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ARKLOW CASTLE:

Final Excavation Report (Licence Number: 22E0465)

CMF22-1-WI002



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National Monuments reference number: WI040-029002
Anglo-Norman masonry castle

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Arklow.

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1. Introduction

This archaeological excavation report for Arklow Castle is submitted in compliance with the Community Monuments Fund for 2022 and is part of the ongoing Medieval Arklow Project (CMF 21-2-WI002). This report details the excavation of soil from the interior of the tower of the castle which was identified as putting pressure on the tower as detailed in the conservation plan for the castle submitted in 2021. Arklow Castle -is a Recorded Monument WI040-029002 and is therefore protected under the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004.

Arklow Castle is the only upstanding Medieval structure in Arklow. Other Medieval monuments such as the church of St. Mary on the main street and the Dominican Friary founded in 1264 at Abbeylands have not survived. Arklow itself is designated a historic town WI040-029 and this designation is inextricably linked to the castle. The castle has had a long and chequered history that has seldom if ever recognised the importance of the building as a beacon of heritage in a rural town with very few extant remains dating to any earlier than the eighteenth century. Events that have occurred here are almost a microcosm of the events that have shaped Ireland over a period of eight centuries.

While the only clearly visible remains today are the relatively intact tower and some associated features, it is of the utmost importance to recognise that the extent of the castle is not known. Typically, Anglo-Norman masonry castles have associated defensive features such as moats and ditches. The unknown and perhaps considerably larger footprint of the castle may well survive in the area known locally as 'the Alps'. There is a strong possibility that this rock-cut feature once formed part of the castle defences. The feature has been much modified over time and has been incorporated into a contemporary pathway.

The castle is classified as an 'Anglo-Norman Masonry castle' by the National Monuments Service. Castles of this type become a feature of the Irish landscape during the latter half of the twelfth century with larger examples like Carrickfergus, Trim, and Carlow becoming prevalent in the early thirteenth century (c. 1180 – 1320). These larger castles were built by the Anglo-Norman lords. Unfortunately, we do not know the extent of Arklow castle or anything about its complexity that would enable us to infer to which phase it belonged. Unsubstantiated accounts state that there were six or seven towers (Shaw-Mason 1816, 34). This could indicate that it was at one time a fairly substantial structure, but these accounts are not wholly reliable. We do know from documentary evidence however, that the castle underwent several phases of improvements that were primarily designed to bolster its defences. These improvements were undertaken in 1332, 1551, 1571 and at some time before 1584, there is

the first mention of the 'Great Hall'. It is possible that these developments ultimately resulted in the formation of a castle that was both substantial and complex.



Plate 1: Reconstruction drawing of Arklow Castle by Sara Nylund CMF Funding 2020.

2. Legislative framework & guidelines

Arklow Castle is a recorded archaeological monument WI040-029002-, in private ownership afforded statutory protection under the National Monuments Acts (1930 & amendments). Fieldwork and research undertaken as part of the Conservation Management Plan process has identified conservation issues which this plan has set out to explore and address.

- This report has been compiled in accordance with best practice outlined in the following resources and at all times complies with the National Monuments Acts and amendments (1930 – 2014):
- 'Framework & Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage' (1999)
- Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht & the Islands.
- 'ICOMOS charter for the Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage Sites.'
- ICOMOS (2008) *
- 'Ruins – The Conservation and Repair of Masonry Ruins' (2010)
- Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government
- Architectural Heritage Protection – Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2011)
- Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht
- 'Conservation Plan. Seventh edition.' James Semple Kerr (2013)
- ICOMOS Australia.

The core principles of the ICOMOS charter aim to 'safeguard the tangible and intangible values of cultural heritage sites in their natural and cultural settings and social contexts' and to 'respect the authenticity of cultural heritage by communicating the significance of their historic fabric and cultural values and protecting them from the adverse impact of intrusive interpretive infrastructure, visitor pressure or inappropriate interpretation'.

3. Methodology & data:

Information and data gathered for this document have been obtained in a variety of ways and from a variety of sources.

3.1 Desktop assessment:

- This incorporated an analysis of the Record of Monuments and Places hosted by the National Monuments Service and compiled by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland.
- Analysis of cartographic sources
- Analysis of photographic resources
- Investigation of all previous archaeological investigations within 1.5 kilometres
- Documentary review and research of relevant primary and secondary sources

3.2 Site inspection

Yvonne Whitty carried out numerous site inspections which have provided a detailed picture of the present condition of the remains. A laser scan of the castle has been completed along with the removal of soil from the interior of the tower which is the subject of this report.

4. Arklow Habitation through the ages

4.1 Location & Topography

The town of Arklow (An tInbhear Mór in Irish), is located in the Barony and Civil parish of the same name in the South-east Co Wicklow. It is situated on the mouth of the river Avoca in the south-east corner of County Wicklow.

The surrounding geology is mix of Ordovician sandstone, siltstone and shale. Dolerite is found 1.5km to the south of the study area at the site of an extinct volcano known now as Arklow Rock. The volcano has been quarried for its dolerite - an extremely hard stone used for soda surface works and coastal protection works (Nairn & Crowley 1998, 26).

4.2 Prehistory

The earliest known evidence for prehistoric activity in the hinterland of Arklow town dates to the late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age (Grogan and Kilfeather 1997).

A large assemblage of Neolithic pottery found with two scrapers was uncovered during excavations in the townland of Coolboy (WI040-055) c.2.1km to the north of the Arklow town (Ó Riordáin 1999). Burial activity from the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age is represented by a group of cremations pits (WI040-056; WI040-057; WI040-058) excavated during works on the Arklow bypass road scheme in the townland of Templerainy c. 2.7km from Arklow town. The burials -cremation pits-were excavated by Brendán Ó Riordáin. The cremations were spread across three areas given the names Site K, L and M. Two of the burial pits, one at site K (WI040-056-) and one at Site L (WI040-058) contained the remains of cremated human bones. Four adjacent pits at Site M (WI040-058) contained cremated remains with flint

artefacts and sherds of Beaker pottery dated to the late Neolithic/early Bronze Age period (Power 2013; Ó Riordáin 1999; Licence No. 97E0083).

Further evidence for habitation during the Bronze age in the surrounding countryside is the presence of settlement site (WI040-048) excavated by Thaddeus Breen. The site consisted of an oval post structure associated with an assortment of other postholes that produced sherds from Beaker, Cordoned Urn and Vast vessels, dating the site to the Bronze Age. (Power 2013; WI040-048; Licence No. 97E0324).

The Bronze Age is also represented by several burnt mounds discovered during the excavation of the Arklow bypass. Burnt mounds are also known as *fulacht fiadh* and have been primarily interpreted as cooking places, although some may also have been used for bathing and industrial activity. These sites commonly date to the Bronze Age, although examples from the Neolithic through to early medieval date are also known.

Two adjacent burnt mounds (WI045-015) were found in the townland of Ballynattin c. 1.5 miles south of Arklow town. Excavation of the site revealed the presence of a wooden platform composed of narrow lengths of wood beneath one of the mounds. A series of wooden stakes were in turn found under the platform. A sample from this wood was dated by dendrochronology and returned a felling date of late 856 BC/early-855 BC (Connolly 1997; Licence No. 97E0128). Another burnt mound (WI045-017) associated with slot trenches, pits and posts was found c.200m to the east in 2003 (Excavation Licence 03E1692) in advance of the development of the Arklow IDA Enterprise Park (Tierney 2006).

A further three adjacent spreads of burnt mound material (WI040-051) were also found in the townland of Kilbride c. 1.6km to northeast Arklow town and excavated by Ó Riordáin (97E0083) on the Arklow bypass road c. 1.6km at Kilbride. The burnt material was present in shallow pits/depressions and the only finds recovered were some pieces of unworked flint and fragments of burnt bone. Two other burnt spreads were also found c.600 northeast (WI040-052) in Kilbride and c.856m (WI040-053) at Coolboy.

Late Bronze Age activity in wider Arklow hinterland is represented by the discover of an assemblage containing a socketed spearhead, two axeheads and a knife, found at Kish, c. 2.8km south of Arklow town (Stout 1994, 21).

Tentative evidence of settlement in the area in the later Iron Age is presented on a map created by the Greek cartographer Ptolemy (roughly AD 90-168) of Ireland. The oldest surviving map

of Ireland, scholars have argued that the coastal area called Manapii is located at what we now know as the town and hinterland of Arklow (Darcy & Flynn 2008, 66).

4.3 Early Medieval period

The medieval period in Ireland began around 500 A.D. This was a time of massive social change with the arrival of Christianity the new and soon to be dominant religion and the development of new political dynasties. At the Iron Age/ early medieval transition Ireland was made up of up to 150 tuatha or tribal units/ petty ruled over by a chief or king. In turn these tribal units formed part of larger territorial units ruled over by over Kings. In the sixth/seventh century Wicklow was ruled by the Dál Messin Corb a leading Leinster dynasty of whom St Kevin of Glendalough was a member. This tribe was later taken over by the Uí Mail who rose to power as the Kings of Leinster having killed Maelodran, a legendary hero of the Dál Messin Corb tribe (Smyth 1994, 48; Corlett 1999, 35).

By the first half of the 5th century AD there was a significant Christian community living in Ireland. In the year 431 A.D the bishop Palladius was sent by Pope Celestine to the “Christians in Ireland” (Edwards 2000,182; Edwards 1990, 99). The arrival of Christianity saw the introduction of writing, and which led to the development of the ogham script. Society began to move away from an oral to a written tradition. As the century progressed the beginnings of extensive missionary activity was evident in Ireland with St Patrick’s arrival to convert the pagan Irish. Archaeological evidence for early medieval Christianity includes cemeteries, hermitages, and pastoral church sites along with large and small monasteries. People also lived in and around the monastic sites, being either monks living within the enclosure or workers on the monastic estate living in the area around the enclosure. These sites are associated with a range of features including the church and graveyard, the dwellings, various ovens/kilns, wells, and mills as well as field systems, although some of these would have been located outside the ecclesiastical enclosures. Settlement during the early medieval period (500-1200 AD) is predominantly represented by circular or sub-circular enclosures called ringforts, with placename elements showing the presence of these sites including rath, lios or dún. These settlement enclosures consisted of a circular area enclosed by a large earth and stone bank with a deep outer ditch. The bank may have been surrounded by a timber palisade or a fence. The main enclosures ranged in diameter from 15m up to 60m and some larger examples had multiple concentric enclosures. Circular houses were located inside the ringfort, which were gradually replaced by rectangular houses. Other settlement site types of this date included crannógs, which were dwellings built in lakes and rivers on natural or man-made islands. Ringforts and crannógs were built by farmers who would have practiced mixed agriculture with livestock and crops.

The nearest ringfort sites are found over 4km to the west at Ballygriffin (WI040-026), Barnacleagh East (WI040-025) and Ecawn (WI045-002). Ecclesiastical sites are also found in the wider hinterland c. 3km north at Templerainy (WI040-017003), c. 4.8 Km to the northwest at Kilcarra West (WI040-019003) and c 7.1km to the west at Mooreshill (WI040-022003).

The golden age of early Christian Ireland was violently interrupted by the Vikings which marked the beginning of two hundred years of intermittent warfare. From 795 A.D. the Norse raiders or Vikings began raiding the east coast of Ireland and founded their first base at Dublin. From there they plundered the countryside especially targeting the monasteries which held great wealth. The invaders secured rivers by establishing bases at its mouths and from there they could penetrate inland (Flynn 2003,14).

Viking activity had begun in Wicklow by 827 AD (Etchingam 1994, 113; AU; AFM). Arklow located on the mouth of a river estuary would have been an attractive location and presumably provided safe harbour to the Vikings during this period. The Avoca estuary was one of the only safe harbours for relatively large boats and small ships on the coast between Wexford and Dublin (Harrison forthcoming).

The medieval harbour was probably located on the east side of the town where there are still quays in the modern town (Bradley & King 1989, 12) The repair of the "haven" (harbour) is among the features mentioned in the 1571 covenant between the earl of Ormond and the townsmen (Curtis 1932-43, v, 212). By the early nineteenth century, the harbour was accessible only to small boats because the passage was sinuous and subject to shifting sands' (Bradley & King 1989, 12; Lewis 1837, Vol. I, 60).

In the year 836 the annals tell us that the 'heathens from Inber Dea' attacked Kildare Cell Dara was plundered by heathens from Inber Dea, and half of the church was burned (AU 836).

Liam Price identified 'Inber Dee' with the estuary of the Avoca River at Arklow. The place name 'Inber Dee', has been argued as relating to Arklow. Smyth (1994, 46) argues that 'A Viking presence at Arklow is first vouched for in the Annal of Ulster in 836, and that Arklow was clearly a port of some significance in pre-Viking times. Also citing the locations mentioned in the 7th century Life of Patrick by Muirchú (ibid).

Other raids by the 'Inber Dee' group are mentioned in the annals at the ecclesiastical site of Glendalough and Clonmore in 834 & 835 (Etchingam 2011, 214). To reach Glendalough the raiding party travelled up the valley of the Avonmore—a march of over twenty miles through

hostile and difficult terrain, attacked unexpectedly from the south-east, and burned half the monastery (Corpus of Electronic Texts). Harrison (forthcoming) argues that the attack at Kildare 'indicated that there was a raiding base or longphort at the site'. However, there is no evidence at present that the 'Inber Dee' base marks the beginning of permanent inhabitation.

The initial phase of raiding of the island of Ireland by the Vikings was followed by a second and most intensive phase of settlement characterised by the foundation of a series of urban centres: Waterford (914), Cork (c. 915), Dublin (917), Wexford (c. 921) and Limerick (922)' (Bradley 1995 12). The Dublin territory, known as Dyflinarskiri, was the most extensive of the settlements. It at one point embraced the modern county of Dublin and parts of Wicklow stretching south along the coast as far as Arklow (ibid).

The strongest evidence to support a Viking settlement at Arklow comes from placenames (Bradley 1995, 12). The placename Arklow is of wholly Scandinavian origin, with 'lo' meaning river meadow and 'Ark' being derived from the Viking name Arknell, i.e. Arknell's Meadow. Harrison (forthcoming) notes that

important is that this is one of only a handful of entirely Norse placenames that have survived to the present day in Ireland. It must reflect the perceived importance of the Avoca estuary as one of the only safe harbours for relatively large boats and small ships on the coast between Wexford and Dublin.

