

CASTLES, BAWNS AND FORTIFIED HOUSES

The regulations imposed on the grantees of lands in the Plantation scheme required every undertaker of a 2,000-acre proportion to build a castle enclosed with a strong court or bawn; of a 1,500-acre proportion a stone or brick house and bawn; and of a 1,000-acre proportion a bawn at least. The servitors were likewise bound to the same building obligations. Most of the structures built at this time have not survived, either as a result of the wars of the 1600s or neglect. However, the remains of a number of the castles, bawns and fortified houses constructed by the English settlers can be found across the planted counties and provide a very clear link with the events of 400 years ago. Monuments in state care are indicated with an asterisk.

1 Castle Caulfeild*

COUNTY TYRONE
The most impressive English-built residence in early 17th-century west Ulster, Castle Caulfeild was constructed by Sir Toby Caulfeild, who had received a grant of lands in this area. In 1619 it was described as 'a fair house or castle... very good cellars underground, and all the windows of hewn Stone'. It was built on the site of an earlier fortification of the O'Donnells. In its design, this three-storey edifice is more of an English-style mansion than a castle. It is a good example of the beginnings of the move away from the purely defensive towards a new more domestic style of living. The vaulted gatehouse, which is earlier than the main house, features the Caulfeild coat of arms.

2 Brackfield bawn*

COUNTY LONDONDERRY
The ruin of this bawn stands immediately north of the road between Dungiven and Derry and overlooks the wooded valley of the River Faughan. It was built by Sir Edward Dodington on behalf of the Skinners' Company of London. The bawn measures approximately 70 feet square. At the north-west and south-east corners are flanker towers, containing gun loops, while there was a house within the bawn along its south wall. The drawing of the bawn by Thomas Raven in 1622 shows a cluster of cottages just outside it.

3 Castle Culews

COUNTY TYRONE
One of the most interesting structures to survive from the early 1600s, Castle Culews was built on lands that were granted to Sir John Davies, the Irish attorney-general, in the barony of Omagh. In 1619 it was described as being 'strong and fair', but without a bawn about it. Though on Davies' lands, it has been suggested that his father-in-law, Lord Audley, was in fact the builder of this intriguing house. On three sides there were canted bay windows. The base of the window on the south-east survives and features four musket loops. Apart from these, there is little indication that the structure was built with defensive considerations in mind.

4 Benburb castle*

COUNTY TYRONE
Built by Sir Richard Wingfield (later created Viscount Powerscourt) in the 1610s on or near to the site of an earlier O'Neill fortification, this castle, or rather bawn, stands within the grounds of the Servite Priory in Benburb and overlooks the River Blackwater. The son of a governor of Portsmouth, Wingfield was a man of considerable military experience and in 1610 received a grant of land in this area as a servitor. At the north-west and north-east corners of the bawn are substantial rectangular flanker towers – the former has been restored. In 1622 Wingfield's agent, an Englishman named Hamlett Moore, lived here with his family.

5 Castle Archdale*

COUNTY FERMANAGH
Today only portions stand of what was once a fairly extensive castle complex. The remains of the south wall of the bawn include a round-headed gateway, above which is a tablet stating that this castle was built by John Archdale in 1615. Opposite the gateway are the surviving remains of the three-storey tower, with mullioned windows, that projected northwards from the original house. Beyond this the ground slopes away quite steeply. Archdale was from Darsham in Suffolk and had been granted 1,000 acres as an undertaker in this part of north County Fermanagh.

6 Mountjoy castle*

COUNTY TYRONE
In 1602, during the Nine Years' War, a fort was built near the eastern shore of Lough Neagh by English forces. Soon after this the present castle was constructed nearby. It was called in 1611 'the Castle of Mountjoy... beside the old fort' and was described as 'a fair Castle of stone and brick, covered with slate and tile'. The constable of this castle was Sir Francis Roe who was resident there with his family. In plan the castle consists of a central rectangular block with projecting corner towers. The lower portions of the walls are of stone and the upper sections of brick.

7 Bellaghy bawn*

COUNTY LONDONDERRY
The Wintners' Company of London received the grant of lands in this part of County Londonderry in the early 17th century. Its 'farmer', or lessee, was Sir Baptist Jones who founded a village at Bellaghy and built a church there. In addition, by 1619, he had built 'a bawn of brick and lime, 100 feet square, with two round flankers, and a good rampart'. On Thomas Raven's pictorial map of 1622 the flankers are shown with distinctive ogee-pointed (onion-like) domes. Though much altered since then, three sides of the bawn survive as well as one of the flanker towers. Today the work of the famous poet Seamus Heaney is celebrated here.

8 Enniskillen castle*

COUNTY FERMANAGH
In the pre-Plantation period Enniskillen castle was the most important stronghold of the Maguires. Captain (later Sir) William Cole was appointed its constable in 1609 and was busy reconstructing the site. In 1611 it was found that at Enniskillen there was 'a fair and strong wall newly erected of lime and stone, 26 foot high with flankers, parapet, and a walk on top of the wall'. This corresponds with the Watergate, the most striking survival of Cole's activities here. By this time Cole had also begun a 'fair house... upon the foundation of the old castle'. Today this site has two museums, Fermanagh County Museum and The Innniskillings Museum.

