

Mapping Monuments

The landscapes of the Lough Foyle Baseline, view looking west from Binevenagh across Lough Foyle (photo: Aerial Vision NI)

Exploring the Landscape Legacies of the Ordnance Survey in and around Lough Foyle and Binevenagh

Two hundred years ago the land between Magilligan and Ballykelly close to the shores of Lough Foyle took on global importance. It was the site chosen to begin leading scientific work of the day, venturing for the first time to survey and map a whole country systematically at the large scale of six-inches to one mile. This activity left a trace in the local landscape, around the coastal lowlands of the Lough and beneath the lofty cliffs of Binevenagh. The *Mapping Monuments* community heritage project has explored these landscape legacies, the sites and stories of those surveyors and map-makers who were living and working here two centuries ago. This exhibition shares the findings of the project and raises awareness and appreciation of the significance of this local heritage.

Mapping Monuments began in 2021. Over the next two years, at times under the restrictions of the Covid-19 pandemic, the project team spent their time indoors researching records such as the detailed 1830s *Ordnance Survey Memoirs* for the local parishes of the area. Outdoors, in the field, the group's research team also followed the footsteps of those surveyors who mapped Ireland. Where the Ordnance Survey had once traversed the landscape, measuring it and mapping it, our group took a closer look at the sites used by the surveyors, recording what was there as well as what has since disappeared, and delving into their lives and those of local inhabitants of the time.

The history and heritage of the Ordnance Survey (OS) in Ireland is complex and often contested, perpetuated and popularised by Brian Friel's play, *Translations* (1980). Through our local study of the OS and its landscape legacies, *Mapping Monuments* enriches too our understanding

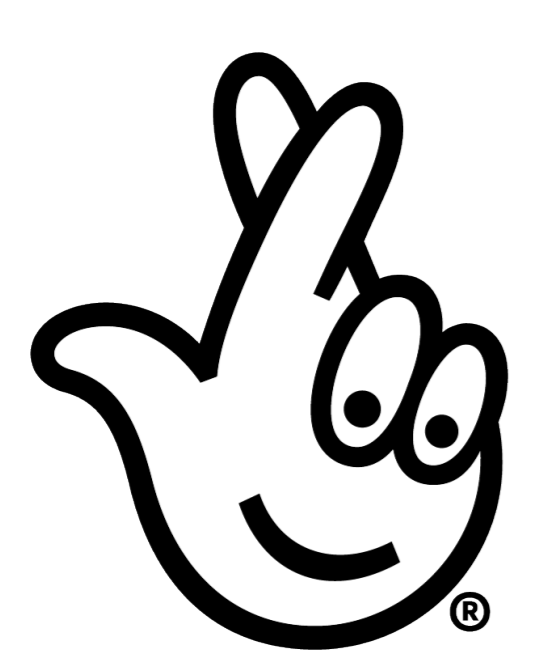
of this period of Ireland's past and how the land was surveyed and mapped in detail around two centuries ago. The *Mapping Monuments* project, and this exhibition displaying our findings, is all funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund through the Binevenagh and Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership Scheme.

The project was coordinated and led by Professor Keith Lilley and Dr Rebecca Milligan of Queen's University Belfast, School of Natural and Built Environment. It was delivered by a core group of 17 volunteers and assisted by staff from Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust.



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For further information go to go.qub.ac.uk/MappingMonuments



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