A pagan burial found between Three Mile Water and Arklow during the nineteenth century tentatively implies that at some point a more regular inhabitation of the Arklow–Wicklow region before the second half of the 10th century. The burial produced a pair of brooches and silver chain. The brooches are a well-known Scandinavian tortoise brooch, Norwegian type 51 as classified by Jan Petersen and date to late 9th or early 10th century They are believed to constitute part of the grave goods of a female of Scandinavian birth (O Floinn, Topographical Files NMI; Bradly 1995 11); Coffey 1902, 71-3; Fanning 1970, 78 fn 27; WI031-040). Historical and archaeological evidence cannot as of yet provide 'secure evidence for Scandinavian activity at Arklow in the tenth, eleventh, or twelfth centuries either, and certainly no evidence for the "proto-town"' (Harrison forthcoming). Harrison argues

'If there was a Hiberno-Norse presence at the site [Arklow], it is more to have been something akin to the "way stations" that have been proposed for west Cork and Kerry, most of which have been identified using Scandinavian or Hiberno-Norse topographical place-names similar to that of Arklow itself... Arklow's importance may have been as a

safe harbour for ships travelling between Dublin and Wexford, pausing between tides or due to unfavourable winds, rather than as a trading site in its own right.'

4.4 Late Medieval Period

The twelfth century was a time of political and social change in Ireland. Dermot McMurrrough's desperate invitation of Anglo Normans to Ireland, and their famous landing in Bannow Bay in 1169 AD, along with the subsequent Norman invasion changed the landscape and social organisation of Ireland forever. Following the landing the Norman troops in Wexford the army set out to take Dublin. The High King at the time Ruairi O'Conchúir did not anticipate the route Mac Murrrough and the foreigners would take through the Wicklow and Dublin mountains and the Normans took the city of Dublin within a few days.

Soon afterwards King Henry II granted most of the land in Leinster to the knight Richard fitz Gilbert de Clare, known as Strongbow, but the crown continued to retained control over a narrow strip of land from Wicklow to Arklow.

Harrison(forthcoming) notes that

Henry's retention of these two sites suggests that they had a strategic or economic importance that other locations lacked, and this may suggest an existing, permanent Hiberno-Norse presence at these sites, of unknown form and presumably small size.

Within two decades, King John, Lord of Ireland to an Irish magnate, granted the "castle of Arklow with the vill of Arklow" (*castellum de Arcloh cum villa de Arcloh*) at some point between 1185 and 1189, to his loyal follower, Theobald Walter, first Butler of Ireland (COD i, no.17; Power 1981 fig.2).

In the initial decades after the Norman invasion in 1169 AD a new type of defensive residence called castle was introduced. The first castles were a distinctive type of earth and timber fortifications such as the motte and bailey and ringworks were built. The more substantial stone castles followed in the 13th and 14th centuries. Less elaborate tower houses, the fortified residence of the aristocracy (both old Norman and Gaelic), were erected in the 15th to early 17th centuries A.D.

The wording of the grant made to Theobald Walter (1185-9) suggests that there was probably an earth and timber castle constructed prior to the grants issue (O'Brien 2021).

This castle may have taken the form of a ringwork and the rock cut ditch to the W of the stone castle may have formed part of the defences of this earth and timber castle. (O'Brien 2021).

A stone castle was then constructed by Theobald Walter and it may have followed the outline of the earlier ringwork castle. The Anglo-Normans were an important influence in the creation of an urban network in medieval Ireland. The grant is vague in detail as to the type of settlement that existed at the time. It was situated at the foot of a hill along the south bank of the river Avoca (Bradley & King 1989).

Like the majority of medieval towns, it was home to a number of religious houses. Theobald Walter made a grant of land to the Cistercians of Furness. The monks were had arrived in Arklow by the year 1204 however by 1205 they had moved to a more suitable site also granted to them by Theobald Walters at Abington Co Limerick (LI014-014002). Theobald was later buried at Abington in 1206 (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 126). The site of the Cistercian abbey (WI040-029004) is thought to be located on low-lying marshy ground on the east side of the Arklow bridge. A church site has been identified by O'Curry of the Ordnance Survey and Ronan with the site of the Cistercian Abbey.

The Ordnance Survey Letters of Wicklow noted that

There is an old abbey and extensive burial ground in this town to which the inhabitants continue to give the name of the Abbey, though not a vestige of the building remains, nor is the site distinguishable from the neighbouring grounds (Herity 2013, 115).

Ronan in the early twentieth century recorded that

an ancient graveyard with the site of a church was found on the north side of the Bridge of Arklow in a sandbank in Ferrybank townland in this [Kilbride] parish. Several graves containing skeletons were found here, which were covered with large flags, the sides being built with stones of various sizes and forms. The surface of the place is still covered over with human bones. A tombstone now lying at Lord Wicklow's farmhouse [Sheldon Abbey] was found here a few years ago which is 6 feet long, 2 feet broad at one end and 1 foot 8 inches at the other and 7 inches thick

in the centre along the whole length, whilst the edges on each side are but 3 inches in thickness (Ronan 1927, 103-4, fn, 9).

In 1264 Thomas Theobald FitzWalter a descendant of Theobald Walter founded 'The Friary of the Holy Cross' a house of Dominican friars (WI040-029001) at Arklow. The Dominicans were a preaching order trained to orate in the vernacular language. The abbey was located on the south side of Main Street and the extent of its lands are probably outlined by the townland of Abbeylands. Thomas Theobald FitzWalter was buried here in 1285. In 1414 a papal indulgence was granted to the friary for the conservation of the church (CPL, 461).

The friary was dissolved in 1539 and in 1541 the crown granted a lease of the monastic buildings and lands to Edmund Duffy 'for 21 years, at a rent of 20s' (Nicholls 1994, 22). In 1544 the friary lands were granted to John Travers of Dublin, esq., at a smaller rent. (Nicholls 1994, 46; Gwynn & Hadcock 1988, 221). There are no upstanding remains of the friary although portions of the church and claustral buildings survived into the mid-18th century (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 221). The site of the friary is marked by a park. Vestige of earlier times are represented by a collection of 18th- and 19th-century headstones, including samples by Denis Cullen and James Byrne arranged around the perimeter of the high-walled square graveyard.

The parish church was central part of life in a medieval town. The medieval parish church at Arklow was located on the north side of Main Street. The church was dedicated to St Mary a common Anglo-Norman dedication. The parish of Arklow was part of the diocese of Dublin. One of the earliest references to St Mary's church dates to 1279 when the church was held by 'Fremund called Lebrun, papal chaplain and the dean and chapter of St Patrick's elected Master William de Conreria, papal chaplain' (CPL, 457). The church was also recorded in 1283 in the Calendar of Ormond Deeds (COD) and in 1289 in the Calendar Document of Ireland (CDI). The 1302-06 the Ecclesiastical taxation of the bishopric of Dublin valued St Mary's church, in the Deanery of Arklow, at £4 per annum with the tenth value of 8s. (Cal. doc. Ire., 241). The Visitation of Dublin Diocese in 1630 described the site as

The church of Arklow wants some covering. The chancel is in good repair, only it wants ornaments within. The great tithes are impropriated, worth about £40 per annum. Mr Balthazar Fox is vicar there, whose vicarage is set for £17 per annum, out of which he allows to one Nicholas Whyte, curate there, £5 sterling per annum (Anon. 1869, 163).

Price (1927, 104) argues that the town was a successful centre of trade

besides, as, in the vicinity at Killahurler was Christ Church Wood, belonging to the Cathedral of Dublin, and a very useful source for the supply of timber, we find constant shipments of beams from the " Bar Foot and Salmon Pool " of Arklow in the middle ages; and as we find the chaplains of Arklow, with the Dominicans, partaking of oysters and salmon with the Prior of Christ Church in the prior's chamber, in the year 1339.

In 1377 Maurice Tanner a burgess of Arklow lost a ship bringing supplies to Wicklow. In 1402 Roger Grymston of Dublin received a licence to trade between Dublin and Arklow (Price 1937, 55).

By the 13th century Arklow possessed a stone castle (WI040-029002). Although in a ruinous condition it is one of the only medieval buildings to survive above ground. The castle was strategically located on high ground at the west end of the town and enjoyed a vista that overlooked the river (Bradley & King 1989). Its current physical condition is described in detail in Section 5 of this report.

The founders of the castle Fitzwalter's held the position of chief Butler to the Monarch and because of this title, they slowly adopted the name Butler as a surname. The title meant that if the king was to visit Ireland, the Chief Butler had to make sure there was plenty of food and drink ready for him and his retinue. As the chief Butlers the Fitzwalter's/Butlers were special privilege known as the Prisage of Wine. They were entitled about 15% of all the wine that was imported to Ireland.

From around 1272 territorial disputes began to take place with the Gaelic aristocracy and the Anglo Normans' we get the first mention of the fighting in the mountains of Wicklow, which continued for two and a half centuries or more.

The Butlers were a powerful family and also held estates in Lands Meath, Tipperary, Wexford. By the 14th century the Butlers moved their centre of operations to Kilkenny, and Kilkenny Castle becoming their main home. They appointed caretakers to look after their affairs in Arklow, including the castle. The sporadic accounts of Arklow castle show it was no stranger to conflict. In 1316 during the first stage of Bruce's expedition to Ireland, the Irish burned Arklow to the ground (Anal. Hib, 69). Some months later the Irish were defeated on the 16th of April by Edward le Boteler (Lewis 1837 vi, 59).

Decades later Arklow came under pressure from the native Irish. In 1331 the castle (WI040-029002) the castle was captured by the O'Tooles but was retaken by Lord de Birmingham; and in the year following it was again taken by the Irish, who were finally repulsed by the Justiciary Sir Anthony Lucy, who repaired the fortifications and strengthened the garrison (Anal. Hib, 121,125; Lewis 1837 vi, 59; Price 1937, 54). The Justiciary 'placed a Constable, EMas de Ashbourne, in charge of it; and in 1335 another Government official, Gilbert de Moenes, was Constable' (Price 1937, 54). By 1359 the castle was back in control of the Butler and Thomas Talbot, an officer of the Earl of Ormond, was the Constable was the Constable (ibid). Despite the resurgence of the Gaelic power within Wicklow, Arklow town managed to be retaining its independence.

Sometime after 1416, the Manor of Arklow came into the control of the MacMurrough Kings of Leinster, possibly after the death of the 4th Earl of Ormond in 1452. In 1525, Muiris Kavanagh (McMurrough, King of Leinster 1522-31) returned the manor and castle of Arklow and its lands to his nephew Piers Butler, the 8th Earl of Ormond (ARUP 2013, 29).

In the 16th century the Butlers were reasserting their interests in the manor of Arklow. According to Price (1936, 52) the sixteenth century manor had reduced in size from its foundation. Now consisting of

the lands lying between the boundary of County Wexford and the line of the Arklow river from Arklow almost to Aughrim, and of a triangular piece of land, the parish of Kilbride, on the north side of that river from Arklow almost to Aughrim, and of a triangular piece of land, the parish of Kilbride, on the north side of that river.

In the year 1543 the castle and manor were in the possession of John Travers, Master of the King's Ordnance in Ireland. It was leased to him from Sir James Butler Earl of Ormond with the conditions that he reassert and forcibly, if necessary, the old Butler claims to these lands.

shall defend the town, manor, lordship and castle of Arklow which he holds at Present by lease for a term of years of said Earl, and shall also do the best he can to win such lordships, meases, lands, tenements, etc., belonging to said lordship, etc., or to any part Of the Earl's inheritance in Leinster from the possession of the Irish withholding the same without lawful or just title, said Earl now grants to John an annuity of £13 6s 8d Irish out of the rents, issues and profits of said lordship, to have

and to hold to said John as long as he remains the Earl's tenant of that lordship (COD iv, 256-7 also see COD ii, 256).

A covenant between the earl of Ormond and the burgesses of Arklow in 1571 suggests that the town was in a state of dilapidation, and the castle, harbour and defences are specifically mentioned as being in poor condition (COD v, 211).

There is no definitive evidence to suggest that the town defences were ever built, and today there is no surviving upstanding remains visible within the town. The alignment and length of the long boundary, however, that delimits the plots on the south side of Main Street suggests that some form of defence probably existed, possibly an earthen rampart and fosse (Courney & Deery 2020, 14).

A rare reference to the physical shape of the castle is found in Calendar Ormond Deeds in 1594 when the 'great hall of the castle of Arklow' was noted. The hall was the venue for a legal dispute

several complaints exhibited by sundry of the inhabitants within the lordship of Arklow unto the Earl of Ormond as concerning several wrongs, injuries and other bad dealings used by said inhabitants, very pernicious and hurtful among themselves, whereby great discontentment and disquietness ensued thereof, for want of due course to be taken for redress of such wrongs and other indirect dealings as are continually growing betwixt said inhabitants as well for titles of land, actions of debt, as otherwise/ thereupon said Earl having a circumspect care of said inhabitants, being his tenants, directed unto us his pleasure, willing us, James Grace of Rathville in county Carlow, Edmond Gall and Piers McWilliam of county Kilkenny, to repair to the lordship of Arklow, calling before us such controversies as were depending betwixt the inhabitants' (COD vi, no. 7, 8-9).

In 1601 a lease between Thomas, Earl of Ormond and Captain Laurence Esmond mentions 'a weir upon the river of Arklow' (COD vi, no. 7, 9). The terms of his lease note that Captain Laurence Esmond,

'shall further repair the wall or bawn of said manor where ruined and shall buttress it with lime and stone within two years' (ibid., 10).

4.5 Post Medieval Period

The 17th century was a time of political upheaval in Ireland. The Battle of Kinsale in 1603 which resulted in the Flight of the Earls in 1607 saw the final chapter in the old Gaelic way of life. In 1606 the territory we now know as Wicklow was formally drawn up and it became the last county formed in Ireland. Before this point the lands around Arklow were in Co Carlow. By the final formation of its county boundaries in 1606, the last county in Ireland to be formed.

The 1640s was a particularly turbulent decade which saw the castle at Arklow once again the focus of conflict. By 1640 AD Catholics owned less than half the land in the county through a policy of plantation. The civil war in England between royalists and parliamentarians spread to Scotland, Wales and Ireland. Rebellion broke out in 1641 when the old Anglo-Normans joined forces with the Irish in defence of their common Catholic religion. The head of the royalist faction in Ireland was James Butler, earl of Ormond. In 1641 both the O'Brynes and the O'Tooles revolted. The town of Arklow remained loyal to the crown during the nine years' war, and it was a supporter of the confederate cause between 1641 and 1649.

The parliamentarians, latterly under Oliver Cromwell, proved victorious and, although the civil war ended in England in 1649, Cromwell's pursuit of royalists in Ireland, especially Catholic royalists, had long lasting consequences for landownership and governance in Ireland.

