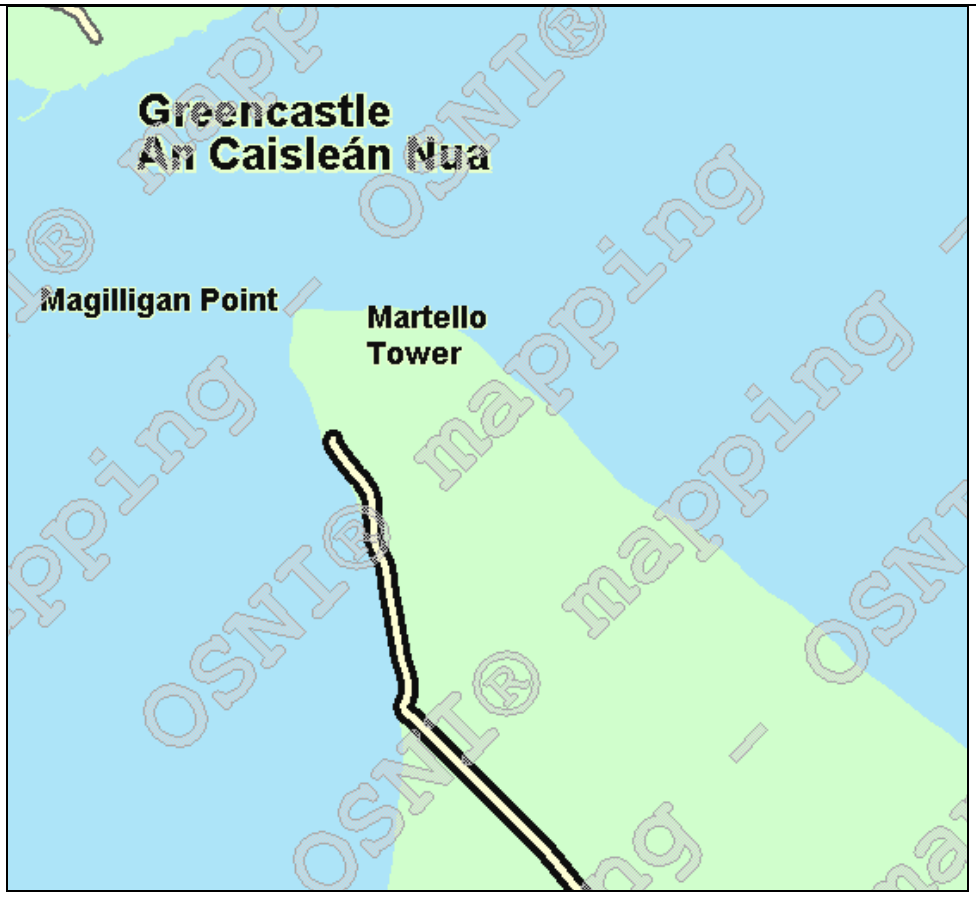
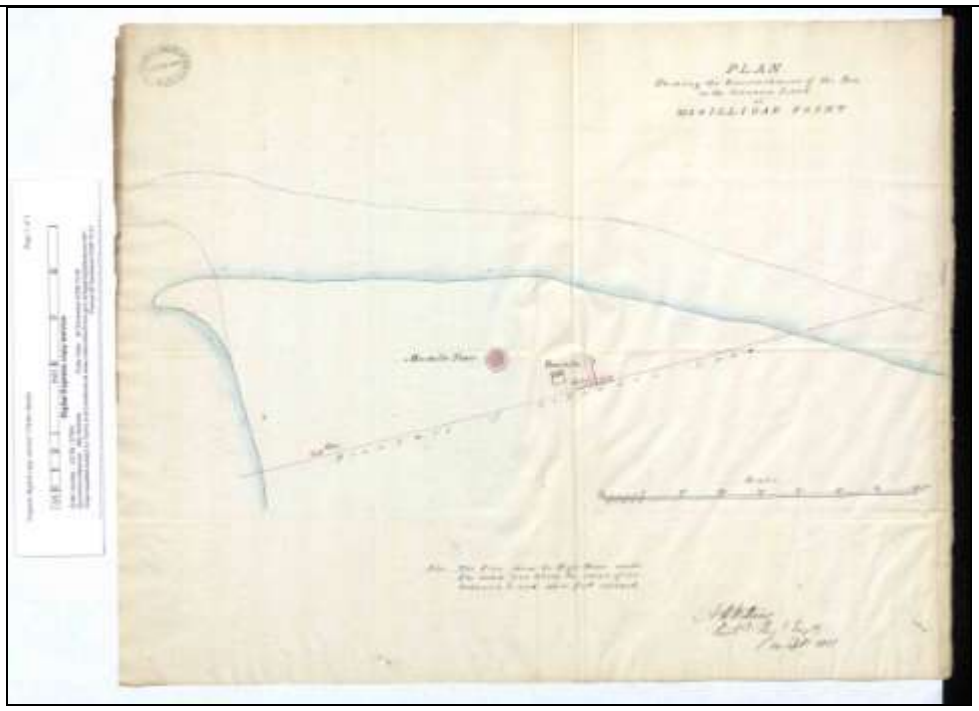
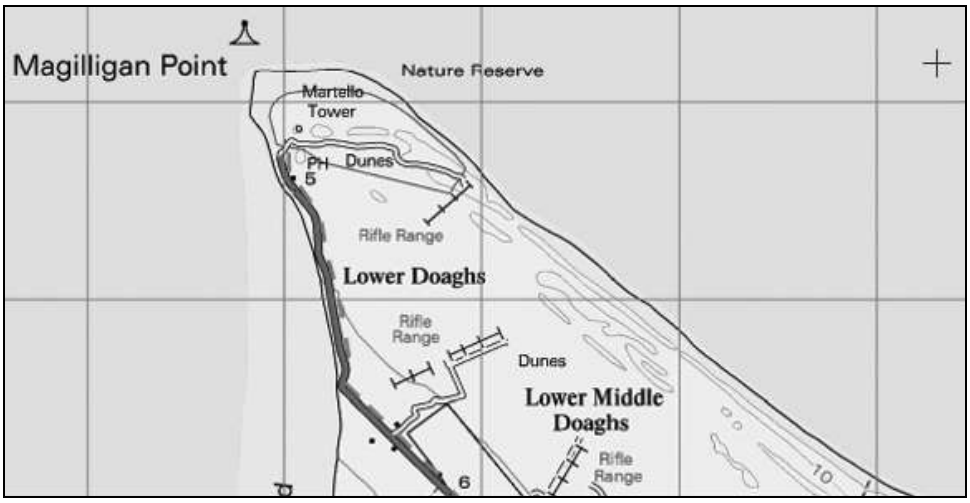
Asset Ref No.	LDY001:001 Martello Tower	
Heritage Type	Built	
	Post-Medieval Defence Heritage	
Location	OS 6-inch map sheet	001
	Townland	Doaghs Lower
	Parish	Tamlaghtard/Magilligan
	LCA	Magilligan
	ITM Coordinates	266070;438870
	NG Coordinates	C6607038870
Protection Status	State Care	
Condition	Well preserved	
Ownership (if known)	State Care	
Site Description	This tower is immensely strong, circular, 11m high with walls 2.5m thick, built of imported stone. The entrance door was 3m from the ground. Above the door is a big, overhanging machicolation, similar to those of medieval tower houses, even though this was built in 1812. The 1st floor was used to accommodate 12 men & their officer. A spiral staircase leads down to the ground floor which contains a well & 2 rooms used to store gunpowder. The top was as a gun platform which held a 24-pounder cannon, similar to those at Carrickfergus. Above the machicolation is a small guardroom used as a covered look-out post facing the landward approach.	
Landscape Context (setting)	The Martello Tower occupies a prominent location on Magilligan point and the most northerly portion of the LCA. Strategically sited, the tower is testimony to the Napoelonic War era and the need to defend the coastlines of the time, similar to that on Lough Swilly at Dunree, Knockalla, etc.	
Site Appraisal	This is an SMR site in state care.	
