

PLANTATION ARCHITECTURE AND LANDSCAPE IN DERRY AND DONEGAL



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An Action of the County Donegal Heritage Plan (2007-2011)

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INTRODUCTION

This booklet was commissioned as part of a joint project between Donegal County Museum and Derry City Council Heritage and Museum Service. The aim of the project is to increase awareness of the influence of the Plantation in Derry and Donegal and to provide an insight into the cultural heritage of an important period in our collective history. This booklet has been written by Duncan McLaren of Deadalus Architecture and edited by the Donegal County Museum and Derry City Council Heritage and Museum Service.

Maps have been prepared for this booklet to show the approximate locations of notable sites; the keys to the maps also give an indication to the extent of survival of the buildings where this is known.

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Note: Many of the sites may be on private property or in dangerous condition; further enquiries must be made before attempting to visit these properties.

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This booklet is an Action of the County Donegal Heritage Plan (2007-2011).

Introduction

This study has been commissioned as a joint project between Donegal County Museum and Derry City Heritage & Museum Service in association with the County Donegal Heritage Forum.

There is a significant body of material relating to the history of the Plantation of Ulster and it is not intended to repeat what has already been written save to provide sufficient background information for those readers who are not familiar with the subject.

The aim of the project is to increase awareness of the influence of the Plantation on the architecture and landscapes of County Donegal and County Londonderry and to provide an insight into the built and cultural heritage of an important period in our collective history.

Maps have been prepared for this study to show the approximate locations of notable sites; the keys to the maps also give an indication to the extent of survival of the buildings where this is known.

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The Plantation: a Brief History

The Plantation of Ulster was a planned process of colonisation, implemented during the first part of the 17th Century to ensure the government of an area previously outside the control of Dublin (the centre of English rule in Ireland). In 1607, Hugh O'Neill and a group of rebel earls left Ireland; an event referred to as the "Flight of the Earls". The flight of the Gaelic leaders left a power vacuum allowing Arthur Chichester, The Lord Deputy of Ireland, to declare the lands of O'Neill, O'Donnell and their followers forfeit. As well as preventing the native population from further rebellion, the Plantation was designed to prevent the Spanish gaining a foothold on the island which they could use as a base from which to attack England.

The Plantation was the lease of the forfeit land by the English crown to settlers in return for payment and the construction of castles, bawns and the provision of a defensive militia. Those taking up these leases were known as "Undertakers".

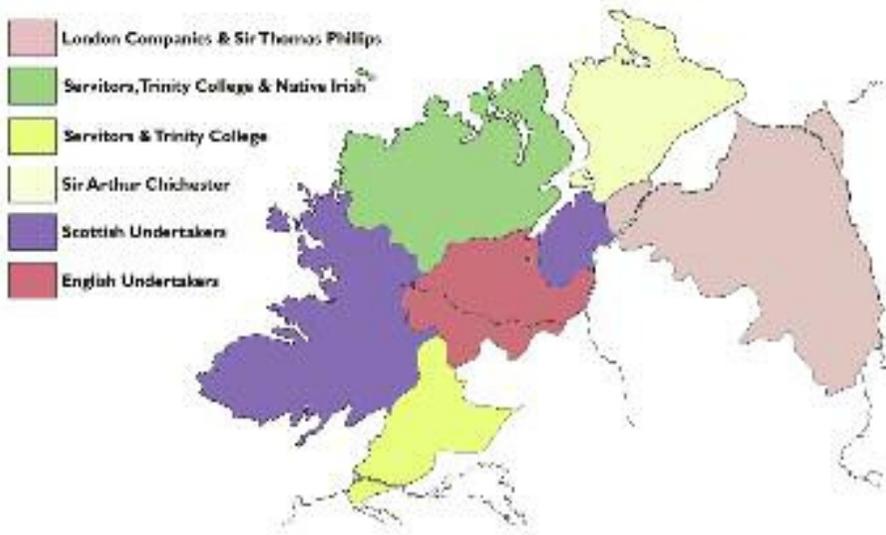
Whilst the leases were designed to be profitable in the long term, the responsibilities were considerable and required substantial capital. In order to ensure that the land was fully leased it became necessary to generate a second tier of "Undertakers", known as the "Servitors". These men, usually with a military background, could be relied on for defence and were appointed in return for active service during the earlier wars. The Undertakers were to settle their new estates with Englishmen and Scots.

Allocation of lands was also made to some of the more 'deserving' native Irish in return for their cooperation with the new regime.

The Counties that were to be planted under the Ulster Plantation were Armagh, Cavan, Coleraine, Donegal, Fermanagh and Tyrone. The other Ulster Counties had already been adequately settled.

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Many of the sites may be on private property or in a dangerous condition; further enquiries must be made before attempting to visit these properties.



Map of Lands Granted by the Plantation in County Donegal and County Londonderry © Dedalus

The uptake of the Plantation was initially slow and, in order to ensure its success, private investment was also sought and the City of London was approached as an Undertaker in the project. A new county, County Londonderry, was created taking in all of County Coleraine, and parts of Antrim, Donegal and Tyrone to be settled by a consortium of twelve of the City of London Companies whose interests in Ireland would be managed by The Honourable The Irish Society.

The county was to be secured by two walled citadels at its western and eastern extremities – Derry, formerly part of County Donegal, which was to be renamed as Londonderry; and Coleraine. Both towns were located on the opposite banks of the rivers Foyle and Bann, to retain control of the navigation and the fisheries. These walled towns are also located at key points from which any overseas invasion could be defended and were critical to the overall success of the Plantation.

The two towns were developed by the Irish Society; the bawns and associated villages left to be developed by the individual London livery companies. In Donegal, the Plantation was implemented by individual Undertakers. Different regions were assigned to English and Scots, with areas between allocated to the Irish and ex-military Servitors. Areas were also assigned to Trinity College and the Church of Ireland from which they would derive financial support.

Inishowen Peninsula was considered to be of particular strategic importance commanding both Lough Foyle and Lough Swilly and providing a defensible hinterland capable of supplying Derry; this area was assigned to Sir Arthur Chichester.

The attitude of the English towards the native Irish was not consistent and whilst the Plantation was intended to segregate the Irish, from the outset, Chichester thought that segregation would be a source of future difficulties for the government of the province. It was also not easy to attract tenants from Britain, many of whom were not able to finance the initial high costs that were involved. As a result, many Irish tenants were leased land throughout the Plantation area.



Parsons Hollar, Map of Inishowen 1661 © Trinity College Dublin

Several observers have noted that conditions for the lower orders of Irish society may not have been that different from those under the rule of their Gaelic chieftains. It has also been argued that the Plantation speeded up a process of change that, in many respects, was already occurring. Whether this is true or not, almost overnight, a massive cultural shift had occurred which could not be reversed. The Irish feudal society was Catholic and Irish speaking. Cultural life was centred on the monasteries and a romantic oral tradition applied to the recording of history, poetry and story telling.

The Earls were aristocracy of European stature and were accepted into European society.

The following poem translated from the Irish, gives some sense of the impact on Irish society:

"They divide it up amongst themselves,
this territory of the children of noble Niall,
without a jot of Flann's milky plain
that we don't find becoming (mere) 'acres'.
Heavy is the shame! We have come to see
seats of government being made desolate,
the produce wasting in a stream, dark thickets
of the chase become thoroughfares.
A congregation of rustics in the home of Saints,
God's service under the shelter of bright branches,
cloaks of clergymen become cattle's bedding,
the hillside is wrenched into fields.