On 15th August 1649 Oliver Cromwell, Lord Lieutenant and Commander of the Parliamentary Army in Ireland, landed at Dublin. In September he besieged and captured Drogheda before turned his attention southwards moving down into Wicklow and on to Wexford. The Parliamentary armies sacked the castle at Killincarrig on 7th September and on 28th September Arklow fell after a brief battle (Murphy 1885, 141). A garrison was installed and attacked and killed by the O'Toole's and the O'Byrne's, about three months later. Arklow was under siege for around 8 weeks until Colonel Hewson arrived from Dublin with 1,000 horse and foot men to relieve the town, prompting the attackers to retreat. An attempt to capture the town in January 1650 was again foiled by Captain Barrington and the castle garrison (ibid). Two months later, Cromwell ordered the castle's destruction, leaving just one badly damaged circular tower and part of the curtain wall, which are present today.

Two years later, in 1652, the Act of Settlement was enacted. The Act of Settlement allowed Cromwell to reward the loyalty of his troops with land owned by the defeated royalist. This resulted in most of the Butler families, who followed the Catholic faith being dispossessed of their ancestral lands and transplanted to other counties. The incumbent Earl of Ormond (James Butler, 12th Earl of Ormond) who a protestant, went into exile with Charles II during

the Interregnum under Cromwell, and with the king's restoration in 1660 the Earl was rewarded with a dukedom and became Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. With his lands restored 'The Manor of Arklow' was again back into the hands of the Ormond's.

Ormonde finally disposed of his connection with Arklow through a series of property transfers in the 18th century which heralded a new wave of erecting public buildings in the town. The first half of the 18th century witnessed the establishment of a network of British military barracks. In many cases – including Arklow – these barracks were constructed at the most strategic location available and if this was occupied by a derelict castle, then it was demolished, and its rubble used in the new construction.

The barracks dates to the earliest phase of barrack building in 18th century Ireland (McGrath 2021). It is mentioned in 1701 and Major Clapham, Lieutenant Bates, and Ensign Webb of the 24th Regiment of Foot were stationed at Arklow in 1734. The George II half penny which was retrieved dates to 1746 during the phase of activity associated with the use of the barracks. Other items including the Onion bottle also appear to date this this era, where Arklow was finally emerged from the medieval into the early modern age.

4.6 Historical Cartographic and Photographic Analysis

4.7 Cartographic Analysis

Analysis of historic mapping shows the human impact on the landscape and its evolving nature over clearly defined time intervals. The comparison of editions of historic maps can show how some landscape features have been created, altered, or removed over a period of time. The following paragraphs detail all the maps and photographs that specifically relate to Arklow Castle.

At the time of the Down Survey Map 1655-57 the castle and Dominican Friary are depicted along with a further seven buildings. Abbeyland is also labelled (Figure 1).

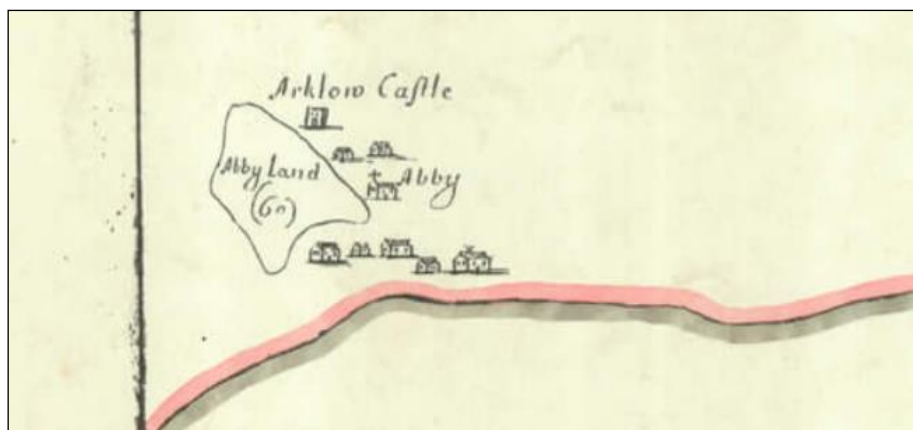


Figure 1: Down Survey Map 1654 Barony of Arklow.

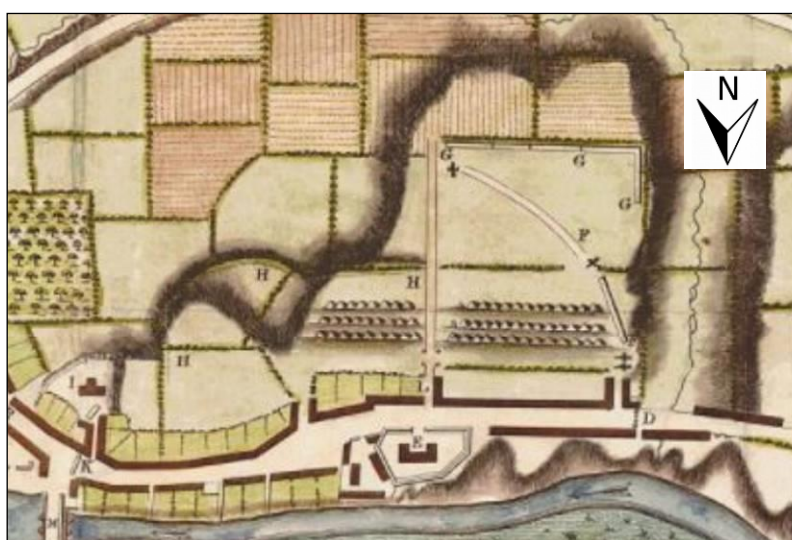


Figure 2: Plan of the town of Arklow 1798.

The topography of steep rock outcrops and the river flowing to the north of the castle is clearly depicted on the 1798 map of Arklow (Figure 2). The barracks is depicted within an irregular shaped enclosure. The eastern and northern curtain wall survives today and this map most likely represents the original line of the wall. There are buildings at the eastern end of the wall where the courthouse now stands. Two of these buildings abut the curtain wall.

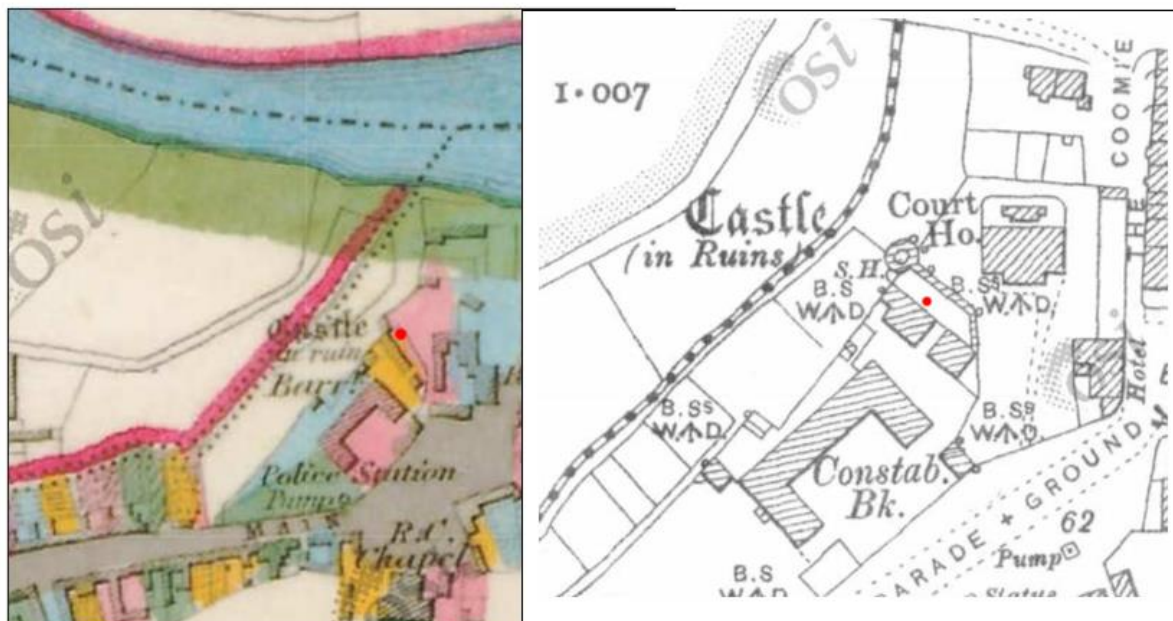


Figure 3: First Edition Map 1839 (left) and third edition map 1909 (right), red dot marks the location of the Arklow castle (WI040-029002).

At the time of the first edition map, the castle wall is illustrated although the castle itself is marked as 'in ruins'. There are numerous buildings within the vicinity of the castle including the barracks. After the 1830s this was the R.I.C. police station. The wall of the castle is curved and this line may preserve the original line of the curtain wall surrounding the castle. The castle is in the townland of Arklow with the stream indicated as a dotted line marking the townland boundary between Yardland and Arklow. The Avoca River is also a parish boundary between Kilbride and Arklow which indicates that it may date to the early Christian period. At the time of the third edition map in 1909, the castle is still shown as 'in ruins'. The curtain wall is still depicted and the Constabulary barracks is labelled.

Interestingly, the ordnance survey bench markers are identified by small circles and all four these are still visible today carved into sandstone at the base of the tower and curtain wall of the castle (Plate 2).

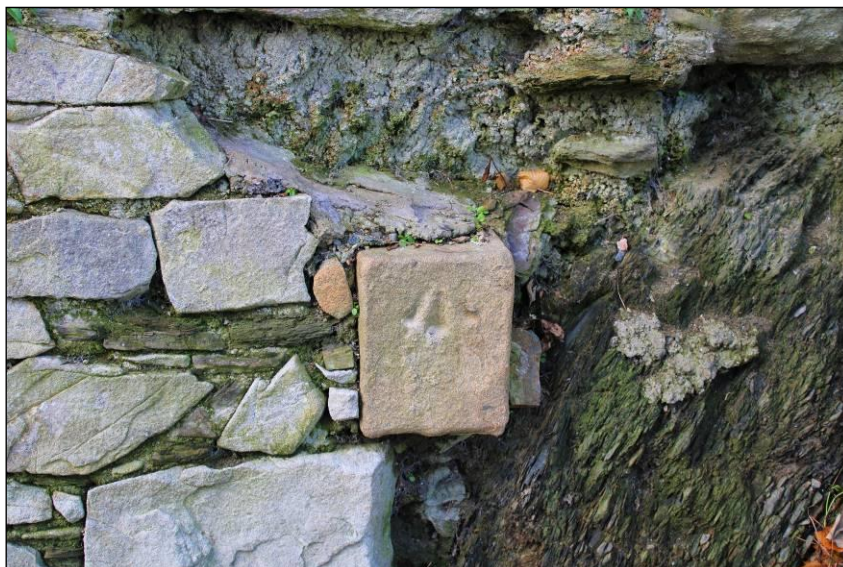


Plate 2: Ordnance survey benchmark on eastern elevation of curtain wall.



Figure 4: 1886 Map of Arklow Scale 1:500.

The 1886 map illustrates the castle and its surrounds in greater detail. The castle is depicted along with two summer houses and a sun dial along the northern boundary of the curtain wall. At the location of the sun dial (red arrow) is a rectangular building which is still extant today. Several buildings are noted within the grounds of the barracks including a pump (Figure 4).

A plan of the barracks from 1869/1870 and it clearly illustrates the tower and a building/sheds which adjoins the east wall adjacent and to the tower. This area adjacent the tower is labelled

a 'Fuel yard' (Figure 5). There is evidence of a wall at this location inside the grounds of the castle (Plates 23 and 28).

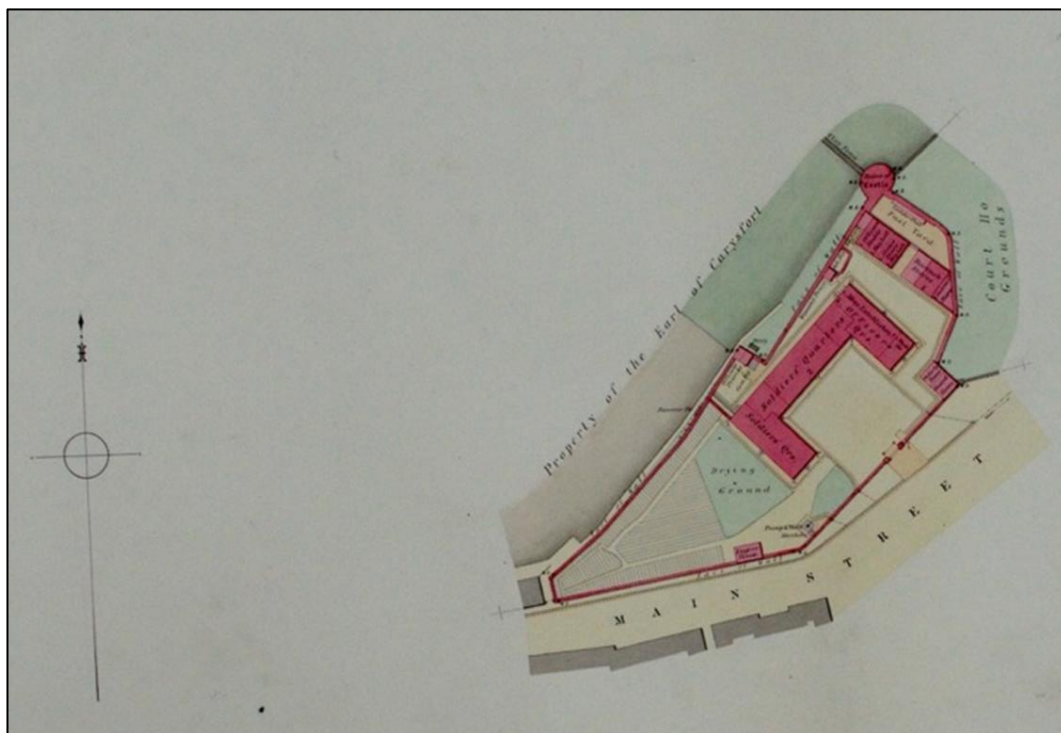


Figure 5: Plan of the barracks 1869/1870 (National Archives, London, WO 78/4387).

4.8 Illustrations and historic photographs of Arklow.

Analysis of historic photographs and illustrations shows the human impact on the landscape and its evolving nature over clearly defined time intervals. The comparison of photos and illustrations can show how some landscape features have been created, altered, or removed over a period of time. This analysis proved especially beneficial in terms of the castle where we were able to locate with certainty towers which are no longer extant thus enabling us to recreate a picture of what Arklow Castle was like in the 13th century.



Plate 3: Prospect of Arklow in the County of Wicklow, King George III Topographical Collection c1800 (British Library).

