

CONSERVATION REPORT

1.0 Background

- 1.1 This report was commissioned by Offaly County Council - the owners of the castle and of the park in which it is set.
- 1.1 The aim of the report is to record the surviving masonry, to establish the historical background and the evolution of the fabric and to identify the scope of works required to stabilise and conserve the upstanding remains of the building.
- 1.1 The preparation of a detailed programme of works to stabilise and conserve the remains will form part of a later Implementation phase of the project.

2.0 Team

- 2.1 The report was prepared by Margaret Quinlan Architects. The team drawn together to provide the requisite specialist skills was
 - Murphy Surveys who surveyed the building
 - Michael O'Neill, architectural historian, who carried out documentary research
 - Dave Pollock, archaeologist, who prepared the archaeological assessment and the evolution of the fabric including the 3D illustrations.
- 2.2 A special contribution was made by Caimin O'Brien, Archaeologist, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, who made his research-in-progress for the forthcoming publication *Castles of Offaly* available for this report (Appendix 2)

3.0 Methodology

3.1 Guiding Principles

The preparation of this report has been guided by the definitions and principles of the ICOMOS *Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance* (Burra Charter), 1988 amendment.

Definitions as provided by the Charter have been used in this Conservation Report. The main definition *Conservation* is defined as all of the processes of looking after a place in order to retain its cultural significance. The term includes maintenance and may, according to circumstance, include preservation, restoration, reconstruction and adaptation. It will commonly be a combination of more than one of these.

3.2 Survey, Research and Analysis

- Survey work was carried out on the standing fabric of Castle Blundell. At the outset of the study, ivy growth was trimmed back close to the external face of the masonry by Offaly County Council to remove the weight of vegetation from higher levels of walls and to facilitate the survey of the upstanding remains. The rectified photographic survey was then carried out and elevational drawings prepared.
- Historical research was carried out using the primary and secondary sources listed in the Appendices.
- Detailed examination and analysis of fabric was carried out.
- An illustrated account of the evolution of the structures has been prepared, based on fieldwork, on the documentary history and on the dimensional survey.



View from south with water tower and enclosure to the east and Church of Ireland in background. Note rubble from collapsed section of south wall



View from North

4.0 Description

4.1 The site

The conspicuous ruins of Blundell Castle, Edenderry, occupy a prominent hilltop overlooking the present town. The surrounding ground forms the town park. The Church of Ireland is located within its own enclosure across the parkland to the north-west. A modern housing estate lies to the east and south. The town water tower and associated works stand close by within a modern enclosure to the east.

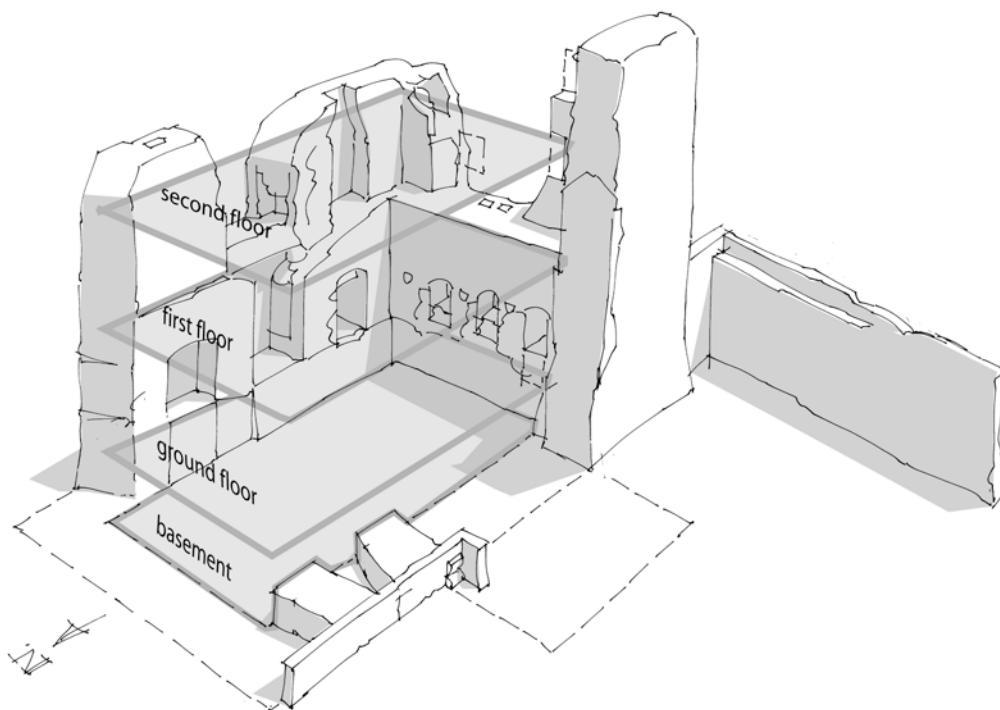
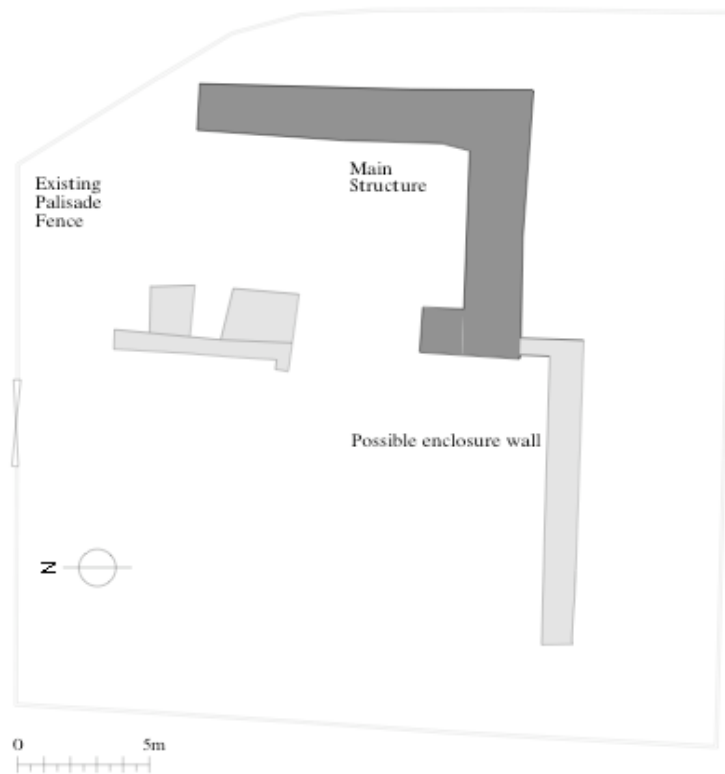


