

Conservation Plan – Bremore Castle
Plean Caomhantas - Caislean Bri-mor



For
Fingal County Council
Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall



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CONSERVATION TEAM

The conservation team comprised Kelly and Cogan, conservation architects and lead consultants for the project, Courtney Deery Heritage Consultancy, archaeology consultants and plan compilation, Target Archaeological Geophysics, geophysical investigations, Lee McCullough Consulting Engineers, structural engineering advice and historic landscape and garden consultant; Finola Reid.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The conservation plan team wishes to acknowledge the assistance provided by the Fingal County Council steering group comprising Fionnuala May, Senior Architect; Helena Bergin, Conservation Officer; Gerry Clabby, Heritage Officer; Kevin Halpenny, Senior Parks Superintendent of Heritage Properties and Parks, and Christine Baker, Field Monuments Advisor. Completing the steering group was Professor Roger Stalley, Trinity College Dublin who provided valuable insight into the history and architecture of medieval Ireland. The steering group provided constructive comments and guidance throughout the process.

We would also like express gratitude to Michael Lynch, formerly Director of Parks Department in Fingal Co Council and David Newman Johnson, Conservation Architect, Heritage International Ireland who gave of their time to meet with the team and respond to queries regarding the works that had been carried out at Bremore.

Michael Lynch's efforts in acquiring these lands for the enjoyment of the people of Fingal together with keen skills of David Newman Johnson were instrumental in providing a vision for the monument. The consolidation and reconstruction of the Castle from what were effectively ruins is a testament to their passion, vision and skill. Together in partnership with the Balbriggan and District Historical Society the rebuilding of the Castle has enabled the training of many stonemasons and craftsmen, and the structure now represents a monument that showcases their traditional skills. The survival of the monument and its public ownership is down to their and their successor's hard work and efforts. Mention should also be given to the late Leo Swan, archaeologist, who worked on the very early stages of the site.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



PREFACE

Bremore Castle¹, a 15th / 16th century fortified house and manor associated with the Anglo-Norman Barnewall family is located in Bremore townland², on the northern outskirts of Balbriggan town, in north County Dublin (Fig. 1). The townland name is derived from the Irish words *Bri* (bree)- which signifies a hill or rising ground and *Mór* meaning big, together meaning big hill (Joyce 1995, Vol I, 390), referring to the hills that lie to the east (Fig. 1)

The Castle is located less than one kilometre north of the town centre and lies to the east of the Drogheda Road and to the west of the 19th century Drogheda–Dublin Railway line.

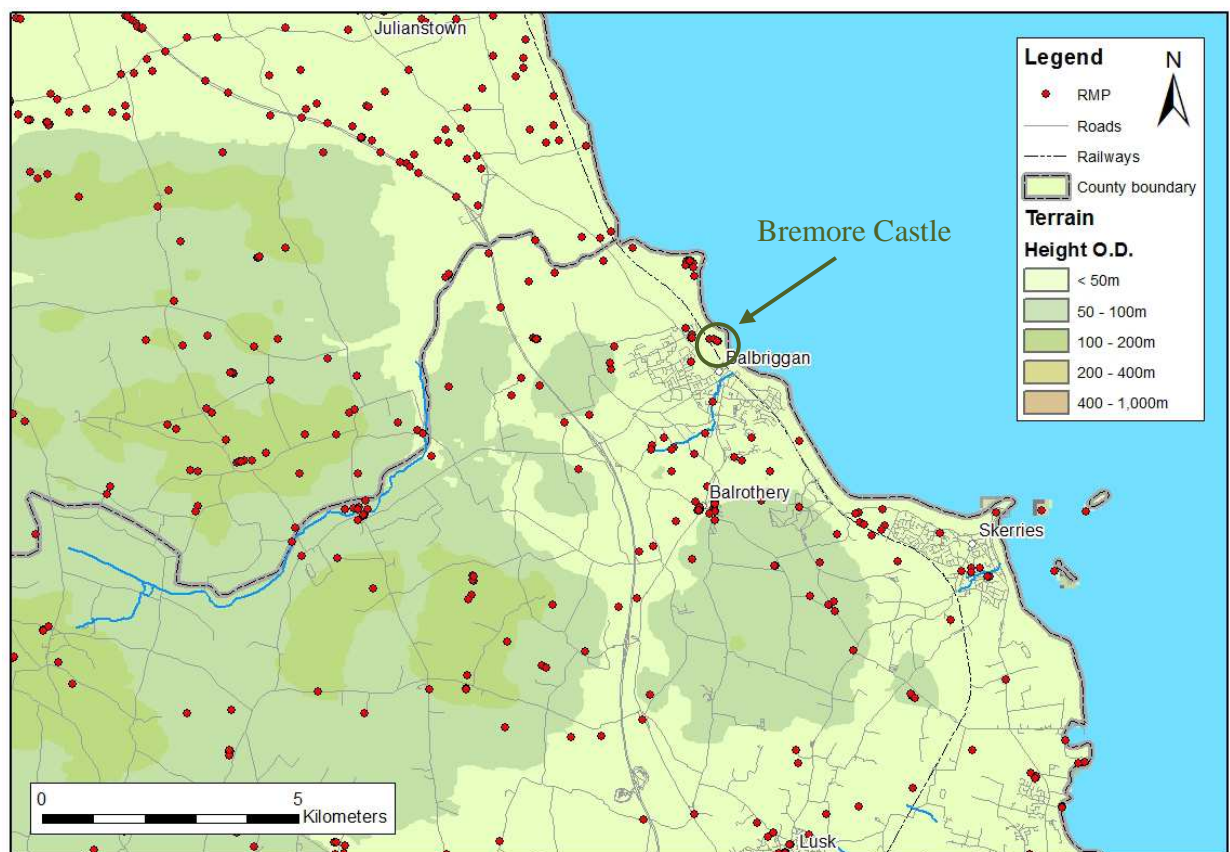


Figure 1 Location of Bremore, low lying coastal landscape surrounded by hills

¹ Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) Reference DU002-002001

² NGR 319778 264529

CONSERVATION PLAN BREMORE CASTLE

The complex is located in an undulating low-lying coastal landscape that slopes gently towards the sea. Bremore is drained naturally by the River Devlin and its tributaries, the fields are largely subdivided by deep drainage ditches which carry water off the surface of the open fields.

It occupies a dominant location within a coastal environment and lies within the newly established Bremore Regional Park, a significant public amenity that is undergoing enhancement (Fig. 2).



Figure 2 An aerial view of Bremore Castle and environs and the recorded monuments in its vicinity

The upstanding structures at Bremore Castle consist of the reconstructed fortified house (referred to as the Castle), the ruins of St Molaga's church and graveyard³ together with its associated enclosure, garden and boundary walls. The complex of structures is generally referred to as Bremore Castle and for the purposes of the plan it is described as such.

³ (RMP) Reference DU002-002002 and DU002-002003

CONSERVATION PLAN BREMORE CASTLE

Since 1994, under support of Fingal County Council and the Balbriggan and District Historical Society, and in conjunction with a FAS training initiative, the Castle has undergone the comprehensive reconstruction of what was by the 1980's a single storey ruin within a farmyard (Plate 1). It contains significant original fabric at ground floor level that has been consolidated and repaired.



Plate 1 Bremore ruins (kitchen extension area) 1986.

The present castle structure is primarily a late 20th century rebuild (Plate 2).



Plate 2 View towards the north east of the reconstructed Bremore Castle, from within the walled garden

The rebuilt elements of the castle and its interior recreate elements of a typical late and post medieval fortified manor house. The quality and scale of the rebuilding and the traditional

skills and craftsmanship employed in the woodwork and masonry is an extraordinary achievement.

BACKGROUND

The Conservation Plan has been commissioned by Fingal County Council in order to:-

- enhance the understanding of the monument by a full study and survey,
- create a record of the existing knowledge base,
- inform the policy makers at local authority and national level in relation to decisions about the monument and its environs.

The context for commissioning this Conservation Plan has been the desire to find a suitable modern day use for Bremore Castle in order to increase interest and public access to the site while maintaining and preserving the significance of the monument.

The plan provides the basis to inform and guide the long term strategies for the use, public access and interpretation of the castle. It will also assist in the preparation of a strategic planning framework to develop greater definition and identity of the castle in the rural outskirts of a large town within a great coastal amenity that is Bremore Regional Park.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Conservation Plan are: -

- To study the monument; assess its significance as a monument and its significance within its wider environment.
- To provide a tool to inform and manage the future use and maintenance of the castle.
- To look at future uses for the buildings and external spaces within the buildings.

To achieve this essential elements of the study are: -

- To understand the history and development of the site.
- To understand the significance of the visible structures and the underlying archaeology.
- To understand the vulnerabilities that may give rise to damage or degradation of the conservation value of the monument.

From that understanding, it devises:-

- A plan for necessary repairs and conservation works.
- Policies that advocate the appropriate terms of reference for protection and management of a monument or place now and in the future.
and
- Makes recommendations for the development of our knowledge and understanding of the site.
- Makes recommendations for the future uses and management of the site.

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of Bremore Castle is derived from its ownership, history, and evolution since early medieval times when the area was first settled up to the present day. Aspects of the castle that the Plan has identified as important are set out in Section III and are summarised as follows:-

- Its association with the early medieval Saint Molaga and the c. 7th century early ecclesiastical foundation of *Lann Beachaire* and with bee keeping;
- Its association with the greatly influential Anglo-Norman Barnewall family, who were dominant in the Fingal area, a strand of which built the castle at Bremore in the mid-16th century;
- Its association with the late medieval agriculture, trade and industry of Fingal;
- It houses or is associated with numerous carved medieval architectural fragments;
- Bremore Castle and St Molaga's Church are protected structures⁴ and are National Monuments in the ownership of Fingal County Council;
- Its public ownership;
- Its coastal setting within a regional park public amenity;
- New found dominance and visibility in the modern landscape and its potential 'landmark' quality;
- The rebuilt Castle is a showcase of traditional skills and craftsmanship (woodworking and masonry).

⁴ Bremore Castle Record of Protected Structure (RPS) Ref. No. 13, St. Molaga's Church (in ruins) & Graveyard Ref. No. 14

SUMMARY OF VULNERABILITIES

The vulnerabilities and threats to the proper conservation of the site are set out in Part IV under the following headings: -

- Threats to the Fabric
- Protecting and Enhancing the Setting
- Resources/Sustainable Future Use
- Access
- Research and Knowledge Gaps

Bremore Castle, with its complex of buildings and the enclosed central space has not enjoyed widespread public appreciation and interaction due to its having been in private ownership and used as a working farm until the late 20th century, and then as a building site for nearly twenty years. The rebuilding works is approaching a conclusion and the next step is to enhance the public areas of the site to make it safe and attractive to draw people to the site. The biggest threat to any structure is redundancy.

SUMMARY OF POLICIES

The vision for Bremore Castle involves ensuring the protection, long-term survival, use and enhancement of the complex, in addition to promoting and interpreting the history of the site and its historic associations to the public.

The policies stem from the vision for the monument and are to be developed in a consultative framework, as the conservation plan progresses. This plan presents an opportunity to assemble and assess all information associated with the monument and provide an integrated multidisciplinary approach for future works and initiatives. An essential aspect of this vision is for the continued protection of the structures and the subsurface archaeological remains while garnering a greater understanding of the monument and promoting the active use of the site.

The Conservation Plan has noted current conservation legislation, along with statutory and guidance policies. Underpinning the policies are a number of key objectives-

- Protect the monument and sense of place.
- Address the urgent consolidation/stabilisation works required for vulnerable areas of the site.

CONSERVATION PLAN BREMORE CASTLE

- Complete weather proofing of Bremore Castle and internal fit out
- Improve the presentation and information on the monument.
- Improve access to and from the monument.
- Improve connectivity with the Regional Park being developed.
- Creation of a site archive.
- Enhance the monument and site so the significance is retained and complies with all statutory obligations pertaining to National Monument and Protected Structure status.

The Plan also seeks to establish guidance for appropriate and sustainable reuse in the short, medium and long term. To ensure the retention of the significance of the castle and to guide the protection of the monument and assist in the necessary conservation, repairs and enhancement the following overarching policies are proposed both in the short term and in the longer term:

POLICY 1 PROTECTION OF THE MONUMENT

To place the protection of the Bremore Castle complex and the retention of its significance at the centre of future planning and management proposals

POLICY 2 CONSERVATION, REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE

To establish programmes for the repair and maintenance in the immediate–short term, medium and long term, while also protecting the significance and historic integrity and observing best practice conservation standards.

POLICY 3 INTERPRETATION, COMMUNICATION AND LEGIBILITY

Ensure that the significance of the site is communicated to visitors, to seek opportunities to improve the legibility and understanding of the site and to enhance its interpretation to meet the needs of a variety of users

POLICY 4 HEALTH AND SAFETY AND UNIVERSAL ACCESS

To provide a safe environment for visitors and persons working at the site and also to provide dignified physical and intellectual access to the Castle and its setting so that all the values in this monument and its context can be safely enjoyed and understood.

**POLICY 5 INCORPORATE BREMORE CASTLE INTO THE REGIONAL
PARK**

To establish the castle complex as a focal point and landmark site in Bremore Regional Park

POLICY 6 INFORMATION, RECORDING AND RESEARCH

To develop further understanding of the castle through informed archaeological investigation and research, and encouraging future research of the monument by creating an accessible comprehensive archive.

PART I
PROCESS AND METHODOLOGY



1.1 PROCESS

The Conservation Plan principals enshrined in this process

'seek to guide the future development of a place through an understanding of its significance. The objective is to evolve policies to guide works that are feasible as well as compatible with the retention, reinforcement and even revelation of significance. These twin concepts of compatibility and feasibility are the base on which the policies are built' (Kerr 1999).

It is a pro-active process that defines:

- The location, physical composition and current presentation of a monument or place;
- Why that monument or place is culturally or materially significant;
- How that significance may be vulnerable.

The conservation plan was carried out in two stages. The primary stage involved research and information gathering; it included an examination of published and unpublished documentary and cartographic sources (as listed in the bibliography). Documentary research has been carried out in the following repositories:

- National Library
- National Archives
- University College Dublin, Architecture Library
- Trinity College Dublin Library
- Dublin City Council, Gilbert Library
- Archaeological Survey of Ireland
- National Museum of Ireland
- Fingal Local Studies and Archive Department, Fingal County Council
- Field notes and photographic archive of archaeologist Leo Swan (kindly supplied with thanks from archaeologist Christine Baker)

The second stage is the review stage, and includes policy formation and the preparation of recommendations. Based on the information gathered an assessment of Bremore Castle's

significance and a statement of the site's vulnerability could be made. The review sought to identify:-

- Threats to significance
- Gaps in understanding
- Conflict between different significances
- Policies to guide ongoing issues
- Feasible and sustainable recommendations

1.2 SOURCES

Historic Sources

The castle and church site at Bremore are not well documented and there are a limited number of primary and secondary historical sources that reference it. The main source for the church site in the early medieval period are the various surviving sets of Irish Annals for example the Annals of Inisfallen, primarily the Annals of Ulster, the Martyrologies O'Gorman (1166-74) and of Donegal (1630), the Annals of Tigernach and the Calendar of Archbishop Alen's Register (McNeill 1950).

Moving into the medieval, late and post-medieval periods, there is a variety of source material available including the surviving manorial extents and documents relating to land and property ownership, inquisitions and valuations such as the Civil Survey, the Books of Survey and Distribution. Bremore Castle and townland is also mentioned in various secondary sources. The sources consulted are included in the relevant section of the bibliography.

Cartographic Sources

Historical mapping for the site and study area prior to the establishment of the Ordnance Survey is limited, comprising the Down Survey Maps (1655), Rocque (1765), Taylor and Skinner's maps (1777) and Duncan's Map of the County of Dublin (c. 1821) none of which are particularly detailed. The Longfield Map Collection held in the National Library of Ireland had two maps of the Bremore area 'A map of Part of the Lands of Bremore in the Barony of Balrothery' by Joseph O'Brien 1795 and a later map of 1820 of the same name. The maps show the land divisions and indicated that the land belonged to Mr. King at the time; they did not show or refer to the castle.

Antiquarian Descriptions and Illustrations

Possibly the key historic source for a description of the castle at a specific point in time is an illustration 'A View of Bremore Castle' by the eighteenth century antiquarian Austin Cooper in 1783 (Fig. 4). It was discovered by David Newman Johnson during the early studies of the site. This source has been the principal 'blueprint' for the reconstruction of the site. This drawing provided a record of the nature, condition and extent of many of the upstanding elements of the site in the 18th century. It appears to be the last representation of the castle site before it fell to ruin and it is to this late 18th century state to which the fortified house is being returned, with additional conjectural embellishments.

The subsequent 19th century descriptions of the site by Lewis (1837), the Dublin Penny Journal (1883), D'Alton (1907) and Cummins (1946) describe only the ruins of the castle. As yet no surviving early photographs of the site have been sourced.

Previous Appraisals and Studies of the Site

In order to understand Bremore Castle, which is now in an advanced stage of reconstruction, it is vital that the history and sequence of the work undertaken to date is identified and outlined as far as the available information allows. The part restoration and reconstruction of the site commenced in 1986. Assessments of the ruins were carried out, the earliest by Healy in 1985 followed by Heritage International Ireland, a consortium of consultants, including David Newman Johnson and Leo Swan employed by the Local Authority a year later. These surveys provide a preliminary analysis of the building. In the absence of a comprehensive archaeological archive these documents form the only pre-reconstruction record of the site and are in themselves an important record of the past forming part of the 'story' of the reconstruction of Bremore. There are illustrated drawings of the site prior to the works that were carried out and of the proposed conservation and restoration works at the castle and in its immediate environs. These show the highly ambitious 'vision' for the redevelopment of the site and its environs. There are pre-reconstruction scaled ground floor plans by Healy (1985), Heritage International (1986, Figure 3) and in a published form by Newman Johnson (2009).

CONSERVATION PLAN BREMORE CASTLE

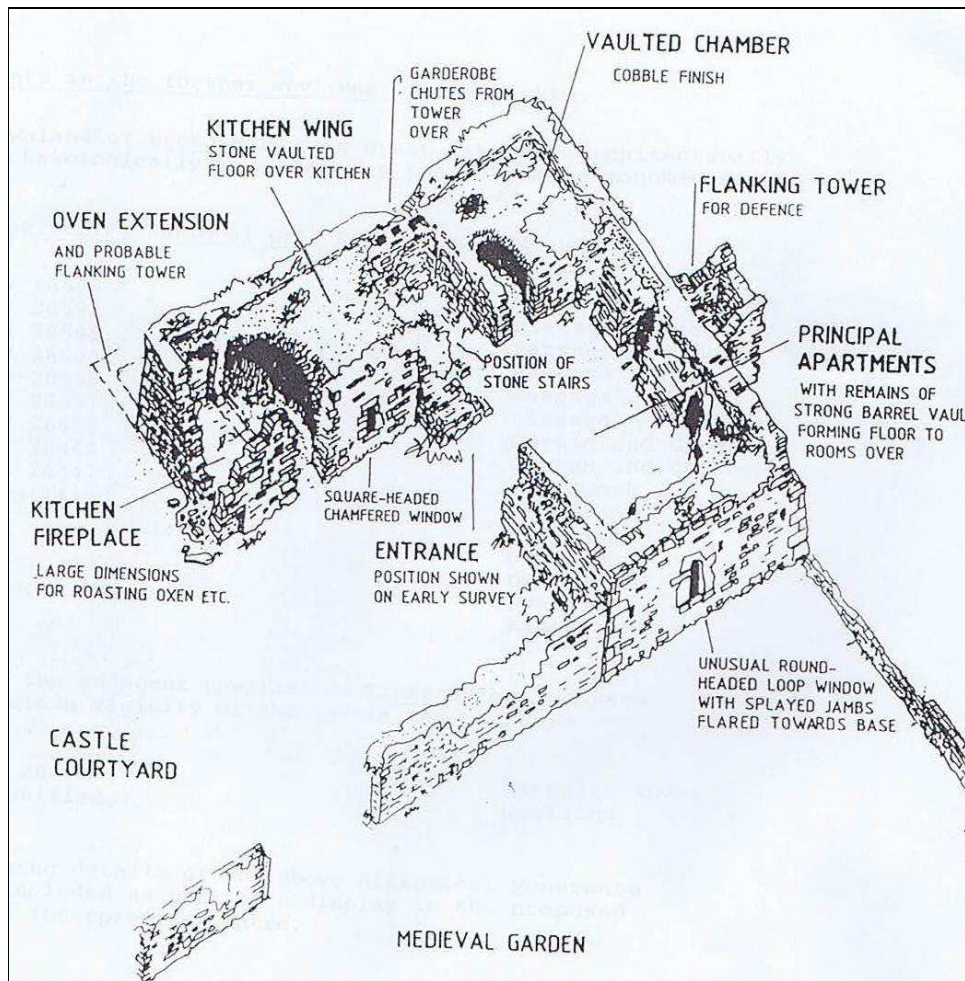


Figure 3 Heritage International illustrated survey of the site c. 1986 showing the extent to which the house survived at that point in time.

Field Survey

In addition to the desk based assessments for the Conservation Plan physical research included specialised surveys, multidisciplinary team visits to Bremore Castle and a review of existing interventions.

Archaeological Geophysical Survey

An electrical resistivity survey was carried out for the Conservation Plan throughout the available interior of the walled garden and the area to the immediate east of the Castle. The results of which are included in Appendix D.

Measured Survey

A measured survey was carried out, the results of which are included in Appendix E, the data points in the surveys have been related to the National Grid.

Consultation

Consultation with relevant stakeholders took place throughout the process, these included discussions with David Newman Johnson and Michael Lynch. It was under the guidance and expertise of these professionals that the concept for regional parks was developed and a multidisciplinary approach to the reconstruction works at the castle was adopted. Consultation with the National Monuments Section of the Department of Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht, the National Museum of Ireland was also carried out in relation to queries regarding the artefacts and the recorded monuments.

PART II
UNDERSTANDING THE MONUMENT – THE RECORD



2.1 HISTORY AND CHRONOLOGY

2.1.1 Prehistoric Period

The townland of Bremore is a coastal one consisting of flat to undulating lowlands that slope down towards the coast to the east. It is a landscape that has attracted settlement and activity from all periods. There is evidence for settlement in the area that dates to the Neolithic period (c. 4000–c. 2200 BC), and given its coastal location, a hugely rich natural resource, it can be assumed that foraging activity in the area also occurred prior to that in the Mesolithic Period (c. 7000–4000 BC).