The earliest known illustration is from circa 1800, however this may be much earlier as the barracks was built in the grounds of the castle by 1720 and it is not depicted on this illustration (Plate 3). The view is drawn facing southwest. The Avoca River is depicted along with the Dominican Abbey which is in ruins. The fact that no houses are shown east (left) of the abbey also suggests a much earlier date. The north-eastern tower of the castle is still extant. A building is depicted to the foreground adjoining the curtain wall. It may be possible that this may be the gate tower and entrance to the castle. This image is reminiscent of the gate tower entrance to Nenagh Castle depicted below.



Plate 4: Close up of plate 5.



Plate 5: Arklow Castle 1794 by Francis Grose.

The above illustration depicts Arklow Castle in 1794 and is facing southwest (Plate 5). It is interesting in that the possible garderobe/machicolation is depicted along with the ground, first floor and remains of the second floor. Two openings which may indicate windows are depicted in the northern curtain wall. A square structure is visible also along with the barracks. The buildings which adjoined the curtain wall visible in plates 6 and 8 are no longer extant however a small house is depicted adjoining the tower.

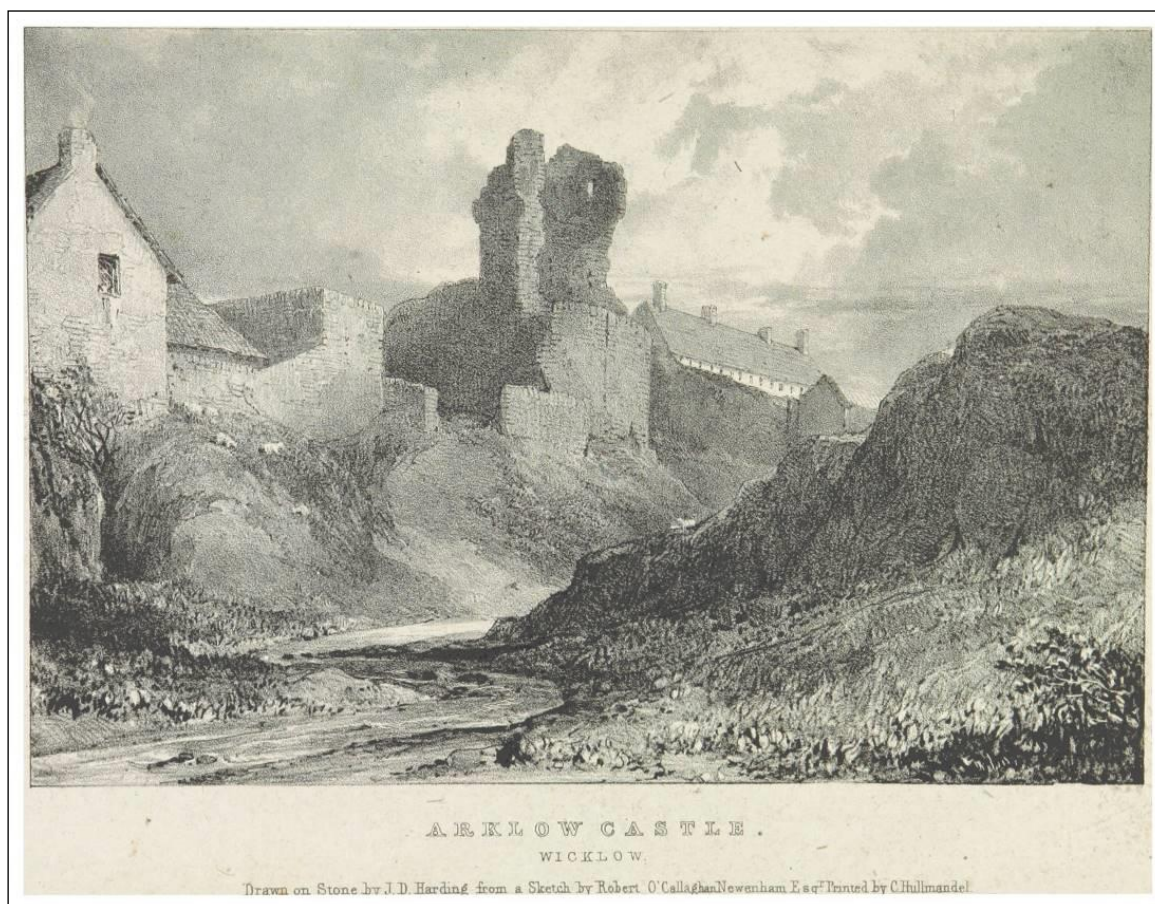


Plate 6: This image was inserted by Miss Hammill in the manuscript diary of her travels in Wales and Ireland (Hammill, 1828-1829).

There are a number of changes between 1794 and 1828-1829, the small, thatched cottage adjoining the castle tower is no longer extant and a low curved wall which leads from the river to the castle has been constructed. A large house with an extension to the rear enclosed by a thick high wall has been built to the east of the tower.



Plate 7: Original illustration from *British Battles on Land and Sea* by Cassell, Petter, Galpin & Company circa 1880.

The above illustration circa 1880 presents a different view to the previous illustrations in that it faces northeast (Plate 7). The remains of two towers are visible along with the northeast corner tower which is still extant. The parish church of Saint Mary's is also depicted.



Plate 8: 1899 taken from newly completed St Saviour's church.

The above photo depicts the barracks in the grounds of the castle along with the north-eastern tower (Plate 8). The barracks was built in about 1720 and was in use by British military, Arklow Yeomanry and from the 1830's by the R.I.C until its destruction in 1922.

It is notable that the walls at the entrance to the barracks have clearly been rebuilt they are straight and without vegetation. A rectangular structure whose function is unclear is located along the length of this newly constructed wall and whether it predates the wall or is contemporary is unclear. The red arrow illustrates a curve in the wall, and it may be the remains of the original curtain wall of the castle. This section of wall with its dense vegetation does not appear to be as newly constructed as the opposite wall which faces onto Parade Ground.



Plate 9: Ormond Castle, Arklow, Co Wicklow, Ireland postcard from the Milton series old photograph 1909.

The above photo depicts the fourth story of the tower which is no longer extant (Plate 9). A possible garderobe/machicolation is clearly visible built onto the north facing tower wall, only fragments of this structure survive today. A sallyport, window and possible arrow slit are visible to the west of the tower which is covered in ivy today. The barracks is visible in the grounds of the castle.

On the following pages are a series of images of the castle and town of Arklow.



Plate 10: Engraving from drawings by D. M'Clise or T. Creswick in 'Ireland Picturesque and Romantic' Leitch Ritchie. 1837.



Plate 11: Extract from a Lawrence collection photo showing the barracks c 1890-1911.

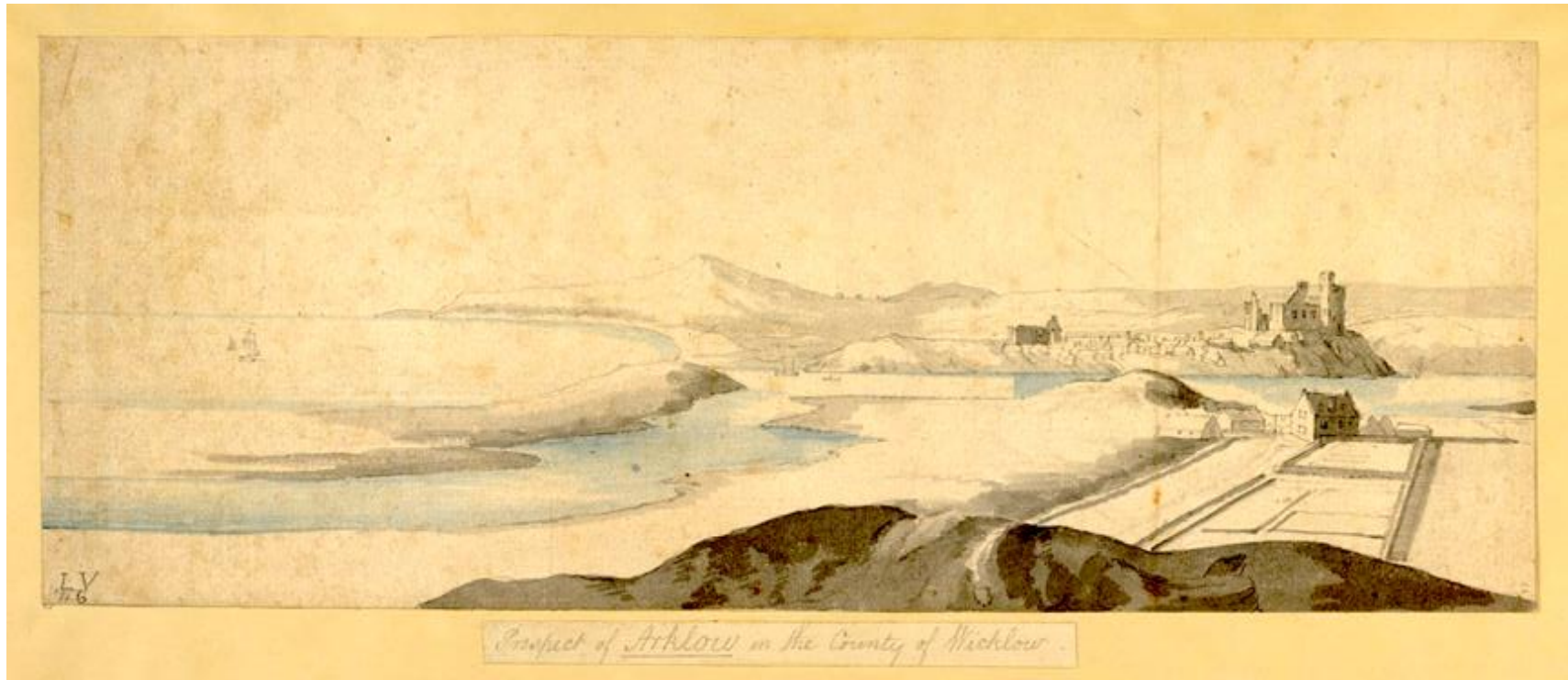


Plate 12: 'Prospect of Arklow in the county of Wicklow' Artist unknown. Uncertain date. Inscribed 'L.V. 46' - possibly 1846.

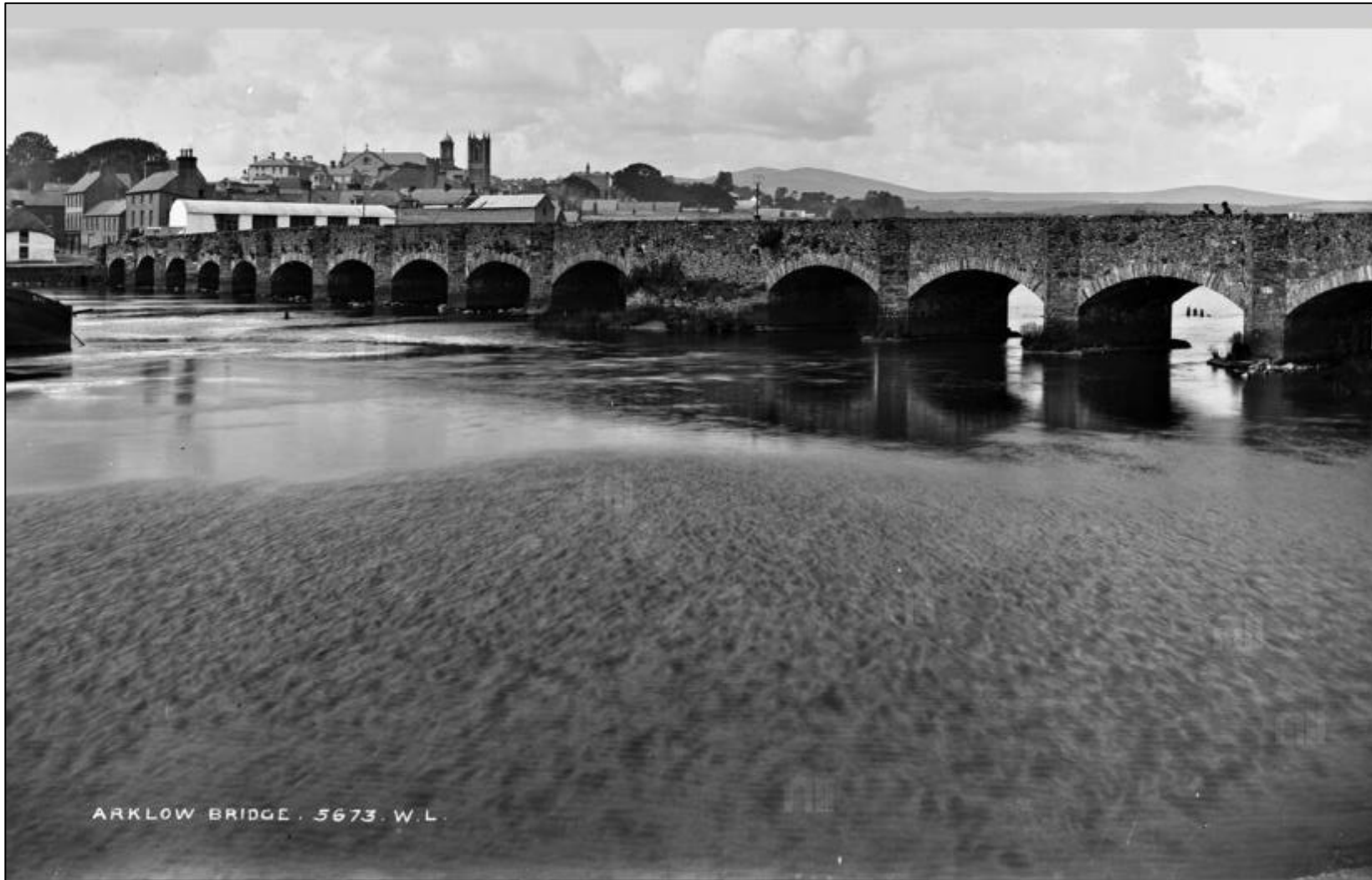


Plate 13: Lawrence collection 1890 – 1911 (NLI) The castle is visible over the blind arch.



Plate 14: Lawrence collection 1890 – 1911 (NLI) The castle is visible top centre.

5. Arklow Castle Current Condition

After the Anglo Norman invasion in 1169, the new settlers began the construction of permanent stone castles to ensure they held their positions and extended their control. The earliest thirteenth century, fortifications consisted of simple stone-built keeps with strong surrounding curtain walls and moats. The development of flanking towers to defend the weakest parts of the castle soon followed, as did the construction of a barbican at the main entrance. The size and layout of these castles varied and was dependant on a number of factors including the layout of the site, labour, raw materials and money.