1st ed OS map c.1840 showing castle in ruins, a wooded area around castle enclosure and the church to the north

4.2 The Building

The surviving fabric is the remains of a rectangular structure of at least 3 storeys and a basement. The southwest corner stands close to ceiling level of the second floor. Approximately half of the shell has survived to the top of the first floor, from the southwest corner to the southeast corner, and to a point potentially close to the northeast corner. Two thick stumps of masonry appear to be the truncated remains of the west wall. A base batter increases the wall thickness by at least 0.5m around the tall shell, but is absent from the stumps of masonry on the west wall line. The long axis of the building was north/south, but as no remains of the north gable wall can be seen at ground level the length of the building is unknown. Minimum internal dimensions would be 11.5m, x 5.6m at ground level.

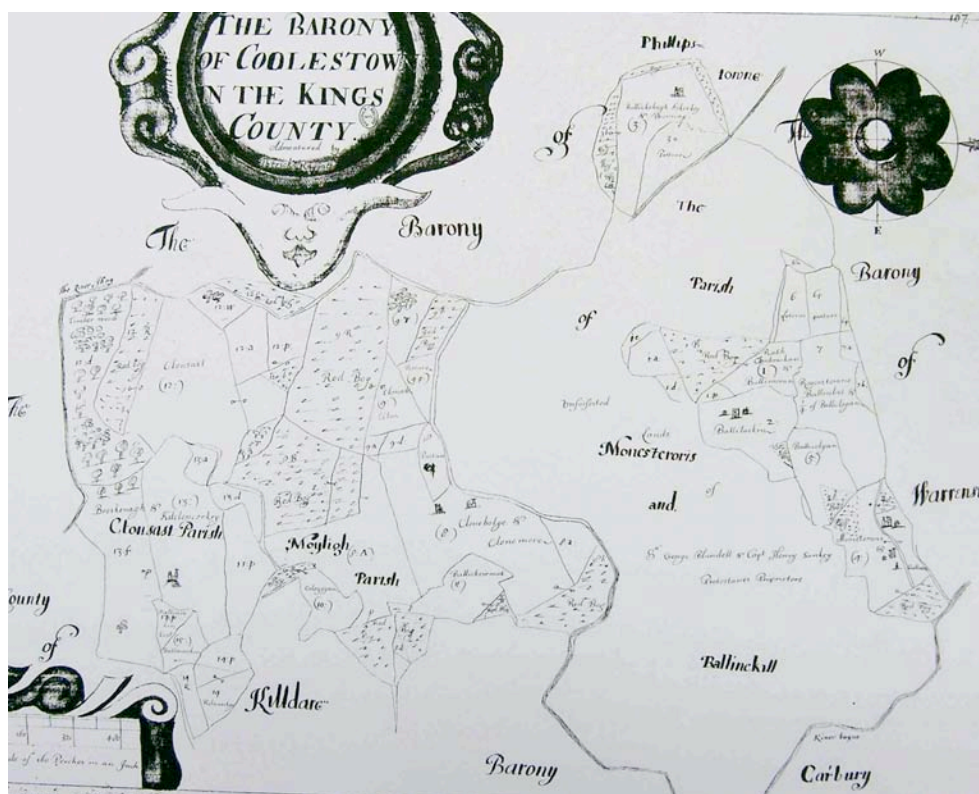
Part of a later wall is attached to the south-west corner. The surviving castle walls are enclosed by a steel palisade, and are partly masked by ivy. Much of the foliage was removed ahead of the survey, but the stems still hide a good deal of fabric.



Oblique sketch, with floors.

5.0 Historical Background

- 5.1 The ruins of Blundell castle, Edenderry, comprise half of the shell of a late towerhouse, part of an earlier towerhouse or hallhouse, and part of a late enclosure wall. The earlier towerhouse (or hallhouse) may have replaced an earth-and-timber castle in the 15th or early 16th century, and was taken down to less than one storey to be rebuilt, probably in the later 16th century.
- 5.2 The standing towerhouse may have been built by Nicholas Herbert, when he took over the castle as the centre of his plantation estate in 1550, or Sir Henry Colley, when he was granted the Manor of Edenderry in 1562 (see O'Neill). The earlier 15th/16th century hallhouse or towerhouse may have been built by the O'Connors and was probably the first stone castle on the site.
- 5.3 The mural stairs in the present towerhouse were replaced, probably with a stair turret (now demolished), and new fireplaces were inserted.
- 5.4 After the building was decommissioned, half of the towerhouse shell survived robbery for building materials but the ruined half-shell was carefully patched and consolidated.



Down Survey (c. 1659)

Barony name Coolestown after Colley to whom the Manor of Edenderry was granted in 1562.

