DUBLIN THROUGH THE AGES

# Eaglais San Nioclás Ard Aidhin
# The Church of St Nicholas of Artane

Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

## Bunú
## Foundation

**Ba chuid de pharóiste Fhionnghlaise é Eaglais San Nioclás Ard Aidhin (ar a dtugtar Artaine, Tirten nó Tartaine go stairiúil freisin) roimh Reifirméisean an 16ú haois. Tá an chuma ar an scéal gur tógadh Eaglais San Nioclás ag deireadh an 12ú haois nó ag tús an 13ú haois, agus gur ag feidhmiú mar eaglais Anglacánach a bhí sé, nó eaglais tórraimh, rud a chiallaigh gur glacadh leis mar chuid den pharóiste níos leithne.**
**Bhí an paróiste preibhindire, rud a chiallaigh gur sholáthair an t-airgead a bailíodh sa pharóiste foinse ioncaim do chanóin. De bhrí go raibh Fionnghlas i ndlínse Ardeaglais Naomh Pádraig ba é Ardeaspag Naomh Pádraig a cheap faighteoir an phreibhindire.**
**Le cois Eaglais San Nioclás, áiríodh freisin i bparóiste Fhionnghlaise Séipéal San Maighréad agus Teampall Bhríde (An Barda).**
**Go minic bhíodh séipéil lonnaithe in áitreabh príobháideach, sa chás seo glactar leis go raibh na séipéil seo nasctha le tógáil Chaisleán Ard Aidhin.**
**Ba é teaghlach Hollywood (de Sacro Bosco) a thóg Caisleán Ard Aidhin sa 14ú haois. Bhí an topainm (sloinne bunaithe ar áit fhisiciúil) bunaithe ar Chnocán an Alabhóidigh i dTuaisceart Chontae Bhaile Átha Cliath, áit a raibh talamh agus séipéal ag an teaghlach freisin. Ag deireadh an 14ú haois bhí baint ag Robert de Hollywood le Státchiste na hÉireann.**

The Church of St Nicholas of Artane (historically also known as Artaine, Tirten or Tartaine) formed part of the parish of Finglas before the Reformation of the sixteenth century. Most likely in existence since the late twelfth or early thirteenth century, St Nicholas' was a chapelry, or chapel of ease, meaning that it formed a smaller part of the wider parish.
The parish was prebendal, meaning that money raised by it provided an income to a canon. As Finglas was under the jurisdiction of St Patrick's Cathedral the recipient of the prebend was appointed by the Archbishop of St Patrick's Cathedral.
In addition to St Nicholas', the parish of Finglas also included the churches of St Margaret's and St Brigid's (the Ward).
Chapels were often located in a private dwelling, in this case most likely associated with the building of Artane Castle.
Artane Castle was built in the fourteenth century by the Hollywood (de Sacro Bosco) family. The toponymic (a surname taken from a physical place) was derived from Hollywood in North County Dublin, where the family also held lands and a church.
In the late fourteenth century Robert de Hollywood was part of the Irish Exchequer.

**Choinnigh Luke Netterville Caisleán Ard Aidhin mar dhaingean Caitliceach, mac Chéad Bhíocunta Netterville, teaghlach atá bunaithe i gCo. na Mí ón 13ú haois. Thacaigh Christopher Hollywood ó Chaisleán Ard Aidhin leis. (Bridgeman Images)**

Artane Castle was held as a Catholic stronghold by Luke Netterville, son of the 1st Viscount Netterville, a family based in Co Meath since the 13th century. He was supported by Christopher Hollywood of Artane Castle. (Bridgeman Images)