The history of Arklow castle is discussed in greater detail in section four of this report. In summary, from The Ormonde Deeds we know that Theobald Walter (often referred to as Fitzwalter) was given the 'castle and vill' of Arklow in 1185 along with other grants of land in Munster by Prince John who later became King John. Theobald was hereditary butler of the king of England and was appointed chief butler of Ireland in 1192 (Corlett, 2020). Nenagh Castle was constructed by Theobald Fitzwalter at roughly the same time as Arklow around 1200. Theobald however died in 1206 at Arklow Castle but chose to be buried in the Cistercian abbey he founded at Owey near the village of Abington in Limerick 32km southeast of Nenagh Castle. It was his great grandson Theobald Fitzwalter IV that replaced the earlier structure at Arklow with a stone fortress no later than the 1280's. Theobald died in 1285 and was buried in the Dominican Friary (Gwynn and Haddock 1970, 221).

Nenagh Castle has been greatly restored and a large cylindrical keep which formed part of the perimeter of the fortress along with the gate tower and adjoining hall is still extant. Nenagh was constructed in phases in the thirteenth century and was the main seat of the Butlers until they moved to Kilkenny Castle in the fourteenth century.

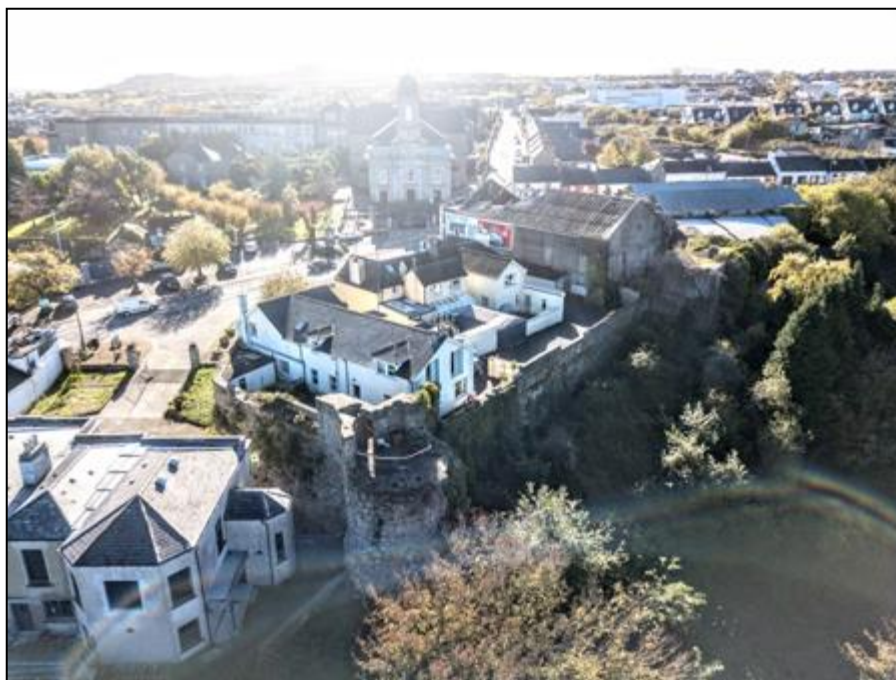


Plate 15: View of tower and castle walls direction facing southwest.

What remains of Arklow Castle is situated on the edge of a steep rocky outcrop in an area known as 'The Alps' (Plate 15 & Figure 6). Today the castle wall and tower are bound to the east by the Courthouse and its grounds, to the north by a steep drop towards Coomie Lane and the Avoca River and to the west and within the grounds of the castle by St Anne's a two storey dwelling house. Parade Ground bounds the site to the south. The house which is located within the grounds of the castle wall is located at 19.8m OD and the courthouse is at 13.8m OD.

The main length of curtain wall that survives is the northeastern elevation which is curved (L c. 32m; H 4-8m) and a circular corner tower (external diameter c 5m, H 7.46m) Its construction comprises randomly coursed sandstone. This circular tower would have defended the north facing section of the castle. The curtain wall which runs northeast to southwest from the tower has a sallyport gateway and a small window which although not visible today due to the vegetation is depicted on historic photos and illustrations. This tower and the north-east-to-south-west facing curtain wall overlook what was once a stream which bounded the castle to the north and may have been used for defensive purposes acting as a wet moat.

The ground level at this location is 10m below the castle tower. Based on the existing contours of the ground, the stream may have been up to 8m in width. It is now a culverted trickle which still flows into the Avoca River adjacent to the castle (Plate 16).



Figure 6: Arklow tower and curtain wall.



Plate 16: View of castle tower and location of old stream bed and rock outcrop facing southwest.

The natural terrain to the northwest of the castle comprising steep outcrops of slate bedrock may have acted as natural defensive banks and ditches. These bedrock outcrops are up to 2m in height and Coomie Lane has been cut through a section this bedrock at the Avoca River (Plate 17). The bedrock is comprised of highly fractured slate of the Ordovician Kilmacrea Formation and the underlying bedrock is visible beneath the curtain wall (ARUP, 2019).



Plate 17: Coomie Lane cut through bedrock outcrops either side of laneway.



Plate 18: Detail showing extracted bedrock used to construct a drystone wall at the side of the rock-cut ditch west of the castle. It is likely that this feature is contemporary with the construction of the castle (photo: Ivor Kenny).

The two main elements of the castle which survive are the curtain wall and the tower which shall be discussed in the following paragraphs. Engineering reports completed by ARUP and Infrastruct were examined as part of this assessment.

5.1 Curtain wall

The northeast facing section of curtain wall has a surviving length of 32m. It runs southeast from the tower for a distance of 15m before curving gently south for a distance of 17m. The curtain wall which runs southwest from the tower has been repaired and rebuilt in recent years in sections where it collapsed into the nearly vertical drop where the stream once ran. This wall presumably follows the line of the original curtain wall and as previously discussed

historic photographs and drawings depict a sallyport and possible window in close proximity to the tower.

A geophysical survey was completed in 2019 in the grounds of St Annes house on the curtain wall and in the grounds adjacent the Courthouse. Although this was for engineering purposes the results are useful for the purpose of this report (ARUP, 2019).



Plate 19: Eastern elevation of curtain wall photo taken facing northwest.

The eastern section of curtain wall increases in height from 3.9m at its southeastern end to 5.45m at the northern end adjacent to the tower (Plates 19 and 20). The tower has a surviving height of 7.46m. The wall is constructed with randomly coursed rubble which has evidence of cracking, loss of pointing and loose stones throughout.

A geophysical survey on the castle wall indicates that the wall is 0.60m-1.2m in thickness (ARUP, 2019, p. 10). The interior of the castle where St Anne's is located comprises made up ground sitting on bedrock which is up to 4m in depth. This indicates that the original ground level may have been similar to the level at the courthouse in antiquity. This build up of material may be the result of previous phases of occupation and highlights the potential depth of stratigraphy that may survive within the interior of the castle.

Whilst the upstanding remains comprise two sections of the curtain wall and the tower it is possible to understand the construction sequence of the castle which appears to have undergone modifications or repairs during its lifespan.

The earliest part is the base of the round tower and the area immediately to its southeast which comprises the ground floor level of the tower (Plate 20). The first floor of the round tower contains a window missing its lintels and which today is covered with iron bars. This floor was accessed and its interior is discussed in the following sections of this report which describes the interior of the tower.

Two possible arrow slits with sandstone jambs are visible at the first floor level of the eastern curtain wall which runs southeast and adjoins the tower. These arrowslits are accessed by a blocked intra-mural passage which runs southeast from the tower. It not possible to determine

their depth given the fact that a modern retaining wall in the grounds of Saint Annes conceals these features. These arrow slits would have been used to defend the castle. Such slits were very narrow on the outside but wider inside (splayed) to provide archers with a field of fire out of the slit while providing protection from arrows fired from outside. The arrow slit adjacent to the tower measures 0.95m in height and has an opening 0.04m in width (Plates 20-22). The second arrow slit to the south also with sandstone jambs measures 0.90m in height, has an opening of 0.10m in width (Plate 20 and 23). It appears to be splayed and has a visible depth of 0.18.

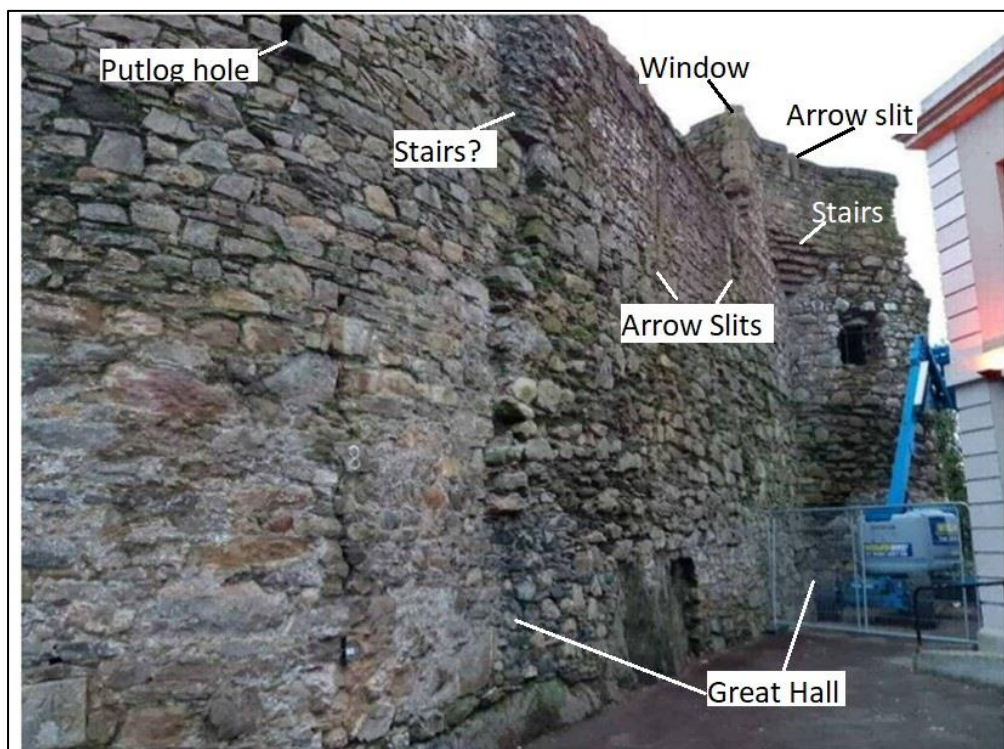


Plate 20: East facing elevation of curtain wall annotated with phases and architectural details (Infrastruct Asset Management Services Ltd, 2019).



Plate 21: Arrow slits on east facing elevation- arrow slit on right of photo is adjacent to the tower.

This first floor was accessed for the purpose of this report, also during the structural survey and previously in the 1980's by locals.



Plate 22: Arrow slit closest the tower.



Plate 23: Most southerly arrow slit.

A great deal of the rear western face of the castle wall which faces into St Anne's has been built up with modern retaining walls thus concealing the arrow slits (Plate 24).



Plate 24: Modern walls built up against section of wall containing arrow slits in the grounds of St Anne's facing east, note original castle wall protruding from cement at centre of photograph.

However, a small unbuilt section survives and indicates that a wall was running west at the first floor level just south of the location of the arrow slits. This indicates that this may have been a structure/hall or building which is collapsing to the east as is evidenced by the area of disturbance and bulge in the wall at this point (Plate 25). This however may related to buildings adjacent to the 'Fuel Yard' as depicted on the Plan of the Barracks from 1869/1870 (Figure 5).



Plate 25: Left photo, west facing section of wall which appears to run west and note the abutting curtain wall to right. Right photo, northeast facing section of wall note bulge in masonry at this point.

It would appear that the wall may have run down to the rock upon which it was built given how it is bulging outwards at this point (Plate 20). The curtain wall to the south appears to have been built up against this possible wall/structure.

A large window with cut sandstone jambs and glazing-bar holes indicates that there was a second floor to this possible structure/hall (Plates 27). The widow is 1.75m in high and at least two masons marks are visible as simple crosses on this window. Mason marks were used by stonemasons to mark their work for payment purposes. They consist of various simple motifs and designs that could be cut with a chisel or punch. As is the case at Arklow they are usually found on dressed masonry blocks and were either incised or carved in relief. There are two masons marks visible on the window jabs in Arklow, both comprise a simple punched cross,

however the mark at the bottom of the window is better executed (Plates 26-28). It is in the centre of the sandstone block which is 0.18m wide at this point.



Plate 26: Masons mark at base of window.



Plate 27: Sandstone window with glazing bar holes second floor.



Plate 28: Masons marks, red arrow marks lightly punched mark which appears to have been replaced with more definite mark at base of the window.

The stretch of curtain wall to the south of the possible structure appears to have been built in two phases (Plate 29). A single putlog hole is visible in the curve of the wall just below the second phase of construction (Plate 30). It comprises a rectangular hole with a flat slate stone protruding from the base of the hole. In examples at Nenagh Castle this type of feature is built into the wall on stairwells to provide light. It is also possible that further examples existed further up along the curtain wall which is no longer standing. .



Plate 29: Curtain wall note two phases of construction. The top of the first phase is capped with flat slate stones.



Plate 30: Putlog hole on northeastern elevation of curtain wall.

5.2 Tower Exterior

There is only one surviving tower at the northeast corner of Arklow Castle (Plate 31). This high-altitude structure has panoramic views to the north, east and west.

The tower has a surviving height of three floors but it was originally higher. Its construction comprises randomly coursed sandstone. It has an external diameter of 5m at on the second floor and a surviving height of 7.46m.

The remains of a machilication is visible on the north facing section of the tower which may have housed a garderobe (Plate 31). The toilets of a castle were usually built into the walls so that they projected out on corbels and any waste fell below and into the castle moat. A well preserved example of a machilication which housed a garderobe is to be seen at Nenagh Castle (Plates 31).

