

From 1609 onwards, 'British' Protestant immigrants started to arrive in Ulster via the Plantation scheme, through ports such as Derry and Carrickfergus. By 1622 a survey found that there were 6,402 British adult males on plantation lands, of whom 3,100 were English and 3,700 Scottish indicating a total adult population of around 12,000. Alongside the Hamilton and Montgomery plantations in Antrim and Down, the total planter population was about 19,000.

Some new settlers were given undeveloped land, attempting to build their farms and homes in what was described as 'a wilderness'. This led to a significant internal movement of settlers onto lands they considered more prosperous.

## Agriculture

The most fertile lands, especially the hinterlands of Derry and Coleraine, attracted a higher density of settlers. The native Irish custom of transhumance, moving livestock to graze in different areas depending on the seasons, gave way to the more settled practices of pastoral farming and new tillage crops such as potatoes and oats were also introduced. As agricultural practices changed, by 1628 Ulster was contributing up to 18% of Irish grain production. But the introduction of radical farming practices was hindered by the poverty of the new settlers and by the fact that many, particularly the Scots, simply continued their own farming practices which were incredibly similar to that of the Irish. In fact many settlers showed a preference for native Irish ways.

## Urban Life

Pre-Plantation life was essentially rural. Fairs and markets took place in designated areas rather than in large towns which were very rare and there were few villages of any real size. However the Plantation led to the gradual growth of towns and villages. Most towns were planned and laid out with a 'diamond' at the centre, containing some type of civic structure, such as a market house or barracks such as Derry or Coleraine. Villages were usually linear in style, and some were simply the continuation of Irish settlements, such as Dungannon and the fortifications at Dunalong. New construction methods were introduced. Houses were built from brick with timber box frames, with a slate or tile roof and a brick chimney which

contrasted sharply with Irish 'creats', which were usually oval or rectangular in shape with a round thatched roof and central, or no chimney. Reflective of Derry's growing status, the city boasted urban amenities not available elsewhere; paved streets, a town hall and a cathedral.

## Trade

Cities that were once simply a place of refuge and security also became centres of trade with the production of goods from a variety of craftsmen such as carpenters, butchers and cloth makers. Ports such as Derry and Coleraine were the entry points for household items and foodstuffs such as spices, wine and marmalade imported from English and Scottish towns, and were also crucial in exporting timber harvested from thousands of acres of forest and woodland. Newly established monthly fairs and town markets signalled the increased commercialisation of Plantation society.

