**- A resource for 5th & 6th class teachers and their students. -**

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Clár Éire Ildánach
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# Contents

# Introduction for Teachers

County Wexford has a rich Norman history stretching back to the landing of Norman forces on our shores at Bannow Bay in 1169. 2019 sees the 850th anniversary of the arrival of the Normans in Ireland. The arrival of this hugely influential group of people from Britain and Europe changed the course of Irish history and its political, societal and cultural mark can still be felt in Ireland today.

Through learning about County Wexford's interesting Norman past and landscape, this resource aims to enable teachers to deliver the 'Life in Norman Times' strand and 'Local Studies' strand unit on the primary 5th & 6th class history curriculum.

In completing some or all of the 'Discover Norman Wexford' activities, students will learn about County Wexford's Norman heritage in an engaging and memorable way.

**Curriculum Alignment**

The content and suggested activities have been devised with the following requirement in mind: to teach students the skills necessary to critically think and '**work as an historian**'. These 'skills' include; Empathy, Time & Chronology, Change & Continuity, Cause & Effect, Using Evidence and Synthesis & Communication.

The contents of this resource should aid in the teaching of the following specific strands and strand units of the 5th and 6th class primary history curriculum:

| | |
|---|---|
| Strand: | Life, Society, Work & Culture in the Past |
| Strand Unit: | 'Life in Norman Ireland' |
| Strand: | Local Studies |
| Strand Unit: | 'Buildings, Sites or Ruins in my Locality' and 'My Locality through the Ages' |
| Strand: | Story |
| Strand Unit: | 'Stories from the lives of people of the past' |

Teachers may also find certain aspects of the content applicable to the following strands and strand units:

| | |
|---|---|
| Strand: | Continuity and Change over Time |
| Strand Unit: | 'Homes, Housing and urban Developments' and 'Food and Farming' |
| Strand: | Eras of Conflict and Change |
| Strand Unit: | 'Traders, Explorers and colonisers from Europe' |

Completing the activities found in this resource may also contribute to other areas of the students' learning such as English, Mathematics and Visual Arts.

**The 'Site Sum Sheets'**

Throughout this resource, you will find a page containing sums alongside the title of a site mentioned during the preceding activity. These '**Site Sum Sheets**' can be photocopied and given out to students so that they can complete the sums on them. The answer to the sums fit into the relevant boxes and when completed correctly the student will have two long numbers.

These numbers will always take the form of **52.x x x x x, -6.x x x x x** . These are the coordinates for the site in question. A paragraph of information all about the site in question accompanies the sums.

Typing this set of numbers into a Google search bar (**including the comma that separates the two numbers**) will bring up the exact location of that specific site on Google Maps. There is an **answer sheet** showing all the correct coordinate sum answers at the back of this book for teachers to reference.

Once all the coordinates have been completed in this way and all the sites have been located in this way, the class will truly have discovered Norman Wexford and will see the spread of various Norman-related sites across the county. There are 18 sites to be found in this resource in all. This is by no means an exhaustive list and you may come across many other Norman-related locations, ruins, and objects as the class engages with the topic and discover the Norman heritage of County Wexford for themselves.

**The 'Fact Sheets'**

There are several 'Fact Sheets' placed throughout this resource also. These contain information on related topics which may enrich the students' engagement with the activities. These can be photocopied and read by students or read by teachers and summarised for the class. They may even just provide a helpful portion of background knowledge for teachers to disseminate as they wish while conducting the activities with students.

# Who were the 'Normans'?

The Normans were descendants of Scandinavian Vikings who settled in Normandy, France. They invaded England in 1066 and a century later they came to Ireland.

Diarmuid McMurrough, the ousted ruler of a kingdom in Ireland called 'Leinster', brought Norman knights here to help him wrestle back his kingdom from his enemies. These Norman forces first set foot on Irish soil at Bannow Bay here in Wexford in 1169.

After Diarmuid died, the Norman knight Richard de Clare (known as 'Strongbow') became the de facto ruler and 'Lord of Leinster' and the Normans never left.

The Norman influence on Irish society was a very important one. Their arrival in Ireland, and first in this corner of the country, changed the course of Irish history.

In Wexford we can still see some of the physical remnants of the Normans presence here in the form of fortifications and abbeys that they founded. Many Wexford people even have Norman surnames, evidence that they are the descendant the Norman knights and families that first began arriving here over 800 years ago.

**A note on the term 'Norman'**

Academics refer to the military forces that first arrived in Ireland in 1169 as the 'Anglo-Normans'. These are the descendants of the original Normans that came from Normandy in France and conquered England in 1066 (The Battle of Hastings). By the time of their arrival in Ireland in 1169 the 'Anglo-Normans' were a very developed society with evolving language and customs of their own.

The 'Cambro-Normans' is a term for the descendants of these 'Anglo-Normans' who went on to settle in Wales. Many of the key players involved in the Norman military action in Ireland were 'Cambro-Normans' (e.g. Strongbow).

Technically the descendants of the 'Anglo-Normans' and 'Cambro-Normans' who came to Ireland in 1169 and who merged their way of life with that of the native Irish over the following centuries could be called the 'Hiberno-Normans'. This is just like how we refer to the descendants of the first Viking settlers in Ireland as the 'Hiberno-Norse'.

Throughout the 'Discover Norman Wexford' resource we use the term 'Norman' to refer to all the aforementioned terms (Anglo-, Cambro-, Hiberno- etc.). In this resource, 'Norman' refers to the through-line of genetics, social systems, religious practices, military strength and other shared traits which can be traced back to that distinct and formidable European power originating in Normandy in Northern France and which arrived here via Britain.

# ACTIVITY

## *A Tapestry and Timeline*

### INTRODUCTION

Although some feel a conquest by our powerful Norman neighbours was inevitable at some stage, the actual arrival of Norman forces in Ireland in 1169 was the result of a very particular set of events involving some key players, the most well-known of whom are the Irish king Diarmuid McMurrough and he Norman knight known as Strongbow.

The Ros Tapestry in New Ross is a modern tapestry which tells the story of the Normans arrival. This innovative community craft project is an excellent example of a visual timeline. It tells the tale of the Normans in Wexford in thread and is a wonderful addition to the heritage tourism landscape of the county.

For this activity, students will create their own visual timeline. They will work in small groups to draw pictures of critical events surrounding the Norman's arrival in Ireland, learning about the events as they go. The class must then arrange their illustrations in the correct chronological order based on their reading of the event details. This will create a properly sequenced timeline of the events which resulted in the Normans settling in Ireland.

### ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

- The teacher photocopies the pages of events (Pages 7, 8, 9 & 10) once and cuts them with a scissors to separate each of the 11 events. They then assign each event to a group of two or three students.

- Each group of students work together to draw the scene as outlined in their specific event card description.

- Once all event scenes have been drawn, the students work together to place them in the correct chronological order. The illustrations can be laid out on the floor, pinned up on a noticeboard or hung with pegs on a 'clothes' line in the classroom to create this timeline of events.

**IMPORTANT:** A summary answer page at the end of this section shows a summary of the events placed in the correct chronological order. The correct order of the event scenes is:
**F C G A K B H D E J I**

The events in INCORRECT chronological order:

**A**

**Diarmuid meets with Strongbow in Wales with Aoife at his side.**

With the permission of the Norman ruler, King Henry II, Diarmuid meets with several Norman knights and asks them for help. He meets a powerful Norman knight, Richard de Clare (known as Strongbow'), in Wales. Diarmuid offers Strongbow all Diarmuid's lands in Leinster once Diarmuid dies and Diarmuid's daughter Aoife's hand in marriage if Strongbow will help him. Strongbow agrees.

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**B**

**The invading forces siege Hiberno-Norse Wexford Town.**

After landing in Bannow Bay and meeting up with Diarmuid and his army, the Normans and Diarmuid march to Wexford Town. The town is a trading town and port belonging to the Hiberno-Norse settlers there – the 'Vikings'. The town is protected by fortifications including a ditch and a large wooden fence, so Diarmuid and the Normans must use siege tactics to take the town. They surround the town and burn the ships in the harbour so that the inhabitants can't escape by sea or access food and supplies in this way. Eventually the town surrenders to Diarmuid and the Normans and Diarmuid 'gives' the town to Robert Fitzstephen as a reward for his help.

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**C**

**Tiernan O'Rourke and the High King, Ruairi O'Connor, seek revenge on Diarmuid and force him to flee Ireland in 1166.**

After taking his wife, Diarmuid refused to pay compensation to Tiernan O'Rourke for taking his wife Dervogilla. This was required by Brehon Law; the system of laws which native Irish people used at the time. With the help of Ruairi O'Connor, the High King of Ireland, in 1167, Tiernan sought revenge on Diarmuid. They attacked him and deprived him of his lands. Diarmuid burned his own stronghold at Ferns and fled Ireland to escape the wrath of Tiernan O'Rourke and the High King.

