

DRAFT Conservation Study & Management Plan

Drumanagh, Co. Dublin



Image: Nua Photography ©

December 2017

**Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall**
Fingal County
Council



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1. INTRODUCTION

Recently acquired by Fingal County Council, Drumanagh promontory fort is a highly sensitive multi-layered archaeological landscape. Recorded by 19th century antiquarian T.J. Westropp, as ‘one of the three largest promontory forts with straight works so far recorded in Ireland’ Drumanagh is also one of four coastal promontory forts in Fingal. It has long been the subject of interest due to the recovery of Romano-British material from the site and has been characterised in the press and public imaginations as the place where the Romans may have landed. This study compiles the accessible historical, archaeological, folkloric, and cartographic evidence together in order to provide a comprehensive narrative for the use of the site and inform its future protection and management. The document was prepared by Christine Baker, Community Archaeologist, Fingal County Council.

2. STUDY AREA

Drumanagh promontory fort is coastally located 0.6 km south of the village of Loughshinny, approximately 1.8 km north of the village of Rush and 0.5 km east of the R128 Rush to Skerries road. It is accessed to the south by a laneway and to the north along a cliff pathway. Approximately 6 km to the south-east is the island of Lambay.

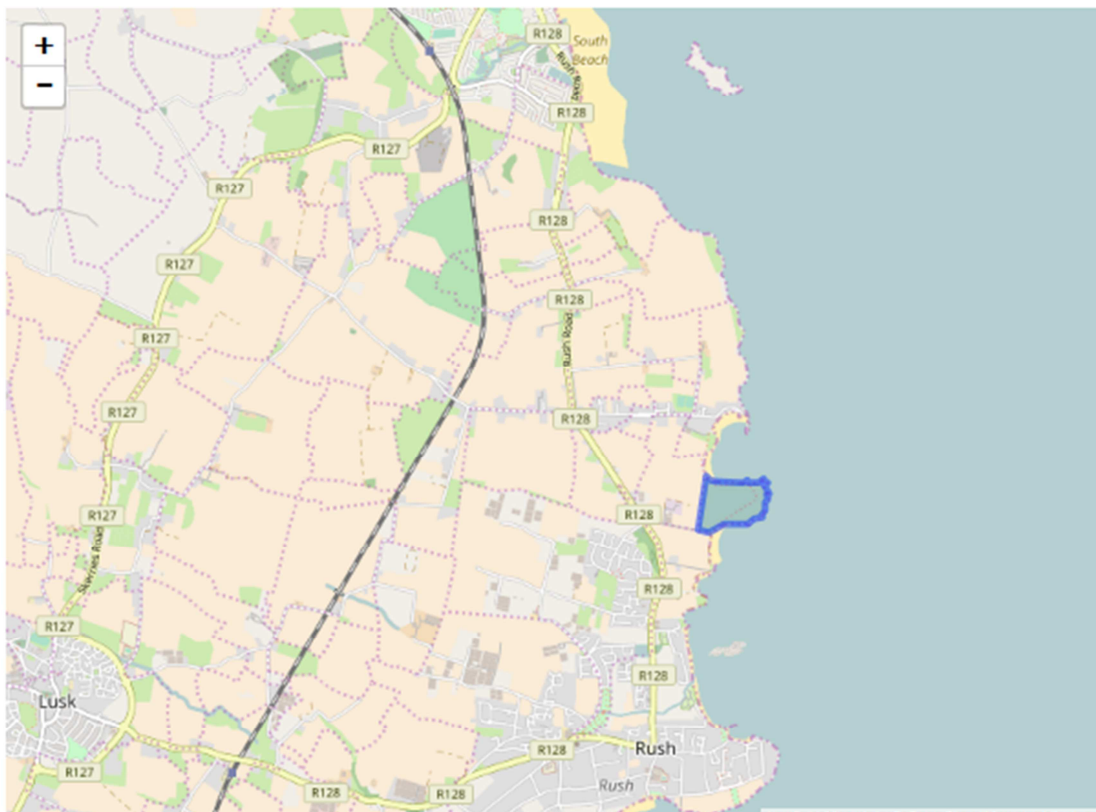


Fig. 1: Location Map

The site consists of a headland of c.46 acres defended by a series of earthworks (L.350m), except where

they curve inwards towards the southern limit. The relatively flat promontory is delimited to the west by three closely-spaced earthen banks and ditches. A small stream flows along part of the inner ditch to the southern cliff edge. A number of gaps occur along the ramparts, one or more of which may represent an original entrance. The site is bounded to the west by the townland boundary with Ballustree and to the south by the townland boundary with Rush. The underlying geology consists of glacial till overlying Lower Carboniferous limestone. The soils are Grey-Brown Podzolics, with associated Gleys.