Sensitivity	The tower is robustly built and currently in state care. Sensitivity issues appear limited.	
Associations	Magilligan LCA hosts a number of defence heritage sites, although largely of WW2 era: Lower Doaghs: Pillbox (84); 2 no. coastal gun positions Lower Drummans: Heavy anti-aircraft battery (also SMR site & scheduled area LDY001:013); beach scaffolding (304) Lower Middle Doaghs: OS base station Furthermore there is another Martello tower DG022:003 located on the opposite (western) bank of the Foyle at Greencastle, Inishowen which was also used to defend the lough with that at Magilligan Point. The Martello fortifications were built 1812-1813 adjacent an existing castle site. Greencastle was the principal Norman castle in NW Ulster and was built by the 'Red' Earl of Ulster, Richard de Burgo, in 1305. The castle, then known as Northburgh or Newcastle, was captured by the Scots in 1316 during the invasion of Ireland by Edward Bruce. On the defeat of Bruce two years later, the castle reverted to the Earl and on his death passed to his grandson, the 'Brown' Earl. When he was murdered in 1333, the de Burgo influence in Ireland collapsed. The lordship of Inishowen finally passed to the O'Donnells in the early 15th century, and their dependants, the O'Dohertys, established themselves at Greencastle. It was considerably damaged in 1555 as a result of an internecine war among the O'Donnells, but was still wardable in 1586. Granted to Chichester, the Lord	