**D**

**Raymond le Gros arrives at Baginbun with more knights and archers in 1170.**

In May 1170, another Norman knight called Raymond le Gros landed at Baginbun in County Wexford. For three months they defended their camp from the native Irish, waiting for the arrival of Strongbow and the main Norman invasion force who had landed in County Waterford in August of that year. These combined Norman forces then went on to conquer Waterford City.

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**E**

**Strongbow marries Aoife in Waterford.**

After Raymond le Gros and Strongbow's combined Norman forces took over the city of Waterford, Strongbow married Aoife in the city. Interestingly, Raymond le Gros went on to marry Strongbow's sister, Basilia de Clare several years later and it is said that their marriage ceremony took place at Selskar Abbey in Wexford Town.

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**F**

**Diarmuid takes Dervogilla from Tiernan O'Rourke in 1152.**

Dervogilla is the wife of Tiernan O'Rourke, the ruler of an area called Brefni in central Ireland and rival of Diarmuid McMurrough, the king of a large part of Leinster that included County Wexford. Diarmuid 'abducted' Dervogilla on horseback and brought her to his home in Ferns. Some say that Dervogilla was a willing accomplice in this crime and wanted to go with Diarmuid. Dervogilla brought many of her possessions with her, including cattle – the main source of wealth for Irish rulers at the time.

**G**

**Diarmuid meets with King Henry II in France.**

After searching for the him in Britain and finding him in France, Diarmuid pleads with King Henry II, the powerful Norman ruler of Britain and France, to help Diarmuid reclaim his kingdom and power in Ireland. Henry does not offer any direct help, but he gives Diarmuid permission to request the assistance of his Norman knights and lords in Britain.

✂

**H**

**Robert Fitzstephen builds a fort overlooking the River Slaney at Ferrycarrig, just outside Wexford Town.**

Once Wexford Town was secured, Robert Fitzstephen fortified the surrounding area by building a fort at Ferrycarrig. This was probably the first substantial Norman fortification ever built in Ireland. The defensive ditch and mound belonging to this fort can still be seen on the grounds of the Irish National Heritage Park. Fitzstephen's fort was located where the round tower (a war memorial for those lost in the Crimean War) now stands.
This early Norman structure was on a site opposite side of the river to the rectangular stone tower house which can now be seen overlooking the river at Ferrycarrig bridge. This was built by those of Norman descent, several hundred years later.

✂

**I**

**The High King of Ireland Ruari O'Connor signs the Treaty of Windsor with King Henry II in 1175.**

The native Irish strongly opposed the powerful Normans in many parts of the country. Understandably, the Irish did not want their lands taken over by Norman lords. To try and bring about some peace and end the relentless ongoing violence, the High King Ruari O'Connor met with King Henry II and signed the Treaty of Windsor in 1175. The Treaty divided up territories in Ireland and left Ruari with some power while recognising King Henry II as the real ruler of Ireland. The peace that this treaty brought quickly broke down as ambitious Norman lords continued to take over land locally and the Irish continued to resist them.

**J**

**King Henry II arrives in Ireland with a huge military force to keep Strongbow and the other Normans in check.**

Worried that Strongbow and the other Norman knights may be acquiring too much power in Ireland and may threaten his own power across the water in Britain, King Henry II arrived in Ireland in 1171 with a huge military force. When the king arrived, Strongbow and the other Norman knights swore loyalty to him and declared King Henry II as their ruler in Ireland.

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**K**

**In 1169, the Norman forces arrive at Bannow Bay and Diarmuid meets them with his army.**

In 1169, the first large group of Norman military forces land in Ireland. They sail from Wales and come ashore at Bannow Bay on the southern coast of County Wexford. Strongbow and his army will arrive in Ireland later. Diarmuid, who had already secretly returned to Ireland gathers his loyal forces and marches to meet the arriving Normans. The Norman forces were led by the Norman knight Robert Fitzstephen.

# TEACHER'S ANSWER SHEET

The **CORRECT chronological order of events** in the timeline is:

**F C G A K B H D E J I**

**F.** Diarmuid takes Dervogilla from Tiernan O'Rourke in 1152.

**C.** Tiernan O'Rourke and the High King, Ruairi O'Connor, seek revenge on Diarmuid and force him to flee Ireland.

**G.** Diarmuid meets with King Henry II in France.

**A.** Diarmuid meets with Strongbow in Wales with Aoife at his side.

**K.** In 1169, the Norman forces arrive at Bannow Bay and Diarmuid meets them with his army.

**B.** The invading forces siege Hiberno-Norse Wexford Town**.**

**H.** Robert Fitzstephen builds a fort overlooking the River Slaney at Ferrycarrig, just outside Wexford Town.

**D.** Raymond le Gros arrives at Baginbun with more knights and archers in 1170.

**E.** Strongbow marries Aoife in Waterford.

**J.** King Henry II arrives in Ireland with a huge military force to keep Strongbow and the other Normans in check.

**I.** The High King of Ireland Ruari O'Connor signs the Treaty of Windsor with King Henry II in 1175.

## SUGGESTED ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

**PRESENT**
When they get up to place their scene on the timeline/clothesline, members of the group must share what they think were the motivations and feelings of all the different characters in the scene.

**DISCUSS**
Pick any event from the first half of the timeline and pretend it never happened. Ask students to move from one event to the next thereafter and imagine how history may have been different as a result.

**LISTEN**
Listen to some of the four-minute-long audio guides for each of the panels of the beautiful Ros Tapestry. The individual panels can be found at **www.rostapestry.ie/the-panels**

**LISTEN:**
Listen to the following podcast from 00:01:33 to 00:14:13 to learn more about the Siege of Wexford: **http://irishhistorypodcast.ie/1169-70-the-norman-invasion-iv-the-siege-of-wexford-and-the-conquest-of-leinster/**

**LOOK**
Strongbow's union with Diarmuid's daughter Aoife is depicted in a famous painting from the middle of the 19th century called 'The Marriage of Strongbow and Aoife' by Daniel Maclise. In the background of the painting, the recently conquered Waterford city is seen.
Take a look at this painting here: **https://www.nationalgallery.ie/marriage-strongbow-and-aoife-daniel-maclise**

## The Ros Tapestry

The Ros Tapestry is a series of 15 woven tapestries which reflect the Norman legacy in County Wexford. They are located in New Ross and can be visited by the public. The project was inspired by the famous Bayeux Tapestry in France which is an original 11th century tapestry recording the Norman invasion of Britain in 1066.

# Find it:

|   | 13 x 3 | 600 − 64 |   | 189 x 5 | 176 ÷ 4 |
|---|--------|----------|---|---------|---------|
| 52. | ⬜ | ⬜ | , -6. | ⬜ | ⬜ |

## Bannow Bay

Bannow Bay is where the first Norman invasion forces landed in Ireland in May 1169 when Robert Fitzstephen and Maurice Fitzgerald came ashore with around 600 men. They made an encampment on Bannow Island and a motte (a man-made mound of earth) survives in the area which is the remaining evidence of this first Norman camp. Bannow Island is now joined to the mainland by silting and land reclamation. A large medieval town grew up nearby. The remains of a 12th century church is all that remains of this town. The town became depopulated by the 17th century and gradually fell to ruins. These ruins were then cleared by farmers so that they could use the land for farming.

# Find it:

|   | 304 x 7 | 125 ÷ 25 |   | 600 + 203 | 4 x 12 |
|---|---------|----------|---|-----------|--------|
| 52. | ⬜ | ⬜ | , -6. | ⬜ | ⬜ |

## Ferrycarrig

A 'ringwork castle' was built by the Welsh knight Robert Fitzstephen at Ferrycarrig following the taking of Wexford town by the Normans in 1169. The Crimean War monument that looks like a round tower now stands on the site of this ringwork castle, within the grounds of the Irish National Heritage Park. Fitzstephen's fort was probably the first significant military fortification ever built by the Normans on Irish soil. A ringwork castle is basically a man-made large ditch and bank of earth that surrounds an inner flat area where wooden buildings were constructed. ('Castles' can be made from timber!) The castle was defended by timber towers and an extensive medieval town grew up around it at Ferrycarrig. This town no longer exists. On the other side of the river, across from the site of Fitzstephen's fort, a stone tower-house known as 'Ferrycarrig Castle' can still be seen. This was probably built in the 15th century.