They were replaced by English and Scots speaking masters, looking to exploit the land for profit in a methodical and rational manner. Lands were mapped and measured and records made so that Undertakers knew what they were getting. The Anglican Church was to be the official established Church; although Catholicism was tolerated to some degree. The settlers, especially in the early years were predominantly male, upwardly mobile from lower social orders. The new society was to be urban centred and constructed, at least in part, with building techniques that were imported. There was plenty of opportunity for friction.

They find no sweetness in devotion to poetry,
the sound of harps or the music of an organ,
nor the tales of the kings of Bregia of the
turreted walls,
nor the numbering of the ancient generations
of their forefathers.
The vengeance of God is the reason for it.
The men of Scotland, the youths of London
have settled in their place.
Where have the Gaels gone?

*A Poem on the Downfall of the Gaoidhill
by Tadhg Dall Ó Huiginn of Co. Sligo (1500 - 1591)*

In 1641, there was an uprising against the planters; much of the building carried out during the initial Plantation was destroyed, never to be rebuilt, even after the accession of Charles II and the restoration of the monarchy.

Further damage was done during the siege of Derry following the removal of James II and his subsequent attempt to recover the throne with the assistance of French forces through Ireland. Evidence of the Plantation structures and those before them is thus often limited.

For the purposes of this study of building and its influence on the landscape, we have taken the Plantation period to be the 17th century, starting with the structures erected by the English during the military campaign prior to the Plantation itself and ending with the construction of the barracks in Ballyshannon in 1700.

The Plantation and its legacy have an impact that is visible to this day.



Old Barracks, Ballyshannon, County Donegal

Derry & Donegal Landscapes & Building prior to the Plantation

In the late mediaeval period the Irish were ruled by chieftains whose territories are often marked by geographic features; these are still reflected in the modern county boundaries. Much of County Londonderry was O'Cahan's land and, in Donegal, Inishowen was O'Doherty's land. Most of the rest of Donegal, Tyrconnel, was O'Donnell's land bordering areas ruled by the O'Boyles and MacSweeney's in Donegal and O'Neill to the south in Tyrone.

The gaelic chiefs were not a united nation and the English were able to compete for and gain their support in the same way as the other gaelic chiefs. The support of Sir Cahir O'Doherty for the English allowed access to both the Foyle and Swilly and facilitated Docwra's invasion in 1600.

Within each of the clans, society was ordered with people of the lower order responsible for the provision of food and nobility who would provide military service.



Map of Areas Controlled by Gaelic Chieftains prior to the Plantation © Dedalus

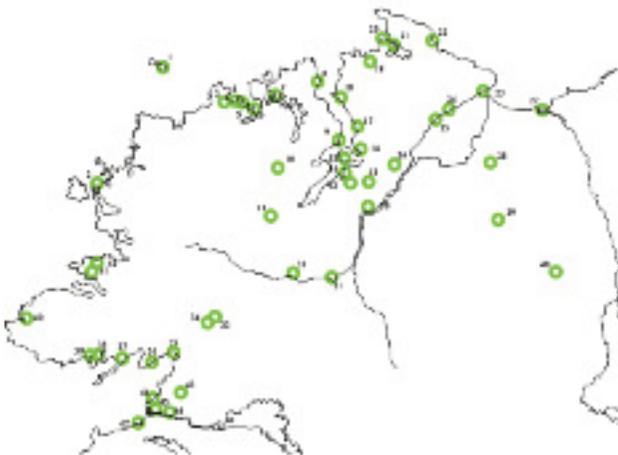
DEFENSIVE STRUCTURES PRIOR TO THE PLANTATION

Travel by water was the fastest and safest form of transport with tracks, pathways and bridleways less developed. Consequently, the majority of significant structures dating from before the Plantation were located close to the water. The waterways were of particular strategic importance both for defence and for control of the territories inland. Early ringfort structures were in use throughout the mediaeval period. These were of two types either stone cashels or raths constructed from earth. These structures are scattered widely throughout the country, are small in scale and provided some local defence for people and their livestock from marauders or wild animals. More significant examples also exist, such as at Doon Fort in West Donegal and at Grianan of Aileach. There are almost 600 recorded examples of these structures in County Donegal alone; only those examples which are considered to be strategically significant are included in the map showing castles prior to the Plantation.

Norman-designed motte structures existed at Castleforward, close to Newtowncunningham and at Loughan Island at the mouth of the Bann near to Coleraine. The most significant Norman structure was the stone-built Northburg Castle, the massive fortress which protected the mouth of Lough Foyle at Greencastle in Inishowen. The latter was certainly in use shortly before the Plantation and had been partially modified for use as a tower house.

The chieftains' territories were defended by a significant number of more modern military structures capable of withstanding attack. The control of these structures was essential to the rule of the area; they included:

- O'Doherty Inishowen strongholds at Inch, Burt, Elaghmore, Greencastle, Redcastle, Whitecastle and Carrickabrachy which controlled the Foyle and the Swilly.
- MacSweeney strongholds at Rathmullan and Doe.
- O'Donnell strongholds at Donegal, Lough Eske and Lifford controlled access East to West along the Foyle and Finn valleys through Barnesmore Gap to the south of the Bluestack mountains and linking with Donegal.
- O'Cahan strongholds to the east controlled access to the Bann and Lough Neagh.
- O'Neill territories spanning from the Irish Sea coast to the area of modern day Tyrone in the west.



Gaelic Chieftains Castles Prior to the Plantation

1. Castle, Tory Island (destroyed)
2. Cloughglass, nr Dungloe (site)
3. Dunfanaghy Castle, Dunfanaghy (destroyed; age uncertain)
4. McSwyne's Castle, Woodhill, nr Portnablagh (destroyed)
5. Dundonnel Castle, Marble Hill (site)
6. Doe Castle, nr Creeslough (restored)
7. Moross Castle, nr Rosnakill, Portsalon (remnants)
8. Doaghcrabbin Castle, nr Rathmullan (destroyed; age uncertain)
9. McSwyne's Castle, Rathmullan (destroyed)
10. Kilmacrennan Castle, Kilmacrennan (destroyed; age uncertain)
11. Castle Sollus, Newmills, Letterkenny (destroyed)
12. Culmacatraine Castle, Castleforward, Newtowncunningham (destroyed)
13. Grianan Fort, Burt
14. Burt Castle, Burt (ruin)
15. Inch Castle, Inch Island, Inishowen (ruin)
16. Fahan Castle, Fahan (destroyed)
17. O'Doherty's Castle, Bunrana (restored)
18. Castleross, nr Dunree, Inishowen (destroyed)
19. - 20. Carrickabraghy Castle, Doagh Island, Inishowen (ruin)
21. Castlestuke, Doagh Island, Inishowen (destroyed)
22. Donowen, Carthage, Culdaff, Inishowen (destroyed)
23. Northburg Castle, Greencastle, Inishowen (ruin)
24. Redcastle, Moville, Inishowen (destroyed)
25. Whitecastle, Quigley's Point (destroyed)
26. Elaghmore Castle (Doherty's Tower), Galliagh, Derry
27. Mill Loughan Motte, nr Coleraine (remains)
28. O'Cahan's Castle, Limavady (destroyed)
29. O'Cahan's Castle, Dungiven (remains)
30. Carrigans Castle, Carrigans (destroyed)
31. Castlefinn, Castlefinn (destroyed)
32. Cavan Lower Castle, Killygordon (destroyed)
33. Lough Eske Island Castle, nr Donegal (remnants)
34. Lougheask Demesne Castle, nr Donegal (remnants)
35. Donegal Castle (restored)
36. Ballyboyle Castle, Summerhill, nr Donegal (destroyed)
37. McSwyne's Castle, Rahan, nr Dunkineely (remnants)
38. McSwyne's Castle, Killybegs (destroyed)
39. Kit's Castle, Killybegs (remnants)
40. Amerson's Castle, Straid, Glencolmcille (destroyed)
41. Kiltorris Castle, Rossbeg (remnants)
42. Doon Fort, Narin (restored)
43. Ballymagroarty Irish, nr Ballintra (destroyed)
44. Kilbarron Castle, nr Rosstownlagh (remnants)
45. Ballyshannon Castle (site)
46. Stonewold Castle, nr Ballyshannon (destroyed)
47. Bundrowes Castle, Bundoran (destroyed)
48. Calmore Castle, Tobermore (destroyed)

