

HIDDEN GEMS AND FORGOTTEN PEOPLE
WEST BELFAST HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Castle Robin (An ancient Celtic Settlement consisting of two Ring Forts)

This was supplanted by a Norman Motte and Bailie which was linked to the Mottes of Dunmurry and Dundonald for defensive purposes (if one of these Norman settlements was attacked by the local Irish a signal fire would be lit on the Motte and the other two settlements would come to their aid).

In 1603 the grant of seven townlands was made to Sir Robert Norton (one of the Earl of Essex's captains) on condition that he build a fortified Bawn.

He built a three-story tower house 84 feet long by 36 feet wide and 40 feet high. It was destroyed by fire in the 1641 rebellion and never rebuilt.

The ruins of the Tower House and the Motte are located on the A501 Mullaglass Road opposite the junction with Ivy Hill.

Patrick Greer
(Photo Courtesy of John Hulme Carrickfergus Historical Society)