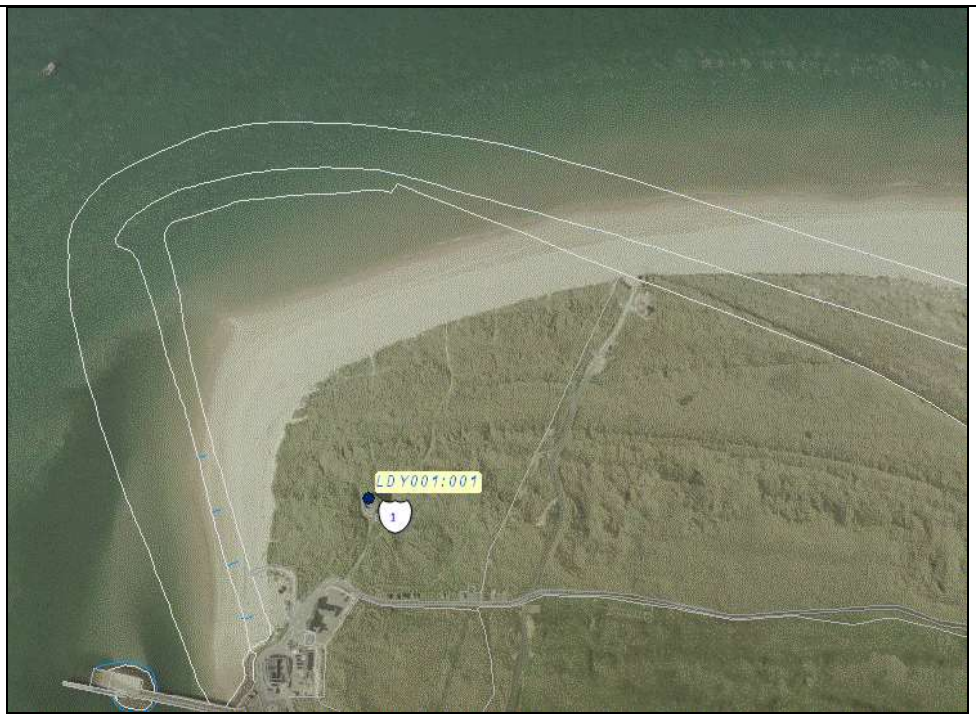
	Deputy, at the time of the Plantation, it is recorded in 1611 that 'There was one hundred men's worke 20 wicks bestowede in cleeringe the ruynes of Green Castle'. Chichester maintained a small garrison there and in 1623, in a report on the repair of forts, Greencastle was described as 'fitter for a ward than Culmore'. It subsequently went into decline and was abandoned and allowed to decay (Waterman 1958, 74-5; Hunter 1975, 82). Situated on the W shore of Lough Foyle, the site encompasses a massive platform of cropping rock whose cliffs and fissured slopes on the SE and S afforded protection on these sides. The upper ward (DG022-003001-) of the castle with its massive NE polygonal tower was accommodated to this outcrop and immediately to the W is a sunken lower court and vaulted chambers; the gatehouse proper projects from the latter on the W. The castle is typically English in style and character, and in plan can be compared with the great Edwardian castle at Caernarvon in Wales. The three-storey gatehouse comprised twin polygonal gate-towers, the walls of which rise from a battered base; only the S tower is intact and is fitted with loops set in polygonal embrasures.
Recommendations	Easily accessible, the tower is a good example of its type – suitable for guided tours; Individual visitor experience (active holiday); suitable demo site for training local community groups or e.g. school-children.
Mapping	 *Present-day mapping extract (www.osni.gov.uk)*



Magilligan Martello Tower Map 1821



Extract from NIEA MapViewer of the site

	 *Extract from NIEA SMR MapViewer of the site (Map ID No. 1)*
References	http://maps.ehsni.gov.uk/MapViewer/Default.aspx
Plates	

Additional Notes	n/a