APPENDIX 13-5

NATIONAL MONUMENTS WITHIN 15KM OF THE NEAREST PROPOSED TURBINE

Appendix 13-5 National Monuments within 15km of the nearest proposed turbine

Coole Wind Farm, Co. Westmeath

13.1 263 Granard Motte LF010-080001-, LF010-080002-, LF010-080003-, LF010-080004-

13.1.1 LF010-080001-

Class: Castle - motte and bailey

Description: National Monument in State Guardianship No. 263. On top of a hill in pasture with impressive panoramic views of the surrounding countryside and overlooking the historic town of Granard (LF010-055—) c. 220m to the NE. Built within a possible hilltop enclosure (LF010-080002-) (Bradley et al. 1985, 18), it was constructed by Richard de Tuit in 1199 in order to suppress the O'Reilly's of S Breffny and as a frontier castle on the NW border of the Anglo-Norman lordship of Meath (Orpen 1911, vol. 2, 90, 128). In 1210 King John stayed here during his campaign against Hugh de Lacy (Orpen ibid., 262; Bradley et al. 1985, 15). It is the most likely location of the inauguration site (LF010-080003-) of the O'Farrells (Bán) (Bradley et al. ibid., 16; Fitzpatrick 2004, 21-2).

The monument comprises a high, subcircular, steep-sided mound (H c. 9-11m; dims. at base c. 50m ENE-WSW; c. 40m NNW-SSE) with a large D-shaped bailey (c. 150m ENE-WSW; c. 50m NNW-SSE) adjoining it from ESE-S-WSW; there is no fosse separating them. Upon the relatively level summit (27m NNW-SSE; 22m ENE-WSW), which is c. 4m above the level of the bailey, are an OS trigonometrical station and a statue of St Patrick, erected in June 1932. The 'foundations of a shell wall round the top of the motte, and of a small round tower in the centre' were noted in the early 20th century (Armitage 1912, 338-9): there is no visible trace of any of these features. A grotto was built into the N side of the monument in 1925 in the course of which a large quantity of stone was removed (using explosives) (SMR file). From WSW-N-ENE the base of the motte is encircled by a wide, deep, steep-sided, rock-cut fosse (Wth 10.5m; D 3.5m) with a wide, high, steep-sided external bank (Wth 8m; H 2.9m). The bailey is defined by the remains of an inner bank of earth and stone, a wide, deep, intervening fosse (Wth c. 12m) and a wide, high outer bank (Wth c. 10m; H c. 2m). The fragmentary remains of a later castle (LF010-080004-) are visible in the SE face of the motte. A medieval church (LF010-055001-) and graveyard (LF010-055002-) lie c. 100m to the N. (Westropp 1904, 323-4; Kearney 1969, 18-23; English 1971, 152; O'Donovan 2003, 31; Burns and Grier 2002, 144-5).

13.1.2 LF010-080002-

Class: Hilltop enclosure

Description: National Monument in State Guardianship No. 263. On a prominent hill c. 200m to the SW of Granard town (LF010-055—). The summit of the hill is occupied by a motte and bailey (LF010-080001-). It has been suggested that the latter may have been constructed within a much-larger, pre-existing enclosure, perhaps a hillfort or monastic enclosure (Bradley et al. 1985, 18; K. O'Conor pers. comm.). The enclosure, a large oval-shaped area (c. 220m NNW–SSE; c. 170m ENE–WSW), is evident on aerial photographs (Photographic Unit, NMS) and the 1837 and 1914 editions of the OS 6-inch map. From NNW–N–SSE its footprint can be traced in the curvilinear circuit of a series of field boundaries that also serve as townland boundaries. From SSE–S–WNW it survives as a bank of earth and stone (Wth 5.9m; H 1-2.1m) at the outer edge of the fosse at the base of the bailey. It is best preserved at SW. This bank may mark the re-use of the original enclosing element by the builders of the motte and bailey.

13.1.3 LF010-080003-

Class: Inauguration site

Description: National Monument in State Guardianship No. 263. The motte and bailey (LF010-080001-) is almost certainly the location of the inauguration place of O'Farrall clan (Bradley et al. 1985, 16; FitzPatrick 2004, 209). In 1475 Seán Ó Fearghail, Chief of Annaly, died here immediately after his inauguration feast and he was subsequently buried at the Cistercian abbey (LF011-036001-) in Abbeylara (Farrell 1891, 24). In 1489 the Lord Justice of Ireland divided the chieftainship of Annaly between the sons of Seán and the sons of Cathal (Farrell 1891, 24). Following the division of the sept and lands c. 1516, the O'Farralls (Bán) held the lordship of N Annaly, an area corresponding to the N

and E of the modern county Longford (FitzPatrick 2004, 209), and retained the motte and bailey, Ráith Granaird (Granard), as their inauguration site. (Westropp 1904, 323-4; Kearney 1969, 18-23; English 1971, 152; Anon. 2002b, 144-5)

