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Later medieval cross-cultural interactions: the settlement evidence in the baronies of Overk, county Kilkenny and Clanmahon, county Cavan

By Linda Shine

Volume II: Gazetteer of sites surveyed

A thesis submitted for the degree of PhD at the University of Dublin, Trinity College, 2011

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Volume II: Gazetteer of sites surveyed

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Introduction to the Gazetteer

This gazetteer is a collection of reports for those sites that were visited during the course of this research. This was a targeted programme of fieldwork, which concentrated on those sites that desk-based research suggested could be high or late medieval in date and which would be of interest to a study concerned with the archaeological evidence for cross-cultural interactions, focusing on the settlement evidence. Therefore, while many churches were visited and recorded during this research, they were not the primary concern of this thesis. However, the identification of medieval parish churches was important due to the potential of such a site to indicate the location of a manorial centre. More intensive research was carried out in those civil parishes that were selected as case-study areas. The site visits were carried out in the summer months of 2007, 2008 and 2009.

This gazetteer is arranged alphabetically by medieval barony (Clanmahon and Overk) and then by townland name. Where sites are known by other names, these names are included in the table that follows to aid the identification of sites in the gazetteer. All gazetteer entries include a list of identifying information to aid the identification of the sites on the modern landscape including; RMP number, townland, civil parish, barony and county. Map references are also provided: *Ordnance Survey* six-inch and *Discovery Series* map sheet number and Irish National Grid references.

The main body of the gazetteer entry is organised under a number of headings: siting, description; adjacent sites; documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information; interpretation; and references. The siting section gives a brief description of the landscape setting of the monument in question, and the description section provides an account of the morphology of the site, and is, where necessary, broken down into sub-sections. The adjacent sites section indicates those sites that are in close proximity and are likely to be roughly contemporary, as well as distances to other sites with a similar classification and in the case of settlement sites, the distance from them to the nearest church and the parish church.

The section that deals with documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information aims to provide the relevant available background

information. As highlighted in chapter two, there is significantly more documentary evidence available for those sites located in the barony of Overk, than those in the barony of Clanmahon, and for this reason, the gazetteer entries for the sites in Overk are generally much longer than those entries for sites in Clanmahon. Similarly, there has been more antiquarian interest in county Kilkenny in general than in county Cavan and for this reason there is also a discrepancy in the amount of available information. The cartographic information employed is predominantly the *Down Survey* and the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch maps and their twenty-five inch map for Overk. The same *Ordnance Survey* sources are employed for the Clanmahon entries, but for this barony the *Maps of the Escheated Counties of Ulster* are more useful than the *Down Survey*, as by the time the *Down Survey* was compiled, county Cavan had already been planted and there was less need to survey the county in detail. It is important to note that both the top of both the *Down Survey* barony maps and the *Maps of the Escheated Counties of Ulster* are orientated roughly east and directional information is given on this basis. In the interpretation section the most appropriate classification for a monument is discussed, on the basis of all the information presented. Finally the references section details all the source material used in the compilation of that entry.

Table of sites in Clanmahon

	Clanmahon sites			
Site no.	**Townland and classification**	**RMP no.**	**Other name**	**Page no.**
1	Aghacreevy platform ringfort	CV037-003---		G-2
2	Aghakilmore Lower mound	CV037-077---		G-4
3	Aghnaskeagh wayside cross	CV041-00102-		G-6
4	Ballintemple parish church	CV031-007---		G-9
5	Ballintemple ringwork castle	CV031-008---		G-14
6	Bawn moated site	CV041-001---		G-18
7	Bellville bawn site	CV025-00601-		G-22
8	Bracklagh parish church	CV041-002---	Drumlumman parish church	G-25
9	Carrickabane moated site	CV041-007---		G-28
10	Carrick church site	CV041-003---	Carrickakillew church	G-32
11	Clonbockoge platform ringfort	CV042-05001-		G-34
12	Crover tower house	CV038-019---		G-38
13	Crover platform ringfort	CV038-020---		G-45
14	Dillagh crannóg	CV031-017---		G-49
15	Dillagh platform ringfort	CV031-018---		G-52
16	Drumcarban crannóg	CV025-040---		G-55
17	Drumeeny platform ringfort	CV037-027---		G-57
18	Drumlion platform ringfort	CV031-032---		G-59
19	Dundavan castle	CV037-029---		G-63
20	Dungummin Upper platform ringfort	CV042-01701-		G-66
21	Fortland I platform ringfort	CV038-031---		G-71
22	Fortland II platform ringfort	CV038-027---		G-75
23	Gallonreagh church site	CV038-032---	Kilbride parish church	G-78
24	Garrymore I ringfort	CV031-039---		G-82

25	Garrymore II ringfort	CV031-038---		G-84
26	Garrysallagh O'Reilly platform ringfort	CV042-026---		G-86
27	Kevit Upper crannóg and castle site	CV025-059--- CV025-063---		G-89
28	Kill church	CV037-034---		G-92
29	Lavagh church site	CV037-044---	Ballymachugh parish church	G-97
30	Lavagh enclosure	CV037-044---		G-100
31	Lavagh motte	CV037-042---		G-102
32	Legaweel ringfort	CV025-080--		G-105
33	Lisduff platform ringfort	CV038-041---		G-109
34	Lismore platform ringfort	CV02-041---		G-113
35	Magheraboy Upper platform ringfort	CV041-017---		G-115
36	Moat platform ringfort	CV041-018---		G-118
37	Mountnugent church	CV038-049--		G-122
38	Moydristan cashel	CV037-049---		G-123
39	Moynagh Lower platform ringfort	CV037-051---		G-127
40	Moynagh Upper platform ringfort	CV037-054---		G-130
41	Omard burial ground	CV037-062---		G-132
42	Omard platform ringfort	CV037-062---		G-134
43	Racraveen motte	CV038-055---		G-137
44	Raheever platform ringfort	CV042-040---		G-142
45	Tawlaght ringfort	CV037-070---		G-146
46	Togher crannóg	CV020-074---		G-148
47	Tullygullin enclosure	CV041-20---		G-150

Map showing location of sites in Clanmahon.

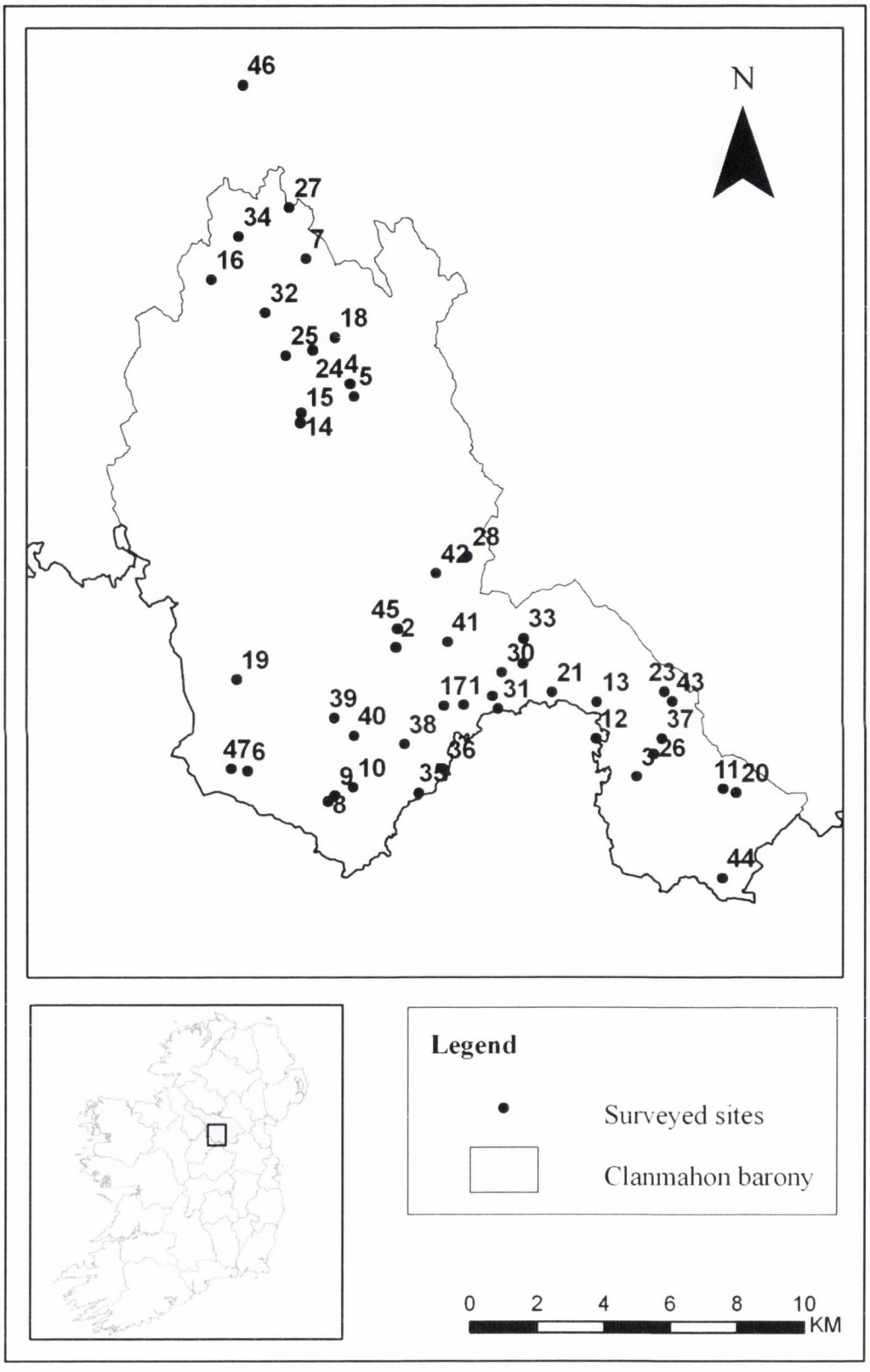

Table of sites in Overk

	Overk sites			
Site no.	**Townland and classification**	**RMP no.**	**Other name**	**Page no.**
48	Abbeylands church	WA009-008---	Kilculliheen Nunnery	G-154
49	Ballygub New moated site	KK039-007---		G-160
50	Ballygub new church and souterrain	KK033-012--- KK033-024---	Clodiagh church	G-162
51	Ballyknock moated site	KK037-01101-		G-166
52	Ballyneale parish church	KK037-00301-	Dysartmoon parish church	G-169
53	Ballyreddy church site	KK037-01001-		G-172
54	Ballytarsney church	KK042-01001-		G-176
55	Belline and Rogerstown castle site	KK039-021---		G-180
56	Brandonhill moated site	KK033-03701-		G-183
57	Brownsford tower house	KK033-028---		G-186
58	Carranroe Lower ringfort	KK037-007---		G-192
59	Carranroe Upper ringfort	KK033-033---		G-195
60	Clogharalt castle site	KK033-019---		G-197
61	Clonamery motte	KK033-02202-		G-200
62	Clonamery church	KK033-02101-		G-205
63	Coolhill tower house	KK033-02701-		G-211
64	Corluddy tower house	KK045-013---		G-218
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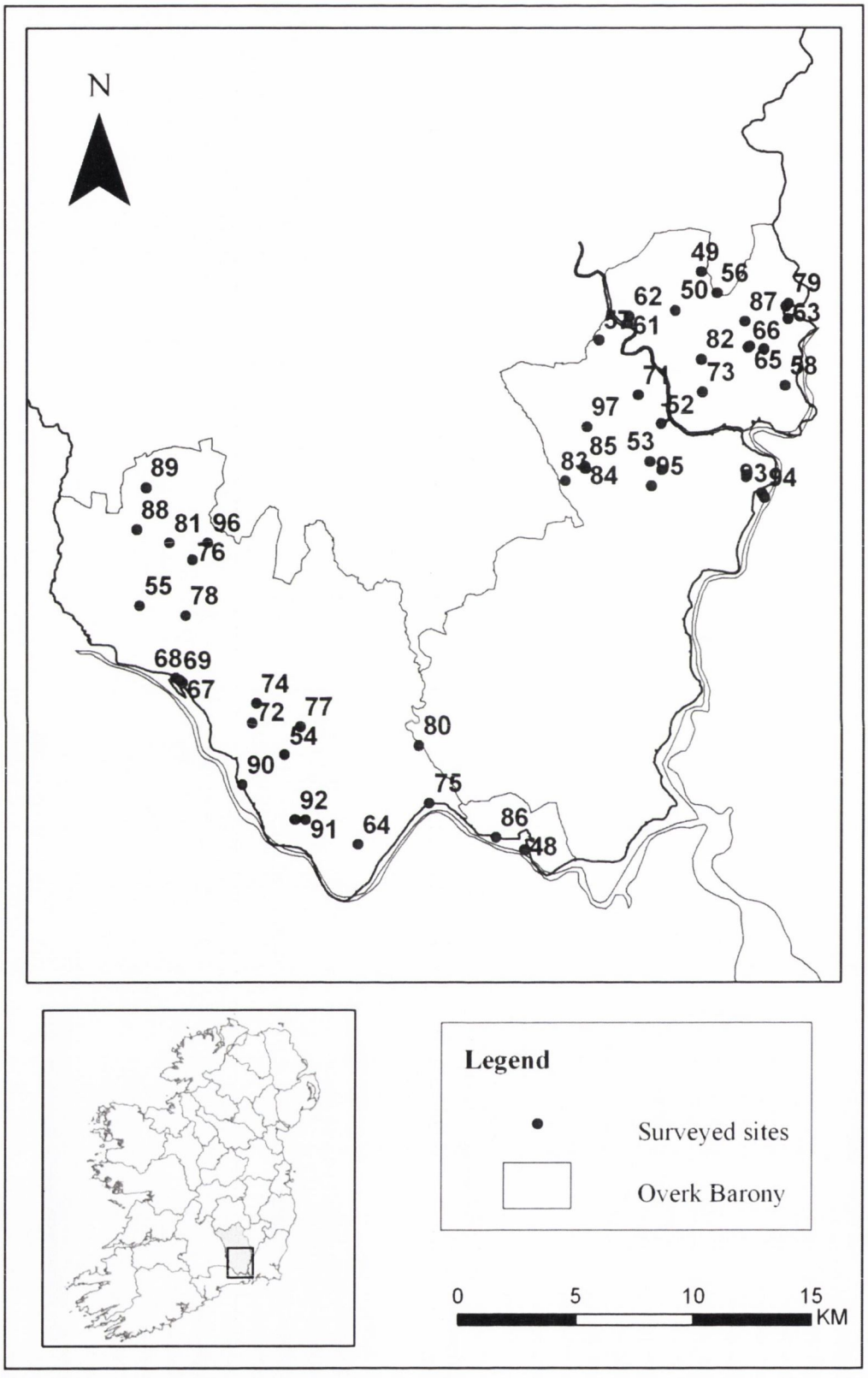
66	Farrantemple church	KK033-032---	The Rower parish church	G-228
67	Fiddown church	KK042-00103-		G-231
68	Fiddown motte	K042-00101-		G-236
69	Fiddown deserted medieval settlement and castle site	KK042-001--- KK042-00102-		G-240

70	Garranbehy Big moated site	KK037-04001-		G-245
71	Glenballyvally church site	KK037-024---		G-248
72	Grange tower house	KK042-003---		G-251
73	Grange church (Pollrone parish)	KK042-00201-	Killaspick church	G-255
74	Grange church (The Rower parish)	KK037-005---		G-259
75	Granny castle complex	KK043-03401-	Granagh castle	G-261
76	Jamestown deserted medieval settlement and castle site	KK039-04001- KK039-039---		G-275
77	Kilcraggan castle site	KK042-00401-		G-278
78	Kildalton church, castle and ringfort	KK039-024--- KK039-06601- KK039-023---		G-282
79	Killeens church site	KK033-03801-		G-285
80	Kilmacow church	KK043-016---		G-287
81	Kilmanahin church site	KK039-003---		G-292
82	Kiltown church site	KK033-030---		G-295
83	Listerlin moated site	KK036-038---		G-297
84	Listerlin parish church	KK036-027---		G-300
85	Listerlin motte	KK036-026---		G-304
86	Mountmisery mound	WA009-01703-		G-310
87	Mungan ringfort	KK033-026---		G-312
88	Owning church	KK039-00101-		G-314
89	Owning earthwork castle	KK035-038---		G-320
90	Pollrone church	KK042-011---		G-324
91	Portnascully parish church	KK045-002---		G-331
92	Portnascully motte and bailey	KK045-001---		G-335
93	Rosbercon church	WX029-01301-		G-340
94	Rosbercon Friary	WX029-01307-		G-349
95	Slievecarragh castle site	KK037-017---		G-354
96	Templeorum castle site	KK039-005---		G-356
97	Tullagher castle site	KK037-00201-		G-361

Map showing location of sites in Overk.



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Clanmahon Gazetteer

Aghacreevy Platform ringfort

RMP no.	CV037-003---
Townland	Aghacreevy
Civil Parish	Ballymachugh
Barony	Clanmahon
County	Cavan
OS six-inch sheet no.	Cavan Sheet 37
Discovery Series sheet no.	34
Irish National Grid ref.	243230, 286370
Classification	Platform Ringfort

Siting

This ringfort is located in an area of undulating countryside, on a gentle south facing slope, which runs down to a stream, which in turn flows into Lough Sheelin. This area must be prone to waterlogging as there are waterfilled drains between the fields and rushes grow in the area. The field was under rough pasture.

Description

This site consists of a raised circular platform (diam. 30m N-S) surrounded by a shallow fosse for most of its circumference. The land on which the site is located slopes gently downwards from N-S and this is reflected in the interior of the site. At the northern end of the site, the interior rises slightly (0.2m) from N-S over a distance of 13.95m. At the southern end the sites falls (0.55m) from N-S over a distance of 16.95m. While this creates an appreciable slope, it would not have hampered the construction of buildings on the platform.

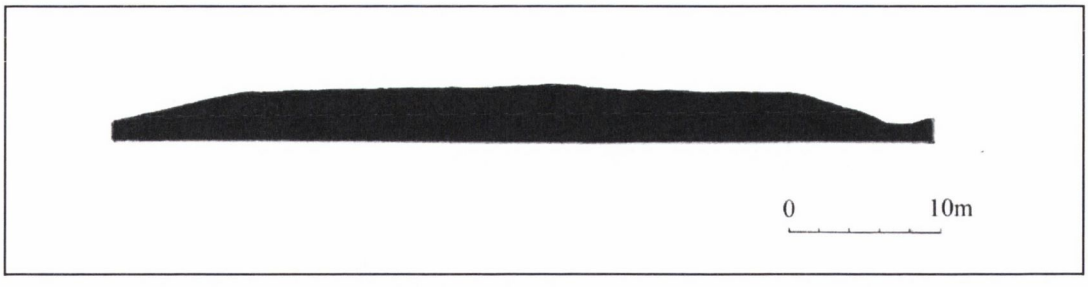

Fig. G.1: Profile of Aghacreevy platform ringfort N-S.

The platform varies in height above the base of the fosse, from 1.9m (N) to 2.05m (S), and the external fosse is 1.5m wide and 0.35m deep. No possible entrance way was located, and the possible entrance at the SE of the site was not located during this site

visit. The interior is level and no trace of the bank or berm on the edge of the platform reported in the SMR field report was observed.

Fig. G.2: Aghacreevy platform ringfort from the SW.

Adjacent sites

There is a ringfort (CV037-002---) *c.*100m west of the platform ringfort, within the same townland. There are six ringforts within 1km of this platform ringfort. The platform ringfort in Drumeeny (CV037-027---) is located *c.*580m west of this site. The church site (CV037-041---) and motte (CV037-042---) in the townland of Lavagh are located *c.*880m and *c.*1km SE of this site respectively.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

No documentary references or antiquarian accounts were uncovered during this research. The *Down Survey* map of the barony of Clanmahon includes the townland of 'Aghecreevy' but no structures are depicted in the townland. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map of the area depicts this ringfort as a univallate site, and it is also depicted in the second edition. Both editions also depict another smaller ringfort 100m west of this site. This second smaller ringfort is no longer extant.

Interpretation

This site is a platform ringfort with no surviving enclosing bank, and is therefore the simplest type of platform ringfort identified during this programme of research. There may be a connection between this site and the ringfort located 100m to the west, but without excavation or geophysical prospection, it is impossible to determine what if anything this connection might have been.

Aghakilmore Lower Mound

RMP no.	CV037-077---
Townland	Aghakilmore Lower
Civil Parish	Ballymachugh
Barony	Clanmahon
County	Cavan
OS six-inch sheet no.	Cavan sheet 37
Discovery Series sheet no.	34
Irish National Grid ref.	241224, 288121
Classification	Mound

Siting

This mound is located close to the road on the side of a west-facing slope.

Description

This site could not be located during a site visit, but it was described in an entry on archaeology.ie as a low earthwork located beside the road. This entry also suggests that the mound is believed to be the burial ground for those who died in the Battle of Aghakilmore in 1429.

Adjacent sites

There are two ringforts within 1km of this site and a platform ringfort (CV037-027---) *c.*2.3km SE in the townland of Drumeeny. There is a tradition that a graveyard (CV037-063---) existed *c.*1.5km E of the site in Omard. The church (CV037-041---) and nearby motte (CV037-042---) in Lavagh are located *c.*3.2km to the SE.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information.

In 1429 a war broke out between Tadhg O'Rourke and Owen O'Reilly, in which the descendants of Mahon O'Reilly (the Clan Mahon), along with 'the English of Meath' sided with O'Rourke against O'Reilly. O'Rourke and his allies burned O'Reilly's town of Cavan. In response to this O'Reilly prevailed upon O'Neill to aid him, and O'Neill along with forces from Monaghan and Fermanagh, marched to 'the Achaidh Cille Moire' or Aghakilmore in the barony of Clanmahon. They were pursued by the forces of O'Rourke, the Clan Mahon, the Baron of Delvin and McCabe. O'Reilly, with the aid of O'Neill was victorious and O'Neill took a number of prisoners (*AFM*, 1429; *AU*, 1429). The annals do not mention that any of the dead were buried in Aghakilmore.

O'Connell (1937, 306) records that those killed in the battle of Aghakilmore were buried beside Cavan monastery, along with those who had been killed earlier in Cavan town.

The *Down Survey* map and the *Maps of the Escheated Counties of Ulster* for the barony of Clanmahon both include the townland of 'Aghekillmore', but no structures are depicted within it.

Interpretation

It is possible that some of the dead may have been buried at the site of the battle at Aghakilamore. However, as the site could not be located and its identification as a burial mound is based purely on local tradition, is cannot be classified with any degree of certainty. However, the annalistic reference to the battle in Aghakilamore, shows the Gaelic-Irish allying with the Anglo-Normans against their Gaelic-Irish rivals. The townland was therefore the site of an alliance between Anglo-Norman and Gaelic-Irish protagonists, even if the burial mound is nothing more than a local tradition.

Abbreviations and references

AFM = Ryan, E. (ed.) 2002. *Annals of the Four Masters*. Cork: CELT. http://www.ucc.ie/celt/published/T100005A/index.html.

AU = Bambury, P. and Beechinor, S. (eds) 2003. *Annala Uladh: Annals of Ulster otherwise Annala Senait, Annals of Senat*. Cork: CELT. http://www.ucc.ie/celt/published/T100001B/index.html

O'Connell, P. 1937. *The Diocese of Kilmore: its history and antiquities*. Dublin: Browne and Nolan.

Aghnaskeagh Cross

RMP no.	CV041-00102-
Townland	Aghnaskeagh
Civil Parish	Kilbride
Barony	Clanmahon
County	Cavan
OS six-inch sheet no.	Cavan sheet 41
Discovery Series sheet no.	34
Irish National Grid ref.	248350, 284210
Classification	Wayside cross

Siting

The cross is located on the SW slope of rising ground in an area of good pasture.

Description

The wayside cross is located in a modern landscaped garden, and is located between a stone wall and a hedge making it almost difficult to find and impossible to record. The *Archaeological inventory of county Cavan* (O'Donovan 1995, 212) describes it as a 'badly weathered wayside cross (H *c*.1m) with right arm broken off'. Davies (1948b, 97) records that it is an unperforated ringed cross and that there are raised letters inscribed on it which he read as the name Newall and the date 1626.

Fig. G.3: Aghnaskeagh cross (after O'Donovan 1995, 212).

Adjacent sites

There is a local tradition that the field to W of the cross was an 'old church site' (CV042-001---). Davies (1948b, 96-97) argues that as no church is depicted on the site on the *Maps of the Escheated Counties of Ulster* or the *Down Survey* barony map, the church may have been a post-reformation church used for Roman Catholic worship. He records two stones in the field and the wayside cross. No indication of this church now survives on the ground.

There is a burial mound (CV042-04601-) *c.*600m to the S. and in the same townland. The *Archaeological inventory of county Cavan* (O'Donovan 1995, 214) records that excavations on the site suggested it was early medieval in date. The excavation of this burial mound has been included in the unpublished burials project. It records that the site was known to the older generation as the 'Graveyard Field'. The burials all appear to have been orientated west-east, with the heads to the west which suggests they were buried in the Christian burial tradition. The minimum number of individuals represented in the burial mound is eleven and they appear to represent a sub-sample of a normal graveyard population (M.Sikora pers. comm. 06/07/2009).

A cross slab (CV042-04602-) is located at the boundary of the field in which this burial mound was located. Three ringforts and the settlement of Mountnugent are located with 1km of this wayside cross.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

No documentary references or antiquarian accounts of the site were uncovered during this research. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map depicts a building on the site that is labelled 'Old RC Chapel'. By the time the second edition had been compiled the church was no longer extant. As mentioned above the church is not depicted on the *Maps of the Escheated Counties of Ulster* or the *Down Survey* maps for the barony of Clanmahon.

Interpretation

It is difficult to provide accurate dating for this church site, but the date on the cross of 1626 could indicate that there was some religious activity at the end of the study period at least. However, without upstanding remains of a church, documentary

evidence or radiocarbon dating of the individuals uncovered in the burial mound it is impossible to date this site.

References

Davies, O. 1948b. "The churches of county Cavan". *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland* 78:73-118.

O'Donovan, P. F. 1995. *Archaeological Inventory of County Cavan*. Dublin: Stationery Office.

Ballintemple church site and graveyard

RMP no.	CV031-007---
Townland	Ballintemple
Civil Parish	Ballintemple
Barony	Clanmahon
County	Cavan
OS six-inch sheet no.	Cavan sheet 31
Discovery Series sheet no.	34
Irish National Grid ref.	239860, 296020
Classification	Parish church site and graveyard

Siting

The site of this church is located at the base of a drumlin and on a cliff at a bend in the River Erne. Davies (1948b, 80) suggests that the site was probably originally beside a ford, and while it appears unlikely that there would have been a ford where there was a sharp drop to the river. The second edition *Ordnance Survey* six-inch map of the area records the presence of stepping stones N of the site, a more likely location for a ford. There is a waterfall marked in the river adjacent to the graveyard

Description

The church in Ballintemple is a nineteenth century Church of Ireland church dedicated to St. Patrick. The church is surrounded by a modern rectangular graveyard. There are the remains of an older graveyard on the opposite side of the road. Although no medieval grave slabs have been located within the older graveyard, the overgrown nature of the graveyard means that grave slabs could have become completely overgrown. There is a large sub-rectangular depression (*c.*6m N-S) in the graveyard opposite the gate and stile that provides access to the site from the road. There are concentrations of gravestones to the north and south of this depression. The River Erne forms the eastern boundary of the site, and this creates an irregular plan for the graveyard. The southern boundary of the site is formed by a stonewall, while a bungalow, built adjacent to the road, appears to have encroached on the NW corner of the graveyard. The River Erne would originally have formed the northern boundary of the site. There are three small grass covered mounds in the NE corner of the graveyard and stone foundations were noted in one. It is probable that these are overgrown grave plots.

Fig. G.4: Site of Ballintemple church from the SW.

Adjacent sites

The ringwork castle (CV031-008---) in Ballintemple is located *c.*420m to the S, and there are four ringforts within 1km of this site. The platform ringfort in Drumlion (CV031-032---) is located *c.*1.5km to the N, while the crannóg (CV031-017---) and ringfort (CV031-018---) in Dillagh townland are located *c.*1.9km and *c.*1.7km SW respectively.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information.

Davies (1948b, 80) reports that there was an older church in this graveyard, which was unroofed in the early 17th century, with the modern church being constructed on the opposite side of the road in 1821. He also recorded the presence of a few blocks of dressed ashlar in the graveyard. Gwynn and Hadcock (1988, 346) record that like Ballymachugh, a 'hospital endowed with Tearmon lands' is recorded for Ballintemple in 1590.

The parish of Ballintemple was one of the parishes of the Diocese of Kilmore which was subject to the Benedictine priory of Fore, which is located close to the southern border of Clanmahon. The diocese of Kilmore was originally a much larger entity that

encompassed the deaneries of Kells and Fore. The Benedictine priory of Fore was founded by Hugh de Lacy sometime between 1180 and 1186 and he granted them the tithes of, what has been identified as, the barony of Fore (Masterson 2003, 4). In 1211-2 the Pipe Roll of John record 'works at Kilmore Castle' (*Irish Pipe Roll,* 25), which indicates that the de Lacys were established in Kilmore at this date. Masterson argues that the grant of the parishes of Kilmore to the priory at Fore took place between 1205 and 1212. The extent of the parishes of Kilmore, that were granted by the de Lacys to the priory in Fore can only be established from an early seventeenth century survey of the possessions of Fore (*Patent Rolls, Jac. I*, 385-387). At this stage a total of eleven parishes belonged to the former priory, including Ballintemple, Denn, Kilmore and Kildrumfert (now part of Crosserlough). Masterson (2003, 5) has argued that the parishes granted to the priory of Fore combined with those given to the monastery of Kells, represented the lands of the O'Reilly's. Indeed, an extent of the priory at Fore, compiled in 1540 records that 'in the Brenny [Bréifne] in O Reli's [O'Reilly's] district, where the king's writ does not run, there are divers other rectories, the names of which are not known' (White 1943).

Although the priory at Fore benefited from the Ballintemple's tithes, the bishop of Kilmore maintained the right to appoint its rectors, and a number of fifteenth century appointments to the positions are recorded in the Calendar of Papal Registers. The Papal Records first refer to the church of Ballintemple in 1401, when John Marmulmartam is appointed to the vacant vicarage in 'Balinetempuill' in the diocese of Kilmore, despite his blindness (*Cal. Papal Reg.*, V 447). The vicarage was then valued at five marks. In 1407 the position was again vacant when Lazarianus Ogaband was appointed to St. Patrick's in Ballinteampill on the proviso that his Latin was sufficient (*Cal. Papal Reg.*, VI 121). Donatus Ogaband, then bishop-elect of Kilmore was appointed to the position in 1421 (*Cal. Papal Reg.*, VII 161), and later that year the vicarage was reserved to Gilbert Ogaband from the time that Donatus was consecrated bishop and vacated the position (*Cal. Papal Reg.*, VII 161).

The *Maps of the Escheated Counties of Ulster* for the barony of Clanmahon compiled in 1609 depicts a church in the townland of Ballintemple close to the River Erne. The townland of Ballintemple is coloured green indicating that it is church lands, and the small circle surmounted by a double cross indicated that an abbey controlled the lands.

Fig. G.5: Ballintemple townland as depicted on the *Maps of the Escheated Counties of Ulster* for Clanmahon barony.

The *Down Survey* map for the barony of Clanmahon contains a cross within the area labelled Ballintemple that suggests that the area had ecclesiastical connections. The absence of the depiction of a church on this map may suggest that it was no longer in use. However, no church is depicted in the barony map for Clanmahon.

The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map of the area depicts the modern Church of Ireland church within a rectangular graveyard and the graveyard at the opposite side of the road. The church at the NW corner of the graveyard had already been constructed and a similar structure had been constructed at the SW corner of the graveyard. The second edition map depicts the church, its surrounding graveyard and the older graveyard as essentially unchanged. A school had been constructed adjacent to the church and the building at the NW end of the graveyard is labelled parochial hall.

Interpretation

As there are no other church sites in the parish of Ballintemple it is reasonable to assume that this may have been the site of the medieval parish church. The location of the site in close proximity to the ringwork castle also in Ballintemple would suggest that it was a manorial centre established by Anglo-Normans trying to establish themselves in East Bréifne. The church could have been an Anglo-Norman foundation or a pre-Norman church taken over by the arriving Anglo-Normans. In light of the failure of the Anglo-Normans to establish a permanent presence is the area, any manorial centre was likely to be short lived, although the church would have continued to be used by the local population.

Abbreviations and references

Cal. Papal Reg. = Various (eds). 1893-1998. *Calendar of Papal Registers Relating to Great Britain and Ireland*, (20 Vols). London and Dublin: H.M.S.O. and Stationery Office.

Irish Patent Rolls, Jac. I = Griffith, M. C. (ed.) 1966. *Irish Patent Rolls of James I.* Dublin: Stationery Office for the Irish Manuscripts Commission.

Irish Pipe Roll = Davies, O. and Quinn, D. B. (eds) 1941. "The Irish pipe roll of 14 John 1211-12". *Ulster Journal of Archaeology* New series, supplement:37-41.

Davies, O. 1948b. "The churches of county Cavan". *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland* 78:73-118.

Gwynn, A. and Hadcock, R. N. 1988. (eds) *Medieval religious houses in Ireland.* Dublin.

Masterson, R. 2003. "The Diocese of Kilmore and the Priory of Fore: 1100-1540". *Breifne* 39:1-20.

White, N. (ed.) 1943. *Extents of Irish monastic possessions 1540-1541: from manuscripts in the Public Record Office, London*, Dublin: The Stationery Office.

Ballintemple ringwork castle

RMP no.	CV031-008---
Townland	Ballintemple
Civil Parish	Ballintemple
Barony	Clanmahon
County	Cavan
OS six-inch sheet no.	Cavan sheet 31
Discovery Series sheet no.	34
Irish National Grid ref.	239992, 295645
Classification	Ringwork castle

Siting

This ringwork castle is located close to the top of a drumlin, on a NW facing slope. The immediate surroundings of the site have been planted with trees and the wider landscape has a drumlin topography. The trees planted on the banks and fosse obscure the views from this site, but otherwise there would be good views to the north and east. It is in an area of rough pasture, and the soil is prone to waterlogging.

Description

This site is a circular platform (int. diam. 37.6m E-W), surrounded by a fosse and external bank. There is a low bank or berm on the edge of the platform (H. 0.75m to 1.2m, W. 1.55 to 2.2m). A house has been constructed to the SE of the site and the outer bank has been removed from the SW to the SE and at the E side of the site. Sections of the outer bank (H. 1.5m to 1.8m, W. 1.4m to 2.5m) have been incorporated into the surrounding field bank. The banks and fosse are overgrown with trees, bushes and bracken.

There is a gap in the inner bank at the ENE, and this may have been the original entrance to the site. Although the outer bank is absent at the entranceway, trees and bushes block this part of it. There is a causeway across the fosse at this entrance and it is significantly higher than the fosse north of this causeway. To the south of the causeway a 3m wide section of the fosse has been raised and is used as access to the site for machinery. Outside of this there is a 3.5m wide section of waterlogged fosse. At the W side of the site, the fosse is 3.75m in width and is probably a more accurate reflection of the original form of the site. On this western side the fosse has been

infilled and due to this and the natural rise in the level of the land, the fosse is 0.25m higher than external ground level.

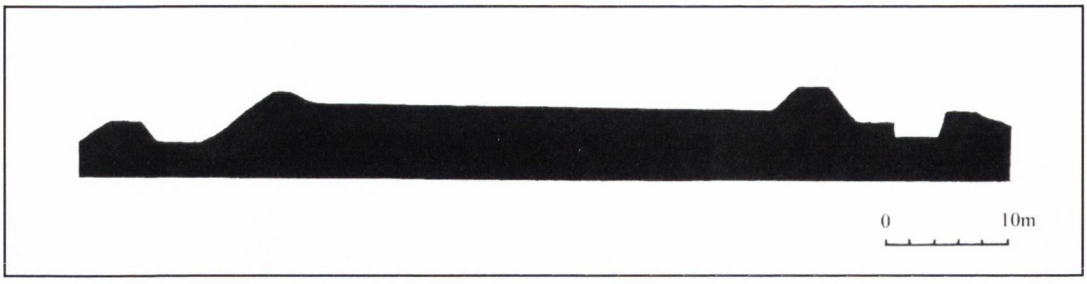

Fig.G.6: Profile of Ballintemple ringwork castle W-E.

The platform is 4.25m H on the W side, with 0.75m of that height made up of the bank on the edge of the platform. It is significantly lower on the E side, 2.9m H, with 1.2m of that height being made up of the bank. The interior of the site had been cleared of vegetation in the weeks before this site visit. The interior has a saucer shape, due to the slumping of the surrounding bank. There are a number of trees in the centre of the interior of the site, which is otherwise featureless. The site slopes gently from NE-SW.

Fig. G.7: The west side of the fosse of the ringwork castle at Ballintemple.

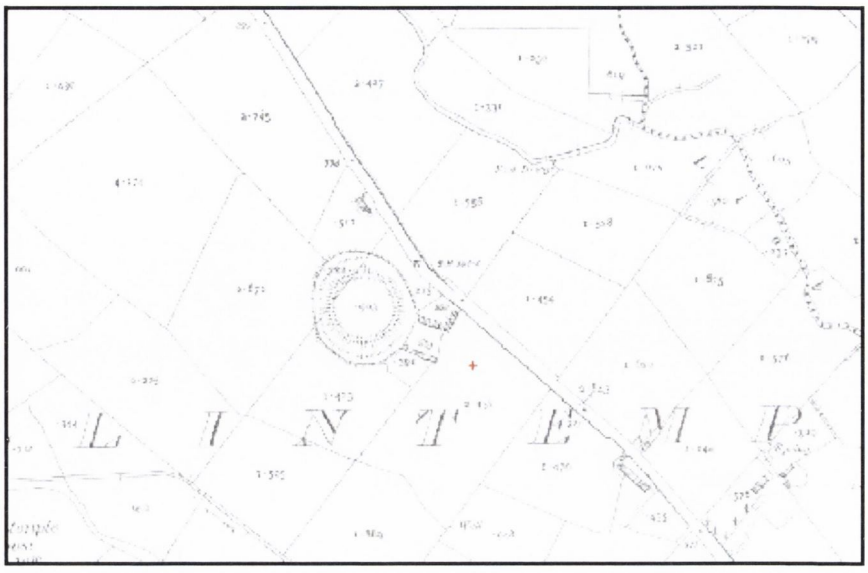

Fig. G.8: Ballintemple platform ringfort as depicted on the *Ordnance Survey* twenty-five-inch.

Adjacent sites

The Church of Ireland church (CV031-007---) in Ballintemple is located *c.*420m N of this site and a ringfort site (CV031-006---), in the same townland, is *c.*720m N. The crannóg (CV031-017---) and ringfort (CV031-018---) in Dillagh are *c.*1.8km SW and *c.*1.6km W of this site respectively.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information.

No documentary references or antiquarian accounts of this site were uncovered during the current research. However, the fact that the de Lacys appear to have granted the tithes of the parish of Ballintemple to the priory which they founded at Fore, county Westmeath, would suggest that they were active in the region at the end of the twelfth and beginning of the thirteenth century (Masterson 2003). (See gazetteer entry CV031-007--- and section 6. 2 for further details on de Lacy involvement in the area).

The *Maps of the Escheated Counties of Ulster* and the *Down Survey* map of the barony of Clanmahon depict the church or church lands in Ballintemple, but do not include any other features. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map of the area, depicts this ringwork castle as a substantial site, but it is unclear how many banks enclosed it. A house had already been constructed close to the site. The second edition six-inch map depicts the ringwork castle as a bi-vallate enclosure and it appears to have been altered little since the compilation of this map. More structures had been built close to

the house and it is clear that they impacted upon this site. The fosse and outer bank had been altered from the N to the SE.

Interpretation

The morphology of the earthwork at Ballintemple makes it difficult to classify as it could equally be termed a ringwork castle or a platform ringfort. There are a number of platform ringforts in the barony of Clanmahon, but only one other example in the parish of Ballintemple. The siting of this earthwork on the top of a drumlin would suggest defense was a consideration in its siting. The parish church for Ballintemple is located *c.*420m N of this site, and both are in the townland with the same name as the parish. Moreover, a roadway links the church and earthwork. The morphology of the site with a single external bank and fosse is also more indicative of a ringwork castle than a platform ringfort, although similar univallate platform ringforts do exist. The siting, proximity of a parish church and morphology combined with the historical evidence that the de Lacys were involved in the area would all appear to indicate that this site is best classified as a ringwork castle. (See section 6.3, 8.1 and 8.2 for further discussion of the site's classification).

References

Masterson, R. 2003. "The Diocese of Kilmore and the Priory of Fore: 1100-1540". *Breifne* 39:1-20.

Bawn moated site

RMP no.	CV041-001-
Townland	Bawn
Civil Parish	Drumlumman
Barony	Clanmahon
County	Cavan
OS six-inch sheet no.	Cavan sheet 41
Discovery Series sheet no.	34
Irish National Grid ref.	236800, 284380
Classification	Moated site

Siting

Bawn moated site is located on top of a high ridge of ground, which commands very good views in all directions especially to the S and E and the landowner pointed out Lough Sheelin, Granard and Enniskillen.

Description

The site consists of a large rectangular area (64m x 57m int. dims), enclosed by a bank and external fosse, with a possible external bank on the NE side only. The interior of the site is clear of tree growth, but they grow at the edges of the enclosed area and on the banks. Stone is visible in the fosse in several places, but there are no large blocks of stone. The internal bank is 2.2m above the height of the fosse and 1.10m in height above the interior of the site. The fosse varies between 2m and 2.5m in width. The external fosse is 3m in width, 1.25m in external height and 2.25m in internal height.

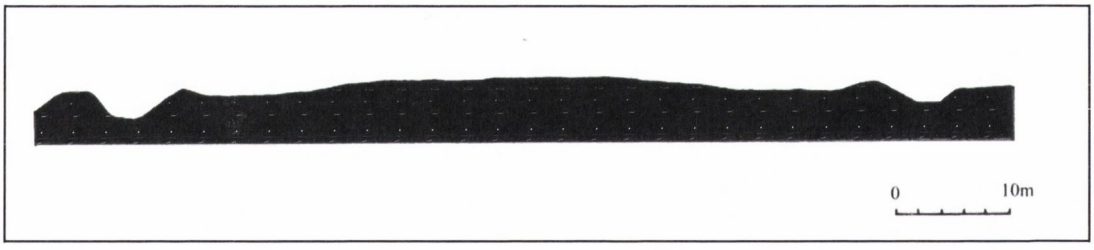

Fig. G.9: Profile of Bawn moated site NE-SW.

There is a raised area in the centre of the enclosure that is irregular in plan. Within this raised area there are also two small raised areas, both of which are overgrown with grass but have a high stone content. The owner of the site indicated that there is a tradition that a castle once stood on the site. There is damage to the centre of the NW bank and there is a causeway across the fosse at this point suggesting that this may

have been the location of the original entrance to the site. There is another gap located at the east corner of moated site, but his appears to be a modern addition and tractor tracks in the areas suggests that the farmer uses it for access. There are a number of conglomerate boulders in the moated site, and in the adjacent field there is a line of them along one side of it.

Fig. G.10: Fosse around Bawn moated site at the NW.

There are two possible interpretations of this site; a moated site or a bawn that surrounded a tower house. The RMP and the *Archaeological inventory of county Cavan* both classify the site as a bawn, but without an explanation for that classification. It is likely that this interpretation is based on the name of the townland, Bawn.

Adjacent sites

There are a number of other moated sites within 3km of this site; *c.*2.4km SE is the site of a moated site in Lisnadarragh (CV041-014---), *c.*2.8km SE is the moated site in Carrickabane (CV041-007---) and *c.*2km to the W is the moated site of Cloghchurnel, county Longford (LF011-066---). The church in Bracklagh is located *c.*2.6km to the SE of this site. There is one ringfort within 1km of the site and the closest platform ringfort is *c.*3km to the NE in Moynagh Lower (CV037-051---).

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information.

The Ordnance Survey namebooks translate the name Bawn, Badhbhdhún, as a castle bawn. There is no townland called Bawn on the *Maps of the Escheated Counties of Ulster* instead there is a townland called Drumlumman in its location, which contains a church. This would suggest that the townland name Bawn is comparatively recent. Bawn appears to have been within an area of unforfeited lands on the *Down Survey* map of the barony of Clanmahon and is therefore not depicted or labelled. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map of this area depicts the site as a rectangular area enclosed by a bank. The second edition map depicts the site as a rectangular area enclosed by a bank and external fosse. On the south and west sides there is a field boundary outside the fosse and on the east and north sides there is another bank outside the fosse. The surrounding area has been sub-divided with field boundaries and a laneway runs along the S side of the site connecting the nucleation of buildings NE of the site with the roadway to the west.

Fig. G.11: 3D terrain model of the moated site at Bawn from the northwest (after O'Conor 2008).

Davies surveyed the site in 1946 and a copy of this report is contained in the NMI monument files for county Cavan and he also included Bawn in his 1948 article on the Castles of county Cavan (Davies 1948a, 109-110). Davies noted the absence of the remains of buildings within the bawn. He argued that the deterioration of the southwest

and northeast corners could mark the site of angle-towers, but the other corners contained no traces of such structures.

Interpretation

In the *Archaeological Inventory of county Cavan* (O'Donovan 1997, 234-235) classifies this site as a bawn, and suggests that sites with this classification may have formerly been attached to tower houses. O'Conor (2008) argues that there is no evidence that a tower house or anything similar ever existed on or adjacent to this site and he classifies the site as a large moated site. The nearby site at Carrickabane (CV041-007---), which is classified as a moated site, is of similar dimensions and morphology. It is clear that this site fulfils the criteria of a moated site as described in the *Archaeological inventory of county Cavan:* 'a rectangular area enclosed by a wide, water-filled moat or fosse with internal bank' (O'Donovan 1995, 222). In absence of any evidence to the contrary this site must be classified as a moated site.

References

Davies, O. 1948a. "The castles of county Cavan: part 2". *Breifne* 11:81-126.

O'Conor, K. 2008. "Survey of Bawn moated site, Co. Cavan". Unpublished report N.U.I, Galway.

O'Donovan, P. 1997. *The castles of county Cavan*. Unpublished MLitt thesis, Trinity College Dublin.

O'Donovan, P. F. 1995. *Archaeological Inventory of County Cavan*. Dublin: Stationery Office.

Bellville Bawn site

RMP no.	CV025-00601-
Townland	Bellville
Civil Parish	Kilmore
Barony	Clanmahon
County	Cavan
OS six-inch sheet no.	Cavan sheet 25
Discovery Series sheet no.	34
Irish National Grid ref.	238570, 299730
Classification	Bawn site

Siting

This site is situated in a fertile pastureland surrounded by higher ground at all sides. It is located in the grounds of Bellville House, an eighteenth century house.

Description

No upstanding remains of the bawn recorded in the *Archaeological inventory of county Cavan* (O'Donovan 1995, 160) were identified at the site. It is described in this publication as 'Possible plantation bawn on Fleming's estate. Remains comprise a low, sub-rectangular platform (dims *c.* 53m NW-SW; 38m NE-SW) with apparently rounded corners, extending W from the present early 18th century house (Davies 1948a, 94). The site has been levelled and the surface remains are difficult to distinguish at the site'.

Adjacent sites

The folly in Bellville (CV025-009---), located on top of a hill with extensive views, is *c.*700m E of this site. While the structure is reminiscent of a tower house with intra-mural stairs and a chimney, it is clear that this structure is a folly. It is not unlikely that it was designed to resemble a tower house, as it was fashionable to have ruins on an estate and consequently follies were built to resemble ancient ruins.

The folly is a square poorly constructed building (9m x 9m external dimensions), composed of small blocks of uncoursed stone. The intra-mural stairs runs inside the thickness of the south and east walls, which are consequently much thicker than the north and west walls. A doorway is located in the middle of the south wall, with the stairs rising from the east side of it. There is a fireplace and chimney in the centre of

the north wall. A series of joist holes more than half way up the walls indicates the location of a floor.

There are three ringforts within the townland of Bellville, all within 1km of this site. The platform ringfort (CV025-083---) and castle site (CV025-084---) in Lismore Demesne are located *c.*2km to the NW. The castle site (CV025-06301-) and crannóg (CV025-059---) in Kevit Upper are located *c.*1.5km to the NE.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information.

The *Ordnance Survey* namebooks record that Bellville House, the ancient seat of the Flemings, was situated near the W side of the townland. It was falling into disrepair at this time, because the estate was in debt. It also records the presence of a house on a hill at the SE edge of the townland called Fleming's Folly, which can be seen from the surrounding countryside.

The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map does not depict a rectangular earthwork projecting west from the Bellville House. The map does depict numerous rectilinear estate features such as ponds, fishponds and geometric gardens. The second edition does not depict any rectangular earthwork at the west side of Bellville House and by this date many of the estate features appear to have been removed.

Fig. G.12: Bellville House as depicted on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map.

Interpretation

The location of this site within an estate landscape suggests that while this site may have been a bawn or moated site, it is probable that it was an estate feature. In the absence of above ground remains or an excavation it is impossible to classify this site with any certainty.

References

Davies, O. 1948a. "The castles of county Cavan: part 2". *Breifne* 11:81-126.

O'Donovan, P. F. 1995. *Archaeological Inventory of County Cavan.* Dublin: Stationery Office.

Bracklagh Church

RMP no.	CV041-002---
Townland	Bracklagh
Civil Parish	Drumlumman
Barony	Clanmahon
County	Cavan
OS six-inch sheet no.	Cavan sheet 41
Discovery Series sheet no.	34
Irish National Grid ref.	239190, 283470
Classification	Church site and graveyard

Siting

The church in Bracklagh is located in an elevated position overlooking Lough Sheelin and Lough Kinale to the south. There are good views to the south, east and west of the site that is located in an area of pastureland.

Description

The site is currently occupied by the remains of an eighteenth century Church of Ireland church. It is located at the east end of a graveyard, which contains graveslabs dating from the eighteenth century. There is a curving field boundary north of the site that suggests this may have been the site of an earlier church, but only a short section of this curved boundary survives.

Fig. G.13: Eighteenth century church and graveyard at Bracklagh, Drumlumman, Clanmahon.

Adjacent sites

The moated site in Carrickabane (CV041-007---) is located *c.*300m to the NE and the possible moated site in Lisnadarragh (CV041-014---) is *c.*180m to the N. A third moated site at Bawn (CV041-001---) is located *c.*2.6km to the NW. There are three ringforts within 1km of this church.

Documentary references and antiquarian accounts

The *Ordnance Survey Namebooks* give the name of the townland as Bracklow, *Breaclach* and translate it as speckled land. The *Namebooks* also record that the land was the property of the Archbishop of Tuam and the Bishop of Ardagh and that the parish church was situated in the NE of the townland at the south side of the road leading from Finea to Granard.

Fig. G.14: Bracklagh Church as depicted on the *Maps of the Escheated Counties of Ulster* map of the barony of Clanmahon.

Although the church on the site today is an eighteenth century Church of Ireland church Davies (1948b, 95) reports that a church is marked on this site on the Barony map. The *Down Survey* map for the barony of Clanmahon appears to indicate that the church controlled the land but a church structure is not marked on this map. However, no churches are marked on the *Down Survey* map of the barony of Clanmahon. However the church is marked on the earlier *Maps of the Escheated Counties of Ulster* for the barony of Clanmahon and is labelled 'Dromloman' church indicating that in 1609 at least this church acted as the parish church for Drumlumman.

The first and second editions of the *Ordnance Survey* six-inch map for this area depict this church and label it as 'Church'. The nearby moated sites in Carrickabane and Lisnadarragh are marked on the first edition map and the moated site in Carrickabane is marked on the second edition map.

In 1590 the hospital of Dromkemon was found to be endowed with 'tearmonslands, one cartron, val. 12d' and the 'hospital of Drimlommon was leased by King James I to Edward Moore, at a rent of 2*s*. 6*d*. at the beginning of the sixteenth century (Archdall 1873, I 66; Gwynn and Hadcock 1988, 349). These 'hospitals', which were established on termon-lands, were probably no more than small hospices set up in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, when many 'hospitals' or hospices are recorded. In county Cavan forty-six instances of hospitals endowed with lands, called 'tearmonlands' are named in 1590 and some of the endowments seem too small to have supported a 'hospital' (Gwynn and Hadcock 1988, 344). All religious houses had been expected to provide for travellers and poor pilgrims in guesthouses or hospices and it appears that even after the monasteries ceased to exist, the hereditary or secular coarbs and erenaghs provided hospitality through the endowments of the extinct monastery. This would suggest that there was a religious foundation on this site prior to the late sixteenth century and strengthens the case for identifying this church and graveyard as the site of the medieval parish church.

Interpretation

The evidence that this church was the parish church for Drumlumman along with the location of a large moated site in close proximity, could suggest that this was a manorial centre established by Anglo-Normans trying to establish themselves in the region (see section 7.1.1 for further discussion).

References

Archdall, M. (ed) 1873. *Monasticon Hibernicum or A history of the abbeys, priories and other religious houses in Ireland.* Dublin: W.B. Kelly.

Davies, O. 1948b. "The churches of county Cavan". *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland* 78:73-118.

Gwynn, A. and Hadcock, R. N. 1988. *Medieval religious houses in Ireland.* Dublin.

Carrickabane moated site

RMP no.	CV041-007---
Townland	Carrickabane
Civil Parish	Drumlumman
Barony	Clanmahon
County	Cavan
OS six-inch sheet no.	41
Discovery Series sheet no.	34
Irish National Grid ref.	239400, 283640
Classification	Moated Site

Siting

This site is located on a natural rise, north of the Lough Sheelin and Lough Kinale, with views of both. There would have been good views to the south, east and west, but views are restricted today by the tree growth around and within the site. It is located within an area of pastureland.

Description

The site consists of a raised rectangular area enclosed by a bank and external fosse. It is a massive site, with internal measurements of *c.*65m (N-S) and *c.*40m (E-W). The fosse that surrounds the site can be traced on all four sides, but the eastern, southern, and northeastern sections of the fosse are heavily overgrown. The bank can also be seen on all four sides of the site and this bank would appear to have been reduced in height through slippage over time (bank on east 3.1m in H, on west 1.05m in H.). The banks are quite gently sloping on the internal face and this is especially pronounced on the eastern side. There appears to be an amount of stone in the banks and trees grow on the banks in places.

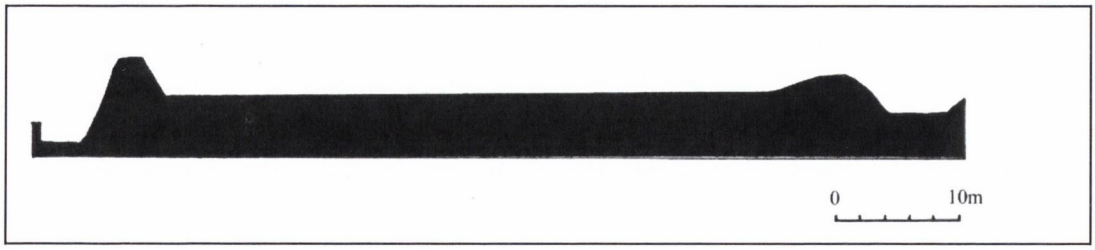

Fig. G.15: Profile of Carrickabane moated site E-W.

The sides of the fosse are quite deep and sharply sloping, which emphasises the external height of the bank. The fosse varies greatly in width, from 2.80m to 4.60m,

where it is possible to measure. The fosse is quite deep, measuring 6.8m below the top of the bank to the E and 3.20 to the W. Previous reports in the site, indicate that the interior of the site was heavily overgrown, but when the site was visited in June 2008, the interior was reasonably clear and two sides of the fosse were heavily overgrown. These earlier reports also mention a counterscarp bank on the south side of the site but this could not be located when the site was visited. The clearance of the interior of the site could be responsible for the unusually sharp profile of the E bank, while the W bank appears to be a more accurate representation of its original form.

There are two possible entrances to the site, one towards the centre of the north bank and one close to the southwest corner of the site. There is a possible causeway across the fosse at the gap in the north bank, but this is a large gap in the bank (*c.*4m W) and may be modern. The second gap is much narrower and there did not appear to be a causeway across the fosse but the fosse is heavily overgrown at this point. The inventory entry for the site and some on the reports in the SMR file record the presence of a possible entrance on the west side of the site, but this feature could not be located. The interior of the site is generally featureless, but clearance of the interior since the last noted inspection in 1986, may have destroyed any surviving features.

Adjacent Sites

The site of a moated site in Lisnadarragh (CV041-014---) is located *c.*320m to the W and the moated site in Bawn (CV041-001---) is *c.*2.8km to the NW. The church in Bracklagh (CV041-00201-) is located *c.*300m to the SW. There are two possible crannógs (CV041-006---, CV041-005---) close to the N shore of Lough Sheelin, within *c.*2.5km of the site. The platform ringfort in Moynagh Upper is located *c.*2km to the N. There are three ringforts within 1km of this site.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information.

The *Maps of the Escheated Counties of Ulster* includes the townland of 'Craggabbane', which is bounded by bogland to the east and south. This area is not depicted on the *Down Survey* barony map, as it was included in an area of unforfeited lands. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map depicts the site as a rectangular area enclosed by a bank and labels it 'Drumlumman'. The second edition of the same map depicts the site as a rectangular area enclosed by a bank and external fosse. There is a

field bank outside this fosse on the W, E and S sides, while on the N side the fosse is wider and there is a gap in the bank and fosse towards the centre of that side.

The *Ordnance Survey* namebooks gives the name of the townland as Carrickbawn, *Carraic Bán* and translates it as White Rock. It also notes the presence of 'a large square fort at the N side of the townland called 'Drumlumman Fort'. This corresponds with the location of Carrickabane moated site.

Fig. G.16: Carrickabane moated site (labelled Drumlumman) as depicted on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map.

Davies (1948a, 109) states that Carrick or Lisnadarragh was a large estate at both ends of Lough Sheelin, leased by Lord Lambert. The moated site in Carrickabane was within this estate and is described as a Lambert Bawn. He only describes one possible entrance, at the NW side of the site, which had no causeway across the fosse. Davies (1948a, 109) states that there was no trace of any buildings in the interior.

Interpretation

Although Davies (1948a, 109) argues that this is a bawn, it is clear that this is a moated site. The location of the probable medieval parish church in Bracklagh close to this site could suggest that this was a manorial centre established by the Anglo-Normans trying to establish a foothold in East Bréifne. Moated sites have been identified at manorial centres in Galway and Wicklow and probably await identification in other parts of

Ireland. (See section 7.1.1 for further discussion of the moated sites in Drumlumman parish and neighbouring areas).

References

Davies, O. 1948a. "The castles of county Cavan: part 2". *Breifne* 11:81-126.

Carrick Church site

RMP no.	CV041-003---
Townland	Carrick
Civil Parish	Drumlumman
Barony	Clanmahon
County	Cavan
OS six-inch sheet no.	Cavan sheet 41
Discovery Series sheet no.	34
Irish National Grid ref.	239940, 283880
Classification	Tradition of a Church site

Siting

This church site is located on top of an E facing slope with good views to the west and north of the surrounding countryside that includes Lough Sheelin.

Description

There are no remains of a church or graveyard on this site. A woman who lives across the road from the site indicated that there was a tradition that it was a church site. She referred to the site as Carrickakillew, which is the name of the adjoining townland. Indeed the church site is located on the townland boundary between the townlands of Carrick and Carrickakillew. The placename Carrickakillew suggests that there was a church in the area. There is a modern Roman Catholic Church to the east of this site, with an emancipation bell on a hill just behind the church. The local woman also indicated that it was 'a church during penal times'.

Adjacent sites

The church in Bracklagh (CV041-00201-) is located *c.*900m to the W. There is just one ringfort within 1km of the site and a platform ringfort *c.*1.6km to the N in Moynagh Upper (CV037-054---). Lough Sheelin is located *c.*1.6km to the S. of the site.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information.

No documentary references or antiquarian accounts were uncovered during this research. The church is not marked on any of the cartographic sources. The *Maps of the Escheated Counties of Ulster* map of the barony of Clanmahon includes the townland of Carrick, but the townland of Carrickakillew is named as Killgorvall. Both townland names suggest that a church was located within this townland. The

townlands of Carrick and Carrickakillew are not included in the *Down Survey* map of the barony of Clanmahon, as it was part of the unforfeited lands. Nothing is depicted on this site on the first and second editions of the *Ordnance Survey* six-inch map.

Interpretation

It is reasonable to conclude that there was a church in the area at some point in the past. However, it is impossible to suggest when it might have been in use, on the basis of the evidence available to this study.

Clonbockoge platform ringfort

RMP no.	CV042-05001-
Townland	Clonbockoge
Civil Parish	Kilbride
Barony	Clanmahon
County	Cavan
OS six-inch sheet no.	Cavan sheet 42
Discovery Series sheet no.	34
Irish National Grid ref.	250940, 283840
Classification	Platform ringfort

Siting

This platform ringfort is located on a natural prominence in the landscape. There are good views from it in all directions and the landowner pointed out that the platform ringforts in Dungummin Upper and Garrysallagh O'Reilly were visible from the platform. It is located in an area of pastureland, and sheep are often grazed in this field.

Description

The site consists of a sub-circular platform enclosed by a bank and internal fosse. Sheds and a garden surround the eastern side of the site. These sheds are part of a farmyard which is located east of the site and ground level in the farmyard is 1.90m lower than the level of the fosse on the west side of the site. The construction of these sheds was likely to have been the cause of the removal of the bank on the east side of the site. The site is much more impressive when approached from the west rather the east. On the east site the bank and platform slopes very gently down towards the fosse, while on the west side the platform is quite steep sided. The platform is 2.10m above the fosse on the east side and only 0.75m above the fosse on the west side. The remainder of the flat bottom fosse is 3.65m wide on the east side, where it is truncated by the sheds, and 9.70m wide on the west side.

The bank which surrounds the site is 0.5m high internally and 0.40m high externally on the western side. The inner fosse survives on all sides of the site. The width of this fosse varies greatly from 3.5m to 9.70m, with the widest measurements on the west side. There is no sign of an entrance feature probably due to the disturbed nature of the site

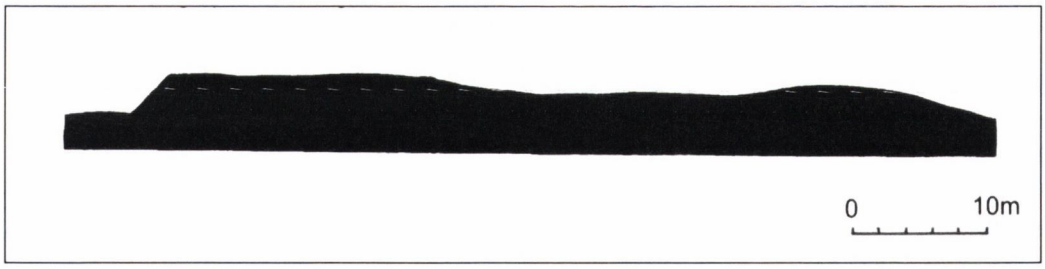

Fig. G.17: Profile of Clonbockoge platform ringfort, E-W.

The platform in the centre is probably a natural mound that was scarped during the construction of the ringfort. The diameter of the platform is quite small (14.80m), but given the distance over which it slopes (7.30m) and the width of the fosse (9.70) it is possible that it once larger. Ploughing and land clearance may have been responsible for the erosion of the platform and surrounding bank on the west side, giving them their gently undulating appearance. There are a number of features on the platform. A depression on the west side of the platform was pointed out by the landowner as being the reputed site of a 'tunnel' and this is probably the 'souterrain possible' referred to in the RMP. At the north side of the platform there is a large stone slab beside which a small tree (possible whitethorn) is growing.

Fig. G.18: Clonbockoge platform ringfort, the south side of the platform.

In the fosse at the north side of the site, are what appear to be the stone footings of a rectangular structure. A line of stone survives on the north and east sides, while the corner is preserved on the southeast side. This structure measures 4.50m by 3.50m. Previous reports have suggest that this structure may represent the remains of a house, but the remains of the structure would suggest that it was too small to have functioned as such (O'Donovan 1995, 54). It would also have been more practical to position a house structure on the platform rather than in the fosse. There is a significant quantity of stone in visible in the sides of the platform to the south and east.

Adjacent sites

The platform ringfort (CV042-02701-) in Dungummin Upper is located *c.*500m to the SE of this site. There are five ringforts within 1km of this site. The burial mound (CV042-04601-), wayside cross (CV041-00102-), church (CV041-00101-) and cross-inscribed stone (CV042-04602-) in Aghnaskeagh *c.*2.5km W of the site. The church site and graveyard (CV038-032--) in Gallonreagh is located c.3.5km to the N of this site. The motte (CV038-00502-) and tower house site (CV038-05501-) in Racraveen are located *c.*3km to the N.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

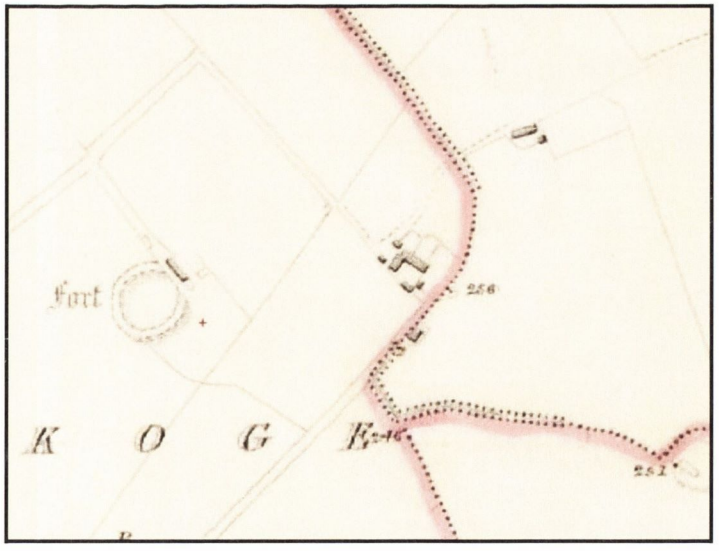

Fig.G.19: Clonbockoge platform ringfort as depicted on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map.

No documentary references or antiquarian accounts of this site were uncovered during this research. The *Maps of the Escheated Counties of Ulster* map of the barony of Clanmahon includes the townland of 'Clonbackogie' but does not include any man made features within it. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map depicts this site as a circular area enclosed by a bank. It also indicates that by the 1840s the NW side of the ringfort had already been impacted by the construction of a house, which was accessed by a laneway that runs from NE-SW. By the time the second edition has been compiled further buildings had been constructed at the NW side of the site further impacting the site which is depicted as a circular area enclosed by a field boundary which slopes downwards on its eastern and western sides.

Interpretation

This platform ringforts has been altered significantly in the recent past, but on the basis of its current morphology it has been classified as a platform ringfort with a single enclosing bank (see section 7.1.3. for further discussion of platform ringforts in Clanmahon).

References

O'Donovan, P. F. 1995. *Archaeological Inventory of County Cavan*. Dublin: Stationery Office.