Edenderry (towards bottom right) not shown as lands shown as already in hands of *Sir Geo. Blundell & Capt. Henry Sankey Protestant Proprietors*

5.5 This patching is an unusual feature of a ruin quarried for building materials. There are two possible explanations for this - firstly that the castle remains were worked upon to create a 'ruin' or folly - to be an eyecatcher from a distant viewpoint, usually a main residence within the same ownership. The second hypothesis is the one supported in this report - that the remains were quarried for stone but in a planned way, perhaps by the owners or heirs themselves who took a pragmatic decision to use some collapsed material from the ruined ancestral home for a practical purpose but also wanted to secure the upstanding remains. The castle was probably not inhabited in the 18th century. The new church was built in 1787 on Blundell land and may have been a worthy cause for the reuse of collapsed or collapsing rubble. It may be that a close study of the church and research into its history would produce some evidence for this hypothesis.

5.6 Some of the south gable wall fell at some stage in the 20th century.



South wall today

5.7 Timeline

- 1416 Annals of Connacht. *'the castle of Edenderry was razed ...at the beginning of winter..'* by the Lord Lieutenant
- 1427 Annals of Ulster *'the castle of Edandaire in Offaly was broken down by Foreigners this year"*
- 1537 de Berminghams were offered peace and were made Barons of Carbury in 1542
- 1549 The Ui Chonchobair finally surrendered to the crown. Walter Cowley, the king's surveyor, surveyed the Offaly portion of the newly-claimed land.
- 1556-1558 *...castlesEdinderry and Monasteroris...* leased to Nicholas Herbert
- 1562 Manor of Edenderry granted by the Crown to Sir Henry Colley (probably son of Walter Cowley, the king's surveyor)
- 1599 The castle was defended by the Sir George Colley against insurgents in the Earl of Tyrone's rebellion.
- c. 1659 Survey records the name Blundell in the parish. George Colley had no issue. His sister, Sarah, had married Sir George Blundell which name now became associated with the castle.
- 1691 Part of the Jacobite army attacked Edenderry and *'burned greater part of it'*. It is not known if the castle was burnt.
- 1701 - 1707 The last Blundell burials are recorded in the church register. Sarah Blundell in 1701 and her son Sir Francis (1643 -1707). The castle may not have been occupied beyond these dates if it survived 1691.
- 1720 Reference in letter to 'Edenderry House'.
- 1778 The present church to the north of the castle was built to replace that at Monasteroris, formerly the Franciscan friary.
- 1786 Mary, great granddaughter of Sir Francis married Arthur Hill, later marquess of Downshire. She inherited in 1798 and Edenderry became part of the Downshire estate.
- 1900's Collapse of wall between embrasures on first/second floor

6.0 Evolution of the Fabric - Understanding the archaeological site

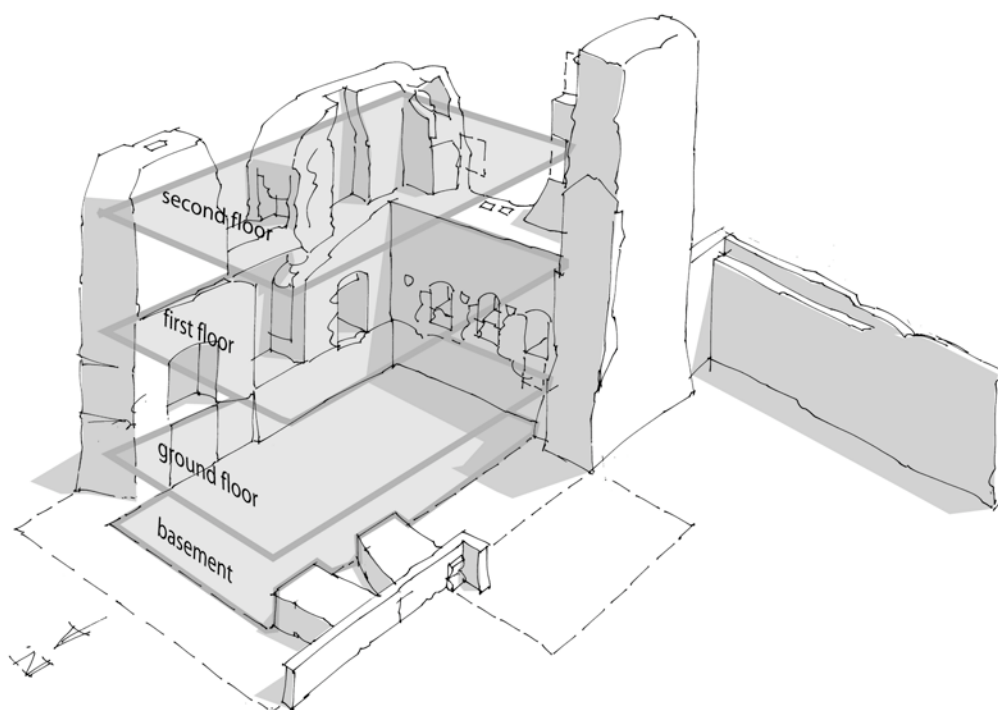
This section of the report has been prepared by Dave Pollock MIAP and is based on sketches and field notes made on a site visit on 12 January 2007. The weather was poor (blustery winds) and no attempt was made to get access to levels above the ground floor. The report is largely based on observations from ground level.

6.1 Archaeological significance

The conspicuous ruins of Blundell Castle, Edenderry, occupy a prominent hilltop overlooking the present town. The building remains represent a late medieval towerhouse, incorporating remains of an earlier building, and with a good deal of alteration. The monument is very accessible, surrounded by a public open space, a grassed park. Because of their association with Edenderry, their landmark prominence, and their situation in a public amenity area, the remains are of considerable local significance. Because of their complexity and the potential for associated material surviving below ground, the remains are considered of national significance.

6.2 The principal building.

The principal late medieval building was a rectangular structure of at least 3 storeys and a basement; the southwest corner stands close to ceiling level of the second floor. Approximately half of the shell has survived to the top of the first floor, from the southwest corner to the southeast corner, and to a point potentially close to the northeast corner.