A nationally important passage tomb cemetery is sited on a prominent headland in Bremore⁵ over 1.3km north of Bremore Castle. It comprises five tombs and an associated site in Knocknagin. The tombs are part of a larger complex which includes the tombs at Gormanstown to the north of the river Delvin in County Meath. The location of these complex of tombs at the mouth of the river Delvin, is a significant one, according to Hartnett (1957) the Bremore/Gormanstown group of tombs represent the point of entry at a ‘natural landing point’ of the ‘Fourknocks Group’ and can be regarded as the predecessor of the Passage Grave Culture in Ireland the likes of which are be seen in the great ritual complexes such as the Brú na Bóinne cemetery which is dominated by Newgrange, Knowth and Dowth (Ó Ríordáin 1979). Fifty seven pieces of worked flint and chert⁶ (were also identified in Bremore in the environs of the passage tomb complex.

Also on the Bremore headland two mound sites are recorded in Bremore⁷; these sites demonstrate a continued focus of ritual activity of the coastal promontory area into the Bronze Age period (c. 2200–c. 600 BC). In addition a fulacht fiadh⁸, a cooking site, was identified in the townland as a large spread of burnt stone with charcoal and black soil near the shoreline in a field under tillage indicating that activity in this area continued into this period.

⁵ Preservation Order No: 22/76, RMP Ref: DU002–001001-005, RPS Ref: 003

⁶ National Museum of Ireland 1999:216

⁷ RMP Ref: DU002–013, DU002–003

⁸ RMP Ref: DU001-0016

2.1.2 *Early Christian/ Early Medieval Period*

The plains of north Co. Dublin, in the 5th and 6th centuries AD, formed part of the geographical region of Brega. Up to this time political supremacy in the area, was still contested by the *Laigin*, or Leinstermen, a dynastic confederation that ruled the southeast and midland regions of Ireland. The earliest recorded ruling lineages of the Laigin included *Dál Messin Corb*, *Uí Fáilge* and *Uí Chennselaig*, along with the *Uí Bairrche* (Byrne 1973: 137–8, 142; Smyth 1992: 16–8). The pre-Norman genealogies suggest that minor branches of these lineages survived north of the Liffey well into the early medieval period, although the attribution of particular localities with particular kindships is rarely straightforward. Local kingship of the area, later represented by the Balrothery baronies, belonged to the ruling line of *Saithne*, although the overkingship of Brega, from the seventh until the eleventh century, was dominated by *Síl nÁedo Sláine*, a dynasty of the Southern *Uí Néill* (Byrne 1973: 88).

2.1.3 *The ‘site of’ Lann Beachaire, the Church of the Bee Keeper*

St Molaga’s late medieval church⁹ was the manorial chapel associated with Bremore Castle. Its ruins are located in an enclosed and disused graveyard, c. 45m to the south of the castle, and is attached to the garden wall. Early records and place name evidence suggests that this church lies upon the reputed early monastic site of *Lann Beachaire*. The *Lann* element of the name is a Welsh word meaning church (similar to the word Kill in Irish) and *beach* is an Irish word for bees, together meaning ‘the church of the beekeeper’. It was founded by St Molaga in the 7th century (Walsh 1888, Gwynn and Hadcock 1988) who, legend has it, brought some bees from Wales with him and introduced bee keeping into Ireland.

Bee keeping was a prevalent part of medieval Ireland, every comfortable householder kept hives to ensure a steady supply of honey and beeswax. Bees were kept in hives, called skeps, made of wicker smeared with cow manure or woven straw. The skeps were housed in alcoves called bee boles built into stone walls, or in bee houses, special enclosures that allowed the bees free access to the outside while protecting the hives from the elements. It was so important to the economy that old Irish Law tract the *Beachbretha* or bee-judgments governed the rights of the various parties concerned, to swarms, hives, nests, and honey

⁹ RMP DU002–002002

(Joyce, 1906). The association of bee keeping with Bremore survived into the later medieval period, there is a carving on a fireplace lintel of the saint holding a bee skep (Plate 3).



Plate 3 The carved door lintel in St Molaga's Church, dated 1689, amongst the highly decorated piece is a possible representation of St Molaga holding a bee skep and a long staff

Bee keeping seems to have been carried out at the site until quite recently; there are possible bee boles in the outbuilding at the site (Plate 4). The tradition is still evident in the area, the adjacent school is dedicated to the St Molaga and a bee skep is their official logo.



Plate 4 Possible bee boles in the outbuilding

There are indications that the early foundation was associated with two different saints, *Mo-laga* or *Mo-Lucé* and *Mo-Domnóc* (Duffy 1997; MacShamhráin 2004). Though both saints are provided with Irish pedigrees, both are also presented as students of St. David in Menevia in Wales. An early medieval 'Life' of the saint describes how, when returning from studying in Wales, he founded a town (oppidum), near Dublin, which was called Lannbeachaire. It was a significant early monastic settlement that survived into the later medieval period where it continued as a local church and burial ground even after the reformation.

Excavation of early monastic foundations of this period has indicated that these sites were delimited by series of concentric enclosures, or vallum, formed by large ditches or stone walls. These enclosures demarcated a hierarchy of sanctity which separated ecclesiastical buildings from domestic buildings; the innermost enclosure contained a church and burial ground and the outer enclosure, usually divided radially into smaller cells, was reserved for domestic and industrial activity.

While no features or structures of the early monastery survive, documentary evidence such as the *Martyrology of Oengus* or *Felire* provides early references to the church and firmly dates to the last decade of the seventh century, which lists '*Lann Bechiar I mBregaib*' in the territory of Brega. The foundation is important as it has links with other early Irish monasteries and as the '*lann*' element of the placename links it with Welsh Christianity of the period.

In 1164 the Annals of Inishfallen refers to the slaying of the Co-arb (lay ruler of the monastery) which indicates its continued existence over three and half centuries. References in the Martyrologies of O'Gorman (1166-74) and of Donegal (1630) indicate an association between this monastery and those at Labbamolga, Kildorrery and Timoleague in Cork, as well as that of Tibberaghny in Co Kilkenny (Stokes 1895, O'Donovan 1864, Healy 1985).

Shortly after, 'Lambecher' was recorded as a chapel under the mother church of Lusk, but in 1200 the churches of Bremore, Baldungan and Balrothery were granted by Archbishop Comyn to the Augustinian Priory of Kilbixy or Tristernagh in Co. Westmeath, which had been founded in 1192 as a monastic hospital for the care of Lepers. It is after this that the church of Bremore disappears from the records, it is not mentioned in the Crede Mihi of 1275, the Ecclesiastical Taxation of 1306, or the Archbishop's Visitations of 1615 or 1630.

2.1.4 The Medieval Church, St. Molaga's Church and Graveyard

The present remains comprise a late medieval church (Plate 5), which was the manorial chapel for Bremore and had a continued dedication to St. Molaga. It is not known how long this chapel continued in use. There is reference to Rev. John Corcoran, the parish priest of Balbriggan from 1700-25 who said mass there (Healy 1985). The burial-ground was still in use when Samuel Lewis visited the site in the 1830's, and more recent interments have taken place within the church but not in living memory (Deery & Goucher 2009).



Plate 5 View of the church and graveyard, attached to the southwestern corner of the walled garden, entirely overgrown with dense vegetation

Fragments of decorated seventeenth-century stonework lying inside the church including moulded door lintels and two double-light, highly decorated window heads (Plate 6) bonded into the church wall. A plain lintel also lies on the ground adjacent to the gate piers at the entrance to the graveyard. Many graveslabs and stones are also lying within the graveyard (Plate 7).



Plate 6 Highly ornate ogee headed window with religious symbolism in Bremore Church (2011)



Plate 7 Headstone covered with vegetation

2.1.5 Medieval Period

The Barnewall family's arrival to Ireland

The Barnewall family were of French Norman origin, originally from the town of Berneval le Grand sur Mer in Normandy. Though Richard Stanihurst recorded in the late sixteenth

century that the Barnewalls had arrived in Ireland with the earliest invaders in the mid-12th century, it appears to have been the early 13th century before they appear in the records in Ireland, when, in 1216, Hugh de Barnewall is recorded as holding the lordship of Drimnagh and Terenure. This estate was held directly of the crown, *in capite*, and provided the springboard for a gradual elevation which resulted in the acquisition of large estates elsewhere in County Dublin and in Counties Meath and Louth, culminating in the 15th century in the grant of the title Baron Trimlestown, after one of their principal seats in County Meath. After the Dissolution of the Monasteries, further acquisitions followed, while high public office was frequently held by members of the family: Sir Christopher Barnewall was Chief Justice of the King's Bench in 1435, John Barnewall was Chancellor of Ireland in 1534 and Sir Patrick Barnewall was Master of the Rolls prior to his death in 1552 (Duffy, 1997).

After the death of the first Irish Barnewall, Sir Hugh, in 1221, the family's still modest estates, as yet centred on Drimnagh and Terenure, passed to his brother Reginald, and then to another member of the family of the same name. He was succeeded by Wolfran de Barnewall, who was prominent in public affairs, being constable of Dublin and sheriff of the county prior to his death at the close of the 13th century.

The Barnewalls at Bremore

It was Wolfran de Barnewall's son and successor, Reginald, who acquired Bremore for the family. In 1316, Reginald arranged the marriage of his son, Wolfran II, to Nichola, daughter of Robert de Clahull, and as a consequence the family acquired Ballyfermot and large possessions in north county Dublin. By the time of the death of Wolfran's son, another Reginald, some time before 1395, the Barnewalls were described as lords of Bremore, Balrothery and Balbriggan. These lands remained in this branch of the family for centuries thereafter, the principal residence being Drimnagh Castle, junior members of the family acquiring some of the other outlying estates. There may well have been an early castle on the Bremore lands during this period.

By 1535 the head of this branch of the family was Edward Barnewall, whose father Robert had bequeathed to him the manors of Drimnagh, Balrothery and Ardee, County Louth. Bremore and further lands at Clonusk were held at this point by a cadet line, represented by James Barnewall, married to Margaret St Laurence of Howth. In an inquisition of 1567 the

CONSERVATION PLAN BREMORE CASTLE

estate at Bremore is stated to have consisted of ‘*a castle, 8 messuages or buildings, a dovecote, 8 gardens and 132 acres*’ it was said to have been held by Edward Barnewall of Drimnagh, ‘as of his manor of Balrothery’, perhaps implying that for accounting purposes Bremore was regarded as an outlier of the manor of Balrothery. This is the first mention of a castle on the lands.

In 1832 D’Alton records a stone in front of the ‘farmhouse’ at Bremore which has ‘*the armorial bearings of the families of Buriford, Howth, and Barnewall*’. He refers to a mantel piece which celebrates the marriage of James Barnewall to Margaret St Lawrence which is now housed in Lusk Church. It comprises a sub-rectangular limestone plaque that is decorated with six-shields bearing arms, at the centre of which is an annunciation scene which commemorates the union (Plate 8). According to Newman Johnson this bridal mantel provides a mid-sixteenth century date (c. 1546) for the vaulted hall-house which is thought to be the earliest standing phase of the castle. While the mantel provides a relative date it could be argued it was inserted into an already existing castle.



Plate 8 Mantel tree piece originally from the castle at Bremore. It celebrates the marriage of James Barnewall to Margaret St Laurence of Howth in the mid 16th century c. 1546.

James may have been responsible for the development of ‘le Newhaven of Brymore’, which lay c.1km northeast of the castle. The Calendar of Carew Manuscripts (1515-1574) record that James Barnewall and his wife Margaret were granted to build in 1562 at Newhaven ‘*a quay or harbour and fisher towne*’ which would have provided important docking facilities on the nearby shore, ‘*le Newhaven of Brymore*’, is recorded in one of his land deeds of 1592.

James and his wife were stated to have earlier attempted to grant, without royal licence, ‘the manor of Brymore and lands in Brymore and Clonuiske’ to Richard Barnewall of Dublin,

merchant, and to Nicholas Taaffe of Bremore. The Taaffes did come to acquire a stake in the lands at Bremore when, in 1565, James and Margaret granted '*Peter Taaffe of Bremore gent. and Edward Barnewall of Dublin gent.*' all their lands and appurtenances in '*Flemingstown (near Bremore) and Harbardston*'. The latter, which is located near Balscadden, County Dublin, took its name from Herbert Russell, who, in 1410, was granted it by Sir William Russell; the latter held an estate in Derbyshire in England but was described as lord of '*Brimore in Ireland*', implying that it had temporarily passed out of the hands of the Barnewalls.

By 1607 Bremore was held by John Barnewall and his wife, Eleanor, daughter and heiress of Sir James Dowdall. The estate, described as '*the manor of Brymore*', and including lands at Clonusk, Flemingstown, Harbardstown, Balscadden, Balbriggan, Balrothery and elsewhere nearby was estimated to consist in total of 600 acres, and to have been held of the main line of the Dublin Barnewalls, the lords of Drimnagh, by the nominal service of one red rose. Both lines were reunited when James Barnewall of Bremore married Elizabeth, the daughter and heiress of Marcus Barnewall of Drimnagh (d.1606).

The Barnewalls were a staunchly Catholic family and during the insurrection of 1641 James Barnewall was one of the leaders of the Confederate Catholics. During the insurrection several barks (a sailing vessel with three or more masts) lying off the coast of Skerries were plundered by the Confederates and the spoil was carried out '*Barnewall of Bremore*' where there was a store house used (Ni Mhurchadha 2005). A cannon ball was found in the field to the north of the castle and may relate to the attack on the castle during the 1641 Confederate Wars (Plate 9, O'Carroll 2003a, 2003b, 2009).



Plate 9 Image of the canon ball found in the fields to the north of Bremore Castle

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By the period of the Cromwellian wars, Bremore was held by Matthew Barnewall, who was attainted for his adherence to Roman Catholicism. In 1654, Matthew Barnewall, 'Irish Papist', was stated in the Civil Survey to hold at Bremore 'and Newhaven, a fishing towne on ye said land', 300 acres, of which 150 were arable, 140 pasture, and 10 meadow (Simington 1945). 'Breemore' was said to contain 'one burnt castle with a great barne and eight tenements, one orchard & parke with some young ash trees' while at Newhaven there were said to be ten small cottages, both of which, when combined, a jury valued at £110. It describes the settlement at Newhaven 'On the North of the Barony stands a point or North of land (extending itself into the sea) called New Haven it being by the industrie of the inhabitants of the towne which stands; near this point made a secure harbour for boates and is a considerable place for fishing' this settlement is illustrated in the Down survey. Remnants of the harbour still survive today (Plate 10).



Plate 10 View of the remnants of New Haven pier, Bremore castle can be seen in the middle distance. (Inset: Newhaven as represented in Down Survey map 1655)

From the reference to the burnt castle it would appear that James leading role in the Confederate Catholic cause led to the burning the castle.

In the Civil Survey of 1654 the bounds of Bremore were recorded as: the sea on the east; the lands of 'Tankerdstowne' on the south; the land of 'fflemingstowne' on the west; and the land of 'Knockhengen' on the north (Simington. 1945).

Some or all of the lands were recovered following the restoration of the monarchy in 1660, Mathew's son James regained the estate in 1663 and set about refurbishing the then 'burnt' castle (Newman Johnson, 2007). At that time the lands were found to be worth £100 per annum and contained 405 acres. A decorated door lintel in St Molaga's Church which includes a date 1689 is likely to have been part of this work and is at present in the church yard. According to Healy the date on the lintel has an additional significance, it may not be a coincidence that this is also the year that King James II passed an Act for Liberty of Conscience that granted religious freedom to all Catholics and Protestants in Ireland (Healy 1985); it appears that the Barnewall's response to this was to restore that old church with elaborate cut stone doors and windows with religious symbols (Plate 11).



Plate 11 The crucifixion in its former location, it was removed to Ardgillan for safe keeping (after Fingal Graveyard Survey)

In the Hearth Money Roll¹⁰ of 1664, there is still a distinction between Bremore and the fishing village in Newhaven with seven hearths being allocated to Bremore and nine hearths noted in Newhaven. Of the seven in Bremore two hearths belonged to 'Mr. James Barnewell' (possibly refers to the newly refurbished castle).

¹⁰ The Hearth Tax was introduced to Ireland in 1662; it provided a list the names of householders who were liable to pay tax at the rate of two shillings on every hearth or fireplace they had.

Bremore and other estates were finally lost to the Barnewalls when the male line in this branch of the family died out in the early 18th century (Ball 1906, Duffy 1997). Walter Bagenal married the heiress to Bremore, Eleanor in 1706 and Bremore was sold by him in 1727 to Henry the Earl of Shelbourne, from whom it passed to the Marquis of Lansdowne. It is from this point forward that Bremore ceased to have an importance as a principal residence and was just part of a collection of lands owned by a wealthy and prominent family who were landowners in both in Ireland and Britain (Swan 1996).

It would appear that prior to 1736 the castle was occupied by Richard Cadell who also farmed the land. In that same year there was a dispute over the tenancy of the castle when Captain McCullough and his dependants who occupied the castle were besieged in the castle and eventually captured by Captain Vernon the Sherriff of Co Dublin who was ordered to give possession of the castle to Mr. Timmin. There was an exchange of shots to and from the castle and later to an outhouse, the Sherriff took the garrison prisoners and brought them to Kilmainham (Healy 1985, Cooper 1783, Swan 1996)

Cooper describes the castle in 1783 as:

'...situated on a rising ground very near the sea & commanding a delightful prospect thereof. It seems rather a modern building with good limestone quoins, window frames, muinnions &c..The lower part of this Case [sic]. is very strong & arched in a very irregular manner, & appears to me to have been not many years ago inhabited. Besides a number of Garden walls & such like inclosures still to be traced are the walls of a Chapel in wch. nothing is remarkable' .

He provides the following valuable sketch of the castle (Fig. 4):

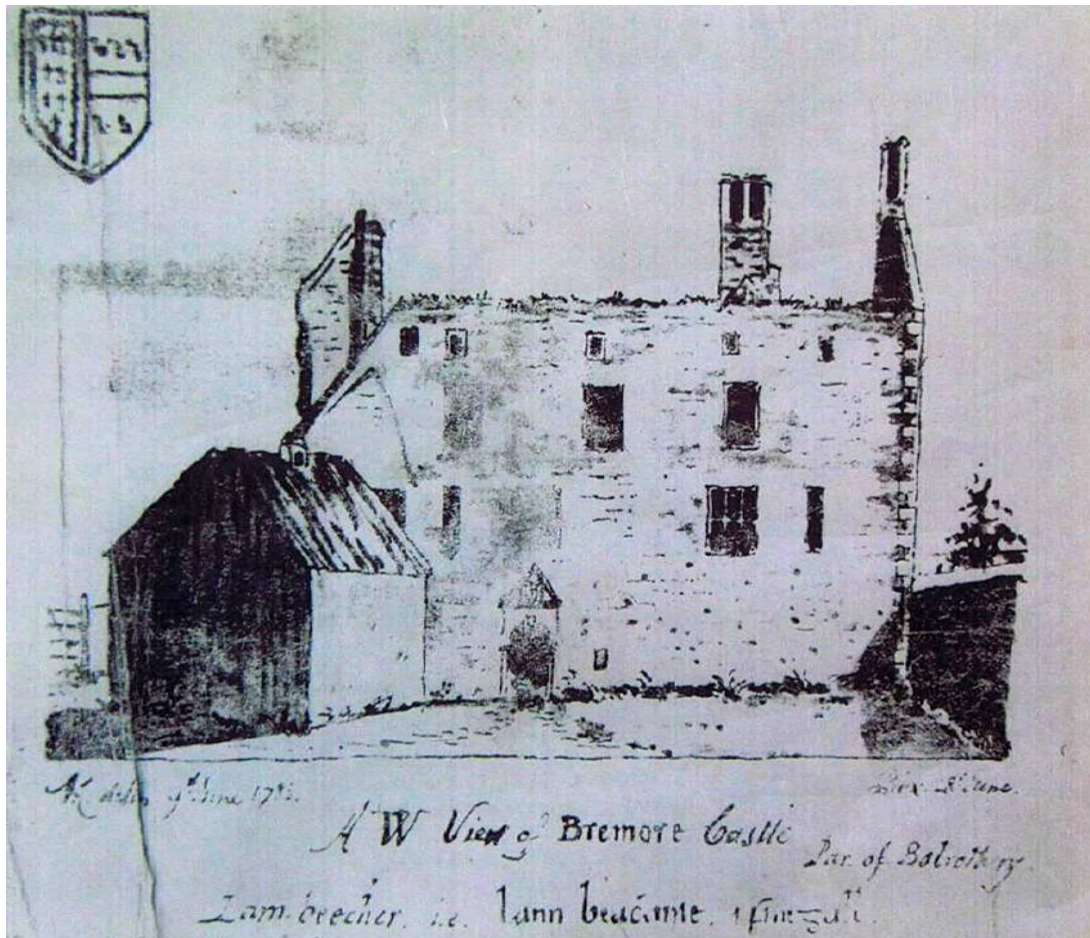


Figure 4 Austin Cooper's 'A View of Bremore Castle' 1783, found by David Newman Johnson when researching the castle

The sketch gives a valuable representation of what the western facade of the castle looked like at a specific point in time i.e. in June 1783. In it the castle rises to three or possibly four stories, the large upper story windows are shown, one with details of a mullion. The kitchen extension is thatched and appears to have a central flue through the ridge.

Cooper describes the doorway that he illustrates on the western facade as:

'particularly neat, ornamented on each side with a pilaster wch. support a suitable pediment in the space of wch. are two coats of arms parted pale Vist.—Ermine, a border engrailed on the sinister side—(Barnewall) & a fess between 5 martins 3 & 2 on the dexter side'.

The coat of arms represents Barnewall and the Dowdall families, and would provide a date range of the door to between 1567 and 1606 a period within which the marriage of John

Barnewall to Eleanor Dowdall occurred and when it is likely that they set about making grandiose improvements to the structure, including an elaborate new entrance to the house.

Cooper's illustration and historical evidence suggests that the kitchen extension and the erection of an alternative entrance in the western facade are likely to have been carried out in the late 16th and early 17th century. This date range is further confirmed by the discovery in 1996, of four finely carved stones belonging to an architrave found within rubble that blocked a window embrasure in eastern facade of the castle, this architrave appears to be the one that is illustrated by Cooper. The fragments comprised a carved calp limestone keystone and upper voussoir which was carved out of one stone, two moulded pilaster capitals and the inner three quarters of a capital. The decorative detail has dateable comparables to the end of the 16th century (Plate 12) (Newman Johnson 2007).



