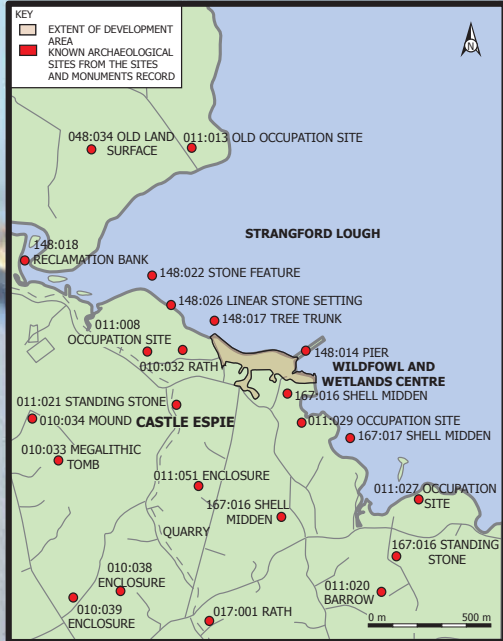


# CASTLE ESPIE, CO. DOWN

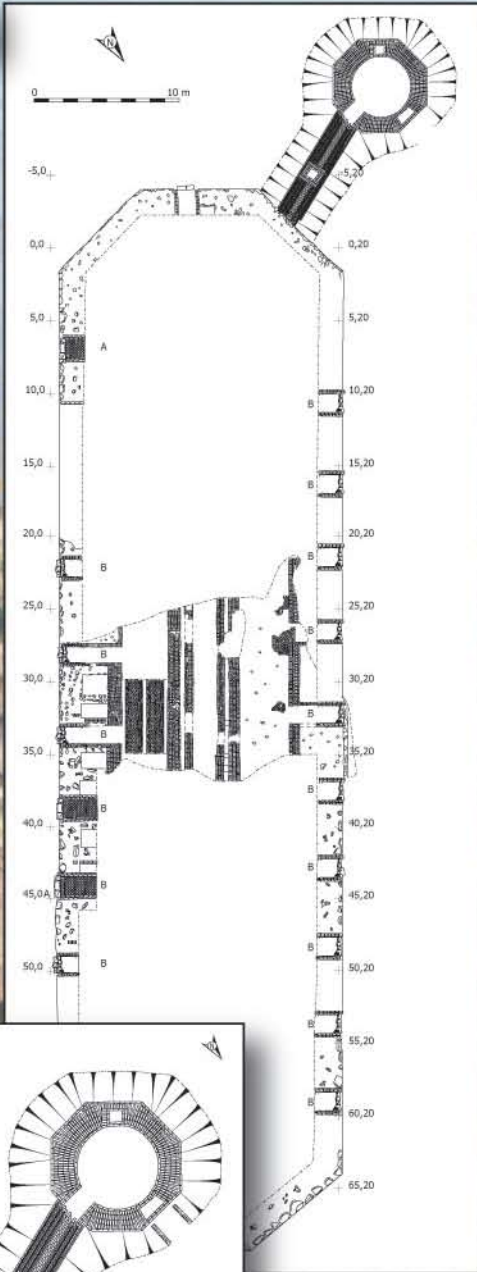


## Right - The Hoffmann Kiln:

This design - patented in Germany in 1858 - revolutionised the brick and lime-making industries and enabled the massive expansion of late Victorian cities. The Hoffmann kiln had a series of linked chambers which were fired in a continuous sequence. Heat from one was transferred to the next, which allowed for huge savings in fuel costs. Later, some of the large Belfast brickworks also built Hoffmann kilns. NAC excavated another of these kilns at the former brickworks on the Annadale Embankment.

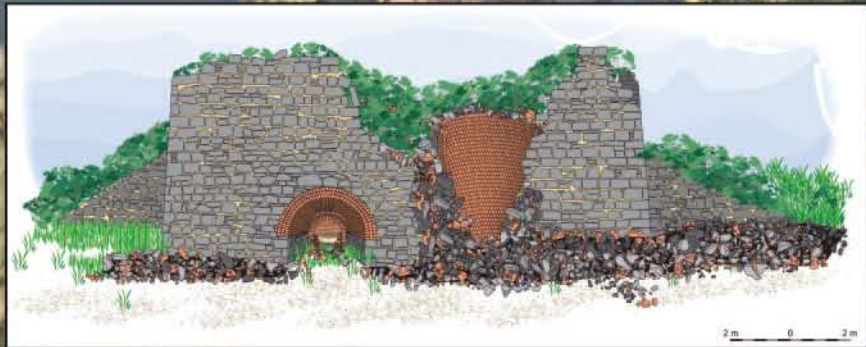
### The Castle Espie Lime Kiln:

- Was first fired in March 1867
- Was 236 ft long by 63 ft wide and 20 ft in height
- Contained 24 chambers measuring 18 ft long and 12 ft wide by 10 ft in height
- Used 11,000 tons of stone and 1.25 million bricks in its construction
- Could produce 6 million bricks a year



## Background - Castle Espie Brickworks during archaeological investigation:

We have been working with the Wildlife and Wetlands Trust to develop Castle Espie, the site of the earliest rectangular Hoffmann Brick Kiln in the British Isles, as a visitor resource. Robert Murland, a Victorian entrepreneur, envisioned a state-of-the-art brickworks using the latest technology, but died a few months after it opened. This important industrial landscape is now gradually being exposed and interpreted as part of the redevelopment of the site.



## The Pot Lime Kilns: photograph and scale drawing - constructed in 1865 as part of Robert Murland's development plan for Castle Espie Lime, Brick, Tile and Pottery Works. After the Works closed in 1879 the pot kilns were used as a target for artillery practice. They are now being renovated.



## Brick made at Castle Espie:

Two kinds of standard red brick were made at the Works - this type was marked "Castle Espie" and the other was plain and perforated. Red flooring tiles, drain pipes, dairy ware and flowerpots were also made here.



**NORTHERN  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
CONSULTANCY**

Providing a comprehensive range of archaeological services to the construction industry