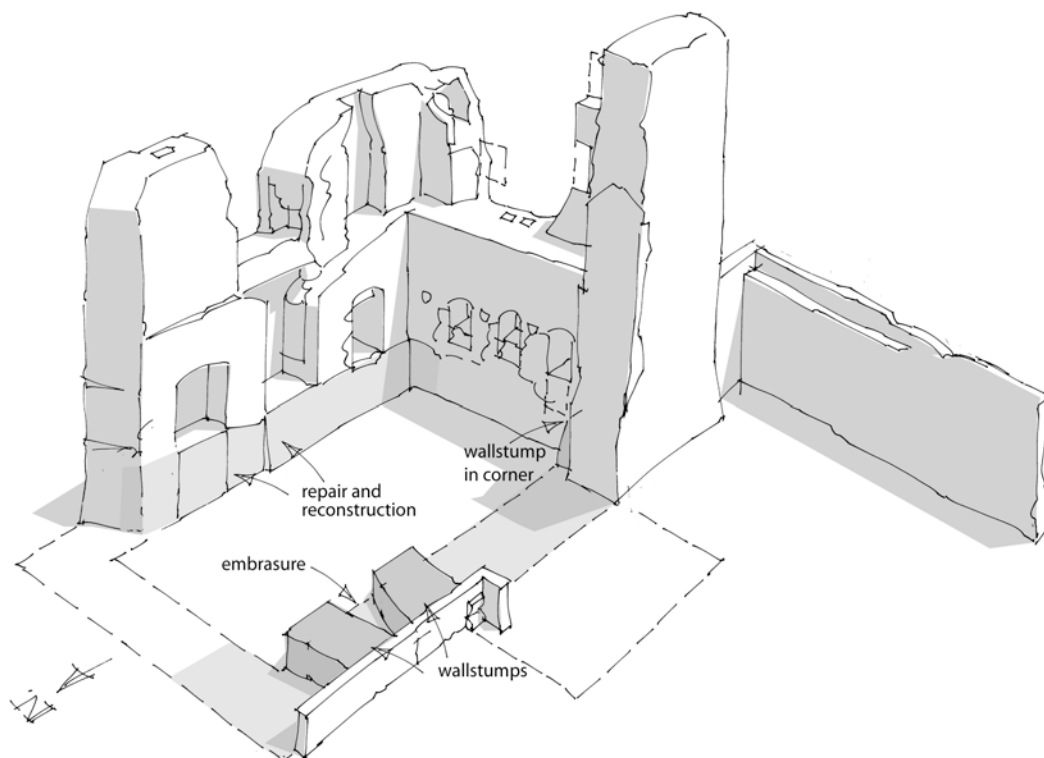


Oblique sketch, with floors.

Two thick stumps of masonry appear to be the truncated remains of the west wall. A base batter increases the wall thickness by at least 0.5m around the tall shell, but is absent from the stumps of masonry on the west wall line. The long axis of the building was north/south, but as no remains of the north gable wall can be seen at ground level the length of the building is unknown. A minimum internal length would be 11.5m, x 5.6m internal width, at ground level. The internal dimensions would have increased above a rebate for the first floor.

A rebate on the east and west walls might have supported the timber ground floor, suspended over a basement. Robbery and repair at the foot of the east wall have obliterated any rebate, but a shelf has survived in the southwest corner (the top of early masonry, see below). The space below this floor level is interpreted as a basement, probably poorly lit and short of headroom.

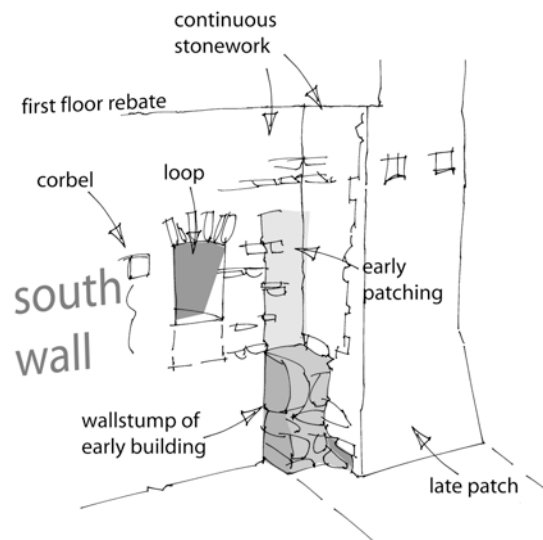
The basement is interesting, but poorly represented. Externally it is unclear how much of the base batter is original, and how much (perhaps very little) is reconstruction. Internally much of the east wall fabric and part of the south wall fabric is repair and reconstruction. The original west wall survives as a stump (2.4m thick) at the southwest corner, and the two stumps (up to 2.6m thick) further north. The tops of these wallstumps are almost level, and might have supported ground floor joists.



Oblique sketch, basement features.

The space between the northern stumps is a narrow internal splay for an arrow- or gun-loop, probably one of several; remains of others may be concealed by repair/reconstruction work in the south and west walls.

Patchwork in the southwest corner of the present building is particularly significant. It implies that the wide stump of masonry originally stood higher, but was cut down and replaced with a thinner wall. (It is very unlikely that the wall was merely chiselled back. This would have cut away support for wooden floors above, and would have left the new wall either unfaced or poorly refaced, as we find with the adjacent stonework in the corner.)



