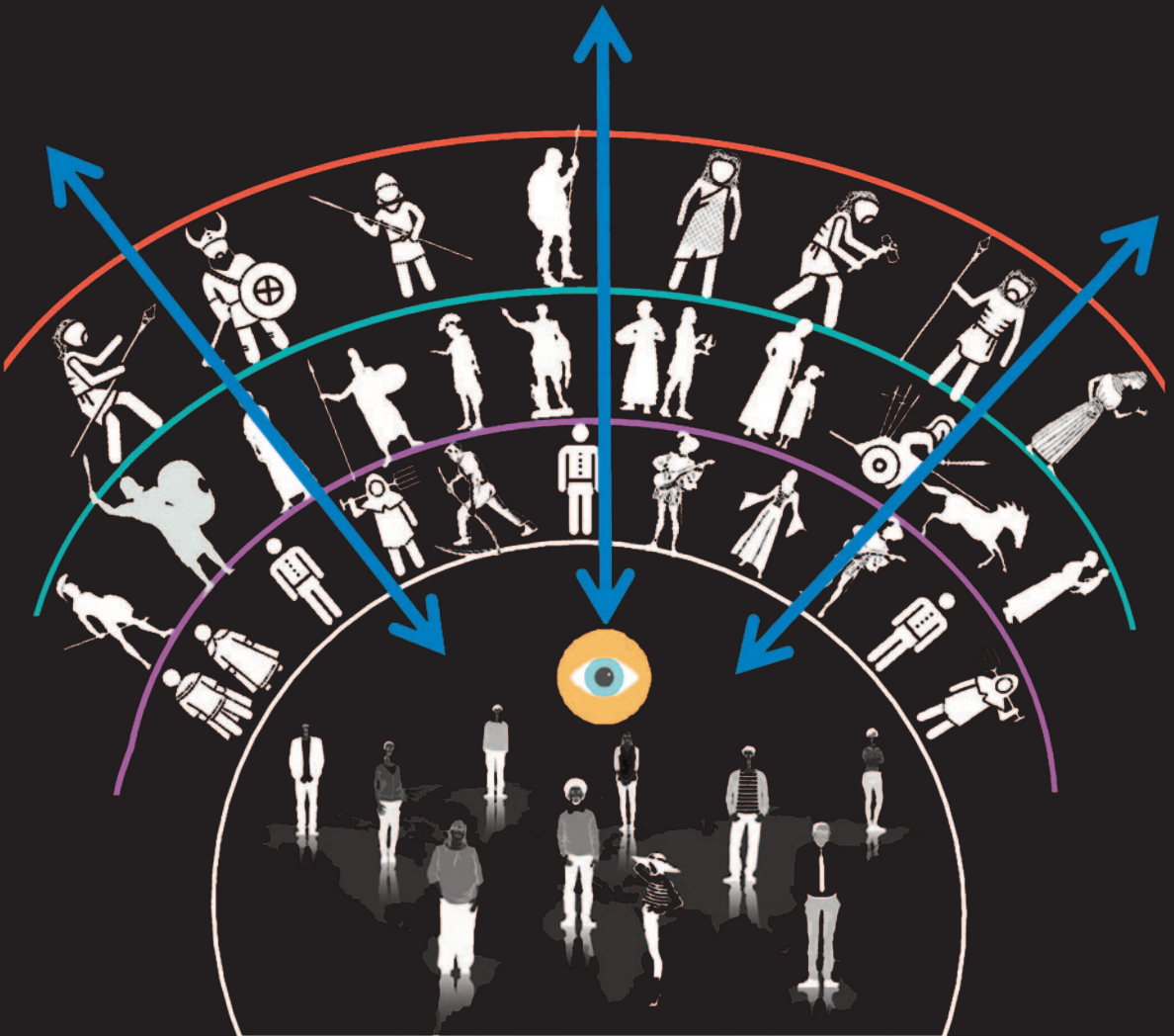


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Colin Rynne*

The development of post-medieval and industrial archaeology in Ireland

1. Introduction

The formal origins of the discipline of post-medieval archaeology on the island of Ireland, begin in the province of Ulster, the six counties which remained within the UK when Ireland was partitioned in 1922 (Donnelly, Horning 2002, p. 559). From the outset, the Northern Irish state took a keen interest in the archaeology of the Ulster Plantation of the early 17th century, in effect, in the archaeological heritage of the ruling Protestant Unionist majority. These latter were the ancestors of Scottish and English colonists who settled in Ulster during the Ulster Plantation, which began in 1609. In the southern 26 counties, which made up the Republic of Ireland, nationalist sentiment in successive governments, as late as the 1980s, effectively militated against the study of Plantation-period buildings and landscapes. Indeed, even the archaeology of the post 1169 Anglo-Norman colonial period was also viewed with suspicion in many quarters. In consequence, either because of nationalist sentiment or simply through a desire to play it safe, a whole generation of Irish archaeologists (with few notable exceptions) focused their efforts on the pre-1169 archaeology of prehistoric and early medieval periods (O'Connor 1998, pp. 9-12). The present paper will consider the origins and development of the terrestrial archaeology of both post-medieval and industrial periods in Ireland. For the most part, the politics of north and south were only part of the problem. There was a general unwillingness on the part of the wider archaeological profession to engage with the post-medieval period in general and with industrial archaeology in particular, as late as the 1980s. The present author is the first and only specialist in both periods to be appointed to an academic post in the Republic of Ireland, while the state archaeology and museum services in the Republic are yet to employ an industrial archaeologist.

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2. The development of post-medieval archaeology

In late 16th- and 17th-century Ireland, the process of English colonization called 'plantation' was a consequence of the large-scale confiscation of lands from both elements of the native population who, unsuccessfully, had rebelled against English government authority, the Gaelic Irish (or 'Old Irish') and the Anglo-Irish (or 'Old English', descendants of Anglo-Norman colonists of the later medieval period). The rebels' estates were designated to be mostly