## Education and Society

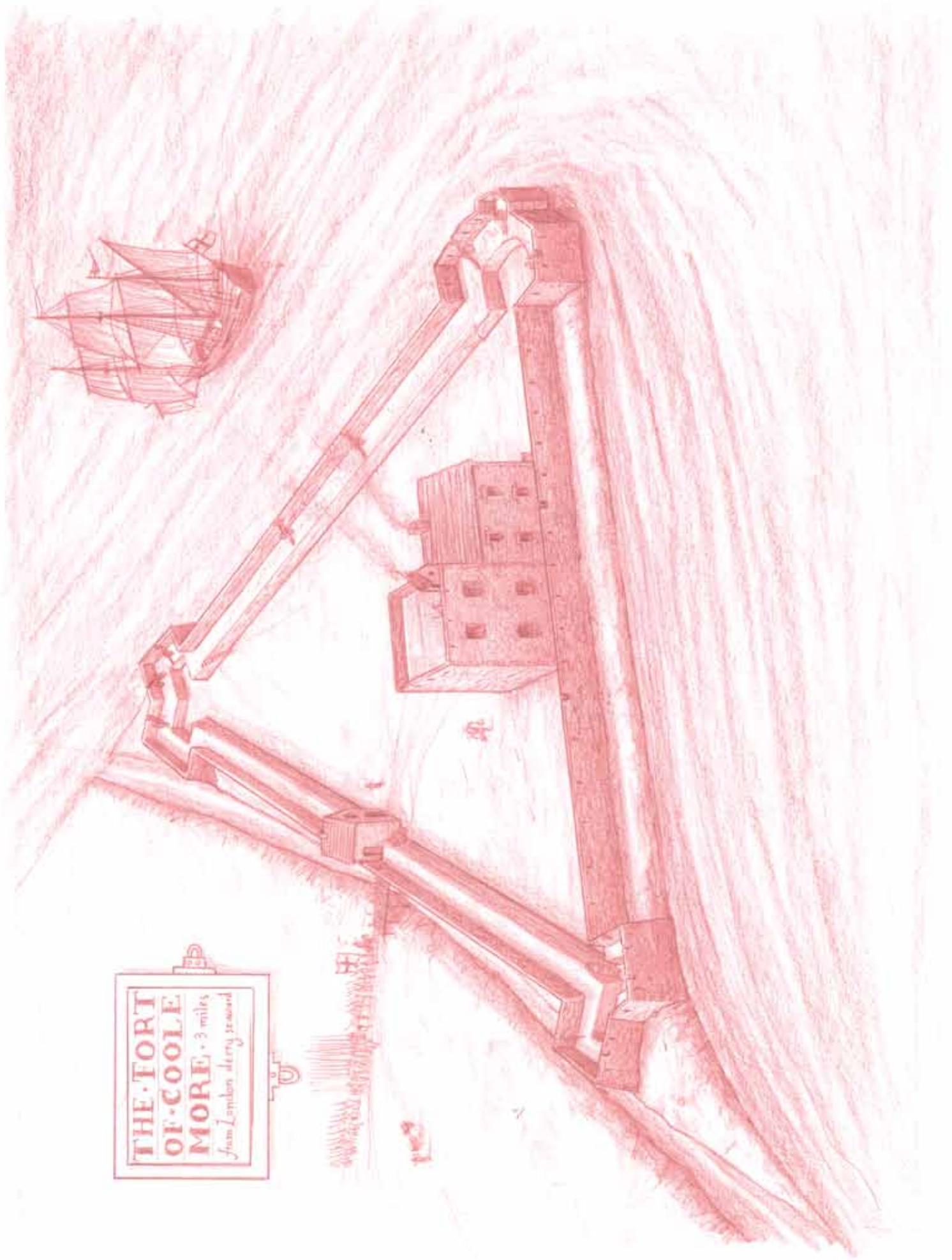
In addition to creating lasting changes in the landscape and commerce, the conditions governing the Plantation also included instructions that each county should have a school so that the 'youth of this realm may be educated in literature and knowledge of true religion to the end that they may learn their duty towards God and true obedience towards us'. Royal schools were created specifically for the education of the sons of Protestant undertakers and servitors, and certainly not for the dispossessed Irish. In 1617 the Free School of Londonderry was founded by Mathias Springham, Master of the Merchant Taylors 'to the honour of God and the spreading of good literature'.

Education was important in securing the new social order which arose from the Plantation. English common law, with rent agreements and leases, replaced the complex social customs that tied the Irish to their Gaelic Lords under Brehon law. However, this played havoc with the intensely status-conscious Gaelic society; suddenly people who were considered socially inferior were being promoted to a high standing, whereas the once elite families were in rapid decline. In essence the Plantation was a colonial venture, and as such was shaped by the cultural elitism of the colonising power.

## Document 1

Culmore Fort, drawing by Sean O'Brogain

- 1 Why was a fort positioned at this point along the River Foyle?
- 2 Who do you think would have been living here?
- 3 What do you think might have been stored here?
- 4 Do you know if anything of this fort exists today?



**THE FORT  
OF MORE** - 3 miles  
from Londonberry seaward

## Document 2

### George Squire lease of fishing rights, 1674

(original image and transcript)

London Metropolitan Archives CLA/049/AD/01/002

This document is from a volume containing various repaired deeds which relate to farm and fishing rights, it appears to be one of the earliest surviving leases. The river Foyle was one of Ireland's richest salmon fisheries.

- 1 Where does George Squire live according to this lease?
- 2 How much has he paid for this lease?
- 3 What do you think the lease allows him to do?
- 4 Does he have anything that he must do in return?
- 5 Find out who looks after the rights to fish in your local river and Lough Foyle.

at the same at the said time and place  
take notice that such subscription will be taken upon  
of this Society at such and soe place as shall be at Guild Hall  
London this fourth day of June 1674