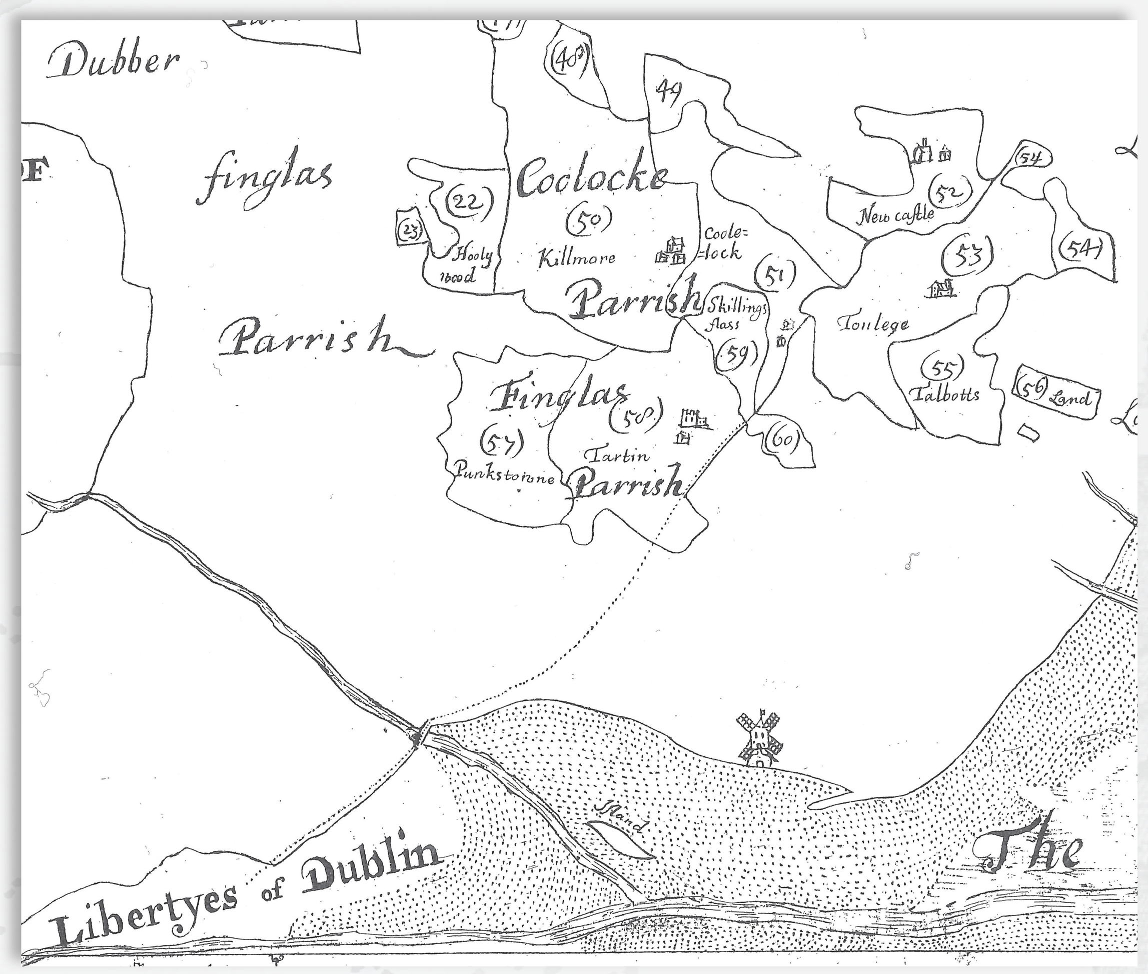
## Éirí Amach in Ard Aidhin
## Rebellion in Artane

**Sa 16ú haois ba é Ard Aidhin croílár na scéiméireachta polaitiúla in Éirinn ar feadh tamaill ghearr. Sna 1530idí ábhar imní do Choróin Shasana ba ea cumhacht Theaghlach na nGearaltach, agus a cheannaire, Iarla Chill Dara, Gearailt Mhic Gearailt, ba chúis le tréimhse phríosúnachta an Iarla i dTúr Londan.**
**Chuala a mhac, Tomás an tSíoda, gur maraíodh a athair sa Túr. Tar éis a fhógairt go raibh sé ag glacadh páirte in éirí amach i gcoinne na Corónach, d'fhoghlaim sé go raibh a athair fós beo. I measc na ngníomhartha a bhí beartaithe ag Tomás an tSíoda a dhéanamh bhí díoltas a bhaint amach ar an Ardeaspag Alen (ardeaspag Bhaile Átha Cliath agus easpag Ghleann Dá Loch), namhaid de chuid an teaghlaigh. Rinne an t-ardeaspag iarracht teitheadh as Éireann ar bhád ach bhí deacrachtaí aige nuair a shroich sé Cluain Tarbh.**
**Lorg sé dídean i gCaisleán Ard Aidhin, ach i rith na hoíche tarraingíodh as a leaba é agus mharaigh lucht tacaíochta na nGearaltach é. Scaip an t-éirí amach ar fud Fhine Gall, ach chuir an Choróin deireadh leis na hiarrachtaí a rinne Tomás an tSíoda ina dhiaidh sin seilbh a ghlacadh ar Bhaile Átha Cliath.**
**Céad bliain ina dhiaidh sin arís tharla tuilleadh réabhlóide fós in Ard Aidhin; réabhlóid 1641. An bhliain sin d'eagraigh na Gaeil in Ulaidh éirí amach i gcoinne córas nua Plandálacha agus idirdhealú reiligiúnach. Scaip an réabhlóid ar fud na hÉireann agus fuair na mílte Caitliceach agus Protastúnach bás dá bharr.**