Plate 12 Architrave now inserted into the internal porch at the principal seventeenth century entrance into the monument

Based on the evidence outlined it has been suggested that this door was inserted into the castle at the same time that the original entrance at the northern end of the western facade was incorporated into the kitchen extension, that is somewhere between the late 16th or early 17th century (Newman Johnson 2007). The pieces have been incorporated into the inner porch of the castle to preserve them from being exposed to the elements. The discovery of this architecturally significant fragment is well reported on, however, there are many other reused fragments within the reconstructed structure for which there is no written record of its find spot or their new location e.g. the many door and window jambs are reused in the reconstruction.

2.1.6 *The Eighteenth Century and the Demise of Bremore*

In Taylor and Skinners road map of 1778 Bremore is indicated as a castle in ruins. In 1783 the walls of the castle were more or less intact but in a little over 50 years later the castle is described by Lewis (1837) as *'the ruins of Bremore castle, the ancient seat of a branch of the Barnewall family, consisting of some of the out-buildings and part of a chapel, with a burial-ground, which is still used by some of the inhabitants'*.

By 1883 it is noted in the Dublin Penny Journal that *'Bremore Castle...to the discredit of the present proprietor has been taken down'* (No 28 Vol. I).

D'Alton (1844) describes *'the wreck of the ancient castle may be traced on a site, commanding a most extensive and sublime prospect. Near it are the remains of the old church, within which may be seen a stone, that seems to have formed the arching of the castle doorway, and bears the date of 1689. On the ground in front of the farm-house is another stone of the same edifice, charged with the armorial bearings of the families of Buriford, Howth, and Barnewall.'*

The 'stones' he refers to are the aforementioned bridal mantelpiece and the door lintel. While he suggests that they belong to the castle, this cannot be known for certain.

The Tithe Applotment books of 1833 reveal that John King was the occupant at Bremore Castle and its surround lands. In 1904 the Lansdowne family sold their estates to the Land Commission. The King family remained in possession until 1926. It was then owned by John Cuffe and in 1936 by the Bell family until it was acquired by Dublin County Council in 1984 and was subsequently passed onto Fingal County Council ownership.

A newspaper article by C. W Cummins (1946) upon his visit to the castle describes it as having *'little of its former ecclesiastical importance and baronial splendour. A few grey stones, over-grown with weeds, an armorial crest, is all that time has left to us of a once flourishing centre of spiritual and secular activity'*

With the subdivision of the councils the lands passed into the ownership of Fingal County Council in 1994. Since then, under support of Fingal County Council, initially led by Michael Lynch from the the Parks Department and the Balbriggan and District Historical Society, the

CONSERVATION PLAN BREMORE CASTLE

castle has undergone the comprehensive reconstruction of what was by the 1980's a single storey ruin (Plates 13 and 14).



Plate 13 The kitchen extension in 1985 (after Healy) showing a complete gable end with a narrow opening in it with brick repair. There is a pointed Gothic doorway on the first floor of this extension which would have lead to the head of the stairs in the main hall-house structure, for which there was evidence of a stairwell.



Plate 14 The south-western wall of the hall-house, centrally placed is a round headed loop with a tapering external chamfer and inward splay, this is typical sixteenth century type (after Healy 1985)

The expertise of David Newman Johnson, consultant conservation architect and the late Leo Swan (archaeologist) were called upon. The work on site was carried out by trainees under a

FAS training initiative, overseen by Frank Whelan and stonemasons Richard Perry and Per Steppe, who designed and made some of the fireplaces in the castle ¹¹ (Plate 15).



Plate 15 New fireplace and example of new decorated architectural detailing

The sourcing of the materials that were used, the quality and scale of the rebuilding, the traditional skills and craftsmanship used in the wood and masonry work is an extraordinary achievement and story in its own right.

Adjacent to the castle in 1989 a National School, Naomh Molaga was opened and to the north in 2004 a residential development ‘Cardy Rocks’ was constructed.

2.1.7 The Landscape of Bremore, Historical Context

The fishing village of New Haven and the castle

Bremore is associated with the former village of New Haven; the village is indicated on Rocque’s 1760 map (Fig. 9). Newhaven Harbour¹² is located on the southern side of Bremore Head and runs in a north-northeast direction almost parallel to the headland. It comprises a rubble stone pier that survives relatively intact. It is approximately 62m in length and varies from 8- 10m in width (Brady et al 2007). It is sited in a sheltered location in an enclave of high sea cliffs and a level sandy beach which would have facilitated the unloading of cargo

¹¹ Murphy, H (2003) Helping to bring good times back to Bremore By Hubert in the Fingal Independent (Friday 1st August 2003)

¹² RMP DU002-015

from vessels. Field survey for the Balbriggan and Bremore Historical Landscape Characterisation (HLC) identified what appears to be a narrow (c. 1m wide) and steeply sloping sunken-way leading from the site of the New Haven settlement down the cliff edge to the pier (Deery & Goucher 2009). It had what appeared to be a metalled surface which was exposed in places by hill wash.

In other written sources it is referred to as '*Cromwells Harbour*' or '*Balscadden Bay*' (Cluskey 1999). It is said that the majority of fish landed here were herrings which were then transported by horse cart on a road that ran through the village of Knocknagin and then a road to Balscadden for preparation and sale, this routeway is shown on Rocque's map, on Duncan's 1821 map it is referred to by D'Alton as '*a pretty hedge road*' (1838).

On the coast nearby the harbour is a cairn of stones known locally as the 'sailor's grave' from the shipwreck of the Belle Hill. The Belle Hill was lost in 1875, only one sailor in the crew survived, six bodies were recovered and buried in Balrothery Cemetery and the remaining bodies were washed up on the coastline of the Isle of Man and the Cumberland (Dunne 1999). A small stone cairn to the south of Newhaven Harbour honours the men that lost their lives. This wreck was also visible during the 1950s and 1960 at low tide at Newhaven Point and it is likely that there is quite a large zone of wreckage today.

The Belle Hill is one of the many shipwreck stories off the coast of Balbriggan. Upwards of 17 vessels are recorded in the Underwater Units Archive as having been wrecked off the coast from Barnageeragh to Knocknagin (Plate 16).



Plate 16 Bell Hill cairn, 'sailor's grave'

Martello Tower

The Martello Tower¹³ (Plate 17 and 18) in Balbriggan overlooks ‘*Kings Strand*’; it is in poor condition and lies derelict. Martello towers were built between 1804 and 1806, in response to a perceived threat of an invasion of England via Ireland by Napoleon. They are named after, and their design is based on, a tower at Cape Mortella in Corsica, which was captured by the British in 1793. They were short lived and were withdrawn from military use after the death of Napoleon. Over 70 towers were planned and twenty-eight towers were built between Balbriggan and Bray, each with overlapping fields of artillery fire, twenty-one of which survive (Enoch 1970), some were removed for the construction of the railway and others were washed out to sea. South Dublin towers are of granite ashlar, whereas those in Fingal are mostly of rendered rubble masonry (Deery and Goucher 2009, Bolton et al. 2012).



Plate 17 View from roof of Bremore Castle to Martello tower and coastline to the southeast

¹³ (RPS No. 017, RMP DU002-004)



Plate 18 'The Black Rocks Balbriggan', c.1930-50, showing the Martello tower and boat houses. Valentine Photographic Collection, NLI (Ref: VAL 59598)(after Bolton et al. 2012)

2.1.8 *Bremore Castle Chronology*

Date	Event
600-700	Christian church at Bremore founded by St Molaga who was associated with St David of Menevia.
1164	The Annals of Inishfallen refer to the monastery as being under the control of the Augustinian Priory of Tristernagh, Co Westmeath.
1299-1300	'Willam Rosel de Brimor' is referred to in the Calendar of Documents Relating to Ireland
c. 1300	'Wyllliam Rosselle, lord of Dunbegh in Co Derbi in England, and Bremore in Ireland' is referred to in the Gormanston Register ¹
1316	The Barnewall family obtained substantial holdings in north Co Dublin through the marriage of Wolfran de Barnewall to the daughter of Robert de Clahull.
1395	'Wolfran de Barnewall' grandson of his namesake above listed as owner of holdings in north Co Dublin including 'Brymore'.
1435	Wolfran Barnewall vested his lands, including 'three houses, two mills and a dovecote' with a trustee Luke Barnewall.
1538	Death of John Barnewall, Lord Chancellor, 'James Barnewall ancestor to family of Brymore' is described in family pedigree as the son of the 3 rd Baron of Trimleston.
1550	James Barnewall appointed to the office of Justice of the Liberty of Co Wexford, he later served as Attorney General.
1567	An inquisition describes the wealth of James Barnewall of Bremore at the time; the family had clearly gathered considerable status and wealth through their intermarriages with families of substance.
1617	Death of James Barnewall of Bremore who had married the heiress of a senior branch of the family at Drimnagh thus consolidating and expanding the strength of the Bremore Barnewalls.
1642	Matthew Barnewall son of James was a leader of The Confederate army in north Co Dublin; he was attainted for treason.
1654-6	The Civil Survey gave a list of the properties of Matthew Barnewall in Dublin and Meath
1668	Death of Matthew Barnewall, lands passed on to his brother James Barnewall.
1706	James' daughter and heir marries Walter Bagenal of Carlow and lives in Carlow, Bagenal was forced to sell the Barnewall estates for only £ 7,000.00 (much less than their estimated value of c. £ 40,000.00).
1706	Bremore owned by Earls of Shelbourne, it would appear the castle was occupied by their tenants during this period.
1736	Incident when resident tenant Captain McCullough was evicted forcibly from Bremore Castle.

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1783	Austin Cooper visited Bremore and found it uninhabited and drew a sketch of the West Elevation
1833	John King occupies land adjoining castle with a House, Office and Land on 265 acres. Dublin Penny journal gives description of Bremore as partially taken down.
1984	Bremore Castle purchased by Dublin County Council and then passed into the ownership of Fingal County Council
1994-present	Supported by Michael Lynch formerly of the the Parks Dept of Fingal Co Council and the Balbriggan and District Historical Society reconstruction works were carried out at the site by trainees from a FAS training initiative with advice of David Newman Johnston, Conservation Architect
2011	Conservation Plan for Bremore Castle commissioned by Fingal County Council
2013	Conservation Plan Completed

2.2 GENERAL SITE DESCRIPTION OLD AND NEW

2.2.1 *Bremore Castle –Prior to Reconstruction*

Bremore Castle is defined in the RMP as a fortified house¹⁴. Prior to its reconstruction it was described in previous studies as a rectangular hall-house and eastern flanking tower dating to the 15th / 16th century, with a two storey extension introduced on the north-western facade of the principal structure in the late 16th – early 17th century (Swan 1996, 1997, Heritage international Ireland N.D).

Present knowledge would indicate that the hall-house in Ireland originated in the west but developed towards the tower house tradition and form in the east which are later examples, having vaults over the ground floor, angle towers and machicolations in common with tower houses (Sweetman 1999 89-104; Mc Neill 1997, 148-54). They were essentially a domestic residence, which also had strong military capabilities. Their defining characteristics can be summarized as a two-storied rectangular plan, with a hall or living area at first floor level, with larger windows. They generally had a first floor entrance which was accessed via a wooden external stair or super structure, but there are exceptions to this where the entrance was via the ground floor. The ground floor was defensive having narrow slit-opes, a base batter and large wicker centered vaults to carry the hall above (Plate 19).

They are most common in the west of Ireland and were thought to be relatively rare in Leinster; however the Archaeological Survey is increasingly identifying further hall-house sites. Sweetman (2002) argues that they are a more common type of castle than previously suggested. In Leinster examples include Kindlestown Castle, Co. Wicklow which is described as a ‘text book’ example, other examples include Dunmoe Castle, Co. Meath and Delvin Castle, Co. Westmeath. Hall-houses are sometimes found in association with earthworks or churches and can be seen as a manor house as well as a defensive structure.

¹⁴ The RMP defines a fortified house as ‘ a stone house laid out on an elongated plan as opposed to the vertical arrangement of a tower house. Internal fixtures, such as stairs, floors and partitions are usually wooden. Fortified houses also possess, in addition to the above, one or more of the following features: a defended bawn; dun loops, bartizans, machicolations, corner towers or wings designed to allow flanking fire. These houses date to the period c. 1580-c.1650.



Plate 19 Hall houses in Coolhull, Co Wexford and Ballaycarbery, Co Kerry (After Sweetman.)

Similar to the hall house form, the ruins of Bremore Castle has been described as having a rectangular plan form, a large ground floor wicker-centered stone vault carrying the first floor above, narrow slit openings to light the ground floor and a wide base batter. Bremore was a Barnewall holding from the 14th century onwards and a manorial seat of the Barnewall family in the 16th and 17th centuries and had a chapel (St Molaga's) associated with it.

2.2.2 The Reconstruction of Bremore Castle

Bremore has been rebuilt to an idealised version of a fortified house based mainly on the sketch of the western view of the castle made by Austin Cooper in 1783 (Fig. 5).

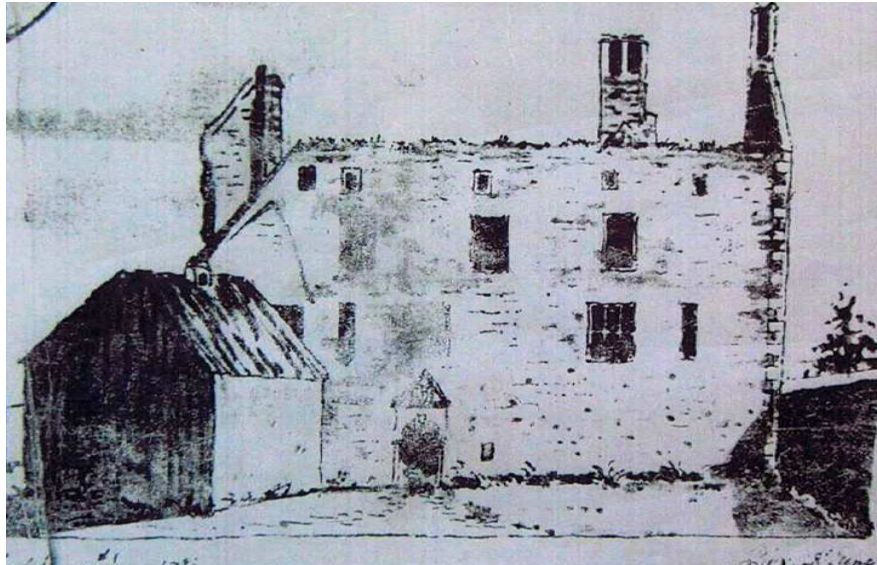


Figure 5 Cooper's Sketch of the western façade, 1783



Plate 20 Bremore Castle as reconstructed

Cooper's sketch has been used as an aide in the reconstruction of the castle (Plate 20), albeit with embellishments. The reconstruction is not completely faithful to this drawing as many additional details have been inserted such as the battlemented roof on the kitchen wing and the gable chimney to the kitchen. The height of the eaves appears higher than in the sketch

and the array of small square windows a little over the fine second floor windows suggests an attic floor rather than a full third floor as has been included in the reconstruction. Also a series of additional lights for the new stair have been inserted. Another anomaly that we can see from Cooper's sketch is the scarring on the wall of a steep gable at the kitchen extension and a partially blocked opening which may suggest that this extension was higher. The original entrance to the castle is thought to have been here.



Plate 21 View looking south along the southwestern wall, indicating what little had survived of this elevation. At this location the wall had been broken through in antiquity, a new doorway and porch has been constructed and a new stone spiral stair well

The remaining reconstructed elements of the castle from the first floor upward are conjectural, based on designs by the consultant architect. There is no architectural evidence for the appearance of the south, east and north facades although the location of the garderobes and the first floor access were established by archaeological means. The reconstructed interior of the castle is also conjectural based on historic examples from a variety of sites.

Using early site photographs from a variety of angles, and a visual archaeological inspection of the site it was possible to identify those sections of the castle that belonged to the original ruin, these are illustrated in Plates 22 to 25 (highlighted in blue) with the original working shots of both the castle in ruin and under construction (Plates 22–25).



Plate 22 The northern elevation

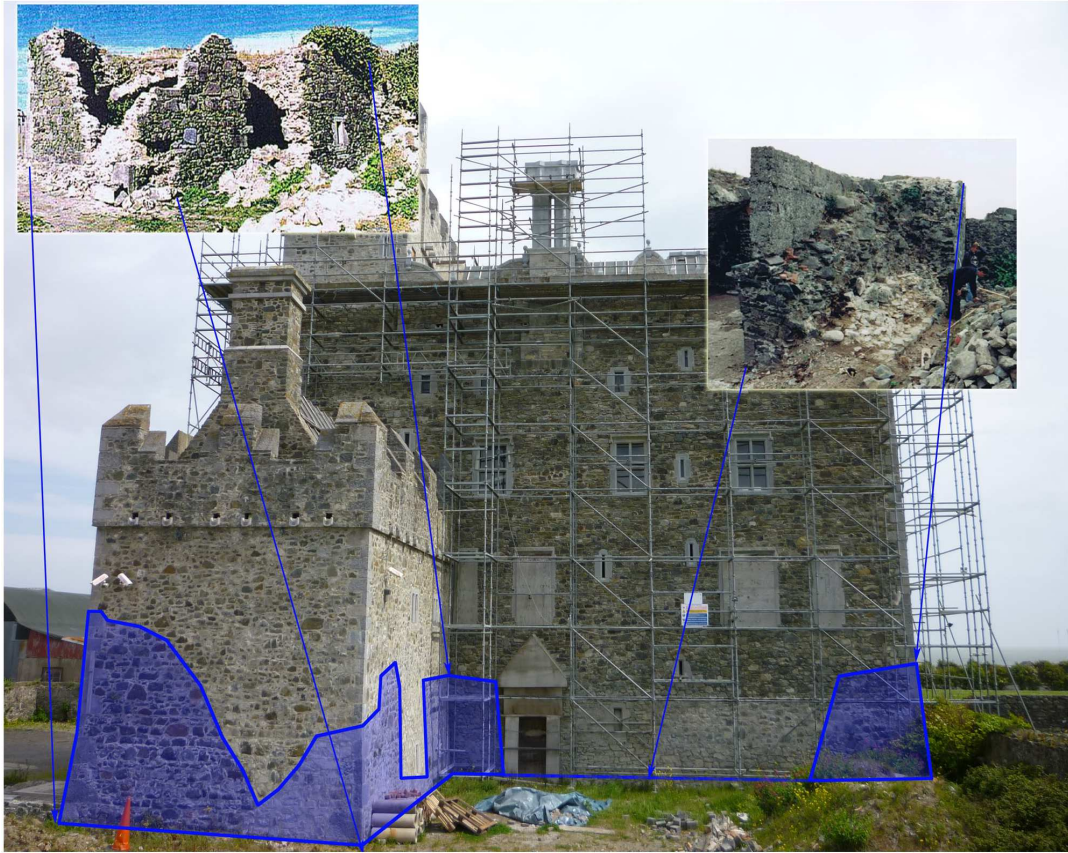


Plate 23 The western façade

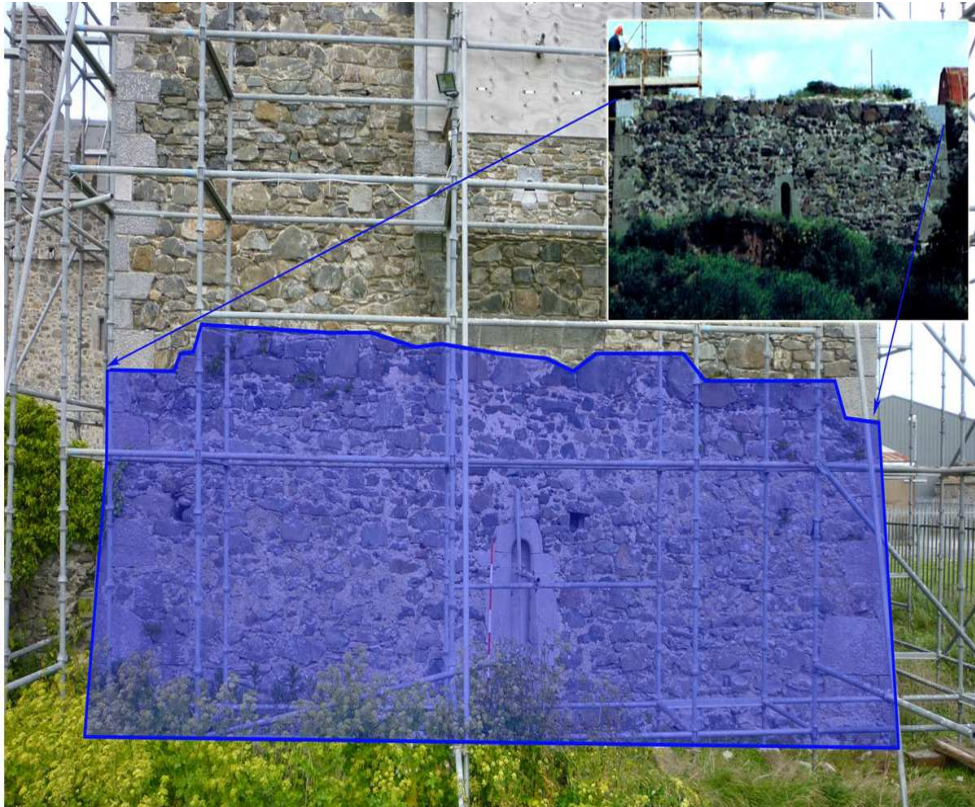


Plate 24 The southern elevation. The old and new can be seen clearly in the break indicated by the row of larger darker stone. The original round headed loop window has splayed jambs flared toward the base. Some of the new openings replicate this style. To the upper right of the loop is a possible putlog hole.

