

CARRICKFERGUS AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY



**RESTORED SECTION OF THE ORIGINAL TOWN WALL AT ESSEX STREET,
CARRICKFERGUS**

Located on Essex Street, Carrickfergus.

Built with the same stone as many other walls in Carrickfergus this wall is not immediately remarkable unless one is searching for it. It was uncovered by Ruari O'Baoill in the 1990s and his team of Archaeologists employed by the Department of the Environment. In 1574 following the attack on the Town by Sorley Boy Mc Donnell it was decided to replace the turf rampart with this stone wall that ran from the West or Irish Gate to the bastion at Crannagh Bawn the present site of late Victorian buildings housing the "Abbey Insurance". The town ditch of the original defenses was retained. The wall was then continued along the shoreline. This wall was built as the Earl of Essex used his influence with the Chief Governor of Ireland namely Sir William Russel. The Essex wall was eventually rendered inoperative by the later Sir Arthur Chichester wall parallel to this one to the west. The walls of the Town were completed in 1615.