

ULSTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Survey Report: No. 17

**Survey of the Doon Enclosure at Murlough Bay,
County Antrim
UAS/09/02**



In association with



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1. Summary

1.1 Location

A site survey was undertaken at a rectangular low stone walled enclosure located on the shores of Murlough Bay in the townland of Goodland, Parish of Culfeightrin, in the Barony Cary of County Antrim, Irish Grid Reference D 1980 4200. There were no other similar enclosures in the area. The Doon Enclosure was located approximately 200 m south of a disused Lime Kiln (UAS Survey No. 18, Welsh 2011) and between the “Bothy” cottage and a derelict dwelling. It was situated on the coast line overlooking a boat port approximately 50 m to the south that featured a slip way with disused winches.

The survey was undertaken by members of the Ulster Archaeological Society on the 16th May 2009.



Figure 1(DSC3147): Plan view of the monument - looking south, from top of Doon Rock

1.2 Aims

In order to enhance the archaeological record of this site, the aims of this survey were to produce an accurate plan drawing of the Enclosure and to carry out a photographic survey. This information was to be compiled into a report and copies submitted to the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, the National Trust and the archives of the Ulster Archaeological Society.



Figure 2 (DSC1785): View of Enclosure - looking North-West towards Fair Head

2. Introduction

2.1 Background

The survey of the Doon Enclosure was undertaken on 16th May 2009. It was carried out by members of the Ulster Archaeological Society, in response to a decision taken by the committee of the society to extend an opportunity to members to participate in practical surveys of archaeological monuments that had not previously been recorded. This followed a bequest to the society from the late Dr Ann Hamlin, from which the items of survey equipment were purchased. During discussions with Malachy Conway, Survey Archaeologist of the National Trust in Northern Ireland, it was noted that many archaeological sites on National Trust property had not been subject to a detailed archaeological survey. It was therefore agreed that members of the society would commence a programme to survey these sites and the Doon Enclosure was subsequently chosen to be the second of these in 2009 along with the adjacent Lime Kiln (Ref: UAS/09/02 Survey Report No. 18.)

2.2 Previous archaeological surveys

As far as it is known, there has been no previous archaeological survey at this specific site.

2.3 Cartographic Evidence

A search of the following OS maps revealed no evidence of the existence of any structure at its known location:

1832 six inch;

1834 six inch;

1855 six inch;

1904 twenty five inch;

1935 six inch;

The Ordnance Survey Memoirs for the Parish of Culfeightrin were checked and no reference to the Doon enclosure was found.

Examples of the OS maps surveyed are illustrated below. A brief survey note SMR 5:18 dated Oct 1992, for site 18 in Fig. 4 exists in the NIEA archive. The note focussed on the adjacent cone shaped rock outcrop (Doon), noting that it provides a good vantage point. The author also describes the Doon enclosure as “the footings of a modern rectangular wall” abutting the outcrop.