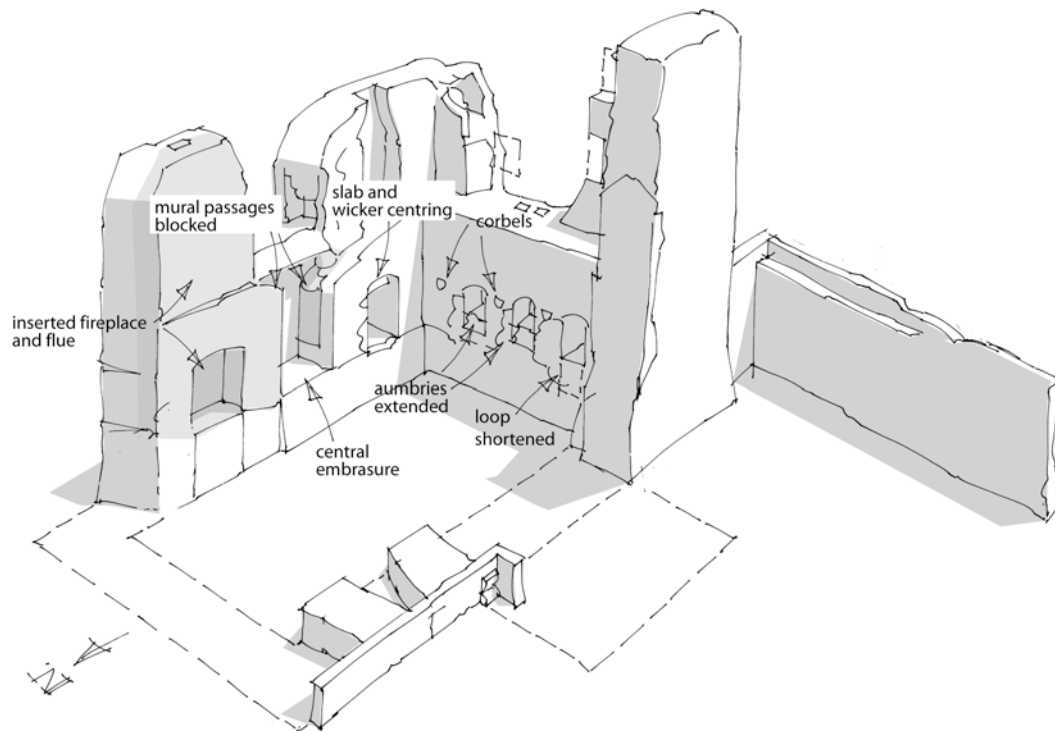
Sketch, southwest corner.

Masonry below the first floor rebate appears to run unbroken around the southwest corner, suggesting that much of the south gable is a rebuild contemporary with most of the west wall. Most of the present building should be considered a rebuild, on the truncated stump (one storey or less) of an earlier building.

The earlier building was probably truncated to below the top of its first storey; the floor of the surviving embrasure in the west wall is unlikely to be much lower, which would leave insufficient height (below the ground floor) to use this as a firing position in the present building.

Although there is no evidence that the early building had the same footprint as the standing structure, the west wall appears to have been at least as long.

The ground floor of the surviving building has suffered less from stone robbery and repair than the basement. However three internal openings in the gable wall have been enlarged and reduced in size in the pursuit of symmetry; the western opening was initially a taller loop, whilst the other two were shorter alcoves or aumbries.



Oblique sketch, ground floor features.

A row of corbels set into the south wall appear very low as supports for the floor above. They may have carried wallposts which in turn supported a beam under the floor.

A loop at the south end of the east wall has been altered and repaired, and may have been reroofed. (However the unusual combination of wicker centring and slabs over the opening may be original, associated with a mural passage stepping over the opening, see below.)

A large fireplace towards the north end of the wall has been inserted, with contemporary masonry extending to the storey above and east to the central embrasures on each floor. Much of the outside wallface survived this rebuild; a small loop or window and a likely loop for a handgun are both now inaccessible behind the fireplace and chimney. Construction of the fireplace blocked a mural passage leading north from the central embrasure, potentially descending to the basement (and lit by the inaccessible window/loop). Robbery and reconstruction work below the fireplace have masked any basement access to such a passage.

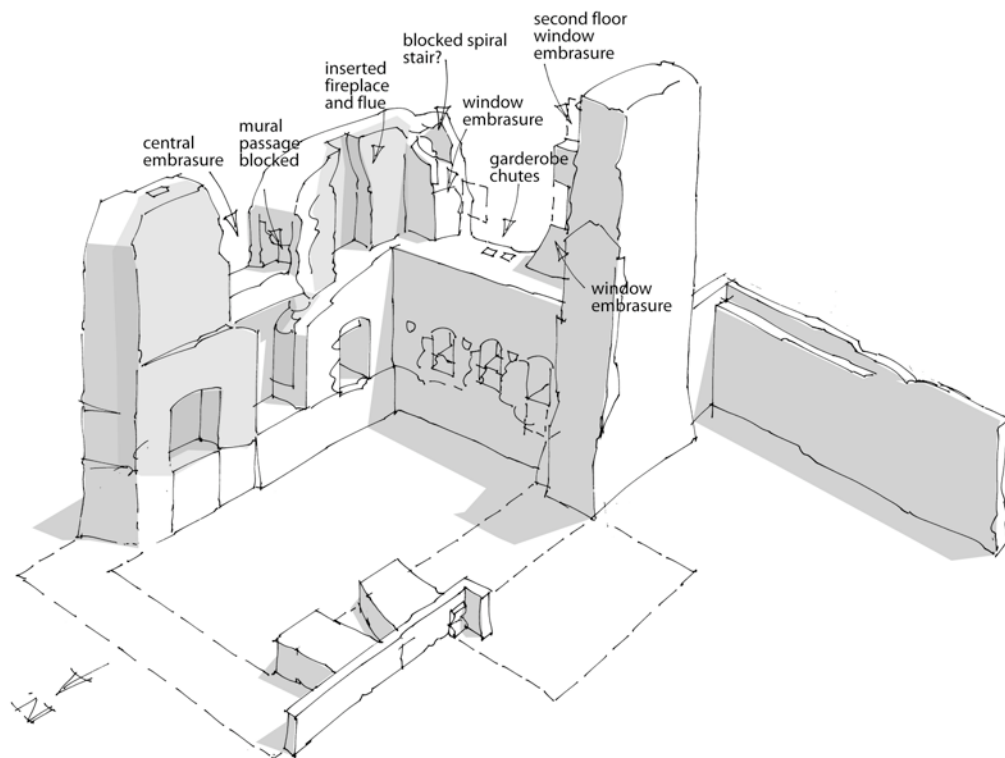
A mural passage leading south from the central embrasure (first floor) would have accessed another blocked window or loop visible on the outside of the wall. This opening may have lit a passage rising to the second floor, but subsequently blocked by a fireplace on that floor. The slab roof of the deep loop south of the central embrasure may incorporate steps of the mural stairs.