The prominent coastal sites of many of these structures, particularly on the Foyle and the Swilly, remain of strategic importance. This was the route to be taken by Sir Henry Docwra in 1600 in his campaign to gain military control over the region and they were used again to defend against the threat of later invasions in the 19th and 20th centuries.



Burt Castle – “View of the Cavalier or Keep in an Old Spanish redout on a hill in what is vulgarly called the Isle of Burt drawn by Capt. Sir Wm Smith” © Trinity College Dublin



Doagh Castle – “View of Carrickbrachy an old Irish foothill of the (improperly called) Isle of Doagh drawn as looking towards Dunnaff Head by Sir William Smith in 1802” © Trinity College Dublin

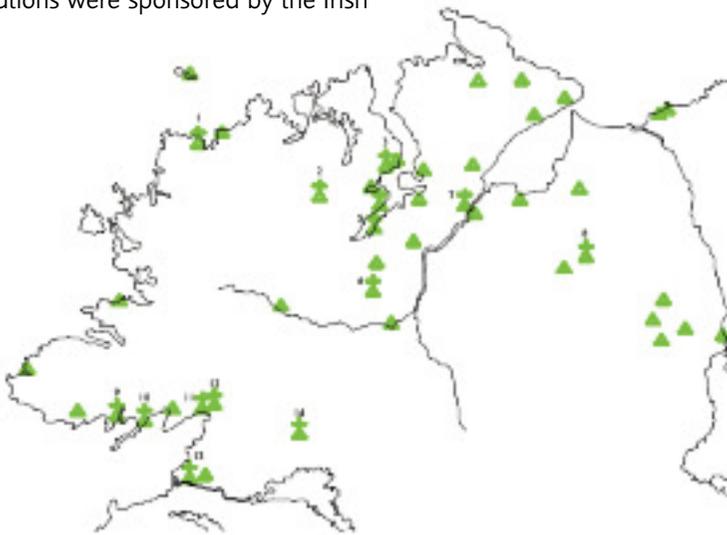


Northburg Castle – “View of Green Castle at Lough Foyle as seen from a field adjacent looking the way of down hill and over to Magilligan Point and Mountains by Captain Sir William Smith Com. Engineer 1806” © Trinity College Dublin

Religious Structures prior to the Plantation

As today, the church in Ireland was organised under the bishop of Armagh. By the late mediaeval period there were a large number of religious structures in the form of churches, monasteries, holy wells and crosses. Like many other aspects of gaelic society, responsibility for parishes and for church lands was inherited. Monastic practise was held in high regard and several European monastic institutions were established in Ulster during the 16th Century. These institutions were sponsored by the Irish

feudal chieftains as an outward gesture of their piety, wealth and status. Significant religious sites often coincided with the houses of the ruling classes and followed the same pattern as settlement and defensive structures. There were a very large number of churches constructed from the 5th century onwards; only the most important churches are shown on the map below and mediaeval-period monastic settlements listed.



Mediaeval Churches & Abbeys prior to the Plantation

1. Ballymacswiny Friary, Magherararoarty – MacSwiney Doe Franciscan friary founded late c15 (site)
2. Kilmacrennan Friary – O'Donnell Franciscan friary founded late c16 (remains)
3. Rathmullan Priory, Rathmullan - MacSweeney Carmelite friary founded 1516 (ruin)
4. Killydonnell Friary – O'Donnell Franciscan friary founded late c15 (ruin)
5. Balleaghan Friary, nr Manorunningham – O'Donnell Franciscan friary founded late c15 (ruin)
6. Raphoe Cathedral
7. Derry, Columban monastic settlement (destroyed)
8. Dungiven Priory, Dungiven – O'Cahan Augustinian Priory founded c12
9. St. Catherine's Church, Killybegs –possibly former MacSwiney Bannagh Franciscan friary founded late c15 (remains)
10. Fan an Charta Friary, St. John's Point, nr Killybegs – MacSwiney Banagh Franciscan friary founder late c15 (ruin)
11. Magherabeg Friary, nr Donegal – O'Donnell Franciscan friary founded late c15 (ruin)
12. Donegal Friary, Donegal - O'Donnell Franciscan friary founded c1474 (ruins)
13. Assaroe Abbey, nr Ballyshannon - Cistercian Monastery founded 1178 (remains)
14. Lough Derg, St Patrick's Purgatory



*Rathmullan Abbey: Lough Swilly –
Capt William Smith 1805 © Trinity College Dublin*



*Dungiven Priory - O'Cahan tomb niche (enfew)
© Trinity College Dublin*



Belmont House (Shantallow) Londonderry: effigy © TARA/Trinity College Dublin

Pre-Plantation Life

A feudal system operated in mediaeval Ireland so that the servile classes were expected to provide for their overlord in return for protection. The land must have been permanently settled to allow agricultural production and a version of the rundale system was thought to have operated. The existing townland plots that were adopted by the Plantation planners are evidence of this, although there is little physical evidence of the form that the settlements took prior to the Plantation. This is due to both the level of damage inflicted during the 'Nine Years War' and the impermanent construction of many buildings.

In the rundale system houses were grouped in clusters on good land with garrai or gardens immediately adjacent to the houses with an enclosed common field known as the infield. The infield was divided up into strips which were allocated to different members of the community in rotation. The outfield comprised poorer land and was used for grazing. Each clachan or cluster of houses was known as a baile and the overall area of land associated with it later became known as the townland. During the summer months, the area beyond the outfield would be used for grazing; in mountainous areas where the land was poorer these areas were quite large in order to support enough livestock for the settlement. The size of townlands thus varied both according to their population and the ability of the land to support them.

Where grazing in the summer months was remote from the village, temporary shelters known as booleys were built to shelter families as they tended their cattle.

Other migrant workers, soldiers and those forced to move because of war or famine would live in temporary structures known as creats or creaghts and groupings of these temporary structures were often found in proximity to the castles.

Festivals, markets, the collection of rents, brehon justice and government were all also operated within the vicinity of the chieftan's castle. The establishment of trade, monastic settlement, castles and the rent festivals therefore led to a slow establishment of a form of urban centre prior to the Plantation.