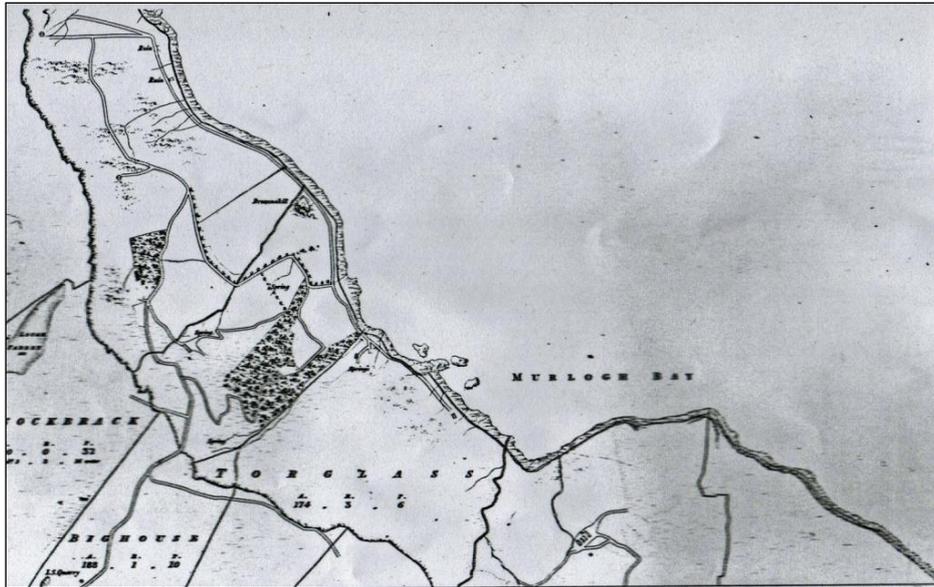


Figure 3: OS County Series Antrim Sheet 5 (part of) 1834

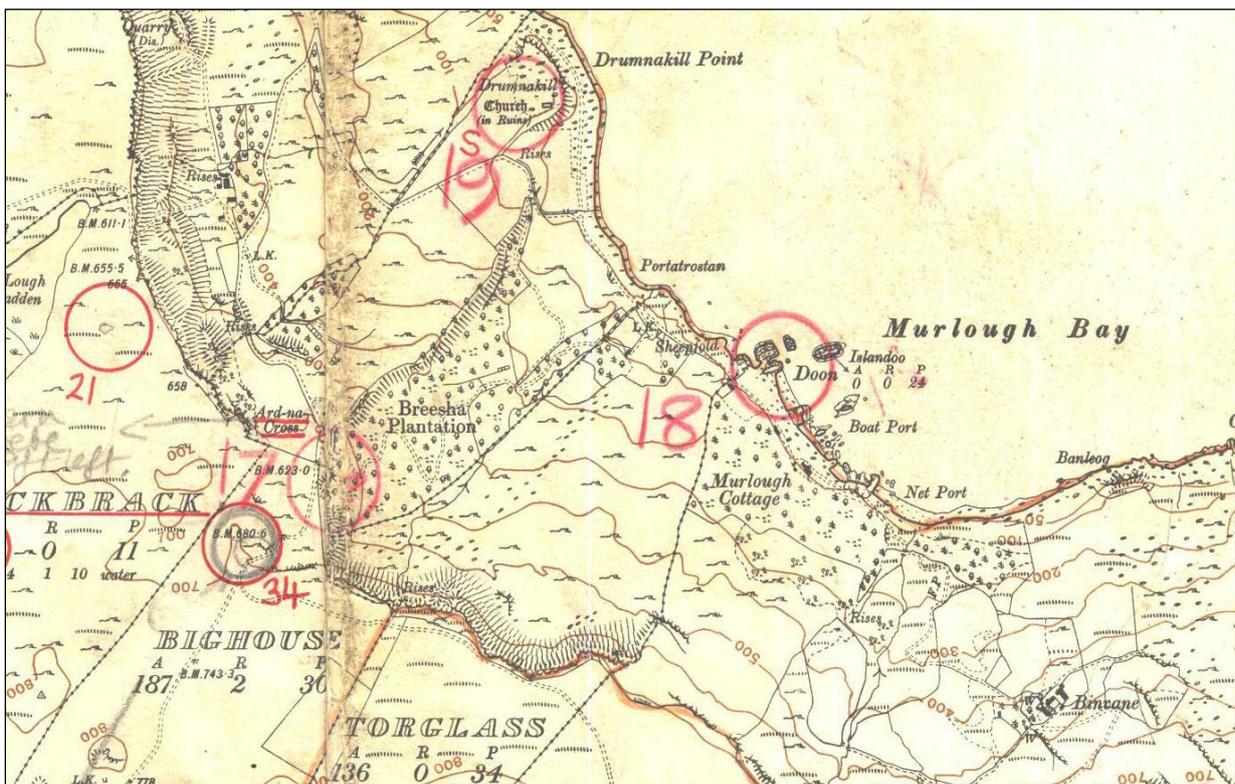


Figure 4: OS County Series Antrim Sheet 5 (part of) 1935
(The Doon Enclosure is located in area 18)

2.4 Archiving

Copies of this report have been deposited with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, the National Trust and the Ulster Archaeological Society. All site records have been archived by the National Trust at Rowallane, Saintfield, County Down.