re-distributed among 'New English' – and mainly Protestant – settlers. For example, some 300,000 acres (121,410ha) in the southern Irish province of Munster, the inheritance of the rebel Earl of Desmond and his supporters, was confiscated by Elizabeth I after Desmond's defeat and death in 1583. Several plantations were attempted in Ireland beginning with Laois-Offaly in 1556 and ending with the Ormond plantation in 1630 (fig. 1).

The politics of the partition aside, archaeological fieldwork of the 1950s and 1960s on Plantation-era elite buildings in Ulster, produced some pioneering studies of the castles and manor houses in the six counties (Donnelly, Horning 2002, p. 557; Donnelly 2007, pp. 35-50). The main focus of this research, however, was not on excavation, although this was to change with the arrival of Nick Brannon, an English archaeologist, who was to excavate a wide range of rural and urban sites of the Plantation period in Ulster (Brannon 1999; 2007). The potential of excavation and detailed landscape studies was further advanced by Audrey Horning, an American historical archaeologist, through her work on the Plantation village at Movaghan, county (Horning 2001). Horning's contribution to Irish post-medieval was, and continues to be hugely influential, and she was to become the first post-medievalist to hold a chair of archaeology in an Irish university. Horning also expanded her Ulster study to fully encompass the Atlantic world connections of Ireland with British colonialism (2015). Research excavations, combined with and non-invasive survey techniques, as part of a project led by Colin Breen of the New University of Ulster at Coleraine, led to the discovery, and recording of an extensive Plantation-period village associated with Dunluce Castle, County Antrim (Breen 2012). Elsewhere in Ulster, at Rough Point, in Killybegs Harbour, excavations by Tracy Collins and Frank Coyne unearthed a remarkable 17th-century settlement, with stone-built houses, remarkably similar in form to Irish vernacular houses of the 18th and 19th centuries (Coyne, Collins 2004; Lyttleton 2019, p. 217). By far the most extensive survey to date of the Ulster Plantation was the result of a four-year project, commissioned by the former Northern Ireland Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure, to undertake an archaeological survey of all the Plantation-period sites in the six counties, dating to the period c. 1600-1650. Around 600 sites were surveyed while small excavations, with a community archaeology focus, were conducted at Monea castle, county Fermanagh, Servants Hill, county Down and Derrywoone Castle, county Tyrone (McLaughlin, Lyttleton 2017).