In the sixteenth century Artane briefly became the centre of political intrigue in Ireland. In the 1530s the English Crown was concerned about how powerful the Geraldine Family, and its head, the Earl of Kildare, Gerald Fitzgerald, had become, leading to the Earl's imprisonment in the Tower of London.
His son, Silken Thomas, heard that his father had been killed in the Tower. Having declared himself in rebellion against the Crown, he then learned that his father was still alive. One of Silken Thomas' actions was to seek revenge on Archbishop Alen (archbishop of Dublin and bishop of Glendalough), a perceived enemy of his family. The archbishop attempted to flee Ireland by boat but his ship ran into difficulties in Clontarf. He sought refuge in Artane Castle, but during the night was dragged from his bed and killed by Geraldine supporters. The rebellion spread through Fingal, but the subsequent attempts by Silken Thomas to take Dublin were quashed by the Crown.
A century later Artane was witness to more revolution; the rebellion of 1641. That year the Irish in Ulster rebelled against the new system of Plantations and religious discrimination. The rising spread throughout Ireland and resulted in the deaths of thousands of Catholics and Protestants.

## Ó Cromwell go dtí na Cúlóige
## From Cromwell to Coolock

**Mar chuid d'iarracht ord riaracháin a chinntiú san athrú ollmhór a bhí ag tarlú i ndáil le húinéireacht talún in Éirinn i ndiaidh do Cromwell úinéireacht talún a bhaint de Chaitlicigh, cuireadh tús le suirbhéanna nua talún; an Suirbhé Sibhialta ar dtús (1654-6), agus ansin Suirbhé Down (1656-8) a rinneadh faoi threoir William Petty. Bunaithe ar an obair a rinneadh ar na suirbhéanna talún cuireadh 'Daonáireamh' i dtoll a chéile freisin, agus c.1659 taifeadadh go raibh 8 mBriotanach agus 32 Éireannach ina gcónaí in Ard Aidhin.**
**Mheath na séipéil i bhFine Gall sa 17ú haois - meascán de chogadh agus cuallacht laghdaithe. Glacadh le hArd Aidhin mar chuid de pharóiste Caitliceach nua na Cúlóige.**




**Sliocht as Barúntacht na Cúlóige, Co. Bhaile Átha Cliath, as Suirbhé Down na hÉireann. (Cóip de léarscáil atá le fáil i Leabharlann Choláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath, le caoinchead ó Bhord Choláiste na Tríonóide).**

Extract from the Barony of Coolock, Co. Dublin, from the Down Survey of Ireland. (Reproduced from a map in Trinity College Library, Dublin, with the permission of the Board of Trinity College).

In an attempt to bring administrative order to the huge change in land ownership in Ireland following Cromwell's removal of land ownership from Catholics, new land surveys began; first the Civil Survey (1654-6), followed by the Down Survey (1656-8) which was taken under the direction of William Petty. From the work of the land surveys a 'Census' was also produced, where in c.1659 it was recorded that the population of Artane had 8 English and 32 Irish.
The seventeenth century was one of decline for churches in Fingal - a combination of war and a falling congregation. Artane became part of the new Catholic parish of Coolock.