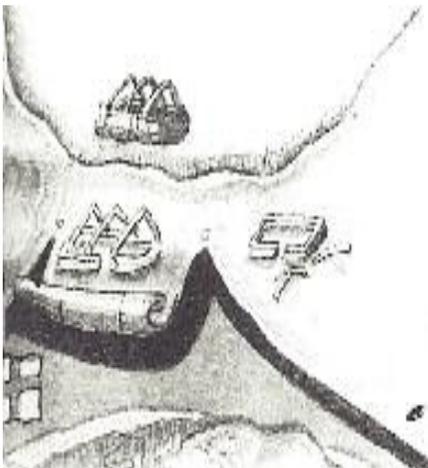
Irish Creats at Carrickfergus c1600; extract from "The Platt of Knockfergus" © British Library

Houses: Pre-Plantation

Some significant buildings such as castles and monasteries which were constructed of stone have survived and provide evidence of mediaeval life and building practise. There is little evidence of ordinary buildings occupied by the majority of people prior to the Plantation because of their less permanent construction. The main evidence comes from the maps made during the Plantation period which show Irish houses, white walled, of oval or rectangular structure, usually with a round and/or a hipped thatched roof either with central chimneys or no chimney at all. Bartlett's map of Dungannon shows construction of an Irish dwelling with timber crucks or

trusses which spring from ground level and wattle walls constructed from a stone plinth which would have kept the timber and wattle structure clear of the ground and prevented it from rotting. This is consistent with archaeological evidence which shows only low stone plinth walls surviving.

The same map shows Irish houses grouped within an earthen defensive bank or bailey, suggesting that the Irish baile may also have a defensive meaning. Elsewhere, the map also shows an attack taking place on a crannog, a much earlier type of lake dwelling, examples of which must have been still in use at this time.



*Richard Bartlett's Map of Dungannon, Co. Tyrone 1601
(extract showing cruck frame construction
of native Irish houses) © National Library of Ireland*



*Richard Bartlett's Map of Armagh c1600
(extract showing native Irish houses)
© National Library of Ireland*

17th Century Derry & Donegal: the Plantation Period



Extraction from Docwra's Military Campaign Map, c.1610 © The National Archives (PRO) UK

Pre-Plantation: Establishing Security

Docwra's map shows Derry and the surrounding area immediately prior to the Plantation with O'Doherty's land of Inishowen, O'Cahan's land (County Coleraine), Mac Sweeney's land of Fanad and O'Donnell's land to the South. The map shows the major sea Loughs, the Foyle and the Swilly, which form natural deep water harbours and the shallower water accessible by rowing boat. Existing castles are shown at Rathmullan, Fahan, Inch, Burt, Grianan, Castleforward, Elaghmore and at a location near Eglinton. A new line of forts is shown between Castleforward and Carrigans and the new fortifications at Derry, Carrigans, Lifford and in County Tyrone: Strabane and Dunalong.

Existing churches are also shown at Aughnish, Taughboyne, Faughanvale, St. Breacan's church to the east of Derry

and, the most significant structure, the abbey at Rathmullan.

The existing buildings shown here were not destroyed during the military campaign and were later reused for practical purposes. According to Docwra's own account the existing defensive structures were found not to be capable of withstanding artillery attack and whilst this may have made them easier to take, they were still of use in controlling a largely unarmed population.

Castles were reoccupied and upgraded. Buildings serving monastic communities, which were to be dissolved as they had been in England, were reused for other purposes e.g. Rathmullan Abbey was reused as a barracks initially and later was converted to use as a house for Bishop Knox of Raphoe.

New military structures had an altogether different appearance and were copied from new designs which came from experience of wars in Europe with battered and tapered walls and bastions better able to survive artillery attack. Lookouts and small forts were also used in conjunction with natural barriers such as the bog in the Laggan area to the southwest of Derry.

As during the rule of the Irish chieftains, Docwra's map demonstrates the importance of control of water as the means by which to maintain power.

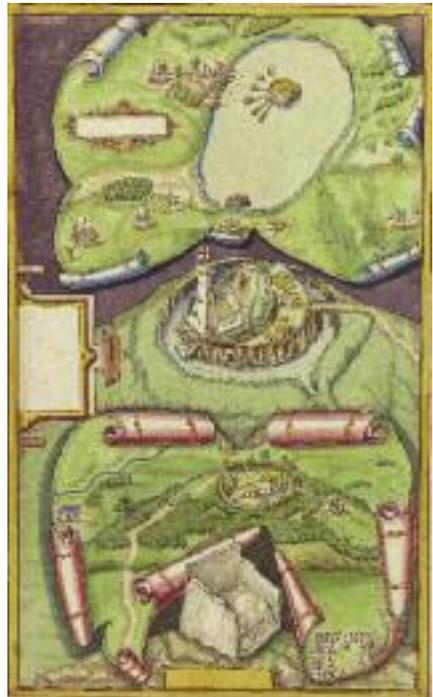
Mapping & "Planted" Landscapes

Mapping was needed initially for military purposes and then to divide up the lands that were to be planted. The first Plantation maps were hurried and proved to be completely inaccurate, partly due to confusion over the measure of land areas that in Irish society had been based on the ability to produce sufficient grazing for cattle. As a result the entire province was re-surveyed in 1609.



Thomas Raven's – 1622 Map of County Londonderry for Sir Thomas Phillips © Lambeth Palace Library, London (MS634)

Thomas Raven's maps are the best known as they cover the Plantation of County Londonderry and the establishment of the London Company settlements. Richard Bartlett's maps were prepared prior to the Plantation; his map of Dungannon is shown here. Bartlett was beheaded when mapping in Donegal – "the inhabitants took off his head because they would not have their country discovered" and there are no Bartlett maps of County Londonderry or Donegal. Following the military occupation, mapping was necessary for the Plantation itself and the formal allocation and leasing of land.



Richard Bartlett map of Dungannon, County Tyrone, 1601 © National Library of Ireland

Society as structured by the Plantation

In common with Docwra, Sir Arthur Chichester's initial recommendation was for the Plantation to be undertaken on a limited scale. However, the rebellion of the native Irish ally, Sir Cahir O'Doherty resulted in a hard line being adopted by James I whereby the native Irish were to be exiled from the majority of their lands and the area planted by English, Scots and the Church of Ireland. The native Irish were to receive less than a quarter of the lands that were declared forfeit.

Undertakers were allocated areas of land of between 1,000 and 2,000 acres. In addition to payments to the crown, Undertakers were required to colonise their estates within 3 years with 24 British men per thousand acres who would be able to take up arms when needed. They were also required to build a defensible structure. Undertakers with 2,000 acres were required to build a castle and Undertakers with less land were to build houses defended with stone bawn walls.

Part of the difficulty of attracting undertakers to the Plantation was that, for people with the financial means, more lucrative investment opportunities existed in the Americas and the West Indies.



Extract from Thomas Raven's Map - Bellaghy Bawn (Vintners' Company) © Lambeth Palace Library, London (MS Carew 634)

The majority did not have sufficient funds to fulfil the undertaking and came from poorer areas in the North of England and lowland Scotland and many sold in the early years to Servitor landlords who may have owned several properties throughout Ireland.

The largest number of tenants were Scottish for whom the Plantation represented an opportunity to escape the poor economic conditions in Scotland at that time.