9 Donegal castle*

COUNTY DONEGAL
The extensive remains of this castle stand in Donegal Town. The O'Donnells first built a castle here in the latter part of the fifteenth century. The castle was taken by the English in 1601 and by 1610 Basil Brooke, whose roots lay in Norton in Cheshire, was in command of the garrison here. He was subsequently granted the castle and adjoining lands. Under Brooke the O'Donnell tower house was substantially remodelled. On the second floor the magnificently-carved fireplace, displaying the Brooke arms, is of exceptional quality. A fine three-storey wing of five gabled bays in the English style extends south-west from the tower house.

10 Portora castle*

COUNTY FERMANAGH
Portora castle, on the outskirts of Enniskillen, was another fortification built by the English planter, Captain William Cole, after he acquired the surrounding lands around 1612. In 1619 it was described as 'a bawn of lime and stone... with four flankers and a stone house or castle three storeys high, strongly wrought'. In the 1620s Bishop James Spotswood lived in Portora castle which he rented from Cole. The castle was eventually abandoned around 1784. In 1859 boys from the neighbouring Portora School managed to blow part of it up while experimenting with gunpowder. Today three of the flanker towers survive; the house was only one room thick.

The PLANTATION of ULSTER

THE STORY OF THE ENGLISH

THE WALLED CITY

Built between 1613 and 1618, Derry's walls are the most important fortifications erected in early seventeenth-century Ireland.

Captain Edward Dodington designed the walls and they were built by Peter Benson of London. They were described by Nicholas Pynnar in 1618-19 as 'excellently made and neatly wrought, being all of good Lime and Stone... and in every Place of the Wall it is 24 feet high, and six feet thick. The gates are all battlemented'. The walls famously withstood a Jacobite siege in 1689, but it is less well known that Derry was besieged in 1649 by an army of Scots Presbyterians. Today it is still possible to walk the full circuit of the walls and enjoy excellent views across the city.

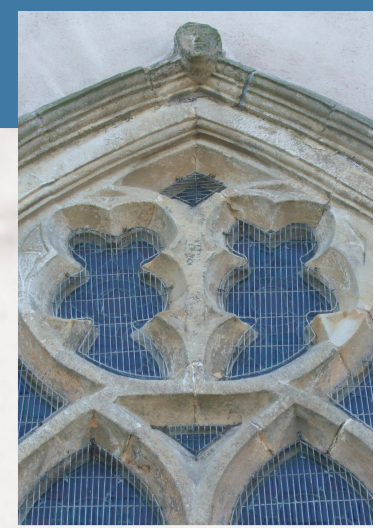


(Photo courtesy Derry City Council)



CHURCHES

In the early 1600s it was widely believed that if the Reformation was to make any impact at all in Ireland it was essential to have a network of functioning churches. King James himself believed that 'the principal success in all our actions rests upon the true service of God' and this in turn meant the 'repairing and building of churches throughout that kingdom'. Progress in this regard was slow, however, and the 1622 'Royal' visitation revealed the very poor provision of Protestant churches across Ulster. Nonetheless, at a number of places churches were being used for Protestant worship. Some were refurbished pre-Reformation churches, while others had been newly constructed, often as part of the development of a corporate town or estate village.



Above a detail from Clonface Church of Ireland, Benburb

11 St Columba's Cathedral, Derry

COUNTY LONDONDERRY
The most impressive of all the churches built in Ulster in the early 17th century is St Columba's Cathedral in Derry. Work on the new cathedral began in 1628 and was completed in 1633. The building contractor was William Parrott and it cost £4,000, paid for by the Irish Society of London. A commemorative stone, now in the tower, reads: 'If stones could speak then London's prayer should sound who built this church and citie from the ground'. In 1635 Bishop Bramhall of Derry recommended that the new cathedral be dedicated to St Columba, the 'first planter of faith in those parts'.



12 Clonface Church of Ireland, Benburb

COUNTY TYRONE
Clonface parish church in the village of Benburb is one of the oldest churches in Ulster still in regular use. Captain Nicholas Pynnar, in his survey of 1618-19, noted a 'church in building, 70 feet long and 24 feet broad, with 8 large windows, and is now ready to have the roof set up'. The church would have been built under the direction of Sir Richard Wingfield, the grantee of lands in this area. Since the early 1600s there have been relatively few structural changes apart from the addition of a west tower in the nineteenth century.



13 Dungiven Priory*

COUNTY LONDONDERRY
In the early 1600s the former priory in Dungiven was converted to Protestant worship. Relatively few alterations were made at this time, but the chancel arch was rebuilt, a new doorway was broken through the north wall of the church and a porch built. These changes were overseen by Sir Edward Dodington on behalf of the Skinners' Company of London that had been granted lands in this area. Dodington also built an English-style manor house at the west end of the church, the foundations of which remain. The chancel contains the handsome fourteenth-century tomb of Cooley on Gall O' Cahan, a rare survival from the medieval period.