W<sup>m</sup> Spralling Sec<sup>y</sup> to the  
Society

I, George Squire of the City of London  
Barry Merchant Testate my selfe consent  
for the term of seven yeares and upon  
the conditions above mentioned to take  
to furnish the Societys Hushing in the  
severall Rivers of Ban and Loughfoyle  
and to pay for the same Twelve  
Hundred Sixty five pounds, sixpence,  
shillings and eight pence per Annum  
And will give good Security to the King  
of the Society Witness my hand this  
Twelveth day of August 1674

in Square  
at the  
the being  
Advanced

Geo. Squire

I George Squire of the City of Londonderry  
Merchant declare myself to consent for  
the terme of seaven yeares and upon the  
conditions above mentioned to have [take?]  
to ----- the Societies ffishings in the severall  
Rivers of Ban and Loughfoile and to pay for  
the sum [ ] [ ] hundred sixty ffive pounds  
sixteene shillings and eight pence per sum.  
[They] will give good surety [or security] to  
the liking of the Society. Witness my hand  
this twelveth day of August 1674

George Squire

## Document 3

Four extracts from Thomas Raven's 1622 volume of maps showing various Plantation settlements in the County of Londonderry including Draperstown, Bellaghy and Magherafelt.

Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI)

- 1 What type of buildings and structures are shown on these maps?
- 2 What structures other than houses are shown on the Vintners map at Bellaghy?
- 3 How many British men and natives are living on the Vintners lands in Bellaghy?
- 4 What other London companies have lands surrounding the Drapers?
- 5 What does the plan say about the Bawn at Draperstown?
- 6 How many British men and natives are listed in the Salters land near Magherafelt?

A PLAT OF THE LANES  
BELONGING TO THE  
COMPANY OF DRAPERS



The Salters  
Lands.