13.1.4 LF010-080004-

Class: Castle - unclassified

Description: National Monument in State Guardianship No. 263. William Ó Fearghail (O'Farrell) is recorded as having built a 'castle' at Granard in 1405 (Ó hInnse 1947, 175). This castle was taken by English forces in 1420 who soon after abandoned it. The annals note that O'Farrell 'demolished it for fear of their occupying it again' (Ann. Conn., 455). A castle at Granard is mentioned in grants to Francis Shane in 1593 (Cal. pat. rolls Ire., Eliz.) and in 1608 (Pat. rolls Ire., Jas I, 499-500), and this is probably the same castle that is noted in the list of lands surrendered to the Crown in 1619 (ibid., 452). An early 17th-century map of Granard barony (BL, Cotton MS Augustus I.i.47) depicts a castle standing on top of the hill at Granard in the area where the motte and bailey (LF010-080001-) are located. Some remains clearly survived into the 19th century as O'Donovan records: that 'It is said that this moat was opened about fifty years ago, and that the arched vaults of a castle were found within it, built of beautiful square stones, which were well cemented with lime and sand mortar' (AFM vol. 3, 388-9). The grass-covered remains of this castle can still be seen at the base of the SE side of the motte where a short stretch of walling, 2–3 courses high, has been recorded (Bradley et al. 1985, 18).

13.2 Loughcrew Passage Tomb Cemetery & Other Monuments, Cairn & Standing Stone NM 290 and 155

13.2.1 ME015-003004 Loughcrew cemetery, Cairn G.

A ruined kerbed cairn, 19m in diam., with a central depression. No structural stones are visible. Listed as passage-tomb (Herity 1974, 234).

13.2.2 ME015-009001 Standing stone

Townland: CORSTOWN (Fore By.)

Orientated NW-SE (H 1.75m, 1.35m by 0.35m) Situated 12m ESE of cairn (ME015-009001-)

13.2.3 ME015-010002-

Class: Cairn – unclassified Loughcrew cemetery, site P2. A line of six stones, three of which form a curve and perhaps indicate the site of a kerbed cairn. Listed as a possible passage-tomb (Herity 1974, 239).

13.2.4 ME015-012001-

Class: Megalithic tomb - passage tomb

Loughcrew cemetery, Cairn U. Excavated by Conwell and later by Rotherham, this kerbed cairn contains remains of an unroofed passage-tomb open to SE, having four cells, opening off a central chamber; outer passage section is blocked. There are thirteen decorated orthostats. (Herity 1974, 242-3; Shee 1981, 217-19).

13.2.5 ME015-012002-

Class: Megalithic tomb - passage tomb

Description: Loughcrew cemetery, Cairn W. Excavated by Conwell and later by Rotherham, the remains of this kerbed cairn, 7m in diam., contains a central chamber opening to S. Decoration is

recorded on four orthostats but is now only partially exposed on two of them. (Herity 1974, 243; Shee 1981, 219-20)

13.2.6 ME015-012003-

Class: Megalithic tomb - passage tomb
Description: Loughcrew cemetery, Cairn S. Excavated by Conwell and later by Rotherham, this kerbed cairn contains remains of a small unroofed passage-tomb opening to the NW with a single cell opening off chamber to E. There are five decorated orthostats. (Herity 1974, 242; Shee 1981, 213-14)

13.2.7 ME015-012004-

Class: Megalithic tomb - passage tomb
Description: Loughcrew cemetery, Cairn T. This, the principal tomb on Slieve na Calliagh hill, was excavated by Conwell; the monument has been restored by the Office of Public Works. A kerbed cairn, 35m in diam., contains a cruciform passage-tomb opening to SE. Decoration occurs on nineteen orthostats, two sill stones, eight roof stones, one kerb stone, and on one other lost fragment. (Herity 1974, 242; Shee 1981, 214-17)

13.2.8 ME015-012005-

Class: Megalithic tomb - passage tomb
Description: Loughcrew cemetery, Cairn V. Remains of kerbed cairn, 11m in diam., containing a ruined passage-tomb with at least four cells and probably opening to the NW. Four orthostats are decorated. A single orthostat stands 1.2m outside the kerb to NW. (Herity 1974, 242; Shee 1981, 219)

13.2.9 ME015-012006-

Class: Cairn - unclassified
Description: Loughcrew cemetery, Cairn R1. The remains of this cairn, 13.5m in diam., with some possible kerb stones were excavated by Rotherham in 1895. Listed as possible passage-tomb (Herity 1974, 239).

13.2.10 ME015-012007-

Class: Megalithic tomb - passage tomb
Description: Loughcrew cemetery, Cairn R2. Remains of kerbed cairn, 8m in diam. Rotherham, who excavated the monument in 1895, noted that although the chamber orthostats were missing, 'it's shape seemed to be cruciform, the arms facing the cardinal points'. He also found one decorated stone. (JRSAI 1895, 311-16; Herity 1974, 239-42; Shee 1981, 213)

13.2.11 ME009-072

Class: Enclosure
D-shaped enclosure defined by earth and stone bank (dims. 30m N-S, 25m E-W) with traces of fosse outside straight side SSW-NW. No visible entrance.

