

**North East PEACE III Partnership
Cultural Fusions Project
'1613-2013'**

with Nick Brannon



*A project supported by the PEACE III Programme managed for the Special EU Programmes Body
by the North East Peace III Partnership*

‘1613- 2013’

‘Our work to date exploring the Plantation landscape within the Causeway Museum Service area with PEACEIII target groups has proven to be a key tool in enabling groups to understand this critical and sensitive period in our history that still resonates through our communities today. We have a unique opportunity through visiting key archaeological sites in our landscape to present the complexity of this period and challenge public understanding of this history. Cultural Fusions is delivered by Causeway Museum Service as lead partner and Mid-Antrim Museums Service, covering the six local authorities of Coleraine, Ballymena, Lismavady, Larne, Ballymoney and Moyle which make up the North East cluster’ (CMS, 2012)

This project involved visits to key sites of archaeological importance across all six local authority areas, guided by archaeologist, Nick Brannon. The tours took place over several days. The following information was written by Nick to accompany the tour.

“Share the convoluted history and ambiguous material culture of the Plantation. Take the opportunity to decide for yourselves what matters most....”

Coleraine

Coleraine town centre’s street plan reveals the ambitions and aspirations of the London-based Planters, a short tour confronts urban myths and reflects on archaeological opportunities seized during ‘the Troubles’.

Movanagher. This Mercers Company settlement provokes discussion of the intermingling of native and newcomer and the archaeology of artefacts and architecture.

Moyle

Crossing from County Londonderry (created as a new county in 1613 by King James I) into County Antrim, a visit to **Dunluce Castle** explores the role of Randal MacDonnell, the 1st Earl of Antrim, in establishing a (failed) town there.

Pausing at **Bonamargy** Franciscan Friary, having followed the MacDonnell funeral cortege to this seat of the Counter-Reformation, the cliff-tops at **Goodland** reveal the remains of over 100 houses, overlooking Murlough Bay and only 12 miles from Scotland, prompting reflections on the Lordship of the Isles.

Ballymoney

Ballymoney Old Church Yard, contains the much-altered 'old church' displaying hand-made bricks and a gravestone dating to 1610.

Limavady

Roe Valley Country Park interprets the O'Cahan's Castle site but omits part played in its history by Sir Thomas Phillips.

Dungiven Priory is also remembered as an O'Cahan stronghold, demonstrating how we have neglected (or chosen to forget?) the impact of early 17th-century Planters.

Ballymena

A short distance from **Ballymena** town centre is **Galgorm Castle**, where the remains of a bawn built c.1618 surround a later modified building.

Clough Castle has both a medieval and early 17th-century history. It was overthrown by Cromwell's troops.

Larne

Kilwaughter Castle is in a sad state, but the early 17th-century castle incorporated within Nash's 1807 version can be discerned.

At Larne's shore-line stands a 3-storey ruin, the misnamed **Olderfleet Castle**, reflecting Larne's long history as a port.

Ballygalley Castle, has survived as a remarkable example of a 17th-Century building in a its 'classic' Scottish style.

Coleraine Town Centre



Thomas Raven map. Crown copyright. Courtesy of PRONI

Coleraine's urban origins reputedly lie in the Patrician period, albeit the earliest reference to its church dates to 725. The medieval town has occasionally been sighted through archaeological excavation, with the riverside Dominican friary, founded 1244, being most prominent.

Chosen as one of two sites for nucleated settlement in the newly-created County Londonderry (the other being Derry/Londonderry) by the Irish Society, its gridded street plan reflects early 17th-century town planning ideals. Its town walls have long since vanished but are reflected by street patterns. Coleraine saw English-style timber-framed terraced houses (pictured above in 1622), erected using the oak forests harvested along the river Bann. While traces of these houses were recorded in the 1930s, it has been assumed that they have since been lost to development. Recent research suggests that evidence may yet survive.

Archaeological discoveries, from the 1970s to the present day, include housing timbers and footprints, Ulster's oldest town house, the early medieval parish church, leather-tanning-pits, the Dominican church, and a forgotten 'citadel'. Artifacts reflect Coleraine's place in the early 17th-century globalisation of commerce.

ACCESS: Public space

Movanagher



Thomas Raven map Crown copyright. Courtesy of PRONI

Movanagher bawn (pictured, above, in 1622) survives as three substantial walls, now a farmyard. The combination of 'English' and 'Irish' houses built here by the Mercers' Company offer an insight into architectural traditions, an initiative destroyed in the 1641 rebellion. Note the vast medieval forest that surrounds the settlement (source of Coleraine's building timbers) and the rich resources of the river Bann.



Bawn wall and flanker tower

ACCESS: Private land. No access.