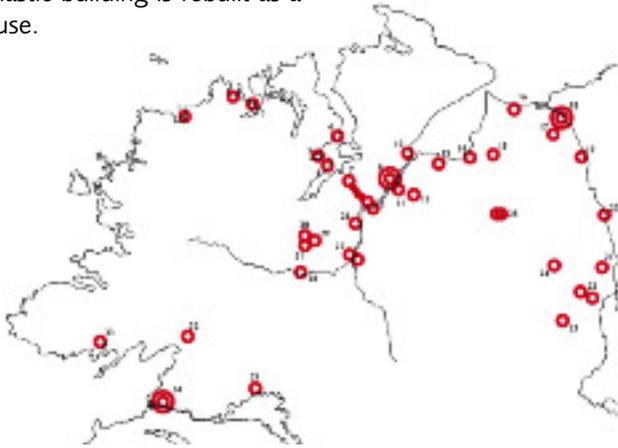
Even with the resources of the London companies, the Undertakers in County Londonderry were not in a position to remove the native Irish from their lands; they were required both to generate income as tenants and to assist in the building of the new towns.

Castles, Fortified Houses & Bawns

Many of the Irish castle buildings of strategic importance were re-occupied initially and supplemented with new bawns and castles to control the Plantation area and protect the settlers.

Some of these buildings, such as Donegal Castle, were spectacular. Bishop Knox's house at Rathmullan represents the period better than any other as an example of the collision of the old and new societies where the former monastic building is rebuilt as a fortified house.

Later, these fortified buildings were abandoned for more comfortable houses leaving them to decay or as a source of materials for later builders. Others were destroyed in the rebellion by the Irish in 1641 and were not rebuilt. The church at this time was particularly powerful and the successor to the Bishop of Raphoe, Bishop Leslie constructed his own castle at Raphoe which was embellished rather than abandoned in the 18th and 19th centuries.



Plantation Period Castles & Defensive Structures

1. Castle Bawne, Ballyness, Falcarragh (ruin)
2. Faugher House & Bawn (Wray's Castle), nr Portnablagh (ruin)
3. Drumdutton Castle, nr Carrigart (destroyed)
4. Rathmullan, fortification of Rathmullan Priory as house for Bishop Knox (ruin)
5. Ramelton Castle, Ramelton (destroyed)
6. Fort Stewart, nr Rathmelton (remnants)
7. Castleforward (formerly Culmacatraine), nr Newtowncunningham (site)
8. Carrigans Castle, Laggan Forts and Dunnalong (Co. Tyrone)
9. Derry, fortresses and star fort; rebuilt as Londonderry a walled city
10. Culmore Castle, nr Derry (restored)
11. Clondermott Bawn (Goldsmiths' Company), Derry (site)
12. Brackfield Bawn (Skinners' Company), nr Killaloo, Derry (ruin)
13. Eglinton (Muff) – Grocers' Company (demolished)
14. Walworth Bawn (Fishmongers' Company), Ballykelly (remains)
15. Sir Thomas Phillips' Bawn, Limavady (site)
16. Ballycaslan (Haberdashers' Company), nr Magilligan (demolished)
17. Macosquin (Merchant Taylors' Company), nr Coleraine (remains)
18. Coleraine, walled town (remains)
19. Agivey (Ironmongers' Company), nr Ballmoney (remains)
20. Movanager Castle (Mercers' Company), nr Agivey
21. Bellaghy Bawn (Vintners' Company), nr Magherafelt (restored)
22. Magherafelt & Salterstown Bawn (Salters' Company), nr Magherafelt (remains)
23. Moneymore, nr Magherafelt (Drapers' Company)
24. Calmore Castle, Tobermore – c17 Plantation house (destroyed)
25. Skinners' Company bawn and garden, Dungiven (ruin); Dungiven Castle (Skinners' Company) (demolished and rebuilt)
26. Mongavlin Castle, nr St. Johnston (ruin)
27. Lifford Fort & Barracks and Strabane Fort, Co. Tyrone (site)
28. Mansfield's Castle, Killygordon (destroyed)
29. Bishop's Palace, Raphoe (ruin)
30. Wilson's Fort, nr Convoiy (destroyed)
31. Greenfield Bawn, nr Convoiy (destroyed)
32. Donegal Castle, alterations to fortified house for Sir Basil Brooke
33. Kit's Castle, Killybegs – new fortifications (site)
34. Ballyshannon Castle, Ballyshannon (destroyed)
35. Termon McGrath Castle, Pettigo (ruin)

In addition to the requirement to construct castles or defensive houses and the organisation of local militia, there was a need to provide a military back-up. In the initial years, garrisons were often located in former monastic

buildings. As the major centres of Derry, Coleraine and Ballyshannon were developed, permanent barracks were built and sited strategically to secure control of entry points to the town.



Culmore Castle, Culmore Point © National Library of Ireland



Bishops Palace, Raphoe © Dedalus



Donegal Castle © National Library of Ireland



Rathmullan Priory / Bishop Knox's House – © Dedalus



Extract from Thomas Raven's Map - Agivey (Ironmongers' Company) © Lambeth Palace Library, London (MS Carew 634)

Plantation Towns

The most important Plantation towns were located to connect land and sea allowing the resupply of military garrisons and to facilitate trade.

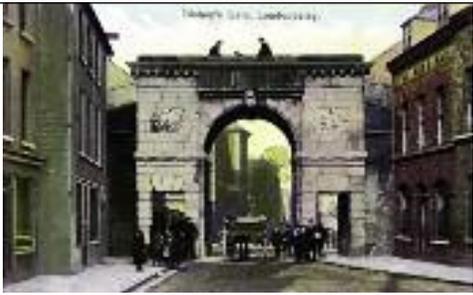
Coleraine controlled access to the River Bann and Lough Neagh. Derry controlled access to the Foyle and access to County Londonderry and to the interior of Donegal and Tyrone. Ballyshannon gave access to Lough Erne, Fermanagh, Leitrim and Cavan. Derry and Coleraine were important enough to be constructed as walled towns funded by the London livery companies. Ballyshannon was defended by a bastioned fort located above the town.



Derry – City Walls; “Roaring Meg” and Walker’s Monument
© Derry City Council Heritage and Museum Service



Extract from Thomas Raven’s Map, *The Plat of the Cittie of Londonderry*, c.1622 © Trinity College Dublin (MS634)



Derry – Bishop's Gate © National Library of Ireland



Derry – Ferryquay Gate © National Library of Ireland



Coleraine - Thomas Raven's Map showing fortifications © Lambeth Palace Library, London (MS Carew 634)



Killybegs 19th Century © National Library of Ireland



Derry c1700 © Irish Society

The combination of features of water, defence and surveillance at the sites of the principal Plantation towns created new urban settlements with a distinctive silhouette in the landscape. Many of these had been monastic sites and the hills of buildings capped by the tower of the church and framed by reflected sky were previously associated with the sacred; in the 17th century they were to become citadels of English control.

In 1609, at the start of the Plantation, 25 Ulster towns were planned to be developed. These coincided with new fortifications; eventually 16 of these were incorporated.

Towns were laid out with formal streets and squares. The layouts were generous so that houses had gardens and there were burgage plots on the periphery of towns for growing food and limited grazing.

By the end of the Plantation period there were estimated to be almost 100 towns in Ulster.

The principal effect of this change was the gradual urbanisation of a large section of the population. Initially, the towns provided security and a place of refuge where the town was walled, or a place where the burghers could retreat, where there was a bawn.