Crover Castle

RMP no.	CV038-019---
Townland	Crover
Parish	Ballymachugh
Barony	Clanmahon
County	Cavan
OS six-inch sheet no.	Cavan sheet 38
Discovery Series sheet no.	34
Irish National Grid ref.	247140, 285360
Classification	Tower house

Siting

Crover castle is located on an island 300m from the west shore of Lough Sheelin. The lake was drained in the 1960s and the island would thus have had a smaller area prior to this event. According to a local fisherman it is possible to wade over the island during the summer months when the level of the lake is low. A spur that runs out to the island is marked with a series of rods, as boats can become stuck in this area of shallow water.

Description

The castle is a tower house, at least 3 storeys in height with a pronounced base batter. The tower house is in a poor state of repair and local people report that it has deteriorated rapidly in recent years since ivy that grew on the castle was cut. The NW and SW walls survive almost to their full height. The east corner of the tower house has been almost completely destroyed, leaving only sections of the NE and SE walls extant.

The tower house appears to have been entered via a doorway at the east end of the SE wall. The doorway is no longer extant, and only a gap in the wall survives, 1.15m in width. An intramural staircase is located to the right of the doorway and would have run along the SE wall before turning and continuing along the NE wall where it rises to the second floor. No evidence remains for access from this staircase to the first floor, but the disturbed nature of the NE wall means that any possible doorway would have been destroyed.

Fig. G.20: Collapsing barrel vault and NW wall of Crover Castle.

There would have been two floors below the barrel vault (the ground and first floor). This barrel vault is largely collapsed, with the collapsed stone sitting on the floor of the tower house. At ground floor level the only window appears to be located in the NW wall and is *c.*1.20m in height, by *c.*1m in width. The depth of the window and the thickness of the wall at this point are 2.10m. The SW wall contains a blocked up recess (1.25m in width), which does not appear to have originally been a window. There is a wall cupboard in the centre of the ground floor level of the NE wall that also houses the intra-mural staircase. The internal dimensions of the castle are 6.1m SW-NE x 4.5m NW-SE.

The only surviving feature at first floor level is a window in the SW wall. It appears to be the remains of a large rectangular ope, set within an embrasure. However the ope is too badly damaged to allow any definite statement on its original form. Davies (1947a, 96) describes the ope as being badly damaged but offers no further description of it. The curve of the barrel vault on the NW and SE walls prevented the insertion of features into these walls. The NE wall is badly damaged, but there was probably a doorway in this wall to provide access to the first floor.

Fig. G.21: Window in the internal face of the NW wall of Crover Castle at ground floor level.

Only the NW wall of the second floor survives to any extent. It contains a doorway off the staircase, from which you turn left into a passageway, which contains a window in the outer wall. This window is badly damaged, but it would appear to originally have been a narrow rectangular window, min. width 0.15m, height 0.85m and depth 0.50m. The passageway, which is 2.1m in height and 0.65m in width, leads to a chamber, the outer wall of which is curved. The wall that would originally have separated it from the main chamber of this floor has been broken out. There is a drop of 0.75m to the level of the floor of this chamber. The location of this embrasure directly above the garderobe chute would indicate that this area would have functioned as a garderobe. There is an ope in the outer curved wall of the garderobe, which has no surviving cut stone around it, and is 0.25cm in width. Beside the garderobe there is a small loop with very narrow access to it. The narrow access to this loop would suggest that it is a gun loop rather than an arrow loop, as there would not be enough space to pull a bow. It is unclear whether this loop would originally have been accessed from the garderobe or the main room. The entrance to the second floor must have been located in the NE wall

at the top of the staircase. Unfortunately the damage to this wall is extensive and there are no surviving remains of a doorway. There is a window at the top of the stairs in the NE wall. It is well preserved rectangular ope, 0.75m in width, 0.82m in height and 0.55m in depth. It narrows towards the outside and its external width is 0.4m.

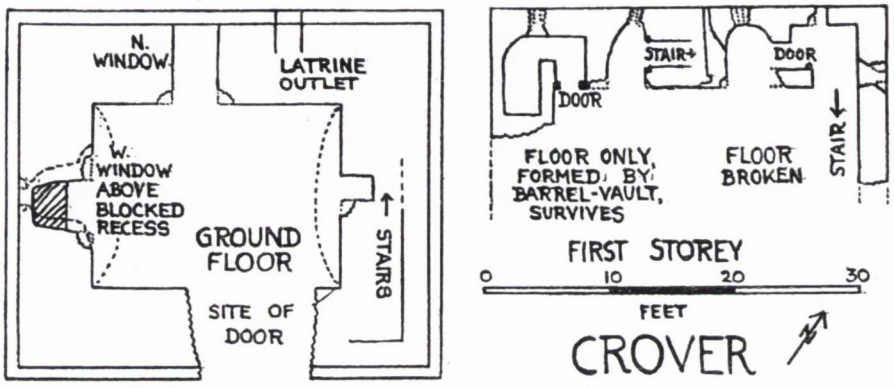

Fig. G.22: Plan of Crover Castle (after Davies 1947a, 96).

The rest of the castle was inaccessible due to the unstable nature of the surviving portions of the barrel vault. Consequently, we must rely on the plans produced by Davies (1947a) and information from local people. The west half of the NW wall contains another window embrasure with a curved plan and a passageway in the thickness of the corner of the NW and SW walls. A set of steps rises from mid-way along this wall, between the two window embrasures. According to Davies and local people the steps lead to the roof level. This set of steps was accessed through a doorway that Davies described in an NMI monument file, dated 1942, as 'a door with ashlar lintel and bevelled jambs'. In this report Davies also noted the presence of 'musketry loophole' on the stairs and he argues that the form of the loops in the castle indicates that it cannot be earlier than the fifteenth century.

Adjacent sites

There are five possible crannógs within *c.*750m of the island where this tower house is located. There is a platform ringfort (CV038-020---) in the townland of Crover *c.*1.2km to the N of this site and another *c.*1.8km to the E in the townland of Garrysallagh O'Reilly (CV042-026---). The motte (CV037-042---) and nearby church (CV037-041---) at Lavagh are located *c.*3km NW of this tower house. The site of a

tower house is located *c.*2.5km to the NE on the summit of a motte in the townland of Racraveen (CV038-054---).

Fig. G.23: Crover Castle from the SW, indicating the overgrown state of the tower house.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information.

The *Genealogical History of the O'Reilly's* (Carney 1959) credits Tomás O'Reilly with the construction of a 'Caislén na Locha'. This castle is reputed to be Crover Castle (O'Donovan 1995, 235). The *Annals of Bréifne* (*AB*, 1384) report that Tomás O'Reilly succeeded Philip O'Reilly as King of Bréifne in 1384, and that Tomás died in 1390. This would appear to be an early date for a tower house especially one that included gun loops.

Oliver Davies (1947a, 95-96) includes Crover Castle in his discussion of the castles of county Cavan, and he reports that 'the castle in Lough Shiline Lake called Castlenelocgh' [Castle na Lough] is included in a 1622 grant of the Carrick estate to Oliver Lambert, along with rights over the waters of Lough Sheelin (*Patent Rolls, Jac. I*, 19 Jac. I., pt. 2 17, *Inq. In officio rot. canc. hib.*, II Cavan 6 Jac. I). A 1622 survey of Cavan reported that Capt Lyon held 500 acres in the 'Precinct of Clonemahon',

including an old castle in an island 'which is not soe much as repaired' (Ó Gallachair 1958, 71).

Fig. G.24: Crover castle as depicted on the *Maps of the Escheated Counties of Ulster* map of the barony of Clanmahon.

The *Maps of the Escheated Counties of Ulster* for the barony of Clanmahon depicts a building that resembles a tower house on an island on the east side of Lough Sheelin. The *Down Survey* barony map for Clanmahon does not include a depiction of this tower house. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map of the area labels the island 'Crover Old Castle' in gothic script and the second edition map, which includes the label 'Crover Old Castle (in Ruins)', depicts the rectangular plan of the site and the location of the castle on the island.

Interpretation

This site is best interpreted as a tower house, which was probably constructed in the second half of the fifteenth century after the introduction of firearms to Ireland. It was probably in a state of disrepair in the early seventeenth century and it is not clear if it was inhabited again after that date. (See section 8.5 and 8.6 for further discussion of this castle and settlement nucleation in Crover).

Abbreviations and references

AB = de hÓir, E. (ed). 1970. "Annala as Breifne". *Breifne* IV(13):59-86.

Inq. in officio rot. canc. hib. = 1826-9. *Inquisitionum in Officio Rotulorum Cancellariae Hiberniae Asservatum Repertorum*, (2 Vols). Dublin: Grierson and Keene.

Patent Rolls, Jac. I = Griffith, M.C. (ed.) 1966. *Irish Patent Rolls of James I.* Dublin: Stationery Office for the Irish Manuscripts Commission.

Carney, J. (ed.) 1959. *A genealogical history of the O'Reillys by Eóghan O'Raghallaigh*. Dublin: Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies.

Davies, O. 1947a. "The castles of county Cavan: part 1". *Ulster Journal of Archaeology* 10:73-100.

O'Donovan, P.F. 1995. *Archaeological Inventory of County Cavan*. Dublin: Stationery Office.

Ó Gallachair, P. 1958. "1622 Survey of Cavan". *Breifne* 1(1):60-75.

Crover Platform Ringfort

RMP no.	CV038-020---
Townland	Crover
Civil Parish	Ballymachugh
Barony	Clanmahon
County	Cavan
OS six-inch sheet no.	Cavan sheet 38
Discovery Series sheet no.	34
Irish National Grid ref.	247190, 286470
Classification	Platform ringfort

Siting

The platform ringfort is located close to the north shore of Lough Sheelin, and there are a number of other monuments in the townland of Crover, including four crannógs and a tower house on an island in the lake. The site is located in a dip in the surrounding undulating landscape. The site is surrounded by large trees that obscure the views from the site. The site is located on the north side of an avenue, which provides access to a large house, probably eighteenth or nineteenth century in date.

Description

The site consists of a circular platform, enclosed by two banks with internal fosses and an inner bank or berm around the edge of the platform. This is a large and impressive site, with internal dimensions of 29m N-S and 24m E-W. The edges of the interior of the site are badly overgrown and there is some tree growth in the interior. The berm along the edge of the platform is 0.30m to 0.50m high above the interior of the platform. The platform and the berm are 1.80m to 2.10m above the bottom of the innermost fosse. The only obvious gap in this berm, although

Fig. G.25: South side of Crover platform ringfort showing the platform, bank and fosses.

it was very overgrown, was at the SE of the site, where a ramped entrance provides access to the site.

The inner fosse is flat bottomed and *c*.2.5m in width, and the only gap in this fosse occurs at the entranceway at the SE. The inner bank is *c*.4.3m in width and the top of this broad bank slopes towards the interior of the site and consequently it is only 0.75m in height above the inner fosse and 1.63m in height above the outer fosse. This bank is absent to the SE where the entrance is located and a stream runs close to the site. The outer fosse is also flat-bottomed and *c*.2.8m in width, with the outer bank a mere 0.35m above its base. Both fosses contained an amount of stone, which may have been used to face the sides of the fosses. This outer bank has a stepped profile in places, particularly to the W. Its maximum height above external ground level is 2.70m.

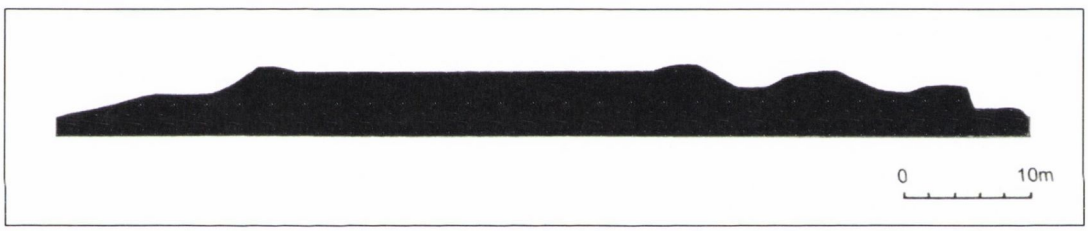

Fig. G.26: Profile of Crover platform ringfort W-E.

A ramped entrance to the site is located at the SE, and the entrance way is 2.50m in width through the innermost bank or berm, and 6m in width through the inner bank. There is a causeway across the inner fosse. The entrance faces a stream that runs along the edge of the field and a bank runs along the west side of the stream for most of the length of the ringfort. A stone wall runs from this bank to the ringfort at the north of the entrance way. The outer bank and fosse are absent for a considerable distance on this side of the ringfort.

There is a small gap in the west side of the ringfort, where it face the large house, and is likely to be a modern gap created to facilitate access to the site from the house side of the site.

Fig. G.27: Causewayed entrance to the platform ringfort at the SE of the site.

Adjacent sites

This platform ringfort is located in an area with a high density of archaeological sites. There are five crannógs within 1.25km of the site, close to the north shore of Lough Sheelin. The closest crannóg is *c.*0.5km from this site (CV038-018---). The tower house (CV038-019---) on Castle Island in Lough Sheelin is located *c.*1.1km to the S. The platform ringfort in the townland of Fortland (CV038-031---) is located *c.*1.5km to the E and the possible site of a platform ringfort is located to the E in the townland of Killyfassy (CV038-04601-). The church site at Lavagh (CV037-041---) was likely to have been the parish church for the parish of Ballymachugh and it is located *c.*3km to the west.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

The *Genealogical History of the O'Reilly's* credits Tomás O'Reilly with the construction of a 'Caislén na Locha' (Carney 1959, 12). This castle is reputed to be Crover Castle (O'Donovan 1995, 235). The *Annals of Bréifne* report that Tomás O'Reilly succeeded Philip O'Reilly as King of Bréifne in 1384, and that Tomás died in 1390 (*AB*, 1384, 1390). The later fourteenth century would appear to be an early date for the construction of a tower house in Ireland.

The *Down Survey* map of the barony of Clanmahon includes the townland of 'Crovar' but does not depict any features within it. The *Maps of the Escheated Counties of*

Ulster map of the barony of Clanmahon appears to omit the townland of Crover. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map shows the platform ringfort located beside the avenue to Woodlawn House. There is a millrace to the east of the site that is depicted as a tree covered, multi-vallate enclosure.

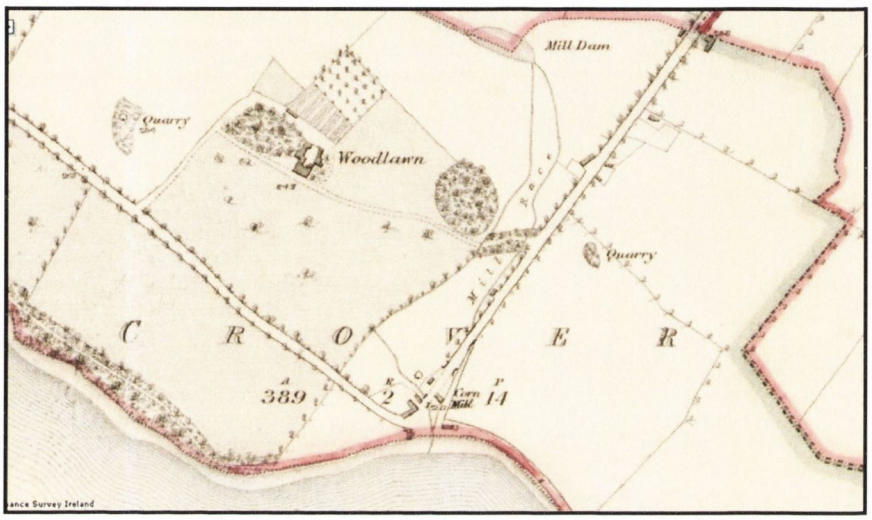

Fig. G.28: The platform ringfort in Crover as depicted on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map.

Interpretation

It has been suggested during the course of this research that this platform ringfort could have been the *Caislean an locha* and that it could have been the centre of the Clan Mahon O'Reilly lordship. The size of the site together with its location close to the crannógs and tower house in Crover townland would support this interpretation. (See section 8.5 for a discussion of this thesis).

Abbreviations and references

AB = de hÓir, E. (ed.) 1970. "Annala as Breifne". *Breifne* IV(13):59-86.

Carney, J. (ed.) 1959. *A genealogical history of the O'Reillys by Eóghan O'Raghallaigh*. Dublin: Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies.

O'Donovan, P.F. 1995. *Archaeological Inventory of County Cavan*. Dublin: Stationery Office.

Dillagh Crannóg

RMP no.	CV031-017---
Townland	Dillagh
Civil Parish	Ballintemple
Barony	Clanmahon
County	Cavan
OS six-inch sheet no.	Cavan sheet 31
Discovery Series sheet no.	31
Irish National Grid ref.	238390, 294860
Classification	Crannóg site

Siting

This crannóg was located in Dillagh Lough until it was drained in the 1980s. A tributary of the River Erne fed this lake. The crannóg was located close to two areas of higher land and the ringfort in Dillagh is located close but on one of these areas of higher ground. As expected the surrounding land is quite wet and is under rough pasture.

Description

The NMI topographical files for Dillagh townland record that this crannog was discovered when Dillagh Lake was drained in the 1980s. The lake was quite small, *c.*20 acres in extent and was surrounded by extensive marshland. The crannóg was located 10m from the original shoreline and was 18m to 20m in diameter. When the site was inspected shortly after the lake was drained, spreads of ashes, which maybe the remains of hearths were noted. Most of the stakes and piles at the centre of the island are of softwoods, alder, birch and ash; only a few planks of oak were identified. A number of finds were collected from the surface of the crannóg during the inspection of this monument in 1982; the remains of two wooden staves, probably originally part of a barrel; two leather fragments; a wooden point; and six sherds of crannóg ware pottery (NMI reg. nos 1982:107 to 1983:111). Crannóg ware is generally dated to the later medieval period and there is nothing in the rest of the assemblage that would contradict this date. The sherds of crannóg ware described in the National Museum of Ireland Topographical files as 'coarse black fired ware with very large quartz grits, one sherd is from a vessel with straight sides and a plain vertical rounded rim' (NMI Reg. No.1982:110). This would suggest that the crannóg was used during the later medieval period but it is unclear whether this was a permanent or temporary occupation of an

existing crannóg. This file also indicates that the pieces of leather might be fragments of a shoe and that one of the finds from the crannog was a wooden weaving spindle.

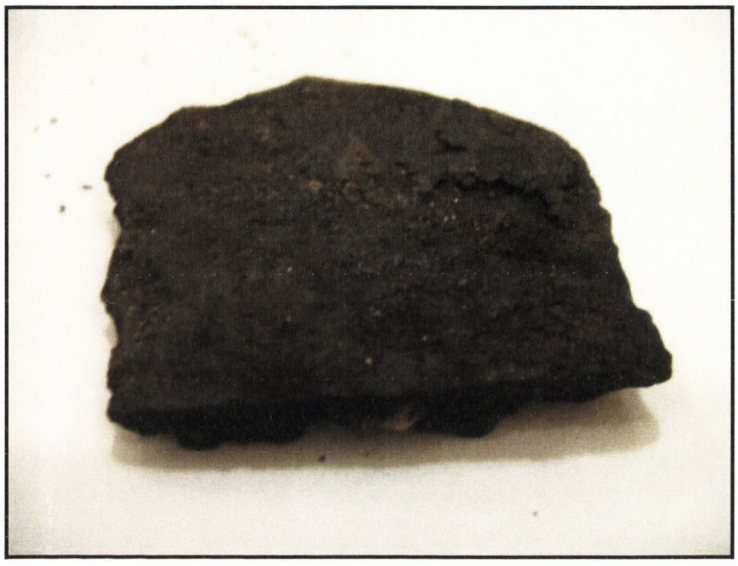

Fig. G.29: Pottery from Dillagh Crannóg (NMI reg. no. 1980:110).

The landowner indicated that the lake had been drained accidentally during work to the river that fed the lake. It was part of a scheme to improve the drainage of the surrounding area. The landowner showed us to the crannóg, it has been untouched since 1982 and is consequently quite overgrow with trees and bushes. It was impossible to get accurate measurements of the site and so instead we will rely on the measurements obtained during the examination of the site in 1982.

Fig. G.30: Dillagh crannóg location.

Adjacent sites

The platform ringort in Dillagh (CV031-018---) is located *c.*300m N of this crannóg and the ringfort site (CV031-019---) in the same townland is located *c.*800m from it. The church in Ballintemple (CV031-00701-) is located *c.*1.9km to the NE and the ringwork castle (CV031-008---) in that townland is located *c.*1.8km to the NE.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information.

No documentary references or antiquarian accounts of this site were uncovered during the current research. The *Down Survey* map of the barony of Clanmahon includes the townland of Dillagh but does not depict any features within it. The *Maps of the Escheated Counties of Ulster* for the barony of Clanmahon includes the townland of Dillagh and Dillagh Lake, but also does not depict any features within it.

Interpretation

An examination of the finds from Dillagh crannóg confirmed the impression created by the excavators report that this crannóg was occupied in the high to late medieval period. Without radiocarbon dating of the leather fragments of charcoal it is not possible to provide a more accurate date, but it is clear that there was activity on this crannóg during the study period. The nature or duration of this activity is also unclear but the presence of a wooden spindle whorl could suggest that craft activities were carried out on the crannóg.

Dillagh platform ringfort

RMP no.	CV031-018---
Townland	Dillagh
Civil Parish	Ballintemple
Barony	Clanmahon
County	Cavan
OS six-inch sheet no.	Cavan sheet 31
Discovery Series sheet no.	34
Irish National Grid ref.	238420, 295150
Classification	Platform ringfort

Siting

This site is located on a natural rise on the summit of an oval shaped hill. It is in an area of pasture and the soils are wet and heavy. Attempts have been made to improve the drainage of the area, but the soils are still prone to waterlogging.

Description

This is a low sub-circular platform (31.2m int. diam. N-S) with a berm or bank on its edge. A 1974 field report in the SMR file for the site indicates that there was a fosse at the foot of the platform, but this has largely been infilled. The platform and the bank are 1.25m H above the external ground surface at the north side of the site, and at the W side of the site they are *c.*2m H. The bank or berm is 1.6m in width and 0.35m in internal height.

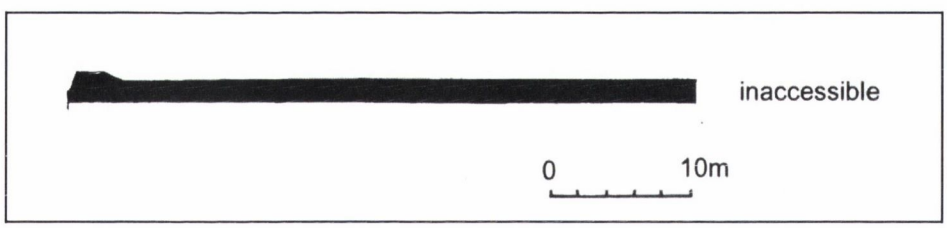

Fig. G.31: Profile of Dillagh platform ringfort S-N.

There is a large gap in the bank at the NW but this is overgrown making it impossible to measure the width of the entrance. The interior of the site has been planted with trees in the last 20 years. The landowner indicated that he used a machine to prepare the soil for planting and did not find anything of note in the soil. No features of note were observed within the interior. The land slopes down gently from the centre of the site to its perimeter on all sides.

Adjacent sites

There is a crannóg (CV031-017---) in the townland of Dillagh, *c.*275m south of the ringfort site. There is also a ringfort site (CV031-019---) in this townland, *c.*500m N of the site. The ringwork castle (CV031-008---) in Ballintemple is visible from this site (*c.*1.6km NE), as is the ringfort site (CV031-006---) in Ballintemple (*c.*1.85km NE). Finally, the church site and graveyard (CV031-007---) in Ballintemple are located *c.*1.7km NE of the site.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information.

No documentary references to this site were uncovered during this research. Davies described the site, probably in the 1940s when he did his research in Cavan, and the fosse was more evident at that date. The fosse was 6 feet (*c.*1.82m) wide, with a maximum depth of 3 feet (*c.*1m). The bank was 7 to 4.5 feet (*c.*2.1m to c.1.4m) in height from the bottom of the fosse and was 'level with the centre all round'. The ramparts are very overgrown, which makes it impossible to get further measurements. The centre slopes gently S., and was formerly planted. The fort is circular, int. diam. 35 yds' (32m) (NMI monument file for Dillagh townland, county Cavan).

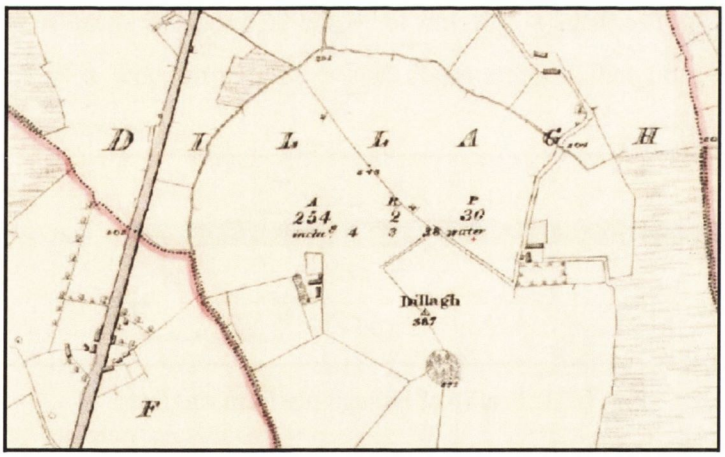

Fig.G.32: The ringfort in Dillagh and the circular field pattern as depicted on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map.

The *Down Survey* map of the barony of Clanmahon includes the townland of Dillagh but does not depict any features within it. The *Maps of the Escheated Counties of Ulster* for the barony of Clanmahon includes the townland of Dillagh and Dillagh Lake, but also does not depict any features within it. The first and second editions of the *Ordnance Survey* six-inch map of the area depict the site as a platform, with trees

growing on top of it. There is a circular field pattern to the north of the ringfort, arching clockwise from west to east.

Interpretation

This site can be interpreted as a platform ringfort with no enclosing bank, placing it in the simplest category of platform ringforts. However, there are a number of factors that differentiate this ringfort from the other sites in this category. The platform is quite low in height, only 1.25m above external ground level and most of its height is due to its location on a natural rise. The vast majority of the other sites are located on well-drained fertile lands, while this site is located in an area of waterlogged soils. The low height of the platform and its location in an area of waterlogged soils would suggest that this site was raised simply to keep the interior of the site dry. Therefore, while morphologically this site is a platform ringfort, there is much to differentiate it from the other examples identified in Clanmahon.

Drumcarban crannóg

RMP no.	CV025-040---
Townland	Drumcarban
Civil Parish	Kilmore
Barony	Clanmahon
County	Cavan
OS six-inch sheet no.	Cavan sheet 25
Discovery Series sheet no.	34
Irish National Grid ref.	235760, 299110
Classification	Crannóg

Siting

This crannóg is situated in White Lough, *c.*80m from the shoreline.

Description

This crannóg was not visited during this study, so we must rely on the account of the site compiled by Davies in the 1940s. The NMI monument files include a description of the site by Davies, 'The island is circular, 25 yards (*c.*23m) across and about 1.5 feet (*c.*0.45m) above water level. It is much overgrown. It is surrounded by a kerb of large stones one foot (*c.*0.3m) high and on one shore is visible a small area of platform of square juxtaposed logs. No other wood structure is visible, but this lake has not been affected by recent drainage like Lough Oughter'. He also reports a local tradition that there was a stone causeway running across the lake from the island NE to the lakeshore but he considered it to be unlikely due to the depth of the lake. Davies also noted a stone kerb at a crannóg on Farnham Lough (Davies 1942, 19).

Fig. G.33: Drumcarban crannóg (courtesy of the Photographic Unit, DOEHLG).

Adjacent sites

There are five ringforts within 1.5km of this site. The platform ringfort in Lismore Demesne (CV025-083---) is *c.*1.5km to the to the NE, while the castle site in the same townland is *c.*1.7km to the NE.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information.

The *Ordnance survey* namebook give the name of the townland as Drumcárbán, *Druim Cearbáin* that was translated as Cearban's ridge of long hill. The *Maps of the Escheated Counties of Ulster* includes the townland of 'Dromcarban', with trees and a hill marked on the map, but no other features were included. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map shows the crannóg in White Lough, but it is not labelled.

Fig. G.34: Drumcarban crannóg in White Lough Extract as depicted on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map.

Interpretation

While there is no documentary or artefactual evidence to suggest that this crannóg was occupied during the study period, the morphological evidence allows the tentative suggestion that there may have been high to late medieval activity on the site. Fredengren (2002, 273) has suggested that crannógs with stone cairns could be later medieval in date and the kerbs described by Davies could be interpreted as such a feature (see section 4.8 for further discussion of this thesis).

References

Davies, O. 1942. "Contributions to the study of crannógs in south Ulster". *Ulster Journal of Archaeology* 5:14-30.

Fredengren, C. 2002. *Crannógs*. Bray: Wordwell.

Drumeeny platform ringfort

RMP no.	CV037-027---
Townland	Drumeeny
Civil Parish	Ballymachugh
Barony	Clanmahon
County	Cavan
OS six-inch sheet no.	Cavan sheet 37
Discovery Series sheet no.	34
Irish National Grid ref.	242640, 286350
Classification	Platform ringfort

Siting

This site is situated in a field of rough pasture adjacent to a small road that leads to Drumeeny house. There are good views in all directions from the site, which is located in rolling countryside. The site is located in a field of rough pasture.

Description

This site consists of an unenclosed platform and any banks and fosses that may have existed are no longer visible. There is a trace of a possible bank on the N side of the site. The platform (34.3m diam. top of platform, 1.15m H. at N, 1.55m H. at S) has no obvious internal features other than the traces of a very slight berm or lip along its edge.

Fig. G.35: Drumeeny platform ringfort from the NW.

The SMR file for the site records the presence of a possible entrance to the ESE. This possible entrance is described as a ramped area, *c.*3.5m in width, rising up to the platform. There is another gap with a possible ramped entrance at the SW of the site; however, this ramped area connects with the top of the platform at an angle. Hawthorn, ash and beech trees grow on the perimeter of the site.

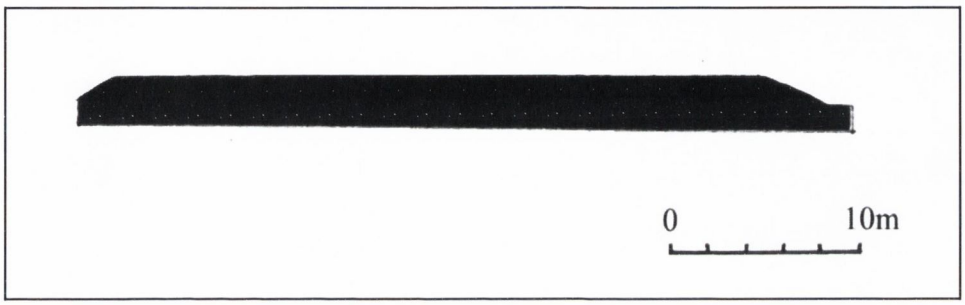

Fig. G.36: Profile of Drumeeny platform ringfort N-S.

Adjacent sites

The platform ringfort (CV037-003---) in Aghacreevy is *c.*580m east of the site in Drumeeny. There are four other platform ringforts within 3km of the site, two in the townland of Fortland (CV038-026--- and CV038-031---) and one in Lisduff (CV038041---) all east of the site and one to the west in the townland of Moynagh Upper (CV037-054---). The parish church (CV047-031---) for Ballymachugh in the townland of Lavagh is *c.*1.5km E of the site and the motte (CV037-042---) in Lavagh is c.1.6km SE.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

No documentary references or antiquarian accounts for this site were uncovered. The townland of Drumeeny is not included in either the *Down Survey* or the *Maps of the Escheated counties of Ulster* maps for the barony of Clanmahon. The site is depicted on the first and current edition of the *Ordnance Survey* six-inch maps of the area.

Interpretation

While this site undoubtedly contains a platform, it is a low platform with little evidence for a surrounding bank and fosse and on the basis of its current morphology we much classify it was a platform without an enclosing bank.

Drumlion Platform Ringfort

RMP no.	CV031-032---
Townland	Drumlion
Civil Parish	Ballintemple
Barony	Clanmahon
County	Cavan
OS six-inch sheet no.	Cavan sheet 31
Discovery Series sheet no.	34
Irish National Grid ref.	239430, 297400
Classification	Platform Ringfort

Siting

This ringfort is located on the summit of a natural rise, on the 110m contour, in an area of drumlins. There are good views in all directions from this site.

Description

This site consists of a circular platform (int. diam. 31.5m E-W) with a bank or berm around its edge and a fosse at its foot. From the NE to the SE there is a step or terrace on the side of the platform, it is 1.3m above the base of the fosse and is 1.3m in width. Above this terrace the platform is 3m in height. On the W side where this terrace is not present, the platform is 3.3m H above external ground level. The *Archaeological Inventory of county Cavan* indicates that the fosse has been partially recut (O'Donovan 1995, 84) and it is possible that this terrace may be the result of recutting of the fosse or later changes to the site. The fosse is 2m wide on the W and a field boundary has been constructed on its edge. On the E a laneway has been constructed along the base of the platform and while there are traces of the fosse it is impossible to ascertain its original dimensions.

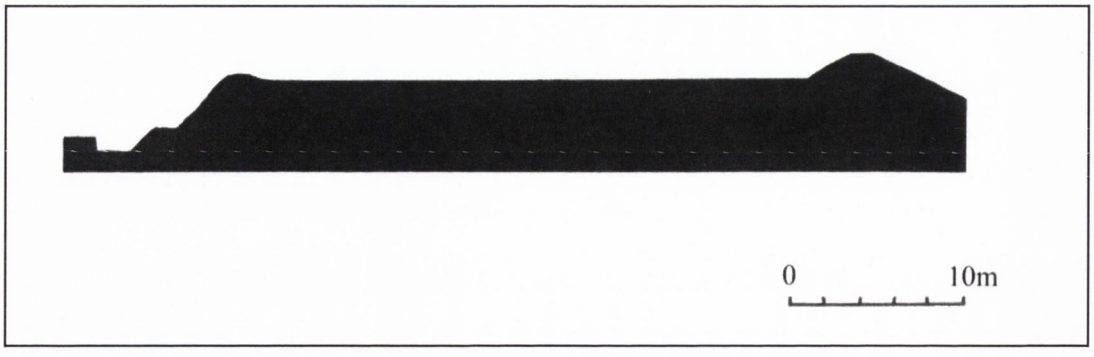

Fig. G.37: Profile of Drumlion Platform Ringfort E-W.

Fig. G.38: East side of the platform ringfort at Drumlion.

The bank or berm on top of the fosse varies in internal height between 0.25m (E) and 1.35m (W) and is 1.2m in width. The bank and the fosse are overgrown with trees, which include hawthorn trees. The interior of the site is overgrown with nettles and brambles, but generally appears to be quite flat. Two gaps in the bank were observed, one to the SW and another to the SE. The gap on the SE is very overgrown making it impossible to obtain accurate measurements; it appears to have a ramped causewayed entrance. The gap to the NW is marked by a 2m gap in the bank, and there is no causeway at this point. At this point the platform is 1.7m in height above external ground level.

Adjacent sites

The children's burial ground and possible church site in Urney (CV025-115---) is located *c.*480m N of this ringfort, and the church site and graveyard in Ballintemple

(CV031-007---) are located *c.*1.5km to the S. A ringfort site within the same townland is located *c.*540m to the south.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information.

During the plantation of Ulster 'one poll' in the townland of Drumlion was granted to an Irish tenant, 'Mulmorie McHugh Connelagh O'Rely', indicating that it was not one of the areas settled by planters (Hill 1970, 340). A description of the site by Oliver Davies is included in the NMI monument file for the town of Drumlion. This description has no date but was likely to have been compiled in the 1940s when Davies conducted his research in county Cavan. He describes the fosse as 1-3 feet (*c.*0.3-0.9m) deep 15-18 feet (*c.*4.5-5.5m) wide. The bank was 12-16 feet (*c.*3.6-4.8m) high externally and 5 feet (*c.*1.5m) high internally. There were several gaps in the bank and probably a causeway over the fosse on the SW and some 'thorn trees' on the bank. The centre of the site slopes gently east and had been tilled. He describes the ringfort as circular, with an internal diameter of 33 yds (*c.*30m).

Neither the *Down Survey* nor the *Maps of the Escheated Counties of Ulster* maps of the barony of Clanmahon include the townland of Drumlion. The *Ordnance survey* name books record the presence of two forts in this townland, one on either side of the same road. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map depicts the site as a large circular area enclosed by a substantial bank. The type of site portrayed could be regarded as the standard portrayal for ringforts on first edition maps for this area. The second edition maps depict a circular area enclosed by a bank and fosse, with a rectangular feature within the fosse on the E side, possibly a cattle feeder or similar.

Interpretation

As this platform ringfort is enclosed by a berm, on the edge of the platform, and a fosse, it is classified as a platform ringfort with no enclosing bank. The terrace on the side of the platform could be a result of the recutting of the fosse or it could be connected to the raising of the interior of the site.

References

Hill, G. 1970. *An historical account of the Plantation of Ulster at the commencement of the seventeenth century, 1608-1620.* Facsimilie of the original Edition. Shannon: Irish University Press.

O'Donovan, P. F. 1995. *Archaeological Inventory of County Cavan*. Dublin: Stationery Office.

Dundavan castle

RMP no.	CV037-029---
Townland	Dundavan
Civil Parish	Drumlumman
Barony	Clanmahon
County	Cavan
OS six-inch sheet no.	Cavan sheet 37
Discovery Series sheet no.	34
Irish National Grid ref.	236500, 287150
Classification	Castle site

Siting

This castle site is located on the shoulder of a N facing slope that forms part of the valley of a tributary of the River Erne. The site is located in an area of good pastureland.

Description

A field report contained in the SMR file for this site that was compiled in 1986 reports that the site was now occupied by ruinous outbuildings and a badly preserved wall of an enclosed orchard. These are locally reported to be the remains of an eighteenth or nineteenth century house, which was the nucleus of the Ramsey Estate. There is no local tradition of a castle on the site. According to the SMR file, the evidence on which this castle site was included in the SMR was a note in the NMI topographical files, which refer to the site as the house of Prior O'Reilly of Dundavan in the sixteenth century.

Adjacent sites

There are four ringforts within 1km of this site. The platform ringfort in Mullaghoran (CV037-057---) is located *c.*2.5km to the N of this site. The moated site in Bawn (CV041-001---) is located *c.*2.8km to the S and the church in Bracklagh (CV041-00201-) is *c.*4.5km to the SE.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information.

The *Annals of Bréifne* record that Philip (mac Maoil Mórdha), the prior, died at *nDún da Bheann* (Dundavan) in 1572 (AB, 1572). Davies (NMI Monument file: Dundavan, Cavan) identifies a castle site in Dundavan as the sixteenth century house of Prior O'Reilly. His identification of the site of this castle was based on local information on

where the O'Reilly families had lived in Dundavan in 1826. In his 1947 article entitled 'The castles of county Cavan' Davies (1947a, 97) stated that 'two houses were indicated to me as O'Reilly residences in 1826 but the antiquity of neither is convincing'. One of these possible locations is the location of the castle site on the RMP map. This stone built house with outbuildings was ruined when Davies visited the site. The other possible location was Brady's public house, a larger than average cottage. As there were no above ground remains of a castle at either site, Davies felt that any identification of the site of this castle was uncertain. The *Down Survey* and *Maps of the Escheated Counties of Ulster* maps of the barony of Clanmahon do not depict a building in this townland. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map depicts the site as a substantial building and two outbuildings with a tree plantation immediately to the north of them. The tree plantation has been removed before the compilation of the second edition but the substantial building continues to be depicted.

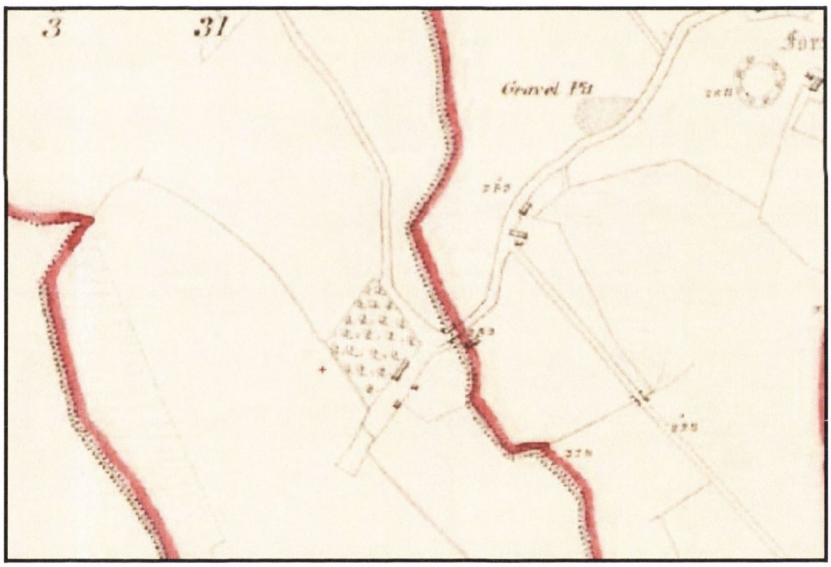

Fig. G.39: Location of Dundavan castle as depicted on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map.

Interpretation

While the *Annals of Breifne* suggests that the Prior O'Reilly has a residence within this townland, the exact location of this castle is uncertain. There is insufficient evidence to support the location of this castle site, as it is recorded in the SMR.

Abbreviations and references

AB = **de hÓir, É.** (ed.) 1970. "Annala as Breifne". *Breifne* IV(13):59-86.

Davies, O. 1947a. "The castles of county Cavan: part 1". *Ulster Journal of Archaeology* 10:73-100.

Dungummin Upper platform ringfort

RMP no.	CV042-017001-
Townland	Dungummin Upper
Civil Parish	Kilbride
Barony	Clanmahon
County	Cavan
OS six-inch sheet no.	Cavan sheet 42
Discovery Series sheet no.	34
Irish National Grid ref.	251330, 283730
Classification	Platform ringfort

Siting

This site is very overgrown, making access extremely difficult. It is located on an east facing slope and originally there would have been great views clockwise from N-S, however, these views are now obscured by the trees that surround the site

Description

The site consists of a central platform surrounded by a bank and internal fosse. The bank does not surround the entire platform and it is best preserved on the western side. On the northern side the bank is incorporated into a field wall, which is largely composed of stone. The fosse is very wide at this point and a tractor appears to have driven along it regularly in recent times. The fosse on the western side is only 2.75m wide. The bank is missing at the SE where the boundaries of an irregularly shaped field have truncated it.

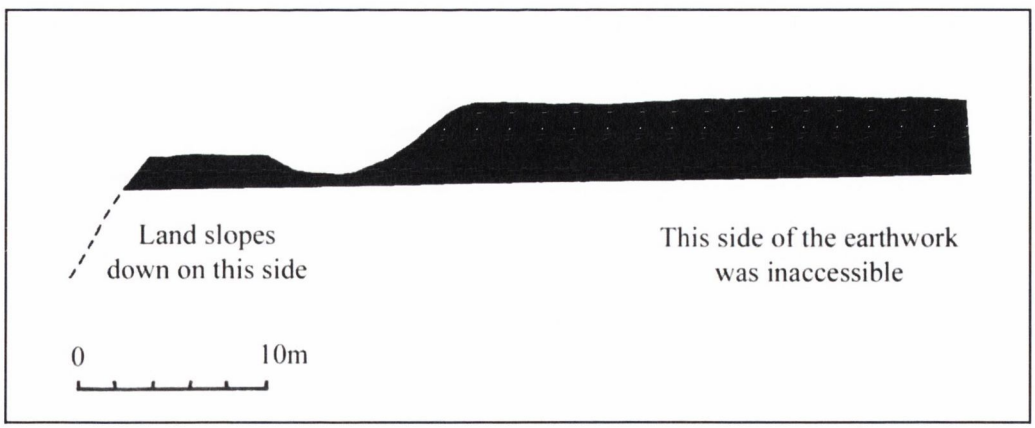

Fig. G.40: Profile of Dungummin Upper platform ringfort W-E.

The bank varies in width along its length, measuring a maximum of 6.40m. On the N side the bank is 0.95cm in internal height, and the external face drops dramatically,

taking advantage of the natural slope in the ground. To the east and north the fosse appears to be at the same level as the external ground level.

The platform is very overgrown and it was not possible to measure it. The inventory reports that the summit of the site measures *c.*39.5m NE-SW and *c.* 28m NW-SE. The overgrown nature of the summit makes it impossible to examine its surface or identify any internal features. The tower, recorded in previous reports on the sites was identified at the SW of the platform, but the area was so overgrown that only one side of the tower could be observed. Previous reports have described this structure as a folly of later eighteenth, early nineteenth century construction.

Fig. G.41: NE side of the platform of Dungummin Upper platform ringfort.

There is no evidence for a church in the immediate vicinity but, there is evidence for a mass-rock (CV042-01302-) in the field NW of the ringfort. A possible ogham stone was found in a barrow (CV042-01301-) at this location and Davies (1948b, 97) reports that 'this stone has roughly incised crosses. It is said to have borne an ogham inscription. The place is reputed to have been a graveyard'. The SMR file for the site

records that Finbarr Moore examined the stone and concluded that it was not an ogham stone.

Establishing a classification for this site is difficult and this is reflected in its classification as an 'earthwork' in both the SMR file and the *Archaeological inventory of county Cavan* (O'Donovan 1995, 245). However, on archaeology.ie it is listed as a 'Castle-Ringwork'. This change of classification is not explained in the SMR and the reason for its identification as a ringwork castle rather than a platform ringfort is unclear.

Adjacent sites

The platform ringfort (CV042-05001-) in the neighbouring townland of Clonbockoge is located *c*.500m to the NW of this site. The church site (CV042-00101-) in Aughnaskeagh is located *c*.3km to the W of this site, and the motte (CV038-05502-) and tower house (CV038-05501-) on its summit in Racraveen are located *c*.3.5km to the N. This site is located *c*.4km from the east shore of Lough Sheelin.

Documentary references and antiquarian accounts

There are no documentary references to Anglo-Norman activity at the site and there is no church in the immediate surroundings. No structures are depicted in this townland on either the *Maps of the Escheated Counties of Ulster* or the *Down Survey* map of the barony of Clanmahon. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map depicts this site as a sub-circular platform, enclosed by a single line of hachures and located immediately adjacent to the townland boundary between the townlands of Dungummin Upper and Dungummin Lower. A rectangular

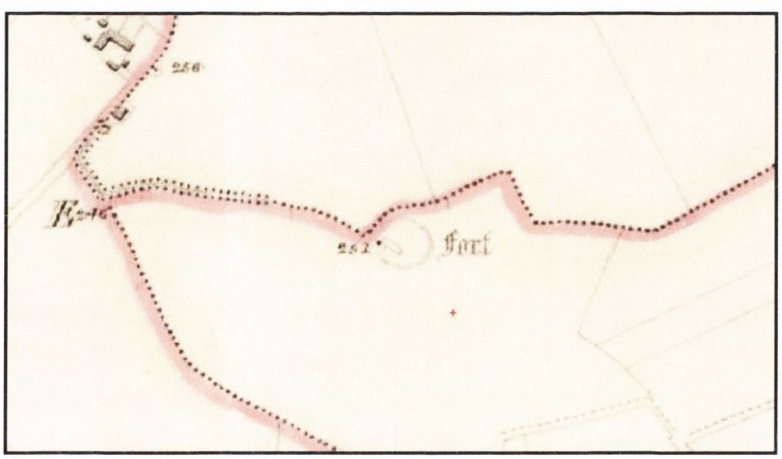

Fig. G.42: The platform ringfort in Dungummin Upper as depicted on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map.

structure is located in the southwest section of the enclosure, which is labelled 'fort'.

Both Davies (Davies 1947a, 86) and O'Connell (1962, 13-14) argue that the mound in Dungummin Upper was a castle site, although O'Connell is largely reliant on the description and analyses of Davies, and this may explain its identification as a ringwork castle. Davies (1947a, 86) described the site as a fourteenth or fifteenth century castle 'of keep or bawn type'. He noted that there was a stone wall on the outer 'lip' of the fosse and that there was a possible entrance on the north side of the site. The platform is described as a short rectangle with dimensions of 27 x 22 yards (24.7m x 20.1m), divided into two parts. He describes the lower and larger section, at the north end of the platform as a bawn around 16 yards (14.6m) long. Davies (1947a, 86) records that there are traces of a structure within this 'bawn'. The southern part of the platform is recorded as being 5 feet (1.5m) higher than the 'bawn', but not separated it from it by a fosse. It contained the foundations of a rectangular building of rubble and mortar measuring 27 x 15 feet (8.2m x 4.6m) internally and the walls are 4.5 feet (1.4m) thick. Davies (1947a, 86) mentions the round tower marked on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map of the area and interprets it as a landmark.

Interpretation

The *Archaeological inventory of county Cavan* (O'Donovan 1995, 245) classifies this site as an earthwork (unclassified) and argues that there is no documentary or archaeological evidence to support Davies (1947a, 86) argument that this site is a fourteenth or fifteenth century castle 'of keep and bawn type'. This thesis has argued in chapter eight that this site is best interpreted as a platform ringfort enclosed by a single bank and fosse (see section 8.1 for further discussion of the classification of this monument).

References

Davies, Oa. 1947. "The castles of county Cavan: part 1". *Ulster Journal of Archaeology* 1o:73-100.

O'Connell, P. 1962. "The parish and district of Kilbride: Part I". *Ríocht na Midhe* 2(4):5-16.

O'Donovan, P. F. 1995. *Archaeological Inventory of County Cavan*. Dublin: Stationery Office.

Fortland I platform ringfort

RMP no.	CV038-031---
Townland	Fortland
Civil Parish	Ballymachugh
Barony	Clanmahon
County	Cavan
OS six-inch sheet no.	Cavan sheet 38
Discovery Series sheet no.	34
Irish National Grid ref.	245840, 286760
Classification	Platform Ringfort

Siting

This ringfort is located just north of Lough Sheelin and is located in the townland of Fortland, which contains a large number of ringforts. This ringfort is located behind a large bungalow and the owners of this house appear to be the owners of the site. A bungalow to the southwest of the ringfort impacts upon the bank surrounding the ringfort. The site is located in an area of rough pasture and there were cows in the field when I visited it. There are some small trees and bushes growing on the ringfort. There is significant tree growth in the surrounding area and this greatly restricts view from the site. Many of these trees are deciduous trees and may be connected with the former estate landscape in the area. Lough Sheelin is barely visible through the tree growth to the south of the site. The land slopes down from north to south towards the lake.

Description

The ringfort consists of a platform enclosed by a single bank and internal fosse. There is a possible entrance feature to the west, with a causeway across the bank and fosse, which measure *c.*6.5m in width. There is no obvious modification to the platform here, but it is less steep at this point. The SMR records an entrance feature at the NE of the site, however this is not as substantial or convincing as the possible entrance to the west. This possible entrance feature is *c.*5m in width. The platform is damaged at this point, and it is probable that this possible entrance is merely the result of material from the platform falling into the fosse at this point.

The platform is 1.75m – 2m in height. The enclosing bank is very degraded and is at its highest to the east where the level of the surrounding land drops. At the north side of the site the bank and fosse are low relief and wide and appear to have been

degraded. The bank is *c.*7m in width and the fosse is *c.*4m in width at this point. This low, broad profile suggests that the bank and fosse have been significantly modified perhaps through ploughing or land clearance. This bank is described in the SMR files as a counterscarp bank.

Fig. G.43: Fortland I platform ringfort from the N.

The platform is 34.10m in diameter and there is evidence for a lip or berm around the edge of the platform. Linear earthworks run N-S across the platform, and could be interpreted as cultivation ridges.

Adjacent sites

There is a second platform ringfort (CV038-027---) in the townland of Fortland *c.*1.2km NW of this site. There is a platform ringfort *c.*1.4km to the E of the site in the townland of Crover (CV038-020---) and the site of another *c.*1km to the NE in the townland of Killyfassy (CV038-038---). The motte (CV037-042---) and nearby church (CV037-041---) in Lavagh are located *c.*1.8km to the W.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

No documentary references or antiquarian accounts for this site were uncovered during this research. The Cambridge aerial photograph collection (CUCAP ALJ73) shows this ringfort clearly as a platform surrounded by a bank and slight traces of a fosse. The field in which the fort is located has clearly been ploughed recently and this ploughing extended as far as the foot of the external bank. The cultivation ridges on the summit of the mound are also clearly visible.

The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map shows the ringfort in Fortland as a circular area covered in trees. The ortho-photograph on the *Ordnance Survey Map Viewer* provides a good illustration of the ringfort.

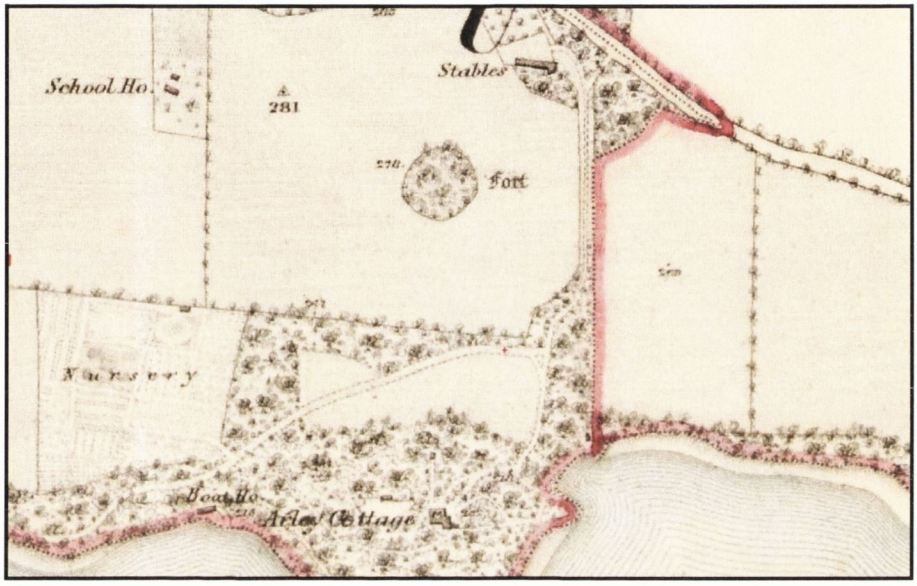

Fig. G.44: Fortland I platform ringfort as depicted on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map.

Fig. G.45: Fortland I platform ringfort as shown on the *Ordnance Survey Ireland Map Viewer* ortho-photograph (2005).

Interpretation

This site is classified as a platform ringfort with a single enclosing bank and fosse. This is the only townland in which more than one platform ringfort was identified.

However, the townland name suggests that it could be a relatively modern creation and this is supported by the fact that the townland is not included in the 1609 *Maps of the Escheated Counties of Ulster* map of Clanmahon barony.

Fortland II platform ringfort

RMP no.	CV038-027---
Townland	Fortland
Civil Parish	Ballymachugh
Barony	Clanmahon
County	Cavan
OS six-inch sheet no.	Cavan sheet 38
Discovery Series sheet no.	34
Irish National Grid ref.	244990, 287620
Classification	Platform Ringfort

Siting

This site is located in a field of rough pasture, in which cattle were grazing. It is located southwest of a small boreen which leads to a number of deserted dwellings. The views from this site are obscured in all directions by tree growth but Lough Sheelin is visible through the trees to the southwest and there are hills visible to the south.

Description

The site consists of a high central circular platform (diam. 35.8m N-S) enclosed by a bank and internal fosse, with the remains of an external fosse visible at the west side of the site. There are traces of a berm or small bank on the edge of the platform from the E to S of the site.

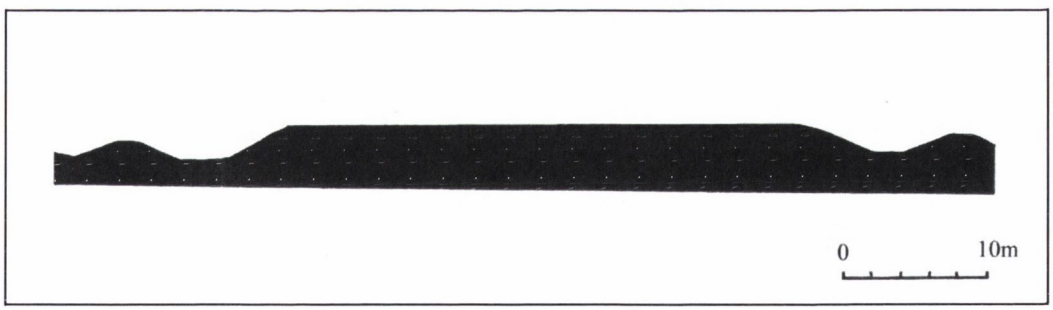

Fig. G.46: Profile of Fortland II platform ringfort S-N.

The platform is 3m in max. height above the base of the fosse at the west side of the site, elsewhere it is closer to 2m in height. At the S side the platform is 1.55m H above external ground level and 1.95m H above the base of the fosse. While on the N side it is 1.70m above external ground level and 2.25m above the base of the fosse. The external bank is 1.4m in W and varies in external height to 0.8m to 1m and in internal

height between 1.2 and 1.35m. The width of the fosse ranges between 2.1m and 3.4m and is 0.4m to 0.55m in depth below external ground level.

The outer fosse is *c.*0.2m deep and is largely infilled. It survives best on the western side of the site. The interior of the site is largely clear but there are a number of trees planted around the perimeter of the site and within the fosse. There are the possible remains of an entrance at the SE, where there is a 3.7m gap in the berm and a 5.4m gap in the outer bank and a ramped causewayed entrance between them.

Fig. G.47: West side of Fortland II platform ringfort.

Adjacent sites

This platform ringfort is located 1.2km from the north shore of Lough Sheelin. There are 9 ringforts within 1km of the site and one of these is the platform ringfort in Lisduff (CV038-041---). The other platform ringfort in the townland of Fortland (CV038-031---) is located *c.*1.27m to the SE, while the site of the possible platform ringfort in Killyfassy (CV038-038---) is *c.*1.6km to the E. The motte in Lavagh (CV037-042---) is *c.*1.6km S of the site, while the parish church for Ballymachugh (CV037-041---), also located in Lavagh, is *c.*1.3km to the SW.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information.

No documentary references or antiquarian accounts of this ringfort were uncovered during this research. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-map of the area depicts the

sites as a circular enclosure planted with trees. The second edition maps depict the site as a multi-vallate enclosure with a number of trees at its centre. A good depiction of the ringfort is available of the *Ordnance Survey Map Viewer* in the 2005 ortho-photograph. The Cambridge aerial photographs of this site (CUCAP ALJ 74) show a platform with a dished interior surrounded by fosse and internal bank as well as traces of an external fosse on the two sides that face the laneway.

Fig. G.48: Fortland II platform ringfort as depicted on the *Ordnance Survey Map Viewer* ortho-photograph (2005).

Interpretation

This site is interpreted as a platform ringfort enclosed by a single bank and fosse. Fortland is the only townland in which two platform ringforts have been identified, but the name of the townland and the fact that it isn't included in the *Maps of the Escheated Counties of Ulster* map of the barony of Clanmahon suggests that the townland is a relatively modern creation.

Gallonreagh church site and graveyard

RMP no.	CV038-032---
Townland	Gallonreagh
Civil Parish	Kilbride
Barony	Clanmahon
County	Cavan
OS six-inch sheet no.	Cavan sheet 38
Discovery Series sheet no.	34
Irish National Grid ref.	249210, 286780
Classification	Church site and graveyard

Siting

The church in Gallonreagh is located in an elevated position in an undulating landscape, with good views in all direction. The River Inny flows to the west and forms part of the townland boundary.

Description

This is a very overgrown site, which was covered in long grass on the two occasions that it was visited. The graveyard is roughly circular and is enclosed by a fosse and a slight bank. The entrance to the graveyard from the road is located to the southeast, and the short laneway that leads to the graveyard slopes up into its interior, through a stone built gate. On the west side of this gateway are the remains of the gable wall of a ruined house and a stone boundary wall continues westwards along the boundary of the graveyard. This is the only section of the boundary of the graveyard that is not enclosed by the bank and fosse. The bank is 1.8m in height above the base of the fosse, and the fosse is *c.*1.2m in width.

There is a short section of wall at the edge of the bank on the NW side of the enclosure, which measures *c.*3.6m in length, *c.*0.75m in height and against which a gravestone has been placed. As this section of wall is located at the edge of the enclosure, it is unlikely to be the remains of a church, and is more likely to have been part of a tomb. There is no trace of the remains of the church.

There are many nineteenth and early twentieth century gravestones, and less frequent eighteenth century gravestones. O'Donovan (1995, 199) records the presence of a number of uninscribed crude stone crosses and gravemarkers, but these could not be located due to the overgrown nature of the graveyard.

Adjacent sites

The church in Gallonreagh is located *c.*400m from the motte in the neighbouring townland of Racraveen (CV038-054---). Davies (1948b, 96) and O'Connell (1964, 90) both noted that a field *c.*160m west is known as 'Church Field' (CV038-067---).

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

O'Connell (1964, 89) records that the medieval parish church of Kilbride in the townland of Gallonreagh, was a dependency of the Augustinian Abbey of Drumlane and that it was one of the few Breifne churches not absorbed by Kells or Fore. However, in a taxation of the diocese of Meath cited by O'Connell (1964, 89), Moymany, which he identifies as the parish of Kilbride, is mentioned under the valuations for the Deanery of Favorie (or Faure) (V 268). However, by the time of the dissolution of the monasteries 'pasture of Kylbryde in Clennahon in O'Reli's country' valued at 10*s.* was in the hands of St. Mary's Abbey, Kells (White 1943, 262). Drumlane was a daughter house of St. Mary's Abbey, Kells by at least the mid fifteenth century (Gwynn and Hadcock 1988, 170).

Fig. G.49: The church in Gallonreagh as depicted on the *Maps of the Escheated Counties of Ulster* map of the barony of Clanmahon.

Davies (1948b, 96) records that the old parish church in Gallonreagh lay on a slight rise in undulating country and that the second field to the west is called 'church field'. The *Maps of the Escheated Counties of Ulster* depicts a church in this townland, which is labelled 'Kilbreidy'. As this church is located in the parish of Kilbride, the labelling of the townland in which the church is contained with the same name would suggest that this was the site of the medieval parish church. The conventions of these maps indicate that a small circle surmounted by a double cross indicates abbey lands. This symbol appears in the townland labelled 'Kilbreidy' indicating that these lands belonged to a monastic house. Gwynn and Hadcock (1988, 352) record that Kilbride, county Cavan is one of many places in county Cavan described as having a 'hospital endowed with tearmon-lands' in 1590, in this case one

and a half cartrons, with a valuation of 1*s.* 6*d.* The *Down Survey* map of the barony of Clanmahon includes the townland labelled 'Kilbrid church land'.

The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map of the area depicts the site as an irregular shaped area enclosed by field boundaries with some trees growing in its interior and it is labelled 'Grave Yard'. A roadway runs to the east and south of this graveyard and there is a building along the road on the west side of the graveyard entrance. The second edition also depicts the site as an irregular area enclosed by field banks. A building has been constructed on the E side of the entrance and further buildings have been located north of the building on the west side of the graveyard.

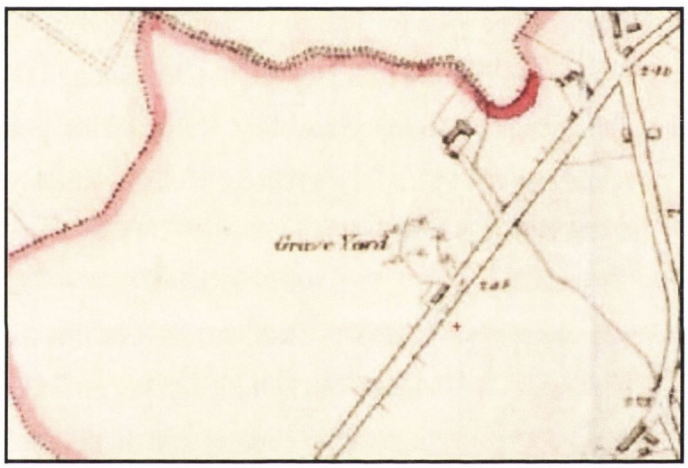

Fig. G.50: Gallonreagh graveyard as depicted on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map.

Interpretation

The location of a parish church and a motte in close proximity to each other would seem to suggest that this could have been the centre of an Anglo-Norman manor. The construction of the motte could have been connected to the de Lacy attempts to secure their territory in the area. However, no documentary references to the site have been discovered during the current research. The circular enclosure around the graveyard suggests that this was a pre-Norman foundation, although it is possible that the Anglo-Normans would have incorporated this pre-existing church into their settlement plan. The fact that the church and the motte are located in separate townlands could suggest that they were not part of the same settlement, though it is important to note that they are on the same bank of the River Inny.

Abbreviations and references

C.D.I. = Sweetman, H. S. (ed.) 1875-86. *Calendar of documents relating to Ireland, preserved in Her Majesty's Record Office, London*, (5 Vols). London: Public Records Office.

Davies, O. 1948b. "The churches of county Cavan". *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland* 78:73-118.

Gwynn, A. and Hadcock, R. N. 1988. *Medieval religious houses in Ireland.* 2nd Edition. Dublin.

O'Connell, P. 1964. "The parish and district of Kilbride: Part III". *Ríocht na Midhe* 3(2):89-95

O'Donovan, P. F. 1995. *Archaeological Inventory of County Cavan.* Dublin: Stationery Office.

White, N. (ed.) 1943. *Extents of Irish monastic possessions 1540-1541: from manuscripts in the Public Record Office, London*, Dublin: The Stationery Office.

Garrymore I ringfort

RMP no.	CV031-039---
Townland	Garrymore
Civil Parish	Ballintemple
Barony	Clanmahon
County	Cavan
OS six-inch sheet no.	Cavan sheet 31
Discovery Series sheet no.	34
Irish National Grid ref.	238760, 297020
Classification	Ringfort

Siting

This ringfort is located at the top of a natural rise in an undulating area. The land slopes from down from W- E across the site. It is located adjacent to a minor road in an area of rough pasture.

Description

This ringfort appears to have been largely destroyed and substantially modified since the compilation of the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map in 1836. The first edition map depicts it as a circular area enclosed by a substantial bank. However by the time the twenty-five inch map series are compiled in the late nineteenth, early twentieth century the surrounding field boundaries had changed substantially and its western side had been incorporated into a field boundary. Similarly, on the opposite side of the site, from ENE to SE the ringfort had been incorporated into a field boundary.

Only the west side of the ringfort survives to any great extent and this has been substantially modified. A large deep drain runs along the field boundary into which the west side of the ringfort has been incorporated. This field boundary is also found to the north of the site, along the road. The E side of the site is very overgrown making it impossible to obtain accurate measurements. The bank is 1.5m max. H. above the top of the fosse, but the internal height of the bank was only *c.*0.5m in height. For most of its surviving length the bank is much lower. The east side of the site appears to have been largely removed and the area is heavily overgrown making it difficult to locate any possible surviving sections of the site. There are lots of rushes in this area indicating that the ground is wet.

Adjacent sites

There are three other ringforts in the townland of Garrymore, *c.*550m (CV031-040---), *c.*800m (CV031-038---) and *c.*1.5km (CV025-057---). The children's burial ground in Urney (CV025-11502-) is located *c.*1km to the NE and the church in Ballintemple (CV031-00701-) is *c.*1.5km to the SE.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

No documentary references or antiquarian accounts relating to this site were uncovered during the current research programme. See description above for details on *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map depictions of the site.

