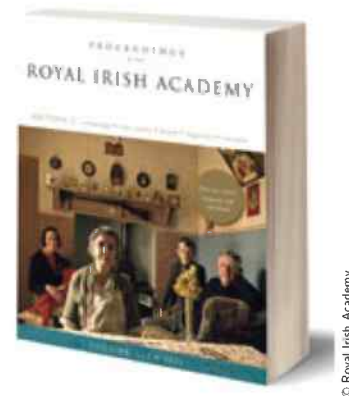
Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy 111 C (2011). Special issue 'Domestic life in Ireland'.

Edited by James Kelly and Elizabeth FitzPatrick

(Paperback (ISSN 0035-8991 (Print)) 336 pp ills. €35.)

It is now six years since the Royal Irish Academy surrendered its St Patrick's-blue fascicules in favour of the more common single volume journal format. It is, arguably, more convenient both to find and use though inevitably more expensive for those wanting the luxury of possession, although this is ameliorated by its availability free on JSTOR, after a suitable interval, and on the Academy's own website (www.ria.ie). For the last five of those six years the revamped *Proceedings* have taken the rather conventional form of a single issue journal, comprehending everything from excavation reports through reflection on the Irish past to the editorial and historical endeavours in Celtic studies.

The 2011 volume, however, breaks new ground. Rather than a pot pourri of learning this is an attempt to create a multi-disciplinary approach to one single theme. The result is twelve essays occupying 336 pages all, in the main, focusing on the theme of domestic life in Ireland. The choice of theme may have been, to some extent, serendipitous, relying on the material to hand, but at another level it is a reflection of the shift that has taken place in the way in which questions about the Irish past are formulated. It is surely significant that the introduction to the volume should have been written by Toby Barnard who has done more than anyone to focus our attention away from high politics and into the minutiae of people's everyday lives. His pioneering work in recovering lost lives by realising the significance of the apparently trivial provides an example that many in this volume follow.



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The essays range from prehistory with Jessica Smyth's 'The house and group identity in the Irish Neolithic' to the contemporary in Michael Pike and Emmett Scanlon's contribution entitled 'Habitat: a social anthropology of the contemporary Dublin house extension'. Chronologically, three can be assigned to prehistory or early medieval history: Smyth's own, Carleton Jones, Olive Carey and Clare Hennigar on 'Domestic production and the political economy in prehistory: evidence from the Burren, Co. Clare' and Aidan O'Sullivan and Triona Nicholl, 'Early medieval settlement enclosures in Ireland: dwellings, daily life and social identity'. Three more essays may be assigned to the medieval/early modern period: 'Pots on the hearth: domestic pottery in historic Ireland' by Clare McCutcheon and Rosanne Meenan, Rory Sherlock's 'The evolution of the Irish tower-house as a domestic space' and Jane Fenlon's 'Moving towards the formal house: room usage in early modern Ireland'.

The eighteenth century is rather underrepresented given the amount of work on this area with 'Keeping up appearances: redecorating the domestic interior in late eighteenth-century Dublin' by Conor Lucey. Predictably, the nineteenth century fares well with Barry O'Reilly's 'Hearth and home: the vernacular house in Ireland from c.1800' and Frank Cullen's essay on 'The provision of working- and lower-middle-class housing in late nineteenth-century urban Ireland' and the twentieth century is well represented with Ruth McManus on 'Suburban' and Mary Mc Carthy's essay 'The provision of rural local-authority housing and domestic space: a comparative North-South study, 1942-60'. The volume is brought to a close with Michael Pike and Emmett Scanlon on contemporary house extensions.

What concerns most of the contributors to this volume are issues of morphology of house types. The exception is the essay by McCutcheon and Meenan on domestic pottery, which synthesises what we know about domestic pottery from, essentially, the Anglo-Norman period onwards. Given the explosion in archaeological data in the last two decades such a synthesis, by two of the leading experts in the field, was badly needed but it sits rather uneasily with the other essays in this volume, which tend to focus on buildings and their arrangement. Inevitably, in a volume that touches on almost five millennia at various points, there are dramatic variations in the type of evidence available and hence the sort of interpretations advanced and indeed the interpretations advanced for each period are not necessarily amenable to comparison with the others. Not all will be convinced by the theoretical musings of Aidan O'Sullivan and Triona Nicholl but at least there is here an attempt to place structures in their social