13.3 Fore Abbey NM 215

National Monument in State Ownership No 215.

After the Anglo-Norman invasion the churches of Fore and their endowments were granted, apparently by Hugh de Lacy, to the Benedictine abbey of St. Taurin at Evreux in Normandy (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 106; Orpen 1911-20 ii, 82). This can hardly have occurred before c.1180 while Gwynn and Hadcock (1970, 106) have pointed out that this must have happened before 1185. The endowments of the priory were increased by Walter de Lacy in or before 1210 (Gilbert 1884 ii, 311). Fore was frequently taken into the King's hands, and delivered to a guardian, during the Hundred Years War because it was an alien house dependent on a French abbey. In 1340 the prior (and

guardian), William Tessone, was granted part of the revenues to support himself and five monks, possibly the complement of the priory at this date (Seymour 1934, 64). In 1384 the priory's revenues were committed to the prior John Croys, who was to use them for the support of a chantry consisting of the prior and three chaplains which again may indicate the complement of the priory (Seymour 1934, 66-7). The priory was fortified during the first half of the fifteenth century in response to raids from the Irish who attacked the priory lands in 1423 and again in 1428 (Seymour 1934, 68). William England, prior of Fore from 1418, and William Croys, prior from c.1441, are both credited with having erected "divers castles" for the defence of the priory (Seymour 1934, 68-9; Leask n.d. 21-2: Tresham 1828, 254; Berry 1910, 145). In 1445 parliament removed the priory from Evreux and made it an independent house (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 106).

At the dissolution of the monasteries the extent of the priory records "certain castles or towers, and other houses or buildings of stone at present in sufficient repair ....they are very necessary for the defence of the country against the attacks of the wild Irish on the King's subjects" (White 1943, 271). The priory was granted to Matthew King in 1540, Sir William Seyntlowe in 1551, and Christopher Nugent, lord of Delvin in 1567 (White 1943, 271; Morrin 1861, 253,; Nicholls 1994, 134). In 1567, Christopher Nugent, lord of Delvin was granted a lease of the 'site of the priory or manor of Fowre, county Westmeath, lands of Fowre, a lough there called [Logheleyn], lands of Hilton, Carpenterston, Mylcasteltowne, Gilbertston, Rahen, Dromsawry, with a chapel and tithes, Comoylston, Lighill alias, Larkehill by the parts of the Breny, Fayron, Keneleighe, Ratheny, Donamore, Betaghton, Nynche, 13s. 4d. chief rents out of Nenaghe, in the said county, and the customs of the tenants ; the rectories of S. Mary in Fower (WM008-097002-), S. Fekins (WM004-035003-) in Fower, Archidiorum (WM004-035004-) in Fower, Fayron, Faghley, Mayne, Leigheblay, Dromiskille, Ragarf, Oldecastell, and Balmagarvy, in the counties of Meath and Westmeath, and diverse parsonages in the Breny. To hold the possessions of Fower, for 21 years from 1582, at a rent of £175 10s 8d., and maintaining five horsemen' (Nicholls 1994, 134). In 1578 William Dodd was granted a lease of the 'site of the abbey of Fower (WM004-035010-), co. Westmeath, and the lands in Fowre, Hilton, Carpenterstowne, Mylcastellton, Gilbertston, Raghin, Dromsawry, Comoylston, Leighill alias Larkehill, Firone, Kilmalighe, Rathenny, Donnamore, Ballynniskerry, Betaughston, the Ninche, and Nenaghe, and the tithes and alterages of the rectories of Fower (WM008-097002-), S. Fekyn (WM004-035003-) in Fower, Archediorum (WM004-035004-) of Fower, Fayron, Faughley, Mayne, Lighblay, Dormiskell, Ragarfett, Oldecastell, and Balmagarvy, counties of Meath and Westmeath. To hold for 5 years. Rent, £140' (ibid., 479).

Lying to the north of the village of Fore, the priory is situated at the southern end of a knoll, known as Knocknamonaster, which is surrounded by wet ground on all sides except the east. The remains consist of the priory complex and a series of outbuildings, including a dovecot, and earthworks on Knocknamonaster. The buildings are grouped around a rectangular cloister. The church lies to the north, the refectory and kitchen on the south, apartments and other domestic buildings on the east and west. The basic layout of the monastery belongs to the early thirteenth century but it was considerably remodelled in a number of building campaigns during the fifteenth. In general it can be remarked that the size of the monastery contracted during the fifteenth century and new buildings were constructed in order to accommodate to the monastery's changing role. The thirteenth century church was a long narrow building with a chapel on its north side; this was shortened during the fifteenth century by the insertion of a tower at the west end and the blocking of the arches leading to the north chapel, which seems to have fallen into disuse. The original east range probably had a chapter room immediately south of the sacristy but during the fifteenth century this wing was totally remodelled in order to provide domestic apartments and a residential tower was constructed over the sacristy. The thirteenth century cloister enclosed a larger area than its fifteenth century counterpart. A new refectory was constructed in the fifteenth century immediateIy north of the old one, which was then demolished. The west range was also remodelled in the fifteenth century when its upper floor was converted into the monks dormitory.