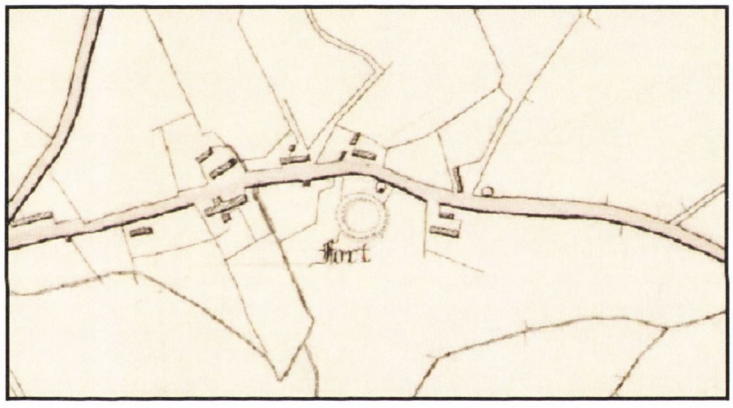

Fig. G.51: The ringfort in Garrymore as depicted on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map.

Interpretation

A 1975 site report in the SMR file for the site described the interior as being 'dished' and the bank as being 'twice as high outside as inside'. This suggested that the site might have been a platform ringfort. However due to its destroyed condition it is only possible to say that this site is a ringfort.

Garrymore II ringfort

RMP no.	CV031-038---
Townland	Garrymore
Civil Parish	Ballintemple
Barony	Clanmahon
County	Cavan
OS six-inch sheet no.	Cavan sheet 31
Discovery Series sheet no.	34
Irish National Grid ref.	237960, 296860
Classification	Ringfort

Siting

This site is located on south facing slope of a drumlin, and there are good views from the site, especially of the hills to the E.

Description

This site has been destroyed since the field report in the SMR file was compiled in 1977. The site has been ploughed and grass has recently been cut on the site. Traces of a circular area enclosed by a bank and a fosse can still be observed at this site, and the enclosing bank has a max H of 0.6m. The site has an internal diameter of 28.5m (top of bank to top of bank NE-SW). A fosse is barely visible on the N side of the site.

The SMR report, compiled in 1977 indicated that the site had been severely truncated by a roadway which runs NE to SW from Ballinagh to Granard. It had internal dimensions of 31.5m. There were two gaps in the bank, at the N and S. Two large stones were visible at the gap on the N, and it was not clear if either of these gaps was an original entrance.

Adjacent sites

There are three other ringforts in this townland (CV031-039---, CV031-040---, CV025-057---) located between *c.*850m and *c.*1.2km from this site. The church site (CV031-007---) in Ballintemple is *c.*2.2km to the SE and the children's burial ground and possible church site in Urney are *c.*1.8km NE.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information.

No documentary references or antiquarian accounts of this site were located during the current research. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map of the area depicts

this site as a circular enclosed area, using its standard convention for depicting ringforts. At this date the road has already truncated the site. The second edition depicts the site as a circular enclosure truncated by the road, no hachures are used in its depiction. The *Ordnance Survey Map Viewer* shows the area of the ringfort, standing out against the rest of the field, which is cultivated, while the ringfort had not been cultivated. This would suggest that it has been levelled since 1995.

Fig. G.52: Garrymore ringfort as shown on the *Ordnance Survey* Map Viewer ortho-photograph (1995).

Interpretation

To test the methodology used to identify platform ringforts a random sample of the ringforts not identified as such were visited. This site was one of that random sample, but its poor state of preservation made it impossible to determine whether or not it had been a platform ringfort.

Garrysallagh O'Reilly platform ringfort

RMP no.	CV042-026---
Townland	Garrysallagh O'Reilly
Civil Parish	Kilbride
Barony	Clanmahon
County	Cavan
OS six-inch sheet no.	Cavan sheet 42
Discovery Series sheet no.	34
Irish National Grid ref.	248860, 248860
Classification	Platform ringfort

Siting

This platform ringfort is quite an impressive structure and is visible from the road that runs to the east of it. The field in which the ringfort is contained is bounded by trees and hedges rather than stonewalls. There are good views in most directions from the site, with the view occasionally obscured by the trees growing around the site.

Description

The site is composed of a circular platform enclosed by two banks with internal fosses, there is a low bank or berm on the edge of the platform. Whitethorn trees grow in and around the ringfort. The platform is 2.5m – 2.8m in height (including the height of the berm), and 24.10m in diameter. There are a number of earth fast stones on the north side of the platform, which were also recorded in a 1970 SMR site report, and described as possible house foundations. It is composed of two lines of stones that enclose an area at the edge of the platform. One row runs E-W for 7.10m and another row runs N-S for approx 3.6m. There are a third group of stones at the northwest corner of the 'house foundations'. The SMR entry suggests this may have been a lean to structure, which would have presumably leaned against a timber palisade.

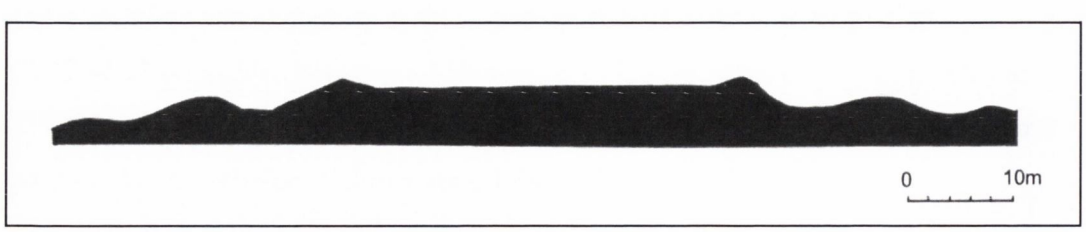

Fig. G.53. Profile of Garrysallagh O'Reilly platform ringfort N-S.

Fig. G.54: Platform ringfort in Garrysallagh O'Reilly, from the SE.

A causewayed entrance feature is located on the east side of the platform and is 4m in width. The inner fosse is largely in-filled and at this point is 3.5m in width. The bank measures 0.8m - 1.15m in height internally. There is a quantity of stone in the western area of the bank and fosse. The outer bank has a very low profile to the east and southeast, with a slight fosse between it and the inner bank. The outer bank and inner fosse are more pronounced at the S and SW and are absent on the west side, where the land drops down sharply from the inner bank.

Fig. G.55: Causewayed entrance on the E side of Garrysallagh O'Reilly platform ringfort.

Adjacent sites

The possible church site (CV042-00101-), burial mound and cross-inscribed stone (CV042-046---) and wayside cross (CV041-00102-) at Aghnaskeagh are *c.*900m from the site in Garrysallagh O'Reilly. The motte in Racraveen (CV038-05501-) and the nearby church site in Gallonreagh (CV038-032---) are *c.*1.7km to the NE. The platform

ringfort in Crover (CV038-020---) is *c.*2.3km to the NW and another platform ringfort in Clonbockoge (CV042-00501-) is located *c.*2.4km to the SE. This site is *c.*1.6km from the E shore of Lough Sheelin.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information.

Fig. G.56: The townland of Garrysallagh as depicted on the *Maps of the Escheated Counties of Ulster* for the barony of Clanmahon.

No documentary references or antiquarian accounts of this site have been uncovered during this research. The *Maps of the Escheated Counties of Ulster* map of the barony of Clanmahon includes the townland of 'Garrisallah' and marks, an area of bog and some trees, but no man-made features. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map depicts the site as an area of trees and scrub, which suggests that the site was overgrown at the time of the survey. The second edition depicts the site as a circular platform enclosed by a fosse and external bank.

Interpretation

This earthwork at Garrysallagh O'Reilly is one of only three platform ringforts with two enclosing banks and fosses identified in Clanmahon. These sites appear to be high status sites and it is suggested in chapter eight that the examples in Crover and Garrysallagh O'Reilly acted as centres of Gaelic power (see sections 8.1 and 8.2 for further discussion of the classification and interpretation of this site).

Kevit Upper crannóg and castle site

RMP no.	CV025-059--- and CV025-063---
Townland	Kevit Upper or Castlecosby
Civil Parish	Kilmore
Barony	Clanmahon
County	Cavan
OS six-inch sheet no.	Cavan sheet 25
Discovery Series sheet no.	34
Irish National Grid ref.	238080, 301240 and 238180, 301120
Classification	Crannóg

Siting

This crannóg is located in Castlecosby Lake and the surrounding land is subject to flooding making it inaccessible at the time of the site visit. The castle site is located *c.*150m SE of the site, located near the foot of a N facing slope.

Description

It is not possible to access this crannóg and so we must rely on the description of the site contained in the NMI topographical file for this townland.

'On the edge of Castlecosby Lake, in fair pasture land, moderately open. A large mound, which has often been dug into and shows down to 4 feet deep sand and mould, no peat, with pigs teeth and other bones, cobblings of small stones, a horn bead and a scrap of flint. Mound composed of habitation earth with charcoal. I saw two cobblings 10 inches apart, one close to the surface. There are also many chips of burnt and unburnt bone, teeth of deer etc. The mound was 5 feet high above lake level. Dirty peat with habitation refuse turns up 3 foot 3 inches below the mound top. Some sherds of hard coarse pottery were found. The edge of the crannog shows several layers to *c.*3 feet depth of stone, animal bones and logs, some of them alder. The sherds are coarse, black and red, without decoration. The floss of the crannog must have sunk a bit, but its top is hardly above modern lake level, so the water was probably not much higher when the place was first occupied than now and the place can only just have been an island, allowing for mud accumulation since'.

There is no register number for the material uncovered at this site, but it is given the number Cavan 25:1. The site is marked on the NMI *Ordnance Survey* six-inch sheet 25 and is given the number one. There is no corresponding monument file. The absence of

a register or habitat number means that it is impossible to locate the material in the NMI and it is likely that the finds from this site were not acquired by the museum.

The most obvious route to the castle was via Kevit Castle and the castle that once stood on the site is no longer extant. A stone head, reputed to have been from the castle, has been incorporated into the modern house. A shed in bad repair is believed to mark the original location of Kevit Castle. The castle site is reputed to be the site of 'Bunraskeen Castle' a 16th century structure with two flanking towers positioned at the corners of the yard of 'Castle Cosby' house. All that survives is the S. portion of the SW tower (int. diam. *c.*2.2m) built of roughly coursed limestone masonry.

Adjacent sites

The castle site in Lismore Demesne (CV025-084---) is located *c.*1.6km to the SW. The motte and bailey (CV025-069---) in Kilmore Upper and the ecclesiastical remains (CV025-070---) there are located *c.*2.4km to the N.

Documentary references and antiquarian accounts

The *Ordnance Survey* Namebooks record the Irish name of the townland as *Caislen Coimheda*, which was translated as the 'Castle of the guard or watch'. It also records that the area has O'Reilly pedigree. The Namebooks also record that the townland is also known as Castlecosby and that 'Castlecosby, which was built on the ruins of the seat of the ancient family of Cosby (now extinct), is a handsome modern edifice'. Pynnar's survey of 1618 record that Maolmordha O'Reilly, one of the possible original Myles the Slashers lived in the Castle Commet (Kevit) and died in 1635 (O'Connell 1937, 319). He is reputed to have been the last chief of Bréifne.

The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map includes Castlecosby Lake, but does not show the crannóg. It does include two large structures and labels them 'Castle Cosby' and these structures are contained within an estate landscape. The eastern U-shaped structure appears to be little changed in the twenty-five inch map, while the western structure appears to have been altered significantly in the intervening period. The twenty-five inch map also includes Castlecosby Lake, but also does not include the crannóg.

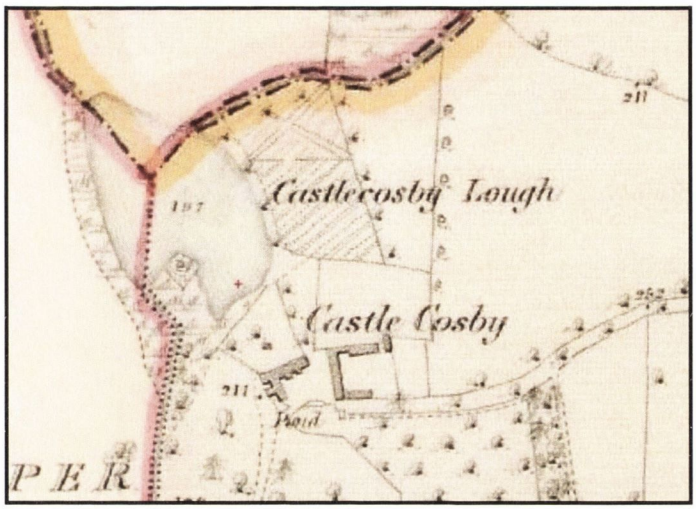

Fig. G.57: Castlecosby Lake and Castle Cosby House and possible castle remains to the west.

Interpretation

The inaccessibility of the crannóg and the absence of any finds from the site make it difficult to assign any date range to activity on the crannóg. The stone head that is believed to have come from Castle Cosby, along with the historical references would suggest that it was a sixteenth century structure, but there is insufficient evidence to prove this definitively.

References

O'Connell, P. 1937. *The Diocese of Kilmore: its history and antiquities*. Dublin: Browne and Nolan.

Kill Church

RMP no.	CV037-034---
Townland	Kill
Civil Parish	Crosserlough
Barony	Clanmahon
County	Cavan
OS six-inch sheet no.	Cavan sheet 37
Discovery Series sheet no.	34
Irish National Grid ref.	243340, 290860
Classification	Church, graveyard, cross possible, grave-slab.

Siting

The church and graveyard are located on the S slope of an area of rising ground, on the edge of the modern road. There are good views to the south, though they are partially obstructed by a large modern house.

Description

The church is located on the west side of the graveyard, behind a modern structure, which appears to be used for religious services connected with local devotion to a priest buried in the graveyard. The church is overgrown with ivy, laurel and sycamore trees and it is impossible to access part of the exterior of the church. The remains of the church are quite small with internal dimensions of 6.25m E-W by 9.90m N-S. However the western wall is quite low (max H 0.70m) and insubstantial and earlier SMR reports record the presence of the stone footings of a nave to the west of this wall. The external dimensions of this nave were recorded as 8m E-W by 10m N-S.

The east window of the church has been badly damaged and the only remaining cut stone is located at the head of the window. The east window in 2.80m in height and 0.95m wide while the embrasure in which it is contained is 1.3m wide. The SMR reports that this window had a ogee-head, while the *Archaeological inventory for county Cavan* (O'Donovan 1995, 200) relies on Davies (1948b, 81) description of the window, 'at the top is a pointed cusped lintel arch, 8in. wide, unglazed and with slightly concave chamfer on outer edge'. The window head is in poor condition in the interior of the church and it is difficult to view it from the exterior due to the overgrown nature of the site. Davies (1948b, 81) has suggested that this window head might have been inserted from an older church. Although the church is in a ruinous and overgrown state it is clearly still frequented for devotional reasons. There is a

statue of the Virgin Mary resting on the sill of the east window and other statues and medals throughout the church.

Fig. G.58: East window (int.) in Kill Church.

The only feature in the north wall is a small wall cupboard at the east end. This wall cupboard now houses a religious statue, but it probably functioned as an aumbry originally. The south wall contains the remains of two windows and a doorway, all of which are in poor condition and do not contain any cut stone. The first window is located at the E end of the south wall and would appear to have been originally set into an embrasure, the east side of which has been badly damaged. The second window is located in the centre of the south wall, it is badly damaged and there is no surviving evidence of an embrasure. The doorway is located at the west end of the chancel. The doorjamb survives on the east side but the west side of the doorway has been broken out. The doorway is 1.55m in width and *c.*1.60m in height

The graveyard is raised at least 1m above the level of the road which runs south of it. There are a number of modern graveslabs as well as a number of graveslabs dating to the eighteenth century. There are two crosses in the graveyard, one of which is located at the S end of the graveyard. It is an imperforate cross, the top of the shaft of which has been damaged; its dimensions are 0.6m by 0.15m. The second cross is located close to the modern structure in the graveyard. It is a tau shaped cross with dimensions of 0.3m by 0.2m.

Fig.G.59: Cross in the graveyard of Kill church.

Adjacent sites

There are seven ringforts within *c.*1.5km of the church sites, including three within the townland of Kill. This church is *c.*2.7km N of the possible graveyard in Omard (CV037-063---). The possible crannóg at Corglass (CV031-013---) is located *c.*2km to the N.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

Davies (1948b) records that Kill formed a separate parish until the sixteenth century under the name of Kildrumfertan or Drumfanrie. O'Connell (1965a, 455) and Davies (1948b) both report that the church was a dependency of the Benedictine Abbey of Fore.

O'Connell identified the site with the church of SS Patrick, Carthach and Brigid noted in historical documents in 1422 and 1425 (Costello 1909, 230-231, 246; Davies 1948b, 81). The NMI monument files include descriptions of the church compiled by Oliver Davies in 1940 and 1946. Davies dates the church to the seventeenth or eighteenth century and argues that the east window, which he dates to the fourteenth century, was inserted. He describes the east window as a large rectangular opening, the jambs of which are missing. A single stone that forms a 'cusped arch, 8" wide' forms the upper one third of the window. The weathering of the stone is the primary reason that Davies argues that this window was reused from an older church. He also records the presence of a rag tree in the graveyard and water that collected in a depression in this tree was

used to treat warts (NMI monument File, Kill, church No. 3, Cavan). O'Connell described the church as 'early sixteenth century in style, long ruins, situated outside the boundary of an ancient cemetery' (O'Connell 1965a, 455). He argued that it replaced an earlier building that was located to the SE and of which no trace survive.

Fig. G.60: Kill Church as depicted on the *Maps of the Escheated Counties of Ulster* map of Clanmahon barony.

The church is depicted on the *Maps of the Escheated Counties of Ulster* for the barony of Clanmahon in a townland labelled 'Cloggin' which also includes a circle surmounted by a double cross which indicates the townland is church land (Andrews 1974b, 160). This townland can be identified with Kill and the church with this church site. The *Down Survey* barony map includes the townland of 'Kill Pole', which contains a symbol (a letter C surmounted by a cross) that indicates that it was church lands. This symbol is followed by the number 1 and the surrounding townlands, Tinry pole, Curresdrum pole, Aghema pole, Drumon pole, Purtadare pole, also contain the same symbol followed by the numbers 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 respectively.

The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map depicts the church labelled 'Old Church' in Gothic script and the surrounding rectilinear graveyard that is also labelled. The second edition also includes the church, which is now depicted in outline and labelled 'church (in Ruins)' and the surrounding graveyard is also labelled.

Interpretation

O'Donovan (1995, 200) dates the church to the sixteenth century, but it is not clear how this date was established. Davies dates this church to the seventeenth or eighteenth century. It is difficult to date this church due to the absence of cut stone in the windows and doors, It is clear that there was a church on this site in 1609 when the *Maps of the Escheated Counties of Ulster* was compiled. In the absence of another convincing candidate in the parish of Crosserlough, we can suggest that this was its parish church. The *Maps of the Escheated Counties of Ulster* for the barony of

Clanmahon, only depicts one church in each parish and they appear to be the parish churches.

References

Andrews, J. H. 1974b. "The maps of the escheated counties of Ulster, 1609-10". *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy* 74C:133-170.

Costello, M. A. (ed.) 1909. *De Annatis Hiberniae: a calendar of the first fruits levied on papal appointments to the benefices of Ireland AD 1400 to 1535. Vol I: Ulster*, Dundalk: W. Tempest.

Davies, O. 1948b. "The churches of county Cavan". *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland* 78:73-118.

O'Connell, P. 1965a. "The Kildrumfertan Epitaphs". *Breifne* 2(8):455-459.

O'Donovan, P. F. 1995. *Archaeological Inventory of County Cavan*. Dublin: Stationery Office.

Lavagh church site and graveyard

RMP no.	CV037-041---
Townland	Lavagh
Civil Parish	Ballymachugh
Barony	Clanmahon
County	Cavan
OS six-inch sheet no.	Cavan sheet 37
Discovery Series sheet no.	34
Irish National Grid ref.	244080, 286650
Classification	Church site and graveyard

Siting

The church site and graveyard are located on an area of high ground 450m north of Lough Sheelin. It is located in an area of good pasture.

Description

The church in Ballymachugh (CV037-041---) is a modern Church of Ireland building, dedicated to St. Paul. It is contained within a rectangular graveyard and there is little evidence for an earlier foundation visible on the site today. It is noteworthy however that the east side of the graveyard, where the older graveslabs are located, is at a higher level to the west side, where the modern church and modern gravestones are located. The east side of the graveyard is more than 1m higher than the surrounding ground level. If there was an earlier church on this site the most likely location is in this higher section of the graveyard.

Fig. G.61: Graveyard at Lavagh church, showing rise in land level at E side of graveyard.

Davies (1948b, 80) who recorded the churches of county Cavan in the 1940s states that the church was located on a low rise in what was probably a circular graveyard. The presence of a circular graveyard around the church may indicate an earlier monastic foundation. The wall that surrounds the graveyard today has a modern appearance and the Southwest Cavan Rural Regeneration Group constructed a wall around the graveyard in 2006. The graveyard is now multi-denominational.

Adjacent sites

There are a number of other archaeological sites in the townland of Lavagh: two ringforts, an enclosure and a motte. The motte (CV037-041---) is located on the north shore of Lough Sheelin *c*.420m from the church site. Two ringforts in the neighbouring townland of Bellsgrove (CV037-012---, CV037-013---) are less than 300m from the church site.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

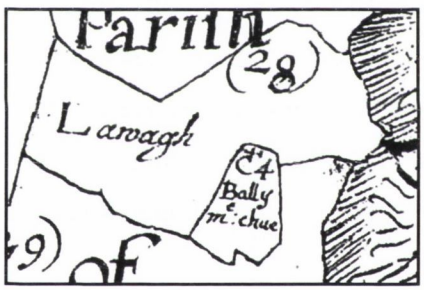

Fig. G.62: The townlands of Lavagh and 'Ballymachue' as depicted on the *Down Survey* map of the barony of Clanmahon.

Davies (1948b, 73-77) includes Ballymachugh in his catalogue of church sites mentioned in documents of the late 16th and early 17th centuries. The *Down Survey* barony map for Clanmahon contains a small area adjacent to the townland of Lavagh, which is labelled 'Ballymachue'. This area contains a cross symbol which suggests some type of an ecclesiastical building was located in the area. This area is located in a similar position to the townland of Glebe on the *Ordnance Survey* maps of the area, which suggests that these were lands owned by the church. The *Maps of the Escheated Counties of Ulster* for the barony of Clanmahon does not depict a church in this townland or indeed within the parish of Ballymachugh/

The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map of the area depicts the church within a rectangular enclosure, a neighbouring schoolhouse and another building to its west. The second edition map also depicts the church as being located within a rectangular

graveyard. A new school has been constructed east of the church, and the buildings west of the church have been labelled as 'Orange Hall' and 'Post Office'.

Further weight is added to the idea that there may have been an earlier foundation on the site by documentary references to the Hospital of Ballymachugh which was founded in 1590 to be endowed with 'Tearmonlands' valued at 3d. Gwynn and Hadcock (1988, 346-347) concluded that it must be the same hospital as Ballylinch, which was granted by King James I to Sir Edward Moore for a rental of 3d in the early seventeenth century. These 'hospitals' were established on termon-lands and were probably no more than small hospices set up in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, when many 'hospitals' or hospices are recorded. On the basis of the above information it seems reasonable to suggest that an older church may have existed on the site of the current church.

Interpretation

The location of the motte in close proximity to the church and within the same townland would suggest that this church may have been the parish church for Ballymachugh. This location could also indicate that it was an Anglo-Norman foundation constructed at the same time as the motte to form the nucleus of a manorial settlement.

References

Davies, O. 1948b. "The churches of county Cavan." *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland* 78:73-118.

Lavagh Enclosure

RMP no.	CV037-044---
Townland	Lavagh
Civil Parish	Ballymachugh
Barony	Clanmahon
County	Cavan
OS six-inch sheet no.	Cavan sheet 37
Discovery Series sheet no.	34
Irish National Grid ref.	244370, 287360
Classification	Enclosure/ Tree-ring

Siting

This site is located in an area of undulating countryside close to the north shore of Lough Sheelin. The area was under pasture and there were cattle grazing in the adjoining field. There are good views to the south, including views of Lough Sheelin. The site is located on a natural mound or rise in the landscape.

Description

This site is a roughly oval area enclosed by a low stone bank (*c.*0.5m H). A natural mound, part of which has been dug away, dominates the interior of the site. There is no evidence of any attempt to create a flat surface within this enclosure. Farm buildings have been constructed at the SW edge of the site. The farmer who owns this field, and who seems to have a keen interest in local history, did not recognise this site as a 'fort'. The only people in the locality who knew of its existence were recent arrivals in the area, and they had learned about it due to complications with planning permissions in the area.

Adjacent sites

There are a number of other sites within the townland of Lavagh, including a ringfort site (CV037-043---) *c.*200m to the south of this enclosure. The church (CV037-041---) and motte (CV037-042---) in Lavagh are located *c.*780m and *c.*1km south of the enclosure respectively. There are five ringforts within 1km of this enclosure and the platform ringfort in Fortland (CV038-027---) is located *c.*670m to the E.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information.

No documentary references or antiquarian accounts of this site were uncovered during this research. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map of the area depicts the

site as an enclosed oval area, planted with trees. The second edition of that map has a similar depiction of the site, and by this date the farm buildings have been constructed adjacent at the SW boundary of the site.

Fig. G.63: Lavagh enclosure as depicted on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map.

Interpretation

This site is likely to have been a tree-ring, and have been associated with the nearby estate in Fortland. This site is not included in the *Archaeological Inventory for county Cavan* (O'Donovan 1995) and is listed in archaeology.ie as an enclosure possible.

References

O'Donovan, P. F. 1995. *Archaeological Inventory of County Cavan.* Dublin: Stationery Office.

Lavagh Motte

RMP no.	CV037-042---
Townland	Lavagh
Civil Parish	Ballymachugh
Barony	Clanmahon
County	Cavan
OS six-inch sheet no.	Cavan sheet 37
Discovery Series sheet no.	34
Irish National Grid ref.	244260, 286270
Classification	Motte

Siting

This site is situated on the north shore of Lough Sheelin (*c.*60m N) and the lands slopes from N-S towards the lakeshore.

Description

This site is a classic pudding bowl shaped motte, and there are traces of a surrounding fosse on the north side of the site. A laneway runs around the S and W sides of the motte and a landscaped garden has been created at its eastern side. The motte varies in height between 3.10m (N) and 2.10m (S) and the summit is 23.6m N-S and 27.7m E-W. On the N side of the motte a flat-bottomed fosse can still be observed (W. 2.4m, depth below external ground level 1.1m). The fosse and the sides of the motte are overgrown with trees and bracken. There is a stone revetment on the inner face of the bank at the NE, and it is probable that it is associated with the stone shed located north and above it. It is clearly a later feature and probably associated with the estate type landscape depicted on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map of the area.

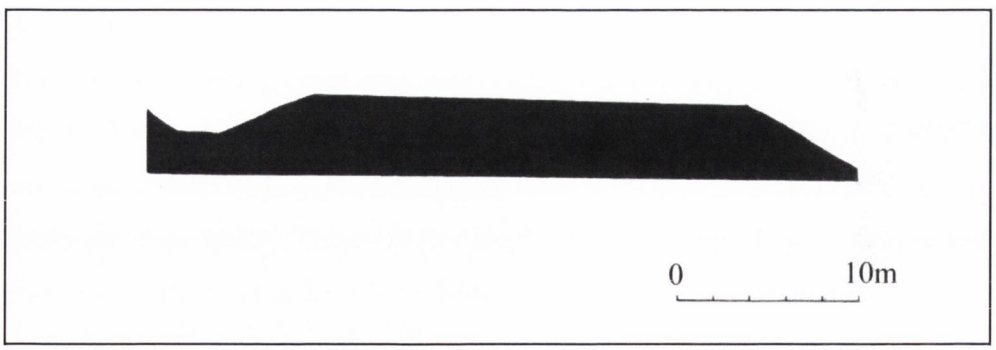

Fig. G.64: Profile of Lavagh motte N-S.

There is a small depression in the centre of the summit of the motte, with dimensions of 1.8m N-S and 1.1m E-W. It may be the result of the felling or collapse of a tree. The eastern side of the motte has been landscaped into a terraced garden.

Fig. G.65: Lavagh motte from the S.

Adjacent sites

The church in Lavagh (CV037-041---) is located *c*.450m NW of this motte and the medieval parish church was probably on this site. The platform ringfort in Aghacreevy (CV037-008---) is *c*.1km W of the motte. The tower house (CV038-019---) in the townland of Crover and the platform ringfort in the same townland are located *c*.3km SE and E of this site.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information.

Davies does include Lavagh motte in any of his writings. It is not included in either of his articles about castles in county Cavan or the NMI monument files. The parish of Ballymachugh appears to have been in the possession of Richard Tuite in the early thirteenth century. The tithes from the parish were in the possession of the Cistercian monastery in Abbeylara at the dissolution and Otway-Ruthven has argued that the rectories held by Abbeylara at the dissolution probably represented the original Tuite grant (see section 6.1 for a full discussion).

The townland of Lavagh is included in both the *Down Survey* and the *Maps of the Escheated Counties of Ulster* maps of Clanmahon barony, but no man made features

are included in the townland on either map. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map depicts the site as a circular area with trees growing within it and a laneway on the north and west sides of the motte. A house is depicted immediately to the east and is labelled 'Tara Cottage'. The motte appears to be located within an estate landscape. The twenty –five inch maps depicts the site with a single line of hachures and it is surrounded by a laneway on north, west and south. The depiction of the laneway on the north side of the motte, with hachures on its N side, may indicate the presence of a fosse on this side of the motte. The house to the east has been extended and an outbuilding is now located quite close to the motte.

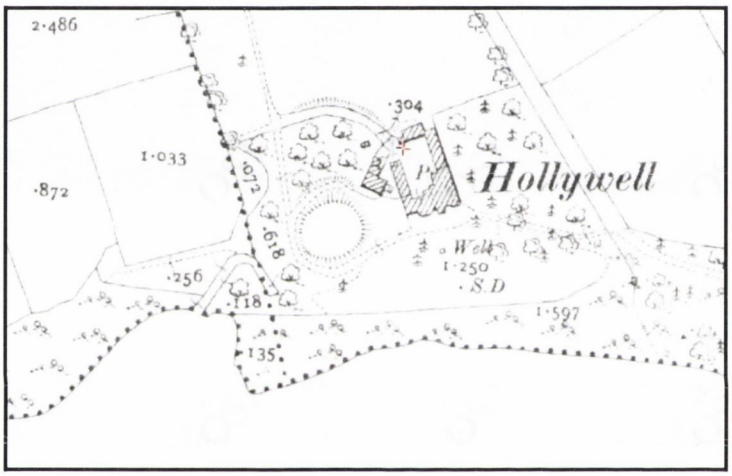

Fig. G.66: The motte in Lavagh as depicted on the *Ordnance Survey* twenty-five inch map.

Interpretation

The location of this motte and the Church of Ireland church, the probable site of the medieval parish church, in the same townland suggests that this motte may represent an attempt to establish a manorial centre on the north shore of Lough Sheelin. If this juxtaposition of motte and church were found in an area of Ireland known to have been heavily settled by the Anglo-Normans it would automatically be considered evidence of a manorial centre. Is it possible that this is one of the eighteen Tuite Castles destroyed by the Clanmahon O'Reillys in the fourteenth century. The Tuites were Meath tenants, attempting to expand their territory into south Bréifne. However, it is more likely that the motte may have established earlier by the de Lacy family, during their attempt to assert their control over Bréifne.

Legaweel Ringfort

RMP no.	CV025-080---
Townland	Legaweel
Civil Parish	Ballintemple
Barony	Clanmahon
County	Cavan
OS six-inch sheet no.	Cavan sheet 25
Discovery Series sheet no.	34
Irish National Grid ref.	237350, 298130
Classification	Ringfort

Siting

This ringfort is situated on a ridge that runs north to south in undulating countryside. It is located in an area of pasture and is just west of a farmyard. It is located 1.6km west of the settlement in Ballinagh. There are trees on the exterior of the site clockwise from the SE to the SW.

Description

The site is a roughly oval area (45.20m NW-SE x 38.2m NE-SW) enclosed by a bank, there is little evidence for an external infilled fosse mentioned in the *Archaeological inventory of county Cavan* (O'Donovan 1995, 110). The enclosing bank is most imposing on the north side of the site where it is 1.10m in ext. H., 0.5m in int. H. and 1.3m W. However, this bank does not curve to follow the line of the ringfort instead it is straight appearing to follow the line of the drain which runs from north to west outside the ringfort. A laneway contacts the ringfort at its northern end.

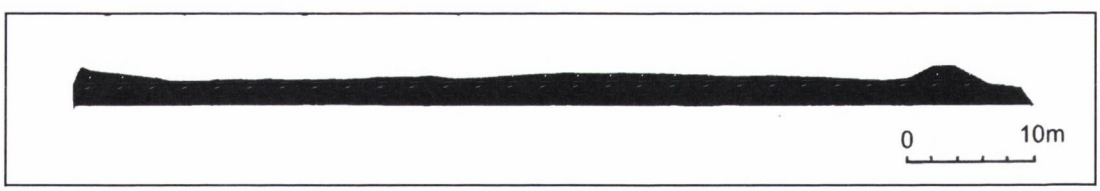

Fig. G.67: Profile of Legaweel ringfort SE-NW.

The bank is also well preserved at the S side of the site, where it is cut by a modern entranceway, closed by a modern farm gate. The external face of the bank is steep at this point and 0.95m in height, while its internal face is slumped, slopes gently downwards and is 0.75m in height. To the NE the bank is not visible internally. A laneway runs along the NE side of the site and this laneway has been cut into the

landscape and is lower than the natural ground level on both sides. The ringfort is *c*.2m higher than the laneway and this is due to the natural fall in ground level due to the ridge on which the site is located and the construction of the laneway. It does not appear to be the result of a deliberate attempt to raise the level of the ringfort. This slope down to the lane includes a terrace like feature that runs along the route of the laneway and is likely to be a product of the lanes construction. There is no sign of the bank at the NW side of the site and the edge of the site is marked by trees that form the field boundary.

Fig. G.68: East side of the ringfort at Legaweel, taken from the adjacent laneway.

There is no obvious entrance feature, with the breaches at the north and south ends likely to be modern entrances providing access to the field SW of the site. The SMR report and the *Archaeological inventory of county Cavan* (O'Donovan 1995, 110) record the presence of a long modern looking mound N of the centre of the site, but his mound was not observed during the current site inspection. The interior of the site slopes down to the E and W from the top of the ridge that runs roughly N-S through the centre of the site. No attempt appears to have been made to create a flat interior for the site.

Adjacent sites

There is another ringfort in the townland of Legaweel (CV025-080---) *c.*560m S of this one and there are three other ringforts within 1km of the site. The children's burial ground and possible church site (CV025-11502-) in Urney is *c.*2km to the W, while the church in Ballintemple (CV031-00701-) is located *c.*3.3km to the SW. The crannóg (CV025-040---) in Drumcarban is located *c.*2km to the SE.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

No documentary references to this site were located during this research. A report on the site compiled by Oliver Davies is included in the National Museum of Ireland Monument File for Legaweel townland. The report is not dated, but it was probably compiled in the 1940s when Davies conducted his research in Cavan. He indicated that at this date the fosse and outer bank and fosse had been levelled on S and W. The outer bank was well preserved only to NE where is has been cut through by a lane; where it rose 8½ feet (*c.*2.5m) from the lane and 5½ feet (*c.*1.6m) from the base of the fosse. The fosse had been cleaned out as a field drain on the N and was fairly well preserved on E, where it was 18 feet (*c.*5.5m) wide. The inner bank rose steeply from the fosse, about 9½ feet (*c.*2.9m) on E, 8 feet (*c.*2.4m) on NE. On the inside it was level with the centre on E, and rises 2½ feet (*c.*0.76m) from it on N and S, where it cut across the axis of the ridge. The centre sloped gently south and was rather humpbacked; the fort was oval, int. diam. 140 x 127 feet (*c.*42.67m x 38.7m) with the major axis along axis of ridge.

The *Down Survey* map includes the townland of 'Legaweale and Legannie Plug', which can be identified with the townland of Legaweel. No features are depicted in this townland. Similarly, the townland of 'Leggemoile' is included the *Maps of the Escheated Counties of Ulster*, but no features are depicted within it.

Interpretation

This site was visited because its description in the SMR file suggested that there was a possibility that this site could be a platform ringfort. However, it seems unlikely that this site was a platform ringfort, and its raised profile to the NE is likely to be the result of the construction of the lane as well as its location on a ridge. There was no apparent attempt to create a flat surface or platform. The site has been heavily

disturbed and modified through its history with the digging of a drain to the north and west, the creation of a number of entrances and the apparent creation and removal of a mound in its interior.

References

O'Donovan, P. F. 1995. *Archaeological Inventory of County Cavan*. Dublin: Stationery Office.

Lisduff Platform Ringfort

RMP no.	CV038-041---
Townland	Lisduff
Civil Parish	Ballymachugh
Barony	Clanmahon
County	Cavan
OS six-inch sheet no.	Cavan sheet 38
Discovery Series sheet no.	34
Irish National Grid ref.	245000, 288390
Classification	Platform ringfort

Siting

This platform ringfort is located *c.*2.5km north of Lough Sheelin on a natural rise in fairly level pastureland. The site is very overgrown and almost impenetrable. The site has been fenced off as part of the REPS (Rural Environmental Protection Scheme), and the farmer has been told not to let cattle on it and to plant trees on it. This has led to seriously restricted access to the site. With the help of the landowner access to the interior of the site was just possible to allow an assessment of its morphology and dimensions, but this was extremely difficult. Only a cursory survey of the site was possible under these conditions.

Description

The site consists of a raised platform (int. diam. 32m N-S), surrounded by two banks, each with an internal fosse. However, the only section of the site where it was possible to obtain measurements, for even a portion of a profile was on the E side where the inner fosse was largely in filled, and resembled a shelf or terrace rather than a bank and fosse. A laneway contacts the E side of the ringfort and an SMR field report records the presence of a wide (3m) causewayed entrance on the E side of the site and this would explain why both fosses were largely infilled at this point

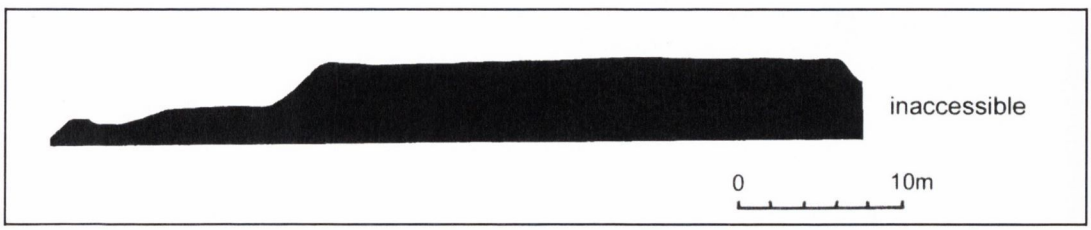

Fig. G.69: Profile of Lisduff platform ringfort, N-S.

On the E side the platform was 2.70m above the height of the inner fosse, and there was no evidence for a bank or inner berm on this edge of the platform. The inner bank and fosse, which at this point at least, resembled a shelf or terrace was 6.60m in width. The outer fosse also appears to have been largely infilled, and is 0.25m in depth below the outer bank and 0.95m in depth below the inner bank, with a width of 1.15m. The outer bank is 1m in width and 1.1m in height above external ground level.

The SMR report records that the platform is 3.5m in height above the base of the inner fosse and records two fosses and two banks. It also records a *c.*1.5m wide gap to the NE of the site, which appeared to have been broken down by cattle. The fact that this gap was not accompanied by a causeway, suggests that the gap on the east of the site is a more probable original entrance. The most recent SMR field report compiled in 1986 stated that at this date the platform was clear of vegetation and that a series of cultivation ridges were observed running E-W across it and were likely to be relatively modern. The ortho-photograph dated 2000 on the *Ordnance Survey of Ireland* Map Viewer provides a good view of the platform ringfort.

Fig. G.70: Lisduff platform ringfort as depicted on the *Ordnance Survey* Map Viewer ortho-photograph 2000.

Adjacent sites

There is another ringfort (CV038-042---) to the SE of this site also in the townland of Lisduff and there are four other ringforts within *c.*1km of this site. There is a platform

ringfort (CV038-027---) *c.*760m S in the townland of Fortland. The church (CV037-041---) and nearby motte in Lavagh (CV037-042---) are located *c.*2km to the SW.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

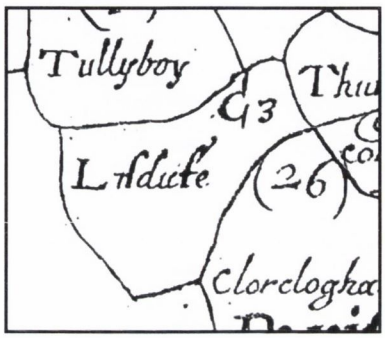

Fig. G.71: The townland of Lisduff as depicted on the *Down Survey* map of the barony of Clanmahon.

No documentary references or antiquarian accounts of this site were uncovered during this research. The *Maps of the Escheated Counties of Ulster* include a number of trees in the townland of Lisduff suggesting that at least part of the townland was wooded at this date. The *Down Survey* map of the barony of Clanmahon includes the townland of 'Lisdufe' and the symbol within it, suggests that it was church land. The *Ordnance Survey* First edition six-inch map of the area depicts a circular area enclosed by a bank with a number of trees in the interior. At this date the lane to the east of the site had already been established. A nucleation of buildings was located along a roadway south of the site. By the time the second edition map is compiled the field in which the site is located has been sub-divided. The depiction of the site appears to be more detailed and shows a field boundary running around the circumference of the site, inside of which the site is enclosed by a bank and fosse. There are trees planted within the interior of the site.

The Cambridge University collection of aerial photographs includes two photographs of this ringfort (CUCAP AHM90 and CUCAP AHM91). It is clear that when these photographs were taken the site was comparatively clear of vegetation. It consisted of a raised platform with a bank around its summit for about one third of its circumference, and was enclosed by a substantial fosse and external bank. Outside this bank are traces of a narrow fosse with a small narrow bank outside it. The bank is of similar proportions to the field fences that flanks the lane that runs to the east of the site.

The interior of the site appears to have been cultivated and rows of cultivation ridges run across its surface. The possible entrance feature to the east is visible in the photo.

Interpretation

This site is one of three platform ringforts with two enclosing pairs of banks and fosses that were identified in the barony of Clanmahon. These appear to be high status sites and are perhaps centres of local power. However, as this platform ringfort is located *c.*2km from the example in Crover, its identification as a local centre of power is less certain (see section 7.1.3, 8.1 and 8.2 for further discussion of platform ringforts).

Lismore platform ringfort

RMP no.	CV025-083---
Townland	Lismore Demesne
Civil Parish	Kilmore
Barony	Clanmahon
County	Cavan
OS six-inch sheet no.	Cavan sheet 25
Discovery Series sheet no.	34
Irish National Grid ref.	236570, 300390
Classification	Platform ringfort

Siting

This ringfort is located on top of a north-south ridge, in the townland of Lismore Demesne, close to the village of Crossdoney. Extensive construction has been done in the area of the castle site in recent years and the older buildings have been converted for use as homes. There are good views from this ringfort especially to the north and east.

Description

This site is a large platform ringfort, with a raised circular area (platform) (int. diam. 34.6m) enclosed by a fosse and traces of an external bank. A second bank or berm sits on the edge of the platform for its entire circumference. This site is heavily over grown and the majority of the interior of the site is impenetrable. The surrounding area has been cultivated and this is probably the major reason the outer bank is so degraded. At the NE the fosse is 3.7m wide and 0.95m deep, while the platform and the bank that surmounts it are 3m in height. This inner bank or berm is 1.70m in width and 1.10m in height above the platform.

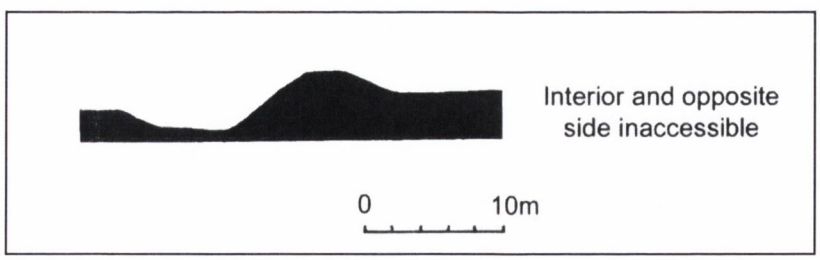

Fig. G.72: Profile of the NE side of Lismore platform ringfort NE-SW.

The overgrown nature of the site made it impossible to identify an entranceway and we must rely on earlier field reports for this information. A 1968 report compiled by

Helen Lanigan Wood indicates that the original entrance was probably at the E, where there is a gap in both banks and the slight remains of a causeway across the fosse. Lanigan Wood also records the presence of a second gap in the inner bank or berm at the SE, but with no corresponding gap in the outer bank. Despite this fact the *Archaeological inventory of county Cavan* concludes that the gap in the SE also apparently represents an original entrance. Lanigan Wood describes the interior of the site as fairly level, with a slight slope to ESE.

Fig. G.73: The NE side of Lismore platform ringfort.

Adjacent sites

The castle site in Lismore Demesne townland (CV025-084---) is located *c.*250m to the ENE. The castle site (CV025-06301-) in Kevit Upper/ Castlecosby is located *c.*1.6km to the NE. The church site and children's burial ground in Urney are located *c.*3.7km to the SE (CV025-11502-).

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

The *Ordnance Survey* Namebooks translate the townland name Lismore, *Lios Mór* as Great Fort. It also records that Lismore castle was constructed in 1733AD, and the labourers received 4*d.* a day in payment. The property had previously belonged to 'the sept of O'Reilly' and was confiscated in the O'Neill rebellion. The lands are then reported to have fallen into the hands of the Cosby family and then passed through

marriage to the Nesbitt family (*Ordnance Survey* Namebooks, county Cavan). O'Connell reports that Monsignor Massari, Dean of Fermo, first visited Cavan in 1646 and on his arrival in Ulster he first visited Lismore Castle, where he stayed as a guest of Philip O'Reilly, the Black (O'Connell 1937, 323).

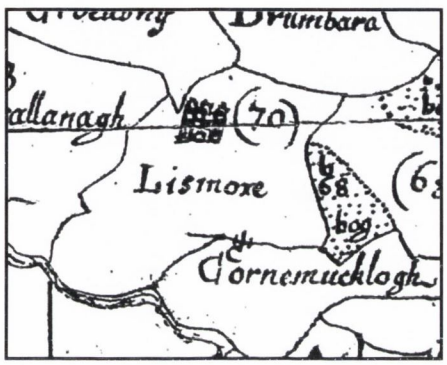

Fig. G.74: The townland of Lismore as depicted on the *Down Survey* map of the barony of Clanmahon

The *Down Survey* map of the barony of Clanmahon includes the townland of 'Lismore' and a large building is depicted in the townland. The ringfort is labelled Lismore on the second edition of the *Ordnance Survey* six-inch map, and is possibly the *lios mór* or big fort which gave the townland its name. However it is simply labelled 'fort' on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map of the area. It is close to the site of Lismore Castle, and there are no upstanding remains of this castle on the modern landscape. There are a number of 18th century buildings in the area, which may be estate buildings or a mill.

Interpretation

This site is a platform ringfort with a single enclosing bank and fosse. It is a large and impressive site and may have given the townland its name 'lios mór'. It not located in the main cluster of platform ringforts on the north shore of Lough Sheelin. It is however located *c.*3.5km south west of the motte and bailey (CV025-069--) and church site (CV025-070---) in Kilmore Upper and could be seen as a Gaelic-Irish response to the introduction of these large and highly visible sites onto the landscape.

References

O'Connell, P. 1937. *The Diocese of Kilmore: its history and antiquities*. Dublin: Browne and Nolan.

Magheraboy Upper platform Ringfort

RMP no.	CV041-017---
Townland	Magheraboy Lower
Civil Parish	Drumlumman
Barony	Clanmahon
County	Cavan
OS six-inch sheet no.	Cavan sheet 41
Discovery Series sheet no.	34
Irish National Grid ref.	241870, 283720
Classification	Platform Ringfort site

Siting

This ringfort site is located *c.*80m from the north shore of Lough Sheelin and Davies described its location as 'on a small promontory with a steep slope to Lough Sheelin. Light sandy soil, good pasture, fair view' (Davies 1947b, 13).

Description

The *Archaeological inventory of county Cavan* (O'Donovan 1995, 168) and the SMR file for this site compiled in 1974 record that it has been removed. However, Davies surveyed, described and compiled a profile of the site in the 1940s when the site was still extant (Davies 1947b, 13). He describes the site in the NMI monument file as 'a mound made of sand without fosse, 6 feet (*c.*1.8m) high and more on the lake-side. The central part is hollowed out to 1.5 feet (*c.*0.45m) depth. The hollow is circular and 10 yards (*c.*9.1m) across, and the bank surrounding it is remarkably thick. The area is very overgrown' (NMI monument file Magheraboy Upper, Mound No. 5, Cavan). Davies argues that the site 'resembles a small mote, though it had no bailey and is too low for a Norman erection. It may however, considering its vicinity to Meath, have been built in imitation of a Norman structure. There is a similar mound at Moat in the same area' (Davies 1947b, 13).

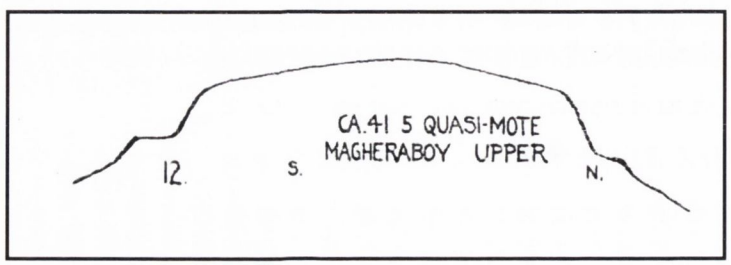

Fig. G.75: Profile of the platform ringfort at Magheraboy Upper (after Davies 1947b, 4).

Adjacent sites

The mound in Moat (CV041-018---) is located *c.*1km to the NE of the site and there are three ringforts within 1.5km. There are two possible crannógs (CV041-005--- and CV041-006---) within *c.*1.5km of the site. The church in Bracklagh (CV041-00201-) is located *c.*2.7km to the W, and the moated site in Carrickabane (CV041-007---) is located *c.*2.5km to the W.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information.

No documentary references to this site were uncovered during the course of this research. Davies published a brief description of the site in 1947, when he called it a quasi-motte and argued that it was similar to the mound in Moat (Davies 1947b, 13). The *Maps of the Escheated Counties of Ulster* label the townland Magheraboy as 'Magbone' and it is not depicted on the *Down Survey* barony map as it is included in an area of unforfeited lands. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map depicts the site as a circular area enclosed by a bank. The second edition map depicts the site as a circular platform surrounded by a fosse.

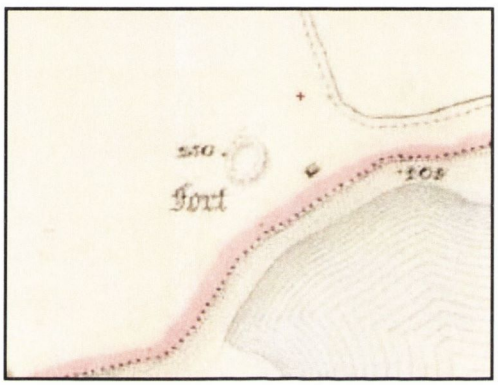

Fig. G.76: Magheraboy Upper platform ringfort as depicted on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map.

Interpretation

Davies description and profile of the site makes it clear that this site is a platform ringfort. This site does not appear to have been an enclosing bank or fosse, placing it in the smallest category of platform ringforts. However, Davies drawing of the site shows a terrace about a third of the way up the platform, which could be the remains of a bank, but Davies descriptions of the site would not support this interpretation.

References

Davies, O. 1947b. "Types of rath in Southern Ulster". *Ulster Journal of Archaeology* 10:1-14.

O'Donovan, P. F. 1995. *Archaeological Inventory of County Cavan*. Dublin: Stationery Office.

Moat platform ringfort

RMP No	CV041-018---
Townland	Moat
Civil Parish	Ballymachugh
Barony	Clanmahon
County	Cavan
OS six-inch sheet no.	Cavan sheet 41
Discovery Series sheet no.	34
Irish National Grid Ref.	242600, 284430
Classification	Platform ringfort

Siting

This earthwork is located on the shoulder of an E. facing slope, *c.*170m from the N shore of Lough Sheelin. The site is overlooked by land to the SE, where an abandoned house is located. There has been quarrying and substantial earth moving activities in the surrounding area.

Description

The site is a low circular flat topped mound (16.85m SSW-NNE, diameter of summit), and while the *Archaeological inventory of county Cavan* (O'Donovan 1995, 225) and the field reports in the SMR files suggest that there is a fosse at the base of the motte, a fosse was not located during this site visit. Field banks to the SE, NW and NE contact the site and this has altered the plan and morphology of the site. To the SE the field bank runs along the edge of the site creating a terraced profile. There has been disturbance caused by quarrying to the NE of the mound. To the NW and W the land slopes down towards the site and this creates a depression at the base of the site on this side only. This is not a fosse and it does not have a fosse like profile.

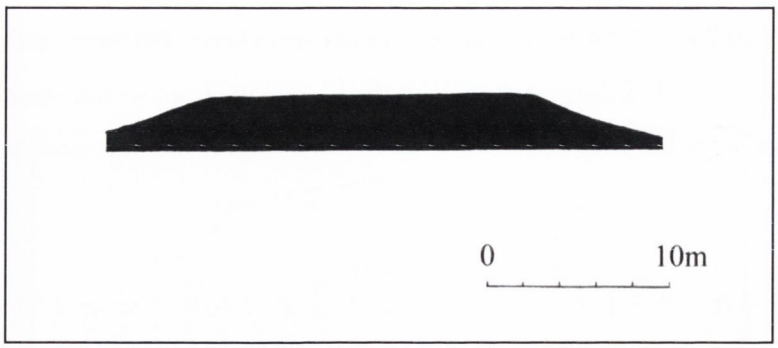

Fig. G.77: Profile of Moat platform ringfort SSW-NNE.

This mound is 1.95m H at the SSW and 2.45m H at the NNE and there is no indication of a bank or berm along the edge of the site. There is a sub-circular depression (diam. 6.2m, depth 0.2m) on the summit of the motte at the SE of uncertain function. The site is covered in bracken and an ash tree grows against the E side of the mound.

Fig. G.78: Moat platform ringfort from the NNW.

Adjacent sites

The motte (CV037-042---) and church (CV037-041---) in the townland of Lavagh are located *c.*2.5km and *c.*2.7km NE of this site respectively. The platform ringfort in Magheraboy Upper is located *c.*1km to the NE and the cashel (CV037-047---) and ringfort (CV037-050---) in Moydristan are *c.*1.5km N and *c.*1km NW of the site respectively.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information.

There is no townland of Moat, in the parish of Ballymachugh, in the *Maps of the Escheated Counties of Ulster*, or the *Down Survey* map. The townland is included in all editions of the *Ordnance Survey* six-inch maps of the area, however the first edition does not depict the earthwork, instead a cluster of trees are depicted in its location. The second edition depicts a circular mound surrounded by a circular field boundary at the location of the site.

Davies (1947b, 13) suggests that this site is similar to the site of a platform ringfort in Magheraboy Upper, and he argued that although it resembled a motte it was too low to

have been 'a Norman structure' (Davies 1947b, 13). It also contained a circular hollow in its centre. A description of the site in Moat by Oliver Davies is contained in the NMI monument file, and although it is undated we can assume it was compiled in the 1940s when most of his work in Cavan was completed. Davies records the presence of a fosse on the 'land side' of the site. This description would suggest that it has changed little since this date, although he makes no mention of the field banks that contact the site. He concludes his description by remarking that 'the place seems to be a copy of a Norman mote, but there is no bailey'.

Interpretation

There are numerous difficulties in determining a classification for this site. The SMR field reports for this site indicate that the site is either a motte or a platform ringfort. Additionally, although this site is located outside the landscaped area of the Summerville Estate it is still possible that this may have been a folly or a tree-ring.

The morphology and location of the site would suggest that it is not a motte. The fact that its location is overlooked, the absence of an enclosing fosse and its low height would all suggest that this is not a motte. As the townland name appears to have been assigned after the mid-seventeenth century, it is likely to reflect a later interpretation of the site rather than its original function. It location would suggest it should be classified as a ringfort, but the absence of a bank or berm around the edge of the platform argues against this classification. However, there is no surviving berm at the platform ringfort at Aghacreevy and is possible that it is simply a case that it didn't survive. Moreover, the construction of fieldbanks and other modern structures would indicate that the area has been substantially modified over time.

Graham (1988) and others have suggested that motte like structures may have been constructed by the Gaelic Irish prior to the arrival of the Anglo-Normans in Ireland and it is possible that this site may have been such a site. The similarity of this site to other platform ringforts unenclosed by a bank and fosse would indicate that this site should also be classified as a platform ringfort. (See sections 7.1.3, 8.1 and 8.2 for further discussion of platform ringforts and their classification).

References

Davies, O. 1947b. "Types of rath in Southern Ulster". *Ulster Journal of Archaeology* 10:1-14.

Graham, B. J. 1988. "Medieval settlement in county Roscommon". *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy* 88C:19-38.

O'Donovan, P. F. 1995. *Archaeological Inventory of County Cavan*. Dublin: Stationery Office.

Mountnugent Church

RMP no.	CV038-049---
Townland	Mountnugent
Civil Parish	Clanmahon
County	Cavan
OS six-inch sheet no.	Cavan sheet 38
Discovery Series sheet no.	34
Irish National Grid ref.	249120, 285360
Classification	Church Fragment

Siting

The Catholic Church in Mountnugent is located southeast of the crossroads around which the town developed. It is located in reasonably level land, and in an area of good pasture.

Description

The RMP records the site of this church fragment at the location of the Catholic Church in Mountnugent. It is a modern church and there is no evidence to indicate that an older church ever stood here. The inclusion of this site on the RMP appear to be based on a conversation with a local person who indicated that a stone had been taken from the possible church site in Aughnaskeagh and placed in a grotto in the grounds of the church. It is impossible to determine which stone in the grotto this may have been.

Adjacent sites

This site is of no interest to the current study.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

No documentary references or antiquarian accounts of this site were uncovered during this research.

Interpretation

This site is of no interest to the current study

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Moydristan Cashel

RMP no.	CV037-047---
Townland	Moydristan
Civil Parish	Ballymachugh
Barony	Clanmahon
County	Cavan
OS six-inch sheet no.	Cavan sheet 37
Discovery Series sheet no.	34
Irish National Grid ref.	241450, 285190
Classification	Cashel

Siting

This site is located in undulating countryside in an area of pasture, close to the road that travels along the northwest side of Lough Sheelin. The land slopes down from N-S towards Lough Sheelin.

Description

This site consists of a sub-circular area (diam. 39.75m) enclosed for at least two-thirds of its circumference by a dry-stone wall 1.45m in width and 1.05m in height. The wall is absent from the SSW to the NNW, where a laneway has been constructed along the side of the site. Sheds have been constructed close to the site and to it NW. The interior of the site has been built up to a higher level than the surrounding wall. A profile was compiled from NNE-SSW to illustrate the intact wall and the shape of the site where this is absent. Starting from the NNE, there is the stone wall 1.65m H and 1.45m W inside of which there is a bank 0.45m H above the stonewall and 1.5m in width. Next there is a flat area 4.6m wide. The interior of the site then rises 0.95m over a distance of 9.75m. The summit of the site is 6m in diameter before dropping sharply 0.7m into what appears to be a fosse, which is 0.3m deep. There is a flat area at the edge of the site 10.2m in width before a steep drop (1.2m H) to the laneway. The uneven nature of the

Fig. G.79: The enclosing wall at Moydristan Cashel

interior of the site would suggest that it has been disturbed to a large extent and the original form of the site is unclear.

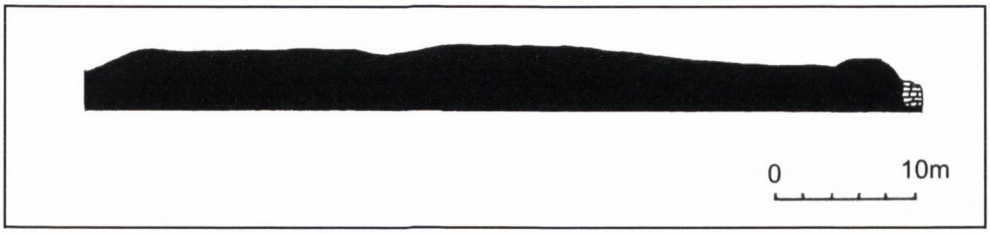

Fig. G.80: Profile of Moydristan cashel SSW-NNE.

Fig. G.81: Moydristan Cashel from the NE.

Adjacent sites

This cashel is *c.*1.5km from the north shore of Lough Sheelin. The platform ringfort (CV041-018---) in the townland of Moat is located 1.4km to the south. There is a platform ringfort *c.*1.5km north of the cashel in the townland of Moynagh Upper (CV037-054---) and the site of a platform ringfort *c.*1.5km to the south in Magheraboy Upper (CV041-017---). There are three ringforts within 1km of the site.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

No documentary references or antiquarian accounts for this site were uncovered during this research. The townland of 'Moydriston' is depicted on both the *Down Survey* and *Maps of the Escheated Counties of Ulster* maps of the barony of Clanmahon, but no features are depicted within it in either map. An area of forestry is depicted along the lake edge of the latter map. The site is depicted on both editions of the *Ordnance Survey* six-inch maps of the area. The site is depicted as a circular enclosure on the

first edition compiled in the 1830s, but by the early twentieth century the NW side of the site had been damaged. The site is depicted on the First Edition map in the same manner as ringforts and is labelled 'Fort'. The *Ordnance Survey* map viewer showing ortho-photograph provides a good aerial view of the site.

Fig. G.82: The cashel in Moydristan as depicted on the *Ordnance Survey* map viewer ortho-photograph 2005

Interpretation

O'Conor (1998, 86) has suggested that cashels continued in use until the late seventeenth century. The cashel at Cahermacnaghten, county Clare appears to have been occupied by the O'Davorens up to the seventeenth century. The ground level within the site is far higher than the surrounding terrain, which has been seen as evidence of long occupation.

This is the only cashel in the barony of Clanmahon, but there are a number of cashels in other parts of county Cavan. The *Archaeological Inventory for county Cavan* (O'Donovan 1995, 147) describes this site as 'a raised circular area enclosed by a low partly destroyed stone wall'. However the *Archaeological inventory of county Cavan* describes most of the other cashels in Cavan in a similar way and indeed almost all the ringforts are described as raised circular areas whether they are platform ringforts or not. It is therefore unclear whether these other cashels had raised interiors like that in Moydristan.

References

O'Conor, K. D. 1998. *The archaeology of medieval rural settlement in Ireland.* Dublin: Royal Irish Academy. Discovery Programme Monograph.

O'Donovan, P. F. 1995. *Archaeological Inventory of County Cavan*. Dublin: Stationery Office.

Moynagh Lower platform ringfort

RMP no.	CV037-051---
Townland	Moynagh Lower
Civil Parish	Drumlumman
Barony	Clanmahon
County	Cavan
OS six-inch sheet no.	Cavan sheet 37
Discovery Series sheet no.	34
Irish National Grid ref.	239410, 285990
Classification	Platform ringfort

Siting

This platform ringfort is located on the W shoulder of a valley. It is located in an area of good pastureland, which had recently been cut for silage. The platform ringfort is located immediately SE of an abandoned house and there is a small rectangular field between the house and the ringfort, with an old trackway running along the SW side of this field. There are the remains of a possible circular field pattern to the east and south of the site. The absence of a church or graveyard or any record of either on the site, makes the significance of this field pattern unclear.

Description

This heavily overgrown site consists of a raised circular area (29.10m int. diam. N-S) enclosed by a single bank or berm on the edge of the platform and an external fosse. The external fosse only survives on the S side of the site, where it is 3.30m deep below the top of the platform and the bank or berm and 0.80m above external ground level. There is no fosse on the north side of the site and the bank appears to have been constructed on a scarped natural rise in the landscape, creating a noticeable break of slope. The platform and bank are 2.35m in height above external ground level at the S. with 0.80m of this height coming from the scarped natural rise. At the E and W there is no fosse or natural rise but as the site is heavily overgrown, with trees, bushes and brambles it is difficult to examine the entire circumference of the site.

The interior of the site is overgrown with trees, bushes and brambles, making access difficult. The bank is only 0.2m to 0.25m above the interior of the site. There is a gradual but noticeable rise in ground level (1.25m) as you move from N-S across the interior of the site, creating two spaces within the interior, the lower southern part of

the site and the higher northern part of the site. The lower part of the site is 7.35m in length (N-S), while the higher part of the site is 14.50m in length (N-S).

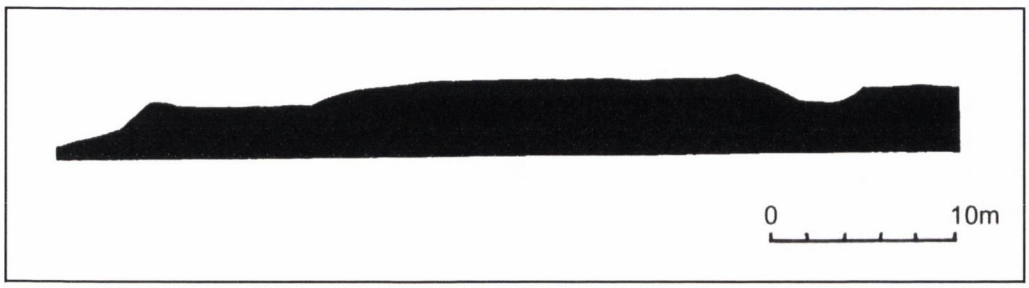

Fig. G.83: Profile of Moynagh Lower platform ringfort W-E.

The original entranceway is not recognisable but this may be due to the overgrown state of the site. An SMR site report dating to 1970 reports the presence of a rock outcrop in the higher area of the interior, but there was no sign of this when the site was visited. The site does not appear to have been overgrown when the site was visited at this date, which may account for this difference.

Fig. G.84: NW side of the platform of Moynagh Lower platform ringfort.

Adjacent sites

The platform ringfort in the neighbouring townland of Moynagh Lower (CV037-054---) is located *c.*800m to the SE. There are two ringforts within 1km of the site. The church in Bracklagh (CV041-00201-) is located *c.*2.5km to the S. and the moated sites

in Lisnadarragh (CV041-014---) and Carrickabane (CV041-007---) are located *c.*2.5km to the S.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

Fig. G.85: The townland of Moynagh depicted on the *Down Survey* map of the barony of Clanmahon.

No documentary references or antiquarian accounts were uncovered during this research. The *Down Survey* barony map includes the townland of Moynagh, and there is a symbol of the letter C with a cross on top of it, which indicates that it was church land. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map depicts the site as a circular platform, with trees planted around its edge and it is labelled 'fort'. There are three buildings with small enclosures to the west, but there are no field boundaries marked in the surrounding area. The second edition depiction of the site suggests that it had been altered considerably; a circular fosse encloses the southern half. The northern side has been altered considerably and is now enclosed by rectilinear field boundaries. The interior of the site is depicted as a raised ridge that runs from E-W, and slopes down to the N and S.