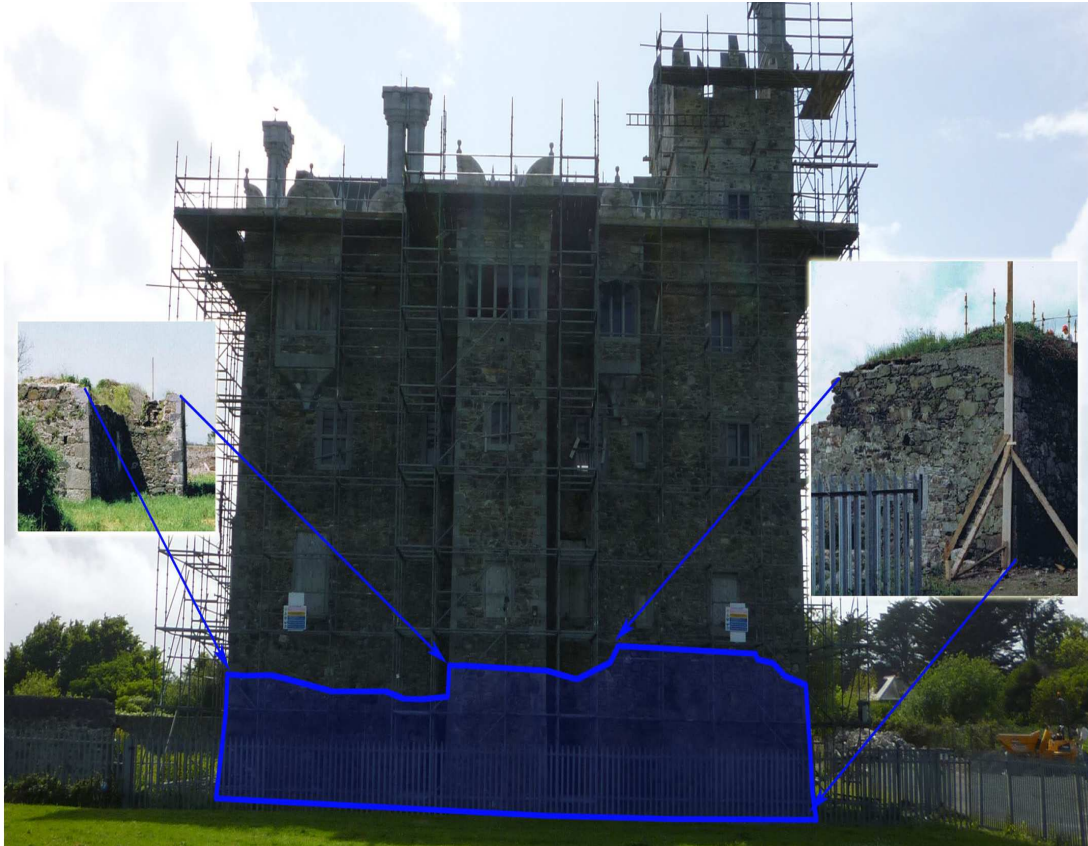


Plate 25 The eastern elevation with projecting tower, in its ruined form and in its rebuilt form

2.2.3 The rebuilt structure

The rebuilt Castle structure has been carefully reconstructed to be soundly built using traditional methods and materials. The stone used in the construction of the castle was local calp limestone that is found widespread throughout north Co Dublin and almost certainly obtained from a nearby quarry. The new stone surrounds to windows are in Irish cut limestone salvaged from various sources that has been worked with decorative tooling in some cases.

The Castle as reconstructed consists of a rectangular tower containing four stories of accommodation (c. 20.5m long and 9.5m wide) aligned north to south; there is a single storey kitchen wing attached at the northeastern corner and running in an east–west direction. Approximately at mid point on the east elevation a garderobe tower (3.3m wide and 2.75m) deep projects from the façade line.

There is an oriel projection at first floor on the south façade and two oriel projections (Plate 26) at third floor on the east facade.



Plate 26 Third Floor view of oriel window in the south gable

The reconstruction details seem to have been based on surviving specimens from an appropriate era, such as Dunsoghly Castle in County Dublin (timber roof), Clara Castle in County Kilkenny (timber floor), and Athclare Castle in County Louth (vaulted masonry floor on wickerwork centering). Some of the reconstruction work was undertaken as part of a traditional craftsmanship training course.

Accommodation is on four floors plus a small 5th floor over the north end of the tower, the lowest floor being a stone-vaulted basement of which a substantial part is original fabric (Fig. 27 and 28). Above that is the hall, the principal room of the building as denoted by the large oriel projection on the south elevation.



Plate 27 View from the Kitchen Wing through to the vestibule and into the vaulted chamber, as reconstructed

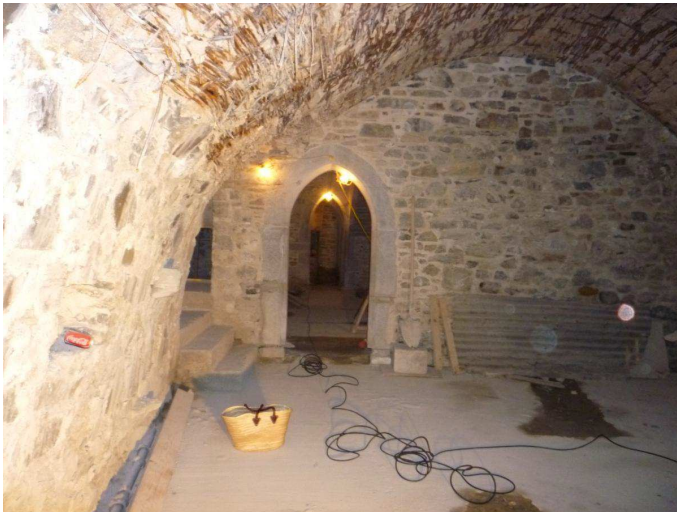


Plate 28 View within the Vaulted Chamber towards the Kitchen wing, as reconstructed



Plate 29 The second floor, main area as reconstructed, view to south, note three fireplaces

Above the hall are two further floors of living/sleeping accommodation. At the north end of the tower there are two stone-vaulted chambers and a stone spiral stair and these are repeated on all floors (except on the fourth floor where the two chambers are joined to form one larger chamber) while the stone spiral stairs at the nodal point where the kitchen block is connected to the main block continues through to provide access to the wall-walk at roof level. On the east wall a new mural stairs has been included in the reconstruction for the purpose of providing a second means of access/egress.

The new timber floors as reconstructed are based on examples seen at Clara in Co Offaly while the roof structure to the top floor is a curved form. New doors have been incorporated in the works using boarded construction with large iron decorative strap hinges.



Plate 30 Third floor as reconstructed, note the curved roof

The vaulted kitchen is a reconstructed example of a late medieval kitchen and contains at its west end an open range fireplace estimated by Newman- Johnson as big enough to roast an ox (Plate 31).



Plate 31 View of reconstructed stone vaulted ground floor with wicker centring and timber lintel to open range fireplace in background



Plate 32 View of reconstructed timber roof to kitchen wing extension

During the recent works an Elizabethan doorway was uncovered hidden behind facing stonework on the east façade, this has been discussed previously, it been reinstated in the west wall of the castle under the guidance of Newman-Johnston (image shown previously, Plate 12).

The architectural details of the reconstructed building we now see are consistent with a 15th to 17th century fortified house. The records indicate that the buildings were extensively repaired after being severely damaged by fire at the time of the 1641 Rebellion. Fire would certainly have caused extensive damage to the roof, interior woodwork – doors and timber floors. If the fire was a major one it would also have caused significant damage to stonework and interior detail.

2.3 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORD

2.3.1 *Archaeological Investigations at Bremore Castle*

Prior to and during the early stages of the restoration works at Bremore Castle archaeological investigations were carried out at various times by L. Swan. Archaeological testing was carried out on the site in 1995 (Swan 1996, 1997). Test-trenches were dug under archaeological supervision to test the deposits within the three main compartments of the castle interior (the main hall, the vestibule and the kitchen). In all cases these were dug to reveal the underlying natural deposits. The testing indicated that there was extreme disturbance in the interior at all levels for depths up to 0.65m or 0.7m. In all areas no consistent evidence for original floor levels was recovered although spreads of burnt material and charcoal were identified in a number of cases.

An examination of some hand written and typed site notes and photographs has revealed that further monitoring of the removal of non-archaeological deposits in the interior of the castle was carried out. The finds recovered reflect the same range as identified in the course of testing which included recent to modern delf, pottery and dairy crock, glass bottles, clay pipe stems and in the northwestern area of the site quantities of iron waste including a furnace bottom.

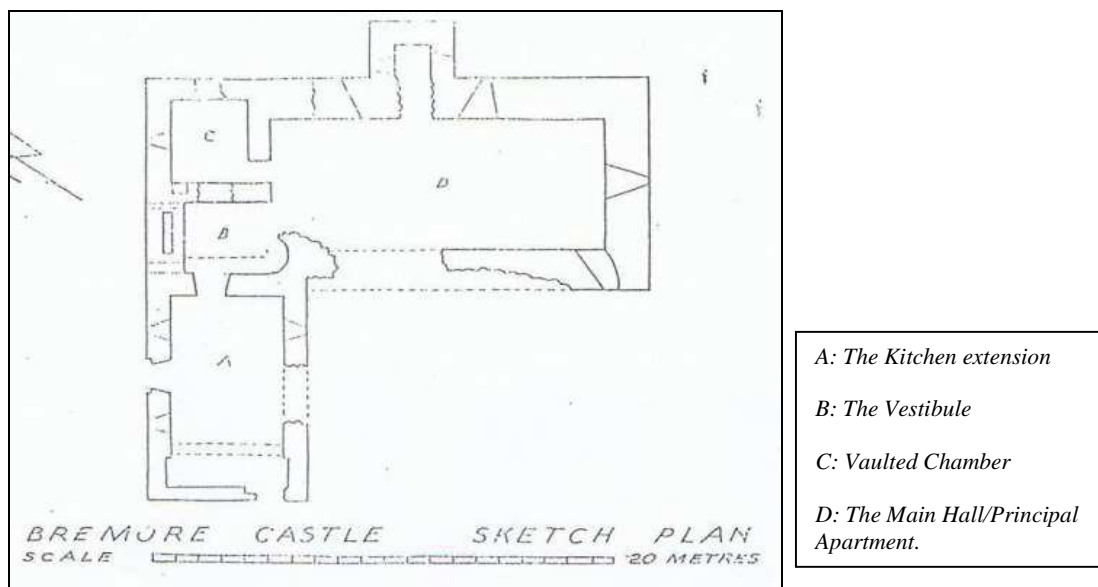


Figure 6 Floor plan of the castle and church site by Healy 1985

During these excavations a series of rubble limestone walls were revealed within the 'Main Hall' (Plate 33, Fig. 7). These were identified as later than the original construction phase of the castle and were probably used to subdivide the interior area of this large compartment. The present reconstructed subdivisions in the basement level do not appear to reflect what was identified here, with the possible exception of the wall running from the flanking tower to the west falling short of the western wall, it currently blocks access to the tower, but this was not originally the case.



Plate 33 Mid excavation photographs showing Main Hall viewed towards the southeast end, showing its later subdivision. The remnants of the curving stone vaulted roof can be seen and a mid-excavation of the Main Hall viewed towards the northwest end showing its later subdivision (site photographs Swan, mid-1990's, precise date unknown)

In the Vestibule (Plate 34, Fig 7), the line of the original doorway was identified on the western wall, two well-constructed stone-built channels which appeared to form part of the original structure were revealed. The larger of these was a garderobe sluice. The three garderobes chutes suggested in the ruins of the structure would have existed on the second and third storey in the northern wall. These garderobes were reconstructed. The second channel which also probably functioned as a drainage channel was on a much smaller scale and commenced from the small under croft in the northeastern corner of the castle and ran through the stairwell and into the kitchen.



Plate 34 Swan excavation photo, (mid-1990's, precise date unknown), showing view to the Vestibule on ground floor and the first two steps of newel stairs

In the kitchen area extension a small area of paving at the southern opening was revealed outside the opening at a higher level than the flooring at the interior. A pit adjacent to the entrance into the main hall was identified; it measured 70cm deep and had a very wet moist deposit. It was filled with irregularly placed stone and faint traces of marl type material.

Apart from some bone and much shell, including large quantities of whelk and limpet, together with 17th- to early 20th-century pottery, no archaeological deposits or artefacts were identified and no pottery datable to a period earlier than the 17th century was recovered.

Archaeological Monitoring Around the Circumference of the Site

Archaeological monitoring was carried out in 1994 of mechanically opened holes for the foundation where steel uprights were inserted for a protective fence line around the monument. No occupational material of any kind was identified nor were any archaeological deposits or artefacts noted. Along the western fence line, in what was the courtyard of the castle and of the farm yard adjacent, debris from a structure which was shown on the 1837

OS map was found. The presence of brick fragments in the deposits reduces the likelihood of this being an early structure.

As part of the site clearance work the refurbishing of the modern sheds allowed for the provision of a site workshop, offices and secure store. A programme of vegetation clearance facilitated this and allowed the recovery of large quantities of loose building stones lying all around the site. Any stones which had evidence of dressing, working or carving were removed to secure storage for future use. There is no inventory of the stones retrieved and those that were reused in the reconstruction works.

No archaeological investigations have been carried out within the church and graveyard area. It has been subject to clean up operations in the past but is now overgrown with briars and elder.

Archaeological Investigations Immediately to the North of the Castle Lands

Archaeological investigations (O'Carroll 2003a; 2003b) provided evidence of medieval field systems¹⁵ and the cultivation of the land to the north from the medieval period up until the site was developed for residential use.

Within the field plots deep pits with expanded openings were identified, they penetrated the water system which suggests that they may have been cisterns used for crop irrigation and they were deliberately backfilled. Finds included 13th–14th century local glazed and 15th–16th century cooking wares, the majority of which were Leinster Cooking Ware and very little were imported wares. A former metalled laneway that lead to the castle was identified. The laneway extended into a yard where traces of a structure were identified. A streambed was identified, which had been diverted to the northern boundary.

Evidence suggests that sometime in the late 16th to early 17th century the field was transformed into parkland or an orchard. During this period the metalled lane way continued in use, a coin dating from 1601-2 was identified in the eastern metalled surface. Pottery from the 16th to 18th century comprising local and imported wares was identified. A six-pound cannonball possibly relating to the 1641 Confederate Wars was found in an engineer's spoil

¹⁵ (DU002-014, RMP digital file)

heap associated with the earthmoving works for the development of the site. A horizontal sundial (mass dial), a rare find, was recovered from one of the cisterns, its date is uncertain and could range anywhere between the 15th and 17th centuries (Plate 35). It is thought to have come from the manorial chapel (O' Carroll, 2009) i.e. St Molaga's Church.



Plate 35 The mass dial discovered during excavations to the north of Fingal (O'Carroll, 2009)

The subsequent analysis of plant remains taken from the pit, gullies and furrows excavated contained large quantities of cereals comprising wheat, some oats, and a very small sample of barley. A smaller component of legumes were also found in the sample. The wheat recovered was rivet wheat (*Triticum turgidum*) (Fig. 7) – a common type used in English medieval sites but unusual in the Irish medieval context (Murphy and Potterton 2010, Johnson 2007).



Figure 7 Rivet wheat¹⁶ identified from organic remains found in the excavation in the fields to the north of Bremore Castle

This excavation has added a new facet to the interpretation of Bremore and shows that it was a residence and a farm which was predominately concerned with arable agriculture, particularly cereal growing.

This is in line with recent research undertaken by Murphy and Potterton (2010) which indicates that arable production was the most important farming enterprise across the Dublin region in the late medieval period. A model of mixed farming, with cereal-growing predominant, is likely to have been the most prevalent farming system in the more productive land-holdings during the period. Similarly the fishing village at Newhaven would have provided another economic source and additional status for the Barnewall family.

¹⁶ Otto Wilhelm Thomé: Flora von Deutschland, Österreich und der Schweiz (1885)

2.4 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

2.4.1 *Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century Depictions*

The earliest historical map showing Bremore Castle is the Down Survey Map of 1655 (Fig. 8). Although there is a lack of reliable detail it portrays the castle as an imposing edifice with high gables surrounded by trees. During this period it is described in the Civil Survey (1654-6) as a burnt castle with a great barn, eight tenements, one orchard and a park. The survey also shows Newhaven with five structures on Bremore Head and a large pier, this settlement is referred to in the Civil Survey as a fishing settlement. No upstanding features of the village survive today, however remnants of its long pier still endure.



Figure 8 Down Survey Map of 1655

Rocque's Map of 1760 (Fig. 9), is the earliest map that shows field divisions and property plots. There appears to be three access roads from the Drogheda Road into Bremore Castle lands. One road runs to the north of the castle and continues to the village at Newhaven, the central road leads into the main complex and the most southern one runs to the southeast

corner of the complex. The central road is in a similar alignment and location as the newly constructed entrance off the Drogheda Road. A 'Quay' is indicated at New Haven at an inlet.



Figure 9 John Rocque, An Actual Survey of the County of Dublin, 1760

It is difficult to identify which of the structures depicted is the castle, there is an L-shaped structure but its return is at the southern end of the structure rather than at the northern end which is to be expected. The chapel is not indicated. It shows the site with no apparent enclosed garden or visible walling. The site at this time is segmented and trees and scrub shown occupying the area of ground that roughly corresponds with the site of the castle bawn/walled garden area and St. Molaga's Grave Yard.

2.4.2 First Edition 6-Inch Ordnance Survey Map, 1837-43

The first edition Ordnance Survey six-inch map (Fig. 10) for this area was published in 1843. The access roads that were indicated on the previous map from the Drogheda road have been removed, indicating the lands to the west may have changed ownership. Access is gained solely from the laneway to the north and through a small courtyard which also led to a number of outbuildings to the west. To the east of these a Threshing Machine is indicated. The L-shaped plan of Bremore Castle with its protruding eastern tower and the western extension can be deciphered; the main hall is shaded lighter suggesting that it may not have a roof. A structure on the northern side of the kitchen elevation is shown as a return. There is a

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large enclosed rectangular yard to the west of the castle, defined to the north by a long structure.

A rectangular walled area is shown immediately south/southeast of the castle buildings. No solid paths or entrance/exits are shown, yet there must obviously have been access into the area. The entire walled area is divided into nine cultivation plots that would have been used for crop rotation. The north end and south end plots are rectangular in profile and narrower than the middle set of three plots all of which are square but not equally so. The square plots on the west and east end appear to be empty. This may just be a seasonal variation that the surveyor recorded.

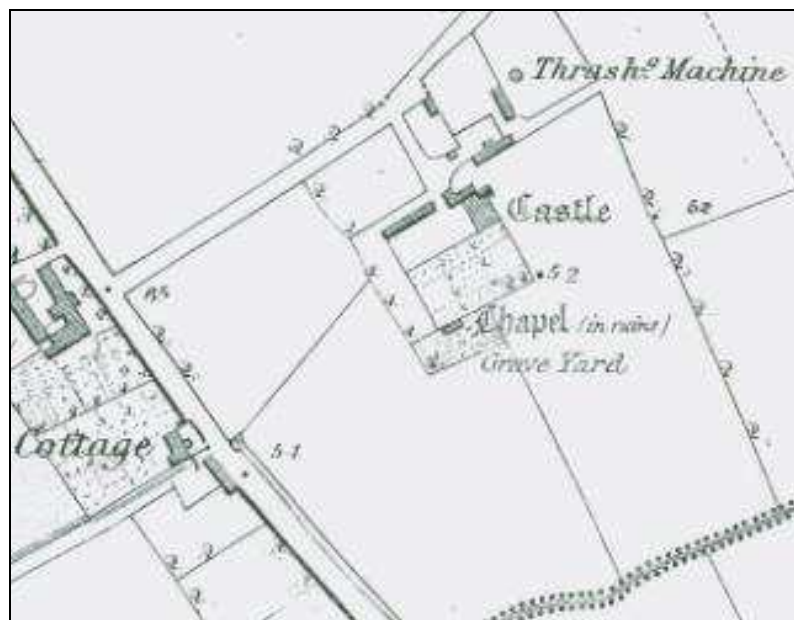


Figure 10 First edition 6 inch Ordnance Survey map, 1837-43

Attached to the southwest corner of the walled garden is the sub-rectangular graveyard, within it a Chapel is indicated as being 'in ruins'. The chapel is shown as a small rectangular enclosure with a roughly east-west orientation implying that all four walls might have been standing at this point in time and there may have been a roof. Interestingly the surveyor has depicted similar perimeter paths, running parallel with the wall in St. Molaga's graveyard and, faintly depicted, a path running north to south suggesting that the grave yard was divided into three main plots akin to the walled garden. The graveyard paths are facilitating narrow

wall borders but it is unlikely that these were cultivation plots and borders. A tree is shown in its south west corner.

2.4.3 First Edition 25-Inch Ordnance Survey Map 1865

Few changes to the structures occurred in the intervening years between the first survey and the 25-inch 1865 revision (Fig. 11). Some of the outbuildings have had minor additions. The hall section of the Castle appears to be without a roof and so does the Chapel. Unusually the Chapel is depicted a slightly different orientation than the previous map and the garden wall slightly bends to meet its northeastern corner

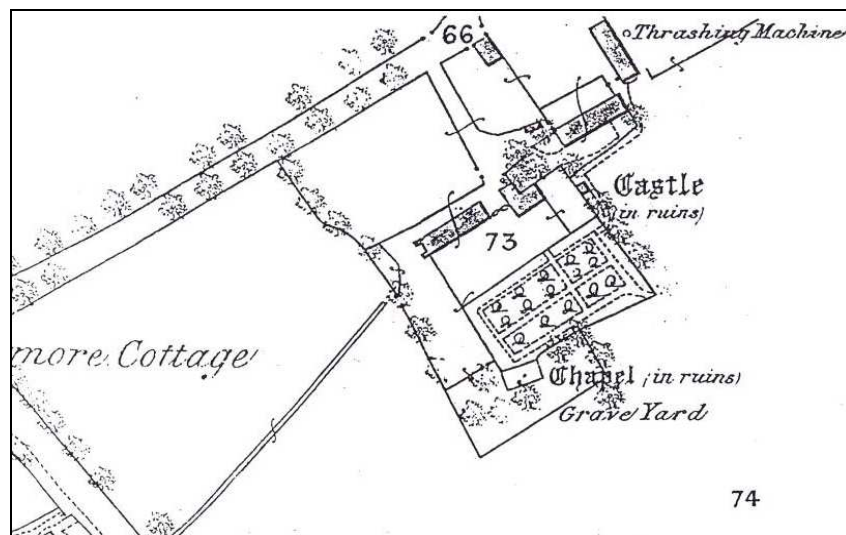


Figure 11 25-inch Ordnance Survey map, 1865

The map has a very detailed depiction of the walled garden. Its layout has changed considerably from the old nine plot layout of OS 1837-43. It is now a typical Victorian cross path layout of cultivation plots, each of different rectangular dimensions and with perimeter borders, the north wall and west wall borders wider than the east wall and south wall borders.