## Find it:

| | 5 x 70 | 1350 ÷ 15 | | 333 + 179 | 83 - 16 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **52.** | ☐ | ☐ | **, -6.** | ☐ | ☐ |

## Wexford Town & Selskar Abbey

Viking activity in Wexford is recorded in 819 when the monastery at Begerin Island (an island in Wexford harbour and now part of Wexford Slobs) was attacked. From the mid-9th century the Vikings began to build bases in Ireland, rather than just raid sites here. The first mention of a base in the Wexford area is in 888. By the time of the arrival of the Normans in 1169 the Viking or 'Hiberno-Norse' town of Wexford was a well-established and thriving fishing and trading settlement. Selskar Abbey was one of many church sites in Wexford town. Many of the parishes and churches of the town were originally founded by the Hiberno-Norse (Vikings) and then added to by the Normans when they arrived. The medieval part of the church in Selskar Abbey contains 'Dundry stone', an easily-carved yellow limestone imported from near Bristol in England. This type of stone can be found on many medieval monuments in the county. It is believed that the Norman knight Raymond le Gros and Strongbow's sister, Basilia were married at Selskar.

## Find it:

| | 17 x 2 | 89 + 50 | | 176 ÷ 44 | 4 x 1633 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **52.** | ☐ | ☐ | **, -6.** | ☐ | ☐ |

# ACTIVITY
## Promoting and Sharing our Norman Past

### INTRODUCTION
Our built Norman and medieval heritage forms an important part of County Wexford's tourism offering. The revenue generated from tourism is critical to protecting and preserving our historical structures. Interpreting our history in order to share it with visitors through a vibrant heritage tourism offering also allows local people to better understand that history.

In this activity, students research one of four Norman-related heritage attractions and prepare a promotional poster for them. They then must stand up as a group and present their posters to the rest of the class.

### ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:
- The students are divided into groups and assigned one of following four Norman-related heritage tourism attractions:

**Dunbrody Abbey**
**Ferns Castle**
**Hook Lighthouse**
**The Norman Way**

(More than one group can work with the same attraction.)

- Each group must research their designated attraction online and using local tourist leaflets and then produce an A1 promotional poster all about their site that will encourage potential tourists to visit the site.

The poster must include:
1) What the attraction is and where it is.
2) Images/drawings of the attraction.
3) At least four facts about the attraction.
4) Reasons why tourists should visit the attraction.
5) A fun, promotional 'tagline' for the attraction.

- Once the posters are made, they are put up around the classroom and each group must stand up and present their poster to their classmates.

**DISCUSS**

Increased visitors to the heritage sites mentioned above helps to pay for the preservation of the sites. However, do students think there can be such a thing as too many visitors to a heritage site? Why?

**RESEARCH**

Ask the students to research Wexford's Craft, Garden, Heritage, Walking Trails and the Norman Way using the internet and freely available tourism leaflets and brochures. Each student can then prepare a 'one-pager' explaining all about their selected Wexford Trail. Here is a great place to start: **www.visitwexford.ie/wexford-trails**

WEXFORD
SO OLD, SO NEW
VISITWEXFORD.IE

IRELAND'S
ANCIENT EAST®
*Wander Through Time*

## Hook Lighthouse

Hook Lighthouse was built by the Marshal family early in the 13th century. It was probably started by William Marshal the elder (known as the 'greatest knight whoever lived') and finished by his son, also called William. The lighthouse was built to help guide ships around this dangerous stretch of coastline as they were coming and going from the continent and Britain to trade. The lighthouse has walls which are 3.7m wide at the base; its shape is based on a cylindrical keep which was very popular at the time in Britain and France. The tower has three vaulted floors and its stairs spirals up through the walls of the tower.

## Find it:

| 62 x 2 | 124 – 72 | | 552 ÷ 6 | 376 + 514 |
|---|---|---|---|---|

**52.** [  ] [  ] **, -6.** [  ] [  ]

## Dunbrody Abbey

Dunbrody Abbey was a Cistercian Abbey founded by the Norman Hervey de Montmorency who had been granted land by Diarmuid McMurrough in 1170 in return for him helping Diarmuid. Hervey de Montmorency was an uncle of Strongbow. The Cistercian order of monks were placed hard manual labour at the centre of their daily lives and worship. There was a huge focus on agriculture within the order and the monks farmed the land surrounding their abbeys. Dunbrody Abbey was known as the 'Port of St. Mary' and was located adjacent to the Campile River, making it easily accessible from the coast. The ruins of the abbey consist of a large church and cloister (a covered square walkway within the walls of the abbey. The church is cruciform in shape (meaning its shaped like a cross), this was a common floorplan for Cistercian abbeys. The church was added to in the 15th century when a large tower was constructed.

## Find it:

| 1981 ÷ 7 | 108 - 72 | | 19 x 5 | 559 + 329 |
|---|---|---|---|---|

**52.** [  ] [  ] **, -6.** [  ] [  ]

## Ferns Castle

Ferns Castle was built in the early 13<sup>th</sup> century. It was probably built by William, the son of William Marshal (a great Norman knight) and Isabel de Clare (Strongbow's daughter). The castle was originally a large rectangular building with four large towers at the corners but only some of the walls and two of the towers remain. The stone castle was built on top of an earlier 'ringwork castle' that belonged to Diarmuid MacMurrough in the 12<sup>th</sup> century (over 800 years ago). Diarmuid's house is recorded as being burnt and destroyed in 1166, when Diarmuid fled Ireland to escape the wrath of the High King of Ireland at the time, Rory O'Connor and Diarmuid's rival, Tiernan O'Rourke.

# Find it:

1166 - 576    134 ÷ 2          7 x 7      313 x 3

**52.** ⬚ ⬚ **, -6.** ⬚ ⬚

## Lady's Island and The Norman Way

Lady's Island and the surrounding area were granted to the 'de Lamporte' family in the late 12th century when they arrived here with their fellow Normans. It is thought that the stone tower was built later and formed part of the defences at this site. The story goes that in the 19th century, treasure hunters dug out the foundations of this defensive tower, believing there was Norman treasure buried underneath. This caused the tower to lean at an angle. At this site there is a gatehouse, castle and church on what was once an island. It is no longer an island due to land reclamation. The gatehouse was connected to a 'bawn' or wall which provided a line of defence and protected the island from attackers.

Lady's island is a site on the Norman Way. 'The Norman Way' is a heritage tourism trail that runs along the south coast of County Wexford. Along the Norman Way trail there are authentic medieval sites which help us to understand the Norman way of life. The Norman Way was developed with support from Fáilte Ireland and is promoted as a part of *Ireland's Ancient East*.

# Find it:

1,000 ÷ 50   2037 – 1066      19 x 20    112 ÷ 8

**52.** ⬚ ⬚ **, -6.** ⬚ ⬚

**Why promoting our Norman heritage is important
– tourism in County Wexford.**

The tourism industry is made up of attractions, experience providers, shops, pubs and restaurants, accommodation providers and transport companies. All the businesses in these sectors play a key role in ensuring that a tourist who visits Wexford has an enjoyable time here.

Having enjoyed their time here, those tourists will speak positively about County Wexford to their friends and online (on social media and on websites such as **TripAdvisor**). This positive feedback will then encourage more people to visit County Wexford. When more people visit the county, more money is spent here and **more jobs for local people** are created – that is why the tourism industry is important.

Businesses in certain sectors of the tourism industry and in certain geographical areas come together to promote their offerings to tourists. A great example of this is the **Wexford Trails** network which comprises of a **Craft Trail**, **Garden Trail**, **Heritage Trail**, **Walking Trail**, and the **Norman Way**. These trails are a great way for potential visitors to learn about and enjoy a particular aspect of what Wexford has to offer, based on their interests.

Tourists come from all over Ireland and all over the world to visit County Wexford and enjoy the heritage, culture, experiences and food that we have to offer. County Wexford is very popular with 'domestic tourists' (Irish people from all over the country who visit Wexford) and many international tourists come to Wexford too. The countries where most of our international tourists come from are the UK, the USA, France and Germany.

The tourism industry and Wexford County Council work together to promote the county through the '**Visit Wexford**' brand and website (**www.visitwexford.ie**). They also collaborate with neighbouring counties and with national organisations like **Fáilte Ireland** and **Tourism Ireland** to promote the entire region under the banner of '**Ireland's Ancient East**'. *Ireland's Ancient East* is a brand which uses our rich history, full of fascinating stories, to encourage tourists to come and visit this part of Ireland.

As people who have learned more about their home county through projects such as the Discover Norman Wexford resource, students can act as '**ambassadors**' for the county. They can share the interesting information they have learned about County Wexford with other people and be informative, polite and helpful with any visiting tourists they encounter.

# ACTIVITY
## *Coats of Arms and a Medieval Power Couple*

<u>**INTRODUCTION:**</u>

Many families living in County Wexford today have Norman-originated surnames and are direct descendants of the Normans who settled here hundreds of years ago. Examples include Fitzgerald, Lambert, Browne, Devereux and Hore. Indeed, any surname with the prefix 'Fitz' or 'de' is Norman in origin in the same way we identify any surname with the prefix 'O', for example 'O'Connor' as Irish.

To show where their loyalties lay, Norman knights often rode into battle wearing a coat of arms to distinguish them on the battlefield. This assignment of colours and symbols often contained the knight's family crest. Different colours, patterns and symbols featured on the coat of arms represented different virtues and carried different meanings. For example, the coat of arms for William Marshal is thought to have contained a red lion (signifying courage) on a green and gold background, possibly signifying hope and generosity.