The Church
This is a narrow building of roughly coursed mixed stone divided into a nave and choir by two rows of steps. The basic fabric is of thirteenth century date but a tower was added at the west end in the fifteenth. The east wall of the choir is lit by three round-headed lancets. These have round rear arches

and a wide internal splay terminating in jambs with concave chamfers.   The inner sills slope downwards to a moulded stringcourse. The north wall has two round-headed windows, partly rebuilt c.1870, while in the south there is a twin round arched niche for a piscina and aumbry. The plaster on the inside of the niche is painted with a masonry design of rectangles, outlined in red-brown with red rosettes in every second space. Leask (n. d. 12) notes that this design was continued on the wall above the piscina but there is no trace of it now. Above this are two rows of stone corbels, supporters for the roof gutters, at different periods.   A door in the south wall leads into the sacristy and provides access to the stair leading to the eastern tower. The north wall of the nave is largely featureless and was rebuilt c. 1870. A door near its west end opened northwards into a narrow rectangular room of which only the foundations survive. The west end is delimited by a tower added in the fifteenth century. This has a stair turret projecting to the north to which access is had directly from the nave. There are four round-headed clearstorey windows in the south wall, one of which is blocked by the south wall of the western tower.   Immediately north of the nave are the foundations a chapel which was reached through two arches in the nave north wall but these were obliterated when the modern wall was constructed. Two cross slabs (WM004-035027-; WM004-035028-) are set against the external south wall of the nave. Their find place is not recorded but it is likely from their position that they were found in the cloister and probably represent the burial place of two priors.

West Tower
This four-storied rectangular building with projecting stair-turret was a residential tower. The ground floor has a rectangular splayed window with an almost flat rear arch in the north wall and a blocked-up opening (possibly a window) in the west wall. The west wall itself incorporates parts of the original west gable of the thirteenth century church. The first floor was supported on fluted corbels which project from the north and south walls.   Externally the jambs of the original west door are present at the southern end of the west wall. The first floor was barrel-vaulted and has a rectangular window in the north wall and a narrow flat-headed window in the east. The second floor has a flat-arched rectangular window with internal splay in both the east and west walls, a fireplace in the west wall and a garderobe in the east. The third floor has similarly positioned windows but these have the addition of window seats. It would appear to have been the main living room of the tower and has a latrine in the north-west corner and a fireplace in the west wall. There is a wall cupboard in the south wall and also a fine cusped ogee-headed window with plain spandrels and internal window seat. The corbels which supported the tower roof are in the east and west walls; these consist of re-used thirteenth century style capitals and bases which Leask (n.d., 13) suggests were taken from the nave arches leading into the north chapel. The fourth floor, the parapet level, is marked externally by a drainage course but its battlements are now missing. The stair turret was carried up above the parapet level but its crenellated parapet is also missing. Immediately west of the tower are the foundations of a small rectangular structure.   Its contemporaneity with the tower is indicated by a fireplace in the west wall whose flue links into those on the tower's upper floors. A number of masonry fragments of cut and dressed stone are collected in the ground floor.

The Cloister-arcade
The cloister is reached through a pointed door in the south wall of the nave. The cloister arcade is delimited by a low wall which was built in 1912 on the foundations of the original. Each side of the arcade was divided into three bays by broad piers and in each bay there were four sub-arches. Six arches have been assembled from fragments found in 1912. These show that the cinque-cusped and pointed arches are supported on shafted dumb-bell piers rising from rectangular bases. The pier spandrels were decorated with ogee headed niches, one of which displays an escutcheon of two bowed arms holding a cross-hilted sword with a wolf's head above. Some of the webs are decorated with a leaf design in relief.   Leask (1960, 146) has pointed out   the close similarity between this arcade and that at Bective, Co. Meath, which he suggests are the works of the same masons.

The East Tower
This was a residential tower built in the fifteenth century above the sacristy of the church. It is rectangular with a projecting turret at the south-east angle which accomodates the latrine and latrine chute. It has three floors with parapet and turret levels above. The ground floor (sacristy) has a low altar beneath the east window, which is a narrow rectangular slit with internal splay and flat rear-arch.