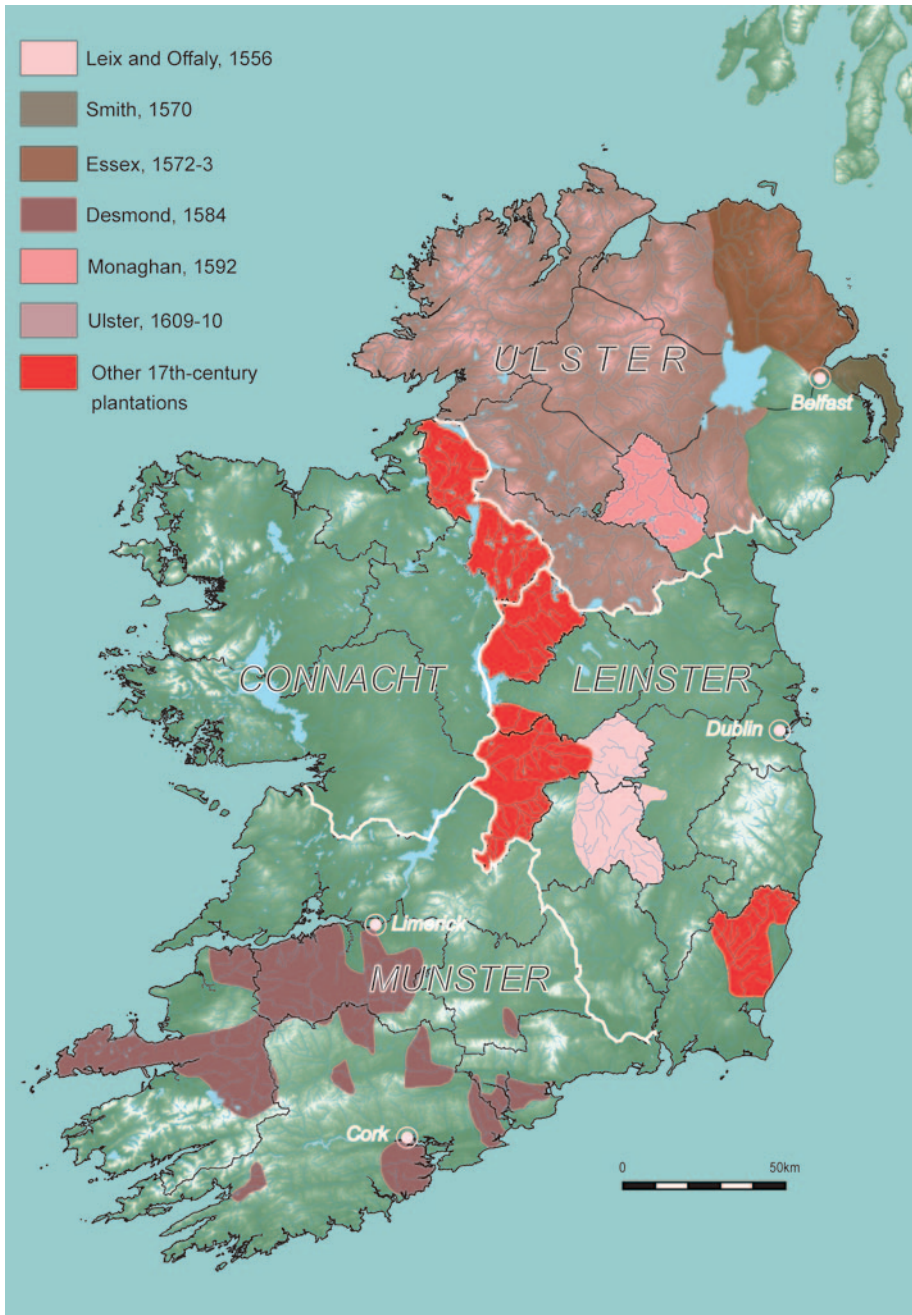


Fig. 1. Sixteenth and seventeenth-century plantations in Ireland.



Fig. 2. Ightermurragh castle, county Cork, completed in 1641. This is a typical Irish manor house of the period, which was heavily influenced by English polite architecture.

In the Republic of Ireland, however, archaeological engagement with the Plantation period, developed on a much slower trajectory. Standing buildings of the period were included in the published county inventories of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland, but excavation and more detailed regional surveys were, up to very recently, a much rarer phenomenon. Early research excavations by academics relied entirely on interventions made by American historical archaeologists such as Eric Klingelhofer, who excavated a number of sites in county Cork, which had originally formed part of Sir Walter Raleigh's seigneurie of Inchiquin (Klingelhofer 1999; 2000; 2010). Yet important regional studies by Irish scholars were to follow. These included James Lyttleton's work on the Jacobean plantations in 17th-century county Offaly (2013) and Colin Breen's seminal landscape study of the Gaelic lordship of O'Sullivan Beare in county Cork (2005) which included a series of important excavations. Detailed archaeological surveys of Plantation-period buildings also became more common, such as Tadgh O'Keeffe's study of the fortified manor house at Ightermurragh, county Cork (2009, fig. 2) and Rose Marie Cleary's excavation of Burncourt Castle, county Tipperary (2008). Important excavations were also undertaken by James Lyttleton at the Plantation settlement created by Sir George Calvert, 1st Lord Baltimore at Clohamon, county Wexford. Calvert's family had acquired lands in Newfound-

land and Maryland, and Lyttleton expanded his study to explore his transatlantic connections (Lyttleton 2017).