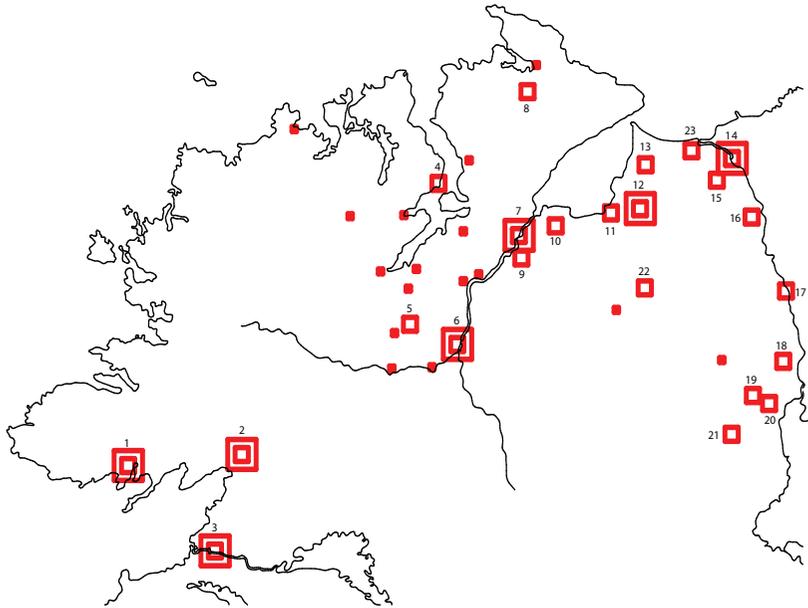
In time, the towns became centres for trade and the production of goods for sale.

Thomas Raven's maps of the London Company Plantation villages show their early development, each with a fortified bawn at their centre and other features such as the water supply, church or cross, and mill. At Bellaghy stocks are shown in the centre of the village. The villages were usually laid out in a linear or formal fashion although settlements at Movanager and Agivey are shown as being dispersed.

Several Ulster towns were laid out with a triangular "diamond" at their centre usually containing a civic structure such as a market building or barracks. This layout is considered typical of the Ulster Plantation even though the layout was also applied to towns established after the Plantation period.



The town of Raphoe and its 'Diamond', 2nd edition © Ordnance Survey Ireland/Government of Ireland Permit no. MP 004009



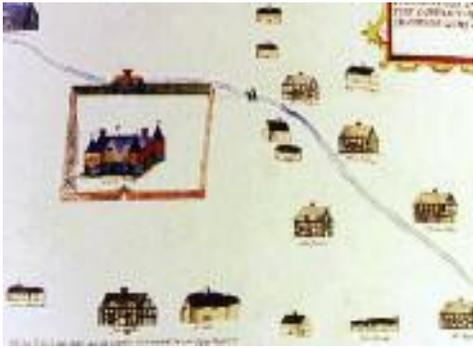
Plantation Towns:

1. Killybegs
2. Donegal
3. Ballyshannon
4. Rathmullan*
5. Raphoe*
6. Lifford
7. Derry/Londonderry – The Irish Society
8. Carndonagh*

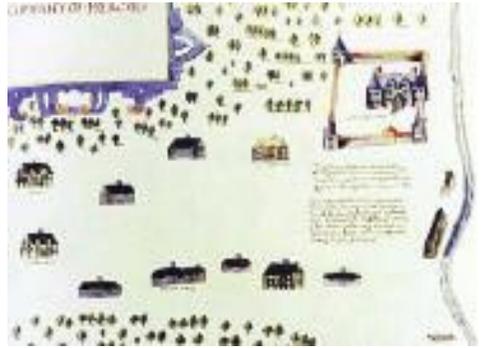
Other village settlements established in conjunction with the London company bawns:

9. Clondermott (now Clondermot near Newbuildings) – Goldsmith's Company
10. Muff (now Eglinton) – Grocers' Company
11. Ballykelly – Fishmongers' Company
12. Limavady – Sir Thomas Phillips
13. Ballycaslan (now Ballycastle near Artikelly) – Haberdashers' Company
14. Coleraine – The Irish Society
15. Macosquin – Merchant Taylors' Company
16. Agivey – Ironmongers' Company
17. Movanager (near Kilrea) – Mercers' Company (destroyed 1641)
18. Bellaghy – Vintners' Company
19. Magherafelt – Salters' Company
20. Salterstown (now part of Magherafelt) – Salters' Company
21. Moneymore – Drapers' Company
22. Dungiven* – Skinners' Company
23. Articlave (near Castlerock) – Clothworkers' Company

(* = Proposed borough but not incorporated)



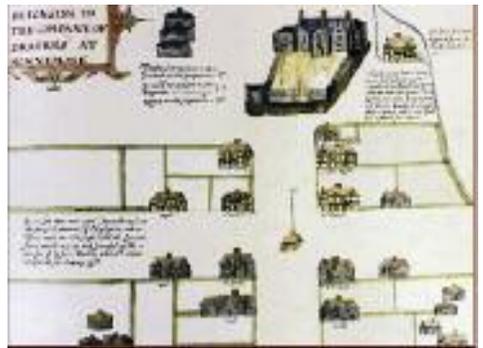
Raven's Map - Agivey, Ironmongers' Company, County Londonderry © Lambeth Palace Library, London (MS Carew 634)



Raven's Map - Movanager, Mercers' Company, County Londonderry © Lambeth Palace Library, London (MS Carew 634)



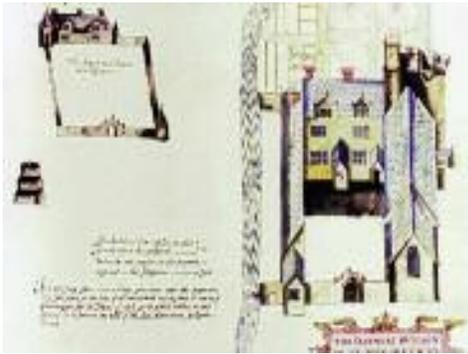
Raven's Map Fishmongers, Ballykelly, County Londonderry © Lambeth Palace Library, London (MS Carew 634)



Raven's Map - Moneymore, Drapers' Company, County Londonderry © Lambeth Palace Library, London (MS Carew 634)



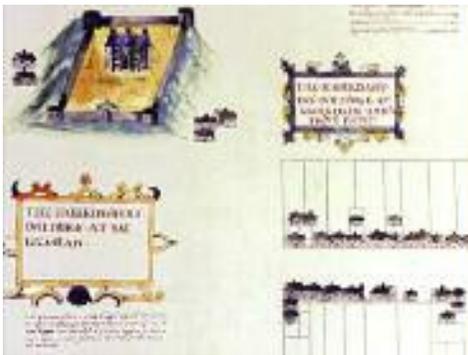
Raven's Map - Clondermott, Goldsmiths' Company, County Londonderry © Lambeth Palace Library, London (MS Carew 634)



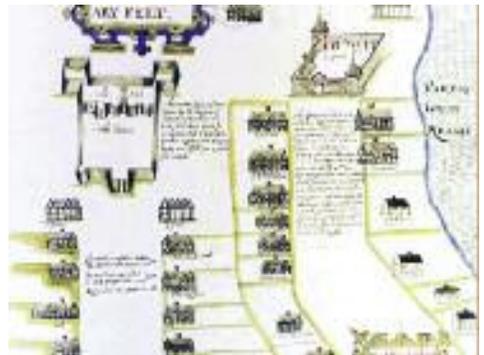
Raven's Map – Dungiven & Crossault Bawns, Skimmers' Company, County Londonderry © Lambeth Palace Library, London (MS634)



