



*Red Bay Castle. From the south. The fragmentary remains of a stone tower with Scottish mouldings, to the side of a bawn. It has been identified as part of the MacDonald castle; it is known from documents to have been here from 1563 or before.*



*Red Bay Castle. The part-remains of the stone tower with Scottish, late 16th or early 17th century Renaissance mouldings. The odd corbels (part rain water spouts?) along the cornice are imaginative modern recreations and may or may not have replaced originals. There is also a hint of a window jamb with roll mouldings on the west side.*

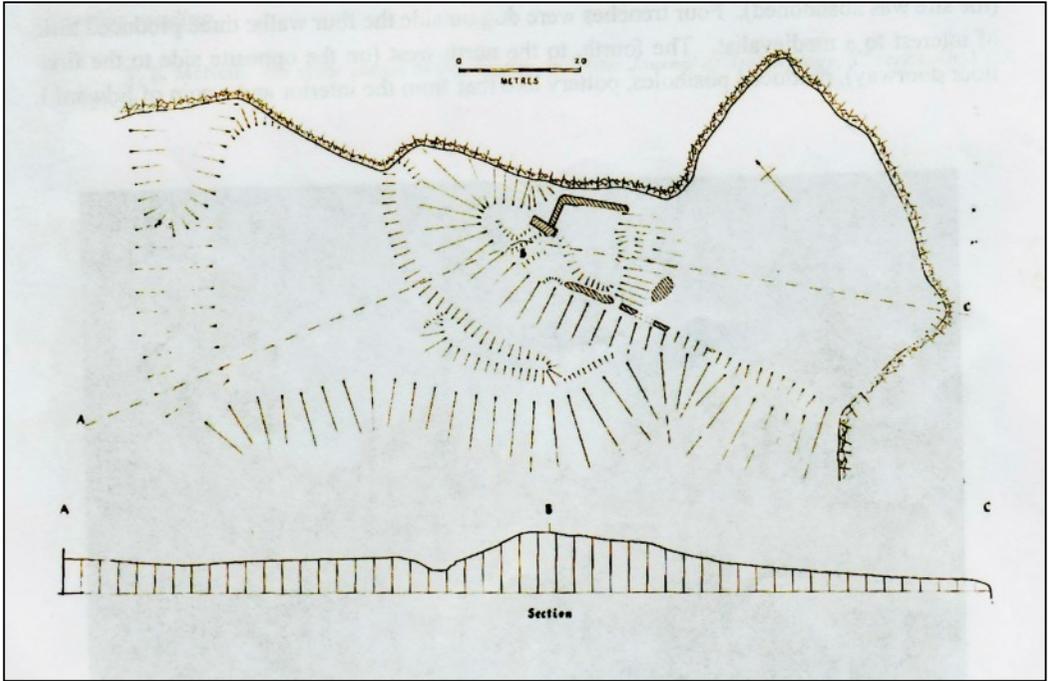
### **Red Bay Castle, County Antrim**

This is a difficult site to interpret. The only sure thing is that it has the remains of a stone tower with Scottish mouldings which can be identified as part of the MacDonald castle known from documents to have been here from 1563 at least. A wall along the cliff edge abuts this tower. The tower is now situated on the top of a mound which runs down into a ditch which in turn runs along the north and west sides of the mound and then merges with a natural gully. From the west this combination looks like an earlier motte (the mound) with the ditch enclosing a bailey. However, there is no sign of a ditch along the south-eastern side of the

mound, separating it from the "bailey" and from the east the mound looks, not like a motte, but a pile of debris from the collapse of the tower. Further to the west, there appears to be a shallow ditch running from the cliff to the gully and cutting off the promontory. This could be either the remains of a promontory defence or simply a natural drainage feature, especially on the north. The site needs a systematic geophysical survey or excavation.

### ***Further reading***

T. E. McNeill: 'The stone castles of Co. Antrim', in *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*, 3rd series, **46**, 1983, pp. 101-28.



*Red Bay Castle. Looking north over the ditch, with mound to the right, towards Cushendall.*