Interpretation

This site is a platform ringfort that has no enclosing bank or fosse, placing it in the simplest category of platform ringfort (see section 7.1.3, 8.1 and 8.2 for further discussion of platform ringforts and their classification).

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Moynagh Upper platform ringfort

RMP no.	CV037-054---
Townland	Moynagh Upper
Civil Parish	Drumlumman
Barony	Clanmahon
County	Cavan
OS six-inch sheet no.	Cavan sheet 37
Discovery Series sheet no.	34
Irish National Grid ref.	239980, 285450
Classification	Ringfort - Platform

Siting

This site is located in an elevated position in the landscape, and trees and shrubs obstruct views from the site. Lough Sheelin, which is located SE of the site, is visible from it through the trees. The land falls gently from south to north across the area. The site consists of a raised sub-circular platform enclosed by bank and internal fosse. The site is very overgrown, it has been fenced off and while the surrounding fields are well tended it has been allowed to become completely overgrown.

Description

The platform is very overgrown with long grass, nettles and bushes along the edge making it is impossible to determine whether there are any internal features. It slopes gently from south to north and it is quite large *c.* 40m in diameter. There is evidence for a berm or lip on the north edge of the platform; the rest of the platform is too overgrown to allow the identification of this berm in other places. The platform is 0.90m in height at the north side of the site but is 1.5m in height at the S side.

The bank appears to have been removed from the north side of the site and it is probable that it was removed during ploughing in the area. The surrounding fields are very flat and featureless. There is a possible entrance feature on the south side of the site, where there is a gap in the enclosing bank and an access way to the platform. The site is too damaged to be able to establish with any certainty whether this is an original feature. The bank on the south side has a very high stone content.

The SMR report on the site suggests that the site was constructed by scarping the natural slope and building the outer bank with material excavated from the fosse.

Fig. G.86: Moynagh Upper platform ringfort from the N.

Adjacent sites

There is a platform ringfort (CV037-051---) *c.*800m to the NW in the neighbouring townland of Moynagh Lower. There are two ringforts within 1km of the site. The church in Bracklagh is *c.*2.2km to the S and there is a tradition of a church site (CV041-003---) *c.*1.5km the S in the townland of Carrick. The moated site at Carrickabane (CV041-007---) is *c.*2km to the S.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

No documentary references or antiquarian accounts of this site were uncovered during this research. The *Down Survey* barony map includes the townland of Moynagh (the subdivision of Upper and Lower Moynagh were established after this date), and there is a symbol of the letter C with a cross on top of it, which indicates that it was church land. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map depicts the site was a circular area enclosed by a bank and is labelled fort. The site is connected to a nucleation of buildings to its south by a roadway. The second edition depicts the site as a circular platform enclosed by a field boundary. Numerous field boundaries are depicted in the surrounding area, which were not depicted on the first edition.

Interpretation

This site is a platform ringfort with no enclosing bank or fosse, placing it in the simplest category of platform ringfort (see sections 7.1.3, 8.1 and 8.2 for further discussion of platform ringforts and their classification).

Omard burial ground

RMP no.	CV037-063---
Townland	Omard
Civil Parish	Ballymachugh
Barony	Clanmahon
County	Cavan
OS six-inch sheet no.	Cavan sheet 37
Discovery Series sheet no.,	34
Irish National Grid ref.	242750, 288280
Classification	Burial ground possible

Siting

The burial ground is located in level, low lying ground. It is located on a natural rise, surrounded by boggy land. The area is under pasture with sheep and cows grazing.

Description

The possible burial ground is an irregular shaped area, possibly best describes as sub-triangular in shape (*c.*60m E-W, *c.*40m N-S). Streams or drains enclose the site to the S, N and W and the field boundary on the E side has been removed. There are no head stones or any other indication that this is a graveyard. This site is enclosed on three sides by the boundaries of four townlands: Omard, Drumnavrick, Ballyheelan and Bellsgrove.

Adjacent sites

Fig. G.87: Omard Cross, located *c.*660m west of the burial ground site.

There is a wayside cross (CV037-066---) *c.*660m west of the burial ground and the site of an ogham site (CV037-065---) is located *c.*600m west of the site. The wayside cross stands against a stone wall on the east side of the road and is locally known as the 'Cat's Cross'. It is a plain cross with imperforate ring, with the arms of the cross measuring 0.48cm in width and the cross is 0.58m in height. There is a platform ringfort (CV037-062---) in the townland of Omard *c.*2km N of

the graveyard and two other ringforts in the townland of Omard (CV037-068---, CV037-074---).

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

The identification of this site as a graveyard is based solely on local information (O'Donovan 1995, 216). The townland of Omard was not included in the *Down Survey* map for the barony of Clanmahon as it is included in an area of unfortified lands. It was however included in the *Maps of the Escheated Counties of Ulster*, but the only trees and an area of bogland are included within it. Neither of the editions of the *Ordnance Survey* six-inch map depict or label this site, which is located enclosed by the boundaries of five townlands.

Fig. G.88: Omard graveyard as depicted by the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map (triangular area enclosed on two sides by townland boundaries).

Interpretation

The local tradition of a site here coupled with the nearby ogham stone site and wayside cross would suggest that this site might have acted as a burial ground. However, it is impossible to estimate when and for how long this possible burial site might have been in use.

References

Davies, O. 1948a. "The castles of county Cavan: part 2". *Breifne* 11:81-126.

O'Donovan, P. F. 1995. *Archaeological Inventory of County Cavan*. Dublin: Stationery Office.

Omard platform ringfort

RMP no.	CV037-062---
Townland	Omard
Civil Parish	Ballymachugh
Barony	Clanmahon
County	Cavan
OS six-inch sheet no.	Cavan sheet 37
Discovery Series sheet no.	34
Irish National Grid ref.	242410, 290340
Classification	Platform ringfort

Siting

This site is located on an east-facing slope in an area of rough pasture, and the soil in the surrounding area has a tendency to waterlog. A stream runs to the north of the site and the surrounding fields contain frequent rushes.

Description

The site is a circular platform (int. diam. 44m E-W)) with a berm or bank at the edge of the platform and a fosse at its base. The site is heavily overgrown and local information indicates that the area is no longer farmed, although there is a pheasant feeder in the interior of the site. Ash, plane, beech and blackthorn trees make much of the E side of the site inaccessible.

The shallow fosse is waterlogged and the base of it contains a rich peaty soil. It is possible that the fosse was infilled through the accumulation of organic material in it. The interior of the site is composed of sticky yellow clay. The fosse is 1.5m wide and 0.2m deep below external ground level. The platform is 2m in height above the base of the fosse, and the bank on top of the platform is 1.2m wide and its inner face is 0.6m in height.

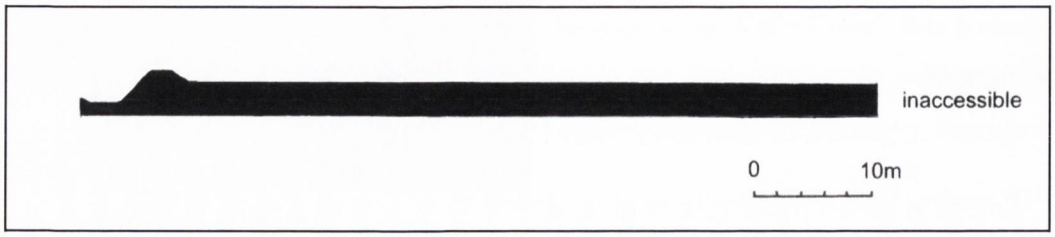

Fig. G.89: Profile of Omard platform ringfort NW-SE.

Fig. G.90: NW side of Omard platform ringfort.

There are two gaps in the bank, one to the NW and one to the NE. The gap to the NW is 1.4m wide internally and 1.9m wide externally. There is little evidence for a causeway and it does not appear to be the original entrance. The gap in the NE is largely overgrown, making it impossible to obtain accurate measurements (*c.*3m wide from SMR field report dated 1986) or establish whether or not there is a causeway.

Adjacent sites

The graveyard site (CV037-063---) and wayside cross (CV037-066---) in Omard are located *c.*2km and *c.*1.8km S of this platform ringfort. The ringfort (CV037-064---) in this townland is *c.*1.3km to the S. Kill church (CV037-034---) is located *c.*1km to the NE and Ballymachugh Church of Ireland church (CV037-041---) in Lavagh townland is *c.*4km to the S. The site is *c.*1.35km W of Omard Lough and there are four ringforts within 1km of the site.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information.

No documentary references or antiquarian accounts of this site were located during this research. The townland of Omard was not included in the *Down Survey* map for the barony of Clanmahon as it is included in an area of unfortified lands. It was however included in the *Maps of the Escheated Counties of Ulster*, but the only trees and an area of bogland are included within it. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map depicts the site as a circular enclosure that has been planted with trees. The second edition map indicates that the site has been linked to the road and some buildings by a laneway that also ran around the north and south sides of the site. The

interior of the site continued to be planted with trees. The *Ordnance Survey* Namebooks record the presence of a number of forts in the townland and the presence of a deerpark on the SW side of Omard Lough, which is located on the north boundary of the townland and the parish.

Interpretation

This site is a platform ringfort that it not enclosed by an enclosing bank, placing it in the simplest category of platform ringfort (see sections 7.1.3, 8.1 and 8.2 for further discussion of platform ringforts and their classification).

Racraveen Motte

RMP no.	CV038-055---
Townland	Racraveen
Civil Parish	Kilbride
Barony	Clanmahon
County	Cavan
OS six-inch sheet no.	Cavan sheet 38
Discovery Series sheet no.	34
Irish National Grid ref.	249440, 286480
Classification	Motte and tower house site

Siting

The motte is situated on a low rise in undulating countryside. It is located on a bend in the River Inny, which encircles the NE half of the site and forms the townland boundary with the neighbouring townland of Pollareagh.

Description

The motte is a steep sided flat-topped sub-circular mound, 2.25 (S) to 3.3m (N) in height, with diameters of 23m N-S, and 32.5m E-W at its summit. Davies (1947a, 87) recorded that the top of the motte 'was surrounded by a thin mortared wall, which survives in parts' and O'Donovan (1995, 225) records that it 'is enclosed by the remains of a low earthen bank'. There were faint traces of this bank/ wall, but it was so slight that it could not be represented on the profile.

Fig. G.91: The tower in Racraveen as depicted on the *Maps of the Escheated Counties of Ulster* for the barony of Clanmahon.

There are foundations of a rectangular building, located at the NE edge of the motte summit. Three of the four corners of this structure could be identified with certainty (NW, NE and SW) with the identification of the fourth corner less certain. The NW corner, which is located on the edge of the motte, is the best preserved. It is *c.*0.30m in height. The N wall of this building, measured 6.9m in length and the E wall measured 10.2m in length. These dimensions indicate that this structure could have been a tower house. The *Maps of the Escheated Counties of Ulster* for the barony of Clanmahon depicts what appears to be a tower house beside a river in the townland of Racknaum and this townland is separated from the adjoining townland of Pollareagh

by the river. The depiction of what is assumed to be a tower house is identical to that used to indicate Crover Castle on an island in Lough Sheelin.

Fig. G.92: NW corner of the stone foundations on top of Racraveen motte.

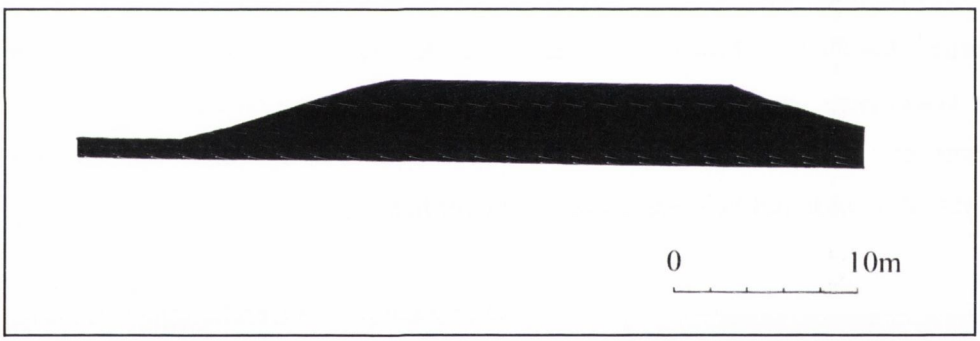

Fig. G.93: Profile of Racraveen motte N-S.

There is no evidence of an enclosing bank or fosse around the base of the motte, although the River Inny encloses the motte on two sides, which is *c*.5.5m from the base of the motte. The side of the motte is higher on the sides enclosed by the river, due to the natural undulations in the landscape: it is 3.30m in height on the N and 2.25m in height on the S side. There is an entrance feature at the SW of the motte, which consists of a break in the surviving bank and a ramped causeway. O'Donovan (1995, 225) has suggested that there is a bailey immediately outside this entrance feature. Although there is a flat area immediately outside this entrance, there is no evidence that it was ever enclosed and it slopes downward on both sides following the natural undulations of the surrounding landscape. This was probably a natural feature.

The landowner informed me that he found a George II gold coin bearing the date 1774 in the townland in Racraveen, but not in the area immediately surrounding the motte.

Adjacent sites

The motte in Racraveen is located 400m from the parish church in the neighbouring townland of Gallonreagh (CV038-032---). There is a ringfort site and a ringfort within 1km of the motte in the townlands in Racraveen and Pollareagh (CV038-054--- and CV038-053--- respectively). The closest platform ringfort is located *c.*1.7km SW of the motte in Garrysallagh O'Reilly (CV042-026---) and the closest motte in the barony is located *c.*3.3km west in the townland of Lavagh (CV037-042---).

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

Davies (1947a, 87) argues that the castle was probably built and occupied by the Nugents in the late 16th century. While it might be possible to argue that the Nugents were responsible for the construction of the tower house in the sixteenth century it is clear that they could not have been responsible for the construction of the motte. O'Connell (1962, 13) reports that there is a local tradition that the castles of Racraveen and Castlerahan originally belonged to the Tuites. The Tuite involvement with early attempts by the Anglo-Normans to settle Bréifne, would suggest that they could have been responsible for the construction of this motte.

The *Placenames Commission* website indicates that the official Irish form of Racraveen is Ráth Chnáimhín,'the rath or enclosure of Cnáimhín'. Cnaimhín is an Irish personal name from which the surname Ó Cnáimhín is probably derived (Irish Placenames Commission website, www.logainm/Viewer.aspx?text=racraveen, 26/8/2010). There is a ringfort site to the SW of the motte in the townland of Racraveen and the townland may take its name from this ringfort site.

The *Maps of the Escheated Counties of Ulster* for the barony of Clanmahon depicts a tower house in the townland of 'Racknaum', which is located at a bend in the river and the adjacent townland of 'Kilbreidy' contains a church. No features are depicted in the *Down Survey* map of the barony of Clanmahon. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map includes the motte and indicates it with a single circular line of hachures,

but labels the site 'fort'. The twenty-five inch map marks the site in a similar way and does not label it.

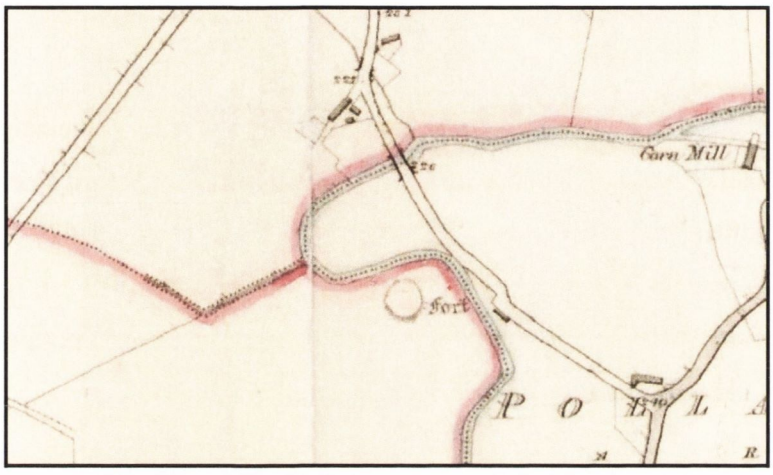

Fig G.94: The motte at Racraveen as depicted on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map.

Interpretation

There at least two possible explanations of the stone wall around the edge of the motte. It may be the remains of a shell-keep or curtain wall around the site, which would have been constructed at the same time as the motte. There are the remains of a curtain wall around the motte at Shanid, which also enclosed a polygonal keep (Sweetman 1999, 85). Alternatively it may represent the remains of a bawn wall which was constructed contemporaneously with the tower house. Sweetman (1999, 31) argues that what he describes as the 'low earthen banks' around the edge of the summit at sites like Racraveen 'may be the remains of an earth and timber palisade, rather than a stone wall and would therefore have been an original feature of the motte'.

The location of a parish church and a motte in close proximity to each other (400m apart) suggests that the motte at Racraveen and the church at Gallonreagh may have been the location of a manorial centre. However, the fact that they are located in different townland would argue against that thesis. The circular graveyard at Gallonreagh could also indicate that this was an early medieval rather than an Anglo-Norman foundation, but pre-Norman foundations were re-used by them in other parts of Ireland.

References

Davies, O. 1947a. "The castles of county Cavan: part 1". *Ulster Journal of Archaeology* 10:73-100.

O'Connell, P. 1962. "The parish and district of Kilbride: Part I". *Ríocht na Midhe* 2(4):5-16.

O'Donovan, P. F. 1995. *Archaeological Inventory of County Cavan*. Dublin: Stationery Office.

Sweetman, D. 1999. *Medieval castles of Ireland*. Cork: The Collins Press.

Raheever platform ringfort

RMP no.	CV042-040---
Townland	Raheever
Civil Parish	Kilbride
Barony	Clanmahon
County	Cavan
OS six-inch sheet no.	Cavan sheet 42
Discovery Series sheet no.	34
Irish National Grid ref.	250920, 281150
Classification	Platform ringfort

Siting

This platform ringfort is located in a field of rough pasture, on a natural rise with extensive views in all directions, except to the north where it is obscured by large deciduous trees.

Description

The *Archaeological inventory of county Cavan* describes this as a raised circular area surrounded by two low earthen banks with a wide intermediate fosse (O'Donovan 1995, 133). This does not correlate with the description in the SMR files or my observations at the site. Instead it appears to be a univallate ringfort, which encloses a platform. The fosse between the platform and the enclosing bank appears to be largely in-filled.

The platform is approx 2.5m in height and 33m in diameter. There is evidence for a berm, or lip around the edge of the platform, especially at the southwest. There are no obvious features on the platform. There is a causewayed entrance across the bank at the east side of the ringfort, which is approx 13m wide. The platform is also less steep at this point. There is a line of tree stumps at this point, so it may also have been the result of land clearance.

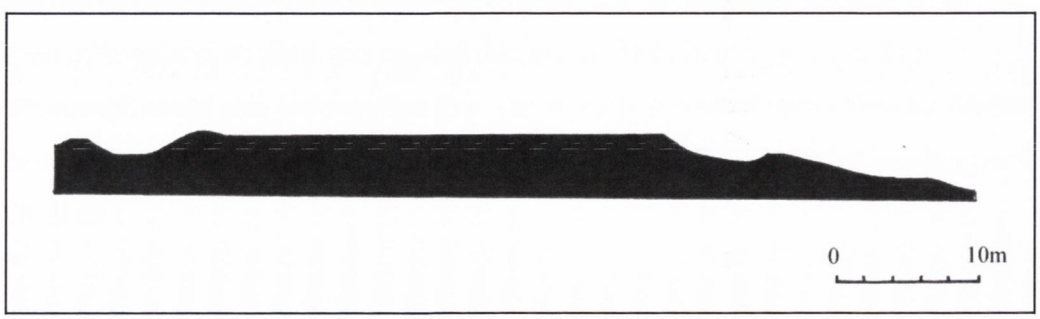

Fig. G.95: Profile of Raheever platform ringfort NW-SE.

The surrounding bank varies in height, it is lower at the western side, but the land falls away quite sharply on this side and therefore there might have been less need for a bank here. Alternatively it might have degraded over time. There is some evidence for stone in the bank, and the walls of the surrounding fields are of dry-stone construction. Similarly the bank is entirely absent at the north side, where there is a sharp drop in the ground level. The bank is quite substantial to the northeast and east. At the east side the bank is 2m wide and the fosse is 5m wide.

Fig. G.96: Raheever platform ringfort from the NNW.

Fig G.97: The platform ringfort and raised enclosure at Raheever from the *Ordnance Survey Map Viewer* ortho-photograph (2005).

Immediately to the north east of the ringfort is a small enclosed field. This area is raised above the surrounding ground level and on the southern and western sides, at least, a stone wall has been built up against its sides. The field is irregular in plan and its surface is also irregular, for example there is a substantial hillock in the NW corner. It is possible that this enclosed area is part of a field system, connected with the platform ringfort located adjacent to it.

Adjacent sites

There are a number of other archaeological sites in the townland of Raheever, the site of a stone cross (CV042-041---) is located *c.*300m to the W and a holy well (CV042-041---) is located *c.*420m to the E to this site. The site of a pair of conjoined ringforts (CV042-039---) is located *c.*420m to the N and there are the sites of two other ringforts within the townland. There is a platform ringfort (CV042-036---) *c.*850m NE in the adjacent townland of Raclaghy. The possible church site (CV042-00101-), burial mound and cross-inscribed stone (CV042-046---) and wayside cross (CV041-00101-) in Aghnaskeagh are located *c.*4km to the NW.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic evidence

No documentary references or antiquarian accounts were uncovered during this programme of research. The townland of Raheever is depicted on the *Maps of the Escheated Counties of Ulster* and the *Down Survey* maps of the barony of Clanmahon, but no man made structures are depicted within the townland on either map. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map depicts the site as a sub-circular area enclosed by a field boundary, which was overgrown with trees and bushes. There is a sub-rectangular enclosure adjacent to this site, which is also enclosed by field boundaries and overgrown with vegetation. The second edition map depicts this site as a circular platform enclosed by field boundaries with trees at the foot of the platform. The sub-rectangular area adjacent to it continues to be depicted. Both editions of the six-inch map depict a stone cross to the west of the site and St. Patrick's well to the east.

Interpretation

This is a platform ringfort with one enclosing bank and fosse. It is located within an archaeologically rich environment and its location between a holy well and the site of a stone cross suggests an ecclesiastical presence in the area. The form of the enclosure adjacent to the site suggests that it may be a burial ground of some description. However, the evidence for this is very tentative and the relationship between the platform ringfort and these other sites is difficult to interpret.

References

O'Donovan, P. F. 1995. *Archaeological Inventory of County Cavan*. Dublin: Stationery Office.

Tawlaght ringfort

RMP no.	CV037-070---
Townland	Tawlaght
Civil Parish	Ballymachugh
Barony	Clanmahon
County	Cavan
OS six-inch sheet no.	Cavan sheet 37
Discovery Series sheet no.	34
Irish National Grid ref.	241270, 288680
Classification	Ringfort

Siting

This ringfort is located on the shoulder of a NE facing slope in an area of rough pasture. The area appears to be used for the grazing of cattle. There are good views from NW-E and Lough Sheelin is clearly visible from the site.

Description

This grass-covered site, with one hawthorn tree on its bank, is a circular area (int. D. 29m) enclosed by a bank and external fosse. The bank (0.65m to 0.3m H above int. and 0.7m to 1.05m H above base of fosse) appears to have slumped giving the interior a dished appearance. The bank contains a high quantity of stone and this can be observed in disturbance to the bank at the S. It is best preserved from the N to E and from the S to W. The external fosse (*c.*1.4m in W and 0.55m deep, below external ground level) does not survive for the entire circumference of the site, there are breaks in it at the NE, SW and a large gap at the E. The gap at the NE appears to be the remains of a causewayed entrance to the site and this causeway is 7.9m wide. The land slopes gently downward from S-N across the site (height difference of 0.35m) and there are no features of significance in the interior of the site.

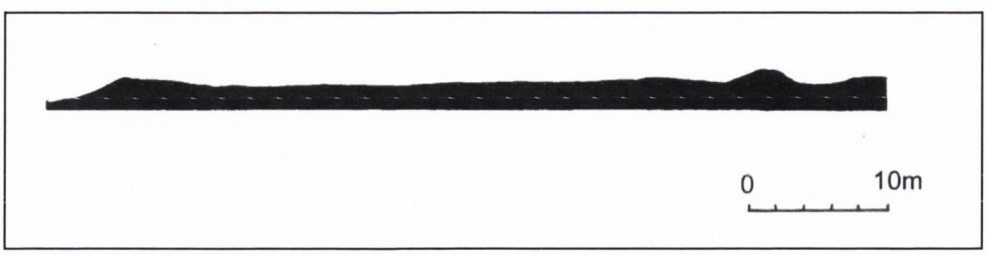

Fig. G.98: Profile of Tawlaght ringfort, E-W.

Fig. G.99: Tawlaght ringfort from the SW.

Adjacent sites

There is another ringfort (CV037-069---) in the townland of Tawlaght *c.*1.8km to the S and there are two other ringforts within 1km of this site. There is a tradition of a graveyard in the townland of Omard (CV037-063---) *c.*1.5km to the E. The church in Lavagh (CV037-041---) and the nearby motte (CV037-042---) are located *c.*3.5km to the SW.

Documentary references and antiquarian accounts

No documentary references or antiquarian accounts were uncovered during the current research. The townland of Tawlaght is included in both the *Down Survey* and the *Maps of the Escheated Counties of Ulster* maps of the barony of Clanmahon, but neither includes any features within them. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map of the area includes this fort in Tawlaght and depicts it as a circular area enclosed by a bank. The second edition map depicts the site as a circular area enclosed by a field bank.

Interpretation

This site was part of a random sample used to check the methodology for identifying platform ringforts. The profile of this site indicates clearly that this is not a platform ringfort.

Togher crannóg

RMP no.	CV020-074---
Townland	Togher or Danesfort Demesne
Civil Parish	Kilmore
Barony	Upper Loughtee
County	Cavan
OS six-inch sheet no.	Cavan sheet 20
Discovery Series sheet no.	34
Irish National Grid ref.	236700, 304870
Classification	Crannóg

Siting

The crannóg is situated in marshy ground in Lough Atrain, *c.*15m from the shoreline (O'Donovan 1997, 189).

Description

Davies (1942, 19) described the site as a roughly circular mound (diam. *c.*29m) of sterile puddle clay, resting on a raft of branches that comprised logs running radially, with a set of crosswise logs superimposed on the radial members. The pressure of the peat had caused the radial logs to become tilted upwards. Davies (1942, 19) argued that the mound of earth was an adaptation of the crannóg-cairn. The NMI acquired a number of items from this excavation, including a half silver penny of Henry III, which dates between 1216 and 1272. Two chips of flint, a copper pin, a blue glass bead and 16 sherds of pottery, probably crannóg ware, were also found on the site (NMI correspondence register 1942, NMI reg. nos NMI 1942:1923 to NMI 1942:1943).

Adjacent sites

This site is outside the study area. It is located *c.*2km from the motte and bailey (CV025-069---) and the ecclesiastical site (CV025-070---) in Kilmore Upper.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

No documentary references or antiquarian accounts of this site were uncovered during this research. The townland of 'Toghara' is included in the *Maps of the Escheated Counties of Ulster* map of the barony of Loughtee, but neither the lake or the crannóg are depicted. The crannóg appears to be depicted as a small island on Lough Atrain on

the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map and the twenty-five inch map, but it is not labelled on either edition.

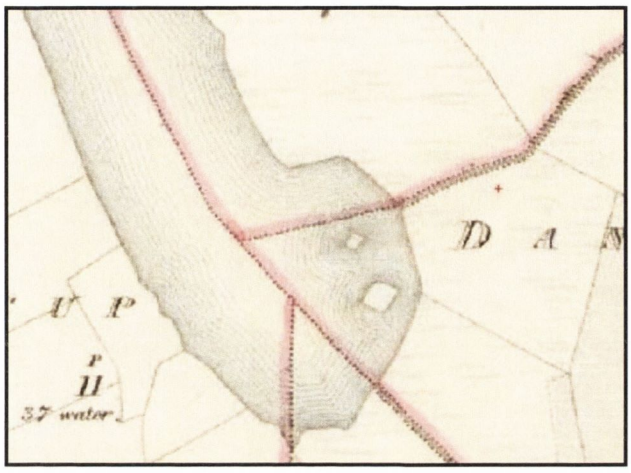

Fig. G.100: The location of Togher crannóg as depicted on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map.

Interpretation

The artefactual evidence clearly illustrates that there was activity on this site in the high medieval period. It is not clear however, whether this was long-term occupation of the site, or temporary or intermittent activity. Although this site is outside the study area, it is included as it provides definitive evidence of later medieval activity on the crannógs of the region.

References

Davies, O. 1942. "Contributions to the study of crannógs in south Ulster". *Ulster Journal of Archaeology* 5:14-30.

O'Donovan, P. 1997. *The castles of county Cavan*. Unpublished MLitt thesis, Trinity College Dublin.

Tullygullin enclosure

RMP no.	CV041-020---
Townland	Tullygullin
Civil Parish	Drumlumman
Barony	Clanmahon
County	Cavan
County	Cavan
OS six-inch sheet no.	Cavan sheet 41
Discovery Series sheet no.	34
Irish National Grid ref.	236170, 283990
Classification	Enclosure

Siting

This site is located in an area of rock outcrop and a lot of glacial features. It is located on the SW shoulder of high ground, facing a wet, boggy area to the west.

Description

The site is classified in the SMR file as an enclosure, but it is also suggested that the site could be a motte and bailey. The site is very irregular in appearance, and the large earthen mound appears to be largely composed of rock outcrop. There is a 'bank' at the east end of the mound, but there is an amount of rock outcrop in this area also. This area between the mound and this bank would appear to be what was described as a bailey. The irregular appearance of the site and its location in an area of rock outcrop and glacial features, would strongly suggest that this is a natural feature. The original report on the site that described it as a motte and bailey was compiled in 1986. When the site was revisited by Sweetman and O'Donovan in 1993, they concluded that the site was a natural feature, and of no archaeological significance. It is classified as an enclosure on archaeology.ie. Sweetman and O'Donovan's 1993 interpretation of the site appears to be the correct one.

Adjacent sites

There is one ringfort within 1km of this site. The moated site at Bawn (CV041-001---) is *c.*750m to the NE, and the church in Bracklagh (CV041-00201-) is *c.*3km to the E. There are two platform ringforts *c.*4km to the NE in the townlands of Moynagh Upper (CV037-054---) and Moynagh Lower (CV037-051---).

Fig. G.101: Tullygullin enclosure from the S.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic references

The *Ordnance Survey* Namebooks translate Tullygullin, *Tulac Gluillinn* as the Hill of the Holly Trees. It also records the presence of two forts and a stone quarry at the East side of the townland. In the seventeenth century the area of Tullygullin was granted to the Captain Lyons and Joseph Jones and it was comprised 1,500 acres. Lord Lambert later acquired 1,000 acres of the estate, suggesting that Captain Lyons retained 500 acres (Davies 1948a, 109).

The townland name Tullygullin is absent from the *Maps of the Escheated Counties of Ulster*, and its location is occupied by the townlands of 'Cartonfrigb' (Cartronfree) and 'Fortgroman and Towdan'. Nothing is depicted in either of these townlands. Tullygullin is not depicted on the *Down Survey* barony map because it appears to be included in an area of unforfeited land. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map depicts the site as a circular area enclosed by a bank, which does not appear to be

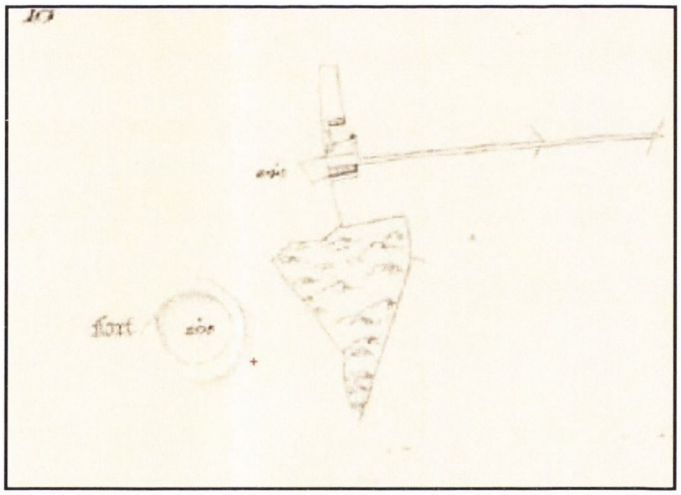

Fig. G.102: Tullygullin enclosure as depicted on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map.

continuous. There is a possible area of quarrying depicted to the east of this site. The second edition map depicts the site as a sub-circular area enclosed by a bank and fosse, from the N to E to S. There is a gap in this bank at the east side of the site. The bank and fosse are absent from the rest of the circumference of the site.

Interpretation

If this is an archaeological site, there is no evidence to suggest that it was ever a motte and bailey. It is impossible to assign it to a more specific classification than enclosure.

References

Davies, O. 1948a. "The castles of county Cavan: part 2". *Breifne* 11:81-126.

Overk Gazetteer

Abbeylands Church (Kilculliheen Nunnery site)

RMP no.	WA009-008---
Townland	Abbeylands
Civil Parish	Kilculliheen
Barony	Gaultiere
County	Waterford
OS six-inch sheet no.	Waterford sheet 9
Discovery Series sheet no.	76
Irish National Grid ref.	261404, 112637
Classification	Religious House

Siting

This church site is located on a SW facing slope on the banks of the River Suir and it is accessed via a road named Abbey Road. On the opposite bank of the River Suir Reginald's tower and Christ Church Cathedral are both visible from the site.

Description

Fig. G.103: The nineteenth century church of Ireland church in Abbeylands.

A disused Church of Ireland church now occupies the site and a date stone above its doorway records the year 1821 and the name of the churchwardens Eaton Edwards and Robert Briscoe. Carrigan (1905, IV 208) suggests that the remains of the abbey may have been removed during the clearing of the site for the construction of this church. The eighteenth century gravestones in the graveyard would indicate that it was in use prior to 1820. The graveyard is surrounded by a stone wall that appears to be contemporary with the church.

Adjacent sites

There is a mound in the townland of Mountmisery (WA009-01703-), *c.*1.3km to the W, which appears to be associated with some nearby standing stones. While, an exact

grid reference for the archaeological investigations of a later medieval trackway in the townland of Newrath were unavailable, the townland boundary is *c.*1.2km to the E of the church site (Wilkins et al. 2009).

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

Kilculliheen was reputedly founded by Dermot MacMurrough when he was king of Leinster in 1151. It was a convent of Arrosian canonesses, dedicated to St. Kilkin and founded as a dependency of St Mary de Hogges, Dublin (Gwynn and Hadcock 1988, 319). By 1239, Kilculliheen was an abbey in its own right and was no longer dependant on either St Mary de Hogges or Clonard (Hall 2003, 81). It is sometimes referred to as 'De Bello Portu' which Carrigan (1905, IV 205) argues came from *Port Mor* or the Great Bank or Ferrybank, however it seems more likely that the name refers to a port in the area of the nunnery.

The Anglo-Normans became benefactors of the convent in the 1200s, and in 1240 Henry III confirmed King John's earlier grant of land (I 370). In the same year David FitzMilo granted lands and tithes to the nunnery at Kilculliheen and it is clear that the nunnery would have had an important place in the barony. In this grant fitzMilo granted to the nunnery; Baliport, Tristelmochan (Dysartmoon), the vill of Tolekan (Tullagher in the parish of Dysartmoon), Seskenanisc, Sumbolchol, Clanlecht (Licketstown in the parish of Portnascully), Balimlic and the lands of Gortedro Godelli on which to found a religious house of nuns. The nunnery was also granted the tithes from David's household, the fishery at Cholothm, a net to fish with in the water of Clone, the chapels of the castle of Polsculi (Portnascully), and the new castle of Clone (Clonamery), the church of Seneboth Carmina (Shanbogh), all the vill and chapel of Illech (Ullid), the chapel of Balimolgurn (Ballygurrim), the church of Balilemli, the chapels of Balired (Ballyreddy) and Kilgrellan, and the tenth of his mills of Polsculi (Portnascully) and Clone (Clonamery) (C.D.I., I 371). The majority of the lands owned by the nunnery were within a twenty kilometre radius (Hall 2003, 122).

A *c.*1350 list of Ossory parishes appropriated to religious houses was reproduced by Carrigan (2005, IV 392) from the *Red Book of Ossory* (*Red Book of Ossory*, 182). It indicates that some of the parishes granted by David FitzMilo continued to be held by the convent, but that there was significant change in the holdings of the convent which

now included: the churches of Ballygurrim, Dysartmoon, Shanbogh, Rosbercon, Rathpatrick, Muckalee, Ullid, Pollrone, Kilculliheen, Kilmakevoge and the chapel of Portnascully. The convent's control of so many of the barony's churches would indicate that it would have had a significant role in the barony.

Kilculliheen, started as a priory and then became an independent abbey some time before 1257 when a licence was given to hold elections (Gwynn and Hadcock 1988, 319). Licences to hold elections were granted in 1264 after the death of their abbess Ellen (C.D.I., II 121). Ellen was the first recorded abbess at Kilculliheen (C.D.I., II 121), and Hall has listed all of the known abbesses from that date until 1540 (Hall 2003, 215-216).

Kilculliheen abbey was subject to the crown for permission to elect new abbesses (Hall 2003, 140). In 1277 assent is given to the election of Mabila de Cursy [Courcy] (C.D.I., II 253) and in 1282 licence to elect an abbess is granted after the resignation of the same Mabila (C.D.I., II 44). In 1287 licence to elect was granted after the death of Desiderata le Poher (C.D.I., III 145) and in 1292 another licence to elect was granted after the death of Matilda Comyn (C.D.I., III 490). In 1313 the convent in Kilculliheen paid 40*s*. for a licence to elect an abbess after the death of Joanna de Laundesay. When there was a vacancy for the position of abbess the possessions of the abbey were taken into the care of the escheator on behalf of the crown. In 1292 the abbess of Kilculliheen was sending desperate messages to the chancellor of England to ensure that the abbey's estates were transferred into her care. Hall could find no report of the outcome of these intercessions but some of the lands of the abbey were still in the hands of the escheator in the early fourteenth century. All the lands of the abbey were again in the hands of the escheator after the death of a prioress in 1335 (Hall 2003, 141-142).

There must have been significant guest accommodation either in the abbey precinct itself or very close by, as the court of the justiciar sat there at least twice in the early fourteenth century (Hall 2003, 110). In 1392, Isabella Wolf, abbess of Kilculliheen, petitioned the justiciar for permission to allow John Fylle, chaplain to grant them the advowson of the church of 'Ballitarstan', stating as reason ' the poverty of the house, and that their lands, tenements, rents and churches are for the greater part destroyed

and laid waste as well by Irish enemies and English rebels' (Hall 2003, 137). Ballitarstan could be identified as the parish church of Ballytarsney.

In 1396 the right of the nuns to buy and sell foods within their demesne was successfully appealed by the town of Waterford who claimed that the licence granted to the nuns was doing 'great damage to the city of Waterford and its citizens' (*Cal. Pat. Rolls.*, V 702). This would indicate that the economy of the nuns' demesne must have been of sufficient value for the loss of custom to be worth the expense of an appeal. It is also significant that the nuns had or wished to enter the market-driven economy of the area. The record does not reveal the form of commerce proposed; it may have been an annual fair or it may have been a more permanent market place (Hall 2003, 124).

By 1427 the earls of Ormond had become patrons of the monastery when James, earl of Ormond accused the nuns of leading a dissolute, irreligious and immodest life and applied to the Pope for a license to convert the nunnery into a secular or collegiate church (*Cal. Papal Reg.*, VII 522). However, the abbey continued until the suppression of the monasteries in 1540. At this time the buildings of the nunnery included; a church, belfry, dormitory, four chambers, kitchen and granary as well as a cemetery and an orchard (*Fiants*, Henry VIII no.169). Their possessions also included the two parks, two mills, five weirs and twelve appropriated churches which included; Kilculliheen, Rathpatrick, Kilmakevoge, Ballygurrim, Shanbogh, Rosbercon, Dysartmoon, Muckalee, Portnascully, Pollrone and Ullid. The abbey, along with other monasteries was granted to Sir Edmund Butler in 1566, and it was granted to the town of Waterford in 1582-3 (Gwynn and Hadcock 1988, 319).

In 1542, Waterford corporation leased the lands and buildings in separate parcels which included the dormitories, the small hall and kitchen to the east, the infirmary and great kitchen 'with water within the kitchen', the nuns 'late chamber' probably the chapter house, the steeple with the west chamber and cellar, mills, weir called the 'mynchyn' weir, and the bake house, furnace and granaries. Hall (2003, 112) interpreted this description of the nunnery as 'a convent built around a cloister with internal water supply for the kitchen, chapter house and dormitories, and a separate infirmary with its own kitchen. The church in Kilculliheen was described at the

dissolution as a parochial church, meaning that parishioners would have worshipped in the nave, while the nuns worshipped in the choir, with a screen separating the two (Hall 2003, 170).

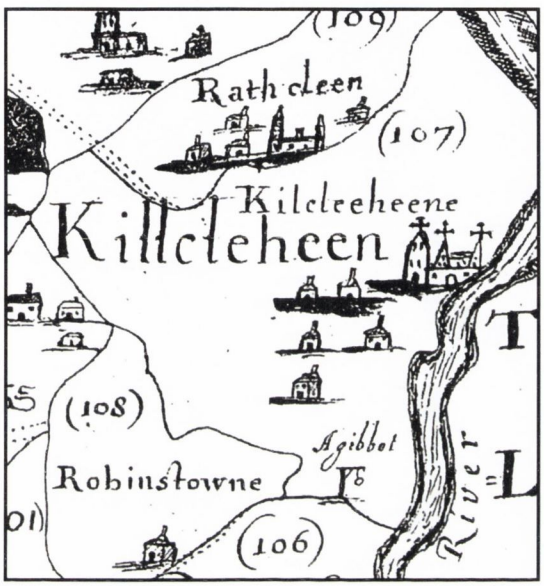

Fig. G.104: The nunnery site at Kilculliheen depicted on the *Down Survey* map of the barony of Ida.

Fig. G.105: Kilculliheen Abbey as depicted on Jobson's 1591 map of Waterford Harbour.

The *Down Survey* map for the barony of Ida depicts a number of buildings within the townland of 'Killcleheene'. One of which is obviously a church building, with crosses on both gables, and a cross also surmounts the tower. There are five smaller buildings to the west of the church and tower. A gibbet is depicted and labelled on the border between the townlands of 'Kilcleheene' and 'Rathnew'. Jobson's *Map of Waterford Harbour*, dated 1591, depicts a church on the north bank of the Suir opposite the walled town of Waterford. It is labelled 'The Abbye' but no other buildings are depicted in the vicinity of the church. However, as Jobson's remit was to depict the location of sites that were likely to be important militarily, the buildings associated with a nunnery would not have interested him (Murtagh 2001, 103). The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map depicts the Church of Ireland that occupies the site today, which confirms the 1821 date stone on the church.

Interpretation

The site of the Church of Ireland church in Abbeylands, opposite the medieval city of Waterford, would appear to be the site of the nunnery in Kilculliheen, that was in use from 1151 until the dissolution of the monasteries. The nuns of Kilculliheen held lands

in Overk, throughout the study period and a number of Overk churches were impropriate to it. The fortunes of the lands held by the nuns in Overk were likely to have had an impact on the life of the abbey, as a large part of the abbey's holdings were in the barony. The history of the abbey is therefore intertwined with the history of the barony.

Abbreviations and references

Fiants= 1994. *The Irish fiants of the Tudor sovereigns during the reigns of Henry VIII, Edward VI, Philip & Mary, and Elizabeth I / with a new introduction by Kenneth Nicholls ; and preface by Tomás Ó Canann.* Dublin: Éamonn de Búrca for Edmund Burke.

Cal. Papal Reg. = 1893-1998. *Calendar of Papal Registers Relating to Great Britain and Ireland*, (20 Vols). London and Dublin: H.M.S.O. and Stationery Office.

C.D.I. = Sweetman, H. S. (ed.) 1875-86. *Calendar of documents relating to Ireland, preserved in Her Majesty's Record Office, London*, (5 Vols). London: Public Records Office.

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Ashtown moated site

RMP No	KK039-007---
Townland	Ashtown
Civil Parish	Fiddown
Barony	Knocktopher
County	Kilkenny
OS six-inch sheet no.	Kilkenny Sheet 39
Discovery Series sheet no.	75
Irish National Grid ref.	247840, 125100
Classification	Moated site

Siting

This moated site is located on an almost level site on a SW facing slope with extensive views of the Suir valley to the SW. It is located on the 170m contour line on the Discovery Series map of the area. There are smaller river valleys to the SW and SE. While, this moated site is within the modern barony of Knocktopher, it is located within the parish of Fiddown and was therefore included in this study.

Description

This site was not visited during the course of this research, as its description in the SMR file indicated that it had been largely destroyed. In a field report, dated to 1989, contained in an SMR file, it is described as a poorly defined site especially at the SE. On the SW side there is a slight scarp or increase in slope over a 7-8m distance and there is a corner to this scarp at the west side where it meets the field fence. The corner angle at the east side is not clear. The overall maximum dimensions of the site were recorded as 40m NW-SE by 36m SW-NE.

Adjacent sites

The moated site in Ashtown is located at a remove from the manorial centre in Fiddown, and the site of the medieval parish church in Fiddown is located *c.*7km to the S. There are three church sites at the north end of the parish of Fiddown and within 2.5km of the moated site. The closest church site is located *c.*900m to the SW in Oldcourt (KK039-00501-), beside the site of Templeorum castle (KK039-00502-). The church site in Mullenbeg (KK035-083---) is located *c.*1.6km to the NW and the ecclesiastical remains in Kilmanahin (KK0390-00301-) are located *c.*2.3km to the W. The castle site (KK039-039) and DMV (KK039-040---) in Jamestown are located

*c.*1.9km to the SW, while the castle site (KK035-00502-) in Oldcourt was located *c.*1.2km to the NW.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

The townland of Ashtown is not included in the *Down Survey* map of the barony of Iverk. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map is shown as a sub-rectangular enclosure, which is enclosed by field boundaries on three sides and by a laneway on the fourth side. The site is not depicted on the second edition map indicating that it was removed between 1839 and 1901 (Barry 1977, 186).

Fig. G.106: The moated site in Ashtown as depicted on the *Ordnance Survey* first edition six-inch map.

Interpretation

This moated site like many others in Overk, is located on the edge of an upland area, where the soil types would be less productive. This moated site appears to fit into Empey's model of a secondary wave of settlement on less productive land by assarting tenants (Empey 1982, 334).

References

Barry, T. B. 1977. *The medieval moated sites of south-eastern Ireland: counties Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary and Wexford.* Oxford: British Archaeological Reports. 35.

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Ballygub New moated site

RMP No.	KK033-012---
Townland	Ballygub New
Civil Parish	Clonamery
Barony	Ida
County	Kilkenny
OS six-inch sheet no.	Kilkenny sheet 33
Discovery Series sheet no.	68
Irish National Grid ref.	268920, 137320
Classification	Moated site

Siting

Ballygub New moated site is located northeast of the church and motte in Clonamery at the foot of Brandon hill, with good views of the River Nore. The *Discovery Series* map for the area indicates that there are three other moated sites at the foot of Brandon Hill. The moated site of Ballygub can be accessed, via a trackway, from the hamlet of Ballygub New.

Description

The moated site is located in a field of rough pasture at the foot of Brandon Hill and just north of Clodiagh River. Clodiagh River is located at a lower ground level than the moated site and there is no leat to suggest that the moat was originally waterfilled. The interior of the moated site was quite waterlogged on the day that the site was visited.

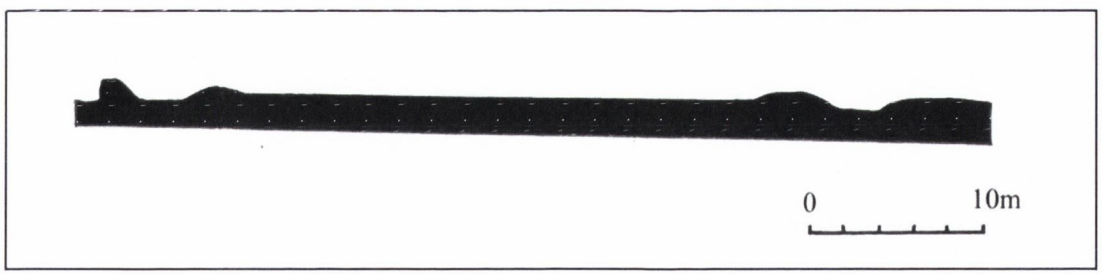

Fig. G.107: Profile of Ballygub New moated site S-N.

The moated site consists of a rectangular area (int. dims. 29.6m N-S and 26.5m E-W) enclosed by a single bank with external fosse. There is little trace of the external fosse on the eastern side. The moated site is located in the southwest corner of a field and the field wall/bank is located just outside the fosse on the south and west sides of the site. This field bank/wall has stone facing on its inner faces but there is a build up of soil

against the outer edge giving it the appearance of a bank. The bank of the moated site is 0.80m to 1.10m high externally and 0.45m to 0.30m high internally and *c.*4.3m in overall width. The external fosse is 2m to 2.3m in width and approx 0.5m in depth. There are three breaks in the bank, which may mark the locations of entrances to the site. The first break is located at the north end of the west side of the site and is 3.40m in width. The field bank located outside the site does not have a gap at this point. The second break in the bank occurs at the southwest corner of the site and is quite narrow measuring only 1.20m in width. There is a corresponding break in the field bank at this point and the fosse is also absent at this point. Finally, the third break in the bank is located in the centre of the south bank of the site and measures 2.50m in width. The external fosse is absent at this point but the field boundary is intact.

Fig. G.108: Low banks on the E and N side of Ballygub New moated site

The interior of the site and some of the banks are planted with trees, the majority of which are coniferous. The presence of these trees in the interior of the site and the trampled nature of the water-logged ground surface makes the identification of any internal features impossible. Barry (1977, 186) included the site in his survey of moated sites in south-eastern Ireland and his report indicates that it had been planted with pine trees by the mid 1970s.

Adjacent Sites

There are a number of other sites in the townland of Ballygub New; a possible church site and nearby souterrain as well as two field systems and a hut site. The church site (KK033-024---), which is now occupied by Clodiagh Church, and the souterrain (KK033-051---) are located *c.*9km to the SW. The hut site (KK033-06001-) and the two field systems (KK033-06602- and KK033-007-) are all located less than 1km to the N of the moated site. The medieval parish church for Clonamery parish is located *c.*3.6km to the SW (KK033-02101-). Finally, there is another moated site *c.*1.2km SE in the townland of Brandonhill in the parish of The Rower (KK033-03701-).

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

No documentary references or antiquarian accounts of this site were uncovered during the course of this research programme. No structures are depicted in the townland of Ballygub on the *Down Survey* map of the barony of Ida. The moated site is depicted as a rectangular enclosure, enclosed by a single bank on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map.

Interpretation

The location of this site on the edge of Brandon Hill would seem to conform to the idea advanced by Empey (1982, 334) and Barry (1977, 101-102, 1996, 137) that moated sites are often located on peripheral land because they are part of a second phase of Anglo-Norman settlement in the area. The presence of three moated sites on the lower slopes on Brandon Hill is noteworthy and could suggest that they were part of a defence strategy against the Irish who were pushed into the mountainous areas at the north of the barony or that they were used as accommodation for summer grazing pasture on the mountain slopes.

References

Barry, T. B. 1977. *The medieval moated sites of south-eastern Ireland: counties Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary and Wexford.* Oxford: British Archaeological Reports. 35.

Barry, T. B. 1996. "Rural settlement in Ireland in the Middle Ages; an overview". *Ruralia* 1:134-141.

Empey, C. A. 1982. "Medieval Knocktopher: a study in manorial settlement. Part 1". *Old Kilkenny Review* 4:329-342.

Ballygub New church (called Clodiagh Church) and souterrain

RMP No.	KK033-024--- and KK033-051---
Townland	Ballygub New
Civil Parish	Clonamery
Barony	Ida
County	Kilkenny
OS six-inch sheet no.	Kilkenny sheet 33
Discovery Series sheet no.	68
Irish National Grid ref.	267920, 135720 and 267820, 135700
Classification	Church and souterrain

Siting

The church in Ballygub New townland is called Clodiagh Church, and the river Clodiagh flows along the east side of the church. The church is located in a hollow, on the bend of the River Clodiagh.

Description

The church is dedicated to St Brendan and Brandon Hill is located north of the site. There is no evidence that a medieval church ever stood on the site. The site is now occupied by a modern cruciform barn-type church with Gothic windows and the church is still in use today.

The first church recorded at the site was constructed in 1700 and was a thatched building. The information panel in the church records that there was a small hut or cottage nearby which was used as a hedge school and later as a 'chapel woman's residence'. The church was rebuilt in 1800 and refurbished in 1930. The information panel also records that the church in Clonamery was in use until 1691 when Edward Fitzgerald fell at the Battle of Aughrim. For the following eight or nine years, until Clodiagh Church was constructed, mass was said at a mass rock at the foot of Brandon Hill. This rock is now in the middle of the Clodiagh River.

A souterrain, known as 'the priest's hole' is located adjacent to the site of the church (90m to the W). The souterrain is located west of the church on the side of the Inistoige to New Ross road. It is located on the valley side of the River Clodiagh. There are two passages in this souterrain, one close to ground level and one *c.*1.25m above ground level. The lower passage in blocked and this probably happened during

the building of the road. The upper passage is *c.*1.85m in length and 1.80m in height. The stones at the front of this passage also appear to have shifted making access difficult. The chamber is undifferentiated, expanding from a width of 0.40m at the roadside to 1m at the back. The walls are composed of granite stones and there is no corbelling. It is roofed by two large lintels.

Fig. G.109 and G.110: The entrance and interior of the souterrain in Ballygub New, Clonamery, Overk.

Adjacent sites

There are a number of other archaeological sites in the townland of Ballygub New; two field systems, a hut site and a moated site. The moated site (KK033-03701-) is located *c.*1.9km to the N, while the hut site (KK033-00601-) and field systems (KK033-00602- and KK033-007---) are within 3km of the church site. The medieval parish church in Clonamery (KK033-02101-) is located *c.*2km west of this church and the motte and tower house in Clonamery (KK033-022---) are located *c.*2.2km to the W.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

No documentary references to this church site and souterrain were found during the course of this research. Carrigan (2005, IV 129) records that Clodiagh church was built around 1700 and that prior to this Mass was said in the open air at the foot of Brandon Hill in the middle of the Clodiagh River. He does not mention any earlier church on the site. No church is included in the townland of Ballygub on the *Down Survey* map of the barony of Ida. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map depicts a church and graveyard beside Clodiagh Bridge, but the souterrain is not marked or labelled.

Interpretation

Clinton argues that unassociated souterrains are a 'firm indication of an otherwise superficially undetectable unenclosed settlement' (Clinton 2001, 45). At Cargin Demesne, Co. Roscommon an unenclosed souterrain site was found with an associated field system. Souterrains also appear to be associated with early medieval church sites 'there are a growing number of persuasive indications in support of an intrinsic association between souterrains and ecclesiastical sites; however the body of evidence, to date, remains almost purely circumstantial' (Clinton 2001, 51). On this basis we can suggest that there may have been an early medieval church on the site. However, its location close to Clonamery church makes this seem unlikely.

References

Carrigan, W. 2005. *The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory*. Revised edition with a biographical essay by Fearghus Ó Fearghail Edition. Dublin: Archive CD Books Ireland Ltd.

Clinton, M. 2001. *The souterrains of Ireland*. Bray: Wordwell.

Ballyknock moated site

RMP No.	KK037-01101-
Townland	Ballyknock
Civil Parish	Dysartmoon
Barony	Ida
County	Kilkenny
OS six-inch sheet no.	Kilkenny Sheet 37
Discovery Series sheet no.	76
Irish National Grid ref.	267250, 128910
Classification	Moated Site

Siting

Ballyknock moated site is located on a south facing slope, which has a boggy area at is foot. It is adjacent to the New Ross to Mullinavat road (R704) with good views to the east, west and south from the site. It is located in an area in which pasture predominates.

Description

The site is depicted as a substantial square enclosure on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition map six-inch map. The site consists of an almost square area (int. dims 27m SE-NW x 26m SW-NE) enclosed by a bank (W 3m, H 1.7m) and external fosse (W 3.4m at base, D 1m), with traces of a second outer bank. The outer bank is discernable on the south and southeast side of the site only. The site is quite overgrown with alder and hawthorn trees, briars and nettles. The fosse and the internal area were quite wet and waterlogged. Barry (1977, 86) recorded that the motte was wet when he visited the site.

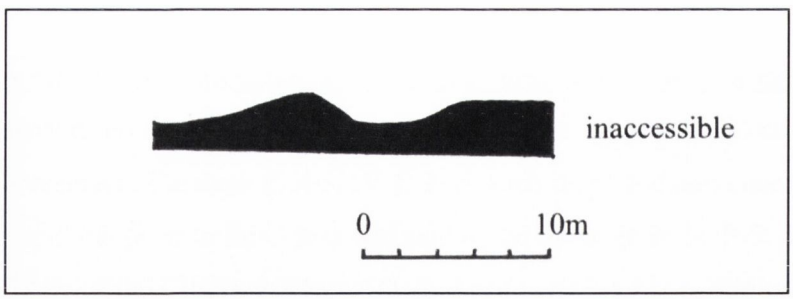

Fig. G.111: Profile of the south side of Ballyknock moated site, S-N.

There is a causewayed entrance through the east bank and fosse of the moated site (W. 1.55m). There is a pile of unworked stone located outside the fosse *c.*15m south of this entrance. Rev. Philip Moore described the entrance to this site in 1849-50, 'the

entrance is through an arch of masonry on the east side – a very uncommon circumstance' (Moore, 1849-50, 22). It is possible that the large amount of loose stone on the east side of the site, are the remains of this masonry arch. Moore (1849-50, 22) also describes the interior of the site and notes ' the foundations of three buildings, resembling small houses, all parallelograms', these house foundations were constructed of stone and mortar.

At the NE corner of the site the inner bank is 1.55m in height above the bottom of the fosse and 1.70m in height above the interior of the site. The fosse is 3.40m in width and 1m in depth below the external ground level. The fosse narrows on the southern side of the site, where it is 2m in diameter. A spring is located *c.*50m SW of the moated site.

Adjacent sites

There are two church sites within 700m of this moated site; Ballyreddy graveyard site (KK037-01002-) is located *c.*650m to the NW while Kilbraghan Church (KK037-04201-) is located *c.*700m to the south. Slievecarragh Castle site (KK037-017---) is located *c.*800m to the SE. The medieval parish church (KK037-00301-) for Dysartmoon is located in the townland of Ballyneale *c.*2km to the N. This moated site is part of a line of four moated sites three of which are located on land above 130m. Smithstown moated site (KK-36-03601-) is the most westerly and it is located *c.*5.5km to the W. The Listerlin moated site (KK036-038---) is *c.*4.2km to the W, and the moated site in Brownstown (KK037-009---) is *c.* 1.2km to the NW. The moated site in Garranbehy Big (KK037-04001-) could also be part of this line of moated sites and is located *c.*3.6km to the W (see fig.7.23 for a map showing these moated sites).

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

No documentary references to this site were uncovered during the course of this research. Rev. Philip Moore published an account of the site in 1849-50, in which he referred to the site as a rath (Moore 1849-51, 22-26). He records that the site was square in shape, and that the fosse was water-filled for most of the year. Most significantly he reported that entrance to the site was through an arch of masonry in the east side and that there were the stone foundations of three buildings in the interior of the site.

Fig. G.112: Ballyknock moated site as depicted on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map.

This site is not depicted on the *Down Survey* map for the barony of Ida. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map of the area depicts a square enclosure, enclosed by a substantial bank.

Interpretation

This moated site is located at the foot of a hill that rises to a height of 245 metres, and *c.*2km from the probable manorial centre at Ballyneale. This moated site like others in Overk, could be interpreted as feature of secondary settlement in the parish, on more marginal land. It would appear to be logical that a manorial centre would be located on the bank of the lower reaches of a tributary of the River Nore, where Ballyneale Church is located, rather than on the edge of an upland area.

References

Barry, T. B. 1977. *The medieval moated sites of south-eastern Ireland: counties Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary and Wexford.* Oxford: British Archaeological Reports. 35.

Moore, P. 1849-51. "Observations on raths". *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland* 1:22-26.

Ballyreddy church site

RMP no.	KK037-01001-
Townland	Ballyreddy
Civil Parish	Dysartmoon
Barony	Ida
County	Kilkenny
OS six-inch sheet no.	Kilkenny Sheet 37
Discovery Series sheet no.	76
Irish National Grid ref.	266730, 129280
Classification	Church site

Siting

Ballyreddy church site is located at the top of an east facing slope, looking east toward the Blackstairs Mountains. It is located on the boundary of the townlands of Ballyreddy and Brownstown.

Description

The site consists of a circular area enclosed by two banks, with a fosse between them. There is no sign of any structures or headstones within the enclosure (internal diameter 38m E-W) within which the ground surface slopes from east to west. When Carrigan described the site in the early twentieth century, the walls of the church remained to a height of three feet (Carrigan 2005, IV 189)

Fig. G.113: Ballyreddy church site and the circular enclosure within the existing field boundaries as shown on the *Ordnance Survey* map viewer ortho-photograph (2000).

The inner bank is visible along the entire extent of the circular enclosure, while the fosse and outer banks are absent from the south side of the site. The outer bank is also a field boundary and in places a townland boundary and at the south side the field boundary kinks outwards from the inner bank creating a straight edge and irregular shaped area. This area is

very overgrown with trees, bushes, brambles and nettles. The best depiction of the sites is contained in the ortho-photograph taken in 2005 included on the *Ordnance Survey Ireland* Map Viewer.

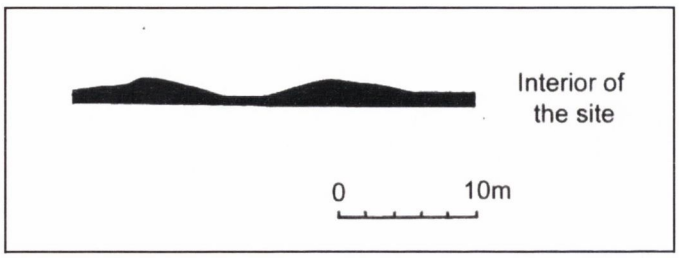

Fig. G.114: Profile of the enclosure around Ballyreddy church site W-E.

There are two gaps in the inner and outer banks at the east and west, with a trackway running between them. The gap in the east bank may be an original entrance, while that in the west bank is likely to be a later entrance cut into the site, possibly to allow cattle to access the site. The outer bank is stone faced both internally and externally, clockwise from NE-E and it is at this point that it coincides with the townland boundary. A trackway is marked on *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch maps of the area suggesting that the area continued to be visited by local people, perhaps for a pattern day.

Adjacent sites

There are a number of other church sites in the parish of Dysartmoon, and the church in Ballyneale (KK037.00301-), which has been identified as the parish church site, is located *c.*1.7km to the NE. The church site in the townland of Kilbraghan (KK037-04201-) is the closest church site and is located *c.*1km to the S. The moated site in Ballyknock (KK037-01101-) is located *c.*600m to the SE and the castle site in Slievecarragh townland (KK037-017---) is located *c.*1km to the S.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

The 'chapels of Balired' that is Ballyreddy, were appropriated to the Nunnery of Kilculliheen by David Fitz Milo in 1240. This reference would indicate that there was more than one chapel in Ballyreddy but that neither acted as a parish church as they are referred to as chapels rather than churches (C.D.I., I 371).

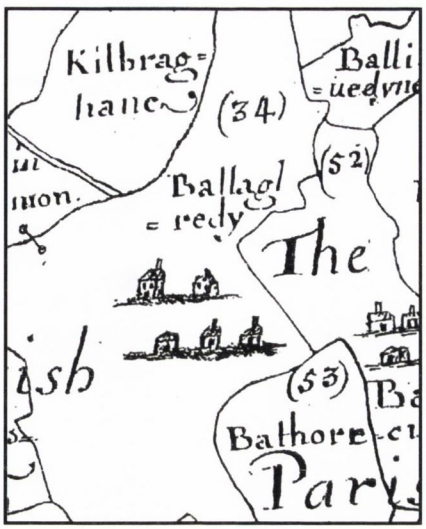

Fig. G.115: The townland of Ballyreddy as depicted on the *Down Survey* map for the barony of Ida

The *Down Survey* map of the barony of Ida depicts a settlement nucleation in the townland of a 'Ballagredy', which includes three small cabins and one slightly larger house. No church is depicted on the map of the barony of Ida. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map depicts the site as a rectangular church within a sub-rectangular enclosure and it is labelled 'Rathclea Church (site of)'. The enclosure is depicted with a single set of hachures.

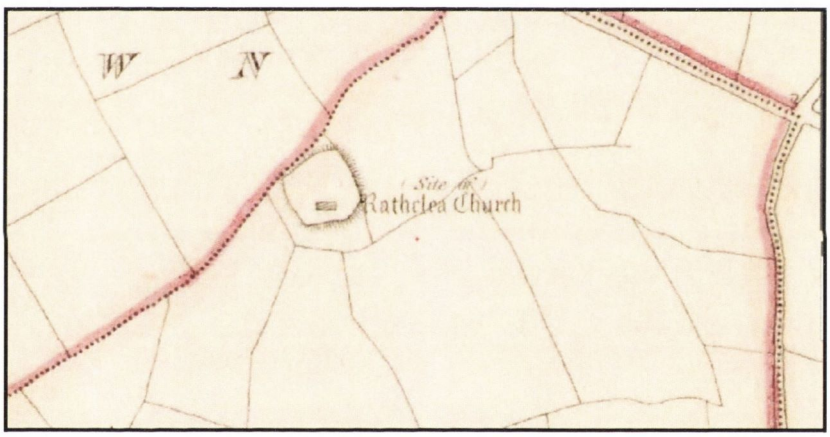

Fig. G.116: Ballyreddy Church site as depicted on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map

Carrigan (2005, IV 189) reports that the church was called Rawaclay or Thomple Rawaclay which Carrigan argues is derived from Rath a t-pleibhe and Teampul Rath a t-pleibhe, which he translates as the Mountain rath and church of the Mountain Rath. He reported that the church was popularly regarded as having been of considerable importance in remote times

Interpretation

Although we can be sure that there were chapels in Ballyreddy in 1240, it is difficult to ascertain whether or not this church site was a pre-Norman foundation or was established by the arriving Anglo-Normans. The apparently circular enclosure, could

suggest that this was a pre-Norman foundation. It is clear that there were chapels in use in Ballyreddy during the study period, but they do not appear to have functioned as parish churches.

Abbreviations and references

C.D.I. = Sweetman, H. S. (ed.) 1875-86. *Calendar of documents relating to Ireland, preserved in Her Majesty's Record Office, London*, (5 Vols). London: Public Records Office.

Carrigan, W. 2005. *The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory*. Revised edition with a biographical essay by Fearghus Ó Fearghail Edition. Dublin: Archive CD Books Ireland Ltd.