William Marshal and his wife Isabel de Clare could be considered a medieval power couple. The pair had a large family and strengthened and increased the trading connections between Ireland and Britain and established towns and institutions throughout the region.

In this activity, students make up and draw their own 'coat of arms' design.

<u>**ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:**</u>

- Students each cut a kite-shaped shield from a large sheet of card. The 'kite-shaped' shield (rounded at the top but pointed at the bottom) was common among Norman knights.

- Students can then either:
>    1) Create a coat of arms based on the pastimes and things important to them and their families. Students should create *symbols* for each of these things and arrange them graphically to create their own bespoke 'coat of arms'.
>    2) Research the actual coat of arms/family crest for their own surname online and copy this.

- Students draw their actual or invented coat of arms onto their card shields and display the finished results around the classroom.

**RESEARCH**

As a class, research the meanings of different colours and symbols found in coats of arms to inform the students' designs. **www.irishsurnames.com** is a good place to start.

**PRESENT**

After a five-minute back-and-forth between pairs of students, students must stand up and present *their partner's* coat of arms design to the rest of the class and explain it.

**DISCUSS**

Isabel and William Marshal were a medieval 'power couple'. Have the class compare their achievements with the achievements of a modern-day power couple such as Kanye West and Kim Kardashian. Are the same types of things at stake and how do each couple's achievements affect society overall?
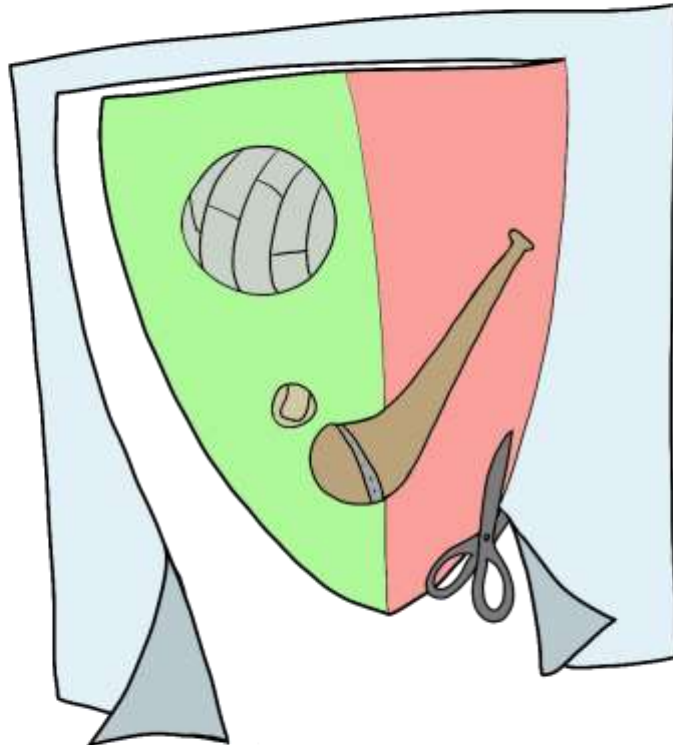
## St. Mary's Church in New Ross

St. Mary's Church is one of the largest parish churches built in medieval Ireland. It was built by the Norman knight William Marshal and his wife Isabel (the daughter of Strongbow and Aoife) following their founding of the town of New Ross in about 1205. The church was cruciform in shape with a 'nave' for the people to stand, a 'chancel' where the holy ceremonies were carried out, and two 'transepts' or side arms. The medieval nave was knocked down in the early 19th century and a Church of Ireland church was built in its place. There is a medieval crypt under the south transept of the church. Some parts of the window and doorframes of the Church contain 'Dundry Stone', the imported limestone from Bristol in England which was easy to carve. The church and graveyard also contain one of the largest collections of decorated medieval grave-slabs in Ireland, many of the inscriptions on these are in medieval French.

## Find it:

**154 + 242**    **224 ÷ 7**        **226 - 132**    **17 x 8**

**52.** ☐ ☐ , **-6.** ☐ ☐

## Tintern Abbey

Tintern Abbey was founded by William Marshal. It was known as 'Tintern de Voto', meaning 'Tintern of the Vow' because it is believed that William Marshal established this Cistercian abbey after making a vow to God that he would do so if God let him survive a particularly rough crossing of the Irish Sea which William experienced. The abbey was a daughter-house of Tintern Abbey in Wales. As with the nearby Dunbrody Abbey, Tintern Abbey consists of a large church and buildings arranged around a cloister. Believe it or not, the monks of the abbey often fought with the monks of Dunbrody Abbey! Close to the Tintern Abbey is a rare medieval bridge. The village of Saltmills nearby was the location of the monks' tidal mill. This used the movement of the tide to grind down grain grown by the monks to make flour.

## Find it:

**184 ÷ 8**    **1372 − 654**        **67 + 16**    **3 x 254**

**52.** ☐ ☐ , **-6.** ☐ ☐

## The Wexford Fonts

The Wexford Fonts are a trio of finely carved baptismal fonts which date to the late 12th century. Baptismal fonts are vessels for holding water which are used in religious ceremonies. The fonts are carved from Dundry Stone, a soft limestone imported from quarries near Bristol in England which was easy to carve and popular with Norman stonemasons. The three fonts are decorated in a carving style referred to as 'Romanesque'. The presence of these impressive pieces in Wexford are clear evidence of the busy trading and shipping channels between this region and Britain during medieval times. The Normans only strengthened these international connections when they arrived in Ireland.

# Find the Bannow Font:

200 x 12     600 ÷ 150          917 - 844     172 + 58

**52.** ☐ ☐ , **-6.** ☐ ☐

# Find the Fethard Font:

96 + 97     144 ÷ 12          263 - 180     1326 - 397

**52.** ☐ ☐ , **-6.** ☐ ☐

# Find the Rathaspeck Font:

696 ÷ 24     256 – 83          225 + 277     7 x 3

**52.** ☐ ☐ , **-6.** ☐ ☐

## William & Isabel

**Isabel de Clare** was the only surviving child of Strongbow (the Norman knight who agreed to help Diarmuid McMurrough fight his enemies in Ireland) and Aoife (the daughter of Diarmuid McMurrough). Both Isabel's parents died while she was a young child and she became a ward of the king. Through both her parents Isabel was the Norman heir to a great fortune that stretched across parts of Ireland, Wales and beyond.

When Isabel was a young woman she married **William Marshal**. William Marshal was known as 'the greatest knight who ever lived' and his loyalty and service to the throne won him the reward of a marriage to the heiress, Isabel. The couple had 10 children together.

William and Isabel spent time in Ireland developing their Irish interests and were very wealthy land-owners. Between them they founded the port town of **New Ross**, built what is regarded as the largest parish church in medieval Ireland there (**St Mary's Church**) and established other impressive sites across the region such as **Tintern Abbey** and **Hook Lighthouse**. Their efforts encouraged and enabled international trade and helped the region to prosper.

Physical evidence of our medieval trade connections can be seen in the form of three '**Wexford Fonts**' which are dotted around the county. These fonts dated back to the 12th & 13th centuries and are thought to be made of Dundry stone, a material quarried from an area near Bristol in England. This stone had to be imported to Ireland via ship from England. It is not known if the fonts were imported in their finished form or if they were carved from the imported raw material once it arrived in Ireland.

William Marshal died in 1219 and Isabel died a year later.

## The Feudal System vs. Brehon Law

The 'feudal system' is the name given to the combination of legal and military customs in medieval Europe. **Feudalism** is made up of a set of obligations amongst the warrior nobility revolving around the concepts of lords, vassals and fiefs.

A lord was a noble who held land, a 'vassal' was a person who was granted possession of the land by the lord. The land was known as a 'fief'. In exchange for use of the fief and the protection of the lord, the vassal would provide service to the lord.

The Normans brought the feudal system to Ireland where it replaced and conflicted with a more traditional system of land ownership and political control known as '**Brehon Law**'.

Brehon Law was the law which governed everyday life in early medieval Ireland. The laws were a civil code concerned with the payment of compensation for harm done and the regulation of property, inheritance and contracts. Brehon law was an oral tradition which was written down in later centuries.

The laws were partially eclipsed during the time of the Norman invasion in the 12th century but underwent a resurgence from the 13th to the 17th centuries.

### The disputed ruler of Leinster

Under Brehon Law, title and lands are not passed on in a straightforward hereditary manner, rather, upon the death of a local king like Diarmuid, a new ruler was decided upon by consensus among senior figures in the community.

This is why the Irish disputed Strongbow's claim to authority in Leinster and Ireland. According to Norman customs, Strongbow was promised the inheritance of title and lands by Diarmuid in exchange for his help. This line of inheritance was made possible by Strongbow marrying the previous king's daughter, Aoife (Diarmuid's daughter).