There is a wall cupboard in the west wall and a blocked-up arch which originally gave access to the cloister. Leask (n.d. 13) mentions colour decoration on the wall plaster but this is no longer visible. Access to the first and second floors is by a straight stair against the west wall. The first floor is entered through a lintelled door; it has a barrel vaulted roof over a low chamber lit by a narrow window in the east wall similar to that on the ground floor. The second floor has flat arched rectangular windows with concave splay and window seats in the east and west walls. There is a latrine in the south-east corner, a later fireplace in the north-east corner and wall cupboards in the north and south walls. The latrine is lit by three rectangular slit windows with internal splay. A door in the south wall opens into the roof level of the south range, while on the north a narrow slit window with internal splay looks into the church. Access to the upper floors is by a spiral stair in the south-west angle. The third floor has flat arched rectangular windows in the north, south and east walls, the latter two of which have window seats. There is a latrine in the south-east angle turret, which probably had a timber floor originally forming a small chamber. There are three wall cupboards in the north wall and a small cusped ogee-headed window in the west wall. Externally there is a small granite head on the garderobe turret. The fourth floor is the wall-walk level protected by stepped parapets and having a bell-cote on the south wall. Both the stair and garderobe turret continue above this to turret level.

The East Range

This normally contains the chapter house, a passage to the exterior and apartments on the ground floor with the monks dormitory overhead. The original thirteenth century structure probably contained these apartments but the rebuilding of this range in the fifteenth century has obscured them, and only the foundations of the thirteenth century east wall survive outside the fifteenth century all. The chamber immediately south of the sacristy is too low and ill-lit to have functioned as a chapter house, while the chamber south of that again was evidently used as a dwelling room because it has a fireplace. Indeed the purpose of the fifteenth century remodelling appears to have been to provide dwelling rooms in this area. South of the sacristy is a long fifteenth century building divided into two chambers at ground level by a barrel vaulted passage. The chamber immediately south of the sacristy, in the position of the chapter room, is entered from the cloister through a pointed door. It has a round barrel vault with two flat arched rectangular windows in the east wall and a recess in the south. The southern chamber is entered through a pointed door from the passage. It is also barrel vaulted. There is a fireplace and a flat arched rectangular window in the east wall, a recessed alcove with window and window seats in the south wall, a latrine in the south-west corner and small wall cupboards in the north and west walls. The first floor is reached by a stair on the north side of the passage which is entered through a pointed door. It opens onto a narrow lobby in the thickness of the east wall from which access to the northern and southern chambers is had by means of lintelled doors. The northern apartment has two windows in the west wall, while in the east there was a garderobe, fireplace and a window with window seat. It is evident that the southern apartment was built onto the refectory because a window in the refectory's east wall looks into it. A door in the west wall leads into the refectory. There are two windows, one with window seat, and a fireplace in the east wall, and two slit windows with internal splay and a garderobe in the south. A spiral-stair in the south-east angle leads to the third floor which appears to have been the wall-walk level. Only a fragment of the third floor survives in the south-east angle.

The Refectory

The foundations of the thirteenth century refectory lie south of the cloister immediately east of the kitchen. In the fifteenth century, however, a new refectory was built to the north of the old one. The ground floor, probably used as stores, was divided into three rooms. These internal divisions are represented onIy by footings. The eastern-most was entered from the cloister through a pointed door, now blocked up. It is a narrow room with a splaying slit in the south wall and a door leading into the central chamber in the west. The central chamber is also narrow and is lit by a single slit window in the south wall and access to the western chamber is through a door in its west wall. The western chamber has a circular setting of stones roughly placed in the centre. There is a blocked window in both the south and west walls, and there is a blocked door in the north wall immediately east of the present opening from the cloister. The refectory was on the first floor. It was lit by three windows in the south wall and four in the north; each is flat-arched and rectangular with window seats. There is a window in the east wall and a door leading into the apartments of the east range. There is one window in the west

wall and a service stair in the south-west angle linking the refectory directly with the kitchen. Fragmentary remains of the wall-walk level survive above the service stair.

The West Range
At the south-western corner of the cloister a doorway leads westwards through a block of masonry which marks the position of a circular stair leading to the upper storey of the western range which was evidently the dormitory of the monks in the fifteenth century. The building was three storeyed with a barrel vault over the ground floor. It has a thirteenth century fireplace in the west wall with a hood or breast of stone supported on corbels above. The west wall was considerably thickened in the fifteenth century when it was cased both inside and out by new walling. During this rebuilding a new fireplace was formed in front of the old one, a garderobe tower was added, and the three windows, which are splayed internally and externally, were inserted. The east wall was also rebuilt, slightly to the east of the old one and it was at this time that the vault was constructed. The dormitory was on the first floor but only its northern half survives. There are three windows in the west wall, two wall cupboards and a garderobe, lit by two slits. One window survives in the east wall but there are traces of two others. The only surviving piece of the second floor is the garderobe tower and a section of the chimney flue immediately to the north. The south wall has been rebuilt in modern times.

The Kitchen
The kitchen lies on the south-west side of the refectory. It is a rectangular thirteenth century building with an oven on the south side. The north-east angle was remodelled in the fifteenth century when the new refectory was built. This remodelling consisted of the insertion of a new door and a service stair linking the kitchen with the refectory.