Ballytarsney church

RMP No.	KK042-01001-
Townland	Ballytarsney
Civil Parish	Ballytarsney
Barony	Iverk
County	Kilkenny
OS six-inch sheet no.	Kilkenny sheet 42
Discovery Series sheet no.	75
Irish National Grid ref.	251100, 116720
Classification	Church site

Siting

The site of Ballytarsney church and graveyard is located on the west side of the roadway through the settlement of Ballytarsney, which is located north of Mooncoin. The site is surrounded by houses and farm buildings. There are good views from the site to the N and NW, with buildings obscuring views in other directions.

Description

The graveyard is sub-rectangular in plan and can be divided into a northern and a southern section. The southern section has a higher ground level. The southeast corner of the graveyard is the highest part of the graveyard and it contains the footings of two parallel sections of stone wall. The north wall footing is 5.50m in length and 0.80m in width, while the southern wall footing is 3.60m in length and 0.90m in width. The distance between the two walls is only 4.60m, meaning that if these walls represent the remains of a church it was a very narrow

Fig. G.117: Stone footings of the south wall of Ballytarsney Church.

example. There are a number of headstones in the southern half of the graveyard that date to the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The northern half of the graveyard only contains a few gravestones and these appear to be more modern than those in the rest of the graveyard.

Adjacent sites

The site of an enclosure (KK042-009---) is recorded on the SMR in Ballytarsney townland and is located *c.*800m to the NW the church. There is a ringfort in the townland of Kilcraggan *c.*730m NE of the church (KK042-049---), while the castle site and possible ecclesiastical site in Kilcraggan are *c.*1.4km to the NE (KK042-004--- and KK042-034---). The closest parish church is located *c.*2km to the SE in Rathkieran (KK042-013---).

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

The first available documentary reference dates to 1253 and is contained in the *Charters of Duiske Abbey.* It records that the Irish held a carucate of land called Ballytarsney from Alan fitz Milo (*Chart. Duiske Abbey*, 89). In the 1314 extent of the barony of Overk, David le Graunt is recorded as holding one and a half townlands in Ullid and Ballytarsney (*Red Bk. of Ormond*, 134). In a land transaction between Sir Edmund Butler and Roger fitzMilo in 1319, fitzMilo assumed 'the homage and service of David le Graunt for his lands and tenements at Ballytarsne' (*Ormond Deeds*, I 225). However, by 1417 the Butlers appear to have regained control of the manor, as the 'manour of Ballitarsyn' is mentioned in a deed of Thomas Butler, Prior of Kilmainham, in which he leaves the barony of Kells to his son (*Ormond Deeds*, III 16). 'Baltarsyn' is included in an account of the royal service due from the Barony of Iverk in 1419 (*Ormond Deeds*, III 24) and in the late fifteenth century it is included in a list of the rent due to the Earl of Ormonde (*Ormond Deeds*, III 211). In a 1508 list of the free tenants of Thomas, earl of Ormond, Archbishop Edmund Butler is recorded as the tenant for 'Ballytarsiny' (*Ormond Deeds*, III 333). Ballitarsney continues to be in the possession of the Butlers during the sixteenth century and in 1545 the Earl of Ormond agrees to grant Ballytarsney with other lands to James Swetman of Castle Eve and Leonard Blaunchville of Dunmore in return for an unspecified sum of money (*Ormond Deeds*, IV 286).

In 1571 the Earl of Ormond granted lands including 'Ballytrasne' to the Dean of St. Canice's Cathedral, Kilkenny, the treasurer of St. Patrick's Cathedral Cashel, Richard Sheth and Edmund fitzButler Theobald (*Ormond Deeds*, IV 200). In 1574 the Earl grants the town of 'Ballytarsne' to William Walshe of Kilcregan for 21 years (*Ormond Deeds*, V 262). At the close of the sixteenth century John Brenagh fitz William is recorded as the tenant of half of Balltarsne in Iverke, county Kilkenny in a list of the tenants of the Earl of Ormond (*Ormond Deeds*, VI 87). At approximately the same time Francis Lovell is recorded as being the tenant of 'Kilknedy and Balletarsne', county Kilkenny (*Ormond Deeds*, VI 89). An inquisition into the descent of the Earldom of Ormond includes half of Ballytarsney.

The transfer of church property in the parish is also recorded. In 1556/7 the parsonage of Ballytarsne was granted to Sir David Archedekin alias McOdie, vicar of 'Rathkyran' by Sir John Archedekin alias McOdie, the parson of Ballytarsney. However by 1559 the two parties were in dispute over the rights to the parsonage (*Ormond Deeds*, V 98).

A survey of the lands granted to the countess of Ormond in 1653 records the presence of 'an old ruined castle and some thatched cabins' in Ballytarsney (Manning 1999, 52). Carrigan records the location of an area known as Bawnacushlawn or the Castle Field, but he could find no trace of a castle (Carrigan 2005, IV 154). This survey also records that the Countess owned only three-sevenths of the lands of Ballytarsney and Edmond Grant owned the rest. It is possible that the castle referred to in the valuation was a castle site in Kilcraggan, which is also in the parish of Ballytarsney. The church in Ballytarsney is not depicted on the *Down Survey* map of the barony of Iverk, but a number of structures, including a possible castle and church are depicted in the townland of Kilcraggan.

By the time the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map of the area was compiled the church was no longer extant, and the graveyard is shown and labelled. The church is shown as being located within a settlement nucleation labelled Ballytarsney. Carrigan (2005, IV 154) recorded that only the foundations of the south wall of the parish church, which was dedicated to the nativity of the Virgin Mary, remained when he visited the site.

Interpretation

The documentary sources record the changing ownership and the tenants of Ballytarsney throughout the study period, but they do not include references to any buildings or structures in the parish. In the late sixteenth century there are references to a town of Ballytarsney and in the following century there is a reference to a castle is disrepair. This suggests that in the sixteenth century there was a town in Ballytarsney probably focused around the church and the castle. What is unclear is how long this settlement was in existence, but there is no evidence to suggest that it was in existence in the high medieval period. The dating of this church in uncertain, it may date to the high medieval period when the parish would have been established, as it clearly functioned as a parish church or it may have been established later, when the settlement was likely to have grown up.

Abbreviations and references

Chart. Duiske Abbey = Butler, C. M. and Bernard, J. H. (eds) 1918-20. "The charters of the Cistercian Abbey of Duiske on the county of Kilkenny". *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy* 35C:1-188.

Ormond Deeds = Curtis, E. (ed.) 1881-1943. *Calendar of Ormond Deeds*, (6 Vols). Dublin: Stationery Office.

Red Bk of Ormond = White, N. B. (ed). 1932. *The Red Book of Ormond.* Dublin: Stationery Office.

Carrigan, W. 2005. *The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory*. Revised edition with a biographical essay by Fearghus Ó Fearghail Edition. Dublin: Archive CD Books Ireland Ltd.

Herity, M. (ed.) 2003. *Ordnance Survey Letters: Kilkenny*, Dublin: Four Courts Press.

Manning, C. 1999. "The 1653 survey of the lands granted to the countess of Ormond in Co. Kilkenny". *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries in Ireland* 129:40-66.

Belline and Rogerstown castle site

RMP no.	KK039-021---
Townland	Belline and Rogerstown
Civil Parish	Fiddown
Barony	Iverk
County	Kilkenny
OS six-inch sheet no.	Kilkenny Sheet 38
Discovery Series sheet no.	75
Irish National Grid ref.	244950, 123130
Classification	Castle Site

Siting

This castle site is located at the edge of a farmyard, on the SW side of a stream. It is located in the valley of the River Suir.

Description

There are no upstanding remains of this castle. The landowner indicated the former location of the castle and said that the last remnants had been removed about sixty years ago.

Adjacent sites

There are a number of castle sites in the vicinity of this castle site. The castle site in the settlement and probable manorial centre at Fiddown (KK042-00102-) is located *c.*3.7km to the SE, and the castle site (KK039-039---) adjacent to the deserted settlement (KK039-040---) in Jamestown is located *c.*3km to the NE. The castle site in Kildalton (KK039-00601-) is located *c.*2km to the E, while the tower house in Tibberaghny (KK038-01201-), which was outside the medieval barony of Overk, is located *c.*1.8km to the E.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

Carrigan (2005, IV 224) records that the castle in Rogerstown was still extant in the early twentieth century. At this date it stood to a height of 16ft (*c.*5m), with walls 6ft (*c.*2m) deep. He also records that the Strongs, who forfeited Rogerstown in the Cromwellian confiscations, owned the castle.

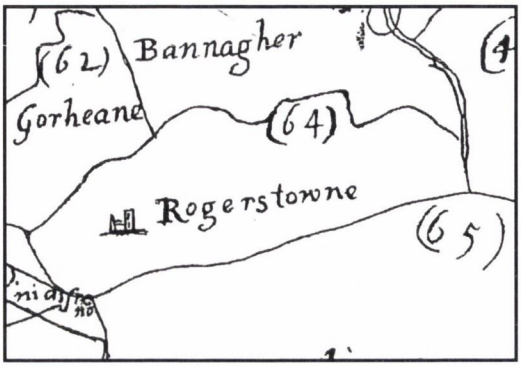

Fig. G.118: The townland of Rogerstown as depicted on the *Down Survey* map for the barony of Iverk.

The *Down Survey* map of the barony of Iverk includes a single building in the townland of 'Rogerstowne'. At this date the townlands of Rogerstown and Belline were separate townlands. The building depicted on this map looks like a tower, with a single storey structure attached. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map includes this castle and labels it 'Rogerstown Castle in ruins'. The castle site is also included on the second edition on this map.

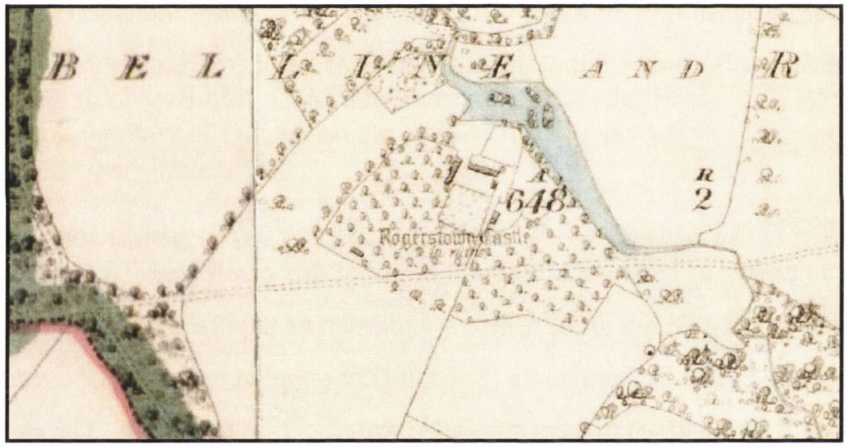

Fig. G.119: Rogerstown Castle as depicted on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map.

Interpretation

There is insufficient evidence to classify this stone castle as a tower house, so the SMR classification of castle site will be adopted. Although, this castle is located close to a body of water, it is a stream rather than a river and the castle site is *c.*2km from the River Suir. This castle site does not therefore have a riverine location like many of the tower houses in Overk. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition map indicates that the castle site was incorporated into an estate landscape, and this would have obliterated any features associated with the castle.

References

Carrigan, W. 2005. *The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory*. Revised edition with a biographical essay by Fearghus Ó Fearghail Edition. Dublin: Archive CD Books Ireland Ltd.

Brandonhill moated site

RMP no.	KK033-03701-
Townland	Brandonhill
Civil Parish	The Rower
Barony	Ida
County	Kilkenny
OS six-inch sheet no.	Kilkenny sheet 33
Discovery Series sheet no.	68
Irish National Grid ref.	269590, 136430
Classification	Moated site and hut site

Siting

This moated site is located on lower slopes of Brandon Hill, overlooking a valley to the SE. The SMR report indicates that it is located within an old field-system, which is now covered in fern.

Description

The landowner would not allow access to this site and consequently we must rely on the descriptions of the site included in the SMR report for the site. A field report compiled in 1989 described the site as 'a square area (int. dims 45m E-W and 41m N-S) enclosed by inner bank (W 3.5m, int. H 1m, ext H 1.5m), external fosse (W 4m, Depth 0.7m) and external bank at E (W 2m, H 0.7m). Entrance gap (w 3.5m) at E. Low bank at W. end, 5m from inner bank and parallel to it. Recorded as removed prior to 1835' (Barry 1977, 187-188).

Fig. G.120: The moated site in Brandonhill as depicted on the *Ordnance Survey* street plan.

Aerial photographs on *the Ordnance Survey* map viewer, dated 1995, 2000 and 2005, indicate that some trace of the moated site survives and a rectangular enclosure is depicted on the street map, which is also included in the map viewer.

Fig. G.121: Brandonhill moated site as shown on the *Ordnance Survey Map Viewer* ortho-photograph 2005.

Adjacent sites

The moated site in Brandonhill townland is located *c.*2.7km SE of the parish church (KK033-03201-) and enclosure (KK033-03102-) in Farrantemple townland. The tower house in Coolhill (KK033-02701-) is located *c.*3.2km to the SE. The moated site in Ballygub New, which is also located in the foothills of Brandon Hill, is *c.*1.2km to the NW.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

In the mid-nineteenth century Moore (1849-51, 26) reported that Mr T. Jekylle had spoken to the Royal Society of Antiquaries about a 'square rath, surrounded by a deep fosse, on the southern slope of Brandon Hill', close to the townland boundary between Brandonhill and Cullintragh. He also reported the presence of stone foundations within the interior of this earthwork. At this date, it was intended to reclaim land in the area and this site was due to be removed.

The *Down Survey* map of the barony of Ida depicts a mountainous area at the north end of the parish of the Rower, labelled 'Barren mountaine' which is probably Brandonhill, no structures are depicted in this area. The *Ordnance First* Edition six-inch map does not depict any rectangular enclosure in the area of the moated site.

Interpretation

Although it was not possible to visit this site, it seems clear from the available evidence that it was a moated site. It has a similar location to many of the moated sites

in Overk, in the lower slopes of an upland area. The moated site in Ballygub New (KK033-012---) is also located in the lower slopes of Brandonhill. These moated sites appear to conform to the suggestion by Empey (1982, 334) and Barry (1977, 101-102, 1996, 137) that moated sites are often located on peripheral land because they are part of a second phase of Anglo-Norman settlement in the area. The presence of three moated sites on the lower slopes on Brandon Hill is noteworthy and could suggest that they were part of a defence strategy against the Irish pushed into the mountainous areas at the north of the barony or that they were used as accommodation for summer grazing pastures on the mountain slopes.

References

Barry, T. B. 1977. *The medieval moated sites of south-eastern Ireland: counties Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary and Wexford.* Oxford: British Archaeological Reports. 35.

Barry, T. B. 1996. "Rural settlement in Ireland in the Middle Ages; an overview". *Ruralia* 1:134-141.

Empey, C. A. 1982. "Medieval Knocktopher: a study in manorial settlement. Part 1". *Old Kilkenny Review* 4:329-342.

Moore, P. 1849-51. "Observations on raths". *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland* 1:22-26.

Brownsford tower house

RMP no.	KK033-028---
Townland	Brownsford
Civil Parish	Dysartmoon
Barony	Ida
County	Kilkenny
OS six-inch sheet no.	Kilkenny Sheet 33
Discovery Series sheet no.	76
Irish National Grid ref.	264570, 134440
Classification	Tower house

Siting

Brownsford tower house is located in the farmyard at Brownsford House and there are old stone built sheds on all sides. It is located on a NE facing slope above the River Nore.

Description

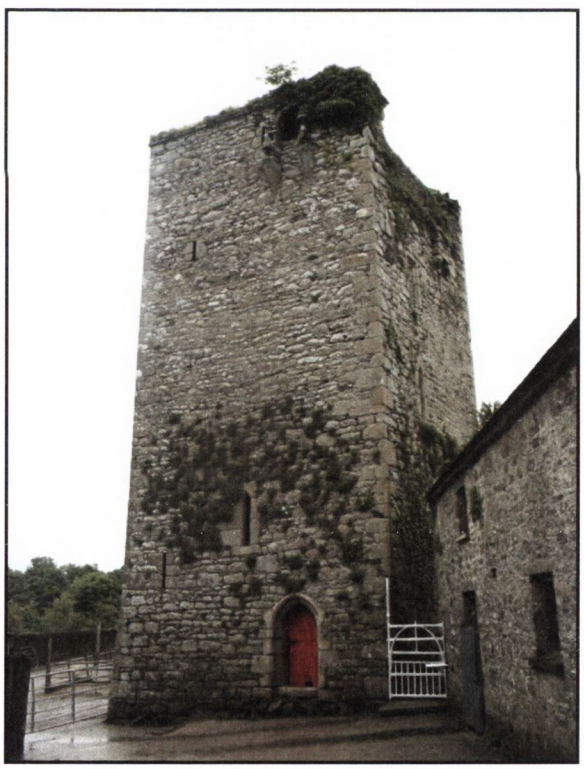

Fig. G.122: Brownsford tower house, from the NW.

This is a well-preserved five-storey tower house, with a base batter and a wall-walk level. It is vaulted above the first floor and the internal dimensions at this level are 4.20m (E-W) x 5.80m (N-S). The tower house is orientated NNW-SSE, but for the purposes of this report it will be assumed to be orientated N-S. The tower house is accessed via a door in the north wall, with intra-mural staircase in the thickness of this wall. This staircase provides access to the first floor, from where it continues up the east wall to second floor level. There is a spiral staircase on the SE corner of the tower house from second floor level to the walk walks. There are the remains of a machicolation above the doorway at wall-walk level.

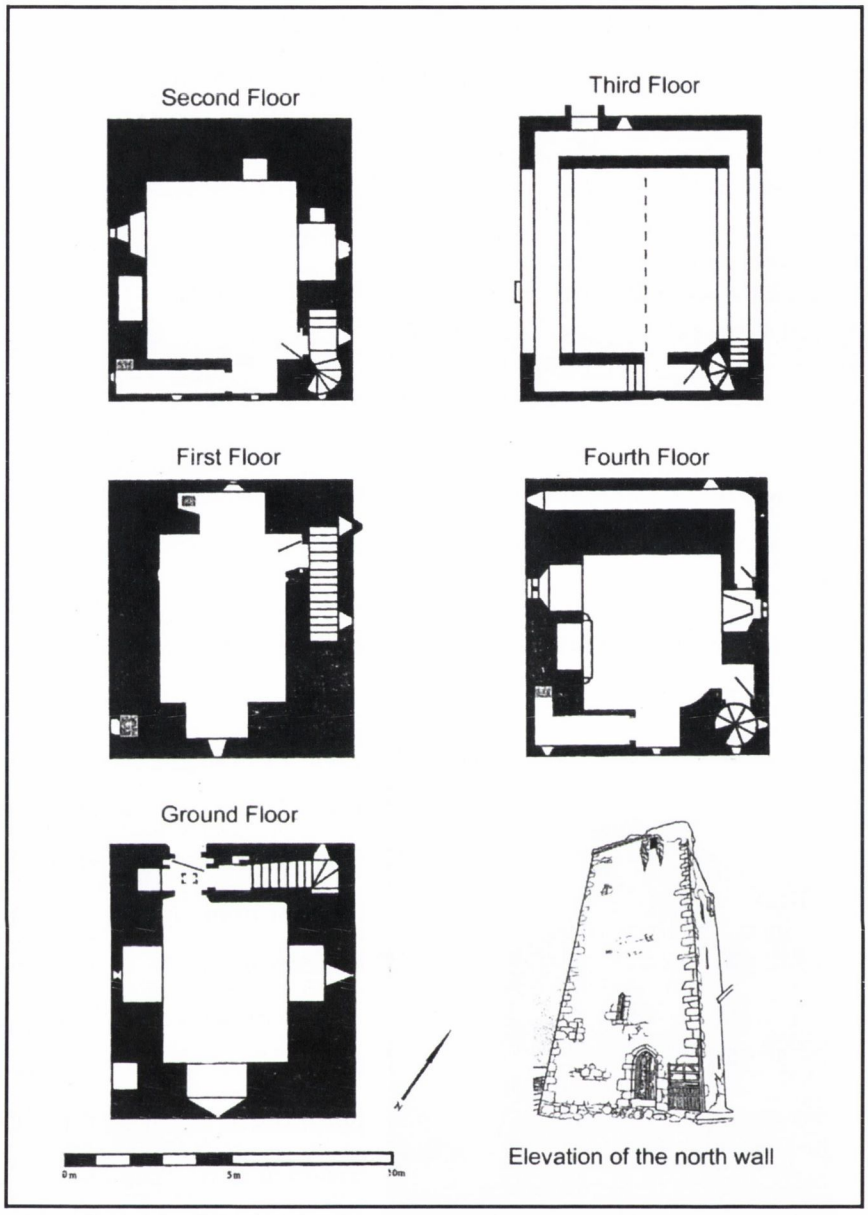

Fig. G.123: Plan of Brownsford Castle (after McCarthy 2007).

A murder hole is located above the doorway in the north wall and a deep wall cupboard is situated on the west side of the doorway. There is a rectangular embrasure with a single-light window in the three other walls at this level. The windows in the W and S wall are square headed, while that in E wall has a pointed head. This area is used as a store.

The first floor would have been supported by a wall plate resting on corbels located in the east and west walls and wall plate sockets at the corners of the north and south walls. The doorway to this floor is located in the N corner of the E wall. There are

windows in the north and south walls at this level and because of the vaulted ceiling there are none in the east and west wall. The windows are single-light ogee-headed windows in square embrasures.

The second floor is located on top of the vault and is accessed via a semi-pointed arched doorway in the south corner of the east wall. The cut stone of this doorway has been punch dressed. There is a single-light square-headed window in a rectangular embrasure at the north end of the east wall and there is a wall cupboard in the north end of this embrasure. The only feature in the north wall at this level is a wall cupboard. In the west wall there is a single-light ogee-headed window in a splayed embrasure and a rectangular fireplace with joggled voussoirs. Finally, the south wall contains a single-light ogee-headed window in a rectangular embrasure. There is a slop stone below the ogee-headed single-light window. At the west end of this embrasure a doorway provides access to an intra-mural passage. There is a window in the south wall of this passage as well as a window in its west end. There is a hole in the floor at the west end of the passage where two of the openings are located. This would appear to have been a garderobe and the end of a garderobe chute can be observe at the exterior south west corner of the tower house, directly below this chute.

The third floor is accessed through a semi-pointed arched doorway in the east wall. There is a single-light window in the outer wall behind this doorway. There is a twin-light ogee-headed window in a rectangular embrasure with window seats in the east wall. There is a doorway in the north wall of this embrasure that appears to give access to an intra-mural passage, which extends around into the thickness of the north wall. A window in the north wall is visible, from the exterior at this level, but this wall is featureless from the interior, so there must be an intra-mural passage. The north end of the west wall contains a twin-light square-headed window in a rectangular embrasure and this window has been blocked up in modern times. The south end of this wall contains an elaborate fireplace that is almost identical to that in Burnchurch and Clara castles, as well as the tower house in Newtown Erley all in county Kilkenny. The fireplace in Brownstown has flat arches composed of joggled voussoirs, with a skew-back at either end and curved elbow-like stones project from the wall on both sides to prevent the skew-backs from spreading under the weight of the sloping hood, which contains the chimney flue. The skew-backs are supported by long tapering corbels.

Finally the south wall contains a single-light square headed window in a rectangular embrasure. There is a doorway in the east side of this embrasure, which presumably leads to an intra-mural passage and due to its location above the garderobe on the second floor it is probably another garderobe.

Fig. G.124: Fireplace on the third floor of Brownsford Castle.

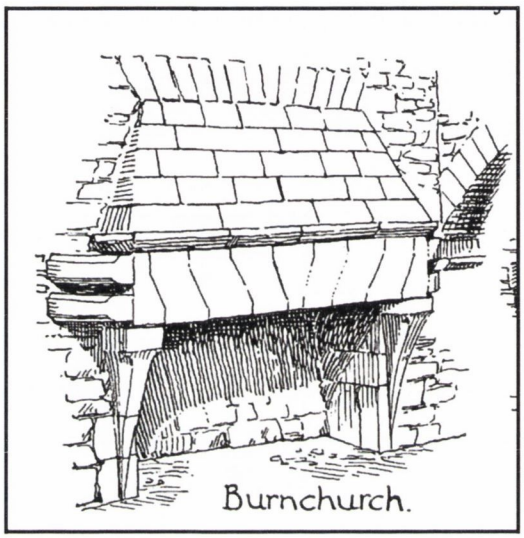

Fig. G.125: Fireplace in Burnchurch Castle, county Kilkenny (after Leask 1941, 94).

The fourth floor is referred to as the attic in the description of the castle in the SMR file and is at wall-walk level. There is a doorway from the stairs in the south wall, which also has gable coping along its inner face, indicating that the tower house would have had a pitched roof. The north wall is very overgrown, but gable coping can also be discerned on this wall. There are well-dressed rectangular doors at either end of this wall, allowing access to the wall-walks, which were open on the E and W sides. The south side is a covered passage, while the north side houses the stairs to this level at the E end and is a covered passage at its W end. The wall-walk had to be entered at the SE corner and access was in a clockwise direction only. There is a substantial step-up at the junction between the spiral staircase and staircase to wall-walk level. The semi-pointed arched doorway at this point had a hanging eye and a recess to accommodate the door on the wall-walk side, indicating that the door would have opened in from the wall-walk. The remains of a chimney can be seen on the exterior of the west side of the tower house just below wall walk level. This is a rectangular projection from the wall and it would appear, to be an original feature.

The landowner indicated that there was a tradition of a village in a field southeast of the tower house known as 'Street Meadow'. The tradition records that houses stood here until the landlord cleared them to make way for his plans for the area.

Adjacent sites

The medieval parish church for the parish of Dysartmoon is located in Ballyneale townland (KK037-00301-), *c.*4.5km to the SE and Glenballyvally church (KK037-024---) is located *c.*3km to the SE. The closest church to this tower house is located on the other side of the river Nore in the neighbouring parish; Clonamery parish church (KK033-02101-) is located *c.*1.6km to the NE. The motte and tower house in Clonamery (KK033-022---) are located *c.*1.4km to the NE, while the castle site in Tullagher (KK037-00201-) is located *c.*1.9km to the W.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

There are a number of references to the Barons of Brownsford in the *Ormond Deeds* in the early sixteenth century, but only as witnesses to deeds and there are no references to any castle or other buildings being held or constructed by them (*Ormond Deeds*, IV 37, 78, 82, 116, 161). Carrigan (2005, IV 195) reports that the Barons or Fitzgeralds of Brownsford were probably a branch of the Barons or Fitzgeralds of Burnchurch and appear to have settled in the neighbourhood of Inistioge in the fifteenth century. Carrigan (Carrigan 2005, IV 196) also argued that the same family also held the castle in Clonamery. Edwards records that the Brownsford Fitzgeralds were not an important family in southern Kilkenny but that they carved out a niche for themselves in the barony of Ida, and held the castles of Clonamery and Brownsford and dominated large parts of the Barrow and Nore rivers. They continued to prosper in the seventeenth century acquiring lands in Ballinabarney and maintaining a stronghold in Rosbercon, where they held nearly 400 acres beside the town (Edwards 2000, 70; Went 1955).

The *Down Survey* map of the barony of Ida depicts a tower house surrounded by four cabins in the townland of 'Brownesffoord'. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map of the area marks the tower house and labels it 'Brownsford Castle (in ruins)'.

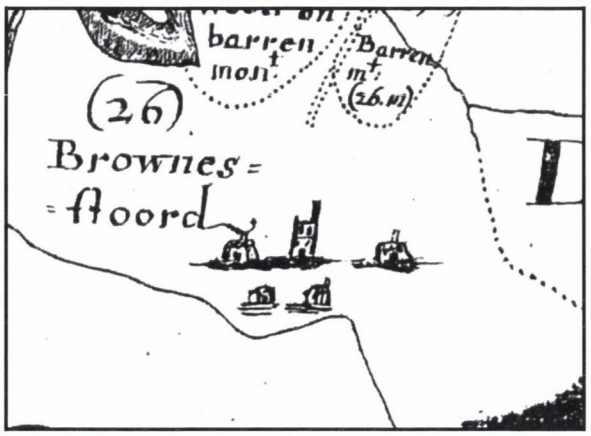

Fig. G.126: The tower house in Brownsford as depicted on the *Down Survey* map of the barony of Ida.

Interpretation

Carrigan's suggestion that different branches of the same family constructed this tower house and Burnchurch castle is supported by architectural similarities between the two castles, most notably their fireplaces. This tower house was part of a shift in the settlement pattern of Overk in the later medieval period, when the focus of settlement shifted from manorial centres to the major river valleys. The shift in settlement could have been related to increased trade along the rivers Barrow, Nore and Suir and part of an attempt to manage this trade. Edward's (2000, 70) contention that the Brownford Fitzgeralds dominated large parts of the Barrow and Nore river to the annoyance of the local fishermen, could certainly support the idea that tower houses in Overk were related to trade along its major rivers. Like many of the tower houses in Overk it is not located adjacent to the medieval parish church or any other ecclesiastical site.

Abbreviations and

Ormond Deeds = Curtis, E. (ed.) 1881-1943. *Calendar of Ormond Deeds*, (6 Vols). Dublin: Stationery Office.

Carrigan, W. 2005. *The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory*. Revised edition with a biographical essay by Fearghus Ó Fearghail Edition. Dublin: Archive CD Books Ireland Ltd.

Edwards, D. 2000. *The Ormond lordship in County Kilkenny, 1515-1642: the rise and fall of Butler feudal power*. Dublin: Four Courts Press.

Went, A. E. J. 1955. "A Short History of the Fisheries of the River Nore". *The Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland* 85(1):22-33.

Carranroe Lower ringfort

RMP no.	KK037-007---
Townland	Carranroe Lower
Civil Parish	The Rower
Barony	Ida
County	Kilkenny
OS six-inch sheet no.	Kilkenny sheet 37
Discovery Series sheet no.	68
Irish National Grid ref.	272470, 132500
Classification	Ringfort

Siting

This ringfort is located on a N-S ridge in an area of mixed pasture and tillage. The field in which the site is located slopes downwards from S-N.

Description

This large well-preserved ringfort site is very overgrown, with bracken growing on its interior and oak trees on its perimeter. The site is composed of a circular area, with a bank enclosed by a fosse and external bank. There is an inner bank at the edge of the central area, which has slumped around much of its length, making the interior saucer shaped. The external bank is faced with a stone wall on both the internal and external faces. There is a possible entrance on the E side of the site. A tree has fallen in this area making its examination very difficult, but there appears to be a ramped entrance here. There is a gap in the outer bank at this point and a modern farm gate and gateposts now close this entrance. It is unclear whether this was the original entrance.

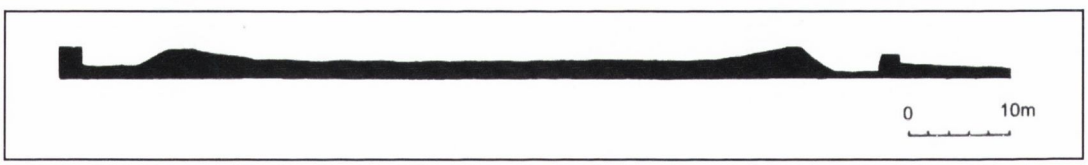

Fig. G.127: Profile of Carranroe Lower ringfort NE-SW.

The outer stone faced bank which surrounds the site varies greatly in height being higher at the north side where external ground level is lower. At the SW of the site this bank is 0.60m H above external ground level and 1.30m H above the bottom of the fosse. This stone faced bank varies in width between 1.3m to 1.7m. The width of the base of the fosse measures between 3.8m and 3.3m in width. The inner bank varies in height from 1.80m (SW) to 1.20m (NE) above the bottom of the fosse. This bank has a consistent height above the interior of the site of 0.8m to 0.85m in height, but its width

varies significantly. On the NE side where it is best preserved it is 1.86m in width, while on the SW side where a lot of slumping has occurred it is 0.85m in width. The ringfort has an internal width of 45.20m NE-SW.

Adjacent sites

The enclosure site in the townland of Kylemore (KK037-006) is located *c.*0.8km west of the site while the ringfort in the adjacent townland of Carranroe Upper (KK033-033---) is located *c.*1.8km N of it. The parish church in Farrantemple (KK033-03101-), and the enclosure beside it (KK033-03102-), are *c.*2.2km NW of this site.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

No antiquarian or documentary references to the site were uncovered during the current research. The *Down Survey* map of the barony of Ida depicts four small buildings, probably cabins, in the townland of 'Carranrow'. The site is depicted on the first and second editions of the *Ordnance Survey* six-inch map and trees are depicted within it on both editions. It is not labelled on either edition, although it is locally known as Mackey's Rath.

Fig.G.128: The ringfort in Carranroe Lower as shown on the *Ordnance Survey* ortho-photograph, dated 2005.

Interpretation

Although, the description of this site in the SMR file seemed to suggest that it could be a platform ringfort, the profile of the site that was compiled indicated that it was not.

The location of this site, within the parish of The Rower, could suggest that it might have continued to be occupied by the Gaelic-Irish who continued to live in The Rower after the arrival of the Anglo-Normans (see section 6.3 for a full discussion of interactions between the Gaelic-Irish and the Anglo-Normans in The Rower).

Carranroe Upper ringfort

RMP no.	KK033-033---
Townland	Carranroe Lower
Civil Parish	The Rower
Barony	Ida
County	Kilkenny
OS six-inch sheet no.	Kilkenny sheet 37
Discovery Series sheet no.	68
Irish National Grid ref.	271570, 134060
Classification	Ringfort site

Siting

This site is located on the shoulder of a SW facing slope in an area of undulating countryside. The area is under pasture, used as grazing for sheep and located behind a farmyard.

Description

This site has been almost completely levelled and the landowner reported that 'the hollow in the field is called the rath'. The site appears to consist of a circular area enclosed by a bank and internal fosse. The site is best preserved at the SW. It is very difficult to obtain accurate measurements for the site due to its poor preservation. It has an internal diameter of between 44m and 34m. The bank is *c.* 0.5m in height externally and *c.*0.3m in height internally.

Adjacent sites

The church (KK033-03101-) and castle site (KK033-03102-) in the neighbouring townland of Farrantemple are located *c.*0.65km west of this ringfort site. The ringfort in Carranroe Lower (KK037-007-) is located *c.*1.8km south of this site.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

No documentary or antiquarian references to this site were uncovered during the current research project. The *Down Survey* map for the barony of Ida depicts four small buildings, probably cabins, in the townland of 'Carranrow'. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map depicts a circular enclosure at this location, but as it is not depicted on the second edition we must assume that it was destroyed between the 1840s and the 1890s.

Interpretation

The location of this site on the shoulder of a hill would suggest that this site was a ringfort (Edwards 1999, 20). This site was visited as part of the research into the parish of The Rower, included in chapter six of this thesis (section 6.3). No evidence was uncovered to suggest that it was occupied during the high or late medieval periods.

References

Edwards, N. 1999. *The archaeology of early medieval Ireland.* 3rd Edition. London: Routledge.

Clogaralt castle site

RMP no.	KK033-019---
Townland	Clogaralt
Civil Parish	The Rower
Barony	Ida
County	Kilkenny
OS six-inch sheet no.	Kilkenny sheet 33
Discovery Series sheet no	68
Irish National Grid ref.	272520, 135880
Classification	Castle site

Siting

The castle site at Clogaralt is located on the flood plain of a meander of the River Barrow

Description

There are no above ground remains of this castle site. Although Edwards (2000, 59) states that the ruins of this castle can still be seen, this statement was based on a secondary source rather than a site visit (McCarthy 2008, 22). McCarthy (2007, B58) could not locate any remains of this castle and thought that the remains of more recent dwelling close to the site may have been mistaken for castle remains. Neither the current researcher nor the *Archaeological Survey of Ireland* archaeologist who visited the site could locate any upstanding remains of this site.

Adjacent sites

The cylindrical tower house in Coolhill (KK033-2701-) is located *c.*0.5km S of this castle site on the other side of this meander on the River Barrow. The church site at Killeens (KK033-03801-) is located *c.*160m NE of the castle site. The parish church site and the possible castle site in the townland of Farrantemple (KK033-03101- and KK033-03102-) are located *c.*2.4km SW of the site.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

Carrigan (1905, IV 126) reports that Clogaralt castle was a ruin and that its name was an Anglicisation of *Cloch Ghearailt,* Gerald's stone building. The castle was recorded as belonging to the Lords Mountgarrett. Edwards (2000, 59) states that 'by 1500 or thereabout Cahir's son, Gerald Kavanagh had consolidated the Kavanaghs hold on the

region, building a stone fort there, Cloch Gerailt'. However, Edwards gives no reference for this information.

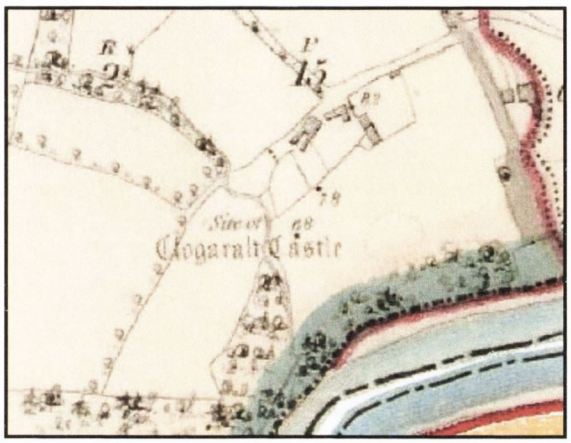

Fig. G.129: Clogaralt castle site as depicted on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map.

This castle was not recorded on the *Down Survey* map of the barony of Ida and McCarthy (2008, 22) has suggested that this may have been because the site had already been destroyed. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map of the area marks the site with a dashed circle and labels it 'site of Clogaralt Castle'. McCarthy reports that the location of the site of the castle and a nearby tower are depicted on an *Ordnance Survey* map dated to 1851. This 1851 map could not be located during the current programme of research. McCarthy (2008, 22) has suggested that this tower may have been part of the bawn but it may also have been a folly like those close to Coolhill castle. There is no evidence to suggest that the church site in Killeens and this castle site, which are in close proximity to each other, were in use contemporaneously.

Interpretation

As noted in section 6.3, McCarthy and Edwards have identified this castle with the *Cloch Gherailt*, which the Kavanaghs are believed to have constructed. However, in the absence of any archaeological evidence above the ground, we cannot date the castle without excavation. It has been argued in section 6.3 that it is likely that the tower house in Coolhill was the *Cloch Gherailt*. We can make few conclusions about this site, as the castle, whatever its form, is no longer extant.

References

Carrigan, W. 1905. *The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory*. Dublin: Archive CD Books Ireland Ltd.

Edwards, D. 2000. *The Ormond lordship in County Kilkenny, 1515-1642: the rise and fall of Butler feudal power*. Dublin: Four Courts Press.

McCarthy, J. K. 2007. *Castles in space: An exploration of the space in and around the tower houses of south-east Kilkenny.* Unpublished MPhil thesis, Queen's University Belfast.

McCarthy, J. K. 2008. "Two castles at Coolhill and Clogaralt in county Kilkenny". *Old Kilkenny Review* 60:16-33.

Clonamery motte

RMP no.	KK033-02202-
Townland`	Clonamery
Civil Parish	Clonamery
Barony	Ida
County	Kilkenny
OS six-inch sheet no.	Kilkenny sheet 33
Discovery Series sheet no.	68
Irish National Grid ref.	265800, 135130
Classification	Motte with possible bailey

Siting

Clonamery motte is located on the north bank of the River Nore, *c.*400m south of the Clonamery Church and views are restricted in all directions. It is located on a natural rise in the landscape, and this would presumably have protected it against flooding. O'Conor argues that there is evidence of a possible bailey to the east of the motte.

Description

The motte was so heavily overgrown, that access to it and the tower house on its summit was not possible. There was a bull in the field on repeat visits, so access to the site was very difficult. We must therefore rely on the descriptions of the motte included in the SMR file and O'Conor's thesis on the earthwork castles of Leinster (O'Conor 1993, 490-494). O'Conor indicates that the summit of the motte was originally oval in shape having maximum diameters of 16m by 11m. The motte is steep sided, although there was evidence that cattle had eroded it when O'Conor visited the site. This may be the reason why the motte has been enclosed by high barbed wire fencing, which denies access to the motte to cattle and also visitors to the site. The motte is 6m to 7.2m in height and O'Conor reported that a semi-circular flat berm, up to 6.2m at its widest point, juts out from the eastern base of the motte. The berm is described as *c.*1.2m in height above external ground level and its edges appeared to have been originally revetted by drystone walling.

There is a fosse at the base of the motte, which is now only visible on the northern side, but Orpen reported in the early twentieth century that it was visible on all sides particularly 'on the land side' (Orpen 1909, 323). O'Conor reports that this fosse is 4.5m wide from the base of the motte to the exterior lip of the fosse. It is 1.2m in depth

beneath the external ground level and a modern drystone wall revets its edge (O'Conor 1993, 492).

Fig. G.130: Motte in Clonamery from the W.

O'Conor describes a possible bailey east of the motte as 'an area, 56m N-S by 59m E-W, consisting of irregular hollows, small mounds and scarps, lie to the east of the motte. This may be the remains of a bailey. This area is delimited on its eastern edge by two parallel scarps running north-south'. As there are no enclosing features on any other sides of the 'bailey' its identification as such is somewhat speculative.

The masonry tower on the summit of the tower house has been interpreted by O'Conor (1993, 492), and McCarthy (2007, B58) as a tower house, although it is listed on archaeology.ie as a castle unclassified. O'Conor indicated that this tower originally had three floors and the southern end of the SW and SE walls stood to a height of *c.*9m. Only the foundation of the other walls of the tower survived, and indicated that the tower was originally rectangular in shape with internal dimensions of 11m by 4.85m. The walls of the tower were 2m in thickness at ground floor level, but much of the thickness was due to a batter. O'Conor indicated that there is no surviving vault in this tower house and that the floor above the ground and first floor were wooden planks. A semi-circular bartizan covers the southern angle between the southwestern and southeastern walls of the tower. A short length of wall, which is not bonded into the

masonry of the tower house, juts out from it to the southeast. O'Conor and McCarthy's classification of this masonry tower as a tower house would appear to be warranted.

Adjacent sites

The early medieval parish church (KK033-02101-) in Clonamery is located *c.*400m to the N and there is evidence that this church was added to it the twelfth and fifteenth/sixteenth centuries corresponding to the construction of the motte and the tower house. The moated site (KK033-012---) in Ballygub New is located *c.*4km to the NE. The closest motte is located *c.*3.6km to the NW in Inistioge (KK032-017001-), which is outside the barony of Overk. The tower house in Brownsford, Dysartmoon parish (KK033-02801-) is located *c.*3.6km to the NW on the opposite bank of the River Nore.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

The only documentary reference to this earthwork castle, that was uncovered during the course of this research, dated to 1240 when David FitzMilo made a grant to the abbess and nuns in the nunnery in Kilculliheen (C.D.I., I 371). This grant included the chapel of the castle at Cloone, which was identified by Orpen (1909, 323-324) as a chapel on the motte in Clonamery. This suggests that there was a substantial Anglo-Norman settlement in Clonamery in the early thirteenth century and Orpen suggested that it was one of the chief manorial centres of Iverk at this date. Orpen argues that the reference cannot refer to Clonmore as it would be too close to Portnascully, where another substantial settlement existed. The presence of a church close by would suggest that was a manorial caput.

According to Empey (1990, 85), the manor of Clonamery was crosslands and it appeared in the escheator's account for the temporalities of the See of Ossory for the period 1287 to 1291 (Empey 1997, 9). Clonamery or Cloone do not appear in the 1314 extent of the barony of Overk (*Red Bk. of Ormond*, 131-135), indicating that it was not in the possession of the FitzMilos. As the church controlled the manor of Clonamery there are few references to it in the *Ormond Deeds,* however there are some entries that date to the sixteenth century. In 1542 Margaret and Katherine Freigne, daughters and heirs of Edmund Freigne of Clone, granted to James Sweetman and Leonard Blaunchville all their castles, lordships and inheritances in a number of places in

county Kilkenny, including Clone (*Ormond Deeds* IV, 220). In 1543 Elyse Shortalse, widow of Edward 'Freny', agreed to grant her dowry, which includes appurtenances in 'Clone', to James Purcell fitzPhilip of the Garrans (*Ormond Deeds* IV, 255). Some lands in 'Clone' were in the possession of the Earl of Ormond when he died in 1546, because his will granted his lands in Clone among other places to his wife Dame Johan fitzGeralde (*Ormond Deeds* IV, 291).

According to Carrigan (2005, IV 121) 'Cloone castle' is reputed to have belonged to the Fitzgeralds or Barons, of Brownford until the forfeitures under Cromwell in 1653. As Clonamery parish, with the exception of the townland of Oldcourt, all belonged to the Fitzgerald or Baron family, it became known as *Pobail a Barúin* or Baron's Parish. Edwards records that the Brownsford Fitzgeralds were not an important family in southern Kilkenny but that they carved out a niche for themselves in the barony of Ida, and held the castles of Clonamery and Brownsford and dominated large parts of the Barrow and Nore rivers. They continued to prosper in the seventeenth century acquiring lands in Ballinabarney and maintaining a strong hold in Rosbercon, where they held nearly 400 acres beside the town (Edwards 2000, 70).

The *Down Survey* map of the barony of Ida depicts a nucleation of structures in the townland of 'Cloane' in the parish of 'Cloane' on the bank of the River Nore. A structure, which appears to be a tower house, is depicted adjacent to the River Nore. Three cabins are depicted, as well as a large rectangular building, with what appears to be a central chimney. This cartographic source indicates that the settlement at Clonamery prospered into the mid-seventeenth century. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map illustrates the motte and the tower on its summit, which are labelled 'Clonamery Castle (in ruins)'.

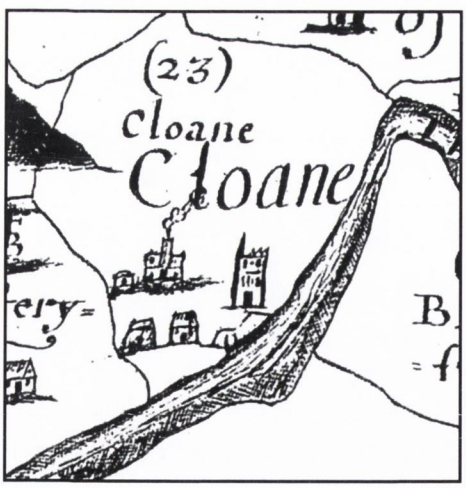

Fig. G.131: The townland of Clonamery as depicted on the *Down Survey* map of the barony of Ida.

Interpretation

The identification of this motte with the 'castle at Cloone' by Orpen is convincing, notwithstanding Empey's identification of the manor as crosslands. It is possible that the FitzMilos established a centre at Clonamery before the lands came into church hands. The construction of a tower house on the motte would indicate that this continued to be an important manorial centre into the fifteenth century when the church was also extended. A manorial centre that contained a large earthwork castle and later a tower house would clearly have been an important centre is the region. Its location on the River Nore would have given it access to the large centres of population located on the rivers Nore and Barrow.

Abbreviations and references

C.D.I. = Sweetman, H. S. (ed.) 1875-86. *Calendar of documents relating to Ireland, preserved in Her Majesty's Record Office, London*, (5 Vols). London: Public Records Office.

Red Bk of Ormond = White, N. B. (ed.) 1932. *The Red Book of Ormond.* Dublin: Stationery Office.

Carrigan, W. 2005. *The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory*. Revised edition with a biographical essay by Fearghus Ó Fearghail Edition. Dublin: Archive CD Books Ireland Ltd.

Edwards, D. 2000. *The Ormond lordship in County Kilkenny, 1515-1642: the rise and fall of Butler feudal power.* Dublin: Four Courts Press.

Empey, C. A. 1990. "County Kilkenny in the Anglo-Norman period". In W. Nolan and K. Whelan (eds) *Kilkenny: History and society*. 75-96. Dublin: Geography Publications Ltd.

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O'Conor, K. D. 1993. *The earthwork castles of medieval Leinster*. Unpublished DPhil thesis, University of Wales, College of Cardiff.

Orpen, G. H. 1909. "Motes and Norman castles in Ossory". *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland* 39:311-342.

Clonamery Church

RMP no.	KK033-02101-
Townland	Clonamery
Civil Parish	Clonamery
Barony	Ida
County	Kilkenny
OS six-inch sheet no.	Kilkenny sheet 33
Discovery Series sheet no.	68
Irish National Grid ref.	265860, 135450
Classification	Church

Siting

The church in Clonamery is located *c.*300m north of Clonamery motte. The site is located in an area of pastureland, but there are some areas of tillage in the adjacent fields. The laneway that runs to the east of the church has a slight curve and this curve is also evident in the shape of the field boundaries to the north of the site. It is possible that these features preserve the line of the circular monastic enclosure that might have surrounded this early church, which was dedicated to St. Brendan (Brandon Hill is located north of the church and is visible from it).

Description

It is now a rectangular nave and chancel church with a sacristy on it north side, but the church is the product of a number of phases of building. The original pre-Norman church was likely to be much smaller, and there is evidence that the church was extended eastwards from a point 8m east of the west wall. It is possible that the original church was a simple single-celled church 8m (E-W) by 6m (N-S). The west end of this older church is clearly visible in the fabric of the church. The church was extended later and it may have been at this point that the chancel arch and the chancel were added. It is possible that this extension of the church was the work of the arriving Anglo-Normans, and that the establishment of Clonamery Church as a parish church would have necessitated the extension and development of the church. The sacristy and the bell-cote above the west gable are likely to date to a fifteenth century refurbishment of the church. This refurbishment could be connected to the construction of the tower house on top of nearby Clonamery motte.

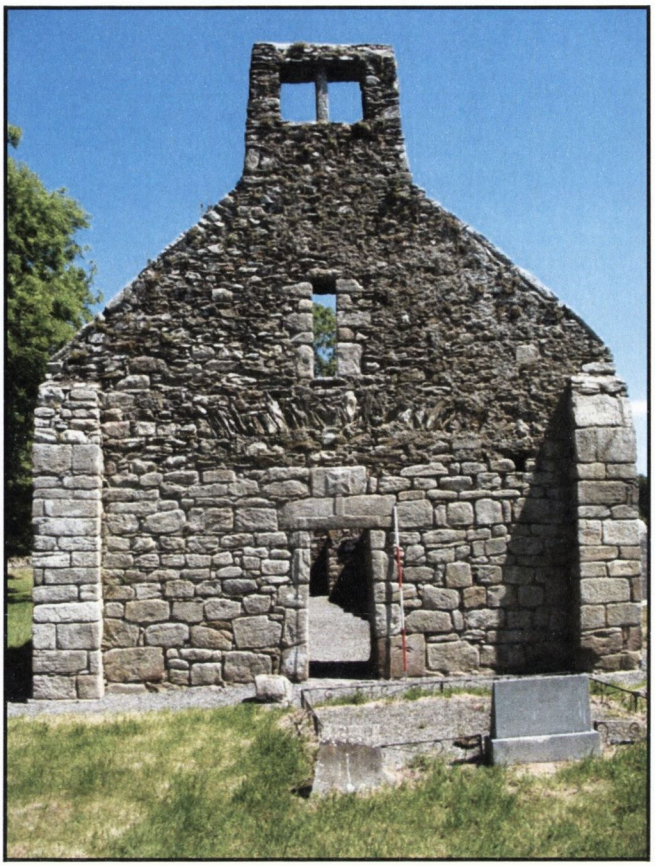

Fig. G.132: Exterior west wall of Clonamery church featuring bell-cote and Maltese cross above the doorway.

There is a lintelled doorway at the west end of the church, this would have been the entrance to the original single-celled church. The exterior of this door is beautifully decorated with a Maltese cross carved above the lintel. The north and south walls extend slightly beyond the west gable, and these projections are called antae, the function of these antae was to support the ends of the roof. Above the lintel and the carving there is a relieving arch, and above that again a single light rectangular headed window set within a narrow embrasure. Finally, the west gable is surmounted by a bell-cote. The masonry above the doorway and its carved lintel appears to be part of a later period of construction.

The south wall of the nave contains a blocked up window at its east end, the opening measures 0.65m in width and *c.*2m in height. The only other feature of note in the south wall is the line in the masonry that marks the end of the original pre-Norman church. A similar line can be noted directly across from it in the north wall. The north wall contains a blocked doorway, located east of this line in the masonry. The east wall

of the nave is a chancel arch, which separated the nave and the congregation from the chancel and the clergy.

The west wall of the chancel contains the chancel arch and no other features of note. The south wall of the chancel contains a round-headed doorway set within an embrasure and east of the doorway is a rectangular single-light window set within an embrasure. The east wall of the chancel contains a simple single-light round-headed window set within an embrasure. The north wall of the chancel is badly damaged, and the west end of it is missing completely and the east end only survives to a height of 0.78m. The sacristy was added to the north side of the chancel. The break in the line of the north wall of the chancel and the south wall of the sacristy may indicate the position of a doorway into the sacristy from the chancel. The north and west walls of the sacristy are featureless, while the east wall contains a rectangular headed single-light window.

Fig. G.133: Interior of east window in Clonamery church.

There are a number of cross-slabs in the nave, one of which is an unusual Christian pillar stone with crosses carved in relief. There are a further three cross slabs at the west end of the nave. These are simple stone slabs with a cross carved in high relief. There are a number of memorials on the internal walls of the church and there is

evidence of modern burials in the chancel. The surrounding graveyard contains a number of gravestones.

Fig. G.134: Cross-slab in the church in Clonamery.

Adjacent sites

The motte and bailey (KK033-022---) in Clonamery are located *c*.400m south of this church site. Clodiagh Church and the souterrain, both in the townland of Ballygub are located *c*.2km to the SW. The moated site in Ballygub New (KK033-012---) is located *c*.3.6km NE of the church.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

Gwynn and Hadcock (1988, 376) report that at Clonamery or *Cluaun-iomaire* there are the remains of an ancient foundation dedicated to Saint Bronndan. The possibility that there was a pre-Norman foundation here is support by its status as part of the lands of the See of Ossory. This suggests that it may well have been an ancient termon land like a number of other episcopal manors (for example Freshford, Seirkieran and Irishtown) (Empey 1997, 9). According to Empey, the manor of Clonamery was Crosslands (Empey 1990, 85) and there is no doubt that it was an episcopal manor as it appeared

in the escheator's account for the temporalities of the see of Ossory for the period 1287 to 1291 (Empey 1997, 9). It disappears from the escheator's accounts after 1291, but Empey argues that this simply means that it was no longer held in demesne. It was probably held by a lay tenant, probably the Barons (alias FitzGeralds) of Brownsford who occupied Cloone castle in the seventeenth century (Empey 1997, 9). As elsewhere in County Kilkenny, the tenements from which the tithes of the tenants of the episcopal manor were paid, constituted the territory of the parish of Clonamery, so that we can be confident that the 3,390 acres of the present civil parish correspond exactly to the manor itself (Empey 1997, 9). Since the tithes were in the gift of the bishop it is not surprising that they were prebendal, that is to say they had been earmarked to support a residential canon in St. Canice's Cathedral. This means that the parish church at Clonamery was always served by a vicar. The appointment of the canon of Clonamery fell to the crown when the vacancy arose *sede vacante*, which explains why the presentation of Richard Brown to the prebend on 27 September 1317 is recorded in the Patent Rolls (Empey 1997, 9, *Rot. Pat. Hib.*, 21b).

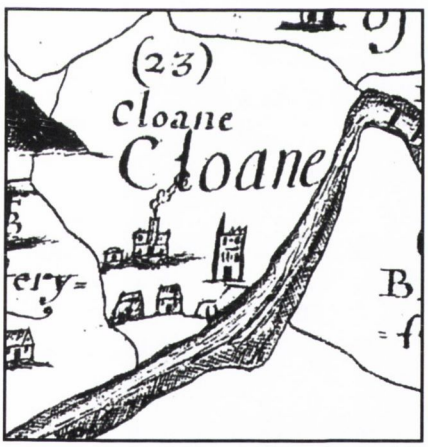

Fig. G.135: The townland of Clonamery as depicted on the *Down Survey* map of the barony of Ida.

The *Down Survey* map for the barony of Ida depicts a nucleation of buildings in the townland of 'Cloane' in the parish of 'Cloane'. The buildings depicted include one that resembles a tower house, three cabins and a large rectangular building. None of the building depicted appear to be a church and it is unclear whether the church in Clonamery was still in use at this date. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map depicts the church within a rectangular graveyard, the church is labelled 'Clonamery Church (in ruins)'. Although, the church is located within a rectangular graveyard, the remains of a large circular enclosure with the church at its centre, can be traced in the surrounding field system.

Interpretation

This early medieval church was taken over by the Anglo-Normans as a parish church and integrated into a manorial centre. This church appears to have served the tenants of

the manor, while the lord could have worshipped privately in the chapel of the castle referred to in the 1240 grant (C.D.I., I 371). This church appears to have been extended in the twelfth century, probably by the arriving Anglo-Normans who also constructed the earthwork castle. The extension of the church may indicate an increase in the local population, possibly connected to the arrival of tenants from England, Wales and France. There is evidence that the church was modified again in the fifteenth century and may have been completed as part of a building programme that included the construction of the tower house. It is clear that Clonamery acted as a manorial centre in the twelfth and thirteenth century and that there was activity at the site in the fifteenth century, but it is unclear whether there was continuous occupation of the site.

Abbreviations and References

C.D.I. = Sweetman, H. S. (ed.) 1875-86. *Calendar of documents relating to Ireland, preserved in Her Majesty's Record Office, London,* (6 Vols). London: Public Records Office.

Rot Pat. Hib. = Tresham, E. (ed.) 1828. *Rotulorum patentium et clausorum cancellariae hiberniae calendarum*. Dublin: His Majesty's Printer.

Empey, C. A. 1990. "County Kilkenny in the Anglo-Norman period". In W. Nolan and K. Whelan (eds), *Kilkenny: History and society*. 75-96. Dublin: Geography Publications Ltd.

Empey, C. A. 1997. "Inistioge in the Middle Ages". In J. Kirwan (ed.) *Kilkenny: Studies in honour of Margaret M. Phelan*. 9-15. Kilkenny: Kilkenny Archaeological Society.

Gwynn, A. and Hadcock, R. N. (eds) 1988. *Medieval religious houses in Ireland.* Dublin.

Coolhill tower house

RMP no.	KK033-2701-
Townland	Coolhill
Civil Parish	The Rower
Barony	Ida
County	Kilkenny
OS six-inch sheet no.	Kilkenny sheet 33
Discovery Series sheet no.	68
Irish National Grid ref.	272620, 135330
Classification	Tower house

Siting

Coolhill Castle is located on a bend in the river Barrow and lands falls away rapidly to the north towards the river Barrow, giving the castle commanding views over the Barrow and the lands on the opposite side of the river valley. The site is overlooked by higher ground to the south. Carrigan described the site as 'perched like an eagle's nest on the bare edge of a rock rising sheer to a height of 200 feet out of the Barrow's bed and overlooking one of the grandest pieces of scenery Kilkenny county can boast of' (Carrigan 2005, IV 126). The land within the meander is flat with a berm or lip on all sides, which is probably the result of riverine deposition.

Description

Coolhill castle is a circular tower house, four storeys in height with a parapet level, which has been largely destroyed. There is an almost square projection from the circular tower house on its NW side, which houses the garderobe. The entrance way is located on the SE side and there is a machicolation above it at parapet level. There is another machicolation at parapet level on the NW. Below it at ground floor level is an arrow loop, which due to the slope of the site is just above ground level.

The entrance, a semi-pointed doorway with a rebate for a yett, leads into a small entrance lobby, above which there is a large murder hole. To the north of the lobby is a small wall cupboard, while to the south another semi-pointed doorway leads to an intra-mural staircase that provides access to the first floor level. Another semi-pointed doorway provides access to the main ground floor chamber, above which there is a vault with wicker centring. All three doorways off the entrance lobby would have had doors and there is evidence for a drawbar on all three. The main chamber contains four square embrasures, three of which contain windows and one which acted as a

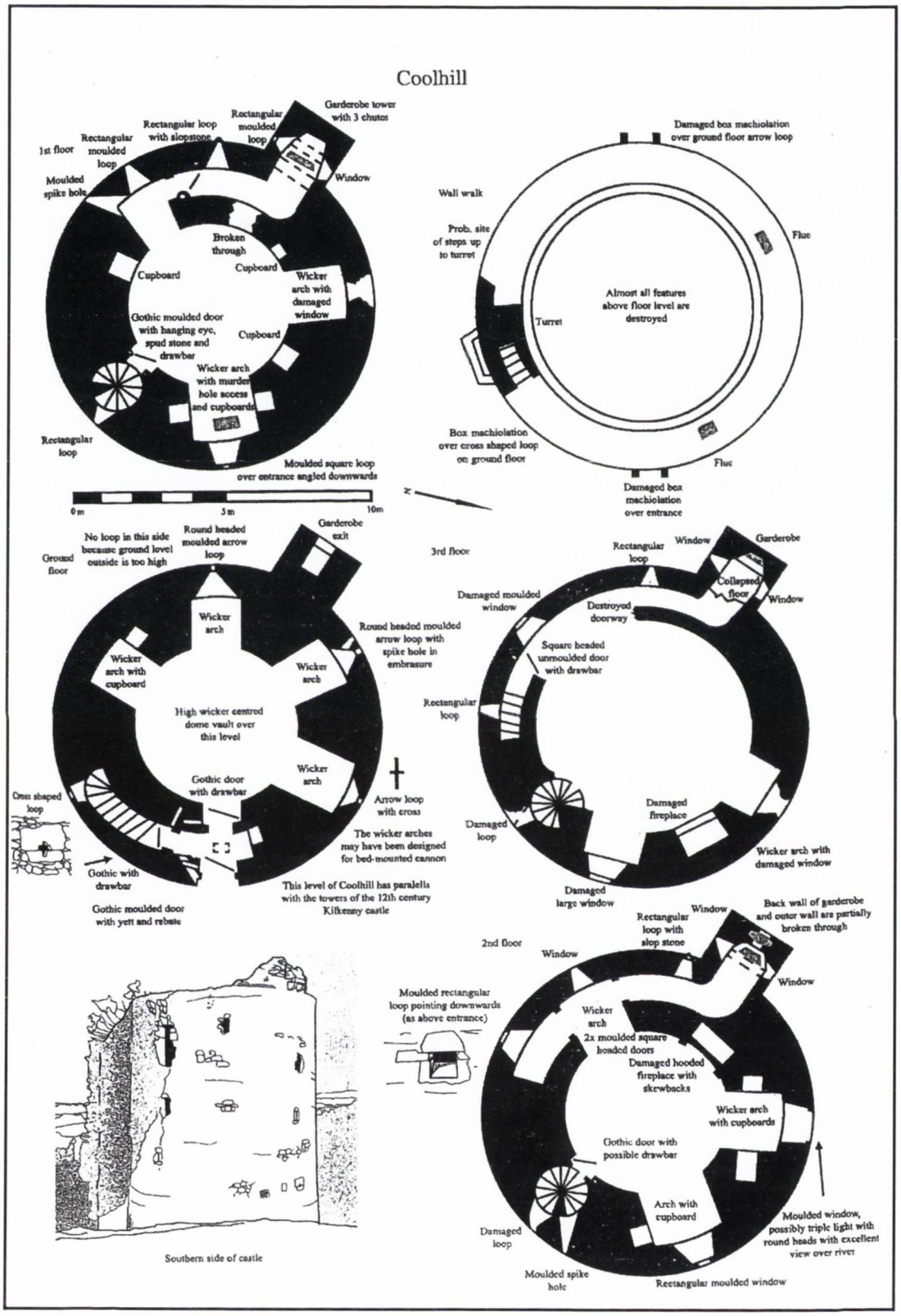

Fig. G.136: Plan of Coolhill tower house (after McCarthy 2007).

cupboard. There is evidence of wicker centring on the soffits of the arches of all four embrasures. The three window embrasures contain different window types with the embrasure north of the entrance containing an arrow loop with a cross. The embrasure at the NW contains two opes. A round headed arrow loop and a small round ope at the end of a narrow embrasure. McCarthy (2008, 18) termed the small round ope a spike hole and suggested that it could have been used for sighting and both examples of such a feature in Coolhill castle occur adjacent to loops. The final window embrasure on the ground floor contains a round headed loop. There is no access to the garderobe tower at this level, the exit can be seen at ground level on the exterior of the tower house.

Fig. G.136: Coolhill Castle from the SW.

Fig. G.137: Unusual window on first floor level of Coolhill Castle.

There are two square embrasures with windows at first floor level, both of which contain evidence of wicker centring on the soffits of their arches. The embrasure at the N side contains a damaged window, while the embrasure to the east contains the access to the murder hole and an unusual window. It is a small rectangular window framed in cut stone. On the interior the cut stone slopes upwards, while on the exterior cut stone slopes downwards. This window is located above the window and its function in unclear. There is an identical window at second

floor level at the SW. There are wall cupboards on either side of this embrasure, as well as three other wall cupboards around the circumference of the room. The garderobe tower, located at the NW, can be accessed from this level and there are two opes opposite the doorway to the intra-mural passage leading to the garderobe tower. One of these is a rectangular moulded loop while the other is a 'spike hole'. There is a hanging eye, spud stone and drawbar hole on the garderobe side of this doorway. The intra-mural passage that leads to the garderobe tower contains a rectangular loop with a slopstone. There are two opes in the garderobe tower, one on either side of it.

Fig. G.139: Garderobe tower on the NW side of Coolhill castle (courtesy of the Photographic Unit, DOEHLG).

The second floor is accessed via a spiral staircase, located at the SE. Again the doorway to the second floor is a semi-pointed doorway. Opposite the semi-pointed doorway are two opes, a damaged loop and another 'spike hole'. There are two rectangular embrasures with windows on this floor. The first one, on the east side has a cupboard on its south side and a rectangular ope. The second embrasure on the north side contains a large rectangular window that may have been a triple light round-headed window. There are wall cupboards on either side of this embrasure that has wicker centring on its soffit. There is a damaged hooded fireplace with skew back on the NW. The entrance to the garderobe tower is located to the west and is accessed by two square headed doorways. An intra-mural passage leads north to the garderobe tower past a rectangular loop with slop stone. The back wall of the garderobe has been

partially broken through and there are windows on either side of it. The intra-mural passage leads south to an unusual rectangular ope, identical to the window above the entrance at first floor level.

The third floor is again accessed via a spiral staircase, and there is a damaged loop opposite the doorway. Much of this level is inaccessible and a metal barrier has been erected on the south side close to the entrance. There is a damaged fireplace to the NE, with rectangular embrasures on either side. The opes in both embrasures have been damaged, but they would appear to have been large windows originally. Access to the garderobe tower was unsafe, but McCarthy's plan indicates a similar arrangement to that described for the second floor. However on its southern side there is an intra-mural staircase leading up to the parapet level

Most of the parapet level has been removed, with just a small projection, which McCarthy labels a turret, above the staircase on the S side. The remains of the two machicolations are on the east and west sides and the chimney flues could also be identified. There is a slight rebate just below the parapet level and this was likely to have supported the roof beams. A railing has been placed on the east side of the entrance to allow access to only part of the parapet level.

Fig. G.140: Possible remains of bawn wall at Coolhill castle.

To the north of the castle where the lands drops down sharply to the river Barrow, there is a short section of wall (3m in length and 0.55m in width). It may have formed part of a bawn but its stonework is similar to the nearby folly and is more likely to date from the period of its construction. The bottom of the garderobe has similar stonework and it would appear to have been repaired at this time also.