2.5 Credits and Acknowledgements

The survey was led by Harry Welsh and other members of the survey team included Michael Catney, William Dunlop, Ian Gillespie, Lee Gordon, Yvonne Griffiths, Anne MacDermott, Pat O'Neill, Ken Pullin, George Rutherford, and June Welsh. The Ulster Archaeological Society is particularly grateful to Malachy Conway, Survey Archaeologist of the National Trust, who worked closely with the survey team in choosing the site, facilitating access and assisting with the survey equipment.

3. 2009 UAS Survey

3.1 Methodology

It was decided that the survey would take the form of the production of a plan drawing accompanied by a photographic survey. This report was compiled using the information obtained from these sources, in addition to background documentary material.

3.2 Production of plan drawing

Measurements were obtained by using the society's *Leica Distomat* electronic measuring device. The survey data was recorded in a field notebook and a plan drawing of the enclosure was subsequently completed at 1:100 scale. The plan is shown in Fig. 5 below.

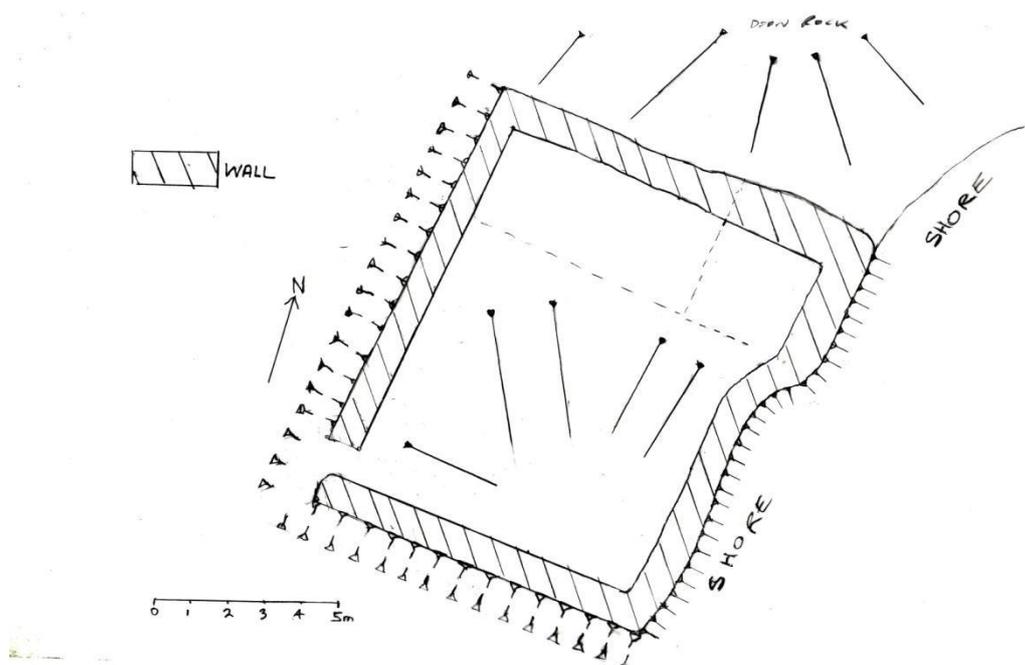


Figure 5: Enclosure Drawing - Plan View

3.3 Photographic Archive

A photographic record of the site was taken by using a *Nikon D700* 12 megapixel digital camera and a photographic record sheet was compiled, corresponding to photographs taken during the site survey on 16 May 2009 and on a return visit on 9 March 2012. The archive has been compiled in JPEG format and stored on an UAS external hard drive, which is also backed up on the National Trust servers. Additional photographs, taken with a *Ricoh G600* 8 megapixel camera on 16 May 2009, have also been archived.

A sample of the enclosure photographs is provided below to illustrate the main features.