context so that at least some sort of insight is provided into domestic life as opposed to building morphology. This tension between the shape of the buildings and the people that made them runs through the volume. Rory Sherlock's important essay on tower house morphology, for instance, focuses entirely on the buildings themselves but says little about the changing forms of lordship, described by Katharine Simms, that underpinned those buildings, or the landownership context of those buildings. These are problems that are difficult to deal with and Barry O'Reilly's essay on vernacular architecture in the nineteenth century shows just how complex social attitudes towards building were and just how difficult they are to detect in the surviving evidence. However, in the final analysis it is hard to disagree with Toby Barnard's assessment of the contributions to the volume: 'Through imaginative leaps as well as systematic excavation and scrupulous scholarship, ample materials are being accumulated for the convincing reconstruction of Irish domestic life, whether straitened or opulent'. Having demonstrated that such research is possible, the contributors to this volume have opened up the way for others to explore a vital and intriguing area of Irish life in the past.

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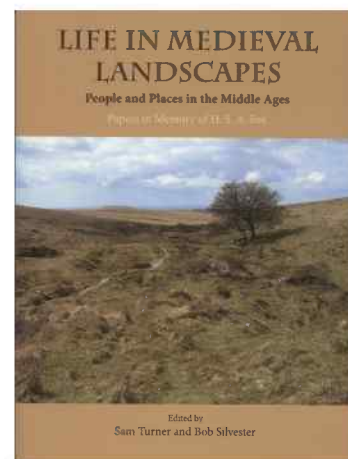
Life in Medieval Landscapes: People and Places in the Middle Ages. Papers in memory of H.S.A. Fox

Edited by Sam Turner and Bob Silvester

(Windgather Press, Oxford, 2012. 240p. 50 b/w & 27 col illus, 14 tables, + vii. ISBN 9781905119400. £30 Pbk.)

Harold Fox made an outstanding contribution to settlement studies, agrarian history and English local history, and his death in 2007 at the age of 63 came as a great shock to his many friends and colleagues, and as a serious loss to historical scholarship. This volume was produced as a tribute by colleagues and former students, many of whom passed through the Centre (formerly Department) of English Local History at the University of Leicester where Harold taught from 1977, and held a Chair in Landscape and Social History from 2003 to 2007. Bruce Campbell and Christopher Dyer contribute personal and scholarly appreciations of his academic career and writings, while Graham Jones's listing of Harold's published works concludes the volume.

Although only one of the chapters is on a specifically Irish topic, many of the others will interest members of the GSIHS, reflecting as they do some of Harold Fox's diverse interests in seasonal settlements, upland, coastal and supposedly 'marginal' environments, and the relations between settlement and society, in a wide range of historic landscapes, from the Anglo-Scottish border, through Wales and midland England to Cornwall and Harold's native Devon in the south-west. The Irish contribution is by QUB Archaeologist Mark Gardiner, whose Proustian title is 'Time regained: Booley huts and seasonal settlement in the Mourne Mountains, County Down'. Booleying – the seasonal movement of stock from lowlands to uplands – has, in the past, been too readily assumed to be a timeless Gaelic practice, Gardiner argues, with ethnographic evidence and folk traditions given priority over historical and archaeological investigation.



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Gardiner's study of documentary and field evidence – the remains of groups of huts on the north side of the Mourne Mountains – suggests, however, that the practice of booleying was very much a historical rather than a timeless phenomenon (hence the chapter title) and which in the Mournes had come to an end by the later eighteenth century. Two types of identified huts appear to relate to distinct phases of transhumance, the first belonging to a tradition of wattle building extending back from c.1700 into the later middle ages, with the second type, constructed with sod walls, dating to the final phase of booleying in the eighteenth century.

Peter Herring's chapter on Cornish transhumance argues that in the first millenium AD the practice was central to economic and cultural life in the Celtic south-west of what was to become England. Ironically, given Gardiner's reservations about the use made of folk tradition in interpreting booleying's nature and history, Herring makes repeated reference to Irish ethnographic literature in order

to imaginatively reconstruct the Cornish system of transhumance, the evidence for which is largely based upon place-names and archaeology. Cornish transhumance, Herring believes, was broken or marginalised early in the second millennium with the spread of settlement, enclosure of fields, and intensification of lowland grazing, the latter permitting livestock to be kept closer to permanent settlements. Angus Winchester, in a chapter on seasonal settlement in northern England associated with 'Shieling' place-names, stresses the variety of activities which were associated with transhumance in the region. Several hundred settlements with names derived from Old Norse *skali* and Middle English *shele* (well-known examples include South Shields in County Durham and Galashiels in the Scottish Borders) have often been interpreted as referring to shieling huts, summer residences of pastoral communities. Winchester shows that a somewhat circular argument is at work here, with a known association between place-name and transhumant systems of livestock and population movement in the early modern period being over-extended both chronologically and geographically. In fact, many of the *shele/skali* names must relate to other types of transient or socially marginal settlements – groups of squatter cottages, mining or fishing settlements etc. – while the core group, which do indeed appear to refer to groups of buildings associated with seasonal movements of stock, were often associated with short-range movements, rather than major communal removals. These three chapters (Gardiner, Herring, Winchester) demonstrate that a lively debate is underway on the historical significance of transhumance, its relation to ethnicity and to long-term processes of socio-economic change.

