

# TULLAGHOGE FORT







# TULLAGHOGE FORT

This educational comic book resource is part of an initiative to mark important historical sites in Mid-Ulster. Located near Cookstown and Stewartstown, Tullaghoge Fort has a 7,000 year history that includes its time as a royal power centre for the O'Neill dynasty.

Tullaghoge Fort is owned and cared for by the Department for Communities, in partnership with Mid Ulster District Council. The site underwent extensive renovations and reopened in 2016 with new visitor interpretation panels and walkways, making the ancient location more accessible to visitors.

The fort and accompanying walkways are free to visit and open to visitors year-round.

Tullaghoge Fort is a State Care Monument managed by the Department for Communities.

[www.midulstercouncil.org](http://www.midulstercouncil.org)



Comhairle Ceantair  
**Lár Uladh**  
**Mid Ulster**  
District Council



LOTTERY FUNDED

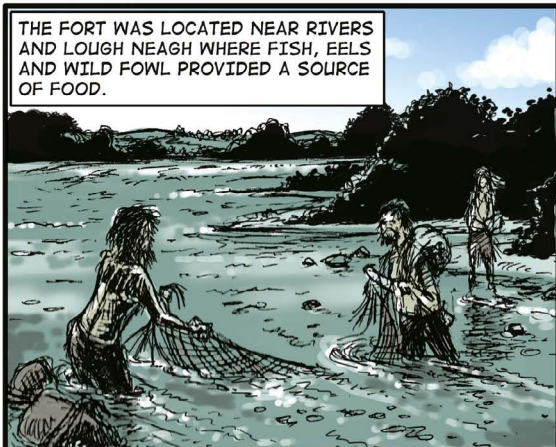
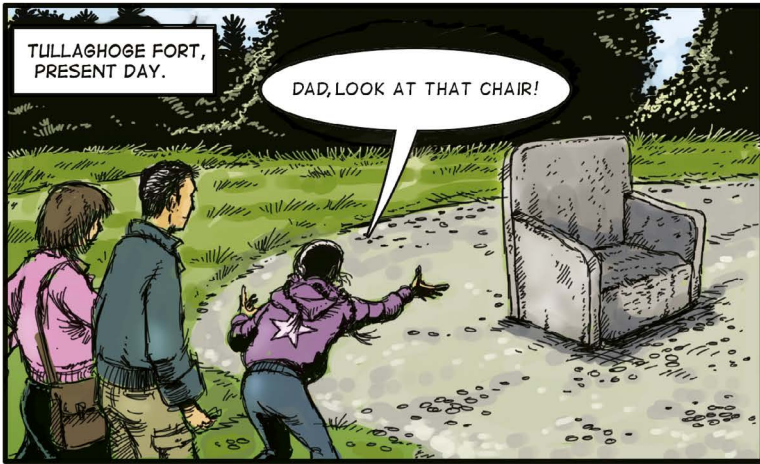


Department for  
**Communities**  
[www.communities-ni.gov.uk](http://www.communities-ni.gov.uk)

Comic developed by:











THE FORT WAS THE SEAT FOR A LOCAL DYNASTY KNOWN AS THE UÍ THUIRTRE SINCE THE 4TH CENTURY AD. THE SITE LATER BECAME FAMOUS FOR ITS CONNECTIONS TO THE CINEÁL EOGHAIN DYNASTY, A BRANCH OF WHOM LATER ADOPTED THE SURNAME Ó NÉILL. THE NEARBY HILL OF THE O'NEILL IN DUNGANNON WAS ALSO THE SEAT OF POWER FOR THE O'NEILLS.



THE Ó NÉILL (O'NEILL) FAMILY'S CONNECTIONS STRETCH BACK TO THE 5TH CENTURY AD. AT THAT TIME, THE DESCENDANTS OF A WARRIOR KNOWN AS NIALL NAOIGHIALLACH (NIALL OF THE NINE HOSTAGES) CONQUERED NORTHWEST ULSTER, MAINLY CO. DONEGAL. THIS LARGE GROUP BECAME KNOWN AS THE NORTHERN O NEILL.



BY THE 800S, THE CINEÁL EOGHAIN WERE A POWERFUL FORCE AND EXTENDED THEIR TERRITORY AND POWER EASTWARDS AND SOUTHWARDS.