But according to Brehon Law, Diarmuid McMurrough had no right to make this arrangement with Strongbow and it was up to local senior figures to decide who the next ruler was after Diarmuid McMurrough died. They deemed Diarmuid's son, Domhnall to be the legitimate ruler of Diarmuid's clan and lands once Diarmuid died, not Strongbow or any other foreign Norman invader.

This type of tension remained in Ireland for centuries with the native Irish and local Norman lords battling back and forth for supremacy over land across the country.

# ACTIVITY

## *The Many Tongues of the Medieval Model County*

'Yola' is an extinct form of English that was spoken in part of County Wexford for hundreds of years. It was spoken primarily in the Norman baronies of Forth and Bargy in South Wexford.

Yola, which means 'old', evolved from 'Old English'. Old English was brought to Ireland by the Normans. When communities of Flemish (a variation of Dutch), French, Welsh, English and Frisian-speaking settlers (who came from coastal parts of Germany and the Netherlands) came here following the Normans, they and the existing Hiberno-norse/Viking and native Irish populations had a major influence on the Yola language. Yola essentially became a mix of all these languages.

Yola is very similar to another dialect called 'Fingalian' which was spoken around Fingal in Co. Dublin. Both Yola and Fingalian, which were unique local dialects, became extinct in the 19th century.

This activity comprises of a fun word-search that contains Yola, Irish, Welsh, French and Dutch translations of English words. As they complete the word-search, students will notice the similarities between the Yola word for certain things and its Irish, Welsh, French or Dutch equivalent.

### ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS

- The teacher photocopies the word-search (Page 27) and distributes a copy to each student.

- Students then do their best to complete the word-search.

- When the time to complete the word-search is up (as determined by the teacher), the teacher can use their answer sheet (Page 28) to find any undiscovered words in the word-search for students.

# Word Search

| D | H | I | B | Y | T | A | T | W | S | E | R | I | O | L | A | Q | B | F | O |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | I | N | G | T | R | C | I | T | G | D | S | A | W | E | R | Z | O | U | T |
| I | P | Z | C | U | D | V | H | K | F | M | Y | D | H | E | P | I | R | N | B |
| C | A | O | O | N | I | H | T | E | N | F | X | D | R | E | O | P | D | C | N |
| D | I | E | A | S | Y | T | A | O | X | S | P | O | T | A | T | O | E | S | O |
| X | H | L | G | G | A | E | C | W | Y | M | L | A | T | E | S | U | X | C | I |
| O | S | Y | Z | O | E | L | J | Y | D | E | A | Y | T | C | B | O | Y | E | P |
| I | L | T | A | C | H | K | I | X | G | E | R | I | G | A | F | T | D | E | O |
| A | Q | W | L | E | D | U | I | J | I | K | C | H | G | C | T | T | L | K | G |
| F | D | I | L | M | N | I | B | H | R | O | S | O | T | G | D | E | H | C | B |
| M | K | I | O | J | P | H | S | A | L | T | F | R | W | Y | A | I | S | N | B |
| C | V | Q | A | U | T | A | L | I | E | Y | F | R | B | A | U | R | O | P | T |
| N | H | G | O | R | S | O | N | P | N | K | A | V | F | H | B | D | C | L | K |
| T | B | L | A | X | B | T | U | D | I | A | O | E | B | V | I | I | Q | O | P |
| E | A | F | G | U | C | S | E | L | T | D | X | E | J | I | D | G | K | I | N |
| B | W | B | X | G | D | F | I | L | O | A | N | E | T | Y | A | S | A | L | L |
| K | R | A | L | K | F | I | G | P | E | C | B | M | D | U | A | F | C | E | T |
| I | E | U | D | E | H | R | A | Y | J | O | V | I | S | X | D | Y | T | A | P |
| S | L | Z | A | Q | E | U | H | F | R | C | E | U | S | E | E | A | X | N | G |
| S | E | U | F | B | W | R | D | D | S | M | I | C | T | E | S | O | T | R | D |

Find all the words **in bold**:

ISLAND is **ILOAN** in Yola and **OILEÁN** in Irish.

GIRL is **MYDHE** in Yola and **MEID** in Dutch.

BOY is **GORSON** in Yola and **GARÇON** in French.

TABLE is **BORDE** in Yola and **BWRDD** in Welsh.

SALT is **ZALL** in Yola and **ZOUT** in Dutch.

POTATOES is **BIDAADES** in Yola, **PATATES** in French and **BYTATWS** in Welsh.

KISS is **POAGE** in Yola and **PÓG** in Irish.

COW is **KEOW** in Yola and **KOE** in Dutch.

# Answers for the Word Search

| D | H | I | B | Y | T | A | T | W | S | E | R | I | O | L | A | Q | B | F | O |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | I | N | G | T | R | C | I | T | G | D | S | A | W | E | R | Z | O | U | T |
| I | P | Z | C | U | D | V | H | K | F | M | Y | D | H | E | P | I | R | N | B |
| C | A | O | O | N | I | H | T | E | N | F | X | D | R | E | O | P | D | C | N |
| D | I | E | A | S | Y | T | A | O | X | S | P | O | T | A | T | O | E | S | O |
| X | H | L | G | G | A | E | C | W | Y | M | L | A | T | E | S | U | X | C | I |
| O | S | Y | Z | O | E | L | J | Y | D | E | A | Y | T | C | B | O | Y | E | P |
| I | L | T | A | C | H | K | I | X | G | E | R | I | G | A | F | T | D | E | O |
| A | Q | W | L | E | D | U | I | J | I | K | C | H | G | C | T | T | L | K | G |
| F | D | I | L | M | N | I | B | H | R | O | S | O | T | G | D | E | H | C | B |
| M | K | I | O | J | P | H | S | A | L | T | F | R | W | Y | A | I | S | N | B |
| C | V | Q | A | U | T | A | L | I | E | Y | F | R | B | A | U | R | O | P | T |
| N | H | G | O | R | S | O | N | P | N | K | A | V | F | H | B | D | C | L | K |
| T | B | L | A | X | B | T | U | D | I | A | O | E | B | V | I | I | Q | O | P |
| E | A | F | G | U | C | S | E | L | T | D | X | E | J | I | D | G | K | I | N |
| B | W | B | X | G | D | F | I | L | O | A | N | E | T | Y | A | S | A | L | L |
| K | R | A | L | K | F | I | G | P | E | C | B | M | D | U | A | F | C | E | T |
| I | E | U | D | E | H | R | A | Y | J | O | V | I | S | X | D | Y | T | A | P |
| S | L | Z | A | Q | E | U | H | F | R | C | E | U | S | E | E | A | X | N | G |
| S | E | U | F | B | W | R | D | D | S | M | I | C | T | E | S | O | T | R | D |

## SUGGESTED ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

**WATCH**

Show this three-minute-long performance of a song in Yola to the class:
**www.youtube.com/watch?v=RFl9ptuxd8s**

**SPEAK**

Students in the class may speak a range of different languages. Why not encourage those who can speak a language other than English to translate the words in the word search into their native language. The rest of the class can repeat their pronunciation of the word.

**DISCUSS**

Encourage students to think about migration in our society today and how that may have been different to the arrival of the Normans in Wexford over 800 years age. What evidence can be seen for economic migration and the resulting integration of different cultures around modern County Wexford? (Polish grocery shops, Asian food restaurants etc)

**LISTEN**

This 40-minute RTÉ podcast explains all about the Yola dialect:
**www.rte.ie/radio1/doconone/2010/1118/646553-radio-documentary-yola-language-wexford/**
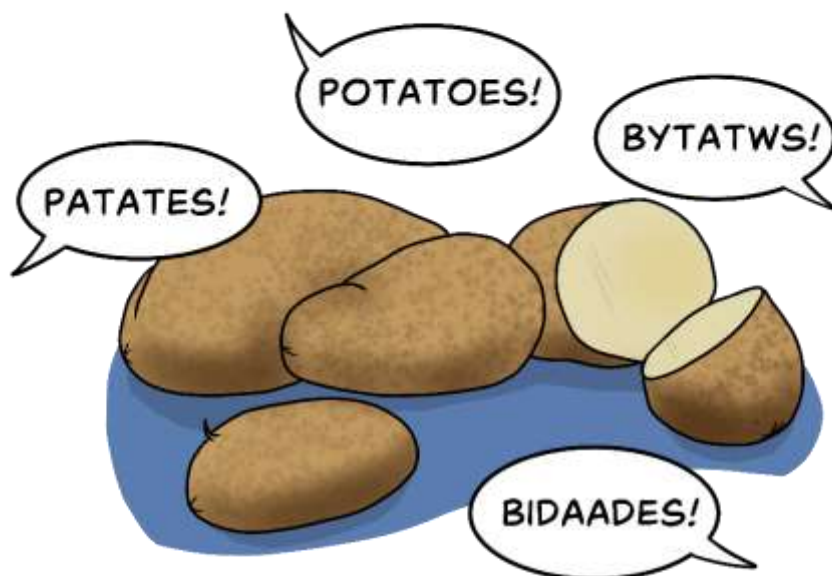
## Food and Farming

Prior to the arrival of the Normans, the Irish economy relied heavily on **cattle farming** however cereal crops such as oats and barley were also grown. Some of the earliest watermills in Europe were built for grinding these grains into flour. Grain-drying kilns were found in most townlands around Ireland to dry grain for making bread.