Dunluce Castle



Watercolour by Andrew Nicholl. Courtesy of Coleraine Museum

Dunluce Castle, long famed for its stunning setting, reveals its Scottish associations through its gatehouse, but its English aspirations through the early 17th-century manor house. Less well known is its failed town, established by Randall MacDonnell by 1611, and intended to rival Coleraine.

Now green fields, humps and hollows reveal a formal town plan. Excavations have uncovered superb survival of a town which failed, MacDonnell's aspirations undone by the lack of a harbour and commercial enterprise. Drinking and song, gaming and leisure, work and trade have been exposed through excavation.



Aerial view including part of town site in top right corner.

ACCESS: NIEA site, facilities & interpretation. Charges apply.
Map reference C905 412

Goodland



Map showing Scots warning fire

What to make of Goodland? Variously interpreted as booleys (shielings), a Neolithic settlement, or a fairground, the low-lying remains of over 100 houses present a remarkable enigma. Scotland is visible on the seaward horizon, and the lands were granted to the Magee brothers of Islay in the 1620s. Possibly the site of the 'Scots warning fire' (pictured, above), only archaeological research can explain what happened here.....



View of Islay from Goodland

ACCESS: Private land. Access on foot possible from Ulster Way. www.walkni.com , map—Ballycastle to Glenarm 2.— Map reference D194413

Ballymoney Old Churchyard



1610 Gravestone in wall

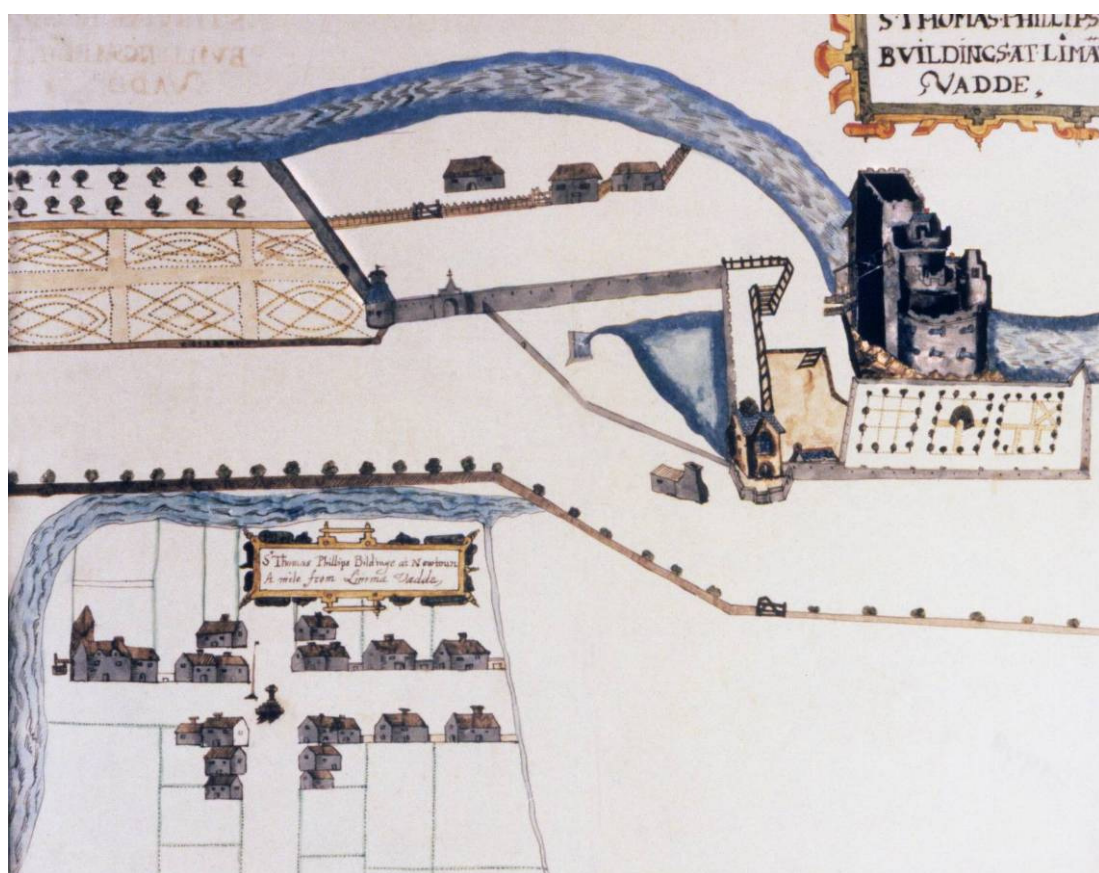
Ballymoney old church survives only as a fragment, but nevertheless offers considerable interpretative challenges. Road works destroyed its early 17th-century graveyard (hence the relocation of Camac's 1610 memorial), while hand-made bricks offer insight into industry. Built under MacDonnell grant, these ruins offer a small insight into 17th-century Ballymoney.