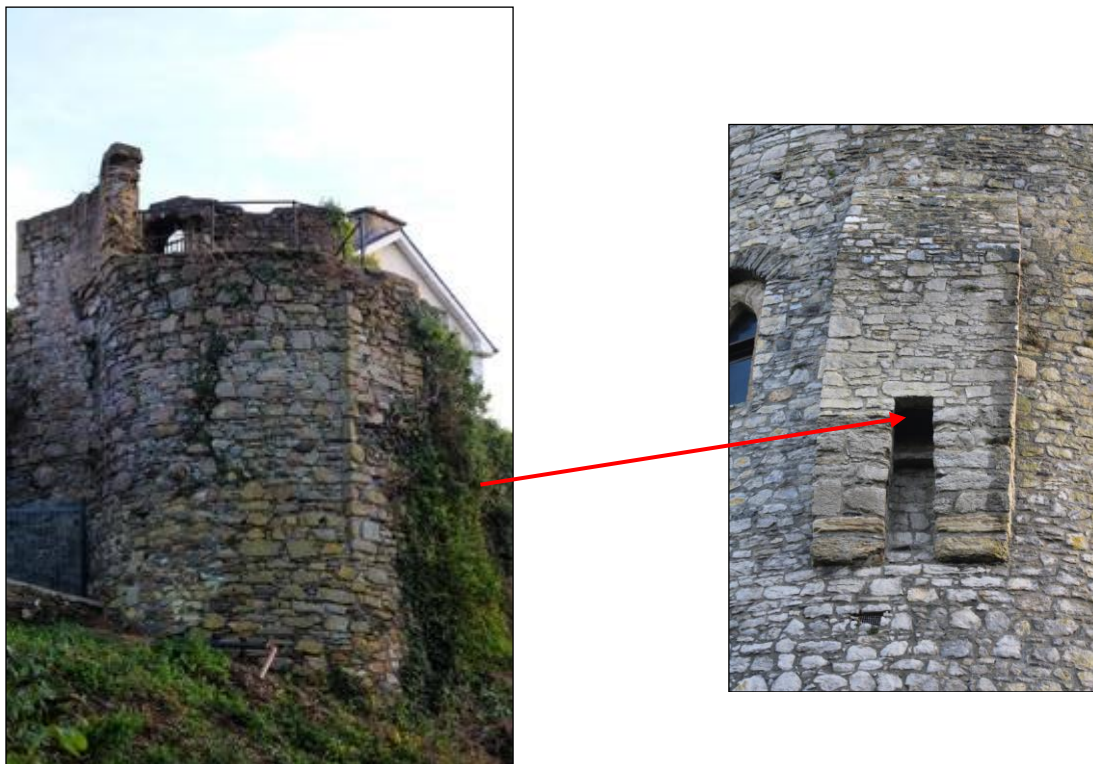


Plate 31: Tower at Arklow Castle photo facing southwest and example of machicolation containing garderobe at Nenagh Castle.

Other features visible on the exterior of the tower include a sandstone splayed arrow slit which is located on the spiral stone staircase which connects the second to the no longer extant third floor (Plates 32 and 33).

The surviving height of the splayed arrow slit with sandstone jambs is 0.73m in height and it is has a narrow opening of 0.12m in width (Plate 33). It is interesting to note that the base of this arrow slit is rounded which would have provided greater maneuverability of the bow.

There is also an opening in the tower which faces southeast and evidence of repairs to the base of the tower perhaps caused by later structures which lay up against the wall and are visible in historic photographs. An illustration from the British Library depicts the possible 'Great Hall' (Plates 4 and 12).



Plate 32: First and second storey of tower with arrow slit on stairs which leads to the no longer extant third storey.



Plate 33: Sandstone splayed arrow slit in tower (see above plate 37 for location).

5.3 Tower Interior

The tower 7.46m high contains a first floor level and second floor. Its construction comprises randomly coursed sandstone bound with a whiteish grey mortar. The tower has an internal diameter of 2.73m within walls 2m in thickness.

It was not possible to determine if there is a room at ground floor level of the tower without further excavation. See Section 6 for further discussion.

The first floor of the tower was accessed for this report through an opening in the tower which is today sealed with iron bars. This room was also visited in 1980 by a local man Willie Walker (Plate 37) and again in 2019 when a structural survey of the wall and tower was completed.

The room has an internal diameter of 2.73m within walls 2m in thickness except at the northern face of the tower where the machicolation which may have housed the chute for the garderobe is located (Plate 35). The wall at this point is 0.7m in thickness.

The room comprises a circular wall with two openings one an embrasure for a window/arrow slit and one doorway are located within the circuit of the wall which has a visible height of +2.55m to the top of the wall. Five visible beam sockets were located around the perimeter of the wall just beneath the roof soffit (Plates 41 and 42). A vaulted soffit is constructed on top of the wall and the maximum height of the room at this point is +3.50m at the centre. The first-floor level has been filled in with a dark brown organic loose silty clay which has raised the floor level by at least 0.95m based on the height of the doorway on the second floor. The doorway at first floor level is +1.15m high and 0.77m wide, on the second floor where the entire doorway is visible it is 2.10m in height and 0.70m in width.

A small section of the wall has collapsed in the northern wall of the tower where the machicolation is located and it was possible to record that the internal dimensions of the chute which is 1.55m wide and 0.90m deep. Two north-south running walls appear to abut the external wall of the first floor to create the aforementioned chute which would have enabled any waste to drop from the garderobe into the wet moat below. It was not possible to get an accurate height of the chute as the surface has been concreted over on the second floor of the structure. The toilets of a castle were usually built into the walls as appears to be the case at Arklow.



Plate 34: Chute from garderobe Nenagh Castle.



Plate 35: Collapsed section on masonry in north section of wall in tower.

An embrasure 1.95m deep and 1.13m wide and +1.90m high in the east facing wall of the tower may have housed a window or an arrow slit (Plate 36). The function of the opening which today measures 0.73m in width and 0.93m in height is not clear given all that remains is a flat lintelled opening but the jambs are missing on all sides except the base of the opening where two sandstone sills are visible. The roof of the embrasure is flat comprising three sandstone lintels. The width of the embrasure would have enabled the archer (if indeed this opening represents an arrow slit) to get close to the arrow slit without being cramped. The

interior of the embrasure below the windowsills is battered sloping inwards towards the interior of the tower. It is hoped that further research will enable further parallels if they exist to be identified.

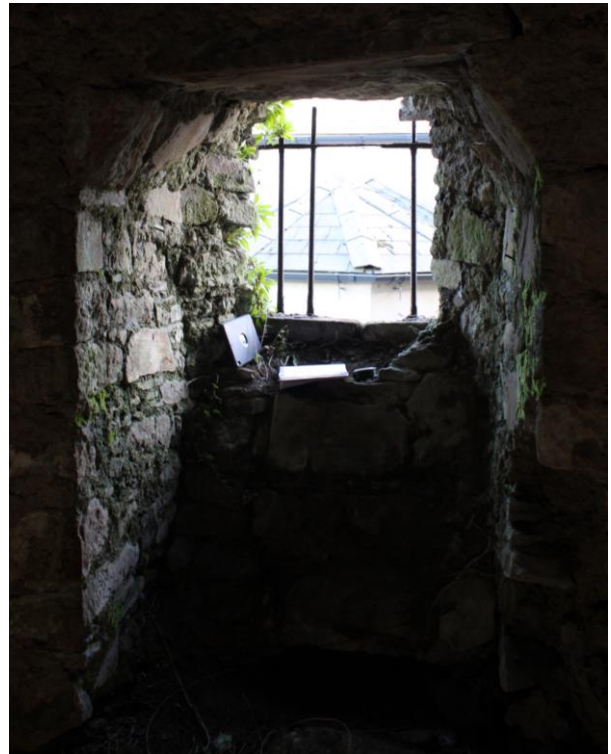


Plate 36: Embrasure in eastern face of tower.

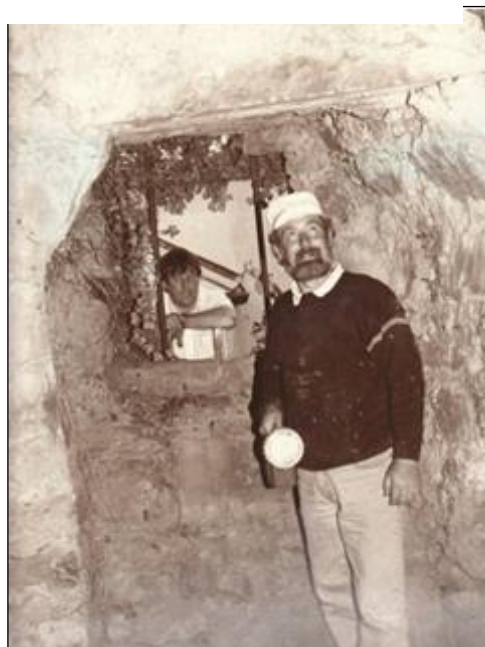


Plate 37: Interior of castle circa 1980 kindly supplied by Willie Walker (photo Patrick Power).

The vaulted soffit of the roof is corbelled and generally well preserved however a great deal of the mortar appears to have fallen from the roof and the corbelled stone roof is exposed in places. The soffits of medieval structures such as at Arklow often contain the remnants of

medieval wickerwork or plank centring. This process involved building a frame of wicker or planks which was built to support the vault during its construction.

A fine example of willow wicker centring is visible in the soffit of the west 13th century tower, originally called the Strongbow Tower at Kilkenny Castle (Plate 38).

There is no evidence of wickerwork at Arklow however possible plank centring was identified in a section over the embrasure in the eastern embrasure of the tower (Plate 39). It is possible that remnants of centring may have collapsed into the room and is contained within the backfilled material within the tower. There is evidence of modern repair in the southern half of the soffit as evidenced by sand and cement which appears to have been plastered onto the roof in sections as evidenced by trowel marks (Plate 42). This work may have been carried out when the second floor was concreted over.



Plate 38: Willow wicker work centering Kilkenny Castle Strongbow Tower.



Plate 39: Possible plank centring note the wood grain imprints and mortar sealing the plank.



Plate 40: Extract from structural survey report illustrating soffit of 1st floor level in tower.



Plate 41: Northern section of soffit within tower.

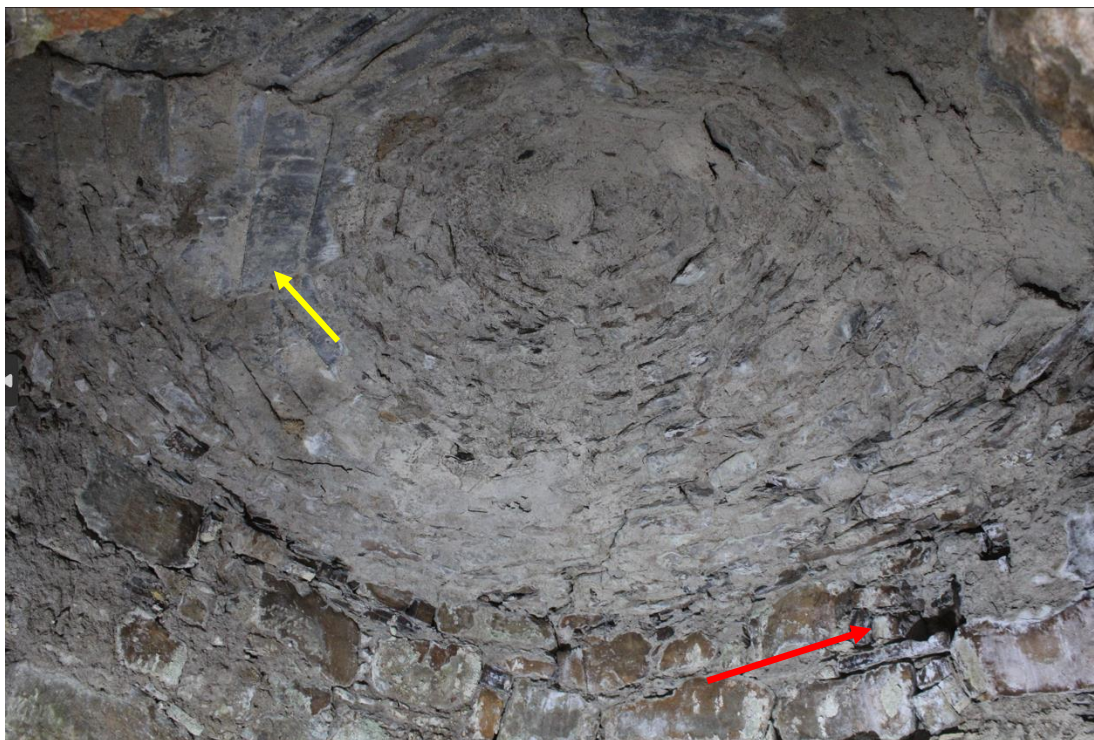


Plate 42: Southeast section of soffit within tower, note the modern repairs with sand and cement as evidenced by possible trowel marks (red arrow) and beam socket (yellow arrow).

A doorway which leads into a collapsed curving mural passage is located in the southeast wall of the tower. It is +1.15m high and 0.77m wide and has a visible length of 1.50m (Plate 43). There is no formal doorframe and no evidence of bar holes in the doorway. The doorway entrance comprises a single flat lintel on top of face stones and the roof of the passage also comprises flat lintel stones. The passage curves to the southeast before it has been filled in with a very compact mid orange sandy clay and it appears to run in two directions. It runs to the southwest towards the interior of the curtain wall and also to the southeast towards the arrow slits.



Plate 43: Mural passage in southeast wall of tower. To the left is towards the arrow slits and to the right it leads to the grounds of the castle enclosed by the curtain wall.

The second floor of the tower is accessed by a stairway inside the curtain wall which has been modified in recent years (Plate 44). Access to this floor level is through an arched doorway with chamfered sandstone jambs and steps. The doorway is 2.10m in height and 0.70m in width and leads to the second floor and a spiral stair is located on this level. The sandstone jambs surrounding the doorway and the stairs appear to be very similar in style to the spiral stairs although are larger in size (Plate 45).

The spiral stone staircase comprises ten steps of cut sandstone and is located immediately inside the tower entrance door to the south (Plate 33). Halfway up the stairs is a splayed sandstone arrow slit which faces east. The arrow slit has a surviving height of 0.73m in high with an opening 0.12m wide at its narrowest point and opening up to 0.35m in width in the interior of tower (Plate 38). Although only ten steps survive there was originally three times as many:

'about ten feet from the ground is a pointed doorway, which leads to a stone floor formed by the arch of the lower chamber. Thirty-four stone steps in the thickness of the wall give access to the top of the tower from this platform' (Adams, 1904).

The floor on the second level of the tower has been concreted over and an iron railing is used as edge protection. It is unclear if the spiral stairs continued to the lower level. Other features noted at this second-floor level is a recess possibly a fireplace set into the southern wall of the

tower immediately west of the doorway (Plate 46). It is 2.20m in height and 1.80m wide at the base and tapers as it runs up to what would have been the third floor of the tower.