Raven's Map Macosquin, Merchant Taylors' Company, County Londonderry © Lambeth Palace Library, London (MS634)



Raven's Map Ballycaslan, Haberdashers' Company, County Londonderry © Lambeth Palace Library, London (MS634)



Raven's Map Magherafelt & Salterstown, Salters' Company, County Londonderry © Lambeth Palace Library, London (MS634)

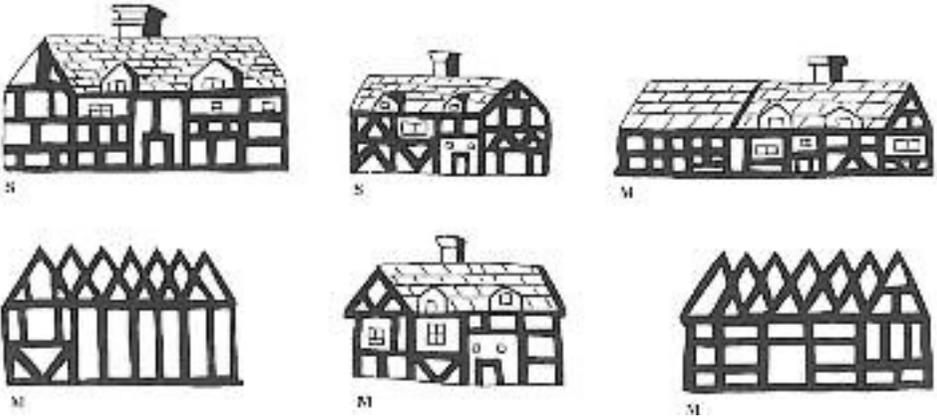


Raven's Map Bellaghy, Vintners' Company, County Londonderry © Lambeth Palace Library, London (MS634)



Raven's Map Jackson Hall, Clothworkers' Company, County Londonderry © Lambeth Palace Library, London (MS634)

Houses: Post-Plantation



English Box Frame Construction – extract from “Londonderry & the London Companies 1609-1629”; drawings after Thomas Raven’s maps: S= Salterstown; M = Moneymore © Lambeth Palace Library, London

Planters brought new building materials and techniques with them. Early houses in Coleraie were constructed from timber box frames imported from England. It is presumed that other English-style timber houses were constructed from the large reserves of timber that were available in County Londonderry. Other elements included slate or tile roofs and brick chimneys. There are no surviving examples of this type of house although ornate brick chimneys survive at Bishop Knox’s house at Rathmullan. Raven’s Maps suggest that some planters’ houses may have been built using Irish techniques and possibly built with Irish labour. Articlave rectory is an example of an important local building, white walled and built with a timber cruck frame and thatched roof. It was inevitable that once the Plantation was secure that a hybrid form would develop which used local materials.



Hazlett House, Castlerock, –
17th century cruck-framed thatched house © National Trust

The vernacular building type that emerged after this period was also thatch roofed but constructed with stone walls; this is the archetypal Irish cottage. The evolution of this building type may reflect a change, such as the loss of access to large trees in the landscape suitable for framing or perhaps adoption of a type that was imported with the Plantation.

Outside the Plantation towns the clachan settlements appear to have been the prevalent settlement type prior to the farming improvements of the 18th and 19th centuries. These communities were constructed within the same townland areas and may have existed prior to the Plantation. The form of these settlements is similar to that found in Scotland; the density of these settlements appears to be greatest in areas where there was greater Scottish influence.

Farming practise continued for many along similar lines to that prior to the Plantation. This was subsistence farming and did not produce significant surplus to allow generation of large rents.

The Plantation brought new crops, including the potato, which allowed the communal rundale method of farming to provide a bigger output of food and

support more people. This also allowed Irish communities to occupy areas with poorer soils that were less attractive to the Plantation undertakers.

As the Plantation became fully established and new farming methods introduced, new types of planned farm appear, such as at Hall Green near Lifford or Lisnamorrow House near Magherafelt.

The control of planted areas and large areas of land by a single landlord allowed for agricultural improvements which included enclosure of land; crop rotation; introduction of winter crops and of flax for the production of linen. The houses which formed the centre of these farms were small in scale but copied the features of the landlords' houses and were consciously designed and proportioned.





Plantation House, near Lifford, Co. Donegal

Bawns and fortified houses had ornamental gardens. Some houses such as at Castleforward, Convoy and Limavady had deer parks. The later 17th century saw the emergence of the big house and demesne. The landscapes, particularly in the London company estates, were exploited for profit so that timbers were felled for building of ships and for pipe staves.

There was a significant reduction in the amount of woodland in Ulster with the exception of areas that were planted for the landscaping of new demesne lands.

Many of these sites were developed as the need for a fortified bawn diminished although houses still retained some defensive features such as flankers in the form of projecting bays at either side to allow covering fire across the front of the house if it was needed.

Examples of demesnes that were established during this period include:

County Londonderry

- Ashbrook Demesne, near Drumahoe - 1686 house and landscape
- Skipton Hall (now Beech Hill), Ardmore - c17 house and landscape
- Ballyarnet House, Derry - c17 house and garden (site)
- Bellarena, near Limavady - mid c17 demesne
- Springhill House, Moneymore, near Magherafelt – c17 demesne & house (altered c18)
- Willsborough Demesne, near Campsie - 1696 demesne



Springhill House, Moneymore – © National Trust

Ecclesiastical Structures

The Plantation included the objective of religious reformation and promotion of the Church of Ireland as the established church. Each of the undertaker's portions of land were to be designated as a Parish with an area of land also reserved for the Church. Each County was to have a Royal School for the education of the next generation to attend Trinity College to enter the church ministry.

The landlords were responsible for refurbishing existing churches or building new churches. Church of Ireland clergy came from both the Anglican Church and from Scottish Presbyterian backgrounds. Presbyterian churches were not built until later in the Plantation period and are located in areas planted with Scottish settlers, such as the Laggan in Donegal.

According to Alistair Rowan, Plantation period churches were generally built in primitive gothic survival style termed "Planter's gothic style" with the following attributes: "big square buttresses, sometimes with quasi-classical profiles and tendency to place aisle windows as groups of 3 or 4 lights in segmental or round headed reveals internally. Width usually 20 to 25 ft and 40 to 60 ft long. Essential feature is an east window of two centred or semi-circular headed type and filled with simplified perpendicular tracery with elongated octagonal mullions and round or segmental heads to the individual lights."

Because of the large quantity of church buildings which already existed, the number of churches built during the Plantation is relatively small; many are adaptations of earlier structures.