The relative slowness of academic and private sector responses to buildings and landscapes of the period was also, in part, the result of early Irish National Monuments legislation and a noticeable lack of co-operation between historians of early modern Ireland and archaeologists. Under the original Irish National Monuments Act of 1930 archaeology, as far as the state was concerned, officially ended in the year 1700. It was not until the 1987 Amendment to the earlier National Monuments Acts, that the National Monuments Service became empowered to use its discretion where post-1700 sites of national importance were involved. Under this new provision the proprietors of post-1700 sites, deemed to be important, now required planning permission in order either to alter or demolish them. In 1994 a further amendment to the National Monuments Acts enabled industrial archaeological sites to be added to the national record of monuments, and thus be afforded a measure of statutory protection. However, it was not until the passage of the Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Bill 2023, which was widely welcomed in all quarters, that comprehensive protection for all aspects of Ireland's post-medieval past became possible.

Only in the last two decades have early modern historians and post-medieval archaeologists begun to find common ground in elucidating the development of Irish Plantation-period landscapes. The archaeological studies by Breen, Horning and Lyttleton referred to above were informed by a full and proper engagement with available documentary sources. However, the sheer volume of written sources available for the period can be overwhelming, as proved to be case with the Colonial Landscapes of Richard Boyle, 1st earl of Cork, c.1602-1643, project initiated by the author and Dr David Edwards, of the Department of History at University College Cork. In 2012 the Irish Research Council awarded funding to this project, which was designed to recreate Boyle's Munster estate and chart its evolution. The project was interdisciplinary in nature, drawing together historians to gather the archival data of Boyle's acquisitions of land, his leases, tenants, and rents, archaeologists to map and survey the landscapes of Boyle's endeavours in the province of Munster and further afield, and art historians to provide new insights into the elite, material world of Boyle and his family (Edwards, Rynne 2017; 2018). In its first year the research team discovered that the archive generated by Boyle, from the early 17th century up to his death in 1643, was much larger than anyone had anticipated. Despite running out of funding in 2014 the project continues, its final goal to produce a monograph study of the Boyle estates in Munster which will hopefully be completed in 2025. In a similar vein, Dr Connie Kelleher, of the National Monuments service has demonstrated how both detailed primary archaeological and documentary research can be used to recreate the maritime and terrestrial landscapes of piracy in Ireland and the Atlantic during the early 17th century (Kelleher 2020).

Nonetheless, while academics were just beginning to dip their toes into the water, private sector or developer-led archaeology had been dealing with an increasing number of excavations of post-medieval sites from the late 1980s onwards. In the Republic of Ireland, during the years 2000-2010 over 1,200 km of motorway and 600km of single carriageway were constructed. The Irish National Roads Authority (NRA, which became Transport Infrastructure for Ireland, TII, in 2015) spent €16 billion on new road infrastructure over this period, of which €120 million was expended on the archaeology of the five major inter-urban routes alone (Anon. 2010, p. 29). In the same period over 1,500 archaeologists were employed on over 2,000 NRA-funded excavations (Anon. 2010, p. 26). By 2006, around 2,000 licenses for archaeological excavation were being issued by the Irish government, while the NRA, alone, was spending upwards of €30 million per annum on archaeology (Anon. 2006, p. 8). From the outset, NRA, and latterly TII, archaeologists ensured that archaeological sites, of all periods, were treated equally in terms of excavation. And, as both the NRA and TII have a long-standing commitment to disseminating the results of their excavations, many new post-medieval sites have since been published. These include an extensive range of 18th- and 19th-century rural settlements, vernacular houses and industries, such as lime kilns, brickfields and water-powered mills (see for example Delaney, Tierney 2011; Rynne 2013; MacDomhnaill 2015). However, Tadhg O’Keeffe has argued that these discoveries have not really made impact on our understanding of the development of landscapes of the period (O’Keeffe 2017, p. 258; Lyttleton 2019, p. 258). There is a grain of truth here, but in the wider scheme of things it misses the key point that these activities have educated a whole generation of archaeologists, working in the private sector, on the importance of both post-medieval and industrial archaeology. It also, in effect, dismisses the potential for future discoveries to change our perceptions of Ireland’s post-medieval past. The excavation of the multi-period (late 16th- to early 19th century) grain mills at Killaclug, Macroom, county Cork, in 2018, is a case in point (fig. 3). These are earliest breastshot and overshot mills to be excavated dating from this period in Ireland. Their millrace, a contour leat over a 1km long, also demonstrates engineering skills that were not believed to have been in existence in Ireland before the 18th century. Furthermore, the conglomerate sandstone millstones employed at the site came from a quarry on the Hook peninsula in county Wexford: a distance of over 200km (Rynne, Taylor, forthcoming).