Adjacent sites

There is a folly (KK033-02702-) *c.*140m to the west of the tower house and the site of another *c.*80m to the east (KK033-02703-). They are labelled as towers on both editions of the *Ordnance Survey* six-inch maps of the area. The site of Clogharalt castle (KK033-019---) is located *c.*0.5km N of the Coolhill Castle on the other side of this meander on the River Barrow. The church site at Killeens (KK033-03801-) is located *c.*0.65km to the N. The church and possible castle site in the townland of Farrantemple (KK033-03101-) are located *c.*2km SW.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

There are numerous references to the Rower and its manor in the *Ormond Deeds*, but there are very few references to Coolhill. In 1542 'Coulkill' is mentioned as part of the manor of the Rower (*Ormond Deeds*, IV 219-220). In 1546 Cahir, son of Gerald, Kavanagh of 'Cwilkyll' in 'le Rowre' agrees to be bound to come to the aid of the Earl of Ormond (*Ormond Deeds*, IV 277). The Carew Manuscripts indicate that in the mid fifteenth century the MacMurrough Kavanaghs held lands in Coolhill (*Lambeth MS* 614:141). Carrigan (2005, IV 126) notes that the castle may not have been constructed by the Roches, and may date to the later Mountgarret period of ownership of The Rower. He also records that the Mountgarret family owned the castle in 1621.

The *Down Survey* map of the barony of Ida shows a tower in the townland of 'Coolkeile', along with two small cabins. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map marks the castle site beside the River Barrow and labels it 'Coolhill castle (in ruins)'. It also marks the two towers that were located on either side of the tower house, further south of the river bank.

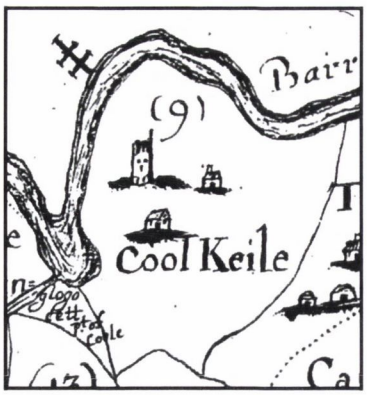

Fig. G.141: The tower in Coolhill townland as depicted on the *Down Survey* map of the barony of Ida.

Interpretation

This dating and ethnic identity of those who commissioned the construction of this tower house is discussed in detail in section 6.3.

Abbreviations and references

Ormond Deeds = Curtis, E. (ed.) 1881-1943. *Calendar of Ormond Deeds*, (6 Vols). Dublin: Stationery Office.

Lambeth MS = Anon. 1599. "Lambeth MS 614:141". *Elizabethan Ireland and the settlement of Ulster: the Carew papers at Lambeth Palace Library*. London: World Microfilms.

Carrigan, W. 2005. *The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory*. Revised edition with a biographical essay by Fearghus Ó Fearghail Edition. Dublin: Archive CD Books Ireland Ltd.

McCarthy, J. K. 2008. "Two castles at Coolhill and Clogaralt in county Kilkenny". *Old Kilkenny Review* 60:16-33.

Corluddy tower house

RMP no.	KK045-013---
Townland	Corluddy
Civil Parish	Portnascully
Barony	Iverk
County	Kilkenny
OS six-inch sheet no.	Kilkenny sheet 45
Discovery Series sheet no.	75
Irish National Grid ref.	254230, 112860
Classification	Tower house

Siting

Corluddy tower house is located on an east-facing slope overlooking the valley of a small river. The tower house is located *c.*50m from the top of the slope, which means that the castle is overlooked by higher ground, a defensive disadvantage. The tower house is built on an area of rock outcrop, and it is possible that the stone for the tower house was quarried locally. The rock outcrop might also have provided a secure foundation for the castle that could not be undermined by potential attackers. There are good views to the N, E and S.

Description

The castle is a stone built tower house, five storeys in height with two stone vaults, one over the second floor and one over the fourth floor. It has internal dimensions of 6.70m, E-W x 5.50m N-S. There is a large breach in the SE corner of the tower house, which has a slight base batter.

The entrance to the tower house is located at the N end of the east wall of the tower house. There has been significant damage to the doorway and none of the original cut-stone remains. There is a murder hole directly above this doorway and the remains of a machicolation above the entrance at wall-walk level. An intramural staircase runs upwards from north to south in the thickness of the east wall. There are rectangular window embrasures in the north and south walls. The window ope in the south wall has been enlarged considerably to create an almost square window and none of the original cut stone for the window survives. The embrasure in the north wall houses a single-light rectangular headed window. There is a large breach in the middle of the ground floor level of the west wall.

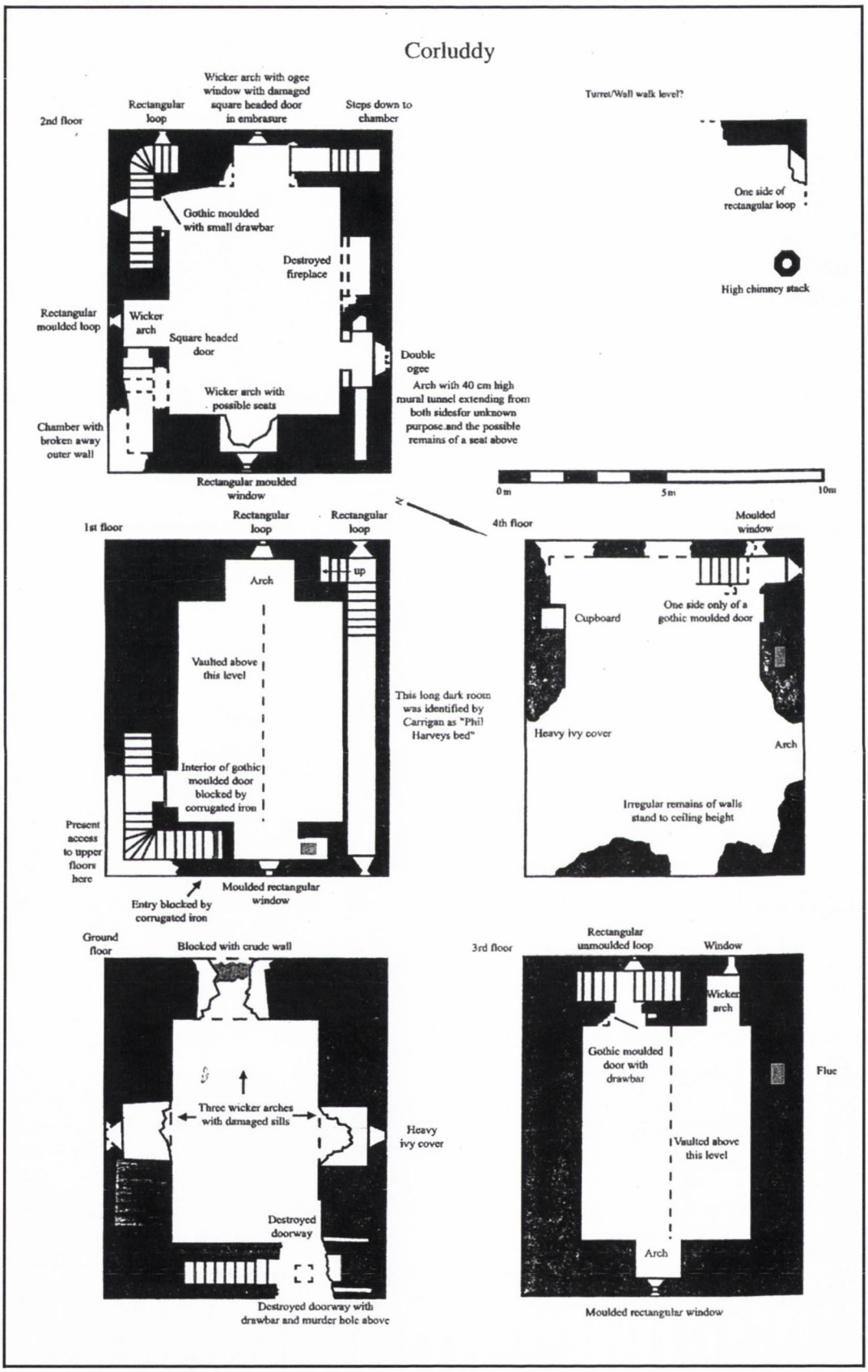

Fig. G.142: Plan of Corluddy castle (after McCarthy 2007).

The first floor would have been supported by a wall plate, which rested on corbels on the north and south walls and was inserted into sockets in the corners of the east and west walls. There is a pointed vault above the first floor. There are rectangular single-light windows in square embrasures in the east and west walls at this level. The window embrasure in the east wall has access at its north side to the top of the murder hole.

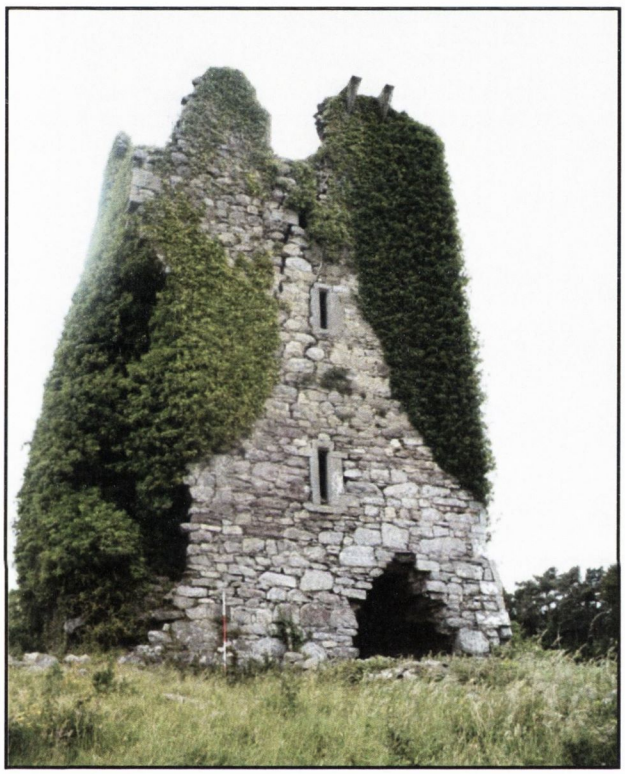

Fig. G.143: Corluddy tower house from the east.

The second floor sits on top of the first vault and is accessed via a set of intramural steps. The intra-mural staircase runs within the thickness of the east, south and west walls, moving clockwise around the castle as it travels up its height. The north wall contains an intra-mural staircase between the level of the first and second floors.

The second floor is accessed via a doorway from the staircase in the south wall. The doorway is a cut-stone semi-pointed doorway, and the stone jambs and arch are dressed with sparrow-pecking. This wall also contains a rectangular single-light window in a rectangular embrasure. There is a doorway in the east wall of this embrasure leading to an intra-mural passage, but the SE corner of the tower house has been damaged and this passage is no longer extant. The west wall contains the intra-mural stairs climbing up to the third floor and a round-headed single-light window in a rectangular embrasure with damaged sides. There is a doorway in the north side of the embrasure that provides access to a set of downward steps that led to an intra-mural passage between the first and second floor levels. The west end of the north wall contains a rectangular fireplace, the top of which has been badly damaged. The east end of the same wall contains a damaged twin-light window with a pointed head in a rectangular embrasure. The mullion is missing and

the window is overgrown with ivy. The east wall contains a square-headed single-light window set in a rectangular embrasure.

The third floor would have been supported by a wall plate which rested on corbels in the north and south walls and wall-plate sockets at the corners of the east and west walls. This floor is located below the second pointed vault. There are no windows in the N and S walls at this level due to the shape of the vault. The west wall contains a semi-pointed doorway from the intra-mural staircase. There is a square-headed single-light window in a rectangular embrasure at the north end of this wall. The window is not centred in the embrasure and is closer to its north end. The east wall also contains a square-headed single-light window in a rectangular embrasure.

Fig. G.144: Entrance to the fourth floor of Corluddy tower house.

The fourth floor is badly damaged and the entrance to it is a semi-pointed doorway at the west end of the north wall. Only one side of this doorway survives and there is a hanging eye and a recess in the wall to take the door on the stairs side of the doorway. This would indicate that the door opened out from this chamber. There is a small square-headed single-light window at the top of the stairs in the W corner of this wall. There is a large arched ope east of the centre of this wall and a large breach in the centre of the east wall. Only the west half of the south wall survives and it contains a small wall cupboard. The west wall is very poorly preserved, with only the N corner surviving to any height. This N corner contains a tall rectangular window at the top of the stairs. There is some evidence for a wall-walk level above the fourth floor. However, only the north wall of this level survives and it contains a chimney in the centre.

Adjacent sites

The motte and bailey (KK045-001---) and church in Portnascully (KK045-002---, KK042-01801-), the probable manorial centre, are located *c.*2.5km to the NW. The eleven fulacht fiadh in the townlands of Ballygorey, Luffany and Licketstown are located more than 100m from the tower house. The castle complex in Granny (KK043-034---) is located *c.*3.5km to the NE.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

According to Carrigan (2005, IV 162) the Grants were an important family in late medieval Overk. About the year 1560, three members of his family held lands, by knight service, of the manor of Grannagh; James Grant (£20), Thomas Grant (£15) and Edmund Grant (£8). James Grant was probably the owner of Corluddy castle, which was the seat of chief branch of the family. The Grant family retained their connection with Corluddy until the Cromwellian confiscations in 1653, when David Grant of Corluddy castle, 'forfeited Corlody, Portnascully, Fulbeckstown, Teghmone (ie Tiermore) about half of Dunolagh and part of Rathkeran' (Carrigan 2005, IV 162).

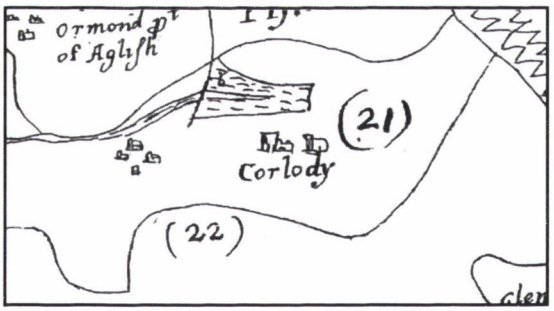

Fig. G.145: Corluddy townland as depicted on the *Down Survey* map for the barony of Iverk.

The *Down Survey* map of the barony of Iverk depicts two groups of structures in the townland of 'Corlody'. One of these groups of buildings, the southern group, consists of two large buildings, one of which could be a tower house with an attached building. The northern group of buildings consists of four small buildings, possible cabins or small houses. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map marks and labels the tower house 'Corluddy Castle (in ruins)'. The tower house is marked east of the hamlet of Corluddy.

Interpretation

The tower house in Corluddy is located at a distance from the manorial centre in the parish of Portnascully, in common with the majority of tower houses in Overk. The

shift in settlement away from manorial centres in other parts of Overk appears to be related to a move to riverine location. However this does not appear to be the case in Portnascully, where the manorial centre is closer to the River Suir and is located directly adjacent to one of its tributaries, while the tower house in Corluddy is located more than 1km from the River Suir. The reason for the shift in settlement in this parish is unclear, but it is possible that the waterlogged soils close to the River Suir, as illustrated by the number of fulacht fiadh in the area, could have been, at least, a contributing factor.

References

Carrigan, W. 2005. *The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory*. Revised edition with a biographical essay by Fearghus Ó Fearghail Edition. Dublin: Archive CD Books Ireland Ltd.

Farrantemple Enclosure

RMP no.	KK033-03101-
Townland	Farrantemple
Civil Parish	The Rower
Barony	Ida
County	Kilkenny
OS six-inch sheet no.	Kilkenny sheet 33
Discovery Series sheet no.	68
Irish National Grid ref.	269590, 136430
Classification	Enclosure/ ringfort/ ringwork

Siting

This site is located within the modern hamlet of The Rower, adjacent to the ruined Church of Ireland church and on the shoulder of an east-facing hill.

Description

The field reports in the SMR file for this site variously classify it as a ringfort, an early monastic enclosure, an earthwork and a castle site. This site has largely been destroyed and this may be the reason for the multiplicity of possible classifications.

This site can best be described as the remains of a large circular enclosure, enclosed by a low, wide fosse. Recorded dimensions of the site vary and it is difficult to obtain accurate measurements due to the difficulty of deciding where the fosse begins and ends. The most accurate measurements are likely to be those taken in the 1970s (75m N-S by 62m E-W). The current landowner recorded that the fosses were better preserved in his youth and over 1m in depth. The then owner of the site levelled the site in the 1970s. Subsequent ploughing of this field did not uncover anything of note, but the landowner did note that the area was very stony.

The report from the 1970s records the site as 'a large broad oval, flattish area surrounded by a low, ploughed out embankment and a wide shallow fosse. The interior is uneven and slopes from W-E. Old cultivation ridges run W-E and have defaced the bank. There is a depression in the embankment at the W. Sited on the slope of the ridge of good grasslands. The fosse is inclined to be wet, particularly in the east quadrant'. A field report compiled in 1989 records a low rise in the south part of the enclosure *c.*0.3m in height, 12m N-S and 10m E-W. This platform is not recorded in the 1970s description and is not visible at the time of this site visit. This

platform has been interpreted by McCarthy (2007, B61) as a castle site based on Carrigan's (1905, IV 126) record of the foundations of a castle at the centre of a very large 'rath' on the east side of the churchyard until it was destroyed in the 1860s. This enclosure is visible on the 1995 ortho-photograph on the *Ordnance Survey Ireland* Map Viewer.

Fig. G.146: The enclosure to the east of church and graveyard as depicted on the *Ordnance Survey Ireland Map Viewer* ortho-photograph (1995)

Adjacent sites

The church site in Farrantemple, which is now occupied by the remains of a nineteenth century Church of Ireland church, is located *c.*100m to the NE of this enclosure site. The tower house in Coolhill (KK033-02701-) is located *c.*2km to the NE, while the moated site in Brandonhill (KK033-03701-) is located *c.*2.7km to the SE.

Documentary references antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

There are numerous references to the Rower in the *Ormond Deeds*, some of which describe it as the 'manor of the Rowyr' (*Ormond Deeds*, II 56, 85). However, none of these references mention a castle or any other buildings within the manor of the Rower. The Ormond Deeds indicate that although they lost control of the manor a number of times (*Ormond Deeds*, II 28, 56, 206) the Roches controlled it from before 1314 (*Red Bk. of Ormond*, 131-132) until the mid sixteenth century at least (*Ormond Deeds*, IV 219-220). Edwards (2000, 59) argues that the MacMurrough Kavanaghs had gained control of the Rower from sometime before 1476 when Donal Reogh

Kavanagh had granted possession of it to one of his sons Cahir. Documents dating to the mid-sixteenth century indicate that the Kavanagh's only held part of the Rower, the area around Coolhill (*Ormond Deeds*, IV 277) and the Roches continues to hold the rest of the Rower (*Ormond Deeds*, IV 219-220).

The *Down Survey* map of the barony of Ida includes a church site in the townland of 'Farrentemple', but it does not depict any other features in this townland. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map depicts the site as a circular area enclosed by two concentric circles of hachures. The *Ordnance Survey* twenty-five inch map also illustrates the site with two concentric circles of hachures.

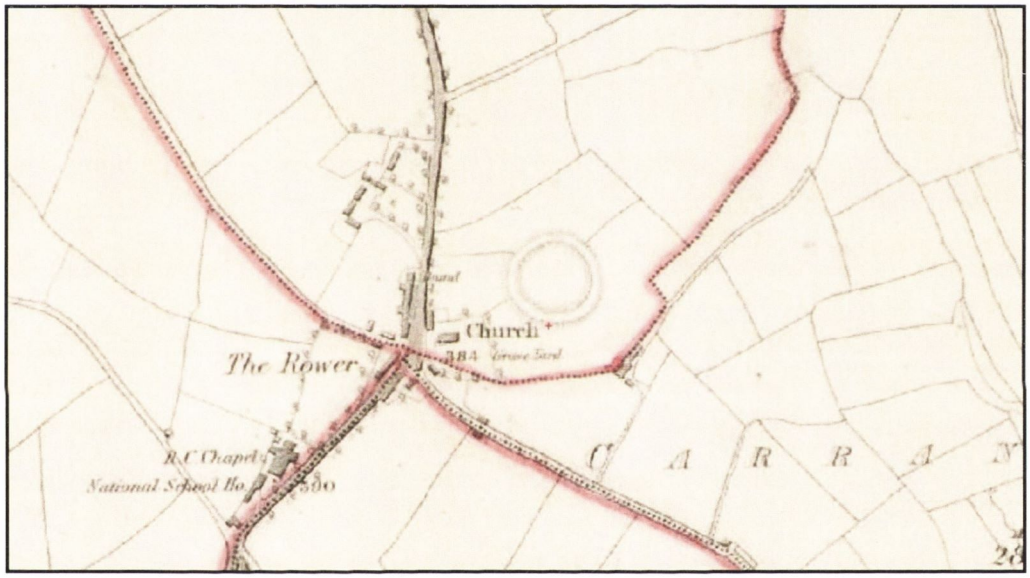

Fig G.147: Farrantemple enclosure as depicted on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map

Interpretation

The destruction of this site means it is difficult to classify it with any certainty. As the SMR field reports suggests there are many possible classifications for this site including: ecclesiastical enclosure, ringwork castle or ringfort. There are problems with all of these possible classifications. While the large diameter of this circular enclosure might suggest that it functioned as an ecclesiastical enclosure, the location of the church site outside of the enclosure would be highly unusual. The location of this circular earthwork in close proximity to a medieval parish church in an area that experienced substantial Anglo-Norman settlement would suggest that this site might have been a ringwork castle. However the dimensions of this earthwork would be at

the upper limits of ringwork castle dimensions. The location of the site on the shoulder of a hill, would suggest that this site might have been a ringfort and it is possible that this ringfort could have been reused and a stone castle built within it. However the dimensions of the site are quite large, much larger than other ringforts in the area, the substantial ringfort in nearby Carranroe Lower has an internal diameter of 45.20m SW-NE, with maximum internal diameter of 52m (N-S). However, Stout records that although 84% of ringforts in the southwest midlands had diameters of between 20m and 44m, ringforts with diameters of up to 75m were recorded in this area. (For further discussion of this site see section 6.3).

Abbreviations and references

Ormond Deeds = Curtis, E. (ed.) 1881-1943. *Calendar of Ormond Deeds*, (6 Vols). Dublin: Stationery Office.

Red Bk of Ormond = White, N. B. (ed.) 1932. *The Red Book of Ormond.* Dublin: Stationery Office.

Carrigan, W. 1905. *The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory*. Dublin: Archive CD Books Ireland Ltd.

Edwards, D. 2000. *The Ormond lordship in County Kilkenny, 1515-1642: the rise and fall of Butler feudal power.* Dublin: Four Courts Press.

McCarthy, J. K. 2007. *Castles in space: An exploration of the space in and around the tower houses of south-east Kilkenny.* Unpublished MPhil thesis, Queen's University Belfast.

Farrantemple Church (The Rower Parish Church)

RMP no.	KK033-032---
Townland	Farrantemple
Civil Parish	The Rower
Barony	Ida
County	Kilkenny
OS six-inch sheet no.	33
Discovery Series sheet no.	68
Irish National Grid ref.	270890, 134130
Classification	Parish church

Siting

This church site is located within the hamlet of The Rower on the side of a SW facing slope, which forms the valley of a small river. The church is located within a rectangular graveyard

Description

The church site (KK033-032---) is occupied by the remains of a nineteenth century Church of Ireland church which Carrigan (2005, IV 124) records was constructed *c.*1800 on the site of an ancient parish church. There are no visible remains of the earlier parish church on this site, and the earliest graveslabs noted during the site visit were eighteenth century in date.

Fig. G.148: Disused nineteenth century Church of Ireland church in Farrantemple townland, in the hamlet of The Rower.

Adjacent sites

The enclosure site in Farrantemple (KK033-031001-) is located *c.*100m to the NE. The church site in Kiltown (KK033-030---) is located *c.*2km to the W, the church site in Grange (KK037-005---) is *c.*2km to the SW, while the church site at Killeens (KK033-038---) is *c.*2.5km to the NE.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

O'Donovan recorded in the *Ordnance Survey* letters in the first half of the nineteenth century that the patron saint of the parish church was likely to be St. Brendan, after whom the nearby Brandon Hill was named. He also recorded that the original parish church stood in the village of the Rower in the lands of Farrantemple but that this church had been demolished to make way for the new Church of Ireland church (Herity 2003, 136).

The *Down Survey* map for the barony of Ida depicts a church in the townland of Farrantemple indicating that there has been a church on the site from at least the mid-seventeenth century. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map marks the church and labels it 'church'. The Church of Ireland church was likely to have been in use at this date.

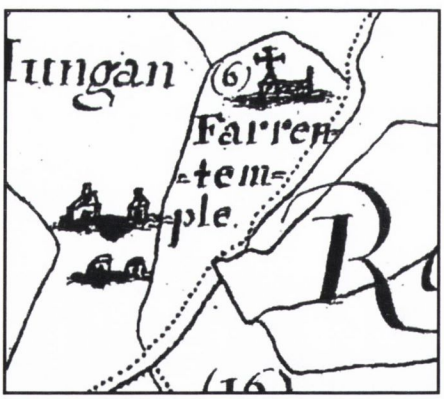

Fig. G.149: The church in the townland of Farrantemple as depicted on the *Down Survey* map of the barony of Ida.

Interpretation

This church site is likely to be the location of the parish church site for the parish of the Rower. The absence of an easily identifiable earthwork castle at this possible manorial centre, along with documentary evidence for a large Irish presence in the area

and frequent unrest, would indicate that The Rower might have developed along different lines to the typical manor in Ireland (see section 6.3 for further details).

References

Carrigan, W. 2005. *The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory*. Revised edition with a biographical essay by Fearghus Ó Fearghail Edition. Dublin: Archive CD Books Ireland Ltd.

Herity, M. (ed.) 2003. *Ordnance Survey Letters: Kilkenny*, Dublin: Four Courts Press.

Fiddown Church

RMP no.	KK042-00103-
Townland	Fiddown
Civil Parish	Fiddown
Barony	Iverk
County	Kilkenny
OS six-inch sheet no.	Kilkenny Sheet 42
Discovery series sheet no.	75
Irish National Grid ref.	246760, 119830
Classification	Parish church

Siting

The church and graveyard in Fiddown are located close to the bank of the River Suir. Fiddown Island occupied the centre of the river at this point, creating a crossing point across the River Suir, which was once crossed by a toll bridge.

Description

The church is enclosed within a sub-rectangular graveyard, which is curved on the west side, where the road runs along its edge. The church has been rendered with modern plaster, both inside and out, making it impossible to see the original fabric of the building. Carrigan (1905 III, 216) reports that the original church consisted of a nave and chancel church, which was largely demolished in 1870 when a Church of Ireland church was constructed on the site. During this demolition a carved stone with ornamental early English foliage was found. This stone reported came from the original doorway and suggests a thirteenth century date for the original church. A gable cross was also recovered during this demolition, and Carrigan (1905 III, 216) described it as tau shaped with 'a semi-circle in the celtic style connecting the extremities of the transverse bar'. Carrigan reported that these items were removed to Mountain Grove in the late nineteenth century, but the location of Mountain Grove could not be ascertained by this study.

The chancel was converted into a mortuary chapel and mausoleum for the Earls of Bessborough, who had an estate in nearby Piltown. The church would therefore originally have extended almost to the gate of the churchyard and this is reflected in the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map. There is a vault under the east end of the church, and it can be accessed via an entrance in the floor of the mortuary chapel. The only visible features of an antiquity are a stone head above the east window on the

external wall surface and the fragments of at least two altar tombs. The stone head above the east window appears to be a female head, but it is badly damaged. Carrigan (1905 IV, 216) noted a stone effigy of the Blessed Virgin fixed to the wall over the east window, and it is possible that this stone head might be part of this effigy.

Fig. G.150: The chancel of Fiddown church, now used as a mausoleum chapel.

The east and west walls extend beyond the sidewalls, and may represent the walls of the earlier church. The interior of the church appears to be well maintained, while the graveyard, especially to the rear of the church is very overgrown. Most of the legible headstones in the graveyard are eighteenth and nineteenth century in date. Fragments of altar tombs rest against the west end of the church. The lichen growth on these fragments has made them illegible, so we must rely on earlier descriptions of them. One of these fragments is the lid of an altar tomb and a portion of the Latin inscription in raised gothic lettering was visible in a broad border running down one side and one end of the slab. Carrigan notes a plain latin cross down the centre surmounted by an IHS monogram. The inscription reads 'Haec sunt monumenta D Fulci Den Filii secundi D Den et Catherinae Geraldinae conjugis quorum animae in pace requiescant 1618' (SMR report). A granite font was formerly in the graveyard but it was removed in the last century to the old chapel in Piltown. It has an oval shaped bowl and

according to Carrigan it was decorated with the same ornament as that of the doorjamb recovered during the demolition of the nave, suggesting it also dated to the thirteenth century. A baptismal font is a sign that a church was a parish church, as baptism could only be administered in a parish church.

There are a number of large unshaped stones in the graveyard and there is a collection of stones near the north wall of the mortuary chapel. This pile of stone includes fragments of headstones. It is possible that it represents the remains of a wall foundation but it is more likely to be merely a pile of stones.

Adjacent sites

This church is located at the east end of the settlement in Fiddown; the motte is located *c.*300m to the NW (KK042-00101-), while the deserted settlement (KK042-001---) and the tower house site (KK042-00102-) are located *c.*150m to the NW. The tower house in Tibberaghny (KK038-01201-) is *c.*3km to the NE, while the castle (KK039-00601-) and church (KK039-02401-) in Kildalton are located *c.*2.8km to the N.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

Documentary evidence indicates that there was a monastic foundation in Fiddown from the sixth century to at least the eleventh century. There is no upstanding evidence for this earlier church. This is a possible example of the Anglo-Normans taking over pre-existing church sites on their arrival in Ireland. St. Mommhaedhóg founded a monastery at Fiddown towards the end of the sixth century (Carrigan 2005, III 214). St. Maidoc, great-nephew of St. Colum of Terryglass, was abbot of 'Fedh-dune' in the late sixth century (Gwynn and Hadcock 1988, 36). The *Annals of the Four Masters* record the death of Abbots of the monastery in 828, 873, 980 and 1073 (*AFM*, 828, 873, 980, 1073).

While King John was Earl of Mortain, he granted 'the land of Fidoyn' to John, Archbishop of Dublin (*C.D.I.*, I 266-267). It is probable that the Archbishop in turn granted out these lands and it was this grantee who would have constructed the motte and possible bailey in Fiddown. The manor of Fiddown appears to have been sub-infeudated to William Fedunan, who *circa* 1300 granted the tenement of 'Fedunan' to an unreadable name on the surviving deed. (*Ormond Deeds* I, 140). Between 1302 and

1306 an ecclesiastical taxation of the diocese of Ossory was compiled which included Fiddown in the deanery of Overk. It also records that the Vicar holds half the rectory, while the prior of St. Catherine's, Waterford holds the other half (*Red Book of Ossory*, 176). This would indicate that by this date the church was impropriate to St. Catherine's priory, perhaps the Archbishop of Dublin, who had formerly been in possession of it, gifted the church to them. A detailed discussion of the manor of Fiddown is provided in section 6.4, where Fiddown is discussed as a case-study area.

The *Down Survey* map for the barony of Iverk does not depict a church in the townland of 'Fiddowne'. Two structures are depicted within the townland, but neither appears to be a church. An area of glebe land is marked with a cross to the east of the settlement at Fiddown. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map includes the church and graveyard, and the curve in the road which runs to its south may preserve the line of a circular enclosure around the site. The plan of the church depicted on this map indicates that the church had not yet been reduced in size to the current mortuary chapel, but its depiction on the second edition map indicates that by 1901 the plan of the church had been reduced in size significantly, which would correlate with the information provided by Carrigan.

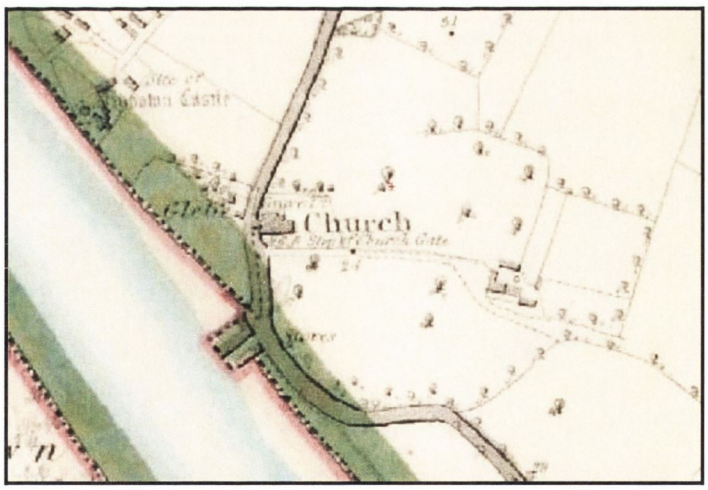

Fig. G.151: Fiddown church as depicted on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map.

Interpretation

The church and graveyard in Fiddown are located on the opposite end of the site of the deserted settlement to the motte. This church would appear to have acted as the parish

church for this settlement, a possible borough, and for the wider parish of Fiddown. The fact that this parish church appears to have contained a baptismal font in the thirteenth century would indicate that it was a parish church; baptisms could only be carried out in parish churches. The settlement would appear to have resembled the typical medieval village found in midland England, with the church and earthwork castle at opposite ends of the main street.

The documentary evidence and the possible circular enclosure around the church would suggest that this was a pre-Norman foundation, which was taken over and integrated into the newly established parish system. This is therefore an interesting example of a pre-existing Gaelic-Irish church being integrated into a new type of nucleated settlement introduced into the Irish landscape.

Abbreviations and references

AFM = Ryan, E. (ed.) 2002. "Annals of the Four Masters". Cork: CELT. http://www.ucc.ie/celt/published/T100005A/index.html.

C.D.I. = Sweetman, H. S. (ed.) 1875-86. *Calendar of documents relating to Ireland, preserved in Her Majesty's Record Office, London*, (5 Vols). London: Public Records Office.

Red Bk of Ossory = Lawlor, H. J. (ed) 1908. "Calendar of the Liber Ruber of Ossory". *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy* 27C:159-208.

Carrigan, W. 2005. *The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory*. Revised edition with a biographical essay by Fearghus Ó Fearghail Edition. Dublin: Archive CD Books Ireland Ltd.

Gwynn, A. and Hadcock, R. N. (eds) 1988. *Medieval religious houses in Ireland*. 2nd Edition. Dublin.

Fiddown Motte

RMP no.	KK042-00101-
Townland	Fiddown
Civil Parish	Fiddown
Barony	Iverk
County	Kilkenny
OS six-inch sheet no.	Kilkenny Sheet 42
Discovery series sheet no.	75
Irish National Grid ref.	246490, 120010
Classification	Motte and possible bailey

Siting

Fiddown motte is located on the north bank of the River Suir, which forms the border between the modern counties of Kilkenny and Waterford. There are extensive views in all directions from the motte.

Description

This motte appears to have been modified to a large extent and it is now has an irregular in plan. The motte is 20.60m in length (E-W) and 7.40m to 26.10m in width (N-S), its narrows at its northern end. The motte is *c.*2.50m in height and is quite steep sided, except to the NE where the slope is more gentle and where it appears that machines access the site for grass cutting. The site is surrounded by modern roadways on three sides (N, S and W) and there is no evidence for a bank or fosse surrounding the site. The top of the motte is flat and featureless.

Fig. G.152: Fiddown motte from the W.

Fig. G.153: Extract from the *Ordnance Survey Ireland Map Viewer* ortho-photograph 2000 showing motte and possible bailey in Fiddown.

There is evidence for a possible bailey to the NW of the motte. Here there is a sub-circular area enclosed by a bank c.1m in height, on its northern and western sides. Trees have been planted along most of the length of this bank. The southern side is defined by the River Suir and the enclosed area slopes down sharply to the river bank. On the east side of the possible bailey an access road separates it from the motte. The possible bailey is 30.20m in width (N-S) and 74m in length (E-W from the west bank of the bailey to the edge of the motte).

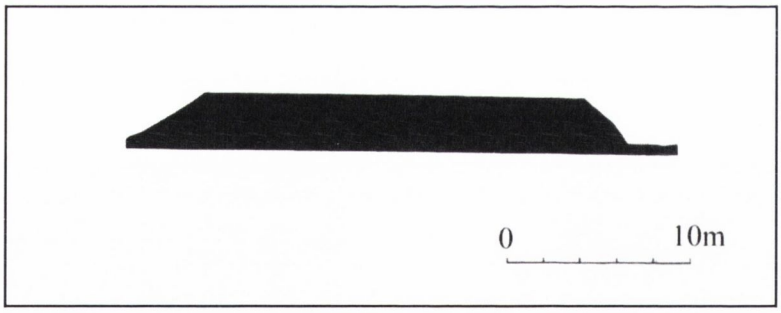

Fig. G.154: Profile of Fiddown motte S-N.

Adjacent sites

The tower house site (KK042-00102-) and the site of a deserted medieval settlement (KK042-001---) are located *c.*150m to the SE of the motte, at the lower end of the NW facing slope overlooking the River Suir. Fiddown church (KK042-00103-) is located at the opposite side of the site of the deserted medieval settlement, *c.*300m SE of the motte. The motte in Tibberaghny (KK038-011---), which was not part of the medieval barony of Overk, is located *c.*3.2km to the NW.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

A detailed discussion of the historical evidence for the settlement in Fiddown is provided in chapter six. Fiddown was granted to the Archbishop of Dublin by King John, while he was the Earl of Mortain (*C.D.I.*, I 266-267). The land came into the possession of James Keating through his wife Roesia Keating (nee de la Rochelle), and it reverted to her family after his death (Dryburgh and Smith 2007, 40). The Fedunan family appear to have been the tenants on the ground in Fiddown, from at least the early thirteenth century (*Ormond Deeds*, I 140), and it may have been this family who constructed the motte and established the settlement in Fiddown.

An early fifteenth century extent of the baronies of Kilkenny includes the 'burgagery of Fydoune' (*Ormond Deeds*, II 359), which suggests that the settlement may have been a borough and it is included by Martin in a list of Irish boroughs (Harkness and O'Dowd 1981, 41). No contemporary references to a castle in Fiddown were uncovered in the documentary sources.

Orpen (1909, 340) mentions a motte in Fiddown in his account of the mottes and Norman castles of Ossory and indicated that it was located at a manorial centre. Carrigan (2005, IV 218) also refers to the motte and describes it as 'the old Doon or Moat of Fiddown'. He describes it as 12 to 15 feet (*c*.3.6 – *c*.4.5m) in height and 30 yards (*c*.27.5m) long by 20yds (*c*.18m) wide. The motte was, he argues originally circular in plan and that its current plan is the result of erosion by the Suir to the S and removal of soil by locals to the N.

The *Down Survey* map of the barony of Iverk does not depict an earth and timber castle in Fiddown, although this is unsurprising, as the *Down Survey* does not usually depict earthworks. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map does not depict the motte and it is not shown on the later twenty-five inch *Ordnance Survey* map either.

Interpretation

Despite its unusual plan this earthwork was clearly originally an earthwork castle, located within a manorial centre. This manorial centre appears to have the plan of a classic medieval village in midland England, with the motte and church at either end of the settlement, with a hollow way running between them.

Abbreviations and references

C.D.I. = Sweetman, H. S. (ed.) 1875-86. *Calendar of documents relating to Ireland, preserved in Her Majesty's Record Office, London*, (5 Vols). London: Public Records Office.

Ormond Deeds = Curtis, E. (ed.) 1881-1943. *Calendar of Ormond Deeds*, (6 Vols). Dublin: Stationery Office.

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Dryburgh, P. and Smith, B. (eds) 2007. *Inquisitions and extents of medieval Ireland.* Kew, Surrey: List and Index Society.

Harkness, D. and O'Dowd, M. 1981. *The town in Ireland.* Belfast: Appletree Press. Historical Studies.

Orpen, G. H. 1909. "Motes and Norman castles in Ossory". *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland* 39:311-342.

Fiddown DMV and castle site

RMP no.	KK042-001--- and KK042-00102-
Townland	Fiddown
Civil Parish	Fiddown
Barony	Iverk
County	Kilkenny
OS six-inch sheet no.	Kilkenny Sheet 42
Discovery Series sheet no.	75
Irish National Grid ref.	246610, 119930 and 246611, 119925
Classification	DMV and castle site

Siting

This DMV and castle site were located on the banks of the River Suir, at the point at which Fiddown Island occupies much of the centre of the river. The River Suir is navigable at Fiddown, which is located close to Carrick-on-Suir.

Description

No above ground remains of either site were observed when the site was visited. Carrigan (1905 III, 218) reports that a castle was constructed on the site in the sixteenth century and that its earliest occupant was Fulk Den who settled here about 1580 and whose graveslab in Fiddown churchyard bears the date 1618. It was located between the motte and the church and was demolished in 1835. It was situated at the lower end of the NW facing slope overlooking the River Suir.

The deserted medieval settlement was located in a field that runs NW-SE between the motte and the church. There are faint traces of a hollow way running NW-SE through this field, parallel to the River Suir. The cultivation of this field means that only very low relief traces of the hollow way survive and no traces of property boundaries were identified.

Adjacent sites

The deserted medieval settlement and castle are located SE of the motte (KK042-001001-) and WNW of the church in Fiddown (KK042-00103-). All three sites are located along a 300m strip of the bank of the River Suir. The deserted settlement (KK039-040---) and castle (KK039-039---) in Jamestown are located *c.*5km to the N of the site of this nucleated settlement.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

In 1302 Fidon in Croc (or Fiddown in the Cross) is first mentioned as being part of the possessions of the Baron of Overk, Roger fitzMilo. Fiddown would have been held directly or indirectly of Roger fitzMilo and Mabel his wife who was dowered with a third part of them (Burtchaell 1893, 182; *Red Bk. of Ormond*, 133). The manor of Fiddown appears to have been sub-infeudated to William Fedunan, who *circa* 1300 granted the tenement of Fedunan to an unreadable name on the surviving deed. (*Ormond Deeds* I, 140). Fiddown was not included in the 1314 extent of the barony of Overk (*Red Bk. of Ormond*, 131-135).

In 1378/9 William de la Rochelle is recorded as the Lord of Fidon, and Thomas Mauclerk is recorded as being his seneschal of Fydon, Langport and Balliclerehan (*Ormond Deeds* II, 345). William de la Rokell tenants include Dawoke O Henys and Jonoke O Feyth, and this prefix to their surnames suggests that they may have been of Gaelic-Irish origin.

In the early fifteenth century an extent of the baronies of Kilkenny records that the parish of Whitechurch included the 'burgagery of Fydoune' (*Ormond Deeds*, II 359), which indicates that the settlement may have been a borough and it is included by Martin in a list of Irish boroughs (Harkness and O'Dowd 1981, 41). By 1411 Fiddown had come into the possession of the Butler family, as in that year it is included in the rental of James Butler, Earl of Ormond. Fiddown may however have been in the possession of the Butlers since 1319 when they acquired the lordship of Overk (Empey 1990, 85). The Earls of Ormond retained control of the area during the fifteenth century. In 1527, 'Piers, Earl of Ormond, quit-claims to Sir John Tobyn and Sir Nicholas Mothyng, 'Fedowne with the mill there', among a number of other places (*Ormond Deeds*, IV 110).

According to Carrigan (2005, IV 218) the earliest occupant of this castle was Fulk Den who settled here about 1580, probably on his marriage to Catherine Fitzgerald of Gurteen. He also records that Theobald Dun, second son of Patrick Dun, forfeited the castle and his other properties in the Cromwellian confiscations. In 1659 Robert Fripps, who Carrigan describes as a Cromwellian was living in the castle and the castle was extant into the nineteenth century when in was occupied by the Norris family, and

it was demolished in 1835 (Carrigan 2005, IV 218). Edwards (2000, 69) reports that the Viscounts Mountgarret held their estate in Fiddown by knight service from Butlers of Ormond at Granny in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

Fig. G.155: Fiddown townland as depicted on the *Down Survey* map of the barony of Iverk.

The *Down Survey* map for the barony of Iverk depicts one large building in the townland of 'Fiddowne'. It appears to be a large structure with several chimneys, but it is poorly drawn and hard to interpret. While it does not resemble the depiction of tower house in Clonamery, it is comparable to the depiction of Granny castle, suggesting that if it was a tower house it had an attached hall building. Only one other small building is depicted in the parish, suggesting that there was no longer a settlement nucleation in this townland. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map indicates the location of the castle and labels it 'site of Fiddown Castle'. No earthworks are recorded in the area of the deserted settlement.

Interpretation

The fact that settlement in Fiddown had borough status would have meant that its inhabitants would have had the status of burgesses and had greater personal rights and privileges than other tenants of the manor. It would also suggest that the town had a market and acted as a focus of administration and trade for the surrounding area. Glasscock (1987, 223) has argued that in Ireland many settlements that had the status of boroughs, were in fact 'rural boroughs'. This term was used to describe those settlements where the tenants had burgess status but which never developed the features of a borough. It has been suggested by Howard Clarke that Anglo-Norman lords gave their tenants burgess status in order to attract them to Ireland, without these settlements ever having been granted borough status (Howard Clarke quoted in O'Conor 1998, 42). Burgesses held their burgage plots at a very low fixed rent and also leased other lands from their lords, probably as tenants-at-will. They had their own court or hundred, where they could decide many of their own affairs, as their fellow

burgesses passed the judgements (O'Conor 1998, 42). Graham (1993, 82) argues that the inhabitants of these settlements were primarily cultivators and these settlements can be seen as a market around which an agriculturalist village is organised. Graham (1993, 83) goes on to argue that these rural-boroughs acted as local marketing centres, which ensured the lord's hold over the profit to be gained from tenants' agricultural surplus. The reference to a 'burgagery' at Fiddown along with archaeological evidence for a hollow way would indicate that there was a nucleated settlement in Fiddown that was likely to have acted as a market for the agricultural produce from the manor and perhaps the wider area.

While it is possible that the castle site in Fiddown was of tower house form, and it is classified as such on archaeology.ie there is insufficient evidence to be sure that it was in fact a tower house. The *Down Survey* depiction of the castle is ambiguous, and while it could depict a tower house with attached buildings, the form of the castle is very unclear from this illustration. In the absence of further evidence we can only assign the classification of castle site with any degree of certainty. (See section 6.4 for further discussion of the parish and manor of Fiddown).

Abbreviations and references

Ormond Deeds = Curtis, E. (ed.) 1881-1943. *Calendar of Ormond Deeds*, (6 Vols). Dublin: Stationery Office.

Red Bk of Ormond = White, N. B. (ed.) 1932. *The Red Book of Ormond.* Dublin: Stationery Office.

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O'Conor, K. D. 1998. *The archaeology of medieval rural settlement in Ireland.* Dublin: Royal Irish Academy. Discovery Programme Monograph.

Garranbehy Big moated site

RMP no.	KK037-04001-
Townland	Garranbehy Big
Civil Parish	Rosbercon
Barony	Ida
County	Kilkenny
OS six-inch sheet no.	Kilkenny sheet 37
Discovery Series sheet no.	76
Irish National Grid ref.	270840, 128720
Classification	Moated site possible

Siting

This moated site is located at the top of the west side of the valley of the river Barrow. It is located in an area of rich agricultural land, with both tillage farming and grazing in the area.

Description

This site was originally recorded by Moore (1849-51, 24) in the mid-nineteenth century and he located it within the townland of Garranbehy Little. The SMR file states that Moore was mistaken and that the moated site was located in the townland of Tinnakilly Big. The most recent version of the RMP available on archaeology.ie indicates on its map that the site is in Tinnakilly Big but states that the site is in Garranbehy Little. The identification of the site in Tinnakilly Big as a moated site would appear to be erroneous and the correct location for the site is in the field east of this location across a townland boundary and in the townland of Garranbehy Big.

The site in Tinnakilly Big townland, which contains the remains of a relatively modern house, is not very convincing as a moated site, with the banks on two sides being townland boundaries. The other two banks appear to be field banks and there is no reason to believe that this is anything other than a small field enclosed by townland boundaries and field banks. It is possible that it is the remains of a small farmyard. Moore (1849-51) recorded the site as being two acres in extent and this field would appear to be significantly smaller in extent, while the adjacent field in Garranbehy Big would appear to be approx two acres (8093 square metres) in extent.

The south side of the field in Garranbehy Big is enclosed by a bank and fosse. The fosse has been infilled for most of the length of the south side and is used as a lane or

trackway (W. 5.20m). The fosse is visible at the SE corner where it is 2.80m in width and 1.53m in depth. The bank and fosse are heavily overgrown while hay was being cut in the interior of the site when it was visited.

Adjacent sites

The settlement in Rosbercon, with its church site (WX029-01301-), abbey site (WX029-01307-) and castle site, is located *c.*1.2km SE of the moated site in Garranbehy Big. The moated site in Mountelliott (WX029-032---) is located *c.*2km to the NE.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

Moore (1849-51, 24) records the presence of a 'a large quadrangular rath' close to the parochial house for Rosbercon. He recorded that 'within a few years since the rampart was levelled for tillage, and the trench filled up; but the rampart was originally about twenty feet in height and the trench very wide and deep'. He also records the recent destruction of several small circular earthworks. Animal bones, charcoal and burnt stones were found in the area of these enclosures when the land was first tilled. Moore (1849-51, 24) suggests that these sites may have been fulachta fiadhs, they may also have been sweathouses. He also records the presence of the foundations of a circular building, the walls of which were *c.*0.75m thick. Moore (1849-51, 24) also records a local tradition that an 'ancient chieftain' called Brevideash inhabited this site and that he fought for many years with a neighbouring chief.

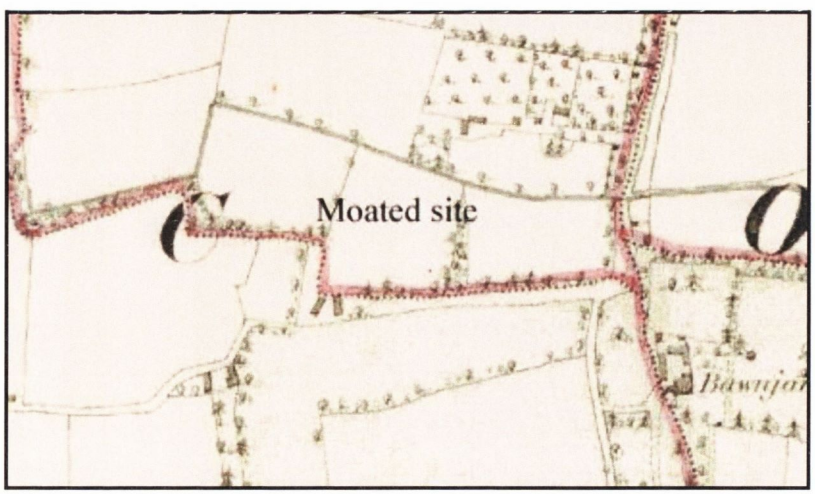

Fig. G.156: The moated site in Garranbehy Big as depicted on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map.

The *Down Survey* map of the barony of Ida shows four small buildings, possibly cabins in the townland of 'Garanbeghy'. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map depicts two houses in the area the SMR indicates as the location of the moated site. The area identified as the possible moated site is depicted in the same way as the field boundaries in this area.

Interpretation

It would appear that the moated site was located in the townland of Garranbehy Big, in a large field, now used for tillage. However, this would be a very large moated site, and for this reason it can only be classified as a moated site possible.

References

Moore, P. 1849-51. "Observations on raths". *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland* 1:22-26.

Glenballyvally church site

RMP No	KK037-024---
Townland	Glenballyvally
Civil Parish	Dysartmoon
Barony	Ida
County	Kilkenny
OS six-inch sheet no.	Kilkenny Sheet 37
Discovery Series sheet no.	76
Irish National Grid ref.	266230, 132100
Classification	Church site

Siting

Glenballyvally church was located on the north side of the valley of the River Nore. A laneway leading to the site is marked on the OS maps of the area, but it is heavily overgrown and is clearly not still in use. The church is located in a pasture field and has been almost completely destroyed.

Description

The church has been almost completely destroyed, with traces of the east, west and south wall foundations discernable, the north wall is completely absent. The wall foundations are stony banks *c.*0.40m high and *c.*1.5m wide, with trees growing on the banks. The internal dimensions of the church are 9m (E-W) by 7m (N-S), making it quite a small structure.

Figs. G.157 and G.158: Cross-slabs in the graveyard at Glenballyvally church site.

The remains of the circular enclosure and the pillar stones are the most striking aspects of the site. The circular area is enclosed by a single bank part of which has been removed. The south section of the bank has been removed, where the lands slopes downward towards the river valley. Where the bank survives it is 2-3m wide, with a maximum height of 1m. It is overgrown with trees and bushes.

The graveyard does not contain any modern graveslabs, just a number of square stone grave-makers, at the east side of the enclosure. It is in this area that the two cross-inscribed slabs are located. They are both very simple crosses inscribed on shaped stones, set vertically into the ground. The first is a sub-rectangular stone inscribed with a very simple cross with expanded terminals. The second is a rectangular stone inscribed with the outline of a simple cross. Finally a pillar stone stands in the western part of the site 7m from the remains of the church. It is 1.12m high, 0.38m wide and 0.13m thick.

The report on the site compiled for the SMR file in 1989 reported that the farmer stated that there were more slabs placed against the field bank to prevent the cattle breaking them, but these slabs were not located in 1989 or during this survey.

Adjacent sites

There are a number of churches in the parish of Dysartmoon, including the medieval parish church in Ballyneale (KK037-00301-), *c.*1.5km S of Glenballyvally. The church in Ballyreddy (KK037-01002-) is located *c.*2.9km to the S. The site of Tullagher castle (KK037-00201-) is located *c.*1.9km to the W and Brownsford tower house (KK033-02801-) is located *c.*3km to the NW.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

No documentary references or antiquarian accounts of Glenballyvally church were uncovered during the course of this research. The *Down Survey* map of the barony of Ida includes three cabins and one larger building in the townland of 'Glanballiualy'. None of these buildings are surmounted by a cross, which would indicate that they functioned as a church. It is possible that the church was out of use by the mid-seventeenth century when the *Down Survey* maps were compiled. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map does not include or label the church, but it does

include a circular enclosure, bisected by a laneway, around the location of the church. This enclosure that may have functioned as an enclosure around the church is marked as a penannular enclosure on the second edition six-inch map, and by this date the laneway through the site was no longer is use.

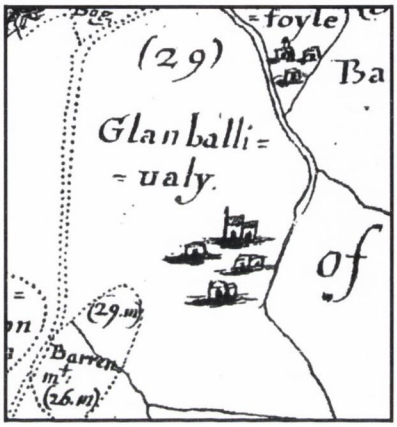

Fig. G.159: The townland of Glenballyvally as depicted on the *Down Survey* map for the barony of Ida.

Interpretation

The pillar-stone, cross-inscribed slabs and the circular enclosure would all indicate that this was a pre-Norman foundation. No references to the site were uncovered during this programme of research, making it unclear whether it was still in use during the study period.

Grange tower house

RMP no.	KK042-003---
Townland	Grange
Parish	Pollrone
Barony	Iverk
County	Kilkenny
OS six-inch sheet no.	Kilkenny sheet 42
Discovery Series sheet no.	75
Irish National Grid ref.	249720, 118070
Classification	Tower house

Siting

Grange Castle is located, on the edge of a road, between two houses, in the hamlet of Grange. It is located in an area of fairly flat ground with limited views of the surrounding countryside.

Description

This is a poorly preserved tower house (int. dims. 5m NE-SW by 7.75m SE-NW), with only two surviving walls (SE and SW), and a very short length of a third wall (NE) all of which are overgrown with ivy. The walls, which are constructed of randomly coursed limestone rubble and a gritty lime mortar, are 1.55m thick. There are the remains of a pointed barrel vault above the ground floor and part of the first floor above the vault survives. The height of the vault (*c*.4m) and the presence of joist holes in the SW wall, suggest that there would have been a loft under the vault. The SW wall also contains the remains of a window at ground floor level (H. 0.9m, W. 0.25m), there is no surviving cut stone in this single-light rectangular window with a widely splayed embrasure and flat lintelled head. There is a small rectangular ope set into a splayed, round-headed embrasure, east of the centre of the SE wall (H. 1.55m, min W. 0.3m). There is a lintel stone and a relieving arch above this window.

The remains of at least two possible windows can be observed through the ivy at first floor level (above the vault) of the SW wall. The window at the west end of the SW wall is very overgrown and appears to be broken out with no surviving cut stone. The second possible window is located S of the centre of the SW wall. The remains of an arch above this ope were noted, but it was great obscured by ivy.

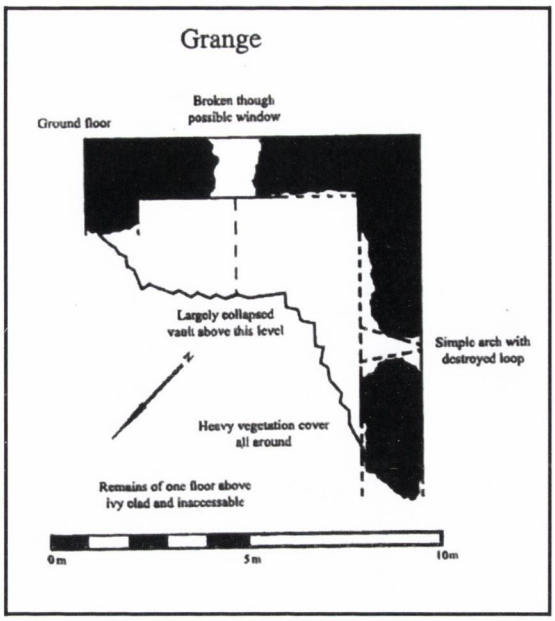

Fig. G.160: Plan of Grange tower house (after McCarthy 2007).

Adjacent sites

Grange Castle is located *c.*700m south of Killinaspick Church (KK042-002---), which is also in the townland of Grange. The medieval parish church for Pollrone (KK042-011---) is located in the townland of Pollrone, *c.*2.6km SSW of Grange Castle. The enclosure in Ballytarsney (KK042-009---) is located *c.*1km SE of the castle, while the castle in Kilcraggan (KK042-00401-) is located *c.*2km E of it.

Documentary references and antiquarian accounts

The *Ordnance Survey Namebooks for county Kilkenny* (Herity 2003, 162) record that 'part of the walls of an old Castle remain in the townland of Grange'. Carrigan's (1905, IV 152) description of Grange Castle would suggest that there has been little change to it since the beginning of the twentieth century. He states that in the sixteenth and seventeenth century the Walsh family occupied it. Carrigan (1905, IV 152-153) quotes a number of references to Piers or Peter Walsh alias Brenaghe of Grange, but none of these mention the castle.

In 1565 Thomas, the Earl of Ormond granted Piers Walshe of Grange, county Kilkenny all his possessions in a number of parishes including Pollrowan. In 1572 as part of a settlement between Piers Walshe alias Brenaghe of the Grange and the Earl of Ormond, Piers was to be given a lease for the town and land of Powlrowane for 21

years at an annual rent of 6*l* and was to be free from the Earl's coyne and livery and other impositions (*Ormond Deeds*, V 223).

The *Down Survey* map for the barony of Iverk depicts a church surrounded by a number of small structures, possibly houses, in the townland of 'Grange'. No castle is depicted within the townland. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map marks the castle site at the SW edge of the settlement of Grange and labels it 'Grange Castle (in ruins)'

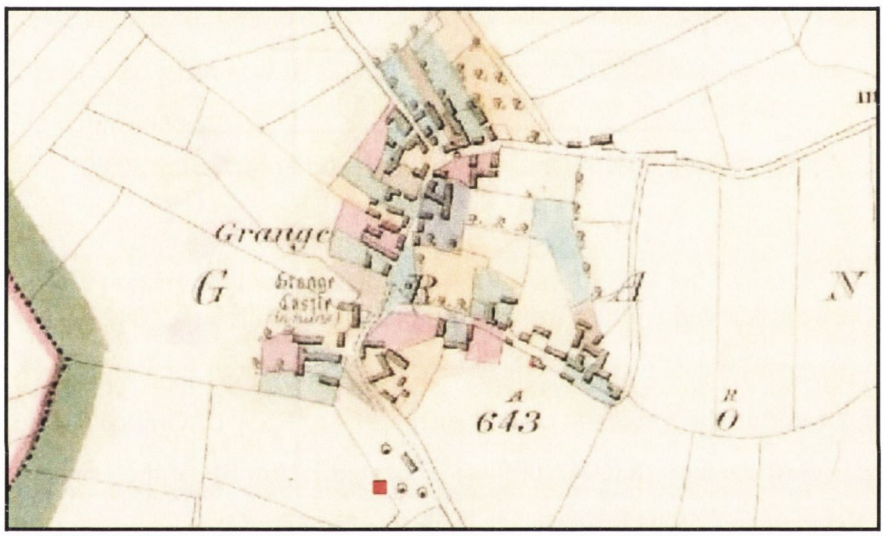

Fig. G.161: The site of Grange castle as depicted on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map.

Interpretation

The townland name 'Grange' together with the circular enclosure that surrounds Killaspick church would suggest that this townland was church land. It is unclear whether the tower house was constructed before or after the dissolution (McCarthy 2007, B76). After the dissolution church lands would have been passed into the hands of lay people and these lay people may have built a castle on their newly acquired lands. The presence of a ready made chapel in the townland would have been an added bonus to the new owners of these lands.

Abbreviations and references

Ormond Deeds = Curtis, E. (ed.) 1881-1943. *Calendar of Ormond Deeds*, (6 Vols). Dublin: Stationery Office.

Carrigan, W. 1905. *The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory*. Dublin: Archive CD Books Ireland Ltd.

Herity, M. (ed.) 2003. *Ordnance Survey Letters: Kilkenny*. Dublin: Four Courts Press.

McCarthy, J. K. 2007. *Castles in space: An exploration of the space in and around the tower houses of south-east Kilkenny.* Unpublished MPhil thesis, Queen's University Belfast.

Grange Church, (known as Killaspick Church)

RMP no.	KK0042-00201-
Townland	Grange
Civil Parish	Pollrone
Barony	Iverk
County	Kilkenny
OS six-inch sheet no.	Kilkenny sheet 42
Discovery Series sheet no.	75
Irish National Grid ref.	249920, 118930
Classification	Church and ecclesiastical enclosure

Siting

Killaspick Church is located on the shoulder of a north-facing slope. There are good views from northwest to northeast.

Description

The church is in ruins and very little of the original church survives (12m E-W by 6m N-S). It is located in the centre of a large field, but is separated from it by a barbed wire fence designed to keep the cattle grazing in the field away from the church remains. At the time of the field inspection there was a bull in the field, so it was only possible to conduct a quick survey of the church while the landowner was present. All dimensions quoted are taken from the field report in the SMR file.

Fig. G.162: Killaspick Church in Grange townland.

Only the west gable survives to any height (3.4m H.) and it is heavily overgrown with ivy. There are the remains of a window ope at the centre of this wall, which indicates

the former position of the window, but there is no surviving cut-stone and the head of this ope has been removed. The other walls only survive to foundation level. At the east end of the area enclosed by barbed wire is a large eighteenth century headstone with a wall behind it, which was probably erected to support this graveslab. It may indicate the location of the original east wall, but this is not an original section of wall. The graveslab is decorated with the arms of the Bowers family of Waterford and bears the date 1716.

The interior of the church contains a large amount of stone, the majority of which is likely to be collapsed masonry from the church. There are at least two pieces of cut stone, both of which are large rectangular blocks of well-cut stone with diagonal tooling. The interior of the church also contains a large roughly triangular shaped stone with a single oval-shaped bullaun. The font recorded in the SMR was not located.

The church appears to be located towards the centre of a large circular enclosure (*c.*150m in diameter). Carrigan (2005, IV 153) records that the church and graveyard had been enclosed by a circular earthen bank and fosse but that the 'fosse and rampart, as well as the graveyard itself, have been levelled and almost obliterated'. Traces of this circular enclosure can be traced in the field boundaries, which surround the church particularly in the field boundary to the south.

There is a local tradition that a holy well was located in the southeast of the church, outside the circular enclosure. The area indicated by a local landowner as the location of this holy well was very overgrown and it was not located. He also reported the tradition that monks were beheaded at this well in 'penal times'. The landowner also indicated that the area west of the church was reputed to be the site of a village and that traces of it could be still be seen. However, no evidence for this village was observed during the survey of this site.

Adjacent sites

Grange Castle (KK042-003), a tower house is located *c.*700m south of the church in the hamlet of Grange. The church is connected to this hamlet by a track way. The church in Pollrone (KK42-011---) is located *c.*3.5km SSW of this church. The castle site in Kilcraggan (KK042-00401-) is located *c.*2.1km SE of this tower house.

Documentary references and antiquarian accounts

The description of the church included in the *Ordnance Survey Letters for county Kilkenny (O'Donovan et al. 2003, 158)* suggests that the remains have changed little since the early nineteenth century. Only the west gable survived at this date with the foundations allowing an estimate of the churches original size. At this date there was no graveyard surrounding the church. The *Ordnance Survey Letters* suggest that the name of the church Killaspick, is an anglicised version of *Cill-easpaig*, ie the bishop's church and was named for 'Momaodog' bishop of nearby Fiddown (O'Donovan et al. 2003, 153). Carrigan (2005, IV 154) provides a similar description of the church but states that tradition does not record the name of the bishop after whom the church is named. He also records that the field in which the church is located is known as the 'Achanthowmple Field' or 'Church Field' (Carrigan 2005, IV 154).

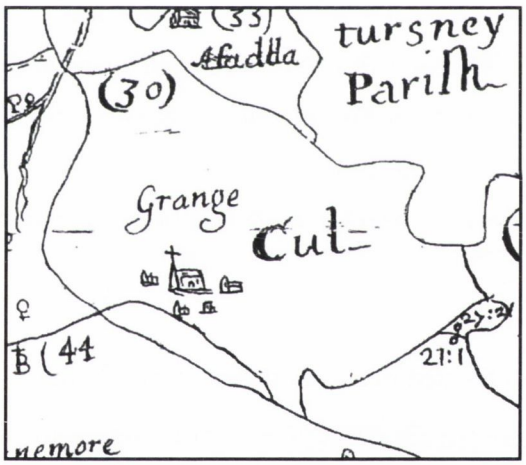

Fig. G.163: Grange church as depicted on the *Down Survey* map of the barony of Iverk.

The *Down Survey* map for the barony of Iverk depicts a church surrounded by a number of small structures, possibly houses, in the townland of 'Grange'. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map marks the church in Grange townland and labels it 'Killaspick Church (in ruins)'. There is a slightly curving field boundary to the S, but no graveyard is depicted or labelled.

Interpretation

The circular enclosure, bullaun stone and nearby holy well would all indicate that this was a pre-Norman foundation. The nave-and-chancel church in the townland of Pollrone (KK042-011---) would have served as the parish church during the high and late medieval periods. It is unclear whether this church would have been in use during the high and late medieval periods and it is possible that it may have acted as a chapel to the castle in Grange in the late medieval period.