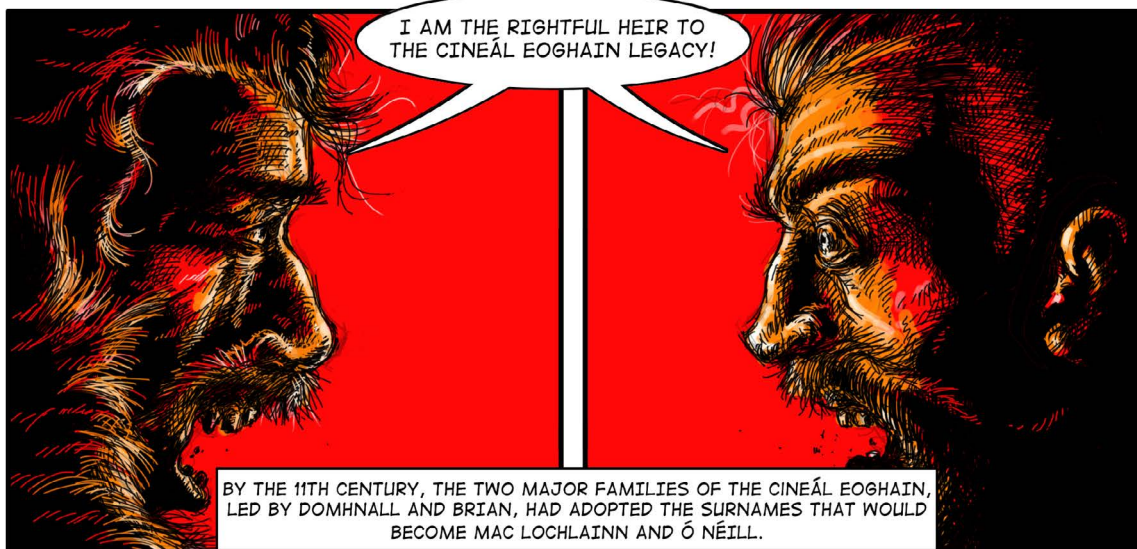


AS THE CINEÁL EOGHAIN EXPANDED, THEY MOVED TO A NEW POWERBASE IN MID ULSTER CENTRED ON TULLAGHOGE. LATER THE RULING FAMILY OF THE CINEÁL EOGHAIN ADOPTED THE Ó NÉILL NAME.



THE SITE IS BEST KNOWN AS THE PLACE WHERE CINEÁL EOGHAIN INAUGURATED THEIR KINGS ON LEAC NA RÍ (THE STONE OF KINGS).





BY THE 11TH CENTURY, THE TWO MAJOR FAMILIES OF THE CINEÁL EOGHAIN, LED BY DOMHNALL AND BRIAN, HAD ADOPTED THE SURNAMENES THAT WOULD BECOME MAC LOCHLAINN AND Ó NEILL.

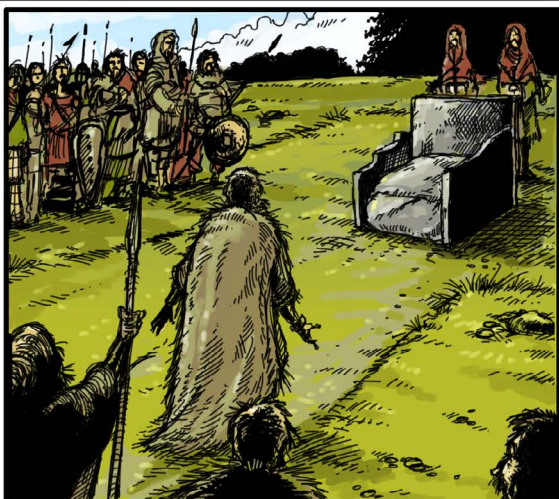


ALTHOUGH RELATED, THE TWO FAMILIES BATTLED FIERCELY OVER THE KINGSHIP OF THE CINEÁL EOGHAIN FOR OVER 150 YEARS.



IN 1241, THE O'NEILLS DEFEATED THE MAC LOCHLAINNS AT THE BATTLE OF CAIMEIRGHE, A SITE THOUGHT TO BE IN SLAUGHTNEIL NEAR MAGHERA.

THE O' NEILLS CLAIM VICTORY AT THIS BATTLE AS THE RIGHTRUL LEADERS OF OUR PEOPLE!



BRIAN WAS INSTALLED AS KING SOON AFTER HIS VICTORY AND THE O'NEILLS WENT ON TO HOLD THE KINGSHIP FOR THE NEXT 362 YEARS.



THE TULLAGHOGE SITE WAS SO IMPORTANT THAT IT CONTINUED TO BE THE SITE WHERE KINGS WERE INAUGURATED.



IN 1595, AODH MÓR Ó NÉILL (HUGH THE GREAT), WAS THE LAST O'NEILL TO BE INAUGURATED ON LEAC NA RÍ AT TULLAGHOGE.



THE TULLAGHOGE SITE WAS MAINTAINED BY THE Ó HAGÁIN (O'HAGAN) FAMILY WHILE CEREMONIES OF INAUGURATION WERE OVERSEEN BY THE Ó CATHÁIN (O'KANE) FAMILY.