A tall ragged hole through the outer skin of wall at the central embrasure has been untidily filled with a reconstructed window or loop. The original embrasure may have had a loop or a door. There would have been only one door entering the building, and a door here would have given easy access to all floors via the mural stairs.

When the fireplaces were inserted, alternative stairs would have been provided.

The second floor also had a central embrasure in the west wall, with a mural passage (now blocked) to the south. This passage may have been very short; the face of a crosswall can be seen from the ground, barely 1m from the middle of the embrasure. A blocked loop can be seen in the outside face of the wall at about the same location as the crosswall; either the loop was at the end of a very short passage, or the crosswall was a tall step in a rising passage, another mural stairs.

Much of the inside of the east wall, on the second floor, contains an inserted fireplace, and the chimney flue for the inserted fireplace on the floor below. The fireplaces are associated with blocking the mural passages.



Oblique sketch, first and second floor features.

The south gable wall has the remains of two embrasures on the first floor. The wall between the embrasures has fallen since a photograph was taken in the early 20th

century (Lawrence Collection, NLI ref.LROY8928). The central piece of wall is shown heavily overgrown with ivy in the photograph, and would have been weakened by a pair of garderobe chutes passing through. The eastern window embrasure must have been blocked at this stage; only the western embrasure can be seen in the photograph, as a large window opening below a segmental arch. One of the garderobes would have been beside this embrasure, the other on the floor above.

David Sweetman refers to a fireplace in the south gable (*Fireplace first floor level in S wall with garderobe behind ... late and now blocked fireplace on the S wall which masks an earlier double garderobe chute...*, see Mike O'Neill's report) but does not mention the first floor fireplace at the south end of the east wall.

A narrow window or loop, now blocked, can be seen in the outside face close to the southeast corner on the first floor. This may have lit a mural passage or stairs, apparently blocked by the present window embrasure.

The second floor had at least one window in the south gable, towards the west side. The window opening is shown in the 20th century photograph, rectangular, fairly large, and overgrown with ivy. Part of the splayed embrasure has survived; the rest has fallen.

In the southeast angle of the building a fragment of passage (blocked) under corbels or steps can be seen close to the present ragged top. These remains may be part of a spiral corner stair rising from the first floor to the second and then to the third. The stairs would have been lit by the first floor opening mentioned above, but would have been inaccessible after the insertion of the present first floor fireplace close to the corner.

The insertion of a pair of fireplaces and chimneys in the east wall, perhaps in the 17th century, appears to have disabled the original stairs. Internal stairs may have been inserted, but this would have requisitioned a good deal of the available living space. More likely a stair turret was added, to one of the missing walls. The longer (west) wall would be the more likely site of the turret, and the position might be represented between the vertical end of the tall slab of west wall still standing (but without the present stone facing) and the earlier raggle of wall turning sharply west from the end of the wallstump further north. (Although the inside face of this wallstump is likely to be particularly early masonry, the batter-free outside could be considerably later.)

At some stage the present building was decommissioned, with the removal of approximately half of the shell. The missing half was taken away, presumably for reuse

in Edenderry, and some of the masonry near ground level around the inside of the remaining half shell was robbed. But the robbed patches were reconstructed and the tall sheared ends of wall (northeast and southwest corners) were faced. The early 20th century photograph shows the ruin tidied.

Four clear stages of development can be identified for the principal building:

(i) A rectangular building with thick walls and ground level firing positions is built.

(ii) The rectangular building is cut down to less than one storey in height and rebuilt to three storeys over a basement, with mural stairs (the present building).

(iii) New stairs are provided (stair turret?) and new fireplaces are inserted.

(iv) Half of the decommissioned shell is removed, and the remains are made safe and tidy.

Little can be said of the early building. It was probably the size of the present building in plan, either a towerhouse or hallhouse. It may have been severely damaged in a conflict before being rebuilt.

The replacement building, the present structure, was a towerhouse with three storeys over a basement. The upper two storeys would have been the main accommodation, private chambers over hall, each floor with a garderobe.