References

Carrigan, W. 2005. *The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory*. Revised edition with a biographical essay by Fearghus Ó Fearghail Edition. Dublin: Archive CD Books Ireland Ltd.

O'Donovan, J., et al. 2003. *Ordnance Survey Letters: Kilkenny*. Dublin: Four Masters Press.

Grange church site

RMP no.	KK037-005---
Townland	Grange
Civil Parish	The Rower
Barony	Ida
County	Kilkenny
OS six-inch sheet no.	Kilkenny sheet 37
Discovery Series sheet no.	68
Irish National Grid ref.	268950, 132230
Classification	Church site

Siting

This church is located on the side of a south-facing slope, in an area of pasture that had been cut for silage.

Description

The church site and any graveyard are no longer extant and all that survives of the church is a rectangular platform (22m E-W by 13m N-S). This rectangular platform is overgrown with long grass, brambles, hawthorn trees and nettles, indicating that this area is deliberately excluded from cultivation by the landowner. This platform is raised very slightly above the surrounding ground level at the SE (0.4m H) but is less obvious on the W side. Carrigan (2005, IV 128) reported that 'the site is a rectangular area surrounded by a much obliterated earthen rampart'.

The SMR field report for the site compiled in 1989 records that the hawthorn trees on this church site form two parallel rows at the N and S limits of the site. While there are hawthorn trees at the N and S limits of the site today, there is only one tree on the S side and large gaps at the N side. A quantity of stone was noted at the east end of the platform and may be collapse from the east wall of a church. The SMR field report also records a local tradition that a bullaun stone was found at the site.

Adjacent sites

The church site at Kiltown (KK033-030---) is located *c.*1.4km to the N, while the parish church for the Rower (KK033-032---) and the enclosure in Farrantemple (KK033-031---) are located *c.*2.7km to the NE.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

Carrigan (2005, IV 128) records that the church was called *Cros Liath* or the Grey Cross, but that there was no cross on the site nor tradition that a cross had ever stood on the site. He also reported that there were no graveslabs or indications of graves at the site.

The *Down Survey* map for the barony of Ida includes the townland of Grange, but does not depict any structures within it. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map includes the rectangular platform, but des not label the site and the platform is not marked on the *Ordnance Survey* twenty-five inch map.

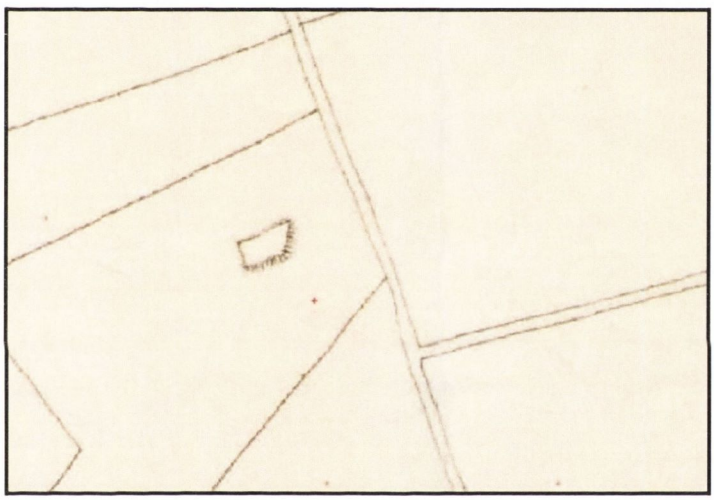

Fig. G.164: Grange church site as depicted on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map.

Interpretation

No evidence that this church was in use during the high and late medieval periods, was uncovered during this programme of research. However, the townland name and Carrigan's report that church was called the Grey Cross could indicate the former presence of a monastery at the site, possible a house of the Franciscans, who were commonly called the Grey Friars because of the colour of their habit.

References

Carrigan, W. 2005. *The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory*. Revised edition with a biographical essay by Fearghus Ó Fearghail Edition. Dublin: Archive CD Books Ireland Ltd.

Granny castle complex

RMP no.	KK043-03401-
Townland	Granny
Civil Parish	Kilmacow
Barony	Iverk
County	Kilkenny
OS six-inch sheet no.	Kilkenny sheet 43
Discovery Series sheet no.	76
Irish National Grid ref.	257330, 114630
Classification	Castle complex

Siting

Granny Castle is located on the north bank of the river Suir about 5km upriver from Waterford city. McNeill (1997, 184) records that the castle is located just short of a ford across the river and the location of this ford is depicted in Francis Place's 1699 depiction of the castle (Maher 1934, 50).

Description

The classification and dating of Granny castle are problematic and while a number of scholars have attempted to classify the castle, few have dealt with the issue of dating in detail. Others have dated the castle but without presenting the evidence on which this dating is based. Granny castle has been described as an 'Enclosure Castle' (McNeill 1997, 184) and as Sweetman has termed it a 'late fourteenth /fifteenth century fortress' (Sweetman 1999, 133).

Fig. G.165: Aerial photograph of the Granny castle complex (courtesy of the Photographic Unit, DOEHLG).

The castle essentially consists of an enclosure, with a tower and hall at the NE corner and the remains of a possible windmill protruding from the NW corner. The south side of the castle is dominated by a series of three stone towers, connected by stone walls, constructed along the bank of the River Suir. Two of the towers are located on the corners of the enclosure and are connected by a thick curtain wall (2.25m), while the third tower is located west of the main enclosure, connected to it by a substantially thinner wall. A simple gateway with draw-bar holes in the E wall, appears to be the original entrance way to the castle complex.

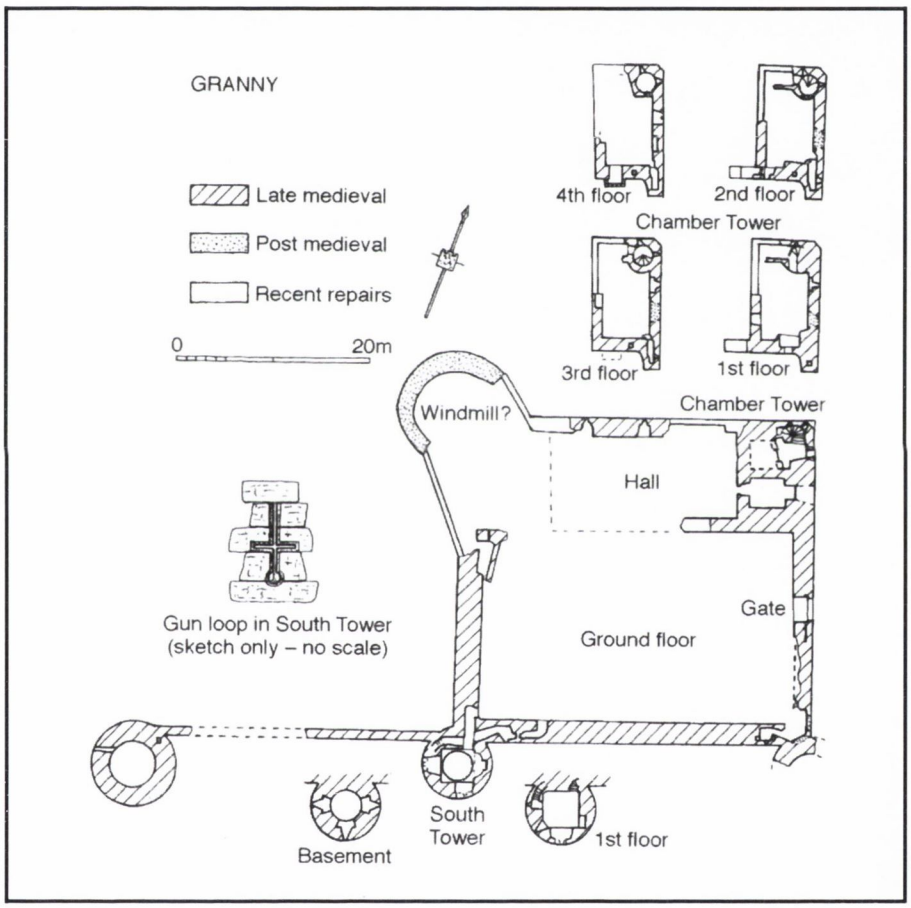

Fig. G.166: Plan of Granny castle (after McNeill 1997, 186).

Windmill

The most recent part of the castle complex is the NW corner of the castle, where the windmill is located. Places's (Maher 1934, 50) depiction of the site in 1699 would suggest that the northwest section of castle complex has been modified considerably since its compilation. The walls that connect the windmill to the hall and to the western

curtain wall are quite thin, 0.50m to 0.55m in width, and appear to be relatively recent in date. A similarly thin wall (0.60m thick) connects the remains of the north wall of the hall to the tower. The castle complex was the subject of restoration works in 1824 and 1925 and it is possible that these walls were part of one of these episodes of restoration.

Accommodation tower

The tower consists of a rectangular tower (ext. dims.10.6m N-S x 8m E-W), which is comparable to a tower house. However, as it is attached to a hall building and they appear to have been constructed as a unit it cannot be considered to be a tower house. Murtagh (pers comm. 8 July 2010) suggested that it is best termed a main tower or an accommodation tower. This structure was substantially rebuilt, probably in the nineteenth century and this rebuilding has made it difficult to establish the original layout of the tower. There is a doorway in the east wall of the tower house, which is outside the main enclosure. This door was inserted into the tower and is quite narrow and is *c.*0.5m above modern ground level. There is a blocked opening south of this doorway, but it too is unlikely to have been the original doorway. Given its location outside of the enclosure, it is more likely to have been a blocked up window. Defence, however, does not appear to have been an important consideration in the design of this tower. There are two triple-light windows, two twin-light windows, two single-light windows as well as a numbers of loops in this wall of the castle. Although none of these openings are at ground floor level, they still suggest that defence was not a significant consideration in the tower house's design. The north wall of the tower, which would also have formed part of the enclosure has in contrast no large windows and only a small number of loops. However, a large part of the west end of this wall was reconstructed in the nineteenth century and Place's 1699 drawing suggests that there were a number of loops in this wall. The corner between the east and north walls, is bevelled above ground floor level and contains a moulded cross loop with gun loop beneath.

The S wall of the tower is located within the enclosure and the lower storeys of this wall are quite featureless. There is a string course 2m above ground level, possibly connected with the vault above the ground floor. The SE corner of the tower projects to accommodate the garderobe chute. The junction between this projection and the

south wall is curved. There is a large window or square headed doorway at the W end at second floor level. It has similar dimensions to an ope at this level in the adjoining west wall. There is a large oriel window with five oval headed moulded windows at fourth floor level. Leask (1941, 106) has argued that this oriel is a seventeenth century addition but McNeill (1997, 185) has stated that the evidence for this is no longer visible.

Fig. G.167: Accommodation tower and hall building in Granny Castle complex.

A hall was attached to the W. side of this tower, the gable coping for this hall can be seen on the W gable of the tower and the remains of sections of the N and S walls of the hall survive. There is a doorway with a simple round arch in this wall of the tower house. This doorway would have been accessed from inside the hall building and it is probable that the only access to the tower was through the hall. There is another doorway almost directly above this, which would have provided access to the first floor level. The ground floor, which has a vaulted roof, is divided into two separate chambers: one is accessed via the ground floor doorway and one is accessed via a staircase from the first floor. There is another large ope on the south side of this wall at the level of the roof of the hall. While it is much smaller than the other doorways in

this wall, its position would suggest that it may have provided access to the wall walk of the hall building.

The ground floor of this tower is covered by a vault, which has been modified and strengthened in the recent past through the use of concrete supports. Architectural fragments are stored in this area making access to it difficult. Access to the first floor was via the start of a spiral staircase. The doorway to the first floor (a pointed doorway, of finely cut stone) has been blocked up and access to this floor is via a breach in the wall. The spiral staircase is largely absent, which means that access to higher levels was not possible. The upper floors that would have been wooden are also no longer extant. As the vault is unstable access to the first floor was limited to its northern end.

This tower contains two unusual gun loops, on the chamfered NE corner of the tower between ground and first floor levels and one at the south end of the east wall at second floor level. These gun loops are cross-loops with an expanded circular base. These gun loops are similar to the three gun loops in the remaining circular tower on the edge of the River Suir. This type of gun loop can also be observed on the Ormond Castle in Carrick-on Suir, county Tipperary.

Hall building

A short section of the S wall of the hall survives projecting out from the tower house, and at 1.40m wide it is of similar dimensions to the surviving section of the N wall (1.45m). There are no features on this section of wall. The surviving section of the north wall contains a large triple light window set in an arched embrasure. The heads of these windows are of an unusual form, and could be described as wide ogee heads. There are two stone carvings in the soffit of the window embrasure, the western carving depicts a figure with a scales in their left hand and a drawn sword raised above their head in the right hand. This would appear to be the symbol of justice, with the scales symbolising impartiality and the sword symbolising power. This might suggest that the hall was used as a court. The eastern carving depicts the figure of an angel holding 'a shield with the arms of Butler' (Maher 1934, 51). The exterior of this window is more ornate, including an elaborate hood moulding with intricate carvings of foliage at its terminals. There are also carvings at the head of this triple light

window, and the edges of the mullions and window jambs have been decorated with an incised carving. Below this large window is a simple single-light round headed window set within an arched embrasure and there is a similar window at the same height at the E end of this section of wall. There are no corbels to suggest that a floor ran between these two windows but the wall itself narrows at the E end of this wall section just above the level of the smaller windows and this ledge may have supported a floor. A window jamb and the terminal of a hood moulding located E of the triple light window suggests that there may have been a second large window in this wall of the hall. The presence of one or perhaps two large windows in what appears to have formed an outer wall of the castle enclosure suggests that defence was not a primary consideration.

Fig. G.168: Figure of an angel holding the Butler coat of arms in the soffit of a window in the hall building of Granny castle complex.

Fig. G.169: Figure of Justice holding a sword and scales in the soffit of a window in the hall building of Granny castle complex.

Mural-towers

There are the remains of three circular towers on the south side of the enclosure. The circular tower at the SE corner of the castle complex has been largely destroyed and only a very short section of its curved walls, attached to the main enclosure, survives. The tower at the SW corner of the castle complex is joined to the SE tower by a thick battered curtain wall (2.25m thick), with the River Suir running E-W outside it. The circular SW tower is in a good state of preservation. The form of these towers and the thick curtain wall that connects them has led to the argument that this part of the castle

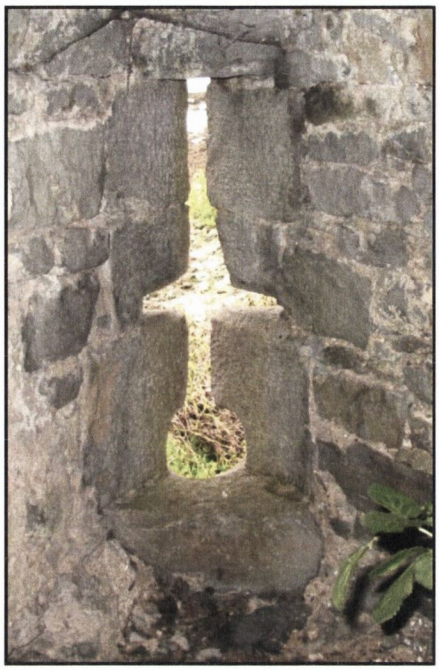

Fig. G.170: Gun loop (internal face) in the mural tower on the west of the castle complex.

complex is thirteenth century in date. This argument has been refuted by McNeill and others, who argue that because all the features appear to be fifteenth century in date, the entire castle must date to the fifteenth century. The three gun loops in the basement level of this tower are of similar form to two gunloops found in the accommodation tower (cross shaped with an expanded, circular base, 1m H, 0.4m W across arms and 0.2m W at base). An examination of these three loops did not suggest that they were inserted features, leading to the conclusion that this tower was constructed in the same phase as the accommodation tower. A rectangular loop, east of the entrance to this tower, looks eastwards over the River Suir.

This circular tower appears to have offered comfortable accommodations containing both a fireplace on the first floor and garderobes on the first and second floors. The garderobes are located within the thick curtain wall that connects the mural towers. This wall also contains a separate chamber located east of the garderobe and accessed via a door in the wall. The destroyed tower at the SE corner of the castle enclosure may have had a similar arrangement because the remains of a garderobe chute, divided into two sections, are visible in the remains of the curtain wall west of the tower.

Fig. G.171: Granny Castle and the possible outer ward to the west as shown on the *Ordnance Survey Ireland Map Viewer* 2000.

The third circular tower is located west of the castle complex and is overgrown and poorly preserved. No datable features were observed. Sweetman (1999, 133) has suggested that the location of this tower might indicate the presence of an outer ward, the boundaries of which may be visible on the ortho-photograph on the *Ordnance Survey Ireland Map Viewer*, west of the castle site.

Adjacent sites

There are four fulachta fiadh in Granny townland (KK043-028---, KK043-029---, KK043-031---, KK043-033---) and four in Ballygriffin townland, (KK043-027---, KK043-030---, KK-43-03201-, KK043-03202-) all of which are located to the northwest and within *c.*1.2km of Granny Castle. This concentration of fulachta fiadha suggests that this area was boggy or at least prone to flooding at some point in its history. Kilmacow parish church is located *c.*2.5km from Granny castle (KK043-034---), while the parish church for the neighbouring parish of Dunkitt is *c.*1.7km from the castle (KK043-001901-). Dunkitt castle (KK043-020---) is the closest castle to Granny at a distance of *c.*1.4km, while the castle site in Gaulstown (KK043-009---) and the tower house in Corluddy (KK045-013---) are less than 5km from the castle.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

The manor of Grannagh or Granny appears frequently in the documentary source for this period. There is no civil parish with the name Granny or Grannagh, the townland of Granny and Granny Castle are both located within the civil parish of Kilmacow. Part of the manor is sometimes referred to as Dunbrin in the documentary sources. The documentary sources would appear to suggest that this manor had extensive territories, often extending well beyond the limits of the civil parish. According to Carrigan, Clonmore, Pollrone, Dysartmoon and Dunkitt were manors, or rather sub-manors, dependent on Grannagh, which was the chief manor of the whole barony of Iverk (Carrigan 1905, IV 149). Indeed in 1594 the manors of 'Killcrone' (Kilcronia or Dunkitt) and the town of 'Shanboe' (Shanbogh) are recorded as being 'held of the Earl of Ormond as of his manor of Granaghe' (*Ormond Deeds*, VI, 69).

According to Carrigan (1905, IV 135) Granny, Grannagh or Grenagh was 'a manor from remote times and the Le Poers were its lords at the end of the fourteenth century, when they were succeeded by the Earls of Ormond' (Carrigan 1905, IV 135). In 1300

Edmund le Gras and Geoffrey le Chaumberleyn were is dispute over the rental of 26 marks from the tenements of Dunbryn (*Cal. justic. rolls Ire.*, I, 316). In 1314 Fromund le Brun instructed his former tenants, including his English and Irish freeholders, to give their allegiance to Sir Edmund Butler, Butler of Ireland, to whom he had granted his lands which included Granach (*Ormond Deeds*, I 195-196). This indicates not only that the Butlers acquired Granny but also that there were Irish freeholders in the area. Kilmacow is included in the extent of the barony of Overk compiled in 1314 and it was held by David Grant, however, Granny is not mentioned (*Red Bk. of Ormond*, 131-135). Edmund, son of Arnold, le Poer granted 'the manor of Donnbryn and Grannagh' in the cantred of Iverk to Sir James Butler, Earl of Ormond in *c.*1330 (*Ormond Deeds*, I 260). Eustace le Poer granted to Sir William de Caldewell, Chaplain all his lands, woods and boglands which he held in Demesne in 'Dombryn and Grennagh', in return for which Eustace was to be paid forty pounds of silver in annual rent (*Ormond Deeds*, I 326). In 1337 Eustace, son of Arnold le Poer, appointed an attorney to place Robert le Poer in full seisin of 'the manor of Dounbryn and Le Grannath' (*Ormond Deeds*, I 298-299). Curtis has identified these placenames as Dunbrin and Granny in the parish of Kilmacow. While Granny appears as a townland name in the parish of Kilmacow, Dunbrin does not. However, according to Carrigan, Dunbrin is now a sub-division of Granny (Carrigan 1905, IV 136). In December of that year 'Grannath' is described as being within the 'tenement of Dounbryn' when it was granted to John le Poer by Eustace le Poer (*Ormond Deeds*, I 299).

In 1374 Edmund le Poer quit-claimed to James Butler, Earl of Ormond the manor of 'Dombryn and Grennagh in Oreynan in the cantred of Overk' (*Ormond Deeds*, II 138). The following year the Earl of Ormond appears to have acquired further lands in Granny when the King, Edward II, granted him land in the manor of 'Dounbryn and Grenhagh' that had formerly belonged to Eustace le Poer who had been hanged for treason (*Ormond Deeds*, II 139). Eustace and Edmund were probably brothers as both were sons of Arnold le Poer. In 1407, while James Butler was in his minority the King granted, among other places, the manor of Grannagh to Robert Haubryk and Nicholas Stokes (*Ormond Deeds*, II 280). A rental of the lands of the Earl of Ormond in Grannagh and Overk includes the names of a number of the Earl's tenants in Grannagh: Richard Tailour, Thomas Boye, William Flemynge, Jonoc Comdyn and Robert Canford (*Ormond Deeds*, II 308). In 1427 the Earl of Ormond granted to Mabel

Gogane and Thomas Wyse the 'watermill of his manor of Grenagh' for an annual rent of 20 shillings silver and with the stipulation that they should maintain the mill (*Ormond Deeds*, III 10). A rental of the Earl of Ormond in 1433-4 lists a number of places under the heading 'Grennagh': chief rents from Newhous, Cloynstyrok, Flemyngston, Ballisalok, Kilgargan, Kilcoyn, Clonasse and land in Offad'. The value of these rentals is given as 8*l.* (*Ormond Deeds*, III 103).

A 1415 extent of the manor of *Grenagh*, provides a valuable snapshot of the manor in early fifteenth century. Among the assets of the manor are: a garden, a ferry toll valued at 6*s.* 8*d.*, a wood for timber, a rabbit warren, a watermill, pasturage for pigs and summer sheep pasture. The extent also outlines the service that tenants of the manor owe to their lord and included three days reaping at harvest time, three day weeding, three days carting wheat and hay and one day on the bog. Finally, the extent outlines the rents payable to the lord from land holdings within the manor; Clonassy, Flemingstown and Newtown, as well as other land holdings that appear to be outside the manor; *Clonsterok*, Ballysallagh and Portnahully (*Red Bk. of Ormond*, 124-125). The extent however, does not describe any buildings or structures within the manor, which is curious as the extent for the manor of Pollrone taken two days later mentions a keep or tower (*Red Bk. of Ormond*, 126-127). Should we deduce from this extent of the manor of *Grenagh* that in 1415 there was no castle in Granny or was it simply not included in the valuation, as no income came from the castle, unlike the other items mentioned in the extent?

In the mid-sixteenth century we have the first reference to a castle at Granny in an inquisition into the estate of the Earl of Ormond after this death in 1546. This inquisition includes a description of the assets of 'the manor of Granagh' which included: its castle, one mease, one garden, three meases, sixty acres of arable, forty of pasture, eight of wood and one watermill in Granagh (*Ormond Deeds*, IV 305). In 1603 a deed, which granted an estate to Ellen, Countess of Ormond, the manor of 'Grenagh alias Downbryn' is mentioned, as is the mill and 'ferribote of Grenagh' and 'Kilmechow' (*Ormond Deeds*, VI 168). At the end of the sixteenth century, there is a reference to the 'Barron court of Grennaghe' (*Ormond Deeds*, VI 142)

A 1653 survey of the lands granted to the Countess of Ormond describes the 'manor of Grannagh'. The castle is described as a 'castle and stone hall for the most part out of repair within, a thatched house with chimney with several other cabins and a corn mill begun to be built'. The survey also outlines the lands of the manor, with 14 acres, 47 perches in meadow, 106 acres, 145 perches in oak wood, 1016 acres of arable and good pasture and 56 acres of course pasture in 'controversy with fflemingestowne' (Manning 1999, 52).

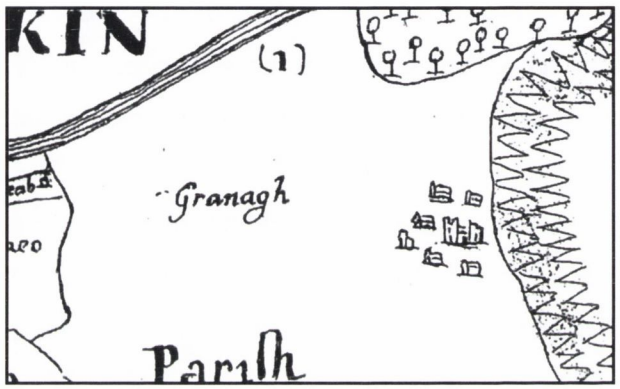

Fig. G.172: Granny castle as depicted on the *Down Survey* map of the barony of Iverk.

The *Down Survey* map of the barony of Iverk depicts one large building surrounded by six smaller buildings. The large building resembles two towers, with a lower structure between them, which joins them together.

By comparing this drawing to Francis Place's drawing of the castle would suggest that this is a depiction of Granny Castle. Francis Places late seventeenth century drawing of the castle indicate that it was a substantial complex of which the surviving residential tower and tower on the riverfront were a small part. This depiction indicates that the hall building was a two-storey structure and that where the remains of the windmill are now located was once occupied by a round corner tower and another tower, similar to the surviving residential block. Edwards (2000, 69) has argued that Granny Castle was 'a focal point in the feudal power of the earldom' and Place's depiction would suggest that this was both the home of an important individual and an important administrative centre. The *Down Survey* map would suggest that there was a settlement nucleation at Granny in the seventeenth century and the 1415 extent of the manor, could indicate that this settlement nucleation was in existence since before that date.

Fig. G.173: 'Castle Granne 1 mile from Waterford 1699' by Francis Place, held at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London.

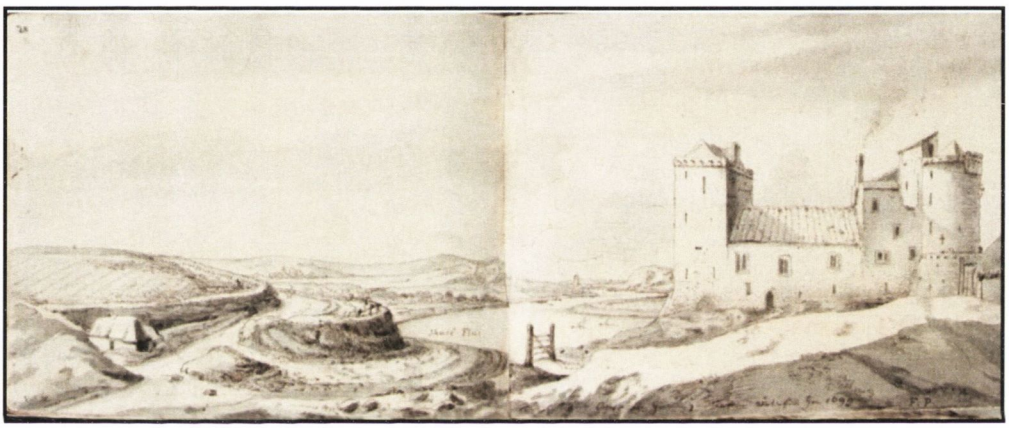

Fig. G.174: Francis Place's drawing of Granny Castle 1699, held in the Victoria and Albert Museum, London.

The castle complex depicted on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map is broadly similar to the remains of the castle complex today. The major difference is the two structures north of the castle complex, one of which appears to have been built up against the north wall of the enclosure. A similar building is visible in Place's illustrations but by the time the *Ordnance Survey* twenty-five inch map had been compiled these buildings had been removed.

Interpretation

The major research questions for this study of Granny castle are the date of its original construction, its role during the Butler phase of ownership and the role of any possible castle during the Roche ownership of the area. Both Harbison (1992, 197) and Edwards (2000, 69) argue that Granny Castle was constructed before the Butlers acquired the manor. Harbison (1992, 197) argues that the oldest part of the castle dates to the thirteenth century, while Edwards (2000) asserts that it was constructed during

the fourteenth century. However archaeologists such as David Sweetman (1999, 133) and Tom McNeill (1997, 184-186) suggest that the castle and its surrounding wall were constructed contemporaneously and date to the late fourteenth, early fifteenth century. Sweetman (1999, 133) states that the 'castle is built very much in the style of the thirteenth- and early fourteenth- century fortress but its details such as gun loops and windows are plainly late medieval'. McNeill (1997, 185) argues that 'the castle must be treated as a whole', with the tower and the hall forming a single unit. He goes on to argue that the tower and the river towers must be contemporaneous because they both include a distinctive type of gunloop. This type of gunloop is also found on the east front of the Butler Castle at Carrick-on Suir and this phase of the castle was constructed *c.*1450. An examination of the gun loops in the river tower does not indicate that they were inserted. Conversations with Con Manning and Ben Murtagh (pers. comm. 28th and 29th May 2010) indicated that they both argued that there was an earlier castle on the site, possibly constructed by the le Poers. Murtagh indicated that there was evidence in the masonry of the castle complex for an earlier phase of construction at the current castle complex.

The current castle complex at Granny would appear to date the Butler period of ownership of the manor, and McNeill's fifteenth century dates would appear logical. However, it is probable that the Le Poer family may have constructed some type of castle on the site during their period of ownership of the manor. The 1415 extent makes it clear that Granny was a well-established manor, and that the ferry was in operation by this date. The control of the ferry toll would surely have necessitated some type of fortified structure at Granny. It is clear that the manor of Granny was an important focus of activity in the area in the late medieval period, its position in the high medieval period is uncertain.

Abbreviations and references

Cal. justic. rolls Ire. = Mills, J. et al (ed.) 1905-56. *Calendar of Justiciary Rolls of Ireland.* Dublin: H.M.S.O.

Ormond Deeds = Curtis, E. (ed.) 1881-1943. *Calendar of Ormond Deeds*, (6 Vols). Dublin: Stationery Office

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Harbison, Peter. 1992. *Guide to national and historic monuments of Ireland.* 3rd Edition. Dublin: Gill and Macmillan.

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McNeill, T.E. 1997. *Castles in Ireland: Feudal power in a Gaelic World*. London: Routledge.

Sweetman, D. 1999. *Medieval castles of Ireland.* Cork: The Collins Press.

Jamestown DMV and castle site

RMP no.	KK039-04001- and KK039-039---
Townland	Jamestown
Civil Parish	Fiddown
Barony	Iverk
County	Kilkenny
OS six-inch sheet no.	Kilkenny Sheet 39
Discovery Series sheet no.	75
Irish National Grid ref.	247230, 124970 and 247200, 125110
Classification	Deserted medieval settlement and castle site

Siting

The deserted medieval settlement and the castle site are located in an area of pasture, in the foothills of an upland area to the north, with a stream to the east. The lands falls from north to south across the field in which the deserted medieval settlement site is located.

Description

There are no upstanding remains of the castle, which Carrigan describes as being located in a field called 'Carragawns', west of a farmhouse. No buildings are depicted in the area labelled Jamestown on the *Down Survey* barony map of the area. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map of the area depicts three buildings and an adjacent area of trees where the modern farmyard is today. The deserted settlement is depicted as an empty field. No antiquities are labelled in the area.

Fig. G.175: Standing stone in Jamestown.

There is a standing stone towards the NE corner of the field that contains the deserted settlement. A fulacht fiadh is located close to this standing stone. At the south end of the field there is a linear depression curving from NW to SE. There are the two very low relief platforms on the south side of this depression. These features could represent the remains of a hollow way with associated tofts.

Adjacent sites

The castle site and deserted settlement in Jamestown are located *c.*5km to the S of the manorial settlement in Fiddown (KK042-001-). The castle in Templeorum (KK039-00502-) and the adjacent church in Oldcourt (KK039-00501-) are located *c.*2km to the NE, while the castle and church in Kildalton (KK039-00601- and KK039-02401-) are located *c.*2.4km to the S. The possible early medieval church in Kilmanahin (KK039-00301-) is located *c.*1.3km to the NE, and the castle site at Oldcourt (KK035-05502-) is located *c.*2km to the N.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

There is no mention of Jamestown, Ballyseamus, or Ballyhiamus in the *Calendar of Documents Relating to Ireland* and the only mention of it in the *Calendar of Ormond Deeds* dates to 1580s. Ballyhiamus is included under the heading Iverke (*Ormond Deeds*, V 162). Carrigan states that in 1798 the ruins of a large house or castle of the Datons were demolished and that they were located in a field called 'Corragawns'. He also reports that the field on the opposite side of the road was called 'Crochteens' and that the foundations of an ancient town were uprooted from there about 1887 (Carrigan 2005, IV 237). There is a local tradition that a battle was fought in Jamestown in 'medieval times' between the villages of Templeorum and Kilmanahin (O'Shea 1999, 4)

No structures are depicted in the townland of 'Jamestowne' on the *Down Survey* map of the barony of Iverk. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map does not include a castle site or any trace of the ancient town which Carrigan recorded.

Interpretation

The only evidence that a castle or the deserted medieval settlement ever existed in Jamestown comes from Carrigan's account of the site. In the absence of corroborating evidence we cannot make any definite conclusions about these possible sites. As the only definite archaeological evidence in the area are standing stones and a fulacht fiadh, it is probable that any earthworks are associated with those site types, rather than a medieval settlement.

Abbreviations and references

Ormond Deeds = Curtis, E. (ed.) 1881-1943. *Calendar of Ormond Deeds*, (6 Vols). Dublin: Stationery Office.

Carrigan, W. 2005. *The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory*. Revised edition with a biographical essay by Fearghus Ó Fearghail Edition. Dublin: Archive CD Books Ireland Ltd.

O'Shea, M. 1999. *Parish of Templeorum: a historical miscellany.* Kilkenny: Mary O'Shea.

Kilcraggan castle site

RMP No.	KK042-00401-
Townland	Kilcraggan
Civil Parish	Ballytarsney
Barony	Iverk
County	Kilkenny
OS six-inch sheet no.	Kilkenny sheet 42
Discovery Series sheet no.	75
Irish National Grid ref.	251760, 117920
Classification	Castle site

Siting

This site is located in relatively flat pasture-land with good views from SE to NNW and is *c.*3km east of the River Suir.

Description

The tower house in Kilcraggan is no longer extant and the owners of the farmyard in which it was formerly located have no memory of it. The tower house was not extant when Carrigan (2005, IV 155) visited Kilcraggan, but he reported that the castle had belonged to the Walsh family in the later 16th century. He reported that the castle had adjoined the northside of the farmhouse owned by the O'Halloran's. This farmhouse, which is said to have been built about 1690 by a Cromwellian family called Whitby, still stands today, although it has been significantly modified. Carrigan (2005, IV 155) reports that the house was remodelled in 1850 and reduced in height when it was reduced from three storeys to two storeys. The descendants of the O'Hallorans who were the landowners when Carrigan visited the site, occupy the house and farm today.

The only other feature of archaeological note at the site is a stone head that has been built into the wall of the farmyard. It is probable that this stone head came from a church or other religious building. Carrigan (2005, IV 154) translates the townland name as the church of the rocky land, which he argued indicated that there was a church stood in the 'Crochteen' at Mr O'Halloran's house. A fragment of a wayside cross was moved from Kilcraggan to Thinvane House, near Carrick-on-Suir by the Briscoes several year before Carrigan visited the site (Carrigan 2005, IV 155). The cross fragment was decorated with a heraldic shield of the Leonard family and an inscription which included the date 1622. These accounts have led to the suggestion that there were ecclesiastical structures on the site.

Fig. G.176: Stone head located in the farmyard wall at Kilcraggan, Ballytarsney, county Kilkenny.

Adjacent sites

The only other recorded monument in this townland is the site of a ringfort in the located *c.*650m to the south (KK042-049---). The site of the parish church in Ballytarsney is located *c.*1.4km to the SW (KK042-010---). The closest tower house is located *c.*2km to the west in Grange townland (KK042-003---).

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

The inclusion of the castle site and the possible adjacent ecclesiastical site in the SMR appears to be based on Carrigan's account, which is outlined above and the *Down Survey* barony map. The *Down Survey* barony map includes two large buildings, perhaps a castle and a church, as well as two small cabins in the townland of Kilcraggan. These buildings appear to be surrounded by trees. The 1653 survey of the lands granted to the countess of Ormond includes an old ruined castle and some thatched cabins in the valuation of Ballytarsney (Manning 1999, 52). This castle could

be located in the townland of Ballytarsney or this reference could refer to this castle, which is located in Ballytarsney parish. The Countess did not hold the entire parish of Ballytarsney, and this was not therefore a valuation of the entire parish.

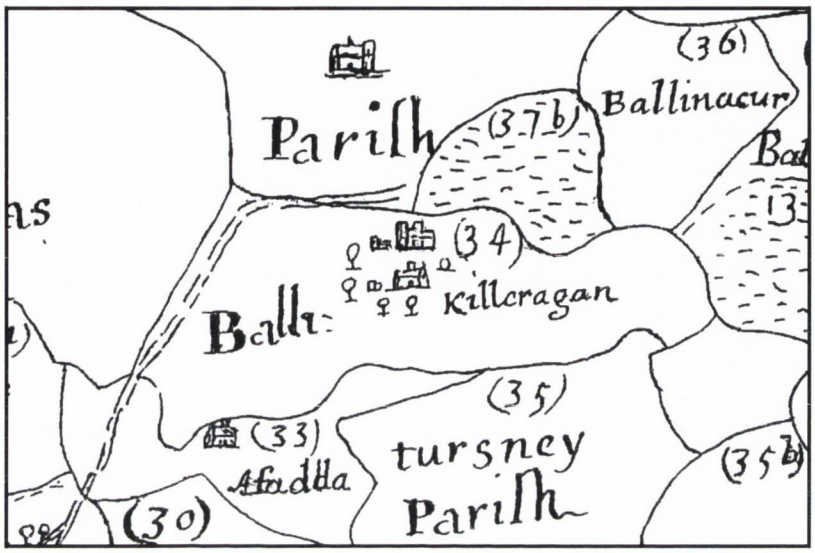

Fig. G.177: The townland of Kilcraggan as depicted on the *Down Survey* map of the barony of Iverk.

The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map depicts the O'Halloran farmhouse and yard, which contained a number of outbuildings. A castle is not labelled, though the farmhouse is depicted as a rectangle with a square attached at its northern end. This square section could be the castle that Carrigan (2005, IV 155) said was attached to the north side of the farmhouse. This part of the farmhouse is no longer extant, but its inclusion in the first edition map would support Carrigan's description of the site.

The townland of Kilcraggan is mentioned a number of times in the *Ormond Deeds*. In 1426 it was included in a rental of the Earl of Ormond (*Ormond Deeds*, III 58) and in 1584-7 seven acres in 'Kilkregan' are included in the barony of 'Iverke' in a book of ploughlands (*Ormond Deeds*, V 161).

Interpretation

There is enough evidence from this site to indicate that there was once a stone castle on this site and the fact that the castle was in ruins by the mid-seventeenth century would suggest that it was a tower house. However, the Down Survey map does not

indicate that it had the classic tower house form, so we can only assign it the classification castle site with any certainty.

Abbreviations and references

Ormond Deeds = Curtis, E. (ed.) 1881-1943. *Calendar of Ormond Deeds,* (6 Vols). Dublin: Stationery Office.

Carrigan, W. 2005. *The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory*. Revised edition with a biographical essay by Fearghus Ó Fearghail Edition. Dublin: Archive CD Books Ireland Ltd.

Manning, C. 1999. "The 1653 survey of the lands granted to the countess of Ormond in Co. Kilkenny". *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries in Ireland* 129:40-66.

Kildalton Church, castle and ringfort

RMP no.	KK039-024---, KK039-06601- and KK039-23---
Townland	Kildalton
Civil Parish	Fiddown
Barony	Iverk
County	Kilkenny
OS six-inch sheet no.	Kilkenny Sheet 39
Discovery series sheet no.	75
Irish National Grid ref.	246900, 122700; 246660, 122700 and 246480, 123220
Classification	Church, castle and ringfort

Siting

These sites are located in the ground of Kildalton Agricultural College, which was formerly the Bessborough Estate. The River Pil runs along the south side of the estate.

Description

The church is no longer extant. It is believed to have stood in the location of the stables in Bessborough House (now Kildalton Agricultural College). Inscribed stones and a font from the church were reportedly moved to the Church of Ireland church in Piltown, when it was constructed. There is no sign of the inscribed stones at the church today, and the font in the church does not appear to be of any great antiquity.

The field in which the ringfort was located was under corn, when the site was visited. The staff of the agricultural college indicated that the site was located beside a water tower and that it had been almost completely levelled. The 1990 site report in the SMR file states that the site had been levelled, but that a broad levelled bank could be discerned. The internal diameter of the site was 45m N-S, while the remains of the bank were *c.*30cm in height.

The SMR does not include co-ordinates for Kildalton castle, which indicates that although there is evidence that there was once a castle in Kildalton, its exact location is unclear.

Adjacent sites

The castle site in Belline and Rogerstown (KK039-021---) is *c.*1.9km to the W, while the castle site (KK039-039---) and deserted medieval settlement (KK039-04001-) in

Jamestown are *c*.2.4km to the N. The manorial centre in Fiddown (KK042-001---) is located *c*.2.7km to the S.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

Carrigan (2005, IV 219) records that the church in Kildalton (or Kilmodalla) was a chapel of ease to the parish church of Fiddown. Around 1450 the church of 'Kylmethall' was included in a list of the amercements of the churches of Ossory, along with 'Fothram' or Templeorum and 'Cassellan' or Castletown (*Red Book of Ossory*, 123). Both Carrigan and Lawlor have identified this placename with Kilmodalla or Kildalton (Carrigan 2005, IV 219; *Red Book of Ossory*, 201). The church was located close to Bessborough House and was destroyed in 1830 to make way for stables.

A mid-nineteenth century account of the ringfort in Kildalton indicated that there were stone structures in its interior. Mr. Blackett who visited the site described it as being irregular in plan and fifty paces in diameter. On the SE side of the ringfort 'is a foundation, in the shape of a parallelogram, with convex curves at its shorter sides. It was locally known as Alan's Rath (Anon 1849-51, 388). He mentions that there is another ringfort in the townland known as Rathmore. Carrigan describes the former location of the castle in Kildalton Castle, as 'on a low ridge or mound, about 250 yards east of Bessborough House' (Carrigan 2005, IV 222). He also reports that the castle was demolished after the construction of the Bessborough House in 1744.

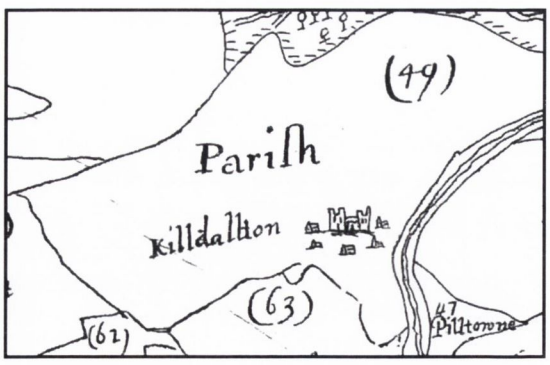

Fig. G.178: The townland of Kildalton as depicted on the *Down Survey* map of the barony of Iverk.

The *Down Survey* map of the barony of Iverk depicts a large structure, surrounded by five cabins in the townland of 'Killdallton'. The large structure resembles two towers, with a lower building in between them, which also joins them together. It is similar to the depiction of the castle in Granny. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map was compiled after the construction of Bessborough House so it does not include either the church or the castle. A ringfort

is marked and the online version of the map has a handwritten label beside the ringfort which seems to read Rathmore (*www.maps.osi.ie/publicviewer*), suggesting that the ringfort included in the SMR is not the ringfort with the stone foundation in its interior, Alan's Rath.

Interpretation

This nucleation of church and castle, together with the evidence for the possible reuse of a ringfort, all suggest that this was a place of importance in the past, with evidence for settlement in the early medieval period and the fifteenth century. However, as there are no surviving archaeological sites to interrogate and few documentary sources to consult, we can make few conclusions about the site. It is likely a settlement nucleation developed here in the late medieval period, perhaps to exploit the resources of the River Pil.

Abbreviations and references

Red Bk of Ossory = Lawlor, H. J. (ed.) 1908. "Calendar of the Liber Ruber of Ossory". *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy* 27C:159-208.

Anon. 1849-51. "Miscellaneous Antiquities." *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland* 1:382-389.

Carrigan, W. 2005. *The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory*. Revised edition with a biographical essay by Fearghus Ó Fearghail Edition. Dublin: Archive CD Books Ireland Ltd.

Killeens church Site

RMP No	KK033-03801-
Townland	Killeens
Civil Parish	The Rower
Barony	Ida
County	Kilkenny
OS six-inch sheet no.	Kilkenny sheet 33
Discovery Series sheet no.	68
Irish National Grid ref.	272630, 135990
Classification	Church site

Siting

The church is located on the on the side of a steeply sloping, west facing hill, with a stream at its base.

Description

There are no extant remains of this church. The SMR file for this site records a local tradition that the church was located on this site.

Adjacent sites

The castle site in the adjacent townland of Clogharalt (KK033-019---) is located *c.*150m SW of the church site, while the tower house in Coolhill is *c.*700m to the S. The ringforts sites of Cullentragh (KK033-017---), Mungan (KK033-026---) and Carranroe Upper (KK033-033---) are all located within *c.*2km of the church site. The church and castle site in Farrantemple (KK033-03101- and KK033-03102-) are located *c* 2.2km SW of the site.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

Carrigan (2005, IV 127) records 'the site of an ancient church and obsolete graveyard, resembling a rath' in the townland of Killeens. He goes to argue that Killeens was the original Kilconnelly, the church of St. Congalach.

The church is not depicted on any edition of the *Ordnance Survey* six-inch map for county Kilkenny or the *Down Survey* map of the barony of Ida.

Interpretation

There is no evidence to suggest that this site was in use during the high and late medieval period. The townland name would suggest that there was a children's burial ground within it, and that this children's burial ground may have been a reuse of an abandoned church site.

References

Carrigan, W. 2005. *The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory*. Revised edition with a biographical essay by Fearghus Ó Fearghail Edition. Dublin: Archive CD Books Ireland Ltd.

Kilmacow Church

RMP no.	KK043-016---
Townland	Kilmacow
Civil Parish	Kilmacow
Barony	Iverk
County	Kilkenny
OS six-inch sheet no.	Kilkenny sheet 43
Discovery Series sheet no.	76
Irish National Grid ref.	256870, 117120
Classification	Parish Church

Siting

The village of Kilmacow is divided into Upper Kilmacow and Lower Kilmacow. Upper Kilmacow contains the modern Catholic Church and a number of shops and businesses. This church site is located in Lower Kilmacow, which contains a number of houses and only one commercial establishment. The river Blackwater is located to the east of the church site and the settlement in Kilmacow.

Description

The site of the church in Kilmacow is located within a rectangular graveyard and the SMR report for the site includes a graveslab. The church site is located within a curve in the road, leading to the impression that it was once enclosed within a circular enclosure but only the southern half of this possible enclosure is preserved in the modern road network. The name of the townland together with this circular enclosure would suggest that this was a pre-Norman foundation.

The site of the church is now an overgrown graveyard and there are few traces of the church. The south end of the graveyard is raised above the level of the rest of the graveyard, and this area contains the vast majority of the gravestones. There are stone walls against the north and west sides of this raised area. Many of these graveslabs date to the eighteenth century, including the early to mid-eighteenth century (1721, 1732 and 1744). There is a gateway in the west end of the south wall and close to this on the raised area there is a small square stone structure with approximate dimensions of 4m x 4m. There is an arch in this structure that runs east to west. The function of this structure isn't immediately obviously and Barry has suggested that it could be a mausoleum or an ice-house (Terry Barry, pers. comm.).

Fig. G.179: The graveyard at Kilmacow church site.

The graveyard contains the remains of a vault and an inscription on its north side states that it is the family vault of the Greenes of Greenville. This structure may be the possible tower foundations referred to in the SMR file for the site and of which I can find no other trace. It is possible that the vault could have been inserted into the former church. There is now no trace of the grave slab, a rubbing of which was made by John Hogan and donated to the *Kilkenny and South-East of Ireland Archaeological Society* (later the *Royal Society of Antiquaries*) in 1864-6. An account of the donation was included in the journal and it indicated that it was a coffin-shaped tombstone on which an interlace cross was inscribed along with the following dedication; 'thys done be edmonde butler and bi katrin b hys wyf anno d m ccccc lii' (1552) (Anon 1864, 114). Carrigan gives a slightly different account of the inscription, but the pertinent facts are the same, the inscription is to Edmonde Butler and his wife in the year 1552 (anno dn' mccccclii).

Adjacent sites

The holy well in Kilmacow is located *c.*130m NE of the church. Granny castle (KK043-034---) is located *c.*2.6km S of Kilmacow Church. Dunkitt church (KK043-01901-) is located *c.*1.8km to the NE, while Clonassy castle (KK040-051---) is located *c.*6km to the N.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

The name Granagh appears regularly in the *Ormond Deeds* during the fourteenth century but nothing is reported for Kilmacow until 1394 when the land was controlled by Geoffrey de le Freigne. Geoffrey granted the Earl of Ormond free navigation of the river Blackwater where it ran through his land including Kilmacow (*Ormond Deeds*, II 224). It was included in list of royal service due to the lord of Overk in 1413 when it was recorded as being by the 'hand of William O'Charra' (*Ormond Deeds*, II 317) who was perhaps an Irishman (see section 3.7 for further discussion). In 1491 John Butler, the Earl of Ormond's grandson, granted the town of 'Kylmabowthe' to Edmund 'Incally' Graunte in return for a pledge of thirty marks silver (*Ormond Deeds*, III 270). There is another reference to a town in Kilmacow in 1555 when Thomas Butler, the Earl of Ormond granted 'all his castles, meases, lands, tenements etc, in the towns and fields of Kilmocowe' to James Walsh and John Sherlocke (*Ormond Deeds*, V 87). This would suggest that there could have been a nucleated settlement in the vicinity of the modern settlement at Kilmacow. A commission was set up to establish the bounds of the Earl of Ormond's estates in 1589-94. As part of this commission Richard fitz Thomas Brennaghe of the Grenaghe testified as to the extent of the Earl's land in this area. In the course of his statement he mentioned the mill of Kilmacow, and a heap of stones known as the Leacht of Kilmacow (*Ormond Deeds*, VI 143). The presence of a mill in the town of Kilmacow would further support the idea that there was a nucleated settlement at Kilmacow.

According to the *Red Book of Ossory* in a deed dated *c.*1300 the third part of the parish of Kilmaboy was prebendary of Clonamery. At the same date William Graunt was lay patron of the parish (Carrigan 2005, IV 134; *Red Book of Ossory*, 176). Despite the fact that a third of Kilmacow was in the hands of the church, the Crown retained significant influence in the parish and were apparently responsible for appointing clergy. In 1389, for example the King presented Robert Kerdiff to the church of 'Kylmaboyth' in the diocese Ossory, which was vacant since the resignation of Patrick Power (Carrigan 2005, IV 133). Carrigan reports that the ancient parish church of Kilmacow remained until about 1818 when it was dismantled and the present protestant church built on its site. (Carrigan 2005, IV 133).

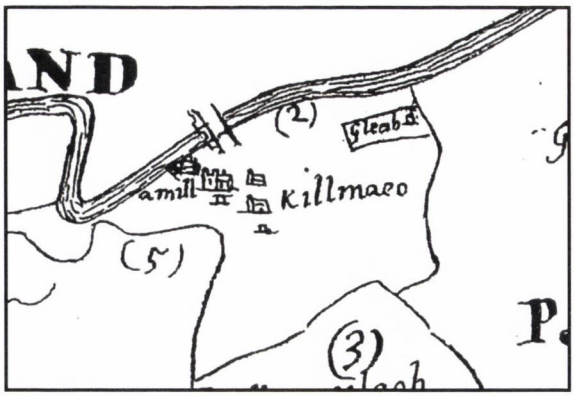

Fig. G.180: Kilmacow townland as depicted on the *Down Survey* map of the barony of Iverk.

The *Down Survey* map for the barony of Iverk shows a group of buildings in the townland of 'Kilmaco'. A mill is labelled, but it is difficult to determine whether the mill is the largest structure depicted in the townland or the badly drawn object adjacent to the river. It is probably the structure beside the river, as it was likely to have been a water mill. One of the structures depicted appears to be a portal tomb and could be the Leacht of Kilmacow. A bridge over the river Blackwater is depicted adjacent to this nucleation and a fording point on the river could have been the impetus for the establishment of a settlement at this location. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map for the barony of Iverk depicts the church within a rectangular graveyard, with a curved street pattern to its south. In the first edition six-inch map the church is simply labelled church, but it is labelled 'St. Mochua's Church' on the twenty-five-inch map.

Fig. G.181: The church in Kilmacow and the curve in the road south of the site as depicted on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map.

Interpretation

It is clear that there was a nucleated settlement at Kilmacow from at least the late fifteenth century and impetus for the establishment of the settlement may have been its location adjacent to a fording point on the Blackwater River. What is unclear, is when this settlement was established and what its relationship was to the castle at Granny.

There is no evidence for a parish church at Granny, and while there might have been a chapel in the castle, this was likely to have been for the use of the castle inhabitants only. The rest of the inhabitants of the townland of Granny would have had to travel more than 2.5km to the parish church in Kilmacow, although this was probably not a great distance for a medieval church goer. The distance between the medieval parish church and the castle could be related to the fact that the parish church was a pre-Norman foundation that was reused by the arriving Anglo-Normans. The fact that the church and the castle are not adjacent to each other, could also suggest that the le Poer manor was located at Kilmacow, with the castle in Granny built in the fifteenth or sixteenth century, at a remove from the manorial centre, but on the banks of a major river, a pattern repeated elsewhere in Overk.

Abbreviations and references

Ormond Deeds = Curtis, E. (ed.) 1881-1943. *Calendar of Ormond Deeds*, (6 Vols). Dublin: Stationery Office.

Red Bk of Ossory = Lawlor, H. J. (ed) 1908. "Calendar of the Liber Ruber of Ossory". *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy* 27C:159-208.

Anon. 1864. "Proceedings, July Meeting". *The Journal of the Kilkenny and South-East of Ireland Archaeological Society* 5(1):109-139.

Carrigan, W. 2005. *The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory*. Revised edition with a biographical essay by Fearghus Ó Fearghail Edition. Dublin: Archive CD Books Ireland Ltd.

Kilmanahin church site

RMP no.	KK039-003---
Townland	Kilmanahin
Civil Parish	Fiddown
Barony	Iverk
County	Kilkenny
OS six-inch sheet no.	Kilkenny sheet 39
Discovery Series sheet no.	75
Irish National Grid ref.	246210, 125820
Classification	Church site

Siting

Kilmanahin church site is located at the foot of an upland area, which rises up north of the site, and a stream runs to the east of the site.

Description

The SMR for county Kilkenny records a number of features in the townland of Kilmanahin: a church site, graveyard, enclosure, holy well, bullaun stone and stone sculpture. There are no visible remains of the church today only a poorly defined platform located at the NW corner of the field. There is no bank or fosse whose dimensions could be given just a platform that gradually slopes down to the land around it.

The holy well is visible in the field immediately west of the field that contained the church site. It has been fenced off and is very overgrown. The location of the holy water stone that was recorded from the area is unknown, while the carved stone head was moved to Rothe House in Kilkenny City.

Adjacent sites

The church in Owning (KK039-00101-) is the closest parish church to the church in Kilmanahin (*c.*1.5km to the NW), since Kilmanahin Church is located at the opposite end of Fiddown to its medieval parish church. The church site in Mullenbeg (KK035-083---) is located *c.*2.3km to the N. The castle site in Templeorum (KK039-00502-) and the adjacent church in Oldcourt (KK039-00501-) are located *c.*1.7km to the E. The castle site in Oldcourt (KK035-05502-) is located *c.*1.6km to the N.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

The *Down Survey* map of the barony of Iverk does not depict any structures within the townland of 'Killmanagh-heene'. The site of Kilmanahin church is marked on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map as a circular area enclosed by broken line, and is labelled 'site of Kilmanahin Church'.

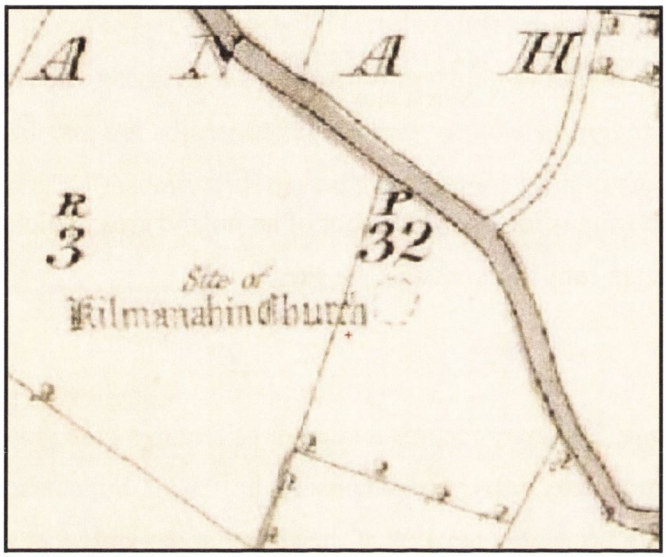

Fig. G.182: Kilmanahin church site as depicted on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map.

Moore (1879, 23) reported that there were no visible remains of the site in the late nineteenth century. Carrigan records that the site of a church was located in a field locally known as 'church field' in Kilmanahin and that it was originally dedicated to St. Mainchin, a seventh century saint, also known as St. Munchin. He also reports traces of a circular enclosure around the church site and that the holy well was locally known as Tubber a' Teampuill. He described the bullaun stone as a 'holy water stone' that was rough on all sides with an artificial bowl measuring 6 inches (15.24cm) deep by 9 inches (22.86cm) in diameter at the top and records that it was moved to Mr. Blackmore's yard and was inserted into a stone wall (Carrigan 2005, IV 240).

Interpretation

The location of the church adjacent to a holy well, along with the dedication of the church and the reported presence of a stone head and a bullaun stone at the church site, would all indicate that this was a pre-Norman foundation.

References

Carrigan, W. 2005. *The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory*. Revised edition with a biographical essay by Fearghus Ó Fearghail Edition. Dublin: Archive CD Books Ireland Ltd.

Moore, P. 1879. "Parochial papers". *Transactions of the Ossory Archaeological Society* 1874-9:23-40.

Kiltown Church

RMP no.	KK033-030---
Townland	Kiltown
Civil Parish	The Rower
Barony	Ida
County	Kilkenny
OS six-inch sheet no.	Kilkenny sheet 33
Discovery Series sheet no.	68
Irish National Grid ref.	268920, 133630
Classification	Church site and graveyard site

Siting

This church site and graveyard site was on a small hill, in a cluster of houses.

Description

There are no longer any upstanding remains of this church or graveyard. Curving field fences to the south and west are the only surviving remains of this church site. The fields within these circular field fences are under grass and there are no surviving gravestones.

Adjacent sites

The parish church for The Rower is located *c.*2km to the E in the townland of Farrantemple (KK033-032---). The church in Grange townland (KK037-005---) is located *c.*1.4km to the S.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

Carrigan (1905, IV 127) records that the site of the church and graveyard at Kiltown were near Kiltown bridge 'partly in John Barron's haggard, and partly in the adjoining field, which belongs to Pat Fenlon'. Carrigan also reports that the townland is called Kilrindowny in sixteenth and seventeenth century documents, when it belonged to the Grace Family. He does not record any earlier references to the townland.

The *Down Survey* map of the barony of Ida includes a townland of 'Kilrindowny' which appears to be in the same location as the modern townland of Kiltown. No church is depicted in this townland, but five houses are depicted within it. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map for the area depicts a curving field fence south of the road that runs E-W. Within this enclosed area is the label 'site of church'.

By the time the second edition map had been compiled there was a break at the SW corner of the surviving section of the enclosure and but the site continued to be labelled 'church (site of)'.

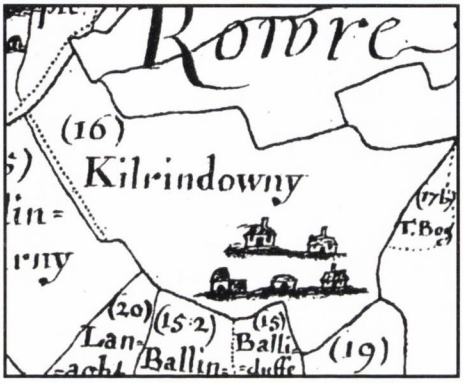

Fig. G.183: The townland of Kiltown as depicted on the *Down Survey* map of the barony of Ida.

Fig. G.184: Kiltown Church as depicted on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map.

Interpretation

The presence of a circular enclosure around this church site would suggest that it was an early medieval foundation.

References

Carrigan, W. 1905. *The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory*. Dublin: Archive CD Books Ireland Ltd.

Listerlin moated site

RMP no.	KK036-038---
Townland	Listerlin
Civil Parish	Listerlin
Barony	Ida
County	Kilkenny
OS six-inch sheet no.	Kilkenny sheet 36
Discovery Series sheet no.	76
Irish National Grid ref.	263130, 128450
Classification	Moated Site

Siting

The moated site in Listerlin is located south of the modern hamlet of Listerlin and southwest of the motte and church site in Listerlin. The site is located on a moderate W-facing slope in a grass field above the road, overlooking the Arrigle River Valley. There are good views from the site to the S, E and W.

Description

The site consists of a roughly rectangular area enclosed by a field banks on the north and east sides and broad low banks on the south and west sides. The bank on the south and west are very low relief and difficult to identify when the site was visited as the field was under long grass. The field banks were very overgrown and it was difficult to estimate their dimensions, they were certainly more than 1m in height. The best evidence available for the original form of this site is its depiction on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map of the area (reproduced on the following page).

Fig. G.185: Inner face of the ploughed out north bank of the moated site in Listerlin.

Adjacent sites

The moated site in Listerlin is located *c.*1km to the SW of the motte (KK036-026---) and the site of the medieval parish church (KK036-027---) in Listerlin. The moated site is part of a line of four moated sites three of which are located on land above 130m. Smithstown moated site (KK-36-03601-) is the most westerly and it is located *c.*1.5km to the W of the Listerlin example. The moated site in Brownstown (KK037-009---) is *c.*3km to the E, while the Ballyknock moated site (KK037-01101-) is a further *c.*1km to the E. (See fig. 7.23 for a map showing these moated sites).

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

No documentary references or antiquarian accounts of this site were uncovered during the course of this research. The site was not marked on the *Down Survey* map of the barony of Ida. The site was marked on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map of the area but not on subsequent editions leading to the conclusion that the site was levelled between 1839 and 1901 (Barry 1977, 192). A detailed account of the historical references to Listerlin are included in the gazetteer entry about Listerlin motte (KK036-026---).

Fig. G.186: The moated site in Listerlin as depicted on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map.

Interpretation

The moated site in Listerlin is located *c.*1km from the probable manorial centre in Listerlin. This would appear to be at odds with Empey's contention that moated sites

in south-eastern Ireland were constructed as part of a secondary wave of colonisation on less productive lands, and at a remove from manorial centres (Empey 1982, 334). However, this moated site is located at 130m above sea level, and the sites in Brownstown and Smithstown are also located on land above 130m. This would suggest that these moated sites are located on less productive land. The chronological relationship between the motte and the moated site is unclear and only excavation could determine that relationship. The size of the manor and the relative quality of it soils, makes it unlikely that it could support more than one higher status families at once, suggesting that either the motte and moated site were not inhabited contemporaneously, or that the inhabitants of one site, probably the moated site were of a lower status

References

Barry, T. B. 1977. *The medieval moated sites of south-eastern Ireland: counties Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary and Wexford.* Oxford: British Archaeological Reports. 35.

Empey, C. A. 1982. "Medieval Knocktopher: a study in manorial settlement. Part 1". *Old Kilkenny Review* 4:329-342.

Listerlin parish church

RMP no.	KK036-027---
Townland	Listerlin
Civil Parish	Listerlin
Barony	Ida
County	Kilkenny
OS six-inch sheet no.	Kilkenny sheet 36
Discovery Series sheet no.	76
Irish National Grid ref.	263980, 128960
Classification	Parish church

Siting

The church in Listerlin is located in a valley between two hills, in an area of land that is located more than 100m above sea level. The valley in which the church is located slopes down towards the valley of the Arrigle River. The church is located on the south side of the R704 which runs between New Ross and Mullinavat.

Description

The church in Listerlin is located *c.*150m south of the motte. It is located in a sub-rectangular graveyard, and the north wall that flanks the roadway has a curved plan. It is located on a small hillock and the ground falls away to the N, E and W and rises to the S. The graveyard is divided in two by a trackway which runs north-south through the centre of the graveyard. The west side is a raised area which contains all the graveslabs (nineteenth and twentieth century in date) and one architectural fragment. While the east side is also raised above the height of the trackway it is lower in height that the west side. This side of the graveyard is featureless with no gravestones. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map for the area would suggest that the church stood on this side of the site.

Fig. G.187: Architectural fragment from the graveyard at Listerlin church site.

Adjacent sites

The motte in Listerlin (KK036-026---) is located *c.*120m N of the site of the medieval parish church, and *c.*1km west of the modern hamlet of Listerlin. Carrigan (2005, IV 190) recorded the site of a castle or ancient village east of the motte, which was called *Garrheeantrawgh* or the Field of the Street, but no trace of this village survives today. The medieval parish church in Ballyneale (KK037-00301-) is located *c.*3.7km to E and the church site at Ballyreddy (KK037-01002-) is located *c.*2.7km to the E.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

The church in Listerlin, which was dedicated to St. David, stood in ruins until the first years of the 19th century when it was taken down and a Church of Ireland church was built on its site. This Church of Ireland church was still extant when Carrigan visited the site. The holy well of St. Mulling is located nearby (Carrigan 2005, IV 190). Carrigan also records the presence of a field reputed to be the site of a castle or ancient village, known as 'Garrheenantrawdh', the field of the street (Carrigan 2005, IV 191). Orpen (1909, 324-325) did not visit the site, but he interpreted Carrigan's description of the motte and the nearby earthworks as the remains of 'the usual Anglo-Norman vill'. He also indicated that the dedication of the adjacent church to St. David suggests an early Cambro-Norman settler. St. Molings Well is located close to the church and Carrigan (2005, IV 190) postulated that St. Moling was the original patron saint of the parish. St. Moling is believed to have lived in Listerlin for a time before a neighbour stole his cow and he moved to St. Moling's cave in Mullinakill and from there to St. Mullins in Carlow.

