

**APPENDIX J
CULTURAL HERITAGE – OS
MEMOIRS**

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Cultural Heritage - OS Memoirs

The area is described in the Ordnance Survey Memoirs for Carrickfergus Parish, written in the 1830s (Day & McWilliams 1996).

The OS Memoirs contain two descriptions of 'Ancient Topography' (ibid, pp. 82-91 and pp. 180-189), and therefore have two descriptions of Castle Lugg.

The first description runs as follows (ibid, p. 84)

"Castle Lugg is said to have in ancient times been known by the name of Cloughnaheart. Its present name, according to tradition, was derived from the family of Lugg (now Legge), by whom it was built or inhabited.

The ruins are situated in the West Division, about 3 miles west of the town of Carrickfergus and on the summit of a trifling bank about 10 feet above the shores of the lough, from which it is separated by the main road from Carrickfergus to Belfast. Of the castle, which seems to have solely consisted in a square tower similar to those in the counties of Wexford and Kilkenny, nothing now remains but a portion of the northern wall 27 feet long and 25 feet high, with a very small portion of the eastern side attached to it.

The walls, which are 3 feet 6 inches in thickness, are built of sharp, undressed quarrystones, well laid and closely and firmly cemented by grouting made from sea sand. The stones, which are generally small, are larger towards the base. Those at the corners have been removed for modern purposes. Several pieces of sandstone occur in the walls; they are, however, undressed.

A chasm from 4 feet 6 inches to 5 feet wide reaches from the base to the summit of the wall. It is, except for a short distance about half-way up, faced at each side with jambs expanding inwards. The upper portion of the aperture may have been a window and the lower a doorway, the intervening wall having been removed. It is now almost entirely built up. No cut or dressed stone is to be found in any part of the walls.

In digging about the castle, a considerable quantity of human bones and several large iron keys were some years since discovered.

There is no tradition or local record to throw any light on the origin, history or destruction of this castle. The Luggs, by whom it was inhabited, held some extensive tracts of the adjoining land."

The second description runs as follows (ibid, p. 182).

"The ruins of Castle Lugg ancient castle is situated on a handsome eminence about 3 English miles west of Carrickfergus and contiguous to the mail coach road leading from the latter town to Belfast. Nothing of this old building now remains but 27 feet in length of the north square and about 3 feet in length of the east square. These walls stand from 20 to 25 feet high and 3 and a half feet in thickness, built chiefly of whinstone, the larger of which are laid in their natural and undressed state. The grout combining them is of a very good quality. The sand used in this mortar seems to have been procured from the sea-shore, as it is interspersed with small shells.

The lower part of the walls, particularly the corners, are much disfigured by the surface stones being picked off for modern erections. About the middle of the north square, and reaching from the base near to the top, stands a piece of modern brick and stonework which fills up some ancient breach in the wall, or perhaps where a door and window originally stood.

In the lower part of the modern building stands (now closed up) a small doorway that formerly served as an entrance to a shed built against the south side of the

main wall. The breach above mentioned is 4 to 5 feet wide near the base but narrower towards the top. There are some rough pieces of freestone observable in parts of the walls. On the top of the east corner stands a small sloe bush in a natural state of growth.

In labouring about the base and ruins of this building at sundry periods within the last century, human bones, old coins and some large keys were discovered beneath the surface, but none of these antiques at present to be seen. Neither is there any detail to be had of the foundation or destruction of the castle, save that it is believed to have derived its present name from a family of the name of Lugg who held some tracts of the neighbouring ground at some former period, and probably inhabited the castle also. This castle was situate in the West Division."

The Memoirs note the presence of raths in the 1830s and before (ibid, p. 87), reporting that: "There are at present but 13 forts or raths in this parish. Within memory upwards of 60 have been destroyed, from their having interfered with the progress of agriculture. They were nearly all situated along the more gentle declivities in the eastern district of the parish and in that portion of it now most generally cultivated and inhabited."

The Memoirs also report (ibid) that the raths seem to have produced much more in the way of artifacts than has usually been the case in recent excavations: "In their demolition many discoveries have been made, such as human skulls and bones, bones of cattle, wood cinders and ashes, querns, brazen and iron weapons and instruments, stones hatchets and flint arrowheads."

Under the two entries for 'Ancient Topography', the Memoirs list a fair number of forts individually (ibid, pp. 79-91 and 177-192) but their locations are given only by the names of the landowners on whose land they were, and precise identification of the locations has not been possible.