Bread, porridge and dairy products were staples of the Irish medieval diet. Meat products, especially beef, were used seasonally. Any surpluses of agricultural produce were traded nationally and internationally.

When they settled here, the Normans cut down large areas of Irish woodland for timber to build towns, houses, ships and mills. They used the newly cleared land to grow large amounts of crops and sold any surplus grain into the growing medieval economy at home and abroad. Norman lords such as **William Marshal** made large amounts of money from the trade and exchange of Irish agricultural produce and goods to and from ports such as New Ross.

Following the Normans' arrival there was an expansion of farming methods, especially in relation to the production of grains for export and to feed a growing urban population. The Normans brought the method of '**crop rotation**' to Ireland. The Normans divided farmland into strips which would be farmed by the tenants of the Norman lord under the 'feudal system'.

They also introduced the **vertical windmill** to Ireland to grind down grains but also continued to use the horizontal watermills favoured by the Irish and even tidal mills like the one that was at Saltmills near Tintern Abbey.

## The French and English languages in Norman England & Ireland

For a few hundred years after the Normans arrived from France and conquered England in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, believe it or not, the lords and ladies who governed the land **spoke French rather than English**! The first Norman knights to arrive in Ireland may have spoken French, even though they may have been born in the British Isles.

The English language was spoken only by the lower classes in England at this time. As a result, many words in the English language associated with authority and governance are French in origin e.g. 'government', 'tax', 'servant', 'justice'. This distinction in class can even be seen in the nuanced meanings of some English and French-originated words that mean approximately the same thing e.g. 'house' is an English word but 'mansion' is a French word.

Another interesting twist of language that the Normans brought to Britain and Ireland which still survives in our everyday English language is the distinction between an animal and its meat. Rather than just using 'cow' and 'sheep', the Normans introduced terms like '**beef**' and '**mutton**' to describe the meat of these animals.

## Religion in Medieval Ireland

Ireland was already **a Christian country** by the time the Normans arrived here. The Irish church had evolved into a complex system of greater and lesser churches and patronage was given by the Irish lords and nobles. Great churches were founded and supported by Irish kings. For example, Diarmuid McMurrough founded Baltinglass Abbey in Co. Wicklow in 1148.

To bring the Irish church more in line with the established Roman church, a series of reforms were undertaken in the 12th century, prior to the arrival of the Normans. This resulted in the beginnings of the diocesan system which is how the Christian church in Ireland is still organised today. The **Benedictine**, **Augustinian** and **Cistercian** orders of monks were all established in Ireland before the events of 1169 and the arrival of the Normans too.

**The Normans were a very religious and Christian people.** When they arrived in Ireland, they used their wealth to build and establish many new religious houses here for the different monastic orders. They also built parish churches, many on existing earlier religious sites.

There are many examples of these medieval religious structures across County Wexford. Many of these can be traced directly back to Norman patrons: William Marshal was the founder of Tintern Abbey while Strongbow's uncle, Hervey de Montmorency founded Dunbrody Abbey.

At the time, most ordinary people as well as the wealthy Norman lords went to church regularly. No matter what language the parishioners spoke, mass was said in **Latin**.

## Battle at Baginbun

### INTRODUCTION

This activity is a physical game combining elements of 'capture the flag' and 'tag' and involving children tossing soft balls or bean bags at each other. The game is themed around the battle between Norman forces and native Irish fighters that occurred when Raymond le Gros and the Norman knights landed and camped at Baginbun in County Wexford in 1170.

This game is best played outdoors but can be enjoyed in a PE hall, as long as there is about a half a tennis court size worth of available free floor space.

### ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS

## The 'Battle at Baginbun' game rules

### Materials required

- A playing area about the size of half a tennis court.
- Cones to mark out the field of play.
- Tennis balls/foam balls/small bean bags.
- Bean bags or something similar to act as 'treasure'.
- Two sets of bibs to denote the two opposing teams.
- A single sash or bib of a third colour (to denote the 'Raymond le Gros' player).

### Set-up

- The class is divided into two teams: the Normans and the Irish. The different coloured sets of bibs distinguish the two teams from each other. (With at least four players on each team.)

- The playing area is divided into two halves; one half is the Norman camp at Baginbun, the other represents the rest of Wexford - Irish land. At the end of each half is a designated 'den' area for each of the two teams. [See the illustration on page 33.]

- In the Irish half of the playing field, place an odd number (at least five) of pieces of 'treasure' (a bean bag or something similar) randomly on the ground at various distances from the Irish den.

- One of the Norman players is designated as '**Raymond le Gros**' (the commander of the Norman forces who landed at Baginbun in 1170) and wears the high-vis vest/sash to show this. The Raymond le Gros player **cannot tag opposing players, or un-tag players from their Norman team**. They also **cannot toss projectiles at the opposing team** as they are not allowed in their own den but must remain in the Norman half of the playing area. **The Raymond le Gros player's only job is to remain in the Norman half of the playing area and avoid being tagged (or 'captured') by the 'Irish' players.**

- The only way to capture the 'Raymond le Gros' player is for an opposing player to physically catch/tag them with <u>both</u> their hands.

<p align="center">**Tagging and freezing opposing players**
**with projectiles and by hand**</p>

- Each team's den is furnished with as many foam balls or small bean bags for throwing as possible. For the Norman's these represent the arrows of their trained, professional archers. For the Irish, they represent the throwing darts/javelins, arrows and even rocks of the local people who came to fight the invading Normans and defend their land. Projectiles can be recovered from the floor by players but can only be thrown at opposing players from within the den.

- **When a player is hit with one of these projectiles by the opposing team, that player must freeze on the spot and drop any treasure they may be carrying** so that it can be retrieved from the ground by other players.

- **Only players standing <u>inside</u> their own respective dens may toss the projectiles** at opposing players. They should aim for the legs of their opponents and only use under-arm throws.

- **Players can *only be tagged by hand and frozen by opposing players* while they are in their own half of the playing field.** For example, a 'Norman' can only be tagged by hand by an 'Irish' player when they are in the Norman half of the field. When they are in the Irish half, only a projectile thrown from the Irish den can hit an freeze them.

- Frozen players can become unfrozen if they are tagged by hand by an unfrozen member of their team. [Frozen players cannot tag each other to unfreeze themselves.]

<p align="center">**The goal of each team**</p>

- The goal of the Norman players is to run into the Irish half of the playing field, grab a piece of treasure and return it to their den without being hit by a projectile and frozen while they are in the Irish half, or tagged by hand by an Irish player while they are in their own Norman half of the field.

- The goal of the Irish is to enter the Norman half of the playing field and tag the player designated as 'Raymond le Gros' with both hands without being hit by a projectile while they are in the Norman half or tagged by hand by a Norman player while they are in the Irish half of the field. (The Irish must also retrieve treasure that has been dropped by frozen Norman players in the Norman half of the playing area and return it to the Irish half and place it on the ground there.)

Teams will have to incorporate a mix of defensive roles (tagging the other team by hand in the other team's half or with a projectile thrown from their den while in their own half) and offensive roles (picking up the treasure and returning it to their half or den without being tagged and catching the Raymond le Gros player) in order to be successful.

The game requires physical quickness, coordination skills and concentration.

**Winning the game**

The game ends one of three ways:

1. If all players *except* for the Raymond le Gros player and one other are frozen. The unfrozen player's team is then the winner (even if Raymond le Gros remains untagged).

2. If 'Raymond le Gros' is captured. If Raymond le Gros is tagged the game ends and the team with the most amount of treasure **in their half** of the playing field at that moment wins the game.

