

CARRICKFERGUS AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY



BISHOPS PALACE AND GRAVEYARD, KILROOT, CARRICKFERGUS

Located on the Fort Road off the A2 between Carrickfergus and Whitehead. The building is largely unknown because it is off the beaten track. It is a curious wedge-shaped three-storey stone building built by Bishop Humston who died in Kilroot in 1606. It was built for the Bishops of Connor. The house measures 60 feet by 24 feet. It was in a complex that once consisted of a bawn, gardens and a defensive wall with towers, one of which served as a dovecote.

There are some plans afoot by the Environment and Heritage Service to strengthen the crumbling walls. Next to the house is a graveyard with the last remnants of an ancient Church known as the "Red Church" but whatever is left is overgrown at present. Occasional burials still take place for associated families. Dean Swift was appointed a Prebend in 1694 and where he did not have much success, as the area was mostly Presbyterian. Nowadays the house is difficult to reach due to tall nettles and a stubborn but unstable for clambering over five-bar-gate and there are notices warning of falling masonry.