Brick-built Church tower

ACCESS: Open to the public
Ballymoney Old Church, Church Street, Ballymoney.

Roe Valley Country Park



Thomas Raven Map, 1622. Crown copyright. Courtesy of

Walking around the Roe Valley Country Park, this 1622 picture-map can be tied into the modern landscape. Still signed as 'O'ahan's Castle', historical research and archaeological excavation have revealed how much the origins of Limavady are owed to Sir Thomas Phillips, arch critic of the Londoners' Plantation. Castle, manor-house, formal gardens, brew-house (acknowledgements, Bushmills!) can be deciphered on foot.

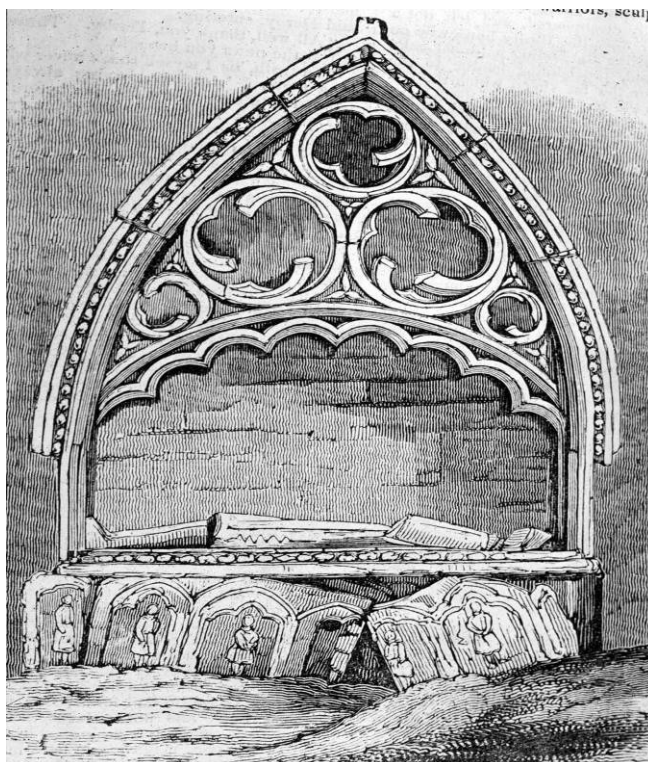


Site of Sir Thomas Phillips Manor House

ACCESS: NIEA site, facilities and signage.
Map reference C67660 20446

Dungiven Priory

Dungiven priory has long been renowned for its architecture – Romanesque, later medieval, its Coeey-na-gall knight's tomb - but this understanding was jolted in 1980 when its Plantation episode was deciphered.



Drawing of the Scottish-style Knights tomb

Sir Edward Doddington had built a house here, but died soon after, having masterminded construction of Londonderry's city walls. This story belongs to his (2nd wife) widow, surviving the 1641 rebellion, the Cromwellian episode, and building a watermill. Excavation has shown how her legacy has been forgotten.



Dungiven Priory Chancel

ACCESS: NIEA site, some interpretation. Open to the public. No charge.
Map reference C69149 08283

Galgorm House



Galgorm House from the River Braid

The bawn (fortified courtyard) at Galgorm was built by Sir Faithful Fortescue, a nephew of Sir Arthur Chichester, Lord Deputy of Ireland (and himself responsible for Belfast Castle, Joymount at Carrickfergus and Olderfleet). Granted lands formerly occupied by the MacQuillans (with their own castle site nearby?), Fortescue sold the site c.1629. The castle, within the bawn, was built by Dr Alexander Colville (reputed to have sold his soul to the devil!) soon after. The castle was renovated in 1832.



Flanker tower and bawn wall

ACCESS: Private building. Viewable from road way.
Map reference D094 013

Clogh Castle



Remains of Clogh Castle from the road

Clogh castle's remains stand on an earlier Anglo-Norman motte and bailey (badly damaged by 19th-century road works). In the 16th century the site was a MacDonnell (of Dunluce) stronghold, renovated c.1600. Refugees from the 1641 Irish Rebellion fled there, and the castle was reduced to its present condition (only the gateway survives) by Cromwellian troops.

ACCESS: *Private land. Viewable from road.*

Kilwaughter Castle



Kilwaughter Castle

Kilwaughter Castle survives as an 1807 ruin designed by John Nash, but incorporates a smaller, Scottish-style, T-plan castle, probably built by Patrick Agnew in the 1630s. In the late 19th century the castle passed to an Italian owner, Count Balzani, which led to it being seized as 'enemy property' during WW2 and occupied by American troops. The removal of its roof in 1951 led to its inevitable, sad decay.