The path system forms the boundaries of the plots and borders. The four plots are populated with fruit trees with the trees in the two north end plots appearing to be planted nearer the plot edges while the trees in the two south end plots are shown in more central planting positions. The surveyor's inking-in of such planting details is often merely representational so they cannot be fully accepted without investigation to establish the actual sites of the planting pits.

Given the small size of the garden these trees most likely would have been espaliered, i.e. the branchwork trained on a flat plane that would have formed space effective, productive, ornamental vegetal boundaries to the plots.

Three entrance gateways are now clearly depicted on this 25 inch 1865 map, one of which is the old north-east cart entrance gate (OS 1837-43). The two entrance gateways also shown, one is leading directly in from the castle court yard and the other is at the most easterly corner of the garden on the east end of the south wall. The one leading directly from the castle court yard into the walled garden is a wide gateway of suitable width for horse drawn carts.

2.4.4 *Revised 6-Inch Ordnance Survey Map 1871 Revision*

The 1871 6-inch revision shows (Fig. 12) that the layout of the structures on site has remained unchanged, however it revision shows two important changes. There is a wide path route shown at the northeast end connecting the walled garden with the yard and buildings to the southwest of the threshing machine. This is wide enough to be a gated access cart route into the walled garden and is more clearly shown on the later of the 25 inch 1865 map. The area graveyard is slightly larger and is now is a sub- rectangular in shape with the western now incorporating a wider area.

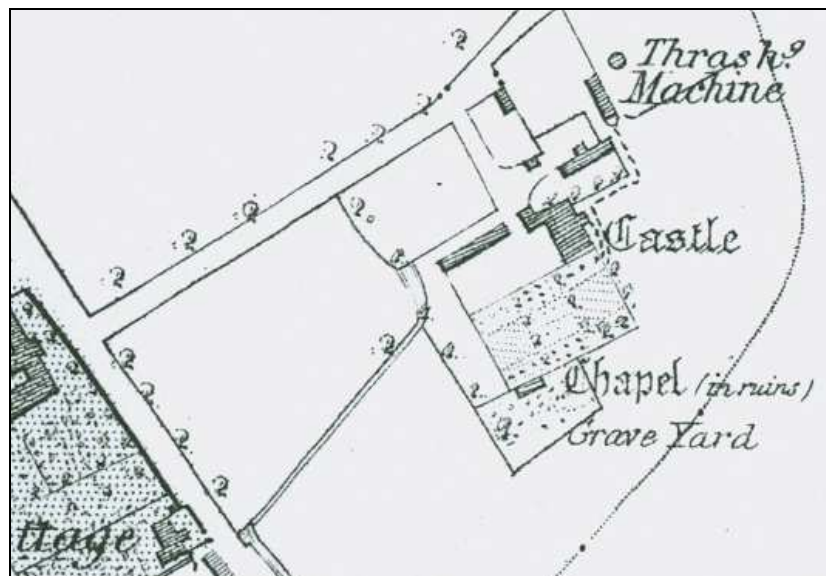


Figure 12 6-inch Ordnance Survey map, 1871 revision

The map shows that all nine walled garden plots are now in cultivation. The previously apparently empty plots are now diagonally hatched indicating the lands are under cultivation. Depicted also on this map outside the walled garden are two trees on the east facing side of the east wall. This time a solitary tree depicted in the grave yard is in a more central position on the west side and it follows the same pattern as a row of trees shown running northwest, part of the boundary planting. The field boundary immediately to the east has changed from a straight line to a curved one and field boundary trees are no longer shown.

A further two trees are also shown, these more centrally planted on the south east end plot. All of the evident details are of a typical old walled garden layout. Where the surveyor has dotted in the plot divisions there must have been 'beaten earth' gardener's paths along each rotation plot. Furthermore the trees are depicted running on a north to south axis (actually a north by north-west and south by south-east axis) on the dotted-in plots. This would be a common planting layout for orchards. This particular walled garden, at this time, was probably a simple working kitchen garden growing herbs, vegetables, cabbages and kales, green salads, onions, roots, common fruits, and so forth, with no designed layout as shown on the OS 25 inch map of 1865.

2.4.5 Revised 1937 25- Inch and 1906 6- Inch Ordnance Survey Maps

One hundred years later the revised 25-inch 1906 and 1937 6-inch OS survey (Fig. 13) shows that there had been little change in layout, but indicates the decline of the site. On the 1837 edition the western extension of the castle appears to have some form of roof as does the northwest corner of the main castle structure, by 1937 there is none shown. There are breeches or entrances in the north-eastern, northern and western facades of the principal hall house structure. The rectangular graveyard was indicated as not being in use and the remains of St. Molaga's Church which is 'in ruins' and the southern wall and a short section of the eastern wall is indicated.

The farm structures in 1906 appear to have roofs but by 1937 there are none. The plan form of the castle and its thick walls are indicated. In the 1906 edition the the garden paths are no longer shown, in the 1937 revision trees are still shown in the walled garden in an orchard layout.

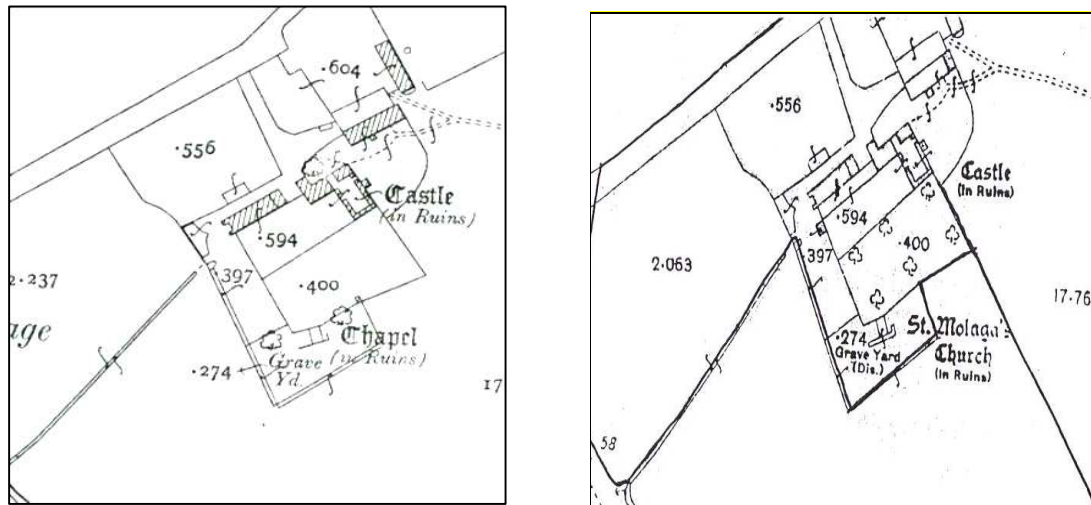


Figure 13 Revised 1906 25-inch and 1937 6 inch Ordnance Survey maps

2.5 BUILDINGS DESCRIPTION AND STRUCTURAL CONDITION SURVEY

2.5.1 Overall Condition (Noting Visible Defects)

The Castle structure has been carefully reconstructed in modern times and appears to be soundly built using traditional methods and materials. The ruinous structures (outbuilding and St. Molaga's Church) and boundary walls however stand in various states of disrepair. Whilst some portions have been stabilised in modern times, others are showing signs that urgent remedial work is required (the immediate works required are discussed in detail in Part V)

Boundary Walls

The Castle is central to a fragmented network of historic masonry boundary walls in various states of repair (Plate 36). The walling is typically random rubble brought to courses of weathered grey limestone in a well-graded lime mortar. The irregular face does not lend itself to precise measurement of vertical alignment - especially where extensive areas are covered in Ivy - but it is apparent (by eye) that most of the masonry is reasonably plumb. The walls are about 2.8 metres high and taper slightly from 0.64 metres thickness at the base. It is evident that much of the walling has been consolidated and re-pointed. Medium term maintenance works to the walls are discussed in Part V.



Plate 36 The Garden walls have been partially reconstructed

The Garden and Boundary Walls: There are no immediate risks to the masonry.

Outbuilding

The ruinous out-building (Plate 37) to the northeast of the Castle is probably the greatest cause for concern at present. The historic masonry walls are typically 2.4 metres high and 0.6 metres thick, but rise an extra 1.2 metres at the gables. A large modern industrial unit has been constructed very close to the north gable. There is evidence that portions of this gable wall have been rebuilt or consolidated using modern concrete block work. This gable contains a crudely-formed window ope at high level window which is very unstable and about to collapse in the near future. Immediate works that are required are discussed in Part V.

The outbuilding: The condition to the outbuilding is of major concern at present, it is a health and safety hazard, there is a danger of collapse remedial work is urgently required.



Plate 37 Aerial view of the outbuilding, view of the the northern gable and damaged window ope

St. Molaga's Church

The ruinous church is also a major concern at present. The interior of the ruin contains a graveyard which has been strategically maintained with dense ivy and brambles to deter intruders who might vandalise the headstones. Consequently, most of the masonry within the ruin is obscured and inaccessible, and cannot be inspected. Outside the ruin, extensive areas of dense ivy have been trimmed or removed to lay bare the masonry.

The critical wall (Plate 38), facing the Castle, is about 13 metres long, 2.6 metres high and 0.7 metres thick. There is a central breach which is probably a formed door ope, but the head has collapsed and the reveals are unravelling. There is a formed window ope (Plate 39) beside the door which is also collapsing. There is no lintel or arched masonry to safely support the masonry above the window, and there are signs that this masonry is unravelling and collapsing (immediate works required are described in Part V.)



Plate 38 St Molaga's Church - masonry has been engulfed and eroded by vegetation

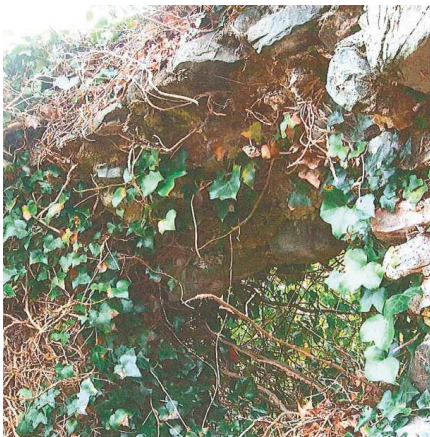


Plate 39 St Molaga's Church - defective masonry to window head

St Molaga's Church: St Molaga's Church is a health and safety hazard at present, there is a danger of collapse and a concern that some of the churches important historic fabric will be damaged or lost completely. These opes of the wall facing the castle are at risk of progressive failure and collapse. Remedial work is urgently required

Architectural Fragments

The building contains or has associations with items of considerable architectural/artistic value. Original architectural fragments have been used in the reconstruction of the castle and other pieces were collected and removed for safe keeping. There is no available archive of these fragments. The historical value of a stone is severely diminished if we do not know where and when it was discovered or introduced from elsewhere.

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The architectural fragments which are bonded to St Molaga's church wall are being weathered over time and if left unchecked will lose its detail. The most significant buildings/parts of buildings/stone fragments of conservation value found in the site as follows (a full inventory of all the features on site is likely to uncover further fragments):-

St Molaga's Church:

- The remaining superstructure of St Molaga's Church containing parts of walls, stone arches, openings and built-in carved stone fragments and outlying fragments that are covered in vegetation.
- The carved stone door lintel dating 1689 and other stone fragments built into the church walls.
- Carved lintel on the ground outside the entrance to the graveyard (Plate 40)
- Two ogee headed windows (Plate 41)
- The graveyard and headstones.
- Potential subsurface archaeological remains and burials.



Plate 40 Decorated lintel, lying outside the church walls



Plate 41 Carved fragment, two ogee headed windows in the graveyard, bonded to the wall

Bremore Castle and items in its curtilage:

- The original fabric of the castle on the ground floor. The plan form of a hall-house, the remnants of original wall fabric e.g. corner quoins with punched dressing, deep embrasures, ambries, remnants of the original stone vaulted floor, and the medieval loops remain (Plates 42 and 43)
- The stone vaults on ground floor.
- The fireplace in the kitchen.
- The stone door-case fragments now incorporated in the new door-case on the west façade.
- The stone fragments of window framing built into the castle walls.
- The stone boundary walls to the west of the castle.
- The walled garden.



Plate 42 Ambry and deep embrasure in the Main Hall



Plate 43 Original window detail. The original round headed loop window (at the southern elevation) has splayed jambs flared toward the base. Some of the new openings replicate this style. To the upper right of the loop is a possible putlog hole.

Outbuilding:

- The sandstone trefoil window inserted into the wall of the outbuilding (Plate 44)
- The nesting boxes or bee boles built into the outbuilding walls (Plate 4 above).



Plate 44 Trefoil and dressed limestone reused in the outbuilding

Stone fragments stored off site:

- The stone crucifix (temporarily in safe keeping in Ardgillan House) (Plate 11 above).
- The stone lintel associated with the joining of the Barnewall and St Lawrence families through marriage (now in Lusk Church), c. 1546 as part of a museum display (Plate 8 above).

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The various stone fragments need to be itemised, recorded and photographed to create a management document and to create an archive. They should be guarded against theft. And regular monitoring of their condition to prevent deterioration should be carried out.

2.6 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

An electrical resistivity survey¹⁷ was carried out within the walled garden at the southern side of the castle and extended to the adjacent playing pitch to the east. The farmyard area at Bremore Castle could not be surveyed due to the disturbed nature of the site and for similar reasons the two earthen mounds within the garden could not be surveyed.

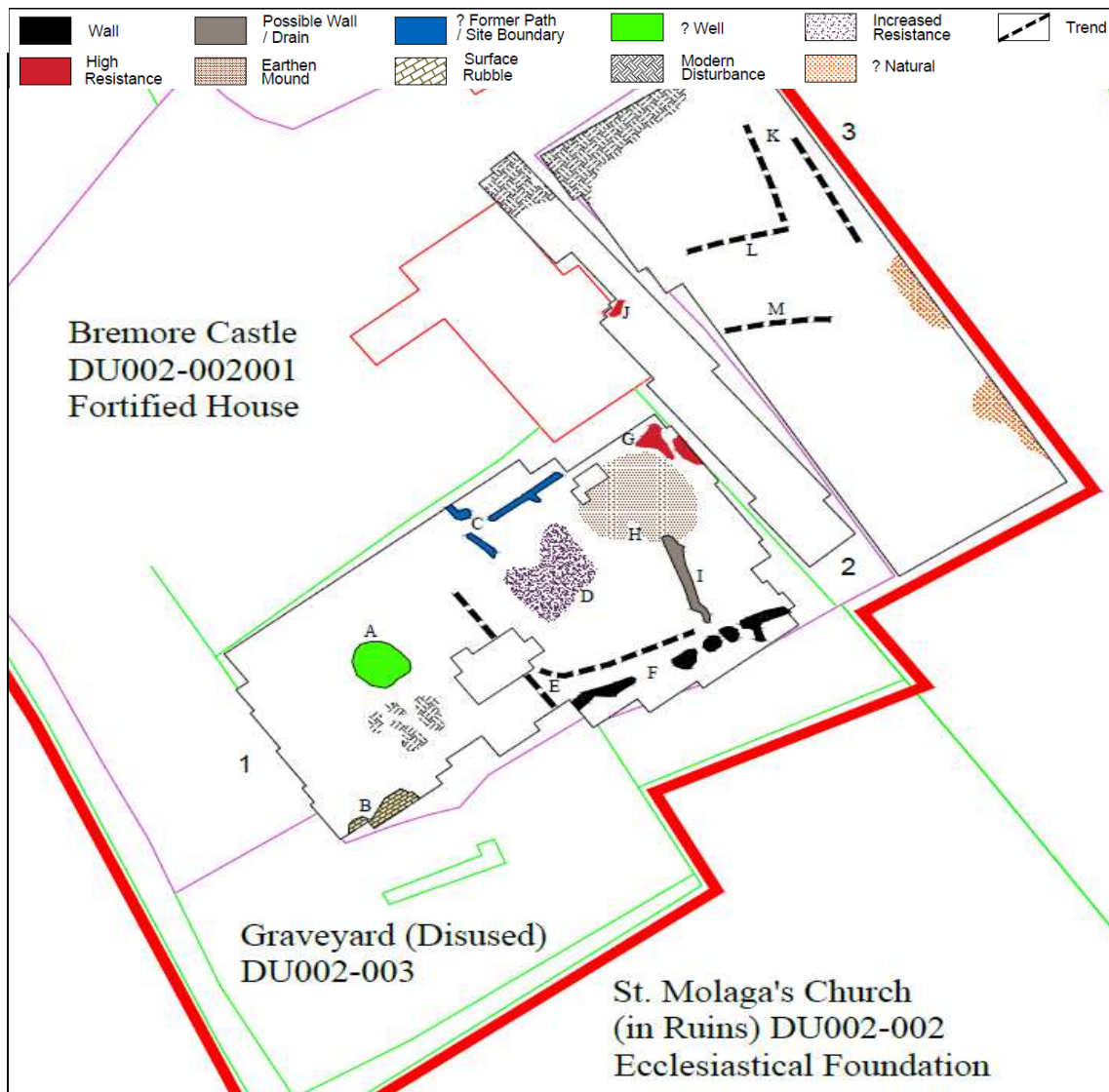


Figure 14 Geophysical survey site location and interpretative drawing (see Appendix D)

¹⁷ Detection License No. 11R38

The survey sought to identify any potential remains of features within the walled garden such as paths or structures or additional features associated with the castle and church. A concentration of anomalies suggesting buried remains were identified within the walled garden with several areas of modern disturbance (Figure 14, Appendix D for full report).

At the western end of the garden is the remains of a possible well/water feature (A in Fig. 14) which corresponds to a hollow area in the ground. Adjacent to St Molaga's Church is a possible rubble spread which may represent part of the collapsed northern wall of the church (B in Fig. 14), there were no indications of concentric enclosing elements usually associated with early churches in the area of the survey. A linear anomaly (F in Fig. 14) along the southern boundary of the garden was identified as fragmented remains of the southern wall; however this feature may be related to recent drainage works. In the northeast area of the garden three linear anomalies (C in Fig. 14) that might relate to pathways or internal divisions were identified; however no distinct pattern could be deciphered, these features may also represent recent disturbance. Weak trends to the east of the castle (K, L, M in Fig. 14) suggest a potential further access to Bremore Castle may be present. At the south-eastern corner of the garderobe tower a potential wall footing (J in Fig. 14) was identified however this is tentative.

Target invasive archaeological test excavation will establish the nature of the geophysical survey anomalies present.

2.7 APPRAISAL OF THE HISTORIC GARDEN



Plate 45 Aerial view of the castle and the walled garden area

Bremore Castle, is situated in a rural agricultural landscape yet its close proximity to the coastline and the town of Balbriggan ensured that it had abundant resources when occupied it did not have to be self-sufficient in its needs or needing a larger walled area for cultivation. It has a large court yard area and a walled garden site (Plate 45). The walled garden may occupy the site of its former Bawn (its size, position, close proximity and walling suggests it may well be).

From studying the historical maps it is clear that it never evolved, or was absorbed into a demesne landscape like so many others of that period (e.g. Belgard Castle, Tallaght). It never acquired an adjoining Georgian house, (e.g. Grange Castle, Edenderry). Rather it stayed small and compact, its curtilage and environs relative to the scale of the castle and outhouses while its outlying lands remained in agricultural use and in a relatively short period ceased to be occupied as a dwelling. Essentially it was a castle farm like many others of the period.

It has been suggested that the outbuilding contained a 'bee house', which survives as a ruin. This remains an enigmatic building – is it really a bee house or a dovecot. It has been suggested that its niches (see Plate 4) were for bees or pigeons but further investigation is necessary to confirm its original purpose. Bee keeping is traditionally associated with St. Molaga (discussed previously in Section 2.1.3).

Bremore as a site in a rural landscape would have had a diversity of wild native flora and fauna surrounding it, however, as a coastal site it has a very exposed climate. References in literature mention its orchard and beekeeping. This conjures up the image of a landscape that was tamed and managed. The shelter afforded by its boundary trees and enclosing walls, of course, protected it.

According to various documentary sources, an orchard existed there and trees in formal orchard spacing are evident on the historical OS maps. This opens up more information about the site and its purported association with bees and beekeeping. This enforces the information from the historical ordnance survey maps and other documentary sources that a small orchard was there. Orchards are dependent on pollination by bees and other pollinators for successful crops. To attract bees for the purposes of fruit pollination requires not only the presence of the pollen of the target plants but other pollen and nectar producing plants to attract bees and other pollinators to the site. Native species attractive to bees would have been freely available in the surrounding field system and agricultural landscape.



Plate 46 Bee collecting pollen from clover¹⁸

Beekeepers will still commonly cultivate nectar plants attractive to various pollinators to encourage them in to a site to pollinate the target crop, e.g. clover in orchard sites (Plate 46). To what extent cultivation of plants for bees was purposely carried out in Bremore is unknown and this needs to be established through pollen and seed analysis, as part of an archaeological investigation. The presence of pollen from ‘exotic’ and native plants would provide critical evidence of purposeful bee keeping and orchard production.

Gardens associated with modest castles and houses were primarily functional rather than ornamental although some ornamentation was desirable and inevitably used. The most modest architectural style of building influenced its curtilage and environs, especially its garden. Bremore would surely have had useful plants growing in and around its orchard and garden for domestic use but there is no specific evidence that it had. Archaeological investigation would be needed to seek it.

Cabbage gardens were common and in them were grown a range of green leaf crops and edible herbs. The ‘potager’ or vegetable garden provided herbs and vegetables for pottage (Plate 47). Medicinal plants were commonly grown to provide remedies for various maladies of the household and its livestock. Worm infestation, fevers, skin ailments, rashes, cuts, stings and bruises were curable using plants from one’s own garden. Odorous plants counteracted malodorous though necessary activities in and around any homestead. Dried scented herbage was used for bedding and skin parasites.

¹⁸ [://www.flickr.com/photos/fruitbit/5620092872/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/fruitbit/5620092872/) Wings (Creative Commons)

Night soil, animal dung and waste, including diseased fowl, rotten meat and carcasses, blood and 'lights' were recycled, often directly, into the garden as valuable organic manure. Buried animal carcasses were a feature of old orchard sites.