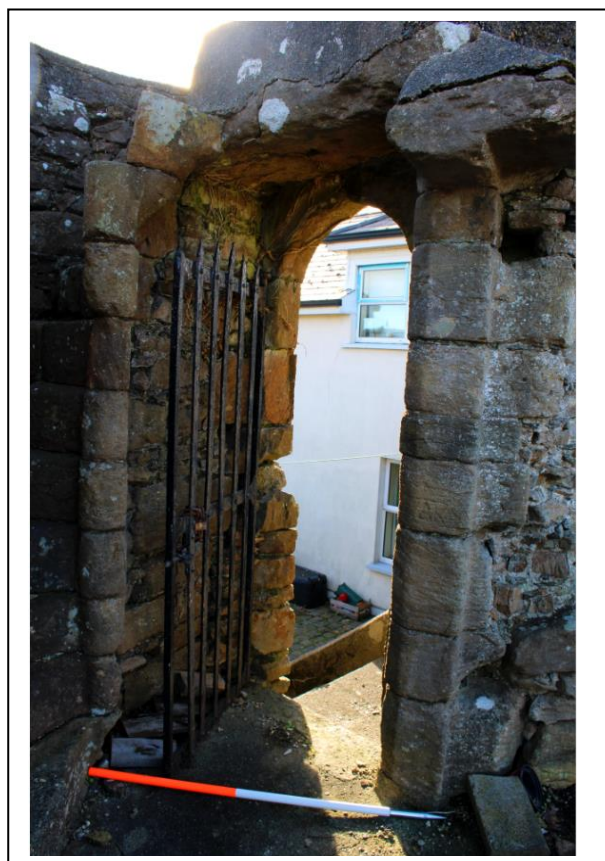


Plate 44: Entrance to second floor from St Anne's facing northeast (left) and view through doorway facing southwest.



Plate 45: Spiral staircase facing south.



Plate 46: Wall of tower facing south.



Plate 47: View of possible fireplace in southern wall of tower, facing south.

5.4 Cut Granite Stone

Two pieces of cut granite stone were observed in the grounds of Saint Anne's (Plate 48 and Plate 49). Their exact date and function are uncertain however, they may relate to activities at the castle. Originally the stone may have been in one piece and today survives as two pieces 0.88m and 1.30m in length. The stones have a height of 0.23m and are 0.10m in average thickness. The U-shaped indents are uniformly set 0.26m apart and the indent is cut to a depth of 0.09 and is 0.08m in width at the base of the cut.



Plate 48: Cut granite stone in grounds of St Anne's.



Plate 49: Cut granite stone in grounds of St Anne's.

6. Excavation of material from interior of tower 2022

6.1 Methodology

Arklow Castle needs repair and conservation. Due to the costs involved this will be undertaken on a phased basis. A schedule and methodology for repair based on the actions of the Conservation Management Plan completed in 2021 under CMF funding was prepared by Dermot Nolan Chartered Engineer and Historic Buildings Consultant. However due to circumstances beyond our control it was not possible to repoint the castle as Public Realm works cut off access to the castle for several months as there was delays to the programme. This work will be completed at a later date in 2023.

A site meeting took place with all the relevant stakeholders in May 2022 to agree a clear path forward for the works which included excavation of the soil from the interior of the tower and spraying of vegetation with an approved biocide. The proposed works will have a low impact upon bats and an appropriate mitigation is outlined in the bat survey report which will be adhered to for future works (Appendix 1).

Arklow Castle (WI040-029002) is protected under the National Monuments Acts (1930-2014). A licence application and method statement for phase 1 works which included vegetation removal from the castle and the excavation of the soil from the tower was submitted to NMS and NMI and a licence was granted for the works (Licence 22E0465). The vegetation spraying was completed in July under the supervision of the conservation engineer and archaeologist.



Plate 50: Site meeting with all stakeholders May 2022.

Works Completed 2022

- Bat survey (Appendix 1)
- The vegetation on all parts of the wall and was sprayed with an approved biocide by Arklow Town Council

➤ Survey

Survey of External Battlement as per site visit – (multi location survey to include Castle remains in County Council premises, along river sidewalk, and within curtilage of private residence, and incorporating scanning, photogrammetry, and digital surveying)

- Preparation of Survey Drawings – Plans, Elevations, Sections, localised Site Survey in vicinity of Castle remains.
- Geolocated to ITM Grid / OS Datum.
- Internal Scan of Tower Room included as part of overall scanning process.

➤ Excavation of 8 tonnes of soil from the interior of the tower under Licence 22E0465

6.2 Excavation Results

The soil from the tower was removed stratigraphically, by half section and by hand with a team of three archaeologists, two of whom were licenced and a supervisor between the 18th and the 29th of July 2022. The stratigraphy and finds are discussed below followed by a series of plates.

The stratigraphy was recorded by written, photographic record and scale drawing. The surviving tower was filled with redeposited post medieval debris material. Conservation works to this part of the castle required removal of soils in the tower in order to establish the extent of the crack visible in the north wall of the tower where the garderobe is located.

The soil was filled into buckets which were deposited on a cherry picker platform and deposited into a truck below. Metal detection was completed in the tower. All soil was spread by hand and checked for archaeological objects. As the quantities of soil was less than 5 litres in each bucket they were scanned and spread out by hand for finds retrieval before emptying into the truck and metal detected under Licence No. 22R0236. The excavation ceased at the base of the doorway entrance, where stones and mortar C5 indicated a possible floor surface C4. The crack in the north wall of the tower was fully exposed.

The tower has an internal diameter of 2.60m and the walls are 2m in thickness. The room comprises a circular wall with two openings one an embrasure for a window/arrow slit and one doorway are located within the circuit of the wall which has a visible height of +2.55m to the top of the wall. Five visible beam sockets were located around the perimeter of the wall just beneath the roof soffit. A vaulted soffit is constructed on top of the wall and the maximum height of the room at this point is 4.75m at the centre, after the fill was removed to possible floor surface.

Context	Fill of	Filled By	Length (m)	Width (m)	D (m)	Description	Interpretation
C1	N/A	N/A	2.6	2.6	0.1	C1 was a mid brown sandy clay which contained frequent large angular cobbles, red brick and modern debris material.	Uppermost deliberate backfilled layer in the tower, demolition layer which contained pottery dating between the 17th and 19th centuries.
C2	N/A	N/A	2.6	2.6	0.6	C2 was a dark greyish brown sandy clay which contained frequent sub angular stone and red brick inclusions. Finds included; a ridge tile, chamber pot, staffordshire pottery, clay pipe and stoneware.	Demolition rubble probably related to the castle's use as a British army barracks from the 18th- 19th centuries. It was demolished in the 1930's.
C3	N/A	N/A	2.6	2.6	0.21	C3 was a mid yellowish brown sandy clay which contained slipware, earthenware, brownware, animal bone and a bone pin.	Demolition rubble probably related to the castle's use as a British army barracks from the 18th- 20th centuries. It was demolished in the 1930's.
C4	N/A	N/A	1.3	0.8	Unknown	Possible robbed out floor surface, comprised of large stones (average size 0.18m x 0.35m x 0.06m) which was visible at the western circuit of the tower for a length of 1.30m and a width of 0.80m.	Possible robbed out floor surface, large stones visible around the circuit of the walls, however at the western end of the tower this was most convincing where they appeared to have been set in mortar.
C5	N/A	N/A	1.3	0.8	0.34	Mid greyish white mortar surface which stone layer C4 appeared to be set into. This white mortar layer was attached to the wall of the tower.	Mortar bond of possible floor surface in tower, unclear date. However, further C14 analysis may provide a date.

Table 1: Excavation Data.

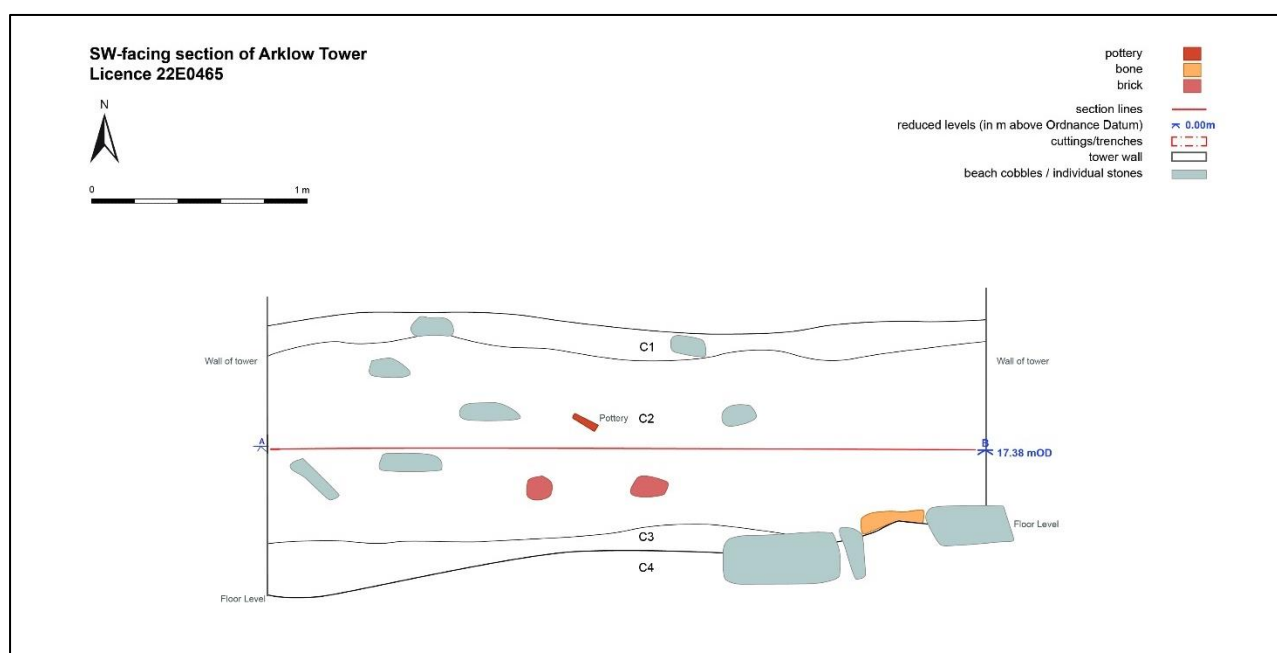


Plate 51: Section of fill in tower; C1, C2, C3 and C4 (floor surface).

Find No	ContextNo	SimpleName	FullName	Material	Description	Date
22E0465:2:1	2	Roof Tile	Ridge tile	Ceramic	Ridge tile fragment, orangey red earthenware fabric with occasional stone and quartz grit inclusions, brown glaze	18th or 19 th Century
22E0465:2:2	2	Roof Tile	Ridge tile	Ceramic	Ridge tile fragment, orangey red earthenware fabric with occasional stone and quartz grit inclusions, brown glaze	18th or 19th Century
22E0465:2:3	2	Roof Tile	Ridge tile	Ceramic	Ridge tile fragment, orangey red earthenware fabric with occasional stone and quartz grit inclusions, brown glaze	18th or 19th Century
22E0465:2:4	2	Roof Tile	Ridge tile	Ceramic	Ridge tile fragment, orangey red earthenware fabric with occasional stone and quartz grit inclusions, brown glaze	18th or 19th Century
22E0465:2:5	2	Roof Tile	Ridge tile	Ceramic	Ridge tile fragment, orange and grey earthenware fabric with occasional stone and quartz grit inclusions, grass impressions on base, brown glaze	18th or 19th Century
22E0465:2:6	2	Roof Tile	Ridge tile	Ceramic	Ridge tile fragment, orangey red earthenware fabric with occasional stone and quartz grit inclusions, brown glaze	18th or 19th Century
22E0465:2:7	2	Pot	Slipware	Ceramic	Body sherd of slipware, orange, and grey earthenware fabric, worn green glaze with white slip decoration	17th -19th century
22E0465:2:8	2	Pot	Stoneware	Ceramic	Body sherd of stone ware bottle, grey fabric, speckled brown glaze	19th Century
22E0465:2:9	2	Chamber pot	Ironstone type	Ceramic	Rim sherd of chamber pot, white glaze with wine coloured decoration, hard, white fabric	19th Century
22E0465:2:10	2	Plate/dish	Staffordshire/Bristol slipware	Ceramic	Body sherd, orangish beige fabric, brown glaze with white slip decoration	Early 18th century
22E0465:2:11	2	Pot	Staffordshire/Bristol slipware	Ceramic	Base/side sherd, orangish beige fabric, yellow glaze with brown slip decoration	Early 18th century
22E0465:2:12	2	Marmalade jar	Ironstone type	Ceramic	Fragment of 'Dundee' marmalade jar, hard, white fabric	Second half of 19th century
22E0465:2:13	2	Plate/dish	Lustreware	Ceramic	Body sherd, white glaze with pink and gold decoration, hard, white fabric.	Second half of 19th century
22E0465:2:14	2	Clay Pipe	Clay pipe	Ceramic	Clay pipe bowl, stamped with 'Home Rule' and shamrock symbol, heel at base and roulette decoration around rim, white clay	19 th century

Table 2: Table of finds from C2.

Find No	ContextNo	SimpleName	FullName	Description	Date
22E0465:3:1	3	Plate/dish	Slipware	Body sherd, orange earthenware fabric, brown glaze with trailed white slip decoration	17th-19th century

22E0465:3:2	3	Plate/dish	Slipware	Body sherd, orange earthenware fabric, brown glaze with trailed white slip decoration	17th-19th century
22E0465:3:3	3	Pot	Earthenware	Body sherd, beige fabric, evidence for a pedestal foot, no glaze	18th/19th century
22E0465:3:4	3	Pot	Earthenware	Body sherd, orangey beige fabric, stub handle attached, no glaze	18th/19th century
22E0465:3:4	3	Pot	Brownware	Body and base sherd, grey fabric with occasional grit inclusions, worn brownish green interior glaze	17th/18th century type
22E0465:3:5	3	Pin	Bone pin	Polished bone pin, broken, pointed end survives	18th/19th century

Table 3: Table of finds from C3.

The tower was filled with three debris layers: C1, C2 and C3. These layers overlay a possible floor surface C4 which may be much earlier and was bound by mortar C5 (Plate 54). The debris layers appear to relate to the use of the castle as an 18th century British army barracks. These debris layers were dumped into the tower from the mural passage which was backfilled at the same level as the interior of the tower. This passage splits in two directions, into the castle grounds (SE) and towards the arrow slits (SW). This is now blocked up (Plate 59). A total depth of 1.25m of soil was removed from the interior of the tower which was 2.60m in circumference.

The primary dump layer C3 was a mid-yellowish brown sandy clay which contained slipware, earthenware, brownware, animal bone and a bone pin, all of which were post medieval in date (Table 3). Above this was the main deposit C2 was a dark greyish brown sandy clay which contained frequent sub angular stone and red brick inclusions. Finds included a ridge tile, chamber pot, Staffordshire pottery, clay pipe and stoneware. These finds were also all post medieval in date and all layers C1, C2 and C3 were backfilled into the tower over a short period of time between the late 17th to 19th centuries (Appendix 1).

