

THE ROCK OF DUNAMASE

*A Medieval Fortress at the Heart of
Ireland's Ancient East*



Stunning views of the surrounding countryside make the towering Rock of Dunamase a strategic place to build a fortress. Dunamase was important enough to be included in the first known map of Ireland by Ptolemy in circa 150 AD. In the 9th century the fortress on top of the rock was attacked by a Viking army, and the Abbot of Terryglass was killed. Nothing of this early fortress can be seen today, but what does survive is one of the most spectacular Anglo-Norman fortifications in the country.

Much of the castle on the top of the rock was built about the year 1200 by Meiler Fitz Henry, while the outer fortifications were later built by William Marshall, who was responsible for Kilkenny Castle and was the most powerful of the Anglo-Norman lords who came to Ireland in the late 12th century.

Abandoned in the 14th Century, local tradition tells that the castle was destroyed by Cromwell's forces in 1651. Today the ruins on the Rock of Dunamase are managed by the State. Archaeological excavation and conservation work by the Office of Public Works have ensured that the Rock of Dunamase will survive for further generations to explore.



Visit The Rock of Dunamase

Free entry, open during daylight hours year-round.

See www.heritageireland.ie



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