The Mill
West of the kitchen are the foundations of a rectangular building with a sluice at the south-west angle. It was separated from the kitchen by a small chamber from which it was entered through the east wall. The north and west walls are gapped.

The South-West Gate
Immediately south of the mill, and at the south-west angle of the complex, are the remains of a round-arched gate. Its presence indicates that the monastery was originally bounded by a precinct wall.

Buildings north of the Priory
The flat ground between the abbey and Knocknamonaster has a number of earthworks which presumably represent monastic out-buildings. About 20m north of the west tower is a rectangular building, 15.8 by 6.3m, whose walls of roughly coursed limestone stand to a height of about 1m. The dressed jambs of a door are present in the west wall, and south of it, the basal steps of an external stair. Leask (n.d. 16) noted a fireplace at the north end but it is no longer visible. East of this building are the grass covered foundations of a wall running across the edge of Knocknamonaster. A break in the foundations may indicate a gateway (Bradley et. al. 1985, 85-91).

St. Feighin's Church St. Feighin's Church is situated at the base of the Rock of Fore. The date of construction of the church is uncertain. It is possible that it was built in the first half of the seventh century when St. Feighin arrived in Fore, although it has also been suggested that it was built no earlier than the 10th, or 11th century. The church was originally a simple rectangular structure with internal dimensions of 11 meters by 7.25 meters. The side walls formed antae, or piers, by projecting east and west beyond the face of the gables. The church was lit by three windows; one in the East gable, the North wall and the South wall. A stone altar would have occupied the space under the East window, fragments of which still survive. Situated on the inside of the South wall is a piscina, used to hold holy water. From its basin, a small channel drains into the middle of the wall. The entrance to the church is through the West gable. This doorway has variously been described as a novel wonder and a miracle. The large lintel is the full thickness of the wall, 0.2 meters high and 1.8 meters long. Its centre is sculpted in relief with a plain cross inscribed in a circle. A flat architrave frames the opening and the jambs are sloping, creating a wider opening at the base.

Motte and Bailey Castle
After the invasion of 1169, Henry II granted the western part of the Lordship of Meath to Hugh de Lacy. It has been surmised that it was the presence of the monastery and its associated infrastructure of roads that brought de Lacy to Fore. The motte and bailey castle built circa 1180 for de Lacy was situated less than one mile east of the early monastic settlement. It had a perimeter of 300--400 meters which was rectangular in shape. The motte was located in the centre and surrounded by a lower platform forming the bailey. In 1210 the castle was seized by King John. It was restored to Hugh de Lacy's son Walter in 1215.

13.4 Fore town gates (WM004-035002, WM004-035008 and WM008-097/004) NM220

During the later Middle Ages Fore was a frontier town and although documentary references are slight it is clear that it was fortified in the fifteenth century. In 1462-3 Edward IV confirmed an earlier grant of murage by Henry VI, King between 1422 and 1461 (Berry 1914, 25). The north gateway appears to from part of the fifteenth century fortification of the town. The present remains of the North gate consists of a rectangular structure with rounded corners on the north-west and south-east angles. It is built of fairly evenly coursed limestone and is entered through a round arched gate, 2.6m wide, which is blocked by a modern cross wall. The passage is flat-arched and short. Only the ground floor survives and there are no indications of internal chambers. A murder hole above the gate indicates that there was an upper level but all trace of it has been removed and is now replaced by modern repairs. There is a slight batter and a string course on the external west face. There are two large internal recesses in the east and west walls at arch level and these may have held eyes on which the gate was suspended (Bradley et. al. 1985, 76-7).

National Monument in State Ownership No. 220. The town defences of Fore are Anglo-Norman defences, dating from the 14th or 15th century as determined from the murage evidence. The earliest known reference is to a murage and pavage grant of Edward III (1327-77) stipulating a stone wall. In the 1436 a grant of murage to the town was made by Henry VI, believed to be in response to attacks of Irish which resulted in the burning of the priory and of the town. This was subsequently reaffirmed in 1462-3 by his successor Edward IV. According to Avril Thomas, in 1837 Lewis states 'can trace walls of considerable town between square towers and gate' (Lewis 1837, 616). Leask states that 'Fore was fortified on N side by a canal and on S by a mound and ditch...extending from one gate to the other...and still traceable' (Leask 7, quoting OS Letters).