THE TRADITION INVOLVED PLACING NEW SANDALS ON THE FEET OF THE KING AND HOLDING A GOLDEN SANDAL OVER HIS HEAD.

AFTERWARDS THERE WOULD BE A FEAST AND OTHER CELEBRATIONS TO WELCOME THE NEW O'NEILL KING.

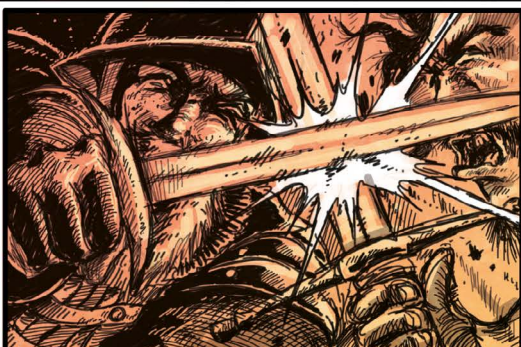




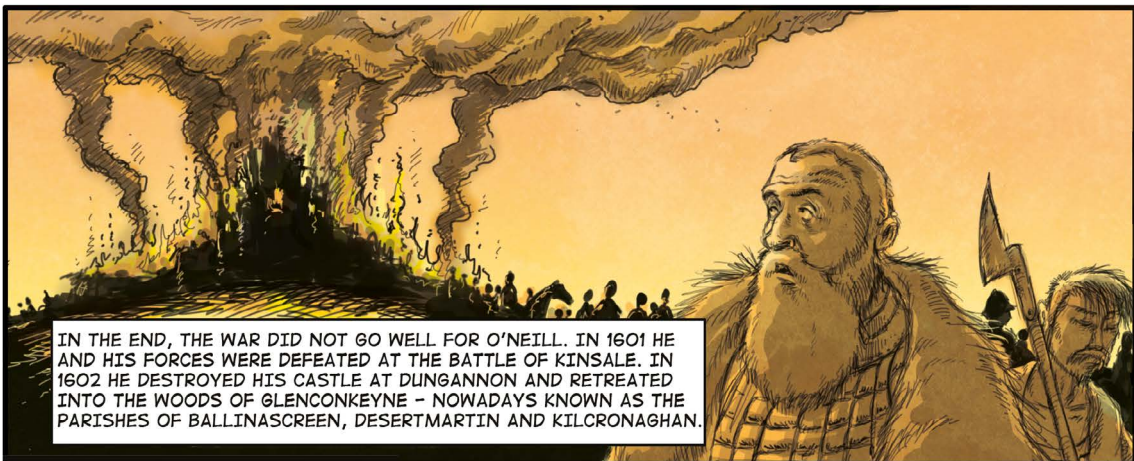
AT THE TIME OF HIS INAUGURATION, HUGH O'NEILL WAS ALREADY ENGAGED IN CONFLICT WITH THE CROWN IN IRELAND, A CONFLICT THAT BECAME KNOWN AS THE NINE YEARS WAR.



O'NEILL WAS OPPOSED TO THE ADVANCE OF ENGLISH CONTROL AND LAWS IN IRELAND.



OVER THE COURSE OF THE NINE YEARS WAR THERE WAS CONFLICT THROUGHOUT IRELAND.

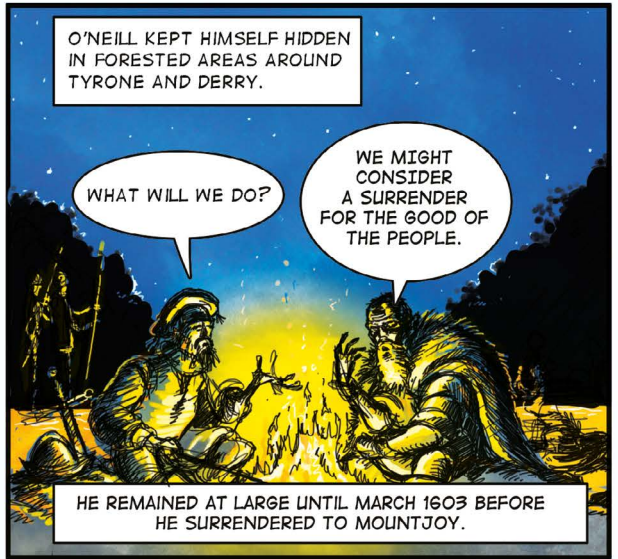
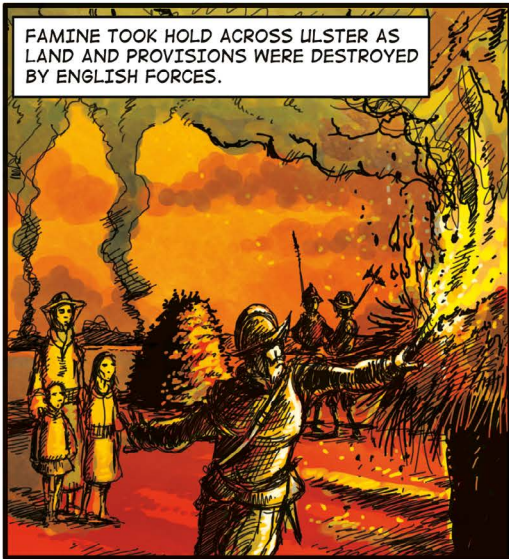