Part of the Vinthers  
Proportion

Part of the Countye of Tyron

Part of the Skiners  
Proportion

Skiners

Mercers

**THE BUILDINGS  
BE LONGING TO  
THE COMPANY OF  
DRAPERS AT  
MONNEMORE.**

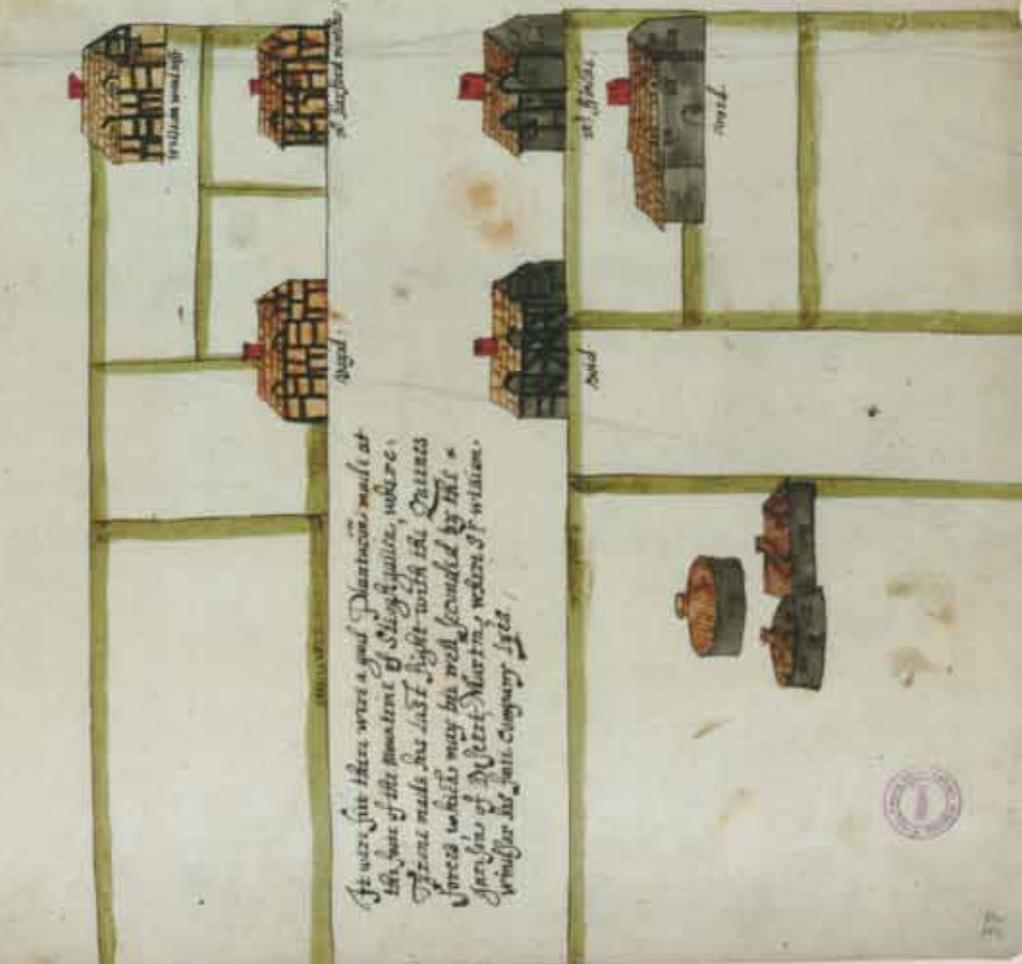
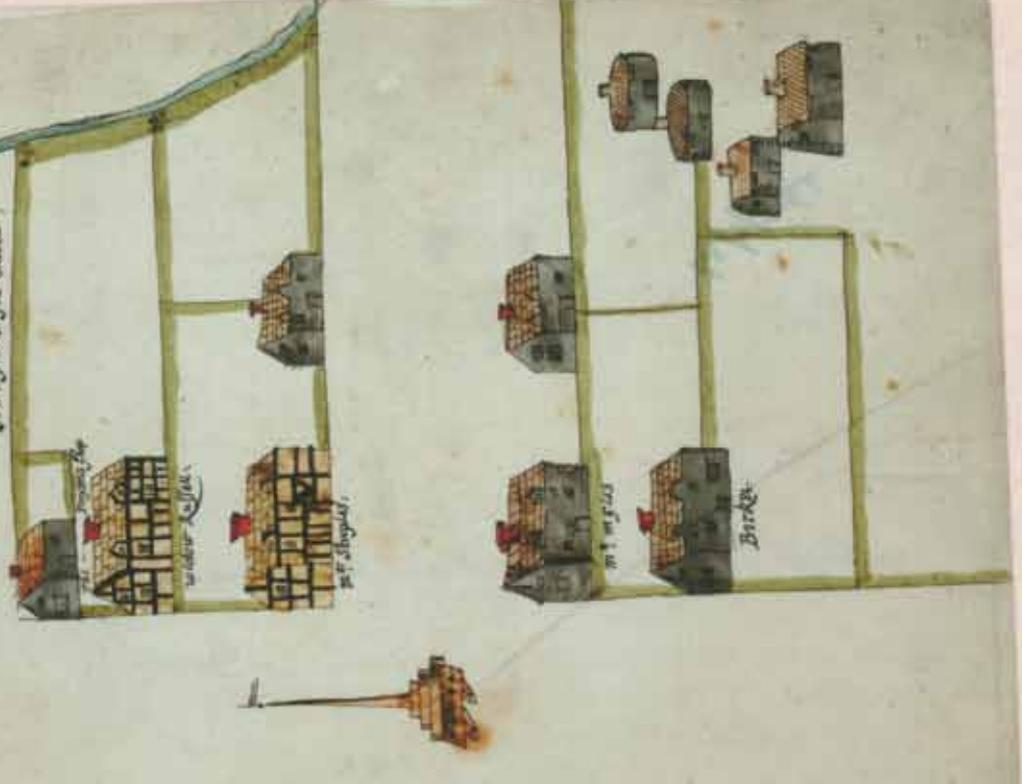
Architects referent to their  
franchis in this Proporcions... 101  
British in this proporcions... 110  
Proporcions... 120  
Natives in this proporcions... 126



This house, built here  
against the year 1480  
and finished in 1500

This house and house being  
new, had had a part  
repaired the wood and part  
and not made the timber being  
rotting and would decay with  
the water, being so arranged  
that 6 paces and 1/2 was  
for a pound for the year.

It were for these were a good plantation, made at  
the time of the foundation of St. Dunstons, where  
there made his last night with the Queen  
James which may be well founded by the  
sarcophagi of West-Martin, where St. Wilton  
witnessed the last company year.







## Document 4

### Textile artwork produced by Deborah Stockdale, 2013

This artwork was commissioned by Derry City Council as a final legacy piece for the exhibition in the Guildhall 'Plantation - 'Plantation: Process, People, Perspectives'.

- 1 What does the artwork tell you about the Ulster Plantation?
- 2 Can you identify some of themes that the artist has illustrated in the artwork?
- 3 Can you identify different types of materials that the artist has used?
- 4 400 years after the Plantation of Ulster what do you think has been the impact of this on the people who live in Ulster, its culture, environment and landscape?

To see this artwork and many of the objects and or archives used throughout this learning pack visit the Guildhall.

Please do not touch