The town defences are described in clockwise fashion, commencing with the southern entrance. The South Gate is a rectangular gatehouse built of fairly evenly coursed limestone. It stands on the south side of the road from Crossakeel opposite the modern St. Feighin's Church. Only the ground floor survives but the presence of a spiral stair on the W side indicates that there was an upper level originally. A bank, c. 1-1.5m high and 1.5m wide, runs SW from the South Gate for a distance c.120m. It is connected by a crossing bank of similar size which turns NW for a distance of c.440m. The exact course of this part of the town defences is uncertain but it is probable that it followed a generally direct line. These banks have a rubble core and there are traces of stone facing. Field reports suggest that there was a wide fosse outside. A massive outcropping rock on the W side has a sheer cliff ranging from 6-8m high which is a natural barrier from the W. The defences would appear to run along the townland boundary line, close to the Anchorite's Church, and follow this line as it turns in a NE direction towards the North Gate for a distance of c.100m. The North Gate is a rectangular structure with rounded corners on the NW and SE angles. Only the ground floor survives and there are no indications of internal chambers. There is no visible trace of the defences on the N side of Fore, to the E of the main road, and presumably the wet marsh which occupies this area was regarded as defence enough. The field reports state that, from the NW gate, extending N is a field bank, poorly drained, a natural defence. It would appear, according to Avril Thomas' maps, that the natural defences extend NE for c.200m. It is here that the course of the town defences becomes uncertain. Thomas identifies the course as turning in a SE direction from this point, following the course of a field drain for 420m. According to

Thomas, it then turns SW for c.290m where is skirts the boundary of St. Feighin's Church and meet with the South Gate.

It has been suggested (by Con Manning and in the Urban Survey) that the priory to the N had it's own defences. It is possible that these were integrated and formed part of the town defences and therefore the course of the town defences would need to incorporate this. The priory is surrounded by a marshy valley with wet ground on all sides except the E. A low hill to the N of the priory, Knocknamonaster, was enclosed by defences - the slope of the Knoll was scarped near it's base to form a platform on the E, N, and E sides. Outside this is a ditch with counterscarp bank. The platform is 5.2m wide in average while the ditch is 4.8m wide at the mouth. The counterscarp bank ranges in height from 1-2m and is 4m wide. The precinct defences probably continues on E side as far as SE gate but these were ploughed out and are not visible. Whether or not the town defences ever extended this far N can only be conjectured.

The South Gate is a rectangular gatehouse built of fairly evenly coursed limestone. It stands on the south side of the road from Crossakeel opposite the modern St. Feighin's R.C. Church. Only the ground floor survives but the presence of a spiral stair on the west side indicates that there was an upper level originally. The passage is entered through a round arch 2.6m wide. Some of the quoins are re-used stones from the Benedictine priory (WM004-035010-), and include one section of the cloister arcade. The north-east wall has an added external batter. A bank, c.1-1.5m high and 1.5m wide, runs south-west from the South Gate up the side of the hill. It is connected to a crossing bank of similar size which skirts the base of the Ben of Fore and turns north-west to link in with the North Gate. These banks have a rubble core and there are traces of stone facing. Further protection appears to have been added on this side by scarping the side of the hill at two levels contiguous with the base of the Ben of Fore'.

13.5 Mortimer's Castle (WM007-044) NM 610

In 1682, Sir Henry Piers recorded that Fahatty or Faughalstown on the eastern banks of Lough Derravaragh was 'the retiring place of Mortimer Earl of March' (Vallancey 1786, 66). In a letter written by Goddard H. Orpen to Thomas Lunn of Belvedere, the historian wrote that the tradition recorded by Piers may have been to Sir Thomas de Mortimer, Chief Justice of the King's Bench in 1382 rather than Sir Edmund Mortimer who died in 1381. In 1397, Sir Thomas de Mortimer fled to Ireland and sought refuge with the native Irish in Leinster after he was found guilty of treason by English Parliament and a warrant was issued for his arrest (Gilbert 1865, 277). No castle is depicted in this townland on the seventeenth century Down Survey map of Fore Barony (NLI, MS 723-4). The ruins of an ecclesiastical building are depicted on the Down Survey map of Fore Barony in the area where Mortimer's Castle is indicated on the OS 6-inch map. In 1902 a single wall of the castle standing two storeys high was drawn by Revd. William Falkiner of Killucan Rectory, the illustration clearly depicts a segmental window embrasure at ground and first floor levels (NLI PD 3129 TX 6).

In 1826 the monument was described as located 'on the eminence, overlooking every point of the lake with a lordly comprehension of view, stood, in the olden time, a baronial castle, of which, now, there remains only the foundation lines, overgrown with grass, and a very small relic of one of the inferior buildings of the fortress. The castle, which covered, including its area, more than an acre of ground was surrounded by a deep ditch; and judging from the lines of the foundations, it was on the plan, and could not have been much, if at all, inferior in magnitude, to the castle of Trim. Not many years back, a considerable portion of the ruins was standing, but they were pulled down, and the stone carried away, probably to build the cottages of the neighbouring peasantry' (Greendrake 1826, 47).