## Fothraigh agus Atógáil
## Ruins and Rebuilding

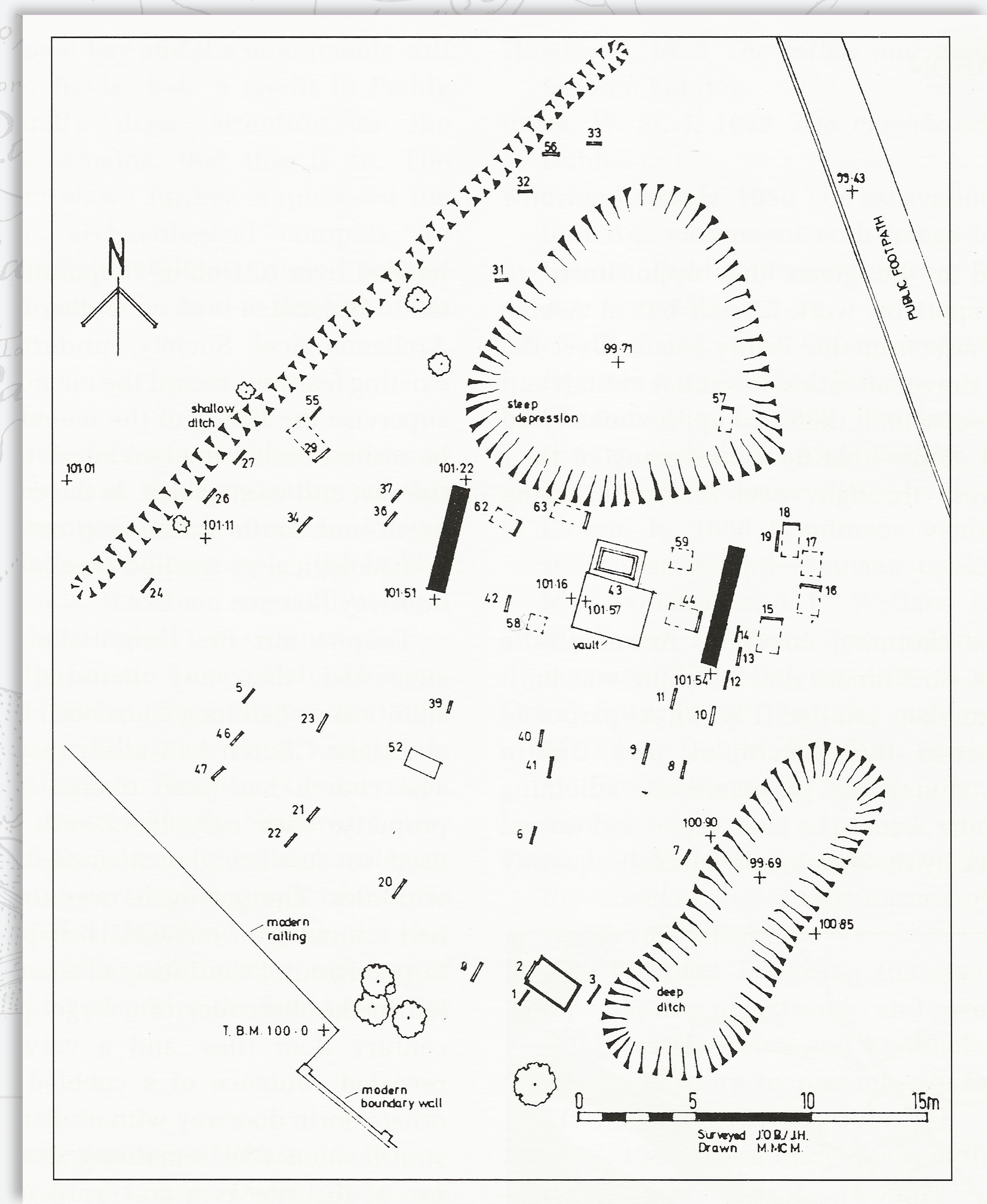
**Sa bhliain 1825 leagadh Caisleán Ard Aidhin go talamh agus d'úsáid Matthew Boyle na fothraigh chun '...teach galánta a thógáil, óna bhfuil radharc breá ar an gceantar mórthimpeall...' Ag tús an 10ú haois ba mar seo a leanas a rinneadh cur síos ar an séipéal '...fothrach gleoite, a raibh cuid dhó faoi bhrat eidhneáin: san ionad adhlactha tá cloch uaighe theaghlach Hollywood...'**

In 1825 Artane Castle was demolished and its remains used by Matthew Boyle to build a '...handsome house, which commands a splendid view...' In the early nineteenth century the church was described as a '...picturesque ruin, partly covered in ivy: in the burial-ground is a tombstone to the Hollywood family...'