Castle highlighting 17th Century middle section, the decorative turret may have replaced a functional one.

ACCESS: Private land. No access. Viewable from lane.
Map reference D355015

Ballygalley Castle



Ballygalley castle with reconstructed bawn wall and flanker

Ballygalley castle, albeit surrounded by later construction, is a remarkable survival of an early 17th-century Scottish baronial castle in Ireland. Built by James Shaw, of Greenock, in 1625, its characteristic corbelled-out turrets are paralleled (on this tour) at Kilwaughter and Dunluce. With walls up to 5ft thick, this 4-story castle, within a bawn, epitomizes the culture and architecture that Plantation County Antrim shares with Scotland.

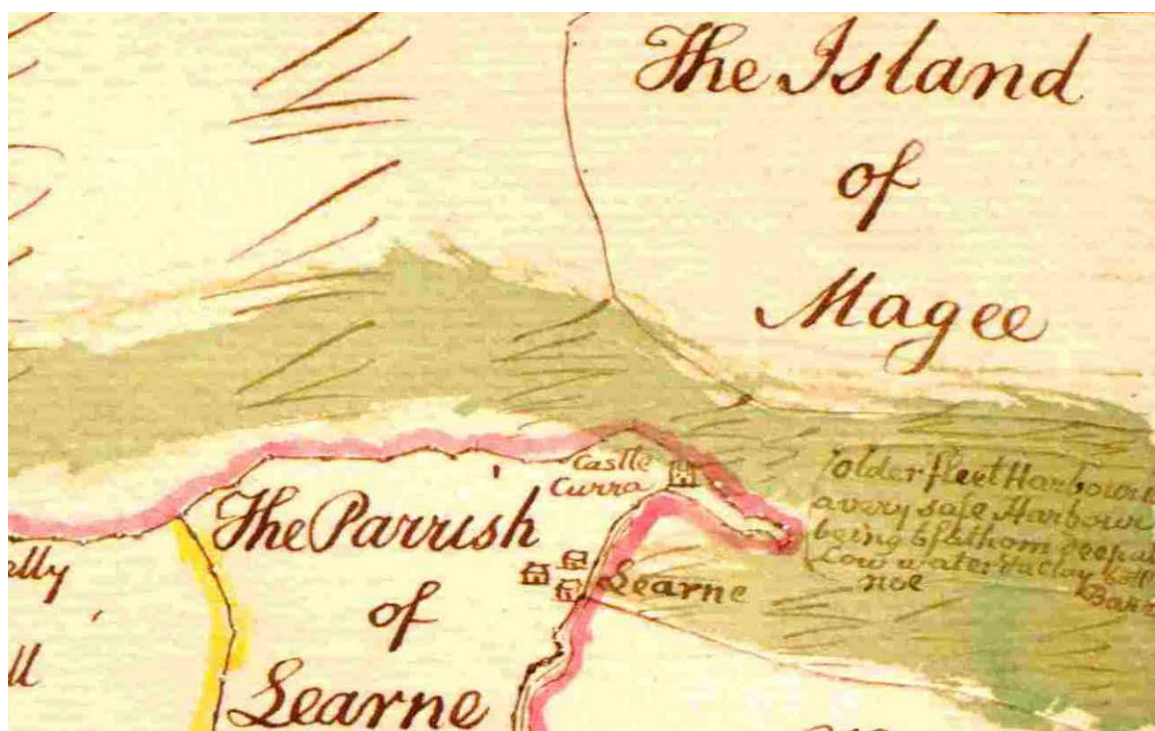


Interior doorway showing spiral staircase.

ACCESS: Commercial Hotel. Customers welcome.
Map reference D 37193 07828

Olderfleet/Curran Castle

Pictured on Speed's map of 1610, Olderfleet castle was one of three guarding Larne's harbour. Map interpretation suggests that this ruin is not, in fact, that of Olderfleet Castle but, rather, of another castle, known as Coraine, or Curran. Its construction is attributed to Sir Arthur Chichester and this 4-storey tower probably served as a navigational landmark, watchtower and goods warehouse.



Larne from Petty's maps of 1654 showing Curra Castle at the mouth of Olderfleet Harbour
Courtesy of PRONI

Cultural Fusions

These tours are part of the Cultural Fusions heritage based project being delivered by Causeway Museum Service and Mid-Antrim Museum Service across the local councils of Coleraine, Larne, Ballymoney, Ballymena, Limavady and Moyle. They are funded under the European Union's PEACE III Programme managed on behalf of the Special EU Programmes Body by the North East PEACE III Partnership.

Causeway Museum Service and Mid-Antrim Museum Service are interested in working with community groups to explore local 17th-century history with a view to creating new learning resources.

If you are interested in this or other Cultural Fusions Projects please contact

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