3. If the Normans capture all the treasure and successfully return it **to their den,** then the game ends and the Normans win.
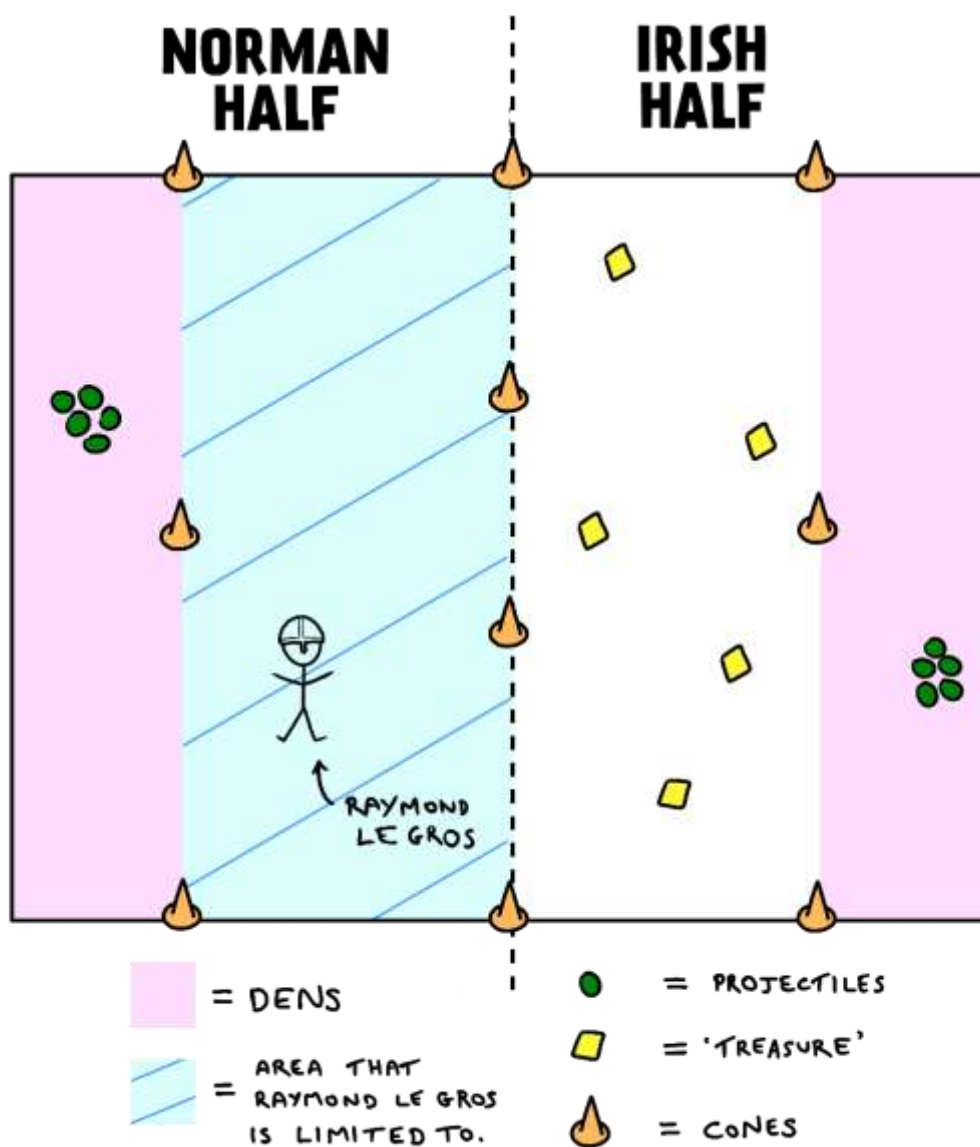
## Baginbun

The Norman knight Raymond le Gros and his men landed at Baginbun and camped there from May to August 1170. They erected large fortifications on the headland consisting of large banks and ditches at the site whilst waiting for the arrival of Strongbow. A large force of Hiberno-Norse and Irish attacked the camp but were defeated by the Normans. When Strongbow arrived in Ireland in August 1170 Raymond le Gros and his men joined him and they marched on Waterford, taking the city. In the early 19th century, the potential invasion of another French-speaking force, Napoleon's army, prompted the construction of a Martello gun tower at Baginbun which overlooks the bay. The tower is now a private residence.

## Find it:

**819 + 922**    **98 ÷ 14**         **41 x 2**    **1170 - 197**

**52.** [ ]  [ ]  **, -6.** [ ]  [ ]

## Glasscarrig Motte & Bailey

Glasscarrig motte and bailey is an example of a type of military fortification introduced by the Normans to Ireland. The motte is the high man-made mound of earth on top of which a wooden fort or castle was built. The bailey is the flat ground beside the motte which may have been enclosed by a fence and a ditch or moat and which contained domestic houses and shelters for animals. After the Anglo-Normans arrived in Ireland, the area around Glasscarrig was granted to Raymond le Gros, a Norman knight who was heavily involved in the military conquest of the region. By the late 12th century it had passed to his relations the de Cauntetons. Glasscarrig motte and bailey are now located on the coast, however due to the high level of coastal erosion which this part of the east coast has experienced, it is likely that the motte and bailey was some way inland when originally built.

## Find it:

**29 x 2**    **709 – 291**         **87 + 121**    **588 ÷ 6**

**52.** [ ]  [ ]  **, -6.** [ ]  [ ]

## The Normans vs. Irish and Viking fighting power

When the Normans arrived in Ireland over 800 years ago, Ireland had three distinct cultural populations; the **native Irish**, the **Hiberno-Norse descendants of the Vikings** and the **Anglo-Normans** (who we call the 'Normans' in this resource). Each one of these populations had their own fighting traditions.

The Vikings have a huge reputation as a powerful and brutal fighting force but, the Irish Annals record quite a few Irish victories *against* the Vikings in the early raiding years of the 9$^{th}$ and 10th centuries. What really set the Vikings apart was their ability to move quickly over long distances and attack by surprise. They did this by using their well-designed ships which could sail across an ocean and then also be rowed up a river. In 1165, a few years before the Norman forces first came to Ireland, the Norman **King Henry II had actually hired the Hiberno-Norse fleet of Dublin from Diarmuid McMurrough** himself to use in a military campaign against the Welsh!

In the 12$^{th}$ century, the Hiberno-Norse and the Irish used weapons such as **swords**, **spears**, **axes** and **bows** to fight. They protected themselves with **round shields** (if they had one) and if they were very wealthy, they may have had **chainmail armour**. Swords were very expensive and most men went off to battle carrying a spear, or even just an axe from the farm!

What really separated the Norman forces that landed on Irish shores and so successfully made their mark was the fact that the Norman men who came here were **professional fighters**. Experienced knights such as Robert Fitzstephen, Raymond le Gros and Richard de Clare (Strongbow) commanded forces of well-trained soldiers. The Normans were well-organised, highly-skilled fighters. The Irish and Hiberno-Norse were mostly part-time warriors and ordinary people drawn from the local area.

The majority of the Norman soldiers were archers and their ability to strike efficiently and overwhelmingly made them very successful in battle. The Irish did have archers too, but they did not use them in such large numbers as the Normans did.

# ACTIVITY

## *Feeling the Past in our Hands*

### INTRODUCTION

Your local library is a great resource for learning more about the history of County Wexford, both Norman and otherwise.

Each of the libraries in County Wexford have been furnished with a box of medieval re-enactment costume pieces for teachers to take out on loan and bring into their classrooms.

Students thus get to touch, feel the weight of and try on pieces of 'Norman' armour and medieval clothing. These tactile items can bring the past to life for students and be great discussion stimuli in the classroom.

### ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS

- Teachers must contact their local library to arrange the collection of the 'Discover Norman Wexford' box of re-enactment items. Contact details for the libraries are as follows:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Bunclody Library** | – | Phone **053 937 5466** or Email **bunclodylib@wexfordcoco.ie** |
| **Enniscorthy Library** | – | Phone **053 923 6055** or Email **enniscorthylib@wexfordcoco.ie** |
| **Gorey Library** | – | Phone **053 942 1481** or Email **goreylib@wexfordcoco.ie** |
| **New Ross Library** | – | Phone **051 421 877** or Email **newrosslib@wexfordcoco.ie** |
| **Wexford Library** | – | Phone **053 919 6760** or Email **wexfordlib@wexfordcoco.ie** |

The box will contain the following:
- A Norman helmet. (Made from steel)
- A chainmail coif for one's head (Made of rivetted chainmail.)
- A chainmail half-sleeve shirt (Made of butted chainmail.)
- A tunic made of wool (A common item of clothing during medieval times.)
- Two ribbon headpieces (Such a style of circlet may have been worn by women of importance in medieval times.)

- After collecting the box from their local library, the teacher then shows the items to their class, allowing students to hold, feel and even wear the pieces. This can be done perhaps on the same day as another activity in this resource is completed.

- The teacher then returns the box full of items to their local library as promptly as possible, leaving it there for other teachers in the area to borrow.

## SUGGESTED ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

**DISCUSS**

Modern re-enactors dress up in historical attire to remember and celebrate the past. Apart from being fun, why do the students think this is an important way to represent our history and culture?

**DISCUSS**

The invading Normans thought very little of the native Irish, their customs may have seemed savage in comparison to their organised and sophisticated approach to society. The native Irish would have viewed the invading Normans as bullies who had no right to interfere in the events of medieval Ireland. Discuss with students how two sides of a modern conflict feel the other side is in the wrong.

