

Derryhivenny Castle Research Project

D:O'M ME:FIERI:FEKIT 1643



The Derryhivenny Castle Research Project is an ongoing archaeological landscape study into one of the last tower houses to be built in Ireland. The aim is to investigate the Castle complex from the wider perspective of the landscape, using various non-intrusive techniques such as geophysical analysis, aerial and field survey, and research.



by the Heritage Council (Phase 2). Derryhivenny Castle

(National Monument) is a 17th century tower house, located 5 km north of the town of Portumna, Co.Galway, and sited close to the right bank of the River Shannon. According to the inscription on the corbels of a machicolation, the castle was built in 1643 by Daniel O'Madden.

The tower house survives in ruins to its original height, with identifiable upstanding remains of an inner bawn wall, two flanking towers, and a gatehouse. Phase 1 of this study comprised an aerial reconnaissance, field survey, and geophysical analysis, along with desk-based research. Phase 2 represented an extensive geophysical and topographical survey of the site, aimed at targeted investigation to confirm and enhance the results of Phase 1.



The main findings from both Phases of this research to date revealed evidence that Derryhivenny Castle was possibly part of a far larger complex than previously documented, comprising artillery defences encompassing the tower house and inner bawn with outer fortifications. The nature of these outer



defences may represent an earlier phase of occupation or construction, possibly a moated site. Equally, they may be a later addition. Due to these non-intrusive techniques, no definitive or absolute conclusion can be drawn from this research without corroborative evidence. Further research into the Castle and its wider archaeological landscape setting will continue in the future, with targeted archaeological excavation.

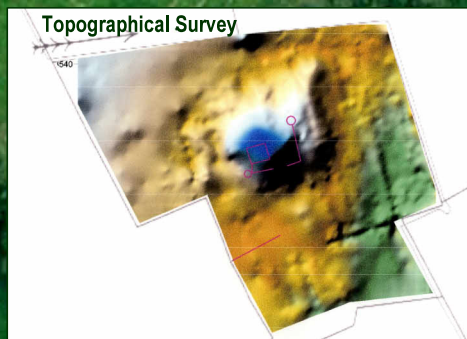
Aideen Burke 2008



Conjectural reconstruction plan



Topographical Survey



Geophysics Results