Other chapters within the book's section on 'Landscape Regions' concern wood pasture in early medieval England and in the Welsh border counties, medieval water management in Brent marsh in Somerset, early medieval farms and later country houses in Devon, and regional differentiation in farming terminology in the English east midlands. A recurrent theme is the redundancy of the concept of 'marginal' landscapes. Even a supposedly bleak and forbidding upland landscape like Dartmoor was a highly valued resource to medieval communities, who, as Rosamond Faith observes, had not had the pleasure of reading *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Andrew Fleming's study of wood-pasture may have resonance for Irish landscape historians, showing as it does that some areas of medieval communal wood-pasture were subsequently absorbed into (and hence disguised by) later parks or demesnes, their former presence only betrayed by the survival of a few ancient pollarded trees. Fleming has hunted down many of these characterful ancient pollards – trees which were for centuries regularly cropped, above the grazing height of livestock, for poles and fuel – and the inclusion of colour photographs, together with the integration of map and field evidence, makes this one of the most appealing of the book's chapters.

The book's last six chapters are grouped under the heading 'Labour and Lordship', and include studies of the medieval land-market, housing, place and personal names, labour and status in heavily manorialised midland and southern England. Penelope Upton's study of the demesne labour force on a Warwickshire estate acknowledges its debt to Harold Fox's pioneering study of landless labourers on the estates of Glastonbury Abbey, while Mark Page's chapter on the land market on a Hampshire manor also follows Fox in stressing the significance of coastal and estuarine resources in alleviating the distress of some communities in the crowded countryside of the early fourteenth century. Mike Thompson analyses peasant personal names on some of Glastonbury Abbey's Somerset manors between the twelfth and fourteenth centuries and shows how Anglo-Saxon names were squeezed out in favour of names of continental or specifically Christian provenance. The manor of Shapwick had a family with the surname *Iris* or *le Irysh* c.1200, and in 1344 a tenant's grandfather was stated to have been Thomas de Hibernia, an *adventicus* born in Ireland. These individuals perhaps represent early returnees from the Anglo-Norman colony and their descendants.

All in all, this is a fascinating collection of studies across a wide range of fields within medieval social and economic history, historical geography, landscape archaeology and settlement studies. The recurrent emphasis on human communities and their interaction with the physical and social environment is well reflected in the volume's title, settlements, farms, fields and woods being shown as the stage for human activity as well as the products of that activity. As such it both forms a fitting tribute to Harold Fox, and makes an important contribution to many debates and areas of active research.

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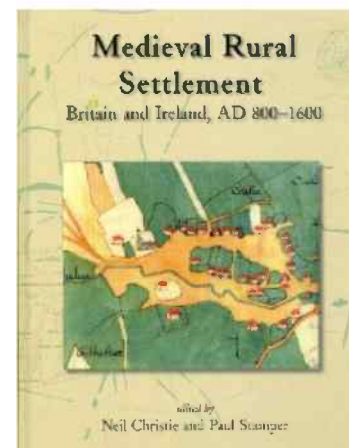
Medieval Rural Settlement. Britain and Ireland, AD 800–1600

Edited by Neil Christie and Paul Stamper

(Bollington: Windgather Press, 2012 [distributed by Oxbow Books], 369p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781905119424. £30. <http://www.oxbowbooks.com>)

The *Medieval Settlement Research Group* (MSRG) was founded in November 1986 from an amalgamation of the *Moated Sites Research Group* and the *Medieval Village Research Group*. It has a long and distinguished history in exploring and promoting research on medieval settlement and over the years has had several valuable outputs. It organises Spring and Winter seminars and day conferences; publishes an annual journal, *Medieval Settlement Research*, and produces various policy statements. Until the publication of this volume, however, there was no single showcase for the wide variety of research into rural settlement undertaken by members of the group over the past sixty years. This volume very successfully fills that gap but goes further in suggesting frameworks, methodologies and agendas for the next half century of research in this area.