Ultimately, the rush of new data generated by these activities required action from both private sector archaeologists and academics, not only to pool their resources but also to create a forum for discussion and the dissemination of results. In 1999, the Irish Post-Medieval Archaeology Group (IPMAG) – an all-Ireland association – was founded, which went on to successfully raise the profile of the post-medieval archaeology in Ireland through a series of annual confer-

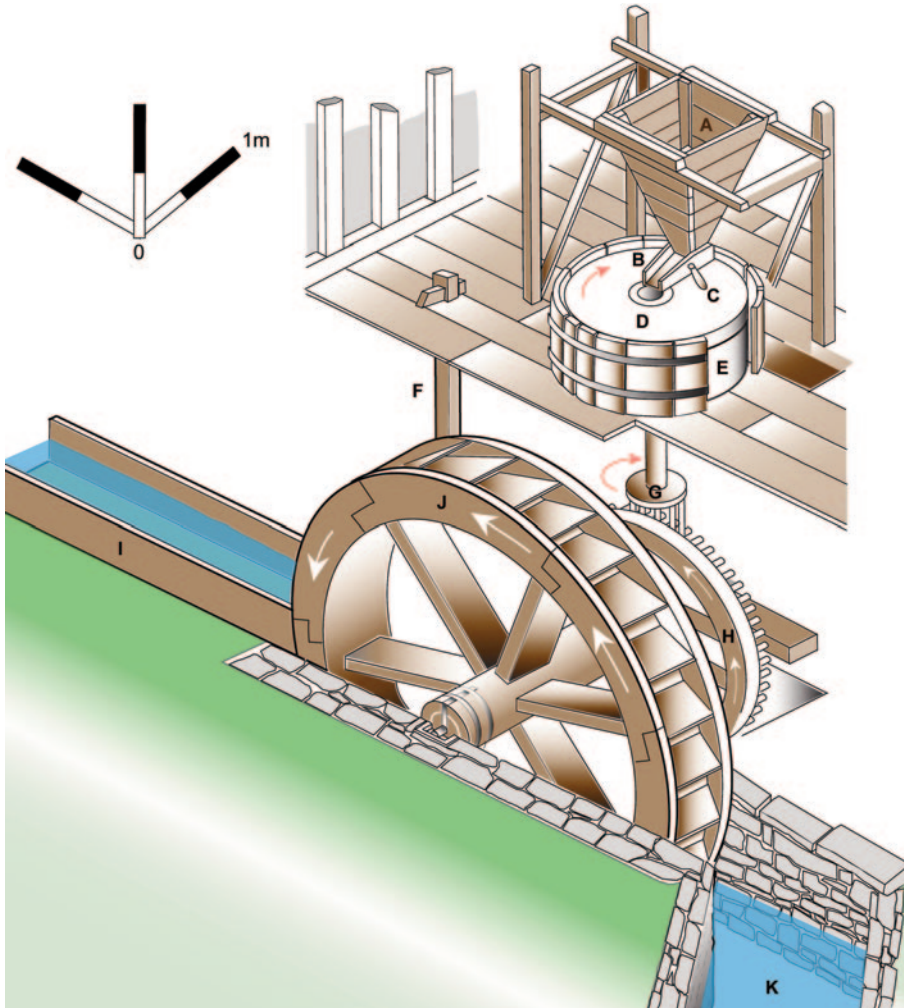


Fig. 3. Reconstruction of early seventeenth-century breastshot watermill at Kill;aclug, Macroom, county Cork. Courtesy of TVAS archaeology.

ences, which have continued to the present day (Horning *et al.* 2007, p. xix; Horning, Palmer 2009). Papers delivered at conference in Belfast in February 2001 were published by the group in 2007 as the *Post-Medieval Archaeology of Ireland, 1550-1850*, which became the de facto textbook for this period in Ireland. However, despite these developments only three Irish universities currently offer courses in either historical or post-medieval archaeology.