14 Donaghmore Cl, Castlecaulfeild

COUNTY TYRONE
The present Donaghmore parish church in Castlecaulfeild was first built in the 1680s. It was a replacement for an earlier Protestant church, built c. 1622, which stood in the nearby village of Donaghmore. Some of the elements of this earlier church were transferred to the new church at the time of its construction, including the Gothic window in the south wall of the nave (featuring carved heads that resemble Charles I). This is one of the finest windows surviving from the early 1600s. It is likely that the early 17th-century church was built under the direction of Sir Toby Caulfeild, the builder of Castle Caulfeild.



15 Eglinton Old Church

COUNTY LONDONDERRY
Only the east gable to its apex and an adjoining portion of the south wall survive of this church that was built by the Grocers' Company of London in the early 17th century. The Grocers chose a site for a new church adjacent to their new settlement at Eglinton 'for the ornamentation of the town and the convenience of its inhabitants'. In January 1622 the Company's inventory of its buildings included 'one faire church, new built of stone and covered with slate, reading desk, and communion table, and many seats built therein by the parishioners'. A new church was built on an adjoining site in 1821.



16 Annagh Church of Ireland, Belturbet

COUNTY CAVAN
This church stands on the highest point in Belturbet, a town that was developed in the early 1600s largely by Sir Stephen Butler, and by the early 1620s was a settlement of some significance. In 1622 it was noted that 'There are a good store of Protestants in and about the town, and there should be a church builded there, but as yet there is no course taken for it'. The church was built some time after this and, though altered, retains some of its original character. The east window features the simple tracery that was typical of the early 17th century.



17 Walworth Old Church, Ballykelly

COUNTY LONDONDERRY
In the early 1600s the pre-Reformation parish church of Tamglagh Finlagan was in ruins, but the Fishmongers' Company of London, which had received a grant of the lands in this area, had, by 1622, 're-edified and enlarged an old chappell, adding a chancell therunto, in the chief place of their plantation'. This building continued in use until the late 18th century when a new church was built nearby, after which it fell into ruins. The most interesting feature of this ruined church is the round-headed chancel arch, dating from the reconstruction of the early 1600s, and which reflects the penetration of Classical architecture to areas remote from the mainstream.



MONUMENTS

18 Hansard

COUNTY DONEGAL
The only surviving monument of its kind in west Ulster, the memorial to Sir Richard Hansard is located in Clonleigh parish church in Lifford. It features kneeling effigies of Sir Richard and his wife Dame Anne, who died within two days of each other in October 1619, facing each other over a reading desk. The inscription records that Sir Richard was from Biskerthorpe in Lincolnshire, was a graduate of Cambridge, and had come to Ireland as a soldier in the Elizabethan army. Following the Nine Years' War, Hansard was granted Lifford and developed it into a small town with its own corporation.



19 Bedell

COUNTY CAVAN
In 1629, the celebrated William Bedell (1571-1642) was appointed to the Church of Ireland bishopric of Kilmore. Bedell, born at Black Notley in Essex, has a reputation as a reforming bishop, and he oversaw a major programme of church building in his diocese, while he also sought to introduce an effective pastoral system. Under his direction the Old Testament was translated into Irish. He died in 1642, as a result of illness arising from imprisonment following the outbreak of rebellion. His tombstone, with its coat of arms and mortality symbols, can be found in the burial ground adjoining Kilmore Church of Ireland Cathedral.



20 Dodington

COUNTY LONDONDERRY
St Patrick's Church in Coleraine features a fine set of 17th-century monuments, the earliest of which commemorates Elizabeth Dodington, the wife of Sir Edward Dodington, who died in June 1610. The Latin inscription records that Elizabeth was the eldest daughter of Sir George Paulett, the governor of Derry who was killed in O'Doherty's rebellion of 1608. The inscription also records that her husband Sir Edward was captain of the king's fort at Dungiven and was the first to build there after the English manner. The memorial itself is of high quality and was probably made in England and shipped across to Ulster.



LAND DISTRIBUTION IN 1610



The above map of Ulster throws light on change in land ownership there in the early seventeenth century. It gives a summary outline of the distribution of the land to the different categories of grantees across the six counties (Armagh, Cavan, Donegal, Fermanagh, Londonderry and Tyrone) involved in the formal plantation in Ulster in 1610. In these counties, the undertakers (51 English to 59 Scots) and the London companies received probably somewhat over 40 per cent of the land. The servitors, nearly all of whom were English, received about 15 per cent of the acreage and the native Irish were restored to perhaps some 20 per cent of the land. Church-owned land of various forms accounted for perhaps another 20 per cent. Small areas of land were also provided for various cultural purposes – to endow a grammar school in each county and to support the new college in Dublin. County Monaghan was not included in the official plantation because in 1591 its land ownership had been reorganised, mainly amongst the Irish themselves. Two other counties, Antrim and Down, both close to England and Scotland, did not form part of the official plantation because their ownership had already been redesigned beforehand in the years from 1603.

LEADING ENGLISH PROPRIETORS IN ULSTER c.1620