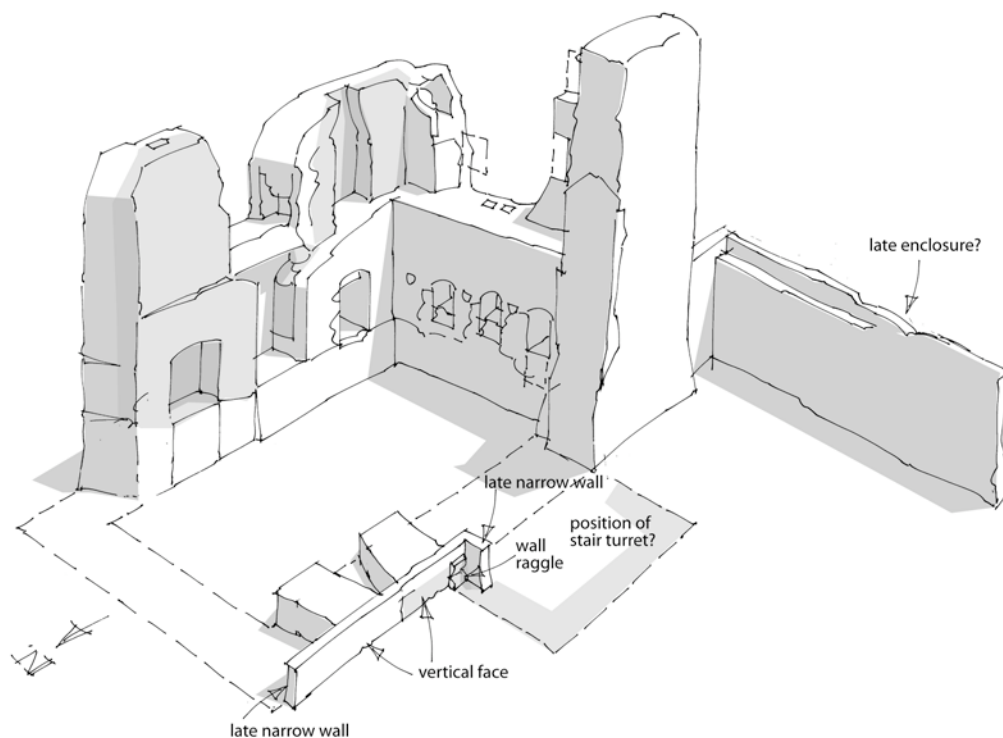
The ground floor and basement were poorly lit (through defensive loops) storage and service rooms.

The long east wall would have been a warren of mural stairs passages, connecting all floors and perhaps accessing small defensive chambers in the thickness of the wall. This arrangement is common in towerhouses.

6.3 Associated structures.

An angle and length of tall narrow wall (0.55m) attached to the southwest corner of the principal building is part of another building or an enclosure wall. The wall is obscured by ivy stems, but appears to have no embrasures or loops or other openings (beside putlog holes? visible in the 20th century photograph). A rebate towards the top may have accommodated a roof (for a building) or a boardwalk (for a bawn wall). There is no gabled or pentice roofscar on the adjacent wallface of the principal building, and no quarried holes for purlins or joist supports. The wall is more likely part of an enclosure

than a building, and might be quite late. There is no ground level firing position in the corner covering the south wall of the principal building, no other loops, no base batter, no substantial thickness, and the potential of obscuring the field from ground level loops in the principal building. These apparent defensive oversights suggest construction no earlier than the late 17th century.



Oblique sketch, associated structures.

The only other structural remains to be seen on site are fragments of masonry attached to the thick wall with narrow embrasure, part of the west wall of an early building reused by the standing structure. As mentioned above, the inside face of the masonry is potentially original, but the vertical outside face is probably later. (A masonry break in the outside face is well placed to be one side of the loop in the early wall, but is probably more recent.) The vertical west face appears to have the raggle of a contemporary wall branching west, perhaps the side of a stair turret (see above). This turn has been replaced with a narrow wall, which appears to perch on the western edge of the early masonry stump, and continues as a freestanding wall to the north. The narrow wall is part of a late building or enclosure, postdating the demise of the principal building but ruined by the early 20th century (on photograph).

6.4 Dating the castle remains.

The relatively large floor plan of the standing building (compared with towerhouses of the Pale), and the absence of an internal barrel vault, is typical of the Laois/Offaly area, where most surviving towerhouses are attributed to the 1556-1626 Plantations. (Sweetman 1999, 152).

Two other features support a late medieval (rather than earlier) date. One is a shothole for a handgun built with the original fabric and now inaccessible behind an inserted chimney flue (first floor, east wall, needs close inspection to confirm). Part of a second shothole may have survived under the south loop, ground floor, east wall, but the stonework here has been disturbed and reconstructed.

The second feature suggesting a later medieval date is the dearth of cut sandstone (or oolitic limestone) blocks on corners and framing openings. The harder carboniferous limestone was being worked by the end of 13th century (Athassel priory, Co. Tipperary, Gowran church, Co. Kilkenny), but the softer stone was used into the 14th century.

The complete absence of soft cut stone on site has a bearing on the standing building, its predecessor, and any contemporary or earlier buildings on the hilltop. Any early architectural fragments would be incorporated in later work, and the only reused fragments observed on the site visit were two likely pieces of limestone built into an inserted fireplace (first floor) and a potentially late 16th/ 17th century decorated block incorporated in the late facing of the sheared west wall.

There is no suggestion that the truncated towerhouse or hallhouse preceding the present building is any earlier than the 15th century, and no suggestion of any earlier stone buildings at the castle site.

The standing towerhouse may have been built by Nicholas Herbert, when he took over the castle as the centre of his plantation estate in 1550, or Sir Henry Colley, when he was granted the Manor of Edenderry in 1562 (see O'Neill). The earlier hallhouse or towerhouse may have been built in the 15th or 16th century, and was probably the first stone castle on the site. Caimin O'Brien's references to the 1416 razing of a castle at Edenderry (Annals of Connaught) and the 1427 *breaking down by foreigners* (Annals of Ulster) might relate to the early stone building, or to an earth and timber castle on the site. (O'Brien.)

Today the ground around the masonry remains of Blundell Castle is remarkably featureless. The arrangement of former defensive earthworks and enclosure walls is unknown.

Summary

The ruins of Blundell castle, Edenderry, comprise half of the shell of a late towerhouse, part of an earlier towerhouse or hallhouse, and part of a late enclosure wall. The earlier towerhouse (or hallhouse) may have replaced an earth-and-timber castle in the 15th or early 16th century, and was taken down to less than one storey to be rebuilt, probably in the later 16th century. The mural stairs in the present towerhouse were replaced, probably with a stair turret (now demolished), and new fireplaces were inserted.

After the building was decommissioned half of the towerhouse shell survived robbery for building materials; the ruined half shell was patched and consolidated. Some of the south gable wall fell recently.

References Section 6.

Sweetman D, 1999. *The medieval castles of Ireland*. Cork.