Plate 47 Potager garden in Ardgillan Castle¹⁹ (<http://ardgillancastle.ie>)

Others aspired to having roses and other plants to fill their gardens with scent and colour and to provide nosegays to ward off the smells and stench of life.

Local knowledge is that during the most recent previous ownership the walled garden still had a few fruit trees growing in it but it was only used for cattle and livestock. Iron rings still embedded in adjoining walls testify to their use for tying up bulls. The long usage of the garden/orchard for cattle inevitably eliminated over-ground evidence. Grazing cattle would have dispatched any remaining fruit trees so no productive fruit trees survive. The place is now grossly overgrown with rampant grass sward and scrub species. There are a few self-sown seedlings or suckers from old rootstocks of the former fruit trees struggling to survive close to the north wall.

There is no memory or visibility of the old paths or intact entrances. No paths or path routes are evident now because of the gross vegetation but they may come to light after careful

¹⁹ <http://ardgillancastle.ie>

manual clearance and archaeological investigation and could then be re-instated using traditional materials and methods.

What is still evident is its 'microclimate' or more precisely its 'macroclimate'. The castle walls act as a thermal reflector as is obvious in the walled area. The intensity of light from the north and east is very evident and the garden's positioning in relation to the castle and its orientation all give credibility to the argument that the site was a purposely designed area, an intrinsic part of the curtilage and environs of the castle.

The walled garden or 'bawn' of Bremore (Plate 48), when compared to other castle sites, is similar in its close proximity to the dwelling, its siting to the south of the castle which protects it and its orientation on a north-west by south-east axis as the most favoured position for shelter. Its size and scale is also comparable to other bawn sites.

What makes Bremore interesting is that it has survived as a medieval site and the 19th century ordnance survey maps have captured the essence of its usage as a walled garden and orchard. Whether it is a walled garden that happened to be used (in relatively recent times) as a modest orchard or whether it was always a walled orchard from the earliest period remains to be determined by archaeological investigation.

The historical OS maps variously show the changes in the walled garden from the early 19th century (discussed in the cartographic section above). The first edition OS map of 1837-43 (Fig. 10) shows a very simple kitchen garden with six plots running to walls and no evident paths; the 1871 edition (Fig. 11) shows the arrangement with changes to the hatching in two plots. The most informative edition is the 25 inch map of 1865 (Fig. 12) showing the most detail, sufficient to have this layout accurately interpreted and capable of being re-instated.

The 19th century historical OS maps show the presence of trees in formal spacing and arrangement in the bawn/garden area adjoining the south east walls of the castle. Rocque's map gives no information so we are reliant on these OS maps for information on the layout of the garden. A wide gap exists in the knowledge of the earlier history of its court and bawn and when it became a cultivated garden.

The gap leading directly from the castle court yard into the walled garden is a wide gateway of suitable width for horse drawn carts.



Plate 48 entrance into the walled garden or 'bawn' from the castle court yard

This entrance in recent decades has been considerably altered and widened to facilitate farming activities in the walled garden. Closer investigation of this entrance and wall after removal of vegetation may reveal evidence of an elliptical archway.

The north wall border (south facing) is a purposely wide border because it has the most desirable aspect for growing tender or exotic fruit and early crops.

The pedestrian gateway at the most easterly corner of the south wall leads out into the field to the east of St Molaga's Grave Yard. No path is shown in the field itself so what purpose it served is not evident. This part of the south wall has disappeared and is now replaced by security railings. It would have bounded the south border (north facing) which is variably narrower than the others and had the least favourable aspect.

The west wall border (east facing) is also a wide border and catching the morning sun would have been ideal for a range of crops. The east wall border (west facing) is actually quite narrow despite its desirable aspect. It may have been exclusively a fruit border.

It is quite obvious from the variability between the walls and borders that the layout has had to fit into a much older walled enclosure. There is no evidence of a brick lining on any of the wall faces, particularly the north wall which has a south facing aspect. So much of the walls has been rebuilt that it is difficult to say conclusively that there was no brick facing on any part of the walls but it is unlikely. There is brick in the 'bee house' niches.

Garden Reconstruction

The walled garden of Bremore has apparently evolved from a bawn at its earliest period to a humble 'cabbage garden' or 'potager', as shown on the 1837-43 OS map (Fig. 10) when its layout dramatically changes some time before 1865 (Fig. 12) and it becomes a typical 'Victorian' walled garden and orchard layout.

A garden of that style of layout and using a traditional palette of known plants from the 17th to 19th century would make it a historically and horticulturally interesting garden without being tied to a purist view of what its 'restoration' should entail. To encapsulate this evolution from medieval bawn to Victorian garden in new designs would be challenging but exciting too. The dilemma is to strike a balance between historical 'restoration' and 'reinstatement' and the need to design a garden that has to quickly become an attractive, successful and viable tourism venue. Modern design elements are unavoidable and while they facilitate modern visitor expectations they dilute the authenticity of the medieval site and should be kept to a minimum.

In the medium term the site does not have to be fully re-instated as a garden but it could be opened up as a calm space, lawned and provided with seats for quiet relaxation and enjoyment of the castle and its environs. Short term measures for the preparation and reconstruction of the garden is detailed in Section VI.

The ordnance maps provide a good basis for a rare opportunity to re-instate a garden. The site has tremendous potential and if a garden in period style were reinstated it would provide a beautiful context and setting for the castle, yards and outbuildings. To ignore its history from the earliest period of occupation and simply design a modern garden for a modern purpose as a tourism centre would be a lost opportunity and contrary to the spirit and principles of The Florence Charter for historic garden sites (Appendix C).

PART III
ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE



3.1 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MONUMENT

The significance of Bremore Castle is derived from its origin, family associations, history and evolution since early medieval times when the area is thought to have first been settled. Bremore Castle is highly valued by the Balbriggan and District Historical Society and Fingal County Council who went through at considerable time and expense in its reconstruction.

The Bremore Castle complex, comprising the rebuilt fortified house, its associated enclosure and St Molaga's Church and graveyard is a national monument under Local Authority care and ownership, it is also a designated protected structure²⁰ in the Fingal County Development Plan 2011-2017. This complex of monuments is of both architectural and archaeological significance and is protected under the Planning Acts and the National Monuments Acts.

Fingal County Council, as the guardian and the landowner of the monument as defined in the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004, **must** apply for Ministerial Consent for any works that occur within the complex.

Its significance can be borne out as follows:

Association with an Early Saint

The present remains at the site are thought to date to the late medieval period where it served as the manorial church. It is dedicated to St Molaga, an early 7th century saint whose tradition has survived in the area up to the present. It is generally accepted that the church and graveyard lies on the site of the early ecclesiastical foundation of *Lann Beachaire* (the church of the bee keeper). This early church is connected to the earliest stage of Christianity coming to Ireland through connections with Wales and has documented links to other early Irish monasteries in Ireland.

Association with the Barnewall Family

The fortified house at Bremore was the manorial seat of the hugely influential Barnewall Family in the 16th and 17th centuries. The Barnewalls were one of the most dominant and

²⁰ RPS Ref: 13 and 14

important Anglo Norman families and landholders in the Fingal area through the late medieval period.

Association with farming, fishing and trade

The settlement at Bremore is inextricably linked with the once vibrant economic activity of the area which reshaped the coastal landscape in medieval times and gave the Barnewalls such dominance in north county Dublin. Archaeological excavation has indicated that the Castle was more than a residence, that it was a large working farm concerned at one point with cereal growing, it had a kitchen garden and orchards and also had fishing and in the trade links through Newhaven Harbour. It remained as a farm until recent times. The excavation also provided evidence that the fields used for the growing of arable crops changed its function sometime in the late 16th and early 17th century to a parkland or orchard which might correspond to the improvements and phase of renewal at the castle and the church site. However the site also has stories of conflict that are also of interest, e.g. the Barnewalls involvement in the 1641 Confederate Wars and a land dispute in 1736.

The site also has long associated links with the tradition of bee keeping, one that is reflected in the written sources, architectural fragments, local folklore and recent evidence for bee keeping.

The farming aspect of the Castle is important and needs to be borne out as it provides an insight into the daily lives of the castle dwellers and the extent to which they required support and interaction from the neighbouring inhabitants.

The walled garden of Bremore has apparently evolved from a bawn at its earliest period to a humble 'cabbage garden' or 'potager', as shown on the 1837-43 OS map when its layout dramatically changes some time before 1865 and it becomes a typical 'Victorian' walled garden and orchard layout. It is likely that any investigative works in the walled garden will provide further evidence for its layout and use.

Architectural/artistic elements

The Bremore Castle complex contains or has associations with items of architectural/artistic value. Finely decorated architectural fragments associated with the site have been identified within the ruins of the church, lying in the church yard and reused in the outbuilding. Some of

these pieces display workmanship of the late medieval period and are of architectural, historical, social and artistic significance. There is a potential that further decorated and carved fragments are buried within the churchyard. It is also likely that the graveyard contains many covered grave slabs that provide an important record of local families.

Archaeological potential

The original fabric and surviving features of the ground floor is of archaeological significance. Existing available records has shown that there are areas of archaeological potential within the complex where in-situ archaeological remains are likely to be found. Areas include:

- *The immediate vicinity of the reconstructed castle and its approaches.*

The current archaeological potential of the land surrounding the Castle remains uncertain. It is possible that the surrounding yard accommodated ancillary structures associated with the site and there is a considerable potential for further archaeological finds within the area. Approaches to the Castle and adjacent fields may have features associated with the castle (as demonstrated by the excavations carried out in the fields to the north).

- *The walled garden.*

The garden can be regarded as relatively undisturbed from an archaeological perspective and is considered to be of archaeological significance. There is an opportunity in the garden area to carry out an archaeological investigation that will inform the design and reuse of the garden, the judicious use of environmental sampling etc. can be used in order to accurately interpret the site.

- *St Molaga's Church and graveyard*

It is likely that the early ecclesiastical foundation of *Lann Beachaire* continued in use into the later medieval period. There are many examples of early church sites with proven continuity of use, recent examples include, St. Mobhi's in Swords, Lusk, Glebe (Parish Church of Drumkay) in Wicklow and St Nahi's in Dundrum.

The use of the site for burial would have commenced with the foundation of the ecclesiastical site and it is likely burial at the site has continued unbroken until the recent past and as such there is the potential that there is a considerable amount of burial

here within the churchyard. While the graveyard is currently bound by a walled enclosure it is very likely that burials associated with it may extend into the adjacent walled garden and fields. Geophysical survey within the garden did not suggest the presence of such features; however modern disturbance may have removed or masked them from detection.

Contemporary interest

Bremore Castle has been rebuilt from the primary fabric which survived as a single storey ruin into a four-storey structure based on an 18th century depiction. It was in an advanced state of disrepair when the works on the site began and was deteriorating rapidly. The new structure is an evocative demonstration of a monumental rebuild. It now represents:

- **A showcase of traditional skill and craftsmanship**

From many perspectives the reconstruction might be viewed as an achievement in itself and especially in the absence of detailed construction or conservation plans, a huge undertaking, one that required imagination and exemplary traditional building skills. The rebuilt Bremore Castle demonstrates the skill of the craftsmen who worked at the site over the years using traditional masonry and woodworking techniques throughout the site to recreate the castle.

- **A landmark monument**

The rebuilt Bremore Castle dominates the coastal landscape and seascape of northern Balbriggan. It is of high visual quality and will act as a landmark building within the Bremore Regional Park currently being developed (Fig. 15).



Figure 15 The extent of Bremore Regional Park

- **Community interest**

Fingal County Council and the Balbriggan and District Historical Society have a shared interest in the castle, this and its public ownership is significant as it brings both responsibilities and opens up possibilities for future use and public amenity value.

PART IV
ASSESSMENT OF VULNERABILITY



4.1 ISSUES OF VULNERABILITY

4.1.1 Introduction

In order to develop policies and recommendations for the management and protection of Bremore Castle, it is necessary to identify the potential threats that could adversely affect the significance of the monument.

4.1.2 Threats to the Fabric

Bremore Castle

As the main body of the castle has been extensively reconstructed there are no issues of immediate consequence in relation to its upkeep. Regular maintenance will be required to ensure that roofs are maintained and that the routes for rainwater gutters are kept clear of obstruction.

Ruinous Structures

The ruinous structures stand in various states of disrepair. The outbuilding has serious issues of defective masonry, particularly at the north gable wall, repairs are urgent as they are a danger to health and safety. The outbuildings also contain architectural fragments and also possible bee boles that must be safeguarded.

The ruins of St Molaga's church and graveyard are in poor condition, this is at a critical stage where there is a concern that some of the churches important historic fabric will be damaged or even lost completely. Repairs are urgent as they are a danger to health and safety. There will be a requirement for adequate fencing to protect the monument to prevent vandalism.

Urgent repair and stabilisation works is required at the outbuilding and the structural conservation, preservation of St. Molaga's is a matter of urgency.

The conservation, repair and maintenance works are subject to the stringent requirements of prior archaeological and architectural assessments as set out in this Plan. The works required are described in Part V.

Architectural Fragments

The architectural fragments which are bonded to the church wall are being weathered over time and if left unchecked may potentially lose its detail.

Walled Garden

The garden is of historic and archaeological significance. The ordnance survey maps provide a good basis for a rare opportunity to re-instate a garden. The site has tremendous potential and if a garden in period style were reinstated it would provide a beautiful context and setting for the castle, yards and outbuildings. To ignore its history from the earliest period of occupation and simply design a modern garden for a modern purpose as a tourism centre would be a lost opportunity and contrary to the spirit and principles of The Florence Charter for historic garden sites.

The two mounds of earth and rubble in the garden have the potential to contain architectural fragments associated with either the church or the castle.

Archaeological potential

All future ground work within the immediate vicinity of the castle, yard, garden, church and graveyard has the potential to reveal archaeological remains. Any earthmoving works must be carried out with the approval/consent from the Minister of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht (AHG). It is an offence to do otherwise.

Authenticity/interpretation

While some of the medieval fabric survives in-situ in the ground floor and reused in the first floor level, the architectural expression of the castle is now dominantly that of the recent reconstruction works. Some of the original structure in the interior and exterior e.g. corner quoins with punched dressing, deep embrasures, ambries, remnants of the original stone vaulted floor, and the medieval loops remain and these original features contribute to an understanding of the site.

The difference between the ruins of the original structure and the present rebuilt structure is very subtle and not easily distinguished and as such does not assist in the understanding or legibility of the early phases of the building's history. A lack of understanding of the site's

significance may lead to inadvertent missed opportunities for presentation and also mis-informs some visitors.

As there is not a complete archaeological site archive and in the absence of detailed plans it is difficult to ascertain to what extent archaeology informed the reconstruction on the ground floor of the castle, and the degree to which an examination of historic sources, conjecture and knowledge of the architectural styles of the period informed the remainder of the reconstruction. Examples include:

- Future proposals to add a tower to the north of the kitchen. To date, archaeological records pertaining to the presence of such a large structure has not been found and there is also no indication of it shown on Cooper's 1789 sketch. Such a speculative reconstruction would risk misinterpretation of historic forms and hence would have an additional adverse impact on the authenticity of the building. The question should be asked as to whether an additional tower adds value to the existing structure?
- It is unlikely that the bawn walls had merlons and the presence of these somewhat degrade the authenticity of the site. It is considered that their removal would be beneficial to the future understanding and appreciation of the site as a residence as well as a fortified house.

In order to ensure the integrity of the site and the monument any future proposed construction and interpretation should be done on the basis of archaeological evidence; any investigations on the site must have a clear research agenda.

With regard to the conservation of St. Molaga's Church and other future reconstruction proposals it is recommended that they be considered with international best practice in mind. The most appropriate way to carry this out is clearly articulated in international charters and European conventions such as the Granada Convention on Architectural Heritage, ratified by Ireland in 1996; the Valletta Convention 1992 on the protection of the Archaeological Heritage and the Burra Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (1988 – 1999).

The next phase of the work at Bremore will be its use and public presentation and interpretation of the site. This may be guided by the principles set out in the ICOMOS Ename Charter for the Interpretation of Cultural Heritage Sites (2007).

The Ename Charter outlines and defines the basic objectives and principles of site interpretation in relation to authenticity, intellectual integrity, social responsibility, and respect for cultural significance and context. It recognises that the interpretation of cultural heritage sites can be contentious and should acknowledge conflicting perspectives and includes research, education and training.

Lack of Awareness /Understanding and Security

The presence of workmen on the site and the perimeter fencing have curtailed vandalism and graffiti at the site. There is always a risk that the opening up of these sites might become the subject of such actions in the future. A lack of awareness and understanding amongst some sections of the community can only be countered by careful management of activities and promotion of events. The protection of the buildings and the historic spaces within the regional park will need to be addressed and the threats and risk of antisocial behaviour will have to be assessed and the appropriate safety and security measures devised.

The Site Archive

An ongoing problem is the poor quality of record keeping since the monument was taken into ownership. There is no central archive for the Bremore project, there is however a wealth of information in the form of an extensive photographic record of different stages of the rebuild which is held at the site office. This has made the history of recent interventions to the fabric difficult to trace, in the case of St Molaga's it is difficult to assess the rate of deterioration of the historic fabric over time. The specification of the rebuild, the archaeological surveys and monitoring record is patchy, although it is considered to be of its time. A particular problem is the lack of inventory for the medieval decorative stone fragments on site both those reused in the rebuild, loose around the site or held offsite for safekeeping.

The gathering of information to create a single archive for all documentary, cartographic, conservation and survey material has been an objective of this plan. The organisation of this information into a proper and coherent archive that can be universally accessed and available for consultation by the authorities and general public is essential to the protection of the

significance of the site. For the future preservation and use of the monument any new information should be added to the archive as it becomes available so it can be used as a planning management tool by those involved with the protection and promotion of the monument.

4.1.3 Protecting and Enhancing the Setting

External threats – planning control

Development to the north of the site and to a lesser extent the south has impacted on the setting of the monument. The coastal and semi-rural setting of the site is significant; an overall strategic planning framework should be devised so that the plans to integrate the site into the regional park will be possible in the long term. An agreed strategy for development and/or development control in the long term should be linked to a ‘vision’ for the identity and preservation/presentation of the monuments setting and the setting of the monuments within the proposed park.

Bremore Castle enjoys the most impressive views over the north Fingal coastline up to County Meath and south to Balbriggan Harbour (Plate 49). The existing modern agricultural buildings within the site detract from the setting (though this is easily remedied once work is completed).



Plate 49 Panoramic view towards the coast from the top of the Castle. From right to left it shows Bremore Head, Cardy Rocks Development, the outbuildings and modern sheds within the complex, the railway line, playing pitches, the Martello Tower and Balbriggan Harbour to Isaac's Bower

The castle is visible from the Drogheda Road as an impressive and imposing edifice however the wild nature of the fields in the background and rubble mounds detract from this view (Plate 50). The mature tree lined boundaries contribute to the setting.



Plate 50 Panoramic views towards the Drogheda Road from the top of the Castle. From right to left it shows the fields to the west of the castle, mature tree lined boundaries. 'Bell House' at the northern entrance, the northern laneway is defined by a linear row of trees adjacent to the modern Cardy Rocks development. In the foreground are the western boundary walls of the castle/walled garden.

There are opportunities to enhance the setting. These include improving the landscaping and appearance in and around the castle, and approaches from the coast and from the road. From the west the mature trees should be maintained and the existing key views into, from and within the Castle must be conserved and protected through development control. Opportunities must be sought to enhance key views towards and out of the site when they arise.

Development of the Walled Garden

If the walled garden is to be 'restored' to some level of veracity and interest to justify opening for visitors it would require ministerial consent beforehand, being part of a national monument. It is fundamental to a thorough understanding of the site that archaeological investigation should be undertaken to find evidence of its layout and contents prior to the first ordnance survey of 1837-43.

The walled garden of Bremore has apparently evolved from a bawn at its earliest period to a humble 'cabbage garden' or 'potager', as shown on the 1837-43 OS map when its layout dramatically changes some time before 1865 and it becomes a typical 'Victorian' walled garden and orchard layout.

A garden of that style of layout and using a traditional palette of known plants from the 17th to 19th century would make it a historically and horticulturally interesting garden without being tied to a purist view of what its 'restoration' should entail. To encapsulate this evolution from medieval bawn to Victorian garden in new designs would be challenging but exciting too. The dilemma is to strike a balance between historical 'restoration' and 'reinstatement' and the need to design a garden that has to quickly become an attractive, successful and viable tourism venue. Modern design elements are unavoidable and while they facilitate modern visitor expectations they dilute the authenticity of the medieval site and should be kept to a minimum.

Of course the site does not have to be fully re-instated as a garden but it could be opened up as a calm space, lawned and provided with seats for quiet relaxation and enjoyment of the castle and its environs.

The ordnance maps provide a good basis for a rare opportunity to re-instate a garden. The site has tremendous potential and if a garden in period style were reinstated it would provide a beautiful context and setting for the castle, yards and outbuildings. To ignore its history from the earliest period of occupation and simply design a modern garden for a modern purpose as a tourism centre would be a lost opportunity and contrary to the spirit and principles of *The Florence Charter* for historic garden sites (Appendix C). Works required prior to the development of the garden is provided in Part V.

4.1.4 Resources/Sustainable Future Use

Now that much of the complex is mostly stable and the remainder will be protected or made stable the question of possible future uses and their impacts on the conservation values is coming to a head. Without sources of income local authorities are now very limited in their ability to support conservation works.

However Bremore Castle has a significant advantage, it is located within a coastal regional park is in the process of being developed and has the capacity to be the central attraction. It will benefit from being linked to a coastal park which will also enable better links to be made with other historic and archaeological sites on the coast north of Balbriggan – the Martello Tower, Newhaven harbour etc.

The connection to the coastal regional parklands is crucial to Bremore Castle's future, how it will be accessed and how it will be used on a day to day basis.

Once made public realm area around the Castle is made safe and accessible and the historic structures made secure, outdoor use can occur immediately and relatively inexpensively. The key will be to use the promotion of the site initially as a park, with access to the garden and the conserved St. Molaga's and the provision of limited guided access to the Castle and then eventually as a potential venue (and income generator) in the long term.

Because of the value of the open areas of the site future uses can be phased and carried out in stages of development, this will provide groups and citizens with the opportunity to experience the site as it evolves and is developed. How the site is used on a day-to-day basis can be assessed and the demographic of the users and future needs can be established and the visitor base broadened.