3. METHODOLOGY

This Conservation Study involves a process that ‘seeks to guide the future development of a place through an understanding of its significance’ (Kerr 1999, 9). By defining the setting and context of the monument; analysing its cultural and material significance and assessing its vulnerability, the process outcome will be a policy-based guidance document. The study is conducted with the protection and public enjoyment of the monument as its central point of reference. A three-phased approach was undertaken, comprising desktop research, field-recording and photographic survey, and report compilation.

3.1. Phase 1-Information Gathering

The desktop or information gathering-stage included an examination of available documentary sources, cartographic evidence, folklore, images and illustration of the site.

Archaeological	Sites & Monuments Records (SMR) and Record of Monuments & Places (RMP), Permanent and Temporary Preservation orders and Register of Historic Monuments, DCHG; Topographical Files, National Museum of Ireland; Online database (www.excavations.ie) containing summary accounts of all excavations carried out annually in Ireland
Architectural	Record of Protected Structures file , Fingal County Council
Historic	All publically available documentary and literary sources from the National Archives, National Library of Ireland, Royal Irish Academy, Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, 19th and 20th century sources (Calendar of Ormond Deeds, Calendar of State Papers, Calendar of Irish Chancery Letters, Statue Rolls), Palmer Estate Papers & Rental Books, Schools Manuscript Collection, Placenames loganim.ie , Ordnance Survey Name Books, Griffith's Valuation) newspapers and magazines (Current Archaeology, Archaeology Ireland).
Cartographic	Early coastal maps, Down Survey maps, Board of Ordnance & war office maps, John Rocque's Map of County Dublin 1760, Ordnance Survey mapping 1838 onwards
Images	Aerial photography analysis-Ordnance Survey of Ireland map viewer (Geohive), Google Earth, Heritage Maps; National Library image collection, National Gallery Collections; RSAI Lantern Slide Collection, RIA Collection; Paddy Healy Collection, South Dublin Libraries, Leo Swan Aerial Photographic Archive

3.2. Phase 2-Site Inspection

The site was inspected on 4th January 2017, 21st January 2017, and 27th February 2017 and on a subsequent bi-monthly basis throughout 2017. These inspections were undertaken in order to assess the condition of the site both as a whole and following specific incidents. Identification of elements or historic areas noted in the desk study was carried out and their significance assessed. Any cultural heritage features (agricultural, military, industrial, and maritime) were identified and recorded. A preliminary overview of the currents patterns of use was documented and a comprehensive visual record of the archaeological, architectural and natural features of the site was generated.

3.3. Phase 3-Consultation & Compilation

Consultation was an extremely important element of the information gathering process. Stakeholders with long-term involvement in the site such as Mr Eamonn Kelly formerly of the National Museum of Ireland and Mr Tom Condit of the National Monuments Service were particularly helpful. So too were members of The Discovery Programme who had carried out geophysical investigations on the site and generously supplied their files;

Consultation	Ms Mary Cahill (Keeper Emeritus, National Museum of Ireland), Mr Ned Kelly (Keeper Emeritus, National Museum of Ireland), Dr Geraldine Stout, Tom Condit (National Monuments Service), The Discovery Programme, Dr Lynda Mulvin, U.C.D., Cmdt. Paddy Boyle, Mrs Cepta Butler, Mrs Mala Hughes and Ms Margaret McCann Moore of the Rush & Loughshinny Historical Society, Mr Seamas McGuinness, Ms Deirdre McMenamin of the Rush Community Council, Dr Mairín Ní Cheallaigh, Mr Richard Warner (Keeper Emeritus Ulster Museum), Fingal County Council Stakeholders-Dr Gerry Clabby (Heritage Officer), Ms Helena Bergin (Conservation Officer), Ms Fionnuala May (County Architect), Mr Hans Visser (Biodiversity Officer), Mr Kevin Halpenny (Senior Parks Superintendent) Colm Connell, Mr Shay Barker (Operations Department), Mr Paul Smyth (Economic Development)
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The results of Phases 1-3 including the documentary, cartographic and folklore sources have been compiled and presented in this report to inform the management plan which has been devised to address the following;

- Identification of vulnerabilities and potential issues
- Knowledge Gaps and future research opportunities
- Management proposals for the protection, short/mid and long terms uses of the site
- Actions and Objectives