



Killyglen motte. The mound appears to have been disturbed by serious erosion.

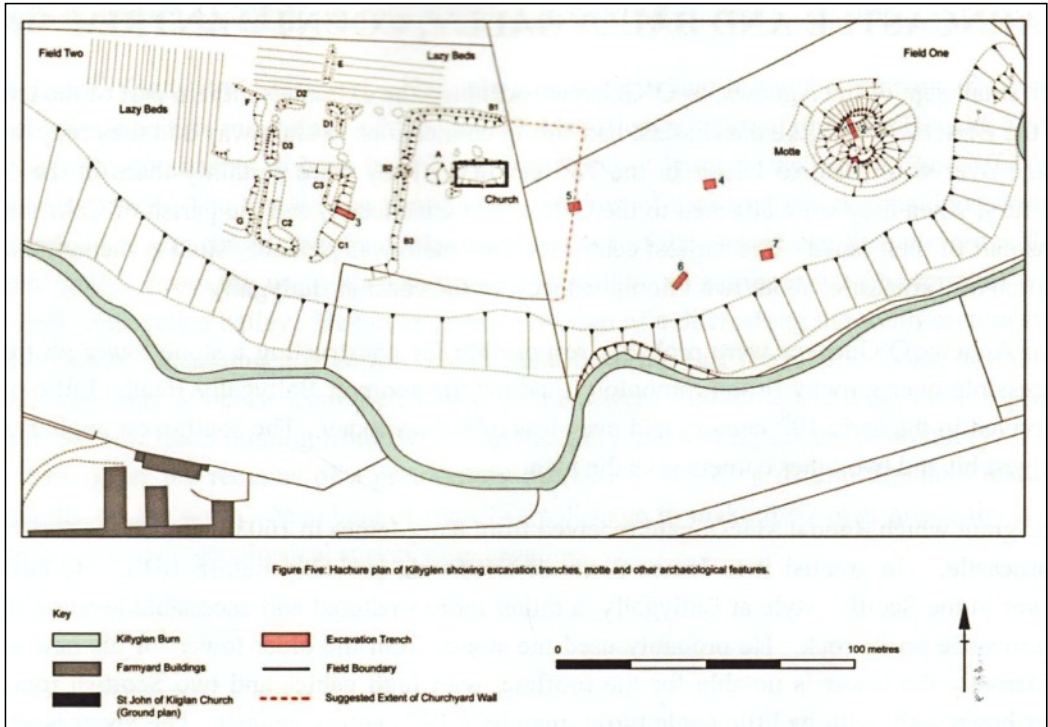
Killyglen motte, County Antrim

There are three features visible above ground: a damaged motte, a church in a churchyard enclosure and, beside the church, a house platform. In 1306 the church is listed as a parish, while the survey of the Earl of Ulster's land in 1333 records that he held 2 carucates and 15 acres in demesne, leased a further 162 acres to freeholders and that a fortnightly court was held there. This appears to be a classic manor, marked by the presence of a motte constructed a short way from the church. On the model espoused by Glasscock and others in the 1980s and later, the level ground between the two, bounded on the south by a stream with more than half south of an old hedge line, should be the site of a nucleated village settlement. At the very least there should be an enclosed farmyard to work the 2 carucates.

The site was investigated through topographical and geophysical survey and excavation in 2004. The topography showed up the church enclosure, extended westwards to enclose the house platform, and hinted at faint lines of

enclosures in the open area. The geophysics defined the motte ditch, the eastern wall of the churchyard and some ill-defined features in the open area. Two small trenches uncovered the south-west angle of a stone tower on the motte and perhaps the trace of its north wall. A trench at the side of the house enclosure showed that while the raised area was loosely revetted by stones there was no ditch around it. All three of these trenches produced a good quantity of later medieval pottery, glazed and unglazed. The four other trenches were aimed at examining anomalies in the area between the motte and the house platform. One confirmed that there was an eastern wall to the churchyard. Of the other three anomalies, one proved to be a prehistoric feature and the others variations in the natural ground. None produced any significant pottery.

At least half of the area where a settlement should have been (south of the old hedge line), when it was sampled, produced no evidence, pottery or features, relating to settlement, in



Killyglen motte and settlement with remains of church within a churchyard. Below: the group was accompanied by a herd of inquisitive heffers.

contrast to the sampling trenches at the motte and the house platform. The work needs to be completed by: first, carrying out a geophysical survey north of the hedge line; second, proper excavation of the motte; third, some excavation of the top of the house platform.

Further reading

Carver, N and McNeill, T. E., 2004. *Excavations at Killyglen County Antrim*. Queen's University Belfast, Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork: Unpublished Data Structure Report.

Available at:

<http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/CentreforArchaeologicalFieldworkCAF/PDFFileStore/Filetoupload,180990,en.pdf>

See also:

<http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/CentreforArchaeologicalFieldworkCAF/PDFFileStore/Filetoupload,181149,en.pdf>