St Eunan's Cathedral, Raphoe, County Donegal © Dedalus



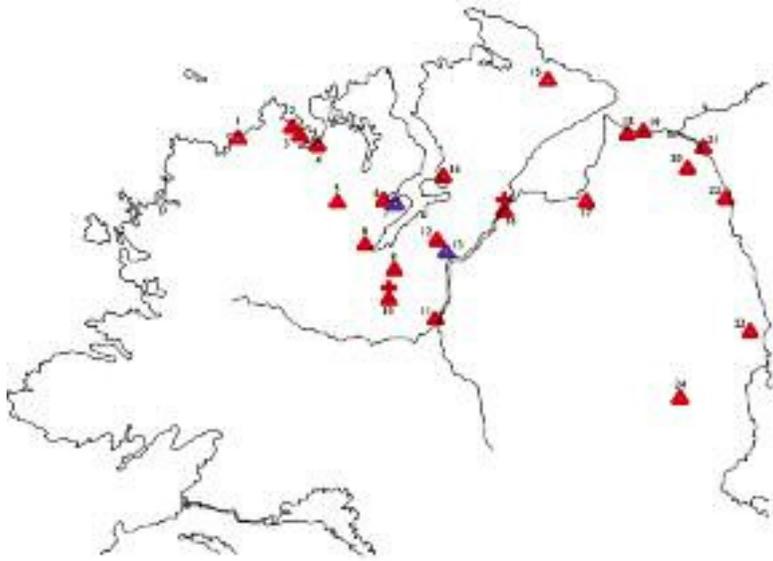
St Columb's Cathedral - Derry © St Columb's Cathedral



Church of St Lugadius, Lifford, County Donegal –
Sir Richard Hansard © Dedalus



St. Baithin's Church, Taughboyne, County Donegal,
rebuilt 1627 © Dedalus



Plantation Period Churches & Cathedrals

1. Raymunterdoney Old Church – c17 parish church (ruin)
2. Clonbeg Glebe, nr Creeslough – c17 chapel of ease (remains)
3. Clondahorky Old Church, nr Creeslough – c17 parish church (ruin)
4. Drumdutton Church, nr Carrigart - c17 church (remains)
5. Kilmacrennan Old Church, Kilmacrennan – c17 parish church (remains).
6. Tullyaughnish Old Church, Rathmelton – c17 parish church (ruin).
7. Ramelton Presbyterian Meeting House – c17 meeting house
8. Aghanunshin Old Church, Letterkenny – c17 church (remains)
9. Taughboyne Church – mediaeval church rebuilt c17 (intact; c19 alterations)
10. Raphoe Cathedral – c17 extension and additions (intact)
11. Clonleigh Parish Church, Lifford – c17 parish church (intact)
12. Saint Johnstown – c17 parish church built to replace Taughboyne Church (ruin; never completed)
13. Monreagh Church – c17 presbyterian church (rebuilt c19)
14. Fahan Old Church, Fahan – c17 parish church (ruin)
15. Clonca Church, nr Culdaff – c17 parish church (ruin)
16. St. Columb's Cathedral – c17 cathedral (intact; altered c19)
17. Ballykelly Church, Ballykelly – c17 Parish Church (ruin)
18. Tamlaghtard Church, Magilligan – c17 parish church (ruin)
19. Dunboe Church, nr Articlave, Downhill – c17 parish church
20. Macosquin Church, nr Coleraine – mediaeval parish church improved c17
21. St. Patrick's Church, Coleraine – c17 parish church
22. Agivey Church, nr Coleraine – c17 parish church
23. Bellaghy Church, nr Magherafelt – c17 parish church (site)
24. Desertlyn Church, Ballmully, nr Magherafelt



Monreagh Presbyterian Church rebuilt c19 © Dedalus



Ramelton Presbyterian Meeting House © Dedalus



Mass Rock – Inishowen
© Dedalus

Despite the official ban on Catholicism and exile from their church buildings, the much larger number of native Irish people were not deterred and continued to find a means of expressing their faith. Mass continued to be held in rural locations away from official scrutiny. Large rocks were used as makeshift altars known as mass rocks.

The Legacy of the Plantation

The Plantation was the attempt at methodical settlement of land that had been seized from the native Irish in order to bring Ulster under the control of English government. Whilst there was an ordered plan, a pragmatic approach was adopted in order that the Plantation could be achieved in practical terms.

The initial concerns of the Planters were military so that the region was secured and the Plantation would be secure from rebellion. The network of castles, bawns and fortifications included structures seized from the Irish which were reused and extended where necessary.

Churches followed the same principle with the large number of existing church buildings reused; new buildings were constructed only where necessary.

The monastic settlements were to be abolished; many of these buildings were reused for the garrison of troops.

The adaptive reuse of older buildings was a feature of many of the Plantation structures. Hybrid buildings such as at Rathmullan priory are an example of this.

Imported buildings, such as used in the Plantation of the London company estates, were few and many were destroyed in the 1641 rebellion. As lands were settled local materials and labour were used resulting in the evolution of new types that are particular to Ulster.

Large areas of the landscape were exploited for profit; woodlands were uprooted and a network of roads created to connect the new towns.

Farming followed a version of earlier practise until later in the period when agricultural improvements began to be introduced.



The Diamond & Town Hall, Coleraine - © National Library of Ireland

The greatest impact of all was the introduction of a network of new urban settlements to the Irish landscape that were consciously designed for control and for the purposes of commerce and industry. This was a model that was to allow Ulster to evolve into the engine of the industrial revolution in Ireland.

The legacy that is associated with the Plantation includes:

- Local government - run by landlords represented by the grand jury.
- Town planning – the establishment of the planned town with the diamond at its centre
- The law - courthouses and gaols
- Commerce – market houses
- Industry – construction of mills and growth of crops for processing and manufacture
- Farm improvement – introduction of new crops; enclosure and crop rotation
- Education – school buildings
- Infrastructure – development of roads and bridges
- Ecclesiastical – establishment of the Anglican and Protestant churches
- Division – division of Irish and Planter communities

Many of the changes that are associated with the Plantation did not actually occur until after the 17th century; the Plantation established the structures which allowed these changes to take place.



The Diamond, Donegal Town © National Library of Ireland



The Diamond, Carndonagh © National Library of Ireland



*Shipquay Street & The Diamond, Derry -
© National Library of Ireland*

Related Visits

Bellaghy Bawn Visitors Centre -

Deer Park Road, Bellaghy, Magherafelt, Co. Londonderry. Exhibitions on the Plantation and on poetry of Seamus Heaney.

Donegal County Museum -

High Road, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. Changing temporary exhibitions and a permanent exhibition covering topics in Donegal History from the Stone Age to the Twentieth Century. Free Admission.

Flight of the Earls Heritage Centre -

Rathmullan, Co. Donegal. Housed in a 19th century Martello fort, the exhibition explores the life and times of the Earls and the aftermath of their flight in 1607.

Hezlett House -

107 Sea Road, Castlerock, Coleraine, Co. Londonderry BT51 4TW. - 17th-century thatched house and garden. National Trust.

Moneymore Model Village -

Manor House, Moneymore, Co. Londonderry. Depiction of buildings and life in Moneymore at the time of 17th century Plantation and in the 19th century. A 17th century Plantation garden to be established to show visitors an example of landscaping and horticulture from that era.

Ramelton Heritage Exhibition and Genealogy Centre -

Ramelton, Co. Donegal, History of The Quay, Ramelton from Gaelic stronghold, Plantation and Georgian prosperity.

Springhill House -

20 Springhill Road, Moneymore, Magherafelt, Co. Londonderry BT45 7NQ. 17th-century 'Plantation' home. National Trust.

Tower Museum -

Union Hall Place, Derry. The Story of Derry from monastic times, Plantation, Siege of Derry, and the growth of Derry from the 18th to the 21st century.

Ulster Scots Heritage Centre -

Monreagh, Carrigans, Co. Donegal. Tells the story of the influence of Ulster Scots both locally and internationally

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