3. The development of industrial archaeology in Ireland

In Ireland, however, as opposed to most of western Europe, the archaeological study of industrial landscapes (principally because of unique economic conditions) has been concerned more with sporadic industrial activity than with long-term industrialization (Rynne 2000, 2006). On the face of it, this is a difficult if not intractable problem. During the period of British industrialisation Ireland was, of course, part of the United Kingdom, and well before the passing of the Act of Union, in 1801, her economy had already become closely integrated with that of Britain. In the 17th century, Ireland and her principal ports became the cornerstone of the English transatlantic provision trade. Furthermore, in the same period, Ireland's agricultural economy had become highly commercialised and increasingly geared to export. Not only was Ireland an important supplier of agricultural produce to Britain but also many of her important colonies and, in particular, the West Indian plantations. Very much in the shadow of its neighbour, and with extremely limited mineral resources, Ireland worked to her strengths. The island's mild and temperate marine climate was ideal for most forms of arable farming and, in particular, dairy farming. The burgeoning industrialisation of Britain became the main market both for Ireland's agricultural produce and agricultural processing industries. Industrialisation in Britain, therefore, had an important Irish dimension, which also included a two-way transfer of technology, a theme scarcely explored in British post-medieval archaeology.

In the late 1950s and early 1960s some of the earliest government-financed industrial archaeological surveys in the world were to be undertaken in county Down by the late Professor Rodney Green. Under the auspices of the Ancient Monuments Council of Northern Ireland, Green surveyed textile-processing sites of the linen industry, along with complexes associated with food-processing industries (brewing, distilling, grain milling and so forth) and aspects of the transport and communications of the area. The publication of the results of county Down survey in 1963 was the first of its type for any region of the UK or the Republic of Ireland (Green 1963). In 1962 the Ancient Monuments Council appointed Dr Alan McCutcheon to carry out a more detailed survey of the industrial archaeology of the province. McCutcheon embarked upon a systematic industrial archaeological study of the six counties funded by the Northern Ireland Department of Finance, and the results of his fieldwork, undertaken between 1962 and 1968, complemented by an extensive documentary survey, were published as *The industrial archaeology of Northern Ireland* (McCutcheon 1980). Although this was the first comprehensive, large-scale survey of its type in either Britain or Ireland, McCutcheon's published account is a somewhat erratic compilation, in that it covers only road infrastructure, canals and river navigations, railways, industrial energy, the linen industry and coalfields. During the 1960s, when his work was underway, many of the north's traditional industries were closing down, whilst

key linen mills in the Falls and Crumlin Road areas of Belfast were to be later destroyed during the 'troubles'. Documentary sources also played a critical role in the description and analysis of the industrial sites featured in his inventory, and McCutcheon must be credited as the first fieldworker to demonstrate their effectiveness in a large-scale survey (McCutcheon 1966; Cunningham 1995). In 1982 a research fellowship funded by the Historic Monuments and Buildings Branch (HMBB) of the Department of the Environment, Northern Ireland (DOENI), enabled Cormac Scally to transform the McCutcheon archive – more than 20,000 photographs, slides and glass-plate negatives, business records and architectural and engineering drawings – into an Industrial Archaeological Record (IAR) for the province (Scally, Yates 1985). McCutcheon had begun, but was unable to complete, a photographic survey of Belfast, and since the late 1960s when he had finished his fieldwork, a potentially difficult situation had arisen in which the city of Belfast and its environs had not been surveyed. Clearly such an inventory was required for planning purposes, and the HMBB, later the Environment and Heritage: Built Heritage (EHS:BH) agency of the DOENI, commissioned Dr Fred Hamond and Cormac Scally to produce an industrial archaeological record of the Greater Belfast region. Some 1160 sites, dating from 1830 to 1930, were identified in a 180 sq km area during the course of fieldwork for the Greater Belfast Industrial Archaeology Survey (GBIAS), completed in 1988, and this has since been integrated into the province's IAR, now called the Industrial Heritage Record (IHR, Hamond 1998). During the 1980s further extensive survey work has been carried out by EHS:BH throughout the province. These include a detailed study of Rathlin Island, off the north coast of Ulster, along with a series of thematic surveys of sites such as gasworks and canals. Other activities included a resurvey of around 500 or so sites which were singled out by McCutcheon, in his original fieldwork, as being among the most important in the six counties. In 1991 the Natural Heritage agency of the EHS also commissioned Hamond to undertake an industrial archaeological survey within the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) in northern and eastern county Antrim (Hamond 1991).