Part 1 of the volume comprises six papers under the general heading *Contexts, Chronologies and Forms*. The first paper, jointly written by Mark Gardiner, Neil Christie and Paul Stamper acts as a introduction to the volume as well as providing what is termed a ‘summary of the intellectual genealogy of the study of medieval rural settlements’. The second paper, by Christopher Dyer and Paul Everson charts the development of the study of medieval settlements from 1880 to 2010. While topics come in and out of fashion in settlement studies, a constant has been the interdisciplinary nature of the subject which remains a meeting place for history, geography and archaeology. One of the most useful papers in the volume examines methodological approaches to medieval rural settlements and landscapes. Richard Jones and Della Hooke first consider archaeological approaches detailing the pros and cons of open-area excavation and test pitting before exploring the many other techniques now available including geophysical survey, soil-analysis, GIS and LiDAR. This is followed by sections on the use of documentary evidence such as place-names, field-names and charters, the practices of fieldwalking and environmental sampling and the desk-based tools of landscape characterisation. The authors conclude that bringing together all these techniques and practitioners to produce studies of true interdisciplinarity remains the ‘holy grail’. This is by no means an easy quest but all would concur that it is one worth embarking on.



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So far in the volume, Ireland has received only very cursory mention. This is redressed to some extent in the three remaining papers in Part 1 which cover specific themes within medieval settlement studies using evidence and case studies from Britain and Ireland. The first of these papers, by Gabor Thomas, deals with the prehistory of medieval farms and villages under the broad sub-headings of transitions and trajectories, settlement hierarchy and cultural diversity. It is enlightening to see the Irish evidence, and particularly the research of the last decade and a half, placed in this broader context. Thomas suggests, for example, that the recently identified ‘cemetery settlements’ share affinities with some aspects of the settlement archaeology of later Anglo-Saxon England and he identifies the need for more comparative work on this early medieval period within Britain and Ireland but also within the European context.

The need to take greater account of the wider pan-European context is also one of the conclusions of Oliver Creighton and Terry Barry’s paper on seigneurial and elite sites in the medieval landscape. The authors summarise the different types of elite sites found in Britain and Ireland before presenting a coherent discussion of the role of lordship in forming, manipulating and changing the settlement landscape. The paper also discusses the various components of elite sites and their functionality as well as symbolic purposes. The topic of urban-rural interaction is examined in the final paper of Part 1 by Christopher Dyer and Keith Lilley. This includes a section on the definition and suggested classification of urban settlements reminding us that different sizes and types of towns connected with their surroundings in different ways. Irish examples are used in the discussion of urban origins and the interlinked processes of colonisation and commercialisation but are absent from the section dealing with the interactions of town and country reflecting the fact that research on this topic in Ireland is at an early stage.

Part 2 of the volume presents ten regional and national reviews, seven relating to different regions of England and one each for Scotland, Wales and Ireland. The aim is not to provide full or comprehensive coverage of all areas of Britain and Ireland but to explore a sizeable sample. The reviews vary in terms of themes covered and focus on different time periods within the broad definition of ‘medieval’ but the majority start with overviews of research to date and end with proposals for further research. Another common feature which adds greatly to the interest and utility of the reviews is the use of ‘feature boxes’ on key themes, sites to visit and important excavations. The key themes include ‘field systems’ for East Anglia, ‘planned villages’ for Northern England, ‘exploiting the uplands’ for Wales and ‘expansion and retraction’ for Central Southern England. Key sites to visit range from the celebrated deserted medieval village of Wharram Percy on the Yorkshire Wolds and the Norse settlement at Jarlshof in Shetland to lesser known but equally interesting places such as Burwell along the north-east Cambridgeshire fen-edge where the impressive remains of a medieval canal system can be seen.

The Irish contribution to Part 2 is written by Audrey Horning, Professor of Archaeology at QUB and titled ‘Ireland: medieval identities, settlement and land use’. Although it includes an overview of medieval settlement across the island, the review focuses particularly on the character of Gaelic settlement based on evidence drawn largely from the north of the country. The key theme is ‘colonialism’ and key sites and excavations are Tullahogue, Co. Tyrone and Tildarg Co. Antrim. The enclosure at Tildarg may have been associated with seasonal transhumance and Horner proposes that more exploration of these types of sites will take us closer to an understanding of the economic and cultural practices of the Gaelic north. The short section on Anglo-Norman manorial settlement hints at the wealth of material revealed by the development-led excavations of the Celtic Tiger era and the concluding remarks on future directions advises that there is a lot more to be revealed about the complexities of settlement in medieval Ireland.