## Fethard Motte & Castle

After the Normans conquered the area, Fethard was granted to the Norman knight Richard de Londres on the condition that he build a castle here. The motte which can be found behind the later stone castle is probably evidence of this earlier fortification. A 'motte' was a man-made mound of earth, on top of which a wooden structure was built. Often there was an enclosure containing houses and animal shelters beside the motte, known as a 'bailey'. Both the motte and bailey were surrounded by a ditch and a strong wooden fence. The stone castle we see today was first constructed a few hundred years later. Most of the castle which can be seen today was probably built by the Bishop of Ferns in the 15th century. Subsequent bishops lived at the castle throughout the 16th century. The castle has several 'machicolations'; these are known as 'murder holes' and allowed the occupants of the castle to drop nasty objects and liquids onto anybody who was attacking the castle walls below. Fethard Castle also has an 'oubliette' which is a hidden chamber at the bottom of one of its towers, this was possibly used as a dungeon.

# Find it:

2018 - 83    81 ÷ 9          264 + 575    5 x 13

52. ☐ ☐ , -6. ☐ ☐

## Enniscorthy Castle

Enniscorthy Castle is on a high point overlooking the River Slaney. The castle may be located on the site of an earlier 'ringwork castle' as, in the 19th century, evidence of a large ditch was uncovered nearby. Riverside and seaside locations were important during the medieval period because most traffic comprised of boats and ships travelling by river and sea. In the 16th century Sir Henry Wallop built the castle in its present form based on the design of Ferns Castle. The castle is rectangular with four towers at its corners. It also contains an 'oubliette' (a chamber for keeping prisoners in) where a very unique and rare wall painting of a soldier in late 16th century clothing can be seen. In the early 20th century the castle was owned by the Roche family who added an extension with two more towers to the rear.

# Find it:

2,500 ÷ 50    4 x 35          7 x 8        803 - 87

52. ☐ ☐ , -6. ☐ ☐

## Templetown Church

An early medieval church dedicated to St. Alloch existed on this site before the Normans arrived. Norman knights were part of the feudal system. Knights were granted land from lords or the king and in return they had to fight for the lord or king in times of war. In 1172 King Henry II granted land in Ireland to an order of knights called the Knights Templar. In 1175 another order, the Knights Hospitaller, were introduced to Ireland by Strongbow. The Templars and Hospitallers were known as 'military orders'. The knights in these orders lived by strong religious principles, were very skilled military forces and provided security at strategic locations throughout Europe. The Knights Templar became a powerful and wealthy order. They were granted the site at Templetown in the 13th century and they built a church here. In the early 14th century the Knights Templar were dissolved by the Pope at the time and forbidden to practice anymore. Their land and property were taken away from them. Templetown Church was then granted to the Knights Hospitaller.

# Find it:

| 85 + 94 | 117 ÷ 3 | | 979 ÷ 11 | 787 - 283 |
|---------|---------|--|----------|-----------|
| 52. ⬚ | ⬚ | , -6. | ⬚ | ⬚ |

# ACTIVITY

## *A Novel about the Normans*

### INTRODUCTION

A copy of the Young Adult (YA) novel, 'Strongbow: The story of Richard and Aoife' is supplied with each Discover Norman Wexford resource pack.

When it was first released, this children's novel won both the 'Bisto Book of the Year - Historical Fiction' award and the 'Reading Association of Ireland Book Award'.

The book tells the story of the Norman conquest of Ireland in an entertaining and engaging way. Each successive chapter alternates between the point-of-view of Richard de Clare (the Norman knight heavily involved in the Normans arrival in Ireland) and the woman that would become his wife, Aoife McMurrough (the daughter of the Irish king Diarmuid McMurrough whose desperate circumstances forced him to seek help from foreign Norman fighters to regain his lands in Ireland.)

Reading 'Strongbow: The story of Richard and Aoife' with the class (or indeed suggesting students read it individually) will certainly colour and enhance their study of the Norman history of Wexford and of Ireland wonderfully.

### ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS

- Read the novel aloud to the class over a number of weeks.

## SUGGESTED ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

**DO**
Over the course of the weeks that the teacher reads the novel to the class, students can complete certain **activities devised by O'Brien Press and included with your copy of the novel**. These activities are designed to encourage students to critically think about the content of the novel and its subjects.

**PERFORM**
Photocopy short scenes from the book and have groups of students perform those scenes, using the dialogue of the characters in the scene as their script.
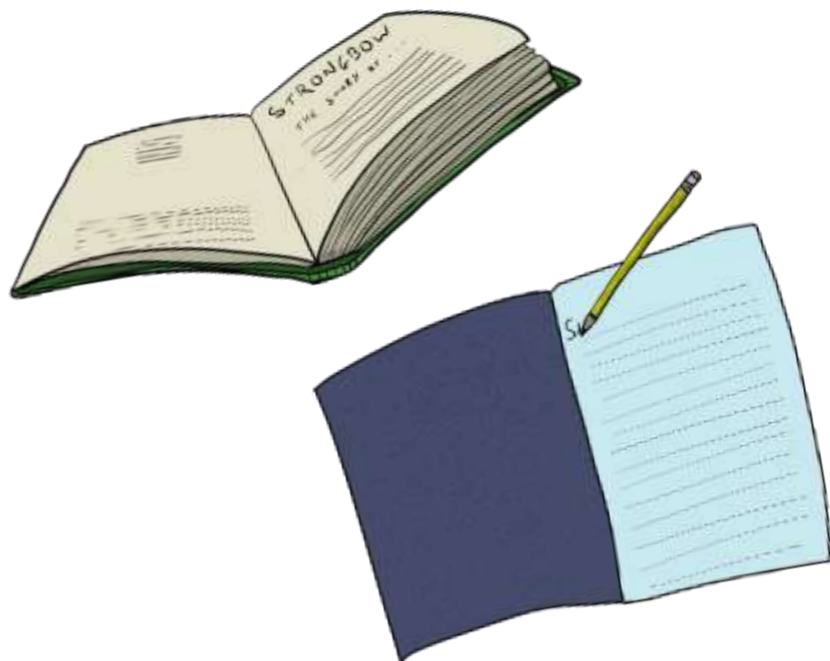
# Map Coordinates for all 'Site Sum Sheet' sites

Type the coordinate numbers into a Google search bar to pinpoint the site on Google Maps.

| Sites (in alphabetical order) | Coordinates |
|---|---|
| Baginbun | 52.17417, -6.82973 |
| Bannow Bay | 52.39536, -6.94544 |
| Bannow font (in St. Mary's Church in Carraig-on-Bannow) | 52.24004, -6.73230 |
| Dunbrody Abbey | 52.28336, -6.95888 |
| Enniscorthy Castle | 52.50140, -6.56716 |
| Ferns Castle | 52.59067, -6.49939 |
| Ferrycarrig (Fitzstephen's Ringwork Castle) | 52.35090, -6.51267 |
| Fethard font (in St Mogue's Church in Fethard) | 52.19312, -6.83929 |
| Fethard Motte & Castle | 52.19359, -6.83965 |
| Glasscarrig Motte & Bailey | 52.58418, -6.20898 |
| Hook Lighthouse | 52.12452, -6.92890 |
| Rathaspeck font (relocated to Johnstown Castle) | 52.29173, -6.50221 |
| Ros Tapestry | 52.21285, -6.80348 |
| Selskar Abbey & Wexford Town | 52.34139, -6.46532 |
| St Mary's in New Ross | 52.39632, -6.94136 |
| Templetown Church | 52.17939, -6.89504 |
| The Norman Way (Lady's Island) | 52.20971, -6.38014 |
| Tintern Abbey | 52.23718, -6.83762 |

# Contact Details for School Tours

A class trip to one of the heritage sites below will greatly illuminate the students' grasp of County Wexford's Norman heritage. The sites below offer pre-booked guided tours and much more for the students to enjoy.

**The Ros Tapestry**
Email: www.rostapestry.ie
Tel: (051) 445 396
Web: info@rostapestry.ie

**Hook Lighthouse**
Email: info@hookheritage.ie
Tel: (051) 397 055
Web: www.hookheritage.ie

**Irish National Heritage Park**
Email: info@inhp.com Tel: (053) 912 0733
Web: www.inhp.com or www.irishheritage.ie

**Johnstown Castle (& Irish Agricultural Museum)**
Email: info@johnstowncastle.ie
Tel: (053) 918 4671
Web: www.johnstowncastle.ie

**Enniscorthy Castle**
Email: info@ennscorthycastle.ie
Tel: (053) 923 4699
Web: www.enniscorthycastle.ie

**Ferns Castle**
Email: jerpointabbey@opw.ie
Tel: (053) 936 6411
Web: www.heritageireland.ie/en/south-east/fernscastle

**Tintern Abbey**
Email: tinternabbey@opw.ie
Tel: 051 562 650
Web: www.heritageireland.ie/en/south-east/tinternabbey

**Dunbrody Abbey**
Email: patrick@dunbrodyabbey.com
Tel: 086 275 9149
Web: www.dunbrodyabbey.com