IN THE END, THE WAR DID NOT GO WELL FOR O'NEILL. IN 1601 HE AND HIS FORCES WERE DEFEATED AT THE BATTLE OF KINSALE. IN 1602 HE DESTROYED HIS CASTLE AT DUNGANNON AND RETREATED INTO THE WOODS OF GLENCONKEYNE - NOWADAYS KNOWN AS THE PARISHES OF BALLINASCREE, DESERTMARTIN AND KILCRONAGHAN.



LORD MOUNTJOY ARRIVED AT TULLAGHOGE AND SMASHED LEAC NA RÍ TO WIPE OUT THE TRADITION OF INAUGURATION THERE.







# History of the Site

**Tullaghoge Fort was once one of the most important sites in Ulster and was home to the O'Neill family. The name for the site translates to 'hill of the youths' or 'hill of the warriors'.**

In 2014, flint blades were uncovered at the site that date to some of the earliest settlers in Ireland, in the Mesolithic period, up to 9000 years ago.

The Tullaghoge area would have been an attractive place to settle because of its supplies of flint which could be used to make tools. The nearby rivers and shores of Lough Neagh would have provided supplies of fish, eels and wild birds.



**Can you think of other sites or monuments that are as important as Leac na Rí was?**

The site is best known for its connections to the O'Neills who used the site as their powerbase and where they crowned their new kings on Leac na Rí (The Stone of Kings).

The ceremonial chair, which was situated on the hillslope outside of the fort, was reported to have been blessed by St. Patrick.

## Did you know...

After it was destroyed in 1602, it is thought a piece of Leac na Rí ended up in the nearby Desertcreat Church, forming a part of the doorway leading into the building.

The O'Neills fled from Tullaghoge Fort following their defeat in the Nine Years War which resulted in Lord Mountjoy ordering that Leac na Rí be destroyed to stop any further O'Neills from being crowned King.

The Plantation of Ulster followed the Flight of the Earls in 1607, and lands were granted to Scottish and English settlers. By 1611 Robert Lindsey and his family were living at Tullaghoge in a timber house within the fort. The site was abandoned by 1622.

## Visit the site today

**Tullaghoge Fort is open all year long and is free to visit. Car parking is available.**

For further information please contact 028 8676 9949.







## Write a diary entry about life at Tullaghoge Fort

Imagine you are living at Tullaghoge Fort during the time of the O'Neills. Write a diary entry about what life is like, the types of people you meet and the things you might see every day. You might choose a specific event to write about, such as the crowning of a new king.

### Key Stage 2 Curriculum Links

Curriculum Objectives	Mutual Understanding, Cultural Understanding
Cross Curricular Skills	Communication
Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities	Managing Information, Being Creative
Areas of Learning	The World Around Us, Language and Literacy



## Create a short film about Tullaghoge Fort

Visit Tullaghoge Fort and take lots of pictures of the site, including the recreation of Leac na Rí, the surrounding landscape and the fort itself. Use video editing software to create a short film that combines these images with text to tell a story about the site.

### Key Stage 2 Curriculum Links

Curriculum Objectives	Mutual Understanding, Cultural Understanding
Cross Curricular Skills	Communication, Using ICT
Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities	Managing Information, Being Creative
Areas of Learning	The Arts, The World Around Us, Language and Literacy



## Create your own animation!

Download a suite of animation assets from the Burnavon Theatre website ([www.burnavon.com/education](http://www.burnavon.com/education)) and recreate what happened during the inauguration of a king at Tullaghoge Fort.

Downloadable designs include everything you will need to complete your story including Leac na Rí, the ceremonial shoe, a crown and various characters.

Print and arrange the 2D assets to create your own stop-motion film. Work in groups in your class to make a film about the significance of the site to the O'Neills and how they crowned new kings.

Add special effects, record your own audio and use text to complete your animation!

For helpful hints and advice on how to create stop-motion animation, download the Nerve Centre's free '**Creating Animation in the Classroom**' iBook for step-by-step instructions.

### Key Stage 2 Curriculum Links

Curriculum Objectives	Mutual Understanding, Cultural Understanding
Cross Curricular Skills	Communication, Using ICT
Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities	Managing Information, Being Creative, Working With Others
Areas of Learning	The Arts, The World Around Us, Language and Literacy