The volume concludes with Carenza Lewis’s practical guide to investigating medieval rural settlements which covers everything from using the internet to garden soil surveys. Although aimed at the British researcher, this is valuable reading for anyone undertaking desktop or field-based investigations.

The 17 contributions to the volume are illustrated by well over one hundred figures, all of excellent quality. In addition to being an important and useful collection of papers this is also an attractive and very readable book. It is dedicated to all the members of the MSRG who have advanced the study of medieval settlement over the last 60 years and it undoubtedly will inspire and motivate generations of settlement researchers to come.

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 Carlow College

**Music and the Stars: mathematics in medieval Ireland –
 a model for the present?**

RSAI First international conference on the history of science in medieval Ireland
 National Library of Ireland, 17–18 July, 2012

This 2-day interdisciplinary conference explores the scientific heritage of medieval Ireland. The division of medieval mathematics into four branches – arithmetic, music, geometry, astronomy – ensured that mathematics became a fundamental tool in both the Arts and the Sciences. The conference examines how medieval mathematics influenced great artistic and literary achievements of the period and the implications which this approach might have for mathematics today. ‘Music and the Stars’ presents a rare opportunity to hear experts discuss this little-known heritage.

Speakers include: **Charles Burnett** (Warburg Institute, London), **Howard Clarke** (RIA), **Siobhán Fitzpatrick** (RIA), **David Howlett** (Oxford), **Dáibhí Ó Cróinín** (NUI Galway), **Maura Ó Cróinín** (NUI Galway), **Pádraig P. Ó Néill** (Chapel Hill, North Carolina), **Marina Smyth** (Univ. of Notre Dame), **Robert Stevick** (Univ. of Washington), **Immo Warntjes** (Univ. of Greifswald).

The cost of the conference is €50 per person. For further details and to book a place please contact niambh@rsai.ie

The Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland gratefully acknowledges the generous contribution of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
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 The RSAI is grateful to the National Library of Ireland for providing the venue for this conference.
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FORTY- FIRST ANNUAL REGIONAL CONFERENCE

in association with
Westmeath Heritage Forum

Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone

11-13 MAY 2012

Lake Settlement at Lough Ree

3:30 pm Registration

4:00 pm Opening (Lough Ree Suite 1, Hodson Bay Hotel)

Speakers:

Dr Matthew Stout (St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra)

Early Medieval settlement at Lough Ree

Charlie Doherty (University College, Dublin)

Lough Ree and its territories in the early medieval period

Dr Paul Gibson (NUI, Maynooth)

Ireland's hidden physical and human landscapes — and how to find them

Prof. Alfred Smyth (University of Kent)

The strategic and cultural importance of Lough Ree in ninth - and tenth-century Ireland

Dr Kieran O'Connor (NUI, Galway)

Rindoon Castle

Dr Ingelise Stuijts (Discovery Programme)

The vegetation of the Lough Ree area: an unfinished story

Aengus Finnegan (NUI, Galway)

The placenames of Lough Ree

Dr Rolf Loeber (University of Pittsburgh)

The development of Lough Ree lakeside estates in the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries

Dr Bernadette Cunningham (Royal Irish Academy)

Bethlehem: the Dillons of Westmeath and the Poor Clares

George Gossip (Irish Historic Houses Association)

Building lodges for sport on Lough Ree

Mary Shine Thompson (St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra)

Reading Lough Ree travel literature

Colin Becker (Inland Waterways Association of Ireland)

Irish inland navigation and Lough Ree

Gearóid O'Brien (Westmeath County Library)

Island Living: the modern story of life on the islands of Lough Ree

Boat Trip on Lough Ree: Saturday 2:15 pm (Guide: Dr Harman Murtagh)

Reception (The Library): Saturday 7:15 pm (before Conference Dinner)

Conference Dinner: Saturday 8:00 pm (L'Escale restaurant): €30/£42 per person. This price is for those who have not availed of the 2 nights B&B + Conference dinner package €180 (€150 sharing)

Conference Fee: €50/£40. Students €20/£16. Fee includes coffee and boat trip

Individual Sessions [Saturday/Sunday]: €15/£10

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

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Contributions are invited on topics related to historic settlement in Ireland and the Irish-sea region, the history, conservation and interpretation of the cultural landscape and on local and regional studies. These should be sent to the Editor, Mr Charles Doherty, 13 Bancroft Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24; or e-mail: charles.doherty@upcmail.ie

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

<http://www.irishsettlement.ie/>