Inevitably, perhaps, given the AD 1700 cut-off date for the inclusion of archaeological sites deemed worthy of study and preservation in the early *National Monuments Acts* (see below), the specific study of industrial monuments in the Republic of Ireland did not really get underway until the late 1960s and early 1970s. In reality, though, it was already flourishing, albeit under other names. The Irish Railway Record Society (IRRS), established in 1946, with active branches in the larger Irish cities and in London, has long been involved in the conservation and preservation of Ireland's railway heritage, and the establishment of an all-Ireland Steam Preservation Society has resulted in a series of ambitious restoration schemes. An abiding enthusiasm for Irish canals, coupled with a realisation of their enormous potential for amenity use and tourism, led to the establishment of the Inland Waterways Association of Ireland (IWAI), co-founded by Colonel Harry

Rice and Vincent Delany in 1954 (Delaney 1988). The IWAI has been actively involved in canal conservation projects and scored a notable success in its campaign to save the Dublin section of the Royal Canal. The 1990s witnessed further important developments such as the re-generation of the Ballinamore and Ballyconnell Canal (now restored as the Shannon-Erne Waterway) and the creation of a cross border organisation called Waterways Ireland, in 2000.

Unfortunately, the enthusiasm shown for railways and inland waterways in Ireland was slow to spread to other areas. In the early 1970s the Irish Society for Industrial Archaeology was established whose members (notably William Dick, Gavan Bowie and Ken Mawhinney) published a wide variety of short pieces on the more notable Irish sites in the magazine *Technology Ireland* (1969-) The latter were aimed at a general readership, and their expert insight, when wedded to an attractive magazine design, did much to focus attention on the country's industrial heritage. Yet by the end of the 1970s this society was defunct. A new organisation, the Society for Industrial Archaeology in Munster - a predominantly Cork-based body- was established in 1986. The latter also sprang from promising origins but eventually met with the same fate. However, in June 1996 a new society, the Industrial Heritage Association of Ireland (IHAI), with a thirty-two-county membership concerned with the preservation and recording of the industrial heritage of Ireland, was established (Cox 2021). Since its foundation the membership of this society has been actively involved in survey work, conservation and influencing government policy on matters of relevance. Its most successful project to date, in conjunction with Fingal County Council, has been the restoration of the former Shackleton's Anna Liffia Mill near Lucan, county Dublin. The IHAI also produced a number of important publications, which included *Taking Stock of Ireland's Industrial Heritage* (Anon. 1996), *Power from Steam* (Anon. 1998), and *Archaeology of Irish Industry. Recent Excavations* (Anon. 2009).

On the face of it, the 1994 amendment would appear to have come a little too late. Fortunately, the former inadequacies of the *National Monuments* legislation were in no small part countered by local government measures which, since the early 1960s, had been working in favor of Ireland's important historic industrial monuments. Under the 1963 *Local Government (Planning and Development) Act* local authorities in Ireland were required to draft development plans. Furthermore, any buildings which were deemed to be of artistic, architectural or historic interest by an authority could feature on list of sites to be included in a development plan which were considered to be worthy of preservation. By 'listing' a building in this way, a local authority had the right to refuse planning permission for any alterations to it that were deemed unsuitable, or which might interfere with its long-term survival. Since 2000, the *Local Government (Planning and Development) Act*, has obliged local authorities to list important historic buildings. Under the provisions of the act, they must now set up and maintain a *Record of Protected Structures* (RPS), in which they are to include buildings and structures of spe-

cial architectural, historical, artistic, cultural, scientific or technical interest. The act also provides for the creation of *Architectural Conservation Areas* (ACAs), in which groups of important buildings and their setting can be afforded protection in local authority development plans, and buildings. The *Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) Act* of 1999 empowered the minister for Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht and the Islands to recommend to Irish local authorities that certain historic buildings be included in their listing of protected structures. In 2002, the control of the government departments responsible for built heritage was transferred to the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DOELG). The *Heritage Act* of 1995, which established the Heritage Council as a statutory body, also made provision (Section 10 [4]) for the designation of structures in public ownership, as in the case of semi-state companies such as the Bórd na Móna or the Electricity Supply Board, as heritage buildings (Starrett 2000). As has been seen above it was only in 2023 that solid legislation for all post-medieval structures in the Republic of Ireland was enacted.

In the 1970s An Foras Forbartha (AFF) commissioned a series of county-based surveys of industrial monuments and sites in the Irish Republic, which were undertaken by Dr Gavan Bowie on its behalf. As early as 1971 a Conservation and Amenity Service (CAAS) was established by AFF. In the years 1973 to 1975, Gavan Bowie completed survey work (mostly of water-powered mills and bridges) in eight southern counties (Cavan, Clare, Donegal, Kerry, Kildare, Louth, Monaghan and north Tipperary) and was later followed by John Courlander who undertook fieldwork in a further ten over a three-year period. These included counties Carlow, north Cork, south Dublin, Longford, Mayo, Meath, Sligo, Waterford, Wexford and Wicklow. A further, more comprehensive survey, was conducted in county Kildare in 1986, by Fred Hamond for Kildare County Council. This latter was also initiated by CAAS and involved the examination of 650 sites, some 165 of which were to feature in Kildare's County Development Plan. In 2019 Cork County Council made an important step forward in producing a popular guide to the industrial heritage of that county (Rynne 2019). Thus far the only general, fully-referenced account of the industrial archaeology is the present author's *Industrial Ireland 1750-1930: an archaeology* (2006), which reappeared in paperback in 2014.