4.1.5 Access

Universal Access

Public bodies have a statutory obligation under Section 29 of the Disability Act 2005 to ensure that, as far as is practicable, the whole or a part of a heritage site in its ownership, management or control and to which the public has access, is made universally accessible. This includes the structures within the site and also the external area.

Given the nature of the layout and design of the reconstructed building, access is restricted in terms of health and safety. There will be requirement for universal access to all floors of the building and the provision of toilet facilities. The layout also minimises its capacity to safely accommodate and manage large numbers of visitors or provide open access.

There are limited options in relation to the means to provide universal access and full access is unlikely to be feasible but additional changes and interventions may be required to improve access within the structure. Facilities for car parking, toilets, wheelchair access, path surfaces and widths, steps, stairs, etc. are all elements that have to be incorporated into the site without having a negative impact on the significance of the monument. A very thin line exists between what makes a site successful and what makes it fail. However a reasonable compromise must be achieved to satisfy access/safety needs and conservation needs.

There are two options to improve universal access at Bremore:

- the provision of an internal lift within the core of the reconstructed building,
- the provision of a separate lift/stairs outside the building and linking to it at each floor and an external structure for welfare facilities.

Both options would result in the loss of both original (at ground floor levels) and recently reconstructed fabric. An external lift may have a negative visual impact on the monument. Where physical alterations are required, access improvements must be sensitive to the original historic fabric and the character of the rebuild and be based on high-quality design and materials.

The issue of access to Bremore Castle requires special consideration, careful assessment and planning. The fact that there are serious issues should not be taken as a reason for access to be denied to part of the population. Lift access will be required to the upper floors from a safe location with good accessibility at ground floor level.

Access and Egress

Access to Bremore is currently via a narrow single carriage laneway to the north of the site from the Drogheda Road (Plate 51). An ample vehicular gateway has been constructed off the Drogheda road; this forms an excellent main entrance to Bremore. This approach is in a similar position as an original entrance shown on Rocque's 1760 map and its location frames the approach to the castle. Using these access points a number of circulation routes can be designed in association with the development of the regional park. They can also control access into the park for events. The provision of a road entrance to the castle has also been made within the Cardy Rocks development, this is currently blocked by a hedgerow, however this is not associated with the Bremore Castle site or its development.



Plate 51 Current entry points to Bremore Castle. The two eastern fields provide considerable opportunity for parking and ancillary uses. Inserts: the entrance provision at Cardy Rocks (top right) this is not an opening provided by the Co Council, existing entrance off the Drogheda Road (centre right), panoramic view of the the new vehicular entrance from the Drogheda Road (foreground) including the derelict Bells Cottage (far right).

The field to the west at the new entrance provides an opportunity for parking, ‘park and walk’ location from which to access the public park. This area could also be used for events such as markets, car boot sales, Christmas fairs, summer festivals, picnic areas etc. The Castle will form an attractive backdrop to these events and may encourage people to want to explore it. The provision of parking facilities and associated lighting etc. should not impact on the setting or visual amenity of the site.

RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE GAPS

The absence of detailed stratigraphic report outlining the location, depth, nature and extent of the archaeology identified at the site or the finds identified within it does not assist in the piecing together the phasing of the castle. Questions remain which cannot be immediately solved. Future research excavations and survey may provide opportunities in contributing to the further understanding. To follow are some questions that have arisen during the research and field work carried out for this plan:

Archaeological/historical gaps in our knowledge

- Physical evidence for the earliest phase of the castle is thought to be in the north-eastern barrel vaulted room and may represent part of an earlier structure- perhaps a hall house. The presence of the corbels c. 0.5m above the existing floor level is unusual and should be examined further.
- The nature of potential buried remains throughout the complex is also uncertain and future excavations and survey may provide opportunities in contributing to the further research.
- The relationship between Bremore Castle its contribution to and influence on the immediate landscape and the broader region could be further examined.
- Examination of the contribution that the Barnewall Family have made to north Fingal would enhance the significance of Bremore.
- Archaeological testing in the garden has the potential to confirm its date and layout and has the potential to identify features such as paths, planters, ornamentation and drainage features (e.g. cisterns). The walled garden may occupy the site of the Castle's former Bawn (its size, position, close proximity and walling suggests it is). Seed and pollen analysis may also identify they type of plants grown there. In addition features associated with St Molaga's Church and graveyard or indeed the Castle may also extend into this area.
- The fields to the west of Bremore Castle have an unexplored archaeological potential to reveal features associated with the castle or the church.

PART V
CONSERVATION ISSUES – PROTECTING THE
SIGNIFICANCE



5.1 CONSERVATION POLICIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1.1 Introduction

The policies outlined in the Plan aim to support the significance of the Bremore Castle complex while advocating principles for the improved understanding, protection, conservation, use and maintenance. The policies also focus on improving public awareness and enjoyment of the monument and include recommended actions for supporting and enhancing the integrity of the site and its semi- rural and coastal setting as well as promoting the monument as a focal point within the Bremore Regional Park.

There are six overarching policies that describe different areas of responsibility and activity, they are described in detail below with suggestions on ways to implement them and achieve their objectives.

Policy 1	Protection of the Monument
Policy 2	Conservation, Repair and Maintenance
Policy 3	Interpretation, Communication and Legibility
Policy 4	Health and Safety and Universal Access
Policy 5	Incorporate Bremore Castle into the Bremore Regional Park
Policy 6	Information Recording and Research

These policies should be used as a guideline to those involved in the management and maintenance of the monument and those with a statutory role in its protection.

The policies are ultimately derived from the values of the monument itself and the internationally recognised procedures and protocols for the protection of buildings, ruins and their artefacts.

5.1.2 Policies

POLICY 1	PROTECTION OF THE MONUMENT
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To place the protection of the Bremore Castle complex and the retention of its significance at the centre of future planning and management proposals.

Policy 1.1 Acknowledge the status of the site as a national monument and that ministerial consent is required for any works carried out at the castle complex.

Policy 1.2 Acknowledge that the conservation and protection of St Molaga's church and graveyard and architectural fragments that lie within the site is now a matter of great urgency and must be protected.

POLICY 2	CONSERVATION, REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE
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To establish programmes for the repair and maintenance in the immediate–short term, medium and long term, while also protecting the significance and historic integrity and observing best practice conservation standards.

Policy 2.1 Carry out urgent conservation and repair works to the ruinous structures, to ensure the health and safety of the public and the protection of the historic fabric. The works urgently required include (as detailed in 6.1.2)

- the conservation and repair of St Molaga's Church
- stabilisation repair of the outbuilding

Policy 2.2 Ensure that the works are carried out by suitably experienced personnel under the supervision of an archaeologist, where necessary, or a suitably qualified conservation specialist.

Policy 2.3 Carry out annual monitoring/inspection of the site and all its elements (including the architectural fragments) and without delay carry out preventative maintenance.

POLICY 3 INTERPRETATION, COMMUNICATION AND LEGIBILITY

Ensure that the significance of the site is communicated to visitors, to seek opportunities to improve the legibility and understanding of the site and to enhance its interpretation to meet the needs of a variety of users

Interpretation and Communication

Policy 3.1 Provide an understanding of the extent of original historic fabric (i.e. single storey ruin) prior to the reconstruction of Bremore Castle. Highlight the decorated stone fragments that were reused in the interior and exterior.

Policy 3.2 Identify the key elements within the complex which have the power to inform and educate our understanding of the site. Present the site using more than one media with interpretation that will enable audiences to have more engaging learning experiences. Interpretation should be based on thorough research and should be clear, accurate and accessible to all.

Repatriate Associated Artefacts

Policy 3.3 Endeavour to return to the architectural fragments that have been removed for safekeeping (i.e. the bridal mantel piece and the carved crucifix) to a safe and appropriate location within the Bremore complex.

Branding and promotion

Policy 3.4 Create a supportable brand identity for Bremore Castle using a consistent graphic design to create linkages between signage, information panels, publications, leaflets and maps.

Policy 3.5 The monument can then be presented independently in the long term. Promote and create a presence on the web, detailing opening hours, car parking, accessibility levels and amenities around the castle.

Celebration of Traditional Skills

Policy 3.6 Promote the reconstructed castle as a resource that represents a culmination of many different building styles and techniques and as a showcase for the traditional masonry and woodworking skills used in the reconstruction of the

castle. The reconstruction, the workmanship, the source of the stone and wood are engaging tales to be told and the work is a testament to the trainees and skilled workers on the site.

POLICY 4 HEALTH AND SAFETY AND UNIVERSAL ACCESS

To provide a safe environment for visitors and persons working at the site and also to provide dignified physical and intellectual access to the Castle and its setting so that all the values in this monument and its context can be safely enjoyed and understood.

- Policy 4.1** All works within the castle must be done in accordance with the relevant Safety, Health regulations.
- Policy 4.2** Ensure equal access is provided throughout the site. Consideration should be made to the Department of Arts Heritage and Gaeltacht guidelines on the ‘Access: improving the Accessibility of Historic Buildings and Places’ (2011) and the National Disability Authority ‘Code of Practice on Accessible Heritage Sites’ (2011).
- Policy 4.3** Implement a management solution to ensure the safe access and egress to the reconstructed castle e.g. controlled guided access for a set number of visitors at any given time. An access plan should be prepared to inform the location and extent of accessible facilities that are provided. This information should be available on the site specific website or on signage within the site so visitors can view it in advance.
- Policy 4.4** Ensure adequate vehicular and pedestrian access to the site, including the provision for accessible parking
- Policy 4.5** Consider utilizing Bells Cottage to facilitate the need for welfare facilities (toilets, refreshments etc.) in the short term.

POLICY 5 **INCORPORATE BREMORE CASTLE INTO THE REGIONAL PARK**

To establish the castle complex as a focal point and landmark site in Bremore Regional Park

Policy 5.1 Ensure that the proposed enhancement of the Bremore Regional Park and its implementation is framed in reference to the policies of the Conservation Plan.

Policy 5.2 Develop pedestrian/ vehicular access into Bremore Castle in the context of the overall strategic framework for the enhancement of the regional park and circulation around it in order to ensure that it is sustainable, universally accessible and works in the the long term. Signage directing walkers to the several heritage points of interest along the route. Provide an interpretation of the wider landscape for explorers of the regional park using smart media e.g. Barcodes/ QR codes to be scanned at Bremore Castle as the starting point for walks which provide links suggested routes and self guided interpretations (See Policy 3).

Policy 5.3 Examine the feasibility of developing pedestrian links from the site to the many coastal sites of interest such as the megalithic tombs, Newhaven Harbour, Lowther Lodge, the Martello Tower, Balbriggan Harbour and cultural heritage sites such as the ‘Bell Hill’ shipwreck memorial cairn. There is also an opportunity to also incorporate features of the natural coastal environment. However this should also include an examination of accessibility and ownership issues.

POLICY 6 **INFORMATION, RECORDING AND RESEARCH**

To develop further understanding of the castle through informed archaeological investigation and research, and encouraging future research of the monument by creating an accessible comprehensive archive.

Creation of an archive

Policy 6.1 Create a stable archive, linked to the reconstruction of Bremore Castle, for all existing and future survey records related to site works including copies of

reports on relevant archaeological excavations i.e. all ‘grey literature’ and all existing and future records of conservation interventions should be created. The archive should document all interventions at the site. It should be maintained and kept in the Fingal County archives. The publication of results and an up-to-date stable archive is a key requirement in the regulation of archaeological and conservation work within a site.

Pre-restoration/repair recording

Policy 6.2 Require that all future work within the complex be recorded before repair, alteration, or major intervention. Recording should be carried out in accordance with the best practice procedures for the recording of Protected Structures. New records should be placed in the site archive.

Research Framework

Policy 6.3 Create a research framework for future archaeological, architectural and historical research and investigation of a targeted nature to reduce gaps in the understanding of the date, role and significance of the monuments when opportunities arise in the context of development and where resources permit.

Policy 6.4 Support the existing efforts of the local historical and archaeological societies in the promotion of public presentations of the results through publication, lectures and display at the site.

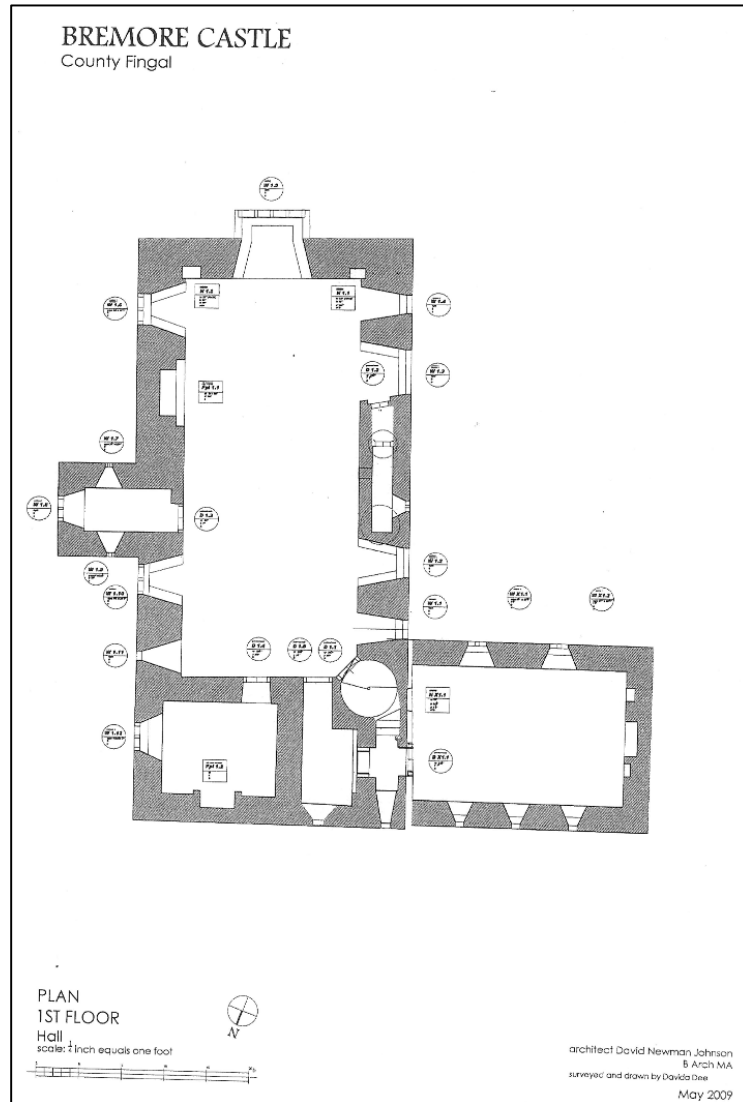
Establish Archaeological Potential of Walled Garden

Policy 6.5 Implement a comprehensive archaeological assessment with a clear research framework prior to any works in the walled garden area, in consultation with and consent from the Minister of DAHG. The results will inform the interpretation, conservation and management of the site and will feed into the development of detailed design proposals for the use and the design of the reinstated garden.

Funding

Policy 6.6 Seek Partnership funding for policy development and the preparation of plans arising from this Conservation Plan. Seek alternative funding opportunities.

PART VI
RECOMMENDED ACTIONS AND FUTURE USES FOR THE SITE



6.1 IMMEDIATE ACTIONS TO PROTECT THE MONUMENT

6.1.1 Introduction

The reconstructed castle is structurally sound, however elsewhere on the site there are structures where the existing masonry is precariously balanced and could with little force come down causing both terrible loss of historic fabric and also serious risk of damage to persons in the vicinity. It is recommended in the Conservation Plan that all the vulnerable areas be augmented by infilling with suitable masonry, by additional support or stitching in ties or other appropriate structural measures in accordance with best practice and in accordance with the international guidelines cited above.

In order to ensure the future protection and use of the castle the following is required:

1. To establish exact programme of works remaining to complete works just to Bremore Castle (interior and exterior)
2. To secure the outbuilding and graveyard
3. To resolve parking area at the entrance.

Following this, medium term works required include:

- a) Resolution of access within Bremore Castle,
- b) Identify the uses/vision for Bremore Castle,
- c) Carry out further archaeological and garden research prior to the development of the garden

The following recommended actions set out how to achieve these requirements in the immediate and medium term and suggests a framework that can be put in place to assist in the long term protection of the site.

6.1.2 Immediate actions/works:

The Outbuilding

The condition of the outbuilding requires urgent works to be carried out.

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| Action i | Keep the building secured to prevent public access to it until remedial works are carried out. |
| Action ii | Make safe the serious issue of defective masonry at the northern gable end. Whilst it may be possible to salvage the high level masonry, it is quite likely to be too precarious to be safely consolidated and may need to be carefully reduced to the common height of 2.4 metres in the interests of health and safety. |
| Action iii | Consolidation of loose and damaged stonework or overhanging masonry is recommended at specific locations, to restore structural integrity and ensure continued stability. This work should be undertaken as soon as possible after the removal of vegetation to minimise progressive deterioration. If necessary a temporary roof structure should be installed. |

St Molaga's Church and graveyard

St Molaga's Church is a health and safety hazard at present, there is a danger of collapse and a concern that some of the church's important historic fabric will be damaged or lost completely. Urgent remedial works to St. Molaga's include:

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| Action iv | The church should immediately be protected by means of a security fence and locked gate to prevent unauthorized access and the erosion of the surviving stonework by casual vandalism (there is currently free access possible outside the walled garden area into the southern part of the graveyard) |
| Action v | Consolidation of loose and damaged stonework or overhanging masonry is recommended, to restore structural integrity and ensure continued stability. This work should be undertaken as soon as possible after the removal of vegetation to minimise progressive deterioration. |
| Action vi | If extensive repair works is required that may involve the opening up of engineering test pits etc. it should be preceded by an archaeological assessment under ministerial consent and by an initial evaluation of the area to be affected, to be carried out by hand excavation to the top of the archaeological deposits. |

Action vii Removal of rampant vegetation (*Ivy* etc.) to prevent structural damage. The removal of invasive roots needs great care and may also require localised remedial consolidation.

The removal of vegetation should be done by the application of a suitable herbicide by several applications over a minimum period of 4 months during the growing season until all root growth has ceased and the remaining vegetation can be removed without use of force. Advice should be sought from an ecologist on any proposals to remove vegetation on the site and on the appropriate time to do so (it is an offence to remove vegetation in uncultivated land between 15th April and 31st August) and any surveys that might be required. Any temporary disturbance required as part of conservation works must include an agreed programme of archaeological mitigation in order to ensure that there is no adverse impact.

Once the cleanup of the graveyard is complete, ensure a full graveyard survey, providing and a full scaled, photographic and written survey. Details of each stone such as location, description, dimensions, materials, style of stone, inscription and any carving, etc. can be recorded. The survey then becomes a complete record of the state of the graveyard at the time of recording and a useful historical document. Such a survey may be carried out by a local community group under the supervision of an archaeologist.

Any work within the graveyard should be kept to a minimum and should only include the clearance of vegetation; no alteration to the ground surface or excavation should be carried out. Any crooked grave slabs should be left in-situ.

Any below ground works must be subject to the full archaeological scrutiny detailed in the Policy Recommendations. Conservation of St Molaga's Church and graveyard must be carried out with the most minimal physical intervention as possible with the aim of consolidating eroded elements and removing intrusive elements. Historical interventions and additions to fabric, where appropriate, where these do not diminish the integrity of the structure should be retained.

All work must be carried out under archaeological supervision with consent from the Minister of AHG. Following the cleanup of the site a full survey of all gravestones, their inscriptions, sculptural fragments, walls etc. must be recorded and photographed. A full inventory of the site is required prior to any alteration so an accurate interpretation of the site can be made.

In the continuing repair and stabilisation works to St Molaga's Church it may be necessary to provide some new masonry and/or supports in steel or timber to ensure the ongoing security of the remaining fabric.

6.1.3 Medium term action/works:

The Walled Garden

Advance work required for the re-instatement of the walled garden

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| Action viii | Consolidation at specific locations within the walled garden area, to restore structural integrity and ensure continued stability of the freestanding walls. Works to consolidate and weather existing boundary walls should proceed to minimise progressive deterioration. |
| Action ix | The minimum action that should be undertaken immediately to facilitate archaeological investigation would be the removal of scrub vegetation, which presently helps to protect the site, provided it is then secured from vandalism. No ground disturbance should occur during this work. The removal of scrub may facilitate incursion into the adjoining grave yard so it too should be secured. |
| Action x | An archaeological investigation should be undertaken to discover tree planting pits, path routes, dimensions and materials, edges and edging stones, remnant ironwork, training wires, nails and metal garden labels etc. It is fundamental to a thorough understanding of the site that archaeological investigation should be undertaken to find evidence of its layout and contents prior to the first ordnance survey of 1837-43. |
| Action xi | As part of the archaeological works investigate the various piles of earth, soil and spoil debris that are dumped in and around the walled garden. Repair works to the garden walls should be completed using matching materials and methods to the original sections still extant. |

Action xii The mounds in the garden should be reduced to the garden level by removing them carefully under archaeological supervision ensuring that they contain no fragments of historic material of architectural or archaeological interest and that any such fragments are put in safe storage, photographed and labelled.

Ornamentation or crenellations should not be applied that would ‘gentrify’ the walls. These are vernacular bawn walls as is evident in the surviving sections. In the absence of the original capping a plain lime mortar capping should be applied.

Regardless of found evidence, or otherwise, for the early bawn garden do not plant in a modern planting pattern or use modern varieties or cultivars to the exclusion of ones known from other medieval sites. There are numerous suitable varieties and cultivars from the medieval period still in cultivation elsewhere that could be utilised in Bremore.

6.1.4 Long Term Works:

Bremore Castle has been repaired and reconstructed in modern times and do not require further consideration from a structural viewpoint. All the structures on the site will require cyclical monitoring of their conditions and a maintenance plan.

6.2 IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

The Conservation Plan is the beginning of a long term process and its successful implementation will depend on a wide acceptance and active support as possible. According to the plan Bremore Castle will be developed and maintained in such a manner that it will retain the significance of the place, facilitate public access and will be a landmark monument within a the Bremore Regional Park for the enjoyment of all.

In order to achieve the aims of this plan it will be necessary to: -

- To set up a Steering Group comprised of people representing statutory authorities and voluntary bodies (including the Balbriggan and District Historical Society) with an interest in Bremore Castle whose remit is to oversee the implementation and annual review of the policies contained in the Conservation Plan.
- To incorporate an overarching general policy in the County Development Plan to implement the policies and recommended actions of Conservation Plans for the Heritage Properties in Fingal County Council's ownership.
- Commission further studies and archaeological excavations as required, continuing to fill in the knowledge gaps and develop the understanding of the monument.

