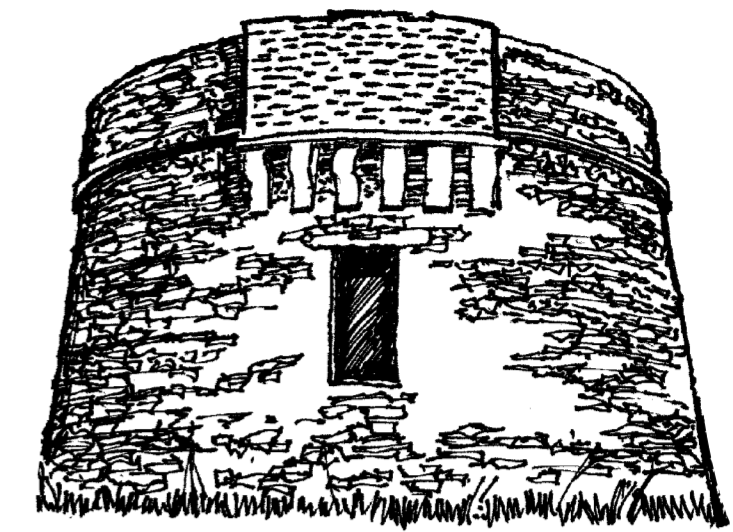


Lonehort Heritage Trail

Cosán Oidhreachta Longphoirt



Lonehort Harbour - Minach Mór

The stunningly beautiful Lonehort Harbour has attracted much attention down through the centuries.

Early in the ninth century the Vikings found their way here. The Irish word 'Longphort' from which the name 'Lonehort' is derived, usually, refers to a fortified ship harbour of Viking origin.

Local folklore suggests that the Vikings constructed an underwater breakwater at the mouth of Lonehort to prevent a groundswell entering the harbour. The material of this structure is at variance with the underlying sandy seabed suggesting that the partially collapsed structure is, indeed, man-made.

Proof of this Viking connection emerged in 1995 when an archaeological excavation at Lonehort unearthed a feature believed to be a 'Naust', a Viking Boathouse, at the eastern end of the harbour.

June 1 & 2, 1602 saw the arrival here of an English invasion fleet. The fleet, under the command of the English General, Sir George Carew, who had won a resounding victory over the Irish at Kinsale, in 1601, carried in excess of 3,000 men and their retainers. Generals Charles Wilmot and Richard Percy also arrived with their regiments, boosting the numbers of the invading force.

It was from here that Carew organised his campaign for the siege of Dunboy Castle, across the sound from the western end of Bere Island and the last stronghold of Donal Cam O'Sullivan Beare. Carew's army crossed to the mainland on June 6 and after a siege of 11 days, Dunboy fell to the invading forces.

No account exists of what Carew's army did in Bere Island during their 24 days here, however, a description by Stafford, Carew's scribe, of the state of South Cork on their departure, gives us a good idea:

'there was no corn or cattle left in the fields, nor houses left unburned'.



Fáilte Ireland
National Tourism Development Authority



An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council