Series editors' preface

The study of Early Modern Ireland has experienced a renaissance since the 1990s, with the publication of a number of major monographs examining developments in the country during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries from a variety of different perspectives. Nonetheless, these works still tend to group around traditional topics in political, military or religious history and significant gaps remain. The idea behind this new series is to identify key themes for exploration and thereby set the agenda for future research. Manchester University Press, a leading academic press with a strong record of publishing Irish related material, is the ideal home for this venture.

The fourth volume in this series is the first monograph to appear. Following the success of the previous three edited collections the time is right to proceed with publishing monograph studies of important topics to help fulfil the series' core objective of setting new standards for the detailed understanding of the early modern period. Written by a leading young scholar the book deals with one of the great debates about sixteenth-century Ireland, namely the formulation and development of Tudor 'reform' policy. While historians have long been aware that a number of authors attempted to influence English crown policy by writing advice papers or 'treatises' about Ireland, only now is it possible to appreciate the full extent of such writing. More treatises (over six hundred) survive about Ireland than for any other part of the Tudor dominions. David Heffernan's study presents for the first time a comprehensive analysis of all the surviving texts, their contents, and their influence on Tudor policy. Building on the work of an earlier generation it presents a major reassessment of the origins and course of Tudor ideas about conquest, colonisation, and religious and administrative reform in Ireland. We expect it will become a benchmark study and give fresh impetus to research on the Tudor realms.

David Edwards and Micheál Ó Siochrú