Figure 6 (DSC 1782): Enclosure View looking North-East, with Doon Rock in background



Figure 7 (RIM G0015): Detailed view of North-East corner of enclosure



Figure 8 (RIM G0013): Exterior view of NE corner stonework –looking West from shoreline



Figure 9 (DSC 3153): UAS survey team members setting up the Leica Distomat



Figure 10 (DSC 1812): Mortar bonding on seaward facing eastern wall



Figure 11 (DSC 1820): Mortar bonding on inner face of northern wall



Figure 12 (DSC 1819): View looking North showing site sloping toward the SE corner

4. DISCUSSION

4.1 Site Description

The Doon enclosure is a 12 m x 13 m walled sub-rectangular structure, the average height of the walls being approximately 1 m. It has a single entrance, 1 m wide, at the south western end. The walls are overgrown with earth and the ground slopes gently towards the shore at the south east corner. The site is bounded on the east by the sea shore, and is protected and screened to the North by a steep rocky outcrop, approximately 15 m high (Doon Rock).

The walls at the north east end of the enclosure are more substantial. They are approx. 1 m wide, constructed mainly of uncut stones (Fig.8) with evidence of lime mortar bonding in the joints of the inner facing northern wall (Fig.11). A similar mortar bonding can also be seen on the northern section of the outer eastern (seaward facing) wall (Fig.10). The rectangular construction of the north - eastern wall remains are consistent with a building or hut. If so, it would be provided with maximum shelter from northerly winds. There are no visible remains of dividing walls within the enclosure.

As can be seen from the plan drawing in Fig. 5 above, the enclosure is not perfectly rectangular; the eastern side wall is not linear as it follows the contours of the shoreline. The interior surface of the enclosure is not flat, as can be seen from the slope to the south east (Fig.12).

Drainage channels on the outside of the western and southern walls are illustrated by hachures in Fig. 5 and are also visible in Fig. 6.

4.2 Possible Uses

Currently no precise information could be obtained on the function or age of this enclosure, but it could be associated with the following activities practiced in the local area:

- a) Fishing –a boat port lies less than 50 m to the south and a possible slipway 10 m to the north of the site, adjacent to a cavern in the eastern side of the rocky outcrop
- b) Salt trade – export/smuggling?
- c) Coal trade –import of coal for the adjacent lime kiln? (ref. UAS Report No. 18)
- d) Lime industry – housing for workers or a storage site for lime produced at the kiln 200 m to the north?
- e) Cultivation - a sheltered walled garden associated with local dwellings, e.g. the adjacent “Bothy” cottage?

5 Conclusions and Recommendations for further work

It is recommended that the following work be carried out to provide more information on the function of the enclosure:

- Establish contacts with local farmers & historical groups to check if they have any further information on the enclosure, e.g. is there any historical evidence or folklore associated with this site?
- Perform appropriate geophysical surveys within the enclosure, to establish if there are any sub-structures, hearths etc.
- Carry out a small scale excavation to obtain dating information and to establish if there was any human and/or animal occupation on the site.

6 Bibliography

Memoirs of Ireland: Index of People & Places AM 24; page 74

NIEA survey note SMR 5:18, dated Oct. 1992

Welsh J. 2011 Survey of Lime Kiln at Murlough Bay, County Antrim, Survey Report No. 18, Belfast: Ulster Archaeological Society.

Appendix 1**PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD FORM****Site:** Doon Enclosure**Date:** 16 May 2009**Make and model of cameras:***Nikon D700*, 12 megapixel digital camera (frame ref. DSC ...)*Ricoh G600*, 10 megapixel digital camera (frame ref. RIM G...)

Frame No.	Direction Viewed From	Details
DSC 3147	North	Plan view of the monument from top of Doon Rock
DSC 1785	South-East	View looking towards Fair Head
DSC 1782	South/West	Enclosure view with Doon Rock in background
RIM G0015	South/West	Detailed view of North East corner of enclosure
RIM G0013	West	Exterior view of NE corner stonework from shoreline
DSC 3153	East	UAS survey team members setting up the Leica Distomat
DSC 1812	West	Mortar bonding on seaward facing Eastern wall
DSC 1820	South/West	Mortar bonding on inner face of Northern wall
DSC 1819	South	View showing site sloping towards the South/East corner