Described in 1974 as following: 'This is a large rectangular earthwork set on a high embankment on the edge of Lough Derravaragh. The earthwork is outlined by a low bank of earth and stone. This bank is set on top of a massive steep embankment. On the NW, North, NE & East & SE sides there is a very wide deep fosse outside the embankment. On the West and SW sides the steep embankment drops down to the edge of the lake. There are entrances to the interior on the NW and SE sides. In the SE

corner the banks rise into a massive mound. In the Southern corner there is a deep depression. North of this depression there is the outline of a rectangular house. Northwest of this house site is a further large depression. In the NW corner there is a depression overgrown with. At the southern corner of this there is a small ruin. This ruin appears to have contained a stairway leading to cellars or an undercroft. It is impossible to explore this area further without a torch. In the Northern corner a bank cuts off the corner of the earthwork. South of this bank and running along the NE side of the interior is a rectangular platform. The diam. of the earthwork NE-SW is 12.5m approx. There are wide views of the surrounding countryside and the lake to East, South and West. The site is overlooked by rising ground to the NE. (SMR File 12/09/1974). Depicted on the 1837 Ordnance Survey Fair Plan map as a rectangular shaped earthwork with L-shaped ruin in NW corner. A gap in the hachures along the NW side of the earthwork may represent location of original entrance into the earthwork. OS trig. station in SE corner of monument.

13.6 Wattstown (WM011-131, WM011-130) NM 606

Described in 1978 as following: 'The low earthen mound roughly circular in plan is surrounded by a rather wide fairly shallow fosse. These is turn are enclosed by a low earthen bank. The mound has been gapped and partly defaced on its eastern side. Located directly SW of the barrow No. 4 (WM011-131—)' (SMR File 13/06/1978). A second report in 1979 described as the monument as 'a fairly well preserved circular flat platform surrounded by a wide fosse. The fosse has been disturbed on the eastern side and part of the platform has been cut away and the spoil deposited on the eastern edge of the platform, creating a bank like situation. The fosse is surrounded by a wide low earthen bank. An old field bank runs into the bank on the NE side. This barrow is on sloping ground on the NW side of Frewin Hill, below the summit with panoramic views to North and West' (SMR File 02/05/1979). A third report from April 1979 recorded that 'On the S and W the bank is partly denuded and leveled by the old cultivation ridges running W/E up the slope of the hill' (SMR File).

Monument surveyed in 2012 and described by McGuinness (2012, 33-4) as following: 'Fairly well preserved, roughly circular ring-barrow (diam. 32m N-S) on ground sloping markedly down to W; W side of monument is heavily overgrown. Monument comprised a low central platform (basal diam. 17.6m N-S) surrounded by a broad flat-bottomed ditch, 2.5-4m in width, and an outer bank, 4-4.5m width from base of ditch to ground level outside. Platform rises from 0.48m above base of ditch on E side up to 0.94m above base of ditch on SW side. E side of platform appears flattened as if partly shorn off, and the adjacent ditch is wider here; this alteration appears to be related to a semicircular earthwork that adjoins NE side. Where bank is well-preserved on NNE side it rises up to 1.3m above base of ditch, although on SW side, where it is fairly well preserved, it rises only 0.6m above base of ditch; where bank is very low on E side, it nonetheless rises up to 1.7m above base of ditch. Maximum height of bank above external ground level reaches 1m on WSW side. Maximum depth of ditch below and perpendicular to a line joining top of bank to upper surface of platform ranges from 0.57m at SSE side to 0.96m at E side. There is a bowl-barrow (WM011-131—) in adjacent field 27m to ENE. Running approximately in a semicircle from NE side of the present monument around N side of the bow-barrow, at a distance of no less than 10m from the latter, is a complex earthwork that appears to have been intended to link both monuments together. This earthwork is closely connected with the ring-barrow and either forms part of its original design or, when constructed, necessitated significant alterations to the pre-existing barrow. Bank of ring-barrow has been cut through on NE side by a low, V-shaped ditch, 7-7.5m wide, which joins onto ditch of ring-barrow 0.8m above its base. Where this broad ditch joins onto ditch of barrow, the latter continues its curve and appears to have been widened at the expense of the central platform, which has had its E side shorn off and flattened. On N side of ditch of semicircular earthwork is a low, flat-topped bank 2.5m in width and 0.45m in height, which runs for 40m into the next field, where it ends 12m to NW of the bowl-barrow (WM011-131—); opposite side of the ditch appears to be formed by scarping the slightly higher ground to SE. At point where bank ends to NW of bowl-barrow (WM011-131—) it curves in towards scarp, gently narrowing the ditch. From this point onwards, ditch below scarp is far narrower, being 4.5m across and 1m deep

to N of bowl-barrow (WM011-131—), and there are only slight traces of a counterscarp bank beyond it; it runs in an ESE direction for 35m, where, about 16m ENE of the bowl-barrow, it ends, while the scarp itself kinks to E, running for another 17m before swerving to SSE and blending into the natural slope. Ground falls away sharply immediately to NE of this semicircular earthwork and, just beyond end of ditch and scarp, falls away quite steeply to E. Distance from start of earthwork at ring-barrow to E end is c. 75m and, with the ring-barrow at one end, its appearance in aerial photographs is not unlike the profile of an Iron Age brooch'.