O'Neill M. *Blundell Castle. Documentary History* (Appendix 1).

O'Brien C. Notes for forthcoming publication *Castles of Offaly*. (Appendix 2)



Early masonry stump and embrasure, W wall, from NE



Early masonry stump, SW corner, from E.



Lengthened aumbries and shortened loop, S wall inside



E wall inside, from W.



E wall, inserted fireplace and central embrasure, ground floor, from SW.



Slabs and wicker centring, roof of E wall loop, from W.



E wall exterior, from E.



E wall ground floor, first floor, from NW



Blocked light, first floor, SE corner, from S.



Blocked mural passage/ stair, SE corner, from NW.



S end of W wall, from W



Raggle on outside of W wall stump, from W

7.0 Issues affecting the Monument

The building is in a poor state of repair. Only the masonry survives and the walls are only partly upstanding. There has been significant collapse and some of the surviving masonry has to be considered at risk of further collapse. There is extensive vegetation on the masonry. Visually, the castle has been degraded by the necessity for a palisade fence and by the visually dominant water tower and enclosure.

7.1 Vegetation

There is profuse growth of trees, brambles and ivy in and around the monument. The masonry has been and is still being damaged by ivy growth and other vegetation. Ivy growth may have played a part in the collapse of part of the south wall in recent years. Ivy can in some cases provide a protective screen on intact sound walls. However, on ruined masonry, where cavities exist, it can do serious damage by growing within the wall and displacing masonry. It must be treated and removed. It is essential however that funds and a programme of works are in place before treatment and removal.

7.2 Masonry

Serious structural cracking is present, particularly at the south west corner. Wall-tops and broken wall-ends are open to the weather. Pointing mortar has washed away or been forced out by vegetation growth. In some areas, where the pointing is in very good condition, the actual bedding mortar at wall bases has washed out and led to the loss of packing stones and pinnings. Weathering has caused partial loss to features such as the imprint of wickerwork centering at heads.

7.3 Rubble /ground surface

Collapsed masonry is lying on the ground as heaps of rubble especially to the south. Elsewhere grass has grown over loose stones and created an uneven surface underfoot.

7.4 Anti-social behaviour

There is obvious damage from graffiti, as well as litter evidence of gatherings in the precincts of the building. Concerns for safety have led to the erection of a palisade fence, unsightly by its nature. Anti-social behaviour must be addressed as it otherwise creates a threat which inhibits the development of amenities.



Extent of vegetation prior to cutting back - exterior south wall (top) and interior east wall (bottom)



Structural cracking and voids west wall on line of patching of masonry



Traces of wickerwork centering still in place on head of opening east wall



Condition of masonry inner face of east wall



Palisade fencing and water tower in background would benefit from screen planting

8.0 Recommendations

This monument is in urgent need of intervention. The work should be phased. Most of the necessary work is of urgent, short-term nature. Longer-term careful investigation and observation are also an important part of this type of conservation work. Certain actions such as rebedding displaced stones and filling empty joints can take place as soon as statutory approvals are in place.

SHORT TERM

8.1 Schedule of Works

Prepare a prioritized Schedule of Works to enable the work to be planned in accordance with the resources available. The Schedule will, in the first instance, be based on the following actions and be adapted as more information becomes available and decisions taken. The Schedule will be part of the necessary documentation to seek statutory consents.

8.2 Structural assessment

Commission structural assessment to assess extent of necessary structural repair.

8.3 Record all works

Record all works by drawings where necessary, and by photography.

8.4 Vegetation

Treat vegetation with approved systemic treatment. Repeat if necessary. Cut back but do not remove until dead. Treatment must be subject to availability of funds and certainty regarding works being put in place. In some cases, treatment can take up to two years to be fully effective. The treatment can be fitted in with a phased programme of works.

8.5 Masonry Repair

Identify dislodged or fallen stones where possible and rebed.

Fill voids as an interim measure where deemed necessary. It may be necessary to stabilise walls in places by building up the core of walls in lime concrete.

Flaunch wall tops to prevent water ingress into the core of the walls - high walls in a lime mortar and soft capping to those at lower level.

Stabilize masonry where cracking occurs - at corners and other areas where the structure is discontinuous. If any disassembly is necessary, a full detailed record of the area must be made to supplement the general survey.

Fill empty joints, including pinnings etc. taking particular care at foot of walls and areas around breaches in masonry. Close joints at broken wall ends.

- 8.6 Rubble
While dealing with the rubble in itself may not be urgent, it will be necessary to clear areas to erect scaffold. Sorting of stone must be carried out under archaeological supervision. Dresses stone should be set aside. Some rubble may be required for dealing with voids.
- 8.7 Screen planting
Carry out screen planting to reduce visual impact of water tower enclosure and fencing
- 8.8 Graffiti
Clean stonework before pointing takes place

MEDIUM/LONGER TERM

Consider measures to improve amenity and heritage value

- 8.9 Ground treatment
Consider clearing growth and topsoil to reduce ground level on footprint of building to original floor level under archaeological supervision, lay geotextile and gravel surface.
- 8.10 Strategic plan for park and castle
Consider integrating castle ruins into strategic plan for park. The parkland has great potential to increase amenity and educational value, by planting indigenous species based on the 1st edition OS map and other landscaping.
- 8.11 Discourage anti-social behaviour
Consider taking action to prevent anti-social behaviour with the aim of eliminating the present fence. CCTV surveillance would be an option for the site, activated by PIR and with a facility for digital recording in the water tower site. Transmission of images by radio to a remote receiver would also be a possibility.

Endnote

The foregoing is intended to provide a preliminary condition assessment and scope of works for stabilization and conservation of the upstanding remains. It must be understood that all necessary work cannot be quantified at this stage.

It should not be used as a Schedule of Works but as a base document for further investigation and assessment of the site and for the preparation of a Schedule of Works