6.3 FUTURE USES

Any considered future uses has to retain the significance of the place, facilitate public access into and out of the castle, add to the social and cultural infrastructure of the area. It has to be socially, culturally and economically sustainable.

IMMEDIATE USE

To ensure the immediate future use of the monument it is imperative that works to secure, protect and stabilise buildings on the site including essential repairs to building fabric are carried out without delay and in accordance to statutory obligations. Significant public realm improvements should be also made.

Once the structures and public realm is made safe outdoor use can occur immediately and relatively inexpensively. The key to use is promotion of the site as a regional park and then eventually as a venue for other use in the long term

Controlled guided access into the reconstructed Castle, limiting the number of people at any given time can occur in the short term. This may be facilitated by simple measures such as guide ropes for the stairs etc.

Increased access to the castle can be provided when the access issues have been resolved. Future uses should be phased and done in stages of development. This can provide interested groups and locals with the opportunity to experience the site as it evolves and is developed. Developing the use of the site can be staged process. At each stage and development an informal consultation with the users of the park will provide an ongoing assessment of how the site and the regional park are being used and what might be enhanced in the future to include the full use of the Castle structure.

The archaeological investigations for the garden can commence once the consents are in place

MEDIUM TERM

As outlined and proposed in Section 2.7, the restoration of the original gardens could be pursued and undertaken once a design has been devised and informed by archaeological investigations. This restoration could be a visitor attraction, the results of the excavations and

the vision behind the garden design could be available to view on story boards at the entrance to the Walled Garden and also detailed in social media. This would involve the local population and generate interest. The local community could also get involved with the final planting stages of the garden. Once the gardens have been enhanced they can be visited immediately

Historic sites and landscapes make excellent backdrops for events of a cultural nature e.g. Fingal County Council has held, or permitted others to hold, many such events in the historic properties in their own possession. have been held in similar environments. It will be possible to accommodate demountable structures for welfare facilities within the site and the provision of lighting, paving and services to the interior provided they are thought well through in advance and there is no conflict with the policy recommendations we have stated above.

Making use of the unique setting and space the outdoors can be used for:

- Farmers markets (specifically for to promote the local market gardening tradition) and food fairs
- Easter Fairs, Christmas Markets, seasonal festivals
- Carnivals/ice rink/outdoor cinema- to bring people to the site
- Outdoor concert venue
- Training site for traditional skills required for the conservation, repair and maintenance of the historic built environment
- Sculpture symposia

LONG TERM

As discussed in the main body of the Plan the access arrangement and the provision services will be required as part of any conceivable use in the castle. The access audit will seek to resolve this issue and reach a practical compromise on how this can be achieved.

To achieve full access to the castle and to generate an income for it a specialised event management company with experience in historic venues and business management skills can be engaged or can tender to bring specialist events/functions to the Castle and outdoors. Some events might include:

- Exclusive- use venues
- The large halls would be suitable for classes such as dance, music, art etc.

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- Temporary ‘pop up’ uses such restaurants (as done by Kevin Thornton in unlikely locations like the Rock of Cashel, artisan shops and galleries. These would serve for only a single evening, or several days, or several weeks.
- A partnership can be formed with a training institute to continue the tradition of skills training at the site.
- Increase public participation in the use of the building involve Balbriggan and District Historical Society to have their meetings or lecture series there
- Genealogy centre

In addition to its use as a venue the Castle should have a permanent exhibition/museum space dedicated to the interpretation of the site.

All proposals for future uses should be supported by an appropriate feasibility study and business plan. These studies have to address the social and cultural viability and economic sustainability of the proposed projects in the short, medium and long term and ensure compliance with the policies and recommendations of the Conservation Plan.

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APPENDIX A SUMMARY OF THE VENICE CHARTER

DEFINITIONS

ARTICLE 1. The concept of an historic monument embraces not only the single architectural work but also the urban or rural setting in which is found the evidence of a particular civilization, a significant development or an historic event. This applies not only to great works of art but also to more modest works of the past which have acquired cultural significance with the passing of time.

ARTICLE 2. The conservation and restoration of monuments must have recourse to all the sciences and techniques which can contribute to the study and safeguarding of the architectural heritage.

AIM

ARTICLE 3. The intention in conserving and restoring monuments is to safeguard them no less as works of art than as historical evidence.

CONSERVATION

ARTICLE 4. It is essential to the conservation of monuments that they be maintained on a permanent basis.

ARTICLE 5. The conservation of monuments is always facilitated by making use of them for some socially useful purpose. Such use is therefore desirable but it must not change the lay-out or decoration of the building. It is within these limits only that modifications demanded by a change of function should be envisaged and may be permitted.

ARTICLE 6. The conservation of a monument implies preserving a setting which is not out of scale. Wherever the traditional setting exists, it must be kept. No new construction, demolition or modification which would alter the relations of mass and color must be allowed.

ARTICLE 7. A monument is inseparable from the history to which it bears witness and from the setting in which it occurs. The moving of all or part of a monument cannot be allowed except where the safeguarding of that monument demands it or where it is justified by national or international interest of paramount importance.

ARTICLE 8. Items of sculpture, painting or decoration which form an integral part of a monument may only be removed from it if this is the sole means of ensuring their preservation.

RESTORATION

ARTICLE 9. The process of restoration is a highly specialized operation. Its aim is to preserve and reveal the aesthetic and historic value of the monument and is based on respect for original material and authentic documents. It must stop at the point where conjecture begins, and in this case moreover any extra work which is indispensable must be distinct from the architectural composition and must bear a contemporary stamp. The restoration in any case must be preceded and followed by an archaeological and historical study of the monument.

ARTICLE 10. Where traditional techniques prove inadequate, the consolidation of a monument can be achieved by the use of any modern technique for conservation and construction, the efficacy of which has been shown by scientific data and proved by experience.

ARTICLE 11. The valid contributions of all periods to the building of a monument must be respected, since unity of style is not the aim of a restoration. When a building includes the superimposed work of different periods, the revealing of the underlying state can only be justified in exceptional circumstances and when what is removed is of little interest and the material which is brought to light is of great historical, archaeological or aesthetic value, and its state of preservation good enough to justify the action. Evaluation of the importance of the elements involved and the decision as to what may be destroyed cannot rest solely on the individual in charge of the work.

ARTICLE 12. Replacements of missing parts must integrate harmoniously with the whole, but at the same time must be distinguishable from the original so that restoration does not falsify the artistic or historic evidence.

ARTICLE 13. Additions cannot be allowed except in so far as they do not detract from the interesting parts of the building, its traditional setting, the balance of its composition and its relation with its surroundings.

HISTORIC SITES

ARTICLE 14. The sites of monuments must be the object of special care in order to safeguard their integrity and ensure that they are cleared and presented in a seemly manner. The work of conservation and restoration carried out in such places should be inspired by the principles set forth in the foregoing articles.

EXCAVATIONS

ARTICLE 15. Excavations should be carried out in accordance with scientific standards and the recommendation defining international principles to be applied in the case of archaeological excavation adopted by UNESCO in 1956.

Ruins must be maintained and measures necessary for the permanent conservation and protection of architectural features and of objects discovered must be taken. Furthermore, every means must be taken to facilitate the understanding of the monument and to reveal it without ever distorting its meaning.

All reconstruction work should however be ruled out "*a priori*." Only anastylosis, that is to say, the reassembling of existing but dismembered parts can be permitted. The material used for integration should always be recognizable and its use should be the least that will ensure the conservation of a monument and the reinstatement of its form.

PUBLICATION

ARTICLE 16. In all works of preservation, restoration or excavation, there should always be precise documentation in the form of analytical and critical reports, illustrated with drawings and photographs. Every stage of the work of clearing, consolidation, rearrangement and integration, as well as technical and formal features identified during the course of the work, should be included. This record should be placed in the archives of a public institution and made available to research workers. It is recommended that the report should be published.

APPENDIX B EXTRACT FROM THE BURRA CHARTER, REVISED 1999

ARTICLE 18. Restoration and reconstruction

Restoration and reconstruction should reveal culturally significant aspects of the *place*.

ARTICLE 19. Restoration

Restoration is appropriate only if there is sufficient evidence of an earlier state of the *fabric*.

ARTICLE 20. Reconstruction

20.1 *Reconstruction* is appropriate only where a *place* is incomplete through damage or alteration, and only where there is sufficient evidence to reproduce an earlier state of the *fabric*. In rare cases, reconstruction may also be appropriate as part of a use or practice that retains the *cultural significance* of the place.

20.2 *Reconstruction* should be identifiable on close inspection or through additional *interpretation*.

ARTICLE 21. Adaptation

21.1 *Adaptation* is acceptable only where the adaptation has minimal impact on the *cultural significance* of the place. Adaptation may involve the introduction of new services, or a new use, or changes to safeguard the place.

21.2 *Adaptation* should involve minimal change to significant fabric, achieved only after considering alternatives.

ARTICLE 22. New work

22.1 New work such as additions to the *place* may be acceptable where it does not distort or obscure the *cultural significance* of the place, or detract from its *interpretation* and appreciation. New work may be sympathetic if its siting, bulk, form, scale, character, colour, texture and material are similar to the existing fabric, but imitation should be avoided.

22.2 New work should be readily identifiable as such.

APPENDIX C EXTRACT FROM THE FLORENCE CHARTER, (ON THE PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC GARDENS)

DEFINITIONS AND OBJECTIVES

ARTICLE 1.

"A historic garden is an architectural and horticultural composition of interest to the public from the historical or artistic point of view". As such, it is to be considered as a monument.

ARTICLE 2.

"The historic garden is an architectural composition whose constituents are primarily vegetal and therefore living, which means that they are perishable and renewable." Thus its appearance reflects the perpetual balance between the cycle of the seasons, the growth and decay of nature and the desire of the artist and craftsman to keep it permanently unchanged.

ARTICLE 3.

As a monument, the historic garden must be preserved in accordance with the spirit of the Venice Charter. However, since it is a living monument, its preservation must be governed by specific rules which are the subject of the Present charter.

ARTICLE 4.

The architectural composition of the historic garden includes:

- Its plan and its topography.
- Its vegetation, including its species, proportions, colour schemes, spacing and respective heights.
- Its structural and decorative features.
- Its water, running or still, reflecting the sky.

ARTICLE 5.

As the expression of the direct affinity between civilisation and nature, and as a place of enjoyment suited to meditation or repose, the garden thus acquires the cosmic significance of an idealised image of the world, a "paradise" in the etymological sense of the term, and yet a testimony to a culture, a style, an age, and often to the originality of a creative artist.

ARTICLE 6.

The term "historic garden" is equally applicable to small gardens and to large parks, whether formal or "landscape".

ARTICLE 7.

Whether or not it is associated with a building in which case it is an inseparable complement, the historic garden cannot be isolated from its own particular environment, whether urban or rural, artificial or natural.

ARTICLE 8.

A historic site is a specific landscape associated with a memorable act, as, for example, a major historic event; a well-known myth; an epic combat; or the subject of a famous picture.

ARTICLE 9.

The preservation of historic gardens depends on their identification and listing. They require several kinds of action, namely maintenance, conservation and restoration. In certain cases, reconstruction may be recommended. The authenticity of a historic garden depends as much on the design and scale of its various parts as on its decorative features and on the choice of plant or inorganic materials adopted for each of its parts.

MAINTENANCE, CONSERVATION, RESTORATION, RECONSTRUCTION

ARTICLE 10.

In any work of maintenance, conservation, restoration or reconstruction of a historic garden, or of any part of it, all its constituent features must be dealt with simultaneously. To isolate the various operations would damage the unity of the whole.

MAINTENANCE AND CONSERVATION

ARTICLE 11.

Continuous maintenance of historic gardens is of paramount importance. Since the principal material is vegetal, the preservation of the garden in an unchanged condition requires both prompt replacements when required and a long-term programme of periodic renewal (clear felling and replanting with mature specimens).

ARTICLE 12.

Those species of trees, shrubs, plants and flowers to be replaced periodically must be selected with regard for established and recognised practice in each botanical and horticultural region, and with the aim to determine the species initially grown and to preserve them.

ARTICLE 13.

The permanent or movable architectural, sculptural or decorative features which form an integral part of the historic garden must be removed or displaced only insofar as this is essential for their conservation or restoration. The replacement or restoration of any such jeopardised features must be effected in accordance with the principles of the Venice Charter, and the date of any complete replacement must be indicated.

ARTICLE 14.

The historic garden must be preserved in appropriate surroundings. Any alteration to the physical environment which will endanger the ecological equilibrium must be prohibited. These applications are applicable to all aspects of the infrastructure, whether internal or external (drainage works, irrigation systems, roads, car parks, fences, caretaking facilities, visitors' amenities, etc.).

RESTORATION AND RECONSTRUCTION

ARTICLE 15.

No restoration work and, above all, no reconstruction work on a historic garden shall be undertaken without thorough prior research to ensure that such work is scientifically executed and which will involve everything from excavation to the assembling of records relating to the garden in question and to similar gardens. Before any practical work starts, a project must be prepared on the basis of said research and must be submitted to a group of experts for joint examination and approval.

ARTICLE 16.

Restoration work must respect the successive stages of evolution of the garden concerned. In principle, no one period should be given precedence over any other, except in exceptional cases where the degree of damage or destruction affecting certain parts of a garden may be such that it is decided to reconstruct it on the basis of the traces that survive or of unimpeachable documentary evidence. Such reconstruction work might be undertaken more particularly on the parts of the garden nearest to the building it contains in order to bring out their significance in the design.

ARTICLE 17.

Where a garden has completely disappeared or there exists no more than conjectural evidence of its successive stages a reconstruction could not be considered a historic garden.

USE

ARTICLE 18.

While any historic garden is designed to be seen and walked about in, access to it must be restricted to the extent demanded by its size and vulnerability, so that its physical fabric and cultural message may be preserved.

ARTICLE 19.

By reason of its nature and purpose, a historic garden is a peaceful place conducive to human contacts, silence and awareness of nature. This conception of its everyday use must contrast with its role on those rare occasions when it accommodates a festivity. Thus, the conditions of such occasional use of a historic garden should be clearly defined, in order that any such festivity may itself serve to enhance the visual effect of the garden instead of perverting or damaging it.

ARTICLE 20.

While historic gardens may be suitable for quiet games as a daily occurrence, separate areas appropriate for active and lively games and sports should also be laid out adjacent to the historic garden, so that the needs of the public may be satisfied in this respect without prejudice to the conservation of the gardens and landscapes.

ARTICLE 21.

The work of maintenance and conservation, the timing of which is determined by season and brief operations which serve to restore the garden's authenticity, must always take precedence over the requirements of public use. All arrangements for visits to historic gardens must be subjected to regulations that ensure the spirit of the place is preserved.

ARTICLE 22.

If a garden is walled, its walls may not be removed without prior examination of all the possible consequences liable to lead to changes in its atmosphere and to affect its preservation.

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROTECTION

ARTICLE 23.

It is the task of the responsible authorities to adopt, on the advice of qualified experts, the appropriate legal and administrative measures for the identification, listing and protection of historic gardens. The preservation of such gardens must be provided for within the framework of land-use plans and such provision must be duly mentioned in documents relating to regional and local planning. It is also the task of the responsible authorities to adopt, with the advice of qualified experts, the financial measures which will facilitate the maintenance, conservation and restoration, and, where necessary, the reconstruction of historic gardens.

ARTICLE 24.

The historic garden is one of the features of the patrimony whose survival, by reason of its nature, requires intensive, continuous care by trained experts. Suitable provision should therefore be made for the training of such persons, whether historians, architects, landscape architects, gardeners or botanists. Care should also be taken to ensure that there is regular propagation of the plant varieties necessary for maintenance or restoration.

ARTICLE 25.

Interest in historic gardens should be stimulated by every kind of activity capable of emphasising their true value as part of the patrimony and making for improved knowledge and appreciation of them: promotion of scientific research; international exchange and circulation of information; publications, including works designed for the general public; the encouragement of public access under suitable control and use of the media to develop awareness of the need for due respect for nature and the historic heritage. The most outstanding of the historic gardens shall be proposed for inclusion in the World Heritage List.

Appendix D Geophysical Survey Report

APPENDIX E MEASURED DRAWINGS

APPENDIX F

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Arch, lancet	pointed arch found in gothic architecture where the jambs of the opening curve inwards above the springing to meet in a point
Arch, shouldered	form of opening where the flat lintel is supported at ends by corbel stones, usually curved section.
Arch, ogee	pointed arch of double curved sides, the upper curve convex, the lower concave.
Archaeological excavation	The systematic uncovering of archaeological remains through the removal of the deposits of soil and the other material covering them and accompanying them. Archaeological excavation is the principle method by which archaeological remains are preserved by record. It is by its very nature destructive, therefore, if the information contained in the archaeological deposits is to be preserved they must be meticulously excavated and recorded: each change in soil colour and/or texture is noted, samples are taken to be analysed for any organic remains, and finds recorded as to exactly where they were found. The aim of archaeological excavation is to preserve through record the archaeological deposits that are being destroyed through excavation. Ideally this means that should you so want to you could recreate the site.
Archaeological resolution	The preservation by record of all archaeological remains
Archaeological site	An archaeological site is a place (or group of physical sites) in which evidence of past activity is preserved (either prehistoric or historic).
Archaeological testing	'Test excavation is that form of archaeological excavation where the purpose is to establish the nature and extent of archaeological deposits and features present in a location which it is proposed to develop (though not normally to fully investigate those deposits or features) and allow an assessment to be made of the archaeological impact of the proposed development. It may also be referred to as archaeological testing' (DAHGI 1999a, 27).
Archaeological monitoring	Archaeological monitoring involves 'an archaeologist being present in the course of the carrying-out of the development works (which may include conservation works), so as to identify and protect archaeological deposits, features or objects which may be uncovered or otherwise affected by the works' (DAHGI 1999a, 28).
Artefact	An object used, modified or made by humans.
Aumbry	a cupboard or storage opening in masonry walls, sometimes associated with storage of religious vessels in the context of a chapel.

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Bailey	ward, courtyard of a castle
Barbican	the outwork to a defensive gateway.
Barrel vault	an extruded arch covering a room or open space supported on flank walls
Batter	the outward sloping lower part of a defensive tower/wall to a castle
Borough	Town with the right of self government granted by royal charter
Burgess	The holder of land or house within a borough
Centering	the formwork to support an arch or vault during construction e.g. wicker centering used wicker rods supported on a timber structure that left a characteristic indent in the mortar
Constable	in medieval society a Constable was a person with judicial powers appointed by a higher authority .
Crenellation	parapet battlements formed with a regular series of openings (for archers to shoot out from)
Cusp	the point(s) within a gothic window where the foils meet.
Embrasure	form of opening in masonry for a door, window or between merlons in a crenellated parapet where the sides of the opening are wedge shaped wide at the inside narrow at the outside.
Foil	each of small arc openings in tracery separated by cusps e.g. trefoil = 3 arcs; quatrefoil = 4 arcs; cinquefoil = 5 arcs
Garderobe	privy or latrine usually built on upper floors of castle or fortified building with a vertical chute discharging outside near ground level
Hall	the main business, dining and living area of a castle or fortified house. The principal resident presided over meals at the high-table at the upper end of the Hall.
Historic town	a settlement of pre-1700 AD date that occupied a central position in the communication network, functioned as a market centre and had an organised layout of streets with a significant density of houses and associated land plots.
Hood	canopy of stone or timber formed over a fireplace to collect smoke
Hood Moulding	form of protective hood over a window or doorway in masonry which follows the shape of the opening above the springing and is dropped vertically on both sides.
Keep	the tower within a castle or fortified building usually with the Solar (bed-chamber of the principal resident) on top floor
Loop	narrow opening with for light, ventilation and defence in medieval buildings

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Newel	the central pier around which a circular (or newel) staircase is formed.
Ostmen	Vikings (or the 'old Norse men of the east')
Merlon	the solid part of the crenellated parapet between the openings
Mullion	vertical bar dividing the lights in a window.
Pediment	a low pitched gable having a classical form over a building or a building element.
Pentice, Pentise	a structure outside the masonry walls of a building used as a gallery and normally constructed in timber.
Piscina	stone basin set in a recess in the masonry wall near the altar for the washing of hands during religious ceremonies.
Postern	the rear gate from a bailey.
Portreeve	a medieval term for a person appointed to a position of authority, originally a port warden.
Prebend	a cathedral or collegiate church benefice; normally consisting of the revenue from one manor of the cathedral estates which furnished a living for one cathedral canon, or prebendary
Putlog hole	A hole intentionally left in the surface of a wall for insertion of a horizontal pole. Such holes held scaffolding used during construction, floor joists, or supported hoardings
Seneschal	a seneschal was an official in the household of a sovereign or great noble, to whom the administration of justice and entire control of domestic arrangements were entrusted. It is also been used to refer to the governor of a city or province, and of various administrative or judicial officers.
Shaft	a slender column.
Shingle	a roofing tile made of cleft oak, commonly used on high quality buildings in medieval architecture prior to the widespread use of slate after c.1700..
Slit	a narrow window for defence, deeply splayed.
Solar	the private bed-chamber of the principal resident of a castle or fortified residence.
Soffit	the underside of an arch, vault or floor.
Spandrel	the space over a door or window opening between the arch and its rectangular frame or between a flat lintel and the arch above, usually decorated.
Squint	interior window allowing view into adjoining apartment.

CONSERVATION PLAN BREMORE CASTLE

Squinch	arch across internal angle of two walls
Transom	the horizontal member dividing the lights in a stone or timber window
Vault(ing)	a vault is the roof or floor above an apartment which has been formed in masonry e.g. a barrel-vault is a form of extruded arch. Vaulting has many forms fan, groined, lierne, quadripartite, ribbed, sexpartite and may be divided by ribs
Vousoir	stone cut to a wedge shape to be part of an arch
Wall-walk	the walkway formed at the top of a defensive tower or wall, usually protected by the battlements.
Ward	see bailey.
Zone of archaeological potential (ZAP)	A ZAP is statutorily a recorded monument, and accordingly any works which would impact on archaeological structures, features or deposits including demolition or alterations (major) to a building in a Zone of Archaeological Potential may require two months notice to the DAHG under section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act.