## Fionnachtana Seandálaíocha
## Archaeological Discoveries

**Spreag forbairt bheartaithe an láithreáin ag tús na 1980idí Cumann Seandálaíochta Bhaile Átha Cliath agus an seandálaí Mary McMahon chun suirbhé a dhéanamh ar shéipéal agus reilig San Nioclás.  Ainneoin go raibh an chuma ar an láithreán go raibh sé foircthe le fiailí agus go raibh sé tréigthe, mar thoradh ar an suirbhé aimsíodh líon mór tíleanna urláir a bhain leis an 16ú haois, bloghanna briste leac chuimhneacháin theaghlach Hollywood agus 62 cloch chuimhneacháin greanta a úsáideadh le haghaidh adhlacthaí san 18ú agus sa 19ú haois.**
**I rith an tsuirbhé, nochtadh ballaí thuaidh agus theas an tséipéil, agus tíleanna urláir rilífe, agus roimhe sin ní raibh le feiceáil ach na beanna thoir agus thiar. Aimsíodh leathphingin Éireannach George III a bhain leis an mbliain 1769 sa doras theas.**
**Is fianaise iad na mionsonraí ar na leaca cuimhneacháin go raibh daoine ó lár chathair Bhaile Átha Cliath curtha sa reilig. Tá tagairt déanta do An Ché Adhmaid, An tSráid Ard, Cé Urumhan, agus uaireanta díreach 'Cathair Bhaile Átha Cliath'. I measc ghairmeacha na daoine bhí grósaeir glasraí (Edward Morris ó Mhargadh Urumhan); gréasaí (Mathew Halpin ó An tSráid Ard); cúipéir (Thomas Sheerin) agus Philip Smith ó Chaifé Smiths. Tá go leor ban ainmnithe, ach níl aon slí bheatha luaite taobh leo. Tá ainmneacha go leor glúnta éagsúla ar go leor leac cuimhneacháin, lena n-áirítear leanaí a fuair bás roimh a dtuismitheoirí.**
**Ainneoin ganntanas na bhfothrach, baineann tábhacht mhór stairiúil leis an láithreán, ní hamháin mar gheall ar an gcaisleán agus séipéal, ach de bhrí gurb é seo an reilig ina bhfuil an oiread sin daoine de bhunadh Bhaile Átha Cliath curtha inti.**

Proposed development of the site in the early 1980s led to a survey of St Nicholas' church and graveyard by the Dublin Archaeological Society and archaeologist Mary McMahon.  Despite the overgrown and derelict appearance of the site, the survey led to the discovery of a large number of sixteenth-century floor tiles, the broken fragments of the Hollywood family memorial and sixty-two inscribed memorial stones for burials of the 18th and 19th centuries.
During the course of the survey, the north and south church walls, and the relief floor tiles became exposed, whereas it had previously only been the east and west gables which were visible. A George III Irish halfpenny dated to 1769 was found in the south doorway.
The details on the memorial stones indicate that people from Dublin city centre were buried in the graveyard. Wood Quay, High St, Ormond Quay are all mentioned, sometimes just 'City of Dublin' is supplied. Occupations include greengrocer (Edward Morris from Ormond Market); shoemaker (Mathew Halpin of High St); cooper Thomas Sheerin) and Philip Smith of Smiths Coffee House. There are many women named, but none with an accompanying occupation. Many memorials are multi-generational, including children who had predeceased their parents.
Despite the paucity of remains, the site has considerable historical importance, not simply because of the castle and church, but as the final resting place for so many Dubliners.




**Plean de Shéipéal Ard Aidhin (1982). (Cóip curtha ar fáil le caoinchead ó Mary McMahon agus Wordwell Ltd.).**

Plan of Artane Church (1982) (Reproduced with kind permission of Mary McMahon and Wordwell Ltd.).

## Conclúid
## Conclusion

**Is sraith é Baile Átha Cliath leis na Céadta Bliain Anuas atá ag díriú ar stair agus ar oidhreacht áiteanna i mBaile Átha Cliath. Ba é Oifig Ceantair Chomhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath Thuaidh-Lár a d'fhorbair an comhartha seo le tacaíocht ó Rannáin Seandálaíochta agus Oidhreachta Chomhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath. Tá buíochas speisialta tuillte ag Roinn Páirceanna na Comhairle,  an tUasal Tom O Farrell, fear de bhunadh na háite, as an taighde a rinne sé ar stair Shéipéal San Nioclás, agus ag an seandálaí Mary McMahon. Taighde déanta agus téacs curtha ar fáil ag An Dr Grace O'Keeffe, Staraí Ré na Meánaoise.**
**Tá go leor teaghlach curtha sa reilig seo agus ba cheart go mbeadh meas againn ar na tailte seo.**

Dublin Through The Ages is a series focusing on the history and heritage of places in Dublin. This sign was produced by North Central Area Office with the guidance and support of the Archaeology and Heritage Sections of Dublin City Council.
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Research and text provided by Dr Grace O'Keeffe, Medieval Historian.
Please be mindful that there are many families buried in this graveyard and respect the grounds.