Recent legislation tightening up the maintenance of local authority archives, many of which are also repositories of important business documents, will also further advance research and survey work by facilitating access to, and by preserving, important documentary materials relating to Ireland's industrial heritage. The establishment of the Centre for Civil Engineering Heritage Trinity College, Dublin and the Technological Heritage Archive in University College, Galway, are further important developments, as is the publication of an excellent guide to the archives of the Irish Board of Works (Cox 2000; Lohan 1994). The Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland (formerly the Mining History Society of Ireland) was estab-



Fig. 4. 'Man engine house' of 1862, at Allihies, county Cork, after conservation by Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland.

lished in 1996 to cater for a growing interest in the development of Irish mines and their history. In 2004 it completed important conservation works on a rare man engine house at Allihies, county Cork (fig. 4) and is undertook (2004-6) similar works on the Bunmahon/Tankardstown mining complex in county Waterford, which is now open to the public (fig. 5). The MHTI has reprinted Grenville Cole's important monograph (1922) on mineral resources in Ireland and, since 2001, regularly produced an excellent journal. However, after many successful years the MHTI voluntarily wound itself up in 2019.

Legislatively and institutionally, both the study and preservation of buildings and landscapes of the post-medieval and industrial periods in Ireland have made enormous strides over the last two decades. This is particularly true of the



Fig. 5. The Bunmahon copper mines, county Waterford (1850s).

built heritage of 18th and 19th century Irish industries which now enjoy greatly enhanced protection. In many Irish cities it is even becoming common for 20th-century industrial buildings to be granted protected status. Good examples of this trend are in evidence in the docklands of the ports of both Dublin and Cork. In Dublin port, for example, the 20th century R. & H. Hall silos are protected structures, while at Cork the 1930s Cork Milling Company (Odlums) flour mills will be adaptively re-used, with items of its original machinery plant salvaged and restored to museum standard for display in the proposed Cork Docklands public realm strategy. However, large gaps in knowledge still exist. More work is needed on the built environment of settlement and industry in 19th-century Ireland, and especially on the Great Famine (1845-52) and its aftermath. To date, studies of this type are rare (but see Orser 2006; Brighton, Webster 2023, on the archaeology of the Irish cabin). All told, the future of post-medieval studies appears bright as, thanks to private sector archaeology, it has successfully negotiated its way into the mainstream.

Abstract

The development of post-medieval and industrial archaeology in Ireland is a tale of two islands: one which remained in the UK after the British partitioned Ireland in 1922 and the other which became an independent, sovereign nation. In six counties of the northernmost Irish province of Ulster, the Westminster parliament created what remains, to this day, a loyal, Protestant enclave. By this means the province of Northern Ireland could be relied upon not to secede to the self-styled Irish Free State, which was to declare itself a republic in 1949. In each jurisdiction competing identities – loyalist and unionist in the six counties and nationalist and separatist in the south – created very different views of Ireland's past. The present paper evaluates how these attitudes both advanced and impeded the study of Ireland's post-medieval and industrial landscapes.

Keywords: Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, post-medieval archaeology, industrial archaeology.

Lo sviluppo dell'archeologia post-medievale e industriale in Irlanda racconta la storia di due isole: una che rimase nel Regno Unito dopo la separazione con l'Irlanda nel 1922 e l'altra che diventò una nazione indipendente e sovrana. In sei regioni (contee) nella più settentrionale provincia dell'Ulster, il parlamento di Westminster creò quella che rimane, tutt'oggi, una enclave protestante. In questo modo si poteva contare sul fatto che l'Irlanda del Nord non avrebbe ceduto al sedicente Stato libero irlandese, che si sarebbe dichiarato una repubblica nel 1949. In ogni giurisdizione le identità in competizione – lealista e unionista nelle sei regioni e nazionalista e separatista nel sud – hanno creato visioni molto diverse del passato dell'Irlanda. Questo articolo esplora come questi atteggiamenti abbiano favorito o ostacolato lo studio dei paesaggi post-medievali e industriali dell'Irlanda.

Parole chiave: Repubblica d'Irlanda, Irlanda del Nord, archeologia post-medievale, archeologia industriale.

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