

RUSH TOWER HOUSE

Rush tower house probably dates to the 15th century and would originally have stood up to three storeys high with projecting stair turrets. It is one of just twelve surviving tower houses within Fingal. These fortified residences were built by gentry, rich farmers and urban merchants and it is estimated between 3000-7000 were built across the country between the 15th and early 17th centuries. Most would have been surrounded by a bawn area or courtyard, within which were ancillary buildings. The foremost example of a tower house is that of Dunsoghley built c.1450 by Thomas Plunkett, chief justice of the King's bench.



Rush Tower house, St Catherine's estate, Rush

STELLA'S CASTLE

Stella's Castle is a medieval tower house with 17th and 18th century additions including a brick chimney. In 1641 it was described as an old castle with thatched hall adjoining, a small barn, a stable, a cowhouse, and one garden plot. It is associated with Esther Johnson, otherwise known as Stella 'the truest most virtuous and valuable friend' of Jonathan Swift.



Stella's castle, Longstone Park estate, Portrane

ILLUSTRATING FINGAL'S HERITAGE



Balrothery Standing stone before development

The aim of Illustrating Fingal's Heritage is to gather the pictures, photographs and drawings of Fingal throughout its history into a central visual archive. As Field Monument Advisor I have visited almost all of the 600 archaeological monuments in Fingal and would love to see their context and setting as it may once have been.

We are asking you to upload or email jpegs of any photographs or drawings you may have relating to the history of your locality. Let us know what year it was taken and any information about where it is or who took it.

The Facebook page www.facebook.com/illustrating.fingalsheritage will be active from Heritage week (17th-25th August) until 31st October 2013.

Remember once your picture is posted on Facebook it is publically accessible to all. If you'd rather, send a jpeg directly to illustratingfingalsheritage@gmail.com

FINGAL FIELD MONUMENT ADVISOR SCHEME

This scheme was initiated by the Heritage Council and Fingal County Council and it is my job to support landowners and provide information about the various archaeological monuments on their land. The idea is that by raising awareness we can preserve and protect archaeological monuments in their landscape.

Contact me directly at christine.baker@fingalcoco.ie

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Fhine Gall
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An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



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ARCHAEOLOGY OF OPEN SPACES

Compiled by Christine Baker, Fingal Field Monument Advisor



Fingal's only recorded standing stone, Cloich Choirneal estate, Balrothery

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



ARCHAEOLOGY IS EVERYWHERE.

Often sub-surface archaeological remains are identified through aerial photographs, geophysical survey, archaeological test-excavation or through archaeological monitoring during planning or the course of development. If they were not excavated or only partially excavated these remains were preserved in situ, incorporated into the open space of the new developments, and often forgotten.

Did you know there is an ecclesiastical enclosure in the open space of Chapel Farm, Lusk? An early medieval enclosure in Drinan, Swords? and medieval remains in Glebe Manor, Balrothery and Lusk Village estate?

While the context of the monuments has changed, their significance has not.

It is hoped that by highlighting the presence of these sites, new communities can be introduced to Fingal's heritage, which is literally, on their doorsteps.

BALROTHERY STANDING STONE

Standing stones were monumental markers of burials, routeways or territories of the Iron Age/Early Medieval period, although exact dating is problematic.

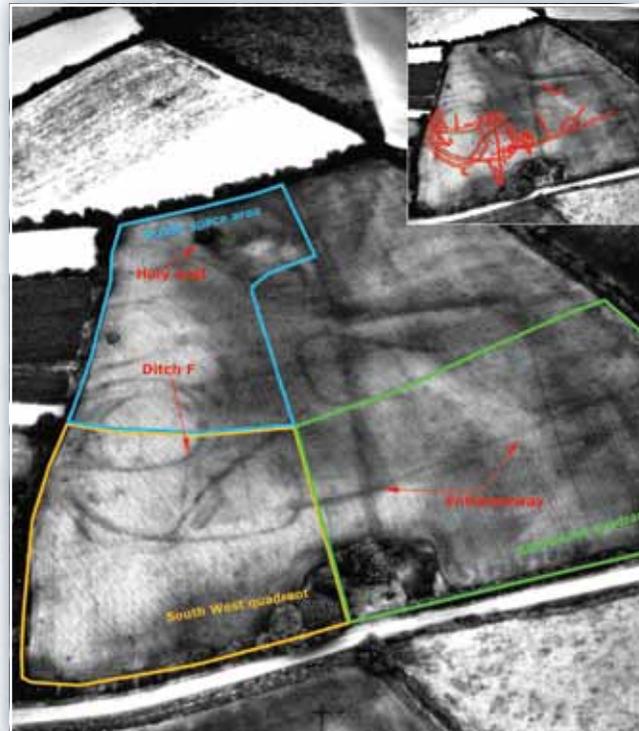
Almost 2m in height the only recorded standing stone in Fingal dominates the green space of Cloich Choirneal estate. Markings on the base of the stone which were once thought to be ogham, have since been interpreted as ploughmarks.

ROSEPARK, BALROTHERY

Identified on aerial photographs as a series of enclosures, Rosepark was partially excavated in advance of development. It was revealed to be a site of high status occupied for hundreds of years probably since the late Iron Age. The major phase of settlement was between the 5th and 9th when occupants were using pottery from Gaul, preparing barley malt for brewing beer, weaving, farming, wearing bronze and bone pins and glass beads.

The excavations revealed seven souterrains, more than double the number previously recorded in the entirety of Fingal. It is more than likely that these underground chambers would have been needed to hide people and possessions from recurrent raids by Vikings and rival communities. The remainder of this important site is preserved under the green space surrounding the holy well.

Known locally as St Brigid's well this was marked by a large ash tree from which rags were hung and surrounded by flagstones. The holy well is now marked by a manhole cover within the open space.



Aerial photograph of Rosepark, Balrothery, Judith Carroll Ltd.

OLDTOWN AND MOORETOWN

Geophysical survey at Oldtown and Mooretown revealed extensive early medieval settlement adjacent to the Applewood development, Swords. The focus of this settlement which consists of several enclosures encompassing burials and habitation dates to the 7th-11th century AD. The inner enclosure contained the skeletal remains and had been somewhat disturbed. Analysis of bone fragments collected indicated adults living to between 30 and 59 years of age with worn and rotten teeth, indications of broken bones and nutritional deficiencies. The site is to be preserved within Fingal's first Archaeology Park.



Oldtown-Mooretown, Swords, Kieran Goucher of Margaret Gowen & Company

GLASMORE ABBEY

Known as Glasmore Abbey, this is a post medieval building with medieval stone insertions, within the open space of Cianlea estate. St Cronan was said to have founded a 7th century church at Glasmore Abbey. He met a violent end when the 'Northerners of Malahide' killed him and his fraternity. St Cronan's holy well is also nearby. However historical evidence indicates Glasmore Abbey was to the south of Swords. The 17th-18th century structure mysteriously does not appear to be either a church nor in the absence of a fireplace, a dwelling house.



Glasmore Abbey, Cianlea estate, Swords