Excavation ceased at a possible floor level C4 which was visible on the western side of the tower and comprised large rectangular stones which were bound with mortar, C5 and which appeared to seal the stones to the wall. A possible void was noted at the northeastern corner of the tower and may indicate that there is a floor level below the one exposed. Clonmore Castle which is of a similar date to Arklow Castle has a similar floor surface with mortar bond (Plate 58).



Plate 52: Mural passage in southeast wall of tower, prior to excavation.



Plate 53: Southwest facing section of tower, C1, C2 and C3.



Plate 54: Floor surface C4 and C4.



Plate 55: Crack in tower at garderobe.



Plate 56: Mortar C5.



Plate 57: Possible floor surface C4 and mortar C5 at entrance passage.



Plate 58: Clonmore Castle note mortar and stone floor surface.



Plate 59: Entrance passage to the castle backfilled with 20th century debris material, C1, C2 and C3.



Plate 60: View of second crack in NW face of tower.



Plate 61: View of tower and opening (red arrow) with Arklow Courthouse (grey building).

7. Conclusion

The Conservation Management Plan for Arklow Castle completed in 2021 set out a number of recommendations and policies for the conservation and enhanced presentation of the castle. This report details the final excavation works associated with Phase 1 works as outlined in Conservation Management Plan. This work involved the excavation of soil from the interior of the tower, laser scan of the castle and production of a series of scaled drawings.

A total depth of 1.25m of soil was removed from the interior of the tower which was 2.60m in circumference. Excavation ceased at a possible floor surface. The soil from the interior passageway was not removed in this phase of works. The passageway appears to be structurally sound based upon an inspection by Dermot Nolan, Chartered Engineer and Historic Buildings Consultant.

The soil was putting pressure on the tower and its removal has enabled this to be alleviated along with exposing the cracks and defects within the tower. A condition report on the tower will be made in 2023 and an application for CMF funding to conserve the tower will be made in 2024.

Scheduled works as outlined in the conservation plan in 2021 were not possible to complete due to public realm works at the base of the castle up until November 2022. These works which will involve repair and repointing to various elements of the castle will be carried out in 2023 under licenced archaeological supervision. The proposed works in 2023 will focus on the exterior of the castle. Once the scaffolding has been erected it will be possible to inspect the interior of the tower in greater detail.

The soil excavated from the interior of the tower relates to the Castle's phase of use as a military barracks. This military barracks was constructed on the site of (and using the rubble of) the old castle. The barracks dates to the earliest phase of barrack building in 18th century Ireland (McGrath 2021). It is mentioned in 1701 and Major Clapham, Lieutenant Bates, and Ensign Webb of the 24th Regiment of Foot were stationed at Arklow in 1734. The finds retrieved from the backfilled material in the tower appear to represent debris material which was infilled into the tower in the 18th and 19th century. It is possible that this material was backfilled when the barracks was demolished in the 1930's to build the existing houses and the tower functioned as a 'skip' to dispose of the excess soil.

Test trenching by the author in 2021 in the base of the moat under Licences 21E0809 and detection device licence 21R0305 also uncovered finds relating to the site as a military barracks. A George II half penny was retrieved dates to 1746, and other items including an Onion bottle also appear to date this this era (Whitty, 2021).

Based on the result of the condition and structural report a conservatio plan will be drawn up for the interior of the tower. It is not envisaged that further excavations within the tower will be necessary, however it may be worthwhile to date the mortar at the possible floor surface in order to establish a date for the floor of the tower. It may also be worth while dating mortar from the tower and the possible 'great hall' to enable a comprehensive chronology of the castle to be established.

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AFM	O'Donovan, J (ed.) 1851. <i>Annals of the Kingdom of Ireland by the Four Masters</i> . Dublin.
AI	Mac Airt, S. (ed.) 1944. <i>The Annals of Inishfallen</i> . Dublin.
ALC	Hennessy, W. H. (ed.) 1871. <i>The Annals of Loch Cé</i> . London.
Anal. Hib.	Analecta Hibernica
Antiq. Jour.	Antiquaries Journal
AU	Mac Airt, S. & MacNiocail, G. (eds.) 1983. <i>The Annals of Ulster (to AD 1131)</i> . Dublin.
BNÉ	Plummer, C. (ed.) 1922 reprint 1997 <i>Bethada Náem nÉrenn</i> . Oxford.
CCD	McEnery, M. J. & Reafaussé, R. (eds.) 2001. <i>Christ Church Deeds</i> . Dublin: Four Courts Press.
CDI	Sweetman, H. S. 1875-81. <i>Calendar of documents relating to Ireland, 4 Vols</i>. London.
CJR Ed. I	Mills, J. (ed.) 1905. <i>Calendar of the justiciary rolls, or proceedings in the Court of the Justiciar of Ireland preserved in the Public Record Office of Ireland / edited by James Mills, under the direction of the Master of the Rolls in Ireland. XXIII to [XXXV] years of Edward I</i> . Dublin: H.M.S.O.
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COD	<i>Curtis, E. (ed). Calendar of Ormond Deeds Vol 1-VI, 6 volumes, 1941-70, Dublin. The Stationery Office</i>
CS	Hennessy, W. (ed.) 1866. <i>Chronicum Scotorum: A chronicle of Irish affairs, from the earliest times to AD 1135</i>. London.
CPL	<i>Calendar of the Entries in the Papal Registers Relating to Great Britain and Ireland. Papal Letters</i> . Vols. I to XIV, London, HMSO, 1893-1960; Vols. XV-XX, Dublin, Irish Manuscripts Commission, 1978-2005 and in progress.
DIL	<i>Contributions to a Dictionary of the Irish Language Published by the Royal Irish Academy</i> . Dublin.
IER	Irish ecclesiastical record
IEP 1270-1446	Connolly, P. 1998. <i>Irish exchequer payments, 1270-1446</i> . Dublin: Irish Manuscripts Commission.
IHS	Irish Historical Studies
JLAS	Journal of the County Louth Archaeological Society
JRSAI	Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland
JKSEAS	Journal of the Kilkenny and South-East of Ireland Archaeological Society
JWAH	Journal Wicklow Archaeology and History
JWHS	Journal of the Wexford Historical Society
OSL	Ordnance Survey Letters, Mss. At Ordnance Survey Office, reprinted - O'Flanagan, Rev. M. (Complier). Bray: Typescript.
OSNB	Ordnance Survey Name Books, Mss. At Ordnance Survey Office.
PRIA	Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy

SMR	Sites and Monuments files in the National Monuments Section, Heritage and Planning Division, Department of the Environment, Heritage, and Local Government.
UJA	Ulster Journal of Archaeology

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Appendix 1 Pottery Report for Arklow Castle, Co. Wicklow (Licence No. 22E0465)

by Colm Moriarty

Introduction

A total of 12 sherds of pottery were recovered during an archaeological excavation at Arklow castle, Co. Wicklow (Licence No. 21E0743, Director: Yvonne Whitty). The pottery assemblage was entirely made up of post-medieval wares and these are described below.

Methodology

The assemblage was identified visually with reference to published material on pottery produced in Ireland, Britain and Continental Europe. In this report a brief overview is given for the ceramics, with a table presenting information on the pottery by type, quantification, form and date (Table 1). The ceramics are then described in Table 2.

The pottery types are quantified by sherd count and by Minimum Vessels Represented (MVR). The Minimum Vessels Represented is a slightly subjective figure which considers several different diagnostic features, such as handles or bases and where they are not present, the differentiation between body sherds (McCutcheon et al. 2004, 368).

Table 1: Total pottery sherds from Arklow castle

Fabric Type	Sherds	MVR	Forms identified	Country of origin	Date range
Trailed Slip Earthenware	3	2	Plates	Ireland/England	17th -19th century
Staffordshire Bristol Slipware	2	2	Bowl, plate	England	18th century
Stoneware	1	1	bottle	England	19th century
Glazed earthenware	1	1	Pot	Ireland/England	17th/18th century type
Unglazed earthenware	2	2	Pots	Ireland/England	18th/19th century
Lustreware	1	1	Plate	England	19th century
Ironstone-type	1	1	Chamber pot	England	19th century
Ceramic Marmalade jar	1	1	'Dundee' marmalade jar	Scotland	19th century

Table 2: Catalogue of pottery from Arklow castle

Type	Finds No.	Description	Context	Date range
Trailed slip earthenware plate	22E0465:2:7	Body sherd of slipware, orange and grey earthenware fabric, worn green glaze with white slip decoration	C2, backfill deposit	17th -19th century
Stoneware bottle	22E0465:2:8	Body sherd of a stone ware bottle, grey fabric, speckled brown glaze	C2, backfill deposit	19th century
Ironstone-type pottery	22E0465:2:9	Rim sherd of chamber pot, white glaze with wine coloured decoration, hard, white fabric	C2, backfill deposit	19th century
Staffordshire/Bristol slipware	22E0465:2:10	Body sherd, orange beige fabric, brown glaze with white slip decoration	C2, backfill deposit	Early 18th century
Staffordshire/Bristol slipware	22E0465:2:11	Base/side sherd, orange beige fabric, yellow glaze with brown slip decoration	C2, backfill deposit	Early 18th century
Ceramic marmalade jar	22E0465:2:12	Fragment of 'Dundee' marmalade jar, hard, white fabric. James Kieller & Sons.	C2, backfill deposit	Second half of 19th century
Lustreware plate	22E0465:2:13	Body sherd, white glaze with pink and gold decoration, hard, white fabric.	C2, backfill deposit	19th century
Trailed slip earthenware plate	22E0465:3:1	Body sherd, orange earthenware fabric, brown glaze with trailed white slip decoration	C3, backfill deposit	17th-19th century
Trailed slip earthenware plate	22E0465:3:2	Body sherd, orange earthenware fabric, brown glaze with trailed white slip decoration	C3, backfill deposit	17th-19th century
Unglazed earthenware pot	22E0465:3:3	Body sherd, beige fabric, evidence for a pedestal foot, no glaze	C3, backfill deposit	18th/19th century
Unglazed earthenware pot	22E0465:3:4	Body sherd, orangey beige fabric, stub	C3, backfill deposit	18th/19th century

		handle attached, no glaze		
Glazed earthenware pot	22E0465:3:4	Body and base sherd, grey fabric with occasional grit inclusions, worn brownish green interior glaze	C3: backfill deposit	17th/18th century type

Plates



Figure 7 Trailed slip earthenware plate fragments (3:1 & 3.2)



Figure 8 Staffordshire Bristol slipware sherds (2.11 & 2.10)



Figure 9 Lustreware sherd (2:13)



Figure 10 Dundee marmalade jar sherd (2:12)

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Appendix 2 Roof Tile Report for Arklow Castle (Licence Number: 22E0465)

by Colm Moriarty

There are 6 post-medieval roof tiles in the ceramic assemblage from Arklow Castle. These include 4 ridge tiles and 2 plain roof tile fragments. The roof tiles were recovered from a backfill deposit (C3) inside one of the castle towers (Licence No. 22E0465; Director Yvonne Whitty).



Figure 11 Ridge tiles from Arklow castle

Ridge tiles began to appear in Ireland in the 13th century during the Anglo-Norman building campaigns (Wren, 2006, 180) and they continued to be used up until the 19th century. The tiles are typically U or V-shaped and were manufactured by casting and moulding clay over a wooden frame on a sanded board (ibid). The underside of the tiles is generally sanded because of this (ibid). A lead glaze, mostly a mottled green or brown colour was then applied.

The roof tile fragments from Arklow castle most likely date from the 18th or 19th centuries and are probably related to the castle's use as British army barracks.

Catalogue

22E0465:2:1 Ridge tile fragment, orangey red earthenware fabric with occasional stone and quartz inclusions, brown glaze

22E0465:2:2 Ridge tile fragment, orangey red earthenware fabric with occasional stone and quartz inclusions, brown glaze

22E0465:2:3 Ridge tile fragment, orangey red earthenware fabric with occasional stone and quartz inclusions, brown glaze

22E0465:2:4 Ridge tile fragment, orangey red earthenware fabric with occasional stone and quartz inclusions, brown glaze

22E0465:2:5 Ridge tile fragment, orange and grey earthenware fabric with occasional stone and quartz grit inclusions, grass impressions on base, brown glaze

22E0465:2:6 Ridge tile fragment, orangey red earthenware fabric with occasional stone and quartz grit inclusions, brown glaze

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Appendix 3 Clay Pipe Report for Arklow Castle (Licence Number: 22E0465)

by Colm Moriarty

The tobacco plant is native to the Americas, where it was traditionally used for medicinal and ritual purposes (Ayto 1987, 4). It was introduced to Europe by returning settlers and there are references to the use of tobacco pipes in Britain as early as AD 1573 (Oswald 1975, 3-4). In Ireland, Sir Walter Raleigh is credited with the introduction of tobacco in AD 1588 (Norton & Lane 2007, 435) and by the early seventeenth century smoking had become firmly established in the country (ibid).



A single clay pipe bowl was identified at Arklow castle. It was recovered from a backfill deposit (C3) inside one of the castle's towers. The pipe bowl dates from the latter part of the 19th century and is stamped with the text '*Home Rule*' over a shamrock symbol. The Home Rule movement argued for Irish self-government and was particularly popular in the 1880's when Charles Stewart Parnell was the driving force behind the campaign. It was common practise during this period to add political slogans, often of Nationalistic slant, to clay pipes.

Catalogue: Clay pipe bowl, roulette decoration on rim, "Home Rule" over shamrock symbol stamped on the bowl. Heel at base, but no attached stem, white clay.

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Appendix 4 Bone Pin Report for Arklow Castle (Licence Number: 22E0465)

by Colm Moriarty

A single polished bone pin fragment was recovered during archaeological excavations at Arklow castle, Co. Wicklow. It came from a post-medieval deposit (C3) which was located inside the castle tower. The pin had been broken in antiquity and only the bottom, pointed end, survived (figure 1). The fragment measures 5cm in length and it has a finely polished surface. It most likely represents part of a garment pin used to fasten clothing. Parallels can be seen in Galway city, where an 18th century polished bone pin found during archaeological excavations, may have formed part of regimental regalia (Hurley 2004, 473). Arklow castle was used as barracks in the 18th and 19th centuries and its possible that the bone pin from this site had a similar function.



Figure 12 Polished bone pin fragment

Catalogue: 22E0465:3:5, polished bone pin fragment, circular cross-section , pointed tip, length: 50mm, thickness: 5mm

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