The 1314 extent of the barony of Overk records that Agatha FitzMaurice held the manor of Lesteling (Listerlin) by 20s. royal service from Roger fitzMilo by inheritance from Henry Roche (*Red Bk. of Ormond*, 132). It is likely that the manor came into the possession of the Butlers, when they acquired the barony of Overk in 1319 and they granted the manor to the de la Freignes in 1332 (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, Edward III, vol. II 307). In 1423 Listerlin was included in a list of royal service belonging to the Earl of Ormond in county Kilkenny (*Ormond Deeds*, III 42)

About the year 1467, Sir James Butler and Sabina Kavanagh, parents of Peter the Red, earl of Ormond, were married in the parish church of Listerlin. They must have been closely related, despite the fact that Sabina was a Kavanagh, because before they married they had to obtained a dispensation to Rome due to their consanguinity (*Ormond Deeds*, III 297). This is surely evidence that inter-marriage between those of Gaelic-Irish descent and those of Anglo-Norman descent occurred in fifteenth century Overk. (See gazetteer entry for Listerlin Motte for further discussion of the documentary evidence for Listerlin)

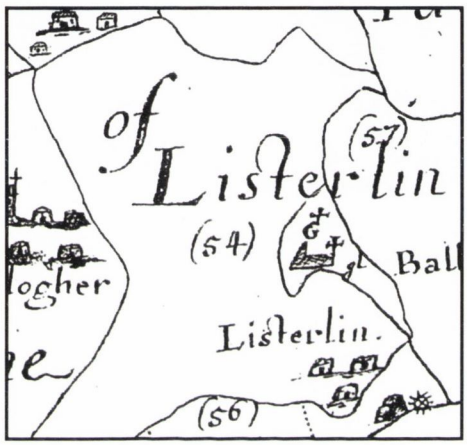

Fig. G.188: The church in Listerlin townland as depicted on the *Down Survey* map of the barony of Ida.

The *Down Survey* map of the barony of Ida depicts a church in the townland of 'Listerlin', which appears to be located in Glebe land. Three cabins are also depicted to the west of the church site. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map depicts the church within a sub-circular graveyard. The graveyard has curving boundaries to the north and east and rectilinear boundaries to the west and south.

Fig. G.189: The parish church and motte at Listerlin as depicted on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map.

Interpretation

There is some evidence to suggest that this church may have been a pre-Norman establishment, which was taken over and rededicated by the arriving Anglo-Normans. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map suggests that the church might originally have been surrounded by a circular enclosure and Carrigan argued that the church was originally dedicated to St. Moling. The location of the church in close proximity to a motte would indicate that this was the manorial centre for the manor of Listerlin. This site would therefore have been the location of the medieval parish church, where the people of the parish would have come to worship, as well as be baptised, married, and finally buried.

Abbreviations and references

Cal. Pat. Rolls. = 1891-1916 *Calendar of Patent Rolls preserved in the Public Records Office (1232-1509)*, (52 Vols). London: HMSO.

Ormond Deeds = Curtis, E. (ed.) 1881-1943. *Calendar of Ormond Deeds*, (6 Vols). Dublin: Stationery Office.

Red Bk of Ormond = White, N.B. (ed.) 1932. *The Red Book of Ormond.* Dublin: Stationery Office.

Carrigan, W. 2005. *The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory*. Revised edition with a biographical essay by Fearghus Ó Fearghail Edition. Dublin: Archive CD Books Ireland Ltd.

Orpen, G.H. 1909. "Motes and Norman castles in Ossory". *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland* 39:311-342.

Listerlin motte

RMP no.	KK036-026---
Townland	Listerlin
Civil Parish	Listerlin
Barony	Ida
County	Kilkenny
OS six-inch sheet no.	Kilkenny sheet 36
Discovery Series sheet no.	76
Irish National Grid ref.	263970, 129080
Classification	Motte

Siting

The motte is located on a natural rise in the landscape and has extensive views in all directions. Like the church it is located in a valley between two hills, in an area of land that is located more than 100m above sea level. The valley in which the motte is located slopes down towards the valley of the Arrigle River.

Description

The motte is very overgrown with deciduous trees, and is located at the edge of a farmyard. The farmyard to the northeast of the motte encroaches on it and the ground around it has been reduced in height to facilitate the construction of the yard.

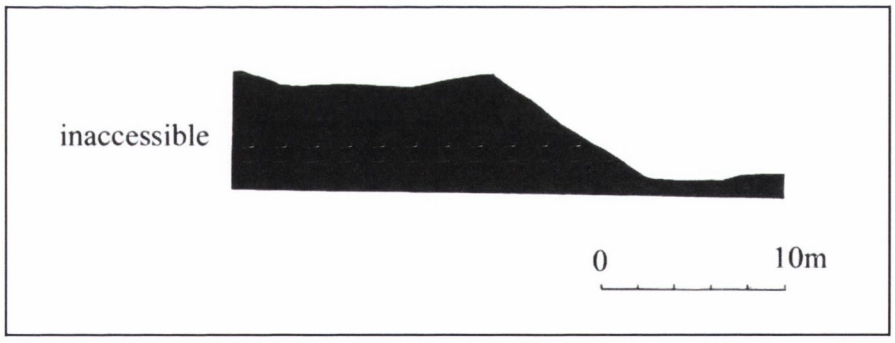

Fig. G.190: Profile of Listerlin motte NW-SE.

The motte is tall (*c.* 5.5m) and steep sided with slight traces of an enclosing fosse on the south side. The surviving bank and fosse are very degraded and only barely visible, the height of the bank above the base of the fosse is only 0.35m. Carrigan (1905 IV, 190) records the presence of a fosse , 14ft wide (*c.*4.3m) and 6ft deep (*c.*1.8m) and also records that there had been 'an earthen rampart' outside the fosse which had been removed. The landowner reported that he remembered a fosse around the entire

circumference of the site that had become infilled over time. There has been dumping etc around the sides of the motte in recent times making access to the west side difficult. There is no evidence that there was ever a bailey at the site.

The top of the motte is dished in shape, and it is probable that originally there was a bank around the edge, which has slipped inwards over time. There is some damage to the sides of the mound, mainly due to root damage. The top of the motte is 14.10m in diameter.

Adjacent sites

The motte in Listerlin is located *c.*120m north of a church site and graveyard (KK036-027---) and *c.*1km west of the modern hamlet of Listerlin. The moated site in Listerlin (KK-36-038---) is located *c.*1km to the SW. The closest motte is located in Clonamery (KK033-022000), *c.*6.5km to the NE.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

Carrigan (2005, IV 190) reports that the site was occupied by a medieval church that was replaced by a post-medieval Church of Ireland church. The church was dedicated to St. David and stood in ruins until the nineteenth century when the Church of Ireland church was constructed on the site. The Church of Ireland church was still extant when Carrigan visited the site. Carrigan (2005, IV 191) records the site of a castle or ancient village east of the motte, which was called *Garrheeantrawgh* or the 'Field of the Street'. There was no trace of any village earthworks to the east of the motte when the site was visited (Carrigan 2005, IV 191). Orpen (1909, 324-325) did not visit the site, but he interpreted Carrigan's description of the motte and the nearby earthworks as the remains of 'the usual Anglo-Norman vill'. He also indicates that the dedication of the adjacent church to St. David suggests an early Cambro-Norman settler.

Listerlin was held from the barons of Overk, by half a knight's fee before 1247 (*Red Bk. of Ormond*, 131). Towards the end of the thirteenth century David le Poer, quit claims to Milo, son of Milo, baron of Iverk a number of areas that he held from Thomas de Dene, these included Balimacdermod (Darbystown in the parish of Listerlin) (*Ormond Deeds*, I 117-119). The 1314 extent of the barony of Overk records that Agatha FitzMaurice held the manor of Listerlin by 20s. royal service, from Roger

fitzMilo by inheritance from Henry Roche (*Red Bk. of Ormond*, 132). It is likely that the manor came into the possession of the Butler, when they acquired the barony of Overk in 1319 (*Ormond Deeds*, I 223). The manor was held by the de la Freignes in the fourteenth century (St. John Brooks 1950, 176). Oliver de la Freigne was granted the manor of Listerlin by the Earl of Ormond in 1332 (Edward III vol. 2, 307), the day after he was granted an exemption from 'assizes, juries, of reconnaissance and from appointment as mayor, sheriff or coroner or other bailiff or minister of the King' (Edward III vol. 2, 306). Oliver was an attorney to the Earls of Ormond and he may have been granted this exemption as those duties might have interfered with his patron's needs (Williams 2007, 80).

In 1423 Listerlin was included in a list of royal service belonging to the Earl of Ormond in county Kilkenny (*Ormond Deeds*, III 42). In 1428 Elena de la Freigne quit-claims all her rights in the manor of Listerlin to James, Earl of Ormond (*Ormond Deeds*, III 65). A rental of James, Earl of Ormond dated to April 1432 includes a section headed 'Lesterlyn'. This section includes the names of tenants of the manor, none of whom are identifiably Irish. One of these tenants John Clerk paid 5*s*. rent 'for farm of a mill there' (*Ormond Deeds*, III 78), indicating that the manor had a mill. About the year 1467, Sir James Butler and Sabina Kavanagh, parents of Peter the Red, earl of Ormond, were married in the parish church of Listerlin. They must have been closely related, despite the fact that Sabina was a Kavanagh, because before they married they had to obtained a dispensation to Rome due to their consanguinity (*Ormond Deeds*, III 297). This is surely evidence that inter-marriage between those of Gaelic-Irish descent and those of Anglo-Norman descent occurred in fifteenth century Overk. In 1547 'four acres of wood in Listeringe' are included in the manor of Rosbercon (*Ormond Deeds*, IV 305), while later in the same deed, holdings in Listerlin, held by 20*s*. royal service, appear to be held from the manor of Grannagh (*Ormond Deeds*, IV 306). The link with Grannagh is not definite owing to the damaged nature of the paper on which the deed was written.

In the mid-sixteenth century Sir William Phelan the rector of the church of Listerlin agrees to make a number of improvements to the parish in the next five years. These include the construction of a timber castle, with glazed windows and a slate roof, the construction of a bakehouse and a dovehouse. He also undertook to plant an orchard of

apple, pear and stoned fruit trees, as well as fortifying the main dwelling with a mound or wall of sods (*Ormond Deeds*, V 27). In 1570 Thomas Butler requested that the Dean and chapter of Cashel should grant the same Sir William Phelan, rector of Listerlin the rectory of *Kilconill* in the diocese of Cashel (*Ormond Deeds*, V 185).

In 1595 James Shortall of *Burdisheyes* and his wife *Ellenor Freny* (de la Freigne) granted Listerlin and other Kilkenny manors to Robert Rothe of Kilkenny, Peter Butler of the abbey of Duiske and Thomas Cantwell of Cantwellscourt (*Ormond Deeds*, VI 76). Listerlin appears to have remained in the possession of the Earls of Ormond until the end of the sixteenth century (*Ormond Deeds*, VI 187).

The 1653 survey of the lands granted to the Countess of Ormond reports that there were several thatched cabins and a corn mill in repair in Listerlin (Manning 1999, 53). The *Down Survey* map for the barony of Ida depicts the church in Listerlin, but does not include the motte or any other castle in the townland. Three cabins are depicted to the west of the church and no settlement is depicted east of the church. If Sir William Phelan did make all the improvements to the parish he agreed to in the mid-sixteenth century, they are not reflected in the 1653 survey or the Down Survey depiction of the parish

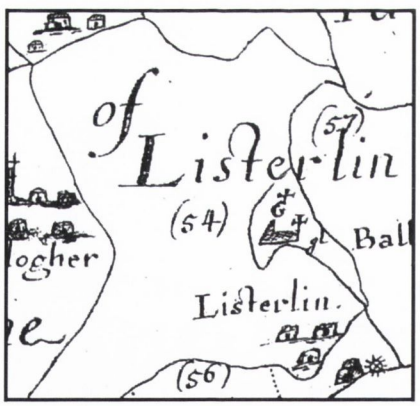

Fig. G.191: Listerlin townland as depicted on the *Down Survey* map of the barony of Ida.

The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map depicts the motte in Listerlin with a series of concentric circles of hachures. These hachures show the dished summit of the motte, as well as a fosse around the base of the motte.

Fig. G.192: The motte in Listerlin as depicted on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition Six Inch map.

Interpretation

The motte and church at Listerlin, along with the possible deserted settlement would all indicate that this was the manorial centre for the parish of Listerlin. The fact that the manors of Listerlin and Dysartmoon were joined together by the de la Freignes, might explain the absence of a manorial centre in the latter. A single manorial centre in which to conduct administrative affairs might have been sufficient for the two manors. The *Down Survey* representation of the parish and the 1653 valuation would suggest, that the works Sir William Phelan promised to do in the parish, were never completed. While, it does not appear to have been a rich or valuable manor, the decision of the Sir James Butler and Sabina Kavanagh, parents of the Peter the Red, earl of Ormond, to get married in Listerlin Church, would suggest that at least in the mid-fifteenth century the manor could be the scene of important events in the life of the barony.

Abbreviations and references

Cal. Pat. Rolls. = 1891-1916 *Calendar of Patent Rolls preserved in the Public Records Office (1232-1509)*, (52 Vols). London: HMSO.

Ormond Deeds = Curtis, E. (ed.) 1881-1943. *Calendar of Ormond Deeds*, (6 Vols). Dublin: Stationery Office.

Red Bk of Ormond = White, N.B. (ed.) 1932. *The Red Book of Ormond.* Dublin: Stationery Office.

Carrigan, W. 2005. *The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory*. Revised edition with a biographical essay by Fearghus Ó Fearghail Edition. Dublin: Archive CD Books Ireland Ltd.

Manning, C. 1999. "The 1653 survey of the lands granted to the countess of Ormond in Co. Kilkenny". *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries in Ireland* 129:40-66.

Orpen, G.H. 1909. "Motes and Norman castles in Ossory". *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland* 39:311-342.

St. John Brooks, E. 1950. *Knight's fees in counties Wexford, Carlow and Kilkenny.* Dublin: The Stationery Office.

Williams, B. 2007. (ed.) *The annals of Ireland by Friar John Clyn.* Dublin: Four Courts Press.

Mountmisery mound

RMP no.	WA009-01703-
Townland	Mountmisery
Civil Parish	Kilculliheen
Barony	Gaultiere
County	Waterford
OS six-inch sheet no.	Waterford sheet 9
Discovery Series sheet no.	76
Irish National Grid ref.	260176, 113168
Classification	Mound

Siting

This mound is located close to the edge of a south-facing cliff that overlooks the River Suir and the city of Waterford.

Description

The area in which this mound is located is heavily overgrown and it was not possible to locate the mound. The standing stone pair was located but the mound could not be located.

The SMR report and the inventory entry for the site records that this small, circular, flat-topped mound is between 0.2m and 1m in height and the dimensions of its top are 6.5m N-S x 5.9m E-W (Moore 1999, 250).

Adjacent sites

This mound is located 30m west of a standing stone pair (WA009-01702-). It is located *c.*1.3km to the E of the site of nunnery in Kilculliheen (WA009-008---). It is located *c.*50m E of the border with the townland of Newrath, where archaeological investigations uncovered a later medieval trackway, but no grid-reference was available (Wilkins et al. 2009).

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

No documentary references or antiquarian accounts of this mound were uncovered during the current programme of research. The *Down Survey* map for the barony of Ida does not include Mountmisery townland. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map does not include the mound or the standing stone pair.

Interpretation

The small height and summit of this mound, together with its topographical location and proximity to a stone pair would all suggest that this site is best classified as a barrow.

References

Moore, M. 1999. *Archaeological inventory of County Waterford.* Dublin: The Stationery Office.

Wilkins, B., et al. 2009. "N25 Waterford Bypass final excavation report AR34 Newrath, Co. Kilkenny (04E0319)". Unpublished final excavation report submitted to Waterford City Council by Headland Archaeology Ltd.

Mungan ringfort

RMP no.	KK033-026---
Townland	Mungan
Civil Parish	The Rower
Barony	Ida
County	Kilkenny
OS six-inch sheet no.	Kilkenny sheet 33
Discovery Series sheet no.	68
Irish National Grid ref.	270770, 135230
Classification	Ringfort site

Siting

This ringfort site is under pasture in an area of undulating countryside. The field slopes gently downwards from S-N.

Description

Although the site has been largely removed it is possible to identify a raised circular area but a bank mentioned in the SMR field report could not be identified. The degraded nature of the site makes it difficult to determine an accurate diameter. The SMR field report records that the site had a diameter of 30m N-S and E-W. The raised circular area is 0.55m in height above the surrounding ground level and slopes gently outwards on all sides.

The landowner indicated that this field was locally known as the 'rath'. He indicated that it had only been ploughed once in his memory when 'something they used to play skittles on' was found in the site. The landowner's father lost his voice after he had ploughed this field and would never allow it to be ploughed again.

Adjacent sites

The parish church for The Rower in the townland of Farrantemple (KK033-032---) and the adjacent enclosure (KK033-031---), are located *c.*1km to the S. Coolhill tower house (KK033-027---) is located *c.*1.8km to the E and the closest ringfort is *c.*1km to the N in the townland of Cullentragh.

Documentary references and antiquarian accounts

No documentary references or antiquarian accounts for this site were uncovered during research for this thesis. The *Down Survey* map for the barony of Ida depicts a

nucleation of four houses at the west end of the townland of Mungan. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map of the area depicts a raised sub-circular area that was cut by the farm access road, which runs westwards from the public road. The south end of this site appears to have been removed by the construction of this road.

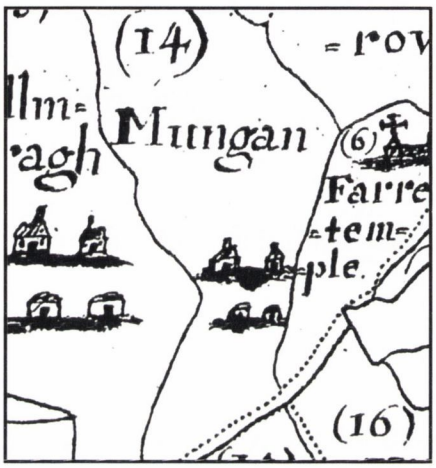

Fig. G.193: Mungan townland as depicted on the *Down Survey* map of the barony of Ida.

Fig. G.194: The ringfort in Mungan as depicted on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map.

Interpretation

This site was visited as part of the research into the parish of The Rower, in section 6.3 of this thesis. No evidence was uncovered to suggest that it was occupied during the high or late medieval periods.

Owning Church

RMP no.	KK039-00101
Townland	Owning
Civil Parish	Owning
Barony	Iverk
County	Kilkenny
OS six-inch sheet no.	Kilkenny sheet 39
Discovery Series sheet no	75
Irish National Grid ref.	244800, 126388
Classification	Church

Siting

Owning Church and graveyard is located in the village of Owning, south of the modern Catholic church and SW of the holy well. The village is located at the foot of Carriganog Hill, which is north of the church and a stream runs to its east.

Description

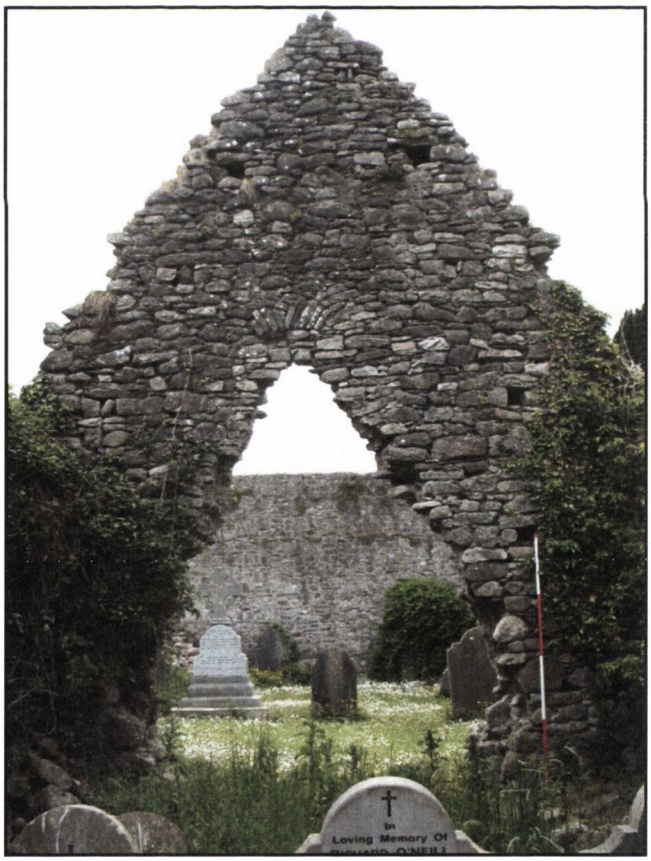

Fig. G.195: West side of chancel arch at Owning Church.

The church is located in the southeast corner of a sub-rectangular graveyard, which contains a number of 18th century graveslabs, the earliest of which dates to 1725. It is a long, narrow rectangular nave and chancel church, which appears to have been constructed in a number of phases and is currently in a state of disrepair. A number of buttresses have been added to the church to help support its walls. A handball alley was added to the west end of the church in the recent past and the entire west wall is no longer extant. The nave would appear to have been constructed first and the narrower walls of the chancel added later.

Nave

The west wall is missing and a handball alley has been built against this end of the nave. The north wall of the nave is featureless, it is reduced to stone footings at one point but its full length can be traced. There is one small section of buttressing along this wall. There are two gaps in the south wall of the nave, but there is no indication that either was an original doorway. There is a lot of buttressing on this section of wall. The east wall appears to be a chancel arch, with the wall surviving to gable height. The cut stones that defined the chancel arch are visible on this side of the wall only. At gable height, the wall appears to be composed of two layers and it is possible that the western layer was added when the nave was constructed to help create a chancel arch.

Chancel

The wall containing the chancel arch forms the west wall of the chancel. However, the cut stones that surrounded the arch are not visible on this side, which appear to be a normal gable wall the bottom central section of which has been removed. A number of putlog holes are visible on this wall. The bottoms of two single-light windows, set within embrasures, are located in the north wall. The south wall contains two windows set within embrasures, a doorway and an aumbry. The original cut stone does not survive on any of the windows in the chancel. The window at the west end of the south wall of the chancel has an unusual cut stone at the top of its inner face. This cut stone was obviously originally from a larger feature as it is larger that the embrasure into which it is inserted. The walls of the church are heavily overgrown making detailed examination of many of its features impossible. The external doorjambs of the doorway have elaborate mouldings, which consist of a large roll at the inner angle of a block of stone. Flanking the roll on either side are small plain rolls. This type of roll moulding is likely to date to the thirteenth century (Forrester 1972, 30). The internal face of the doorway contains a much different style of doorjamb that is later in date. The form of this door surround is similar to the style of the surround for the aumbry and may be of a similar date. It is probable that the roll moulding were reused from a doorway in the original church when the nave was added.

Fig. G.196: Roll moulding from door-jamb in Owning Church.

The east wall has been modified over time and it original form is hard to discern. A single light window has been inserted into the centre of the window, and it is possible that the cut stone for this was originally part of one of the other windows of the church. There is also evidence for a large arched window in this east wall, which may originally have held tracery. A large part of the internal face of this wall has been plastered making its analysis difficult.

Fig. G.197: Internal face of east wall of Owning church.

Adjacent sites

The earthwork in Owning (KK035-038---), which has been variously classified as an earthwork, a motte and a ringfort, is located *c.*1.8km to the N and on the side of Carriganog Hill. Also in the townland of Owning are a megalithic tomb *c.*400m to the NNE and a holy well *c.*200 to the NE. The castle site in Ballyhenebery (KK038-020---) is located *c.*1.1km the SW and Kilkieran Church (KK034-03201-) is located *c.*2.8km to the WNW in Castletown townland.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

The derivation of the name Owning in unclear, Carrigan (2005, III 237) argued that it may be formed from the Irish Uaithne, meaning a post or pillar. O'Donovan however sees the name as being an Anglicisation of the name Una to Winifred. The old Irish speaking people of the parish referred to the parish as Teampull Una or Winifred's church, after Winifred Walsh who was believed to be the founder of the church (Herity 2003, 148). In all medieval documents the church and parish of Owning appears as Beaulu or Beauly, which Carrigan argues is derived from *Beau Lieu Locus Amoenus.* He goes on to argue that this indicates that, as in the case of Grace Dieu, Co. Waterford there was an attempt by the early Anglo-Norman settlers, to substitute a French name for the old Irish name of the parish (Carrigan 2005, III 237).

About the year 1300, Philip *de Hyndeberg* or Henneberry, was lay patron of the church of Beaulu in the Deanery of Ouerk (Carrigan 2005, III 237, *Red Bk of Ossory*, 176). Ballyhenneberry townland is a large townland adjacent to Owning. Edward le Grace is returned as a free tenant of 'Owninge' in the barony of Overke, in 1310 (Carrigan 2005, III 237). In 1314 the extent of the barony of Overk records that Edmund le Gras or Grace held five townlands with appurtences in Owning (Burtchaell 1893, 182; *Red Bk. of Ormond*, 134). 'Ownyng' is included under the heading 'Rental for 'Overk and Grannagh' in a rental of James, Earl of Ormond, dated 1411 (*Ormond Deeds*, II 300). In the mid-fourteenth century William Walsh granted Nicholas Henneberry a number of manors including the manor of ''Owenyn' (*Ormond Deeds*, III 163). A decade later Robert fitzRedmund Daton granted his brother Patrick forty acres of land called 'Monerothe' '*in tenemento de Owninge*' (*Ormond Deeds*, III 170). In 1504 Richard

Henneberry granted Peter Butler, knight, his wife and their son the 'lands and tenement of Ownyne' along with a number of other places (*Ormond Deeds*, III 309).

Carrigan reported that the parish church which was dedicated to the Assumption of the Blessed virgin, was in ruins at the beginning of the twentieth century and consisted of a nave and chancel, both in ruins. He also recorded that the nave was the original church and that according to local tradition, and confirmed by the *Red Book of Ossory,* the chancel was constructed for a lady named Henneberry of Ballyhenneberry castle (Carrigan 2005, III 237, *Red Bk of Ossory*, 176). Carrigan described the church as an architectural gem (Carrigan 2005, III 237).

The *Down Survey* map of the barony of Iverk does not include a church in the townland of 'Owney' but only indicates where the church lands are located. The northern half of what is now the townland of Owning is depicted as a separate townland and labelled 'The Commons of Owney'. A large house with a chimney is depicted in this parish. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map depicts this church on the opposite side of the road to the modern Catholic Church. Both the church and graveyard are depicted and labelled, with the church labelled 'Owning Ch (in ruins)'.

Interpretation

The church in Owning was obviously in use over a long period of time, and there is archaeological evidence for thirteenth century activity on the site. It is unclear when activity at the site ceased, but Carrigan reports that there was a pattern day at the site until 1826 (Carrigan 2005, III 239). The high quality of the architectural features in the church suggest that the construction and later the addition of the chancel would have required a significant investment of resources. This would suggest that this church acted as a parish church for manor of Owning and was in use over several centuries. The relationship of this church to the earthwork, which is *c.*1.8km to the N, is unclear. However, it is possible that it an example of a ringfort reused as an earthwork castle. Although, the church and possible earthwork castle are at a remove from each other, the weight of evidence would appear to suggest that this was a manorial centre. The megalithic tomb and the holy well close to the parish church in Owning would indicate

that there was significant pre-Norman activity in the area and it is possible that the medieval parish church occupies the site of an earlier church, but this is at best a tentative suggestion.

Abbreviations and references

Ormond Deeds = Curtis, E. (ed.) 1881-1943. *Calendar of Ormond Deeds*, (6 Vols). Dublin: Stationery Office.

Red Bk of Ormond = White, N.B. (ed.) 1932. *The Red Book of Ormond.* Dublin: Stationery Office.

Red Bk of Ossory = Lawlor, H.J. (ed.) 1908. "Calendar of the Liber Ruber of Ossory". *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy* 27C:159-208.

Burtchaell, G. 1893. "The Geraldines of the county Kilkenny. Part II - The Barons of Overk, and the Barons of Knocktopher". *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland* 23:179-186.

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Owning earthwork castle

RMP no.	KK035-038---
Townland	Owning
Civil Parish	Owning
Barony	Iverk
County	Kilkenny
OS six-inch sheet no.	Kilkenny sheet 39
Discovery Series sheet no.	75
Irish National Grid ref.	245220, 128190
Classification	Earthwork castle/ re-used ringfort

Siting

This site, on the S face of Carriganog Hill, is located approx 1.8km north of the church site and settlement of Owning. It is surrounded by hills to the north, east and west, and has extensive views to the south towards the River Suir. The surrounding land is currently under pasture, but the area would appear to have been ploughed in the recent past. This would not seem to be a classic location for a motte, and along with the morphology of the site, this would suggest that this could be an example of a recycled ringfort (Ó Drisceoil 2002).

Description

The site consists of a circular platform (11.80m in diameter and 3.60m above the bottom of the fosse) with a bank or berm around its circumference and an external fosse for most of its circumference. The ground slopes down steeply to the stream on the east side and there is no fosse here. To the NE the fosse has been removed, probably through the action of ploughing. There is a possible entrance feature at the north side of the motte, where there is a causeway through the fosse.

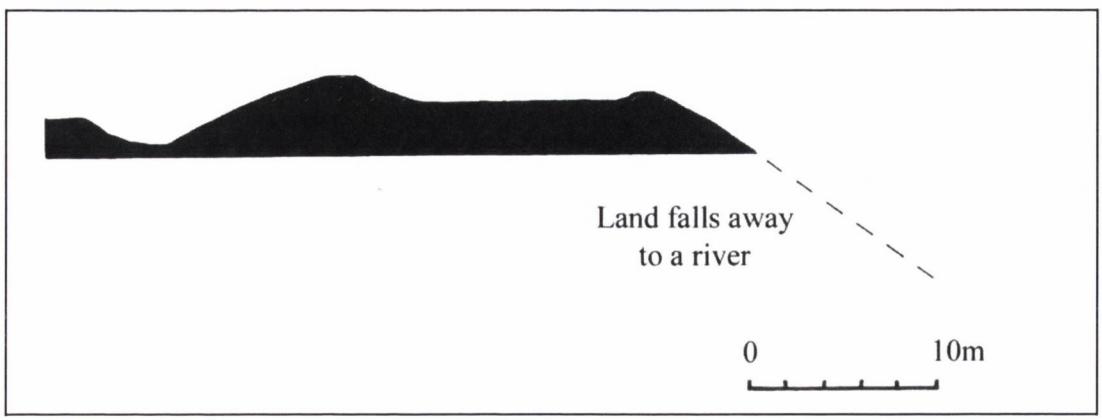

Fig. G.198: Profile of earthwork castle/ recycled ringfort in Owning W-E.

The width of the bank varies greatly from 1m to 1.90m, the widest section is to the east where the bank is in poor condition and has slipped making it lower in height (0.15m int.) and wider. The bank is 0.90m high internally on west side of the platform. The fosse is U-shaped and is 1.35m below external ground level. There is damage to the N side of the platform and this reveals that the motte is composed of a loose, shaley soil with a high stone content. There are a number of flat stone slabs in the side of the platform and the fosse, and there is a sandstone erratic on the NW corner of the motte, indicating that the area was affected by glaciation.

Fig. G.199: Owning earthwork castle/recycled ringfort from the N.

The low height of the platform and its location would suggest that this site might be a platform ringfort rather than a motte. The site is located within the townland of Owning, in the parish of Owning, the obvious location for a manorial caput, but the distance between the 'motte' and the church makes its identification as a manorial caput unlikely. Kieran O'Conor (1993) did not include Owning in his list of earthwork castles in Leinster.

Adjacent sites

The church in Owning (KK039-001---) is located *c.*1.8km to the S, and Ballyhenebery Castle (KK038-020---) is located *c.*2.8km to the SW. The megalithic tomb in Garryduff (KK035-114---) is *c.*1.1km to the E and Curraghmore ringfort (KK035-024---) is *c.*1.3km to the N.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

About the year 1300, Philip *de Hyndeberg* or Hennebery, was lay patron of the church of Beaulu in the Deanery of Ouerk (Carrigan 2005, III 237, *Red Bk of Ossory*, 176). Ballyhennebery townland is a large townland adjacent to Owning. Edward le Grace is returned as a free tenant of 'Owninge' in the Barony of Overke, in 1310 (Carrigan 2005, III 237). In 1314 the extent of the barony of Overk records that Edmund le Gras or Grace held five townlands with appurtences in Owning (Burtchaell 1893, 182; *Red Bk. of Ormond*, 134). 'Ownyng' is included under the heading 'Rental for Overk and Grannagh' in a rental of James, Earl of Ormond, dated 1411 (*Ormond Deeds*, II 300). In the mid-fourteenth century William Walsh granted Nicholas Henneberry a number of manors including the 'manor of Owenyn' (*Ormond Deeds*, III 163). A decade later Robert fitzRedmund Daton granted his brother Patrick forty acres of land called 'Monerothe' '*in tenemento de Owninge*' (*Ormond Deeds*, III 170). In 1504 Richard Henneberry granted Peter Butler, knight, his wife and their son all 'lands and tenement of Ownyne' along with a number of other places (*Ormond Deeds*, III 309).

In the *Down Survey* map of the barony of Overk the northern end of the modern townland of Owning is a separate townland called the 'Commons of Owney' and a large house, with a chimney is the only structure depicted in this townland. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map depicts the site with two concentric rings of hachure, with a field boundary, which is no longer extant, running adjacent to its east side.

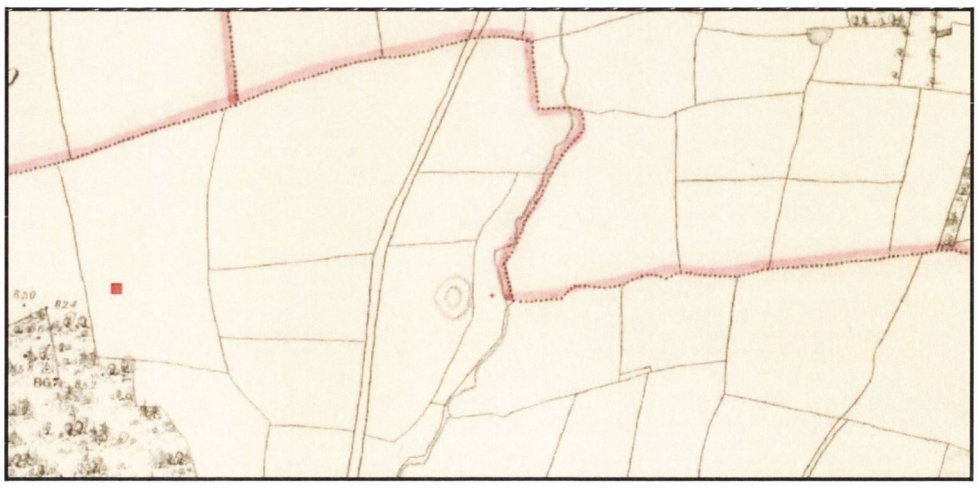

Fig. G.200: The earthwork in Owning as depicted on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map.

Interpretation

A detailed discussion of the classification of this unusual earthwork is included in section 8.3.

Abbreviations and references

Ormond Deeds = Curtis, E. (ed.) 1881-1943. *Calendar of Ormond Deeds*, (6 Vols). Dublin: Stationery Office.

Red Bk of Ormond = White, N.B. (ed.) 1932. *The Red Book of Ormond.* Dublin: Stationery Office.

Red Bk of Ossory = Lawlor, H.J. (ed.) 1908. "Calendar of the Liber Ruber of Ossory". *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy* 27C:159-208.

Burtchaell, G. 1893. "The Geraldines of the county Kilkenny. Part II - The Barons of Overk, and the Barons of Knocktopher". *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland* 23:179-186.

Carrigan, W. 2005. *The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory*. Revised edition with a biographical essay by Fearghus Ó Fearghail Edition. Dublin: Archive CD Books Ireland Ltd.

O'Conor, K. D. 1993. *The earthwork castles of medieval Leinster*. Unpublished DPhil thesis, University of Wales, College of Cardiff.

Ó Drisceoil, Cóilín. 2002. "Recycled ringforts: the evidence from archaeological excavation for the conversion of pre-existing monuments to motte castles in medieval Ireland". *County Louth Archaeological and Historical Journal* xxv(2):189-201.

Pollrone parish church

RMP no.	KK042-011---
Townland	Pollrone
Civil Parish	Pollrone
Barony	Iverk
County	Kilkenny
OS six-inch sheet no.	Kilkenny sheet 42
Discovery Series sheet no.	75
Irish National Grid ref.	249290, 115420
Classification	Parish Church

Siting

Pollrone church is located on the north bank of the River Suir (*c.*120m from the river bank), close to what is signposted as Pollrone Quay. A field of pasture surrounds the site, and the trampling of the ground suggests that cows are grazed there.

Description

Fig. G.201: Pollrone Church from the west.

The church is a rectangular structure, described in the SMR files as an undifferentiated nave and chancel church. However there is a substantial arch at the east end of the church, which could represent the remains of a chancel arch. The fact that stones jut out from the exterior of this wall would also indicate that the church originally extended further eastwards. The SMR file complied by E. FitzPatrick argues that as the much modified east gable, contains a pointed arch that was the remains of a rough uncut embrasure of the former east window. FitzPatrick noted that there are traces of mortar impressions south of the plank centering on the soffit. The *Ordnance Survey*

Letters for county Kilkenny (Herity 2003, 162) records that the church was originally composed of a nave and a choir, but that the choir had been removed.

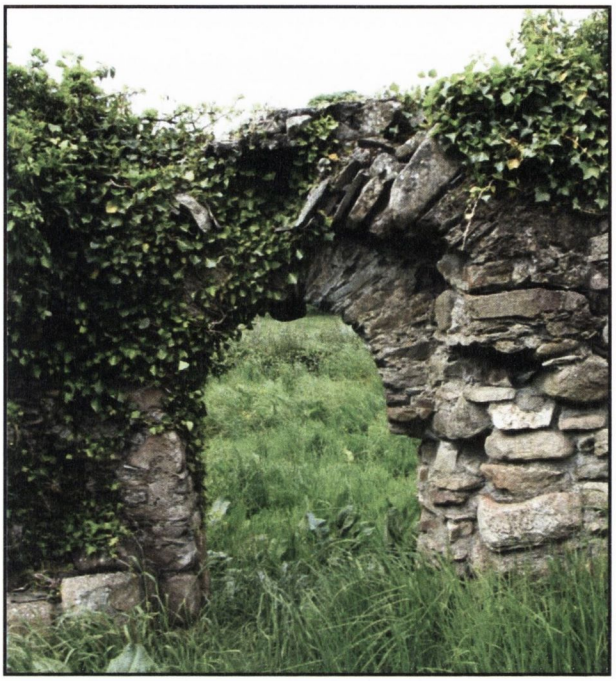

Fig. G.202: Internal face of doorway in the south wall of the church in Pollrone.

Access to the church was through opposing north and south doorways, both of which appear to have been round-headed and set within embrasures. The south doorway is well preserved and the round-head remains in tact. The top of the north doorway is damaged but it is clear that it was originally round headed. Both of the side walls contained a window opening at their east ends and both windows were single lights set within recessed embrasures. The window in the south wall was in reasonable condition, but damage to the top of it means that we do not know what type of head it had originally. Much of the window has been rendered with concrete, which obscures its original form. Only the bottom third of the window in the north wall survives, but this section at least is well preserved.

The surrounding graveyard was very overgrown when the site was visited and it was very difficult to identify the features referred to in the SMR report. The eighteenth to twentieth century graveslabs were readily observable, but the older features were more difficult to identify. FitzPatrick recorded that a single-light window head was reused as a gravemarker, that there was a small bullaun stone at the foot of the external face of the E wall and the remains of a limestone table tomb commemorating a member of the Walshe family and his wife. This table tomb is in a number of parts, some of which have been reused as grave-markers. The name Eliza Walshe and the date 1599 are inscribed on one of the fragments. The coat of arms of the Walshe and Fitzgerald families also feature on a section of this table tomb.

Adjacent sites

The church is Pollrone is located *c.*2.6km S of Grange castle (KK042-003---) and *c.*3.5km S of Killaspick church (KK042-002---) in the same townland. The parish church in Clonmore (KK042-006---) is located c.2km to the NNW.

Documentary references and antiquarian accounts

Carrigan (2005, IV 149) reports that the rectory of Pollrone was appropriated to the Nunnery of Kilculliheen, probably as early as the year 1240. He states that the parish church was dedicated to St. Ruadhan, Roanus, Roane or Rone, of Pollrone and consisted of nave and chancel. When he visited the site, he reported that the nave was in good condition, except for the west gable, which is gone to the foundation (Carrigan 2005, IV 149). Finally Carrigan records that a castle once stood close to the church, but it had been removed before Carrigan visited the site.

Carrigan translates Pollrone as St Ruadhan's Glen or hollow (Carrigan 2005, IV 149), while the Ordnance Survey letters report that the local inhabitants call the parish Poll Riain or Ryan's Pool (Herity 2003, 162). Carrigan states that Pollrone, like Clonmore, was a manor, or rather a sub-manor, dependent on Grannagh, which was the chief manor of the whole barony of Iverk (Carrigan 2005, IV 149). In 1434 'Polrothan' is included in a rental of the Earl of Ormond under the heading 'Grennagh' (*Ormond Deeds*, II 108), as it was again in 1546 (*Ormond Deeds*, IV 305) and towards the end of the sixteenth century (*Ormond Deeds*, VI 119).

There are a large number of entries relating to this parish in the Ormond Deeds, beginning with a series of letters dated to June 8th, 1314 in which Roger fitz Milo, Baron of Overk commands 'his free tenants in Overk to be intendant and faithful to Sir Edmund le Botiller to whom he has granted for the term of his life an acre of land in Polrothan in Overk with the lordship and intendancy of all free tenants in that barony' (*Ormond Deeds*, I 198-199). The 1314 extent of the barony of Overk, dated June 20th, 1314 records that Herbert de Marreys held two townlands in Pollrone (*Red Bk. of Ormond*, 133). In 1319 Roger fitz Milo grants all his lands and tenements of Polrothan and Ballyhillo to Sir Edmund Butler and his heir and assigns (*Ormond Deeds*, I 225). In 1336 Thomas de le Peyntour, of Waterford grants to Stephen de Mareys the 'tenement of Polrothan' after his death and that of his wife (*Ormond Deeds*, I 286).

In 1355 Stephen de Marreis granted John, son of David Meiller half of the manor of Polrothan until Stephen has paid John twenty-nine marks in silver or gold (*Ormond Deeds*, II 13). Stephen de Marreis then appointed attorneys in Ireland to manage his affairs in Pollrone and granted the 'half of the manor of Polrothan' to William de Sandhull, citizen of Waterford (*Ormond Deeds*, II 13). In 1356 Nicholas fitz John Power held lands in the Earl of Ormond's 'manor of Polroan' (Carrigan 2005, IV 152). In 1371 William de Sandhull grants his half of the manor of 'Polrothan' to James Butler, Earl of Ormond (*Ormond Deeds*, II 121). In a few weeks the Earl of Ormond goes on to acquire more land in the parish of Pollrone, with Gilbert, son of William Mareys and Peter Comynge quit-claiming their lands in the parish (*Ormond Deeds*, II 121). In 1377 Edward III grants James Butler the right to have a weekly market in his town of 'Polrothan' in Overk, county Kilkenny (*Ormond Deeds*, II 149). In 1389 Thomas fitz Nicholas Power held land in the manor from the King (Carrigan 2005, IV 152).

In November 1411 a rental of the Earl of Ormond records 'the chief rent of Polroan'. Under this heading there is a list of tenants and the amount of rent they paid. These probable tenants of Pollrone have unusual names, all of which have an O prefix, suggesting that they are Irish. The names include: James O'Dowan, Taige O'Brother, David O'Scandyll, Stephen O'Brother, Jonoc O'Donull and David O'Dowan (*Ormond Deeds*, II 300). Another rental of the Earl of Ormond, compiled the following year, lists David Wally, Andrew O'Barre and David O'Hewlan as tenants (*Ormond Deeds*, II 311).

An extent of the manor of Pollrone, dated December 7th, 1415 describes the manor as an ancient manor built with one keep/tower (*turre*). It records that there was a pond in the manor as well as giving a valuation for cow pasture, summer sheep pasture, pasturage for pigs and outlining the labour services due from the tenants to the lord (*Red Bk. of Ormond*, 126-127). This extent suggests that there was castle of some description in the manor before 1415.

In September 1441 'Polrothane' along with 'Dunfenane' and a certain weir called 'Corneyll' were granted to Malachy O'Flynn by the Earl of Ormond (*Ormond Deeds*,

III 53). In April 1432 Macryne McEgeaslee is listed as the tenant for 'the farm of Polrothan, Ardcloyne , Dunsinane and the lord's messuage and land in Fydowne' (*Ormond Deeds*, III 58). By 1432 Makine 'medico' was listed as the tenant for the farm of Polrothan, Ardclone and Dunfenane with a rent of 40*s*. (*Ormond Deeds*, III 76). In the same deed the chief rent of William Walsh of Polrothane is valued at 8*d*. In a deed dated 1472-7 the chief rents of William Walsh of Polrothan are included (*Ormond Deeds*, III 211). In 1565 Thomas, the Earl of Ormond granted Piers Walshe of Grange, county Kilkenny all his possessions in a number of parishes including Pollrone. In 1572 as part of a settlement between Piers Walshe alias Brenaghe of the Grange and the Earl of Ormond, Piers was to be given a lease for the town and land of Pollrone for 21 years at an annual rent of 6*l* and was to be free from the Earl's coyne and livery and other impositions (*Ormond Deeds*, V 223). The will of Thomas, Earl of Ormond bequeaths the town and lands of Pollrone to Henry Shee for the term of 41 years, at an annual rent of 6*l* (*Ormond Deeds*, V 278). In 1655-7 the *Down Survey Books* record that the Earl of Ormond is the proprietor of the parish (Carrigan 2005, IV 152).

The 1653 survey of the lands granted to the Countess of Ormond states that Pollrone included 'an old ruined castle and some cabins whereof one has a chimney' (Manning 1999, 53). This may be the castle which Carrigan stated had stood close to the church, before it demolition (Carrigan 2005, IV 149).

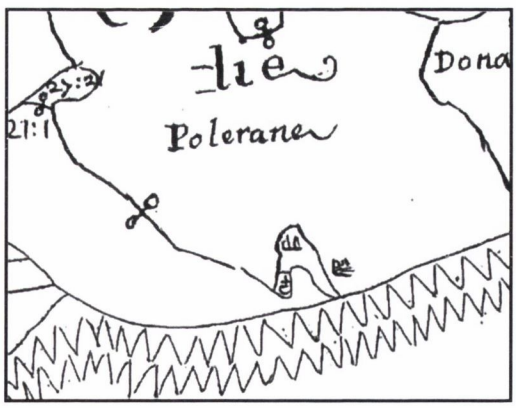

Fig. G.203: The townland of Pollrone as depicted on the *Down Survey* map for the barony of Iverk.

The *Down Survey* map of the barony of Iverk indicates an area of Glebe land adjacent to the River Suir. A building depicted within the glebe land, is poorly drawn making it difficult to interpret, but given its location within glebe land it is likely to represent the church. Another badly drawn structure is depicted to the SE of the church and it is possibly that this could be a representation of the ruined castle. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map depicts the church and

graveyard in Pollrone and labels the church 'Pollrone Church (in ruins)'. Pollrone House, which is located NW of the church appears to be located in Glebe land, and is accompanied by formal, landscaped gardens.

Fig. G.204: Pollrone Church as depicted on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map.

Interpretation

This church was probably the parish church for Pollrone during the high and later medieval periods. The documentary references to a keep or castle at Pollrone, would also support the thesis that there was a manorial centre in Pollrone, in the area of the church adjacent to the River Suir. Its location in the townland with the same name as the parish further supports this argument. The *turre* mentioned in the 1415 extent of the manor of Pollrone can be translated as a keep and this together with the description of the manor as being ancient, would suggest that a settlement in Pollrone was established by the arriving Anglo-Normans in the late twelfth or early thirteenth century,

The location of the manorial centre in Pollrone on the banks of the river Suir could suggest that it was part of a string of Anglo-Norman settlements along the north bank of the Suir and the southern boundary of the barony of Overk. These river side settlements include Fiddown, Portnascully and Granny. The episcopal manor of Clonmore and the lands of the nunnery of Kilculliheen occupy the other areas on the north bank of the River Suir.

Abbreviations and references

Ormond Deeds = Curtis, E. (ed.) 1881-1943. *Calendar of Ormond Deeds,* (6 Vols). Dublin: Stationery Office.

Red Bk of Ormond = White, N.B. (ed.) 1932. *The Red Book of Ormond.* Dublin: Stationery Office.

Carrigan, W. 2005. *The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory*. Revised edition with a biographical essay by Fearghus Ó Fearghail Edition. Dublin: Archive CD Books Ireland Ltd.

Herity, M. (ed.) 2003. *Ordnance Survey Letters: Kilkenny*. Dublin: Four Courts Press.

Manning, C. 1999. "The 1653 survey of the lands granted to the countess of Ormond in Co. Kilkenny". *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries in Ireland* 129:40-66.

Portnascully parish church

RMP no.	KK0045-002---/ KK042-01801-
Townland	Portnascully
Civil Parish	Portnascully
Barony	Iverk
County	Kilkenny
OS six-inch sheet no.	Kilkenny sheet 45
Discovery Series sheet no.	75
Irish National Grid ref.	251940, 113940
Classification	Parish church

Siting

Portnascully church is located in the hamlet of Portnasully. It is located on a scarped natural rise in the landscape. The road runs along the north and west sides of the graveyard and is 1m lower than ground level in the graveyard. There are good views in all directions from the graveyard.

Description

The graveyard is sub-circular in plan, contains a large number of graveslabs and is very overgrown. Eighteenth and nineteenth century graveslabs were identified, but no earlier graveslabs were noted in this very overgrown graveyard.

Fig. G.205: Portnascully church from the east.

The church is largely destroyed, with only two upstanding gable walls surviving. Their orientation suggests that they are east and west walls, but there is only 4.5m between them. The east wall contains a round-headed single-light window, 1m below the apex

of the gable, the wall thins, creating a ledge, which may have been part of the supports for a rood loft. The west wall appears to have been substantially modified over time. A cut-stone arch appears to have been inserted into this wall, but the relieving arch above it appears to be original. This arch is set into a recess that is 0.50m deep, while the thickness of the wall is 0.75m thick. The recess is 2m in length and 1.25m in height (but there appears to have been substantial build up in the area of the church). The closeness of the east and west walls would suggest that the surviving walls might represent an east wall and a chancel.

Fig. G.206: External face of the west wall of the remains of the church site in Portnascully.

Adjacent sites

The motte-and-bailey in Portnascully (KK045-001---) are located *c.*450m W of the church site, while the holy well in Portnascully (KK042-035---) is located *c.*130m to the N. Corluddy tower house (KK045-013---) is located *c.*2.5km to the SE. The large number of fulacht fiadh in the parish, which could suggest that the soils in the area were waterlogged in the past, are located more than 600m from the church. The medieval parish church site in Rathkieran (KK042-01301-) is located *c.*1.7km to the NNE.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

The *Ordnance Survey* letters interpret the name Portnascully, as possibly deriving from port meaning bank and Scul or Sgol meaning the schools or shoals of fish (Herity 2003, 161). O'Kelly (1969, 136) argues that as the name is given as Port na Scoile in the *Red Book of Ossory*, it should be translated as the fort of the school. The Placenames Commission websites also gives the Irish form of the townland names as Port na Scoile (The Placenames Commission website - http://www.logainm.ie/Viewer.aspx?text=portnascully 29/08/2010). There is however that there is no local tradition or available historical reference to a school at this location.

In 1240 David fitz Milo granted the chapels of the castle of Polsculi and the new castle at Cloone, as well as the tithe of his mills of Polsculi and Clone, to the nunnery of Kilculliheen (*C.D.I.*, I 2485). Orpen (1909, 322) suggests that Portnascully and Clone must have been one of the chief manorial centres belonging to the Baron of Iverk in at this date, because no other castles and mills are mentioned in this charter. It also suggests that there would have a chapel within the motte and bailey castle in Portnascully, as well as this parish church site. Certainly the 1240 description suggests a thriving Anglo-Norman manor was located at Portnascully. The 1314 extent of the barony of Overk records that Gerald fitzHenry held half a townland with appurtences in Portnascully (*Red Bk. of Ormond*, 135).

A deed concerning land within Overk was sealed at Portnascully in February 1409 (*Ormond Deeds*, II 287). A rental of the Earl of Ormond in counties Kilkenny and Tipperary dated 1426 includes the 'chief rent of Portnescoll' (*Ormond Deeds*, III 58). 'Portnescoill' was also included in a rental of the Earl of Ormond dated 1434 under the heading Overk.

Carrigan (2005, IV 161) described the church in 1905 as a nave and chancel church, but the nave had been destroyed by this date. The chancel was 23 feet (7m) long externally and 16 feet 3 inches (5m) wide internally. The window in the east gable was very narrow and framed with cut stone, and the chancel arch was extant, but as today, it is very low.

The *Down Survey* map of the barony of Iverk does not mark the townland of Portnascully, which suggests that the townland was not forfeited under the Cromwellian confiscations. The church in Portnascully is located on a join between two sheets of the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch series and it is for this reason that it has two RMP numbers. The church is depicted within a graveyard and is labelled 'Church (in ruins)'. 'Tobernakill' holy well is also marked and labelled.

Interpretation

The fact that so little of the church remains and its overgrown state means that it is difficult to interpret the existing remains. Its proximity to the motte and bailey also located in the townland of Portnascully, suggests that this was the medieval parish church for the parish of Portnascully. The fact that the church is surrounded by a sub-circular graveyard and there is a nearby holy well could suggest that this was originally a pre-Norman foundation. The townland name could suggest that there could have been some type of religious school at the site, but this is at best a tentative suggestion.

Abbreviations and references

C.D.I. = Sweetman, H.S. (ed.) 1875-86. *Calendar of documents relating to Ireland, preserved in Her Majesty's Record Office, London,* (5 Vols). London: Public Records Office.

Ormond Deeds = Curtis, E. (ed.) 1881-1943. *Calendar of Ormond Deeds,* (6 Vols). Dublin: Stationery Office.

Red Bk of Ormond -= White, N.B. (ed.) 1932. *The Red Book of Ormond.* Dublin: Stationery Office.

Carrigan, W. 2005. *The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory.* Revised edition with a biographical essay by Fearghus Ó Fearghail Edition. Dublin: Archive CD Books Ireland Ltd.

Herity, M. (ed.) 2003. *Ordnance Survey Letters: Kilkenny.* Dublin: Four Courts Press.

O'Kelly, Owen. 1969. *Kilkenny: A history of the county.* Kilkenny: Kilkenny Achaeological Society.

Orpen, G.H. 1909. "Motes and Norman castles in Ossory". *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland* 39:311-342.

Portnascully motte and bailey

RMP no.	KK045-001---
Townland	Portnascully
Civil Parish	Portnascully
Barony	Iverk
County	Kilkenny
OS six-inch sheet no.	Kilkenny sheet 45
Discovery Series sheet no.	75
Irish National Grid ref.	251550, 113910
Classification	Motte and bailey

Siting

This substantial motte and bailey is located on the summit of the curving terrace above the left bank of a small tributary of the Suir. The slope of this terrace falls away from the site on its northern and western sides. There would have been good views in all directions from this site before the area became overgrown and was planted with trees.

Description

The site consists of a circular steep-sided motte, with an adjacent large D-shaped bailey. The motte is very steep and overgrown with conifers and bushes, which made it impossible to measure the diameter of the motte or conduct a survey of its surface. Consequently, we must rely on an earlier description of the site by Kieran O'Conor (1993, 631-632). He reported that the motte top would originally have been circular in shape and *c.*12m in diameter, it had however become damaged by trees. O'Conor (1993, 631) did not observe any features on the summit of the motte. The motte is quite high, *c.* 7-8m in height and *c.* 24m in diameter at base. O'Conor (1993, 631) also noted the presence of a flat berm encircling the base of the motte. He described this berm as being 1-1.5m in height above the bottom of the fosse. The current writer would describe this feature as a break of slope, rather than a berm, possibly the result of the cutting or recutting of the fosse around the motte. This fosse extends clockwise from the NE to the W, is *c.*2m deep and 4m wide to the SE. To the south and west a bank encloses this fosse, with an external fosse in places. This bank and fosse are really a continuation of the outer bank and fosse that enclose the bailey.

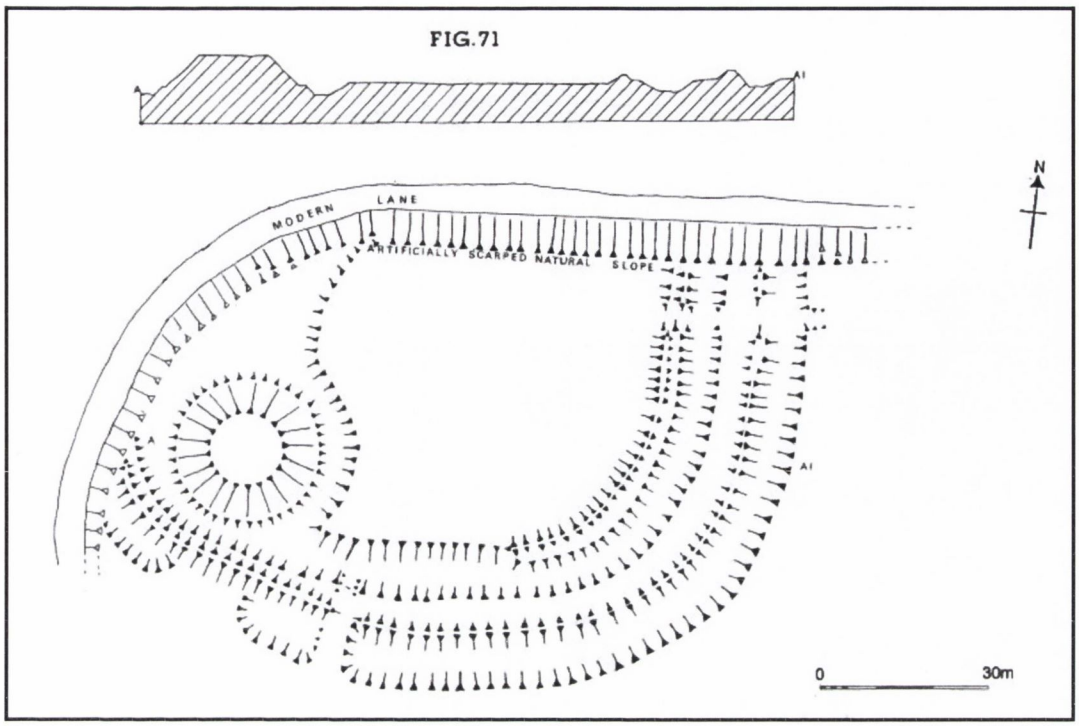

Fig. G.207: Plan of Portnascully motte and bailey (after O'Conor 1993).

The bailey, located east of the motte, is separated from it by a fosse. It has internal dimensions of 51m E-W and 52m N-S. The bailey has a D-shaped plan, it curves around the motte at its western end, has quite straight sides on the north and south with a curving east side. The bailey is well defended by banks and fosses on the southern and western sides, while an artificially scarped natural slope is the primary defence for the northern side. On the southern side a bank with internal and external fosses defends the bailey. While on the NW to W side the bailey is enclosed by two banks with external fosses. Two gaps have been cut through the enclosing banks and fosses and into the bailey. The first gap is located at the N end of the W side of the bailey. This is obviously a modern gap, cut to allow cattle to access the site, and it is 3.5m wide. The second gap is a causewayed entrance, located on the south side of the bailey, close to its west end. O'Conor (1993, 633) interpreted this as another gap created by the farmer, but it may have been an original entrance. There is an internal bank along the west end of the bailey, which appears to end naturally a third of the way along the south side of the bailey. This is a substantial bank, 2m in height above the level of the bailey and *c.*9m in width. The inner fosse that runs along the west and south sides of the bailey is 7m, flat-bottomed and wet in places. The outer bank, which also encloses the south and east side of the motte, is quite wide *c.*10m in width. The top of the bank

slopes towards the bailey, with the outer face of the bank 0.5m higher than the inner face. The external fosse is flat bottomed and wet in places. It is c.9m in width, with a max depth of 1.5m below external ground level. Its outer edges are partly revetted in drystone walling.

Adjacent sites

The church in Portnascully (KK045-002---, KK042-01801-) is located *c.*450m to the east and the tower house in Corluddy (KK045-013---) is located *c.*3km to the SE. There are eleven fulacht fiadh, in the townlands of Ballygorey, Luffany and Licketstown, in the parish of Portnascully. This concentration of fulacht fiadh would suggest that the land was badly drained and therefore not the most profitable land for agricultural production. The closest fulacht fiadh is *c.*600m from this motte.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

The *Ordnance Survey* letters interpret the name Portnascully, as possibly deriving from port meaning bank and Scul or Sgol meaning the schools or shoals of fish (Herity 2003, 161). O'Kelly (1969, 136) argues that as the name is given as Port na Scoile in the Red Book of Ossory, which is translated as the fort of the school. The *Placenames Commission* websites also gives the Irish form of the townland names as Port na Scoile (The Placename Commission website - http://www.logainm.ie/Viewer.aspx?text=portnascully 29/08/2010). There is however that there is no local tradition or available historical reference to a school at this location.

In 1240 David fitz Milo granted the chapels of the castle of 'Polsculi' and the new castle at 'Cloone' and the tithe of his mills of 'Polsculi' and 'Clone' to the nunnery of Kilculliheen (*C.D.I.*, I 2485). Orpen (1909, 322) suggests that the Portnascully and Clone must have been one of the chief manorial centres belonging to the Baron of Iverk at this date, because no other castles and mills are mentioned in this charter. It also suggests that there would have a chapel within the motte and bailey castle in Portnascully, as well as the parish church site close by. The description of Cloone Castle as the 'new' castle, could indicate that the castle at Portnascully was older, the original fitzMilo Castle in Overk. Certainly the 1240 description suggests a thriving Anglo-Norman manor was located at Portnascully. The 1314 extent of the barony of

Overk records that Gerald fitzHenry held half a townland with appurtences in Portnascully (*Red Bk. of Ormond*, 135).

A deed concerning land within Overk was sealed at Portnascully in February 1409 (*Ormond Deeds*, II 287). A rental of the Earl of Ormond in counties Kilkenny and Tipperary dated 1426 includes the 'chief rent of Portnescoll' (*Ormond Deeds*, III 58). 'Portnescoill' was also included in a rental of the Earl of Ormond dated 1434 under the heading Overk. Considering the impressive archaeological remains in Portnascully it is surprising that it is not mentioned more often in the Ormond Deeds or the Calendar of Documents Relating to Ireland.

Carrigan referred to the motte-and-bailey as Portnascully Rath and described it as an immense circuit, with a deep and wide fosse and a 'lofty protecting citadel' (Carrigan 2005, IV 161). Orpen described the site as 'the best preserved mote and bailey earthworks that I have seen in Ossory' (Orpen 1909, 322). He describes the mote as being 30 feet (9m) in height with a flat, circular top 12 paces in diameter and the bailey as a raised area, roughly rectangular, defended on the side next to the stream by only a slight bank, with the land descending steeply to the stream on this side. A wide fosse banked on both sides defends the other sides of the bailey, and this fosse and its outer bank join the fosse and bank around the motte. He also describes a marked depression on the motte in the side next to the bailey, where 'we often find the remains of what seemed to have been the stone pier of a bridge across the fosse of the motte' (Orpen 1909, 322). He goes on to argue that this motte-and-bailey was the first castle built by Milo fitzDavid.

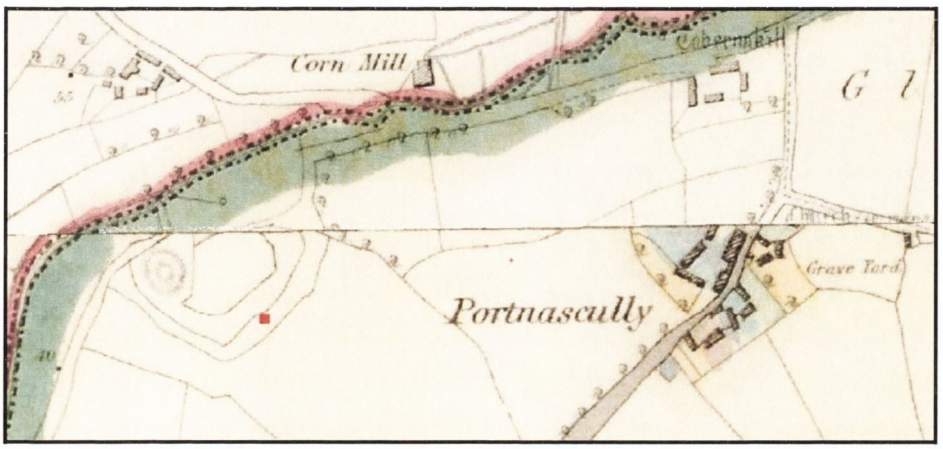

Fig. G.208: The motte and bailey and church in Portnascully as depicted on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map.

The *Down Survey* map of the barony of Overk does not mark the townland of Portnascully, which suggests that the townland was not forfeited under the Cromwellian confiscations. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map shows the motte and the D-shaped bailey, but does not label the site.

Interpretation

This motte and bailey castle was clearly one of the earliest castles established by the arriving Anglo-Normans in Overk. The 1240 grant of the chapel in the castle of Portnascully to the nunnery of Kilculliheen by the David fitzMilo would indicate that the chapel and the castle were part of the fitzMilos possessions. The lack of documents dealing with the manor of Portnascully could suggest that the manor was held in demesne by the fitzMilos and consequently was not the subject of land grants to other Anglo-Norman or Gaelic-Irish lords in the region. This is a very large and impressive castle site, more impressive than the site in Clonamery, which would support the theory that it was the caput of the fitzMilo barony of Overk.

Abbreviations and references

C.D.I. = Sweetman, H. S. (ed.) 1875-86. *Calendar of documents relating to Ireland, preserved in Her Majesty's Record Office, London*, (5 Vols). London: Public Records Office.

Ormond Deeds = Curtis, E. (ed.) 1881-1943. *Calendar of Ormond Deeds*, (6 Vols). Dublin: Stationery Office.

Red Bk of Ormond = White, N. B. (ed.) 1932. *The Red Book of Ormond.* Dublin: Stationery Office.

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Rosbercon parish church

RMP no.	WX029-01301-
Townland	Rosbercon
Civil Parish	Rosbercon
Barony	Ida
County	Wexford
OS six-inch sheet no.	Wexford sheet 29, Kilkenny sheet 37
Discovery Series sheet no.	76
Irish National Grid ref.	2741474, 127932
Classification	Parish church

Siting

The manor of Rosbercon is located on the opposite side of the River Barrow to the settlement of New Ross in southeastern Ireland. It is now a suburb of New Ross and is part of county Wexford, but the settlement was an independent borough in the later medieval, which was held by the owners of Kilkenny Castle and other Kilkenny lands. The church is located on a severe E facing slope, which runs down to the River Barrow.

Description

The site of the medieval parish church is now occupied by a graveyard and all that remains of the former church is a medieval graveslab and the fragment of another. The graveslab fragment was found in the south of the graveyard and consists of the bottom of a coffin shaped slab with chamfered edges. It is decorated with the stem of a cross terminating on a fleur-de-lis and can be assigned a thirteenth to fourteenth century date (Ó Drisceoil 1996, 237). The complete graveslab is now set upright in the ground and consists of a coffin-shaped slab with chamfered edges. The face of the slab is decorated with an elaborately carved fleur-de-lis cross from which runs a stem with central ribbing. O'Drisceoil (1996, 238) has assigned this slab a thirteenth to fourteenth century date on the basis of its form and ornamentation. A third graveslab fragment of similar form and decoration was found at the parochial house in Rosbercon during landscaping works there in 1958 (O'Doherty 1982). This site was later the site of a Church of Ireland church and its construction may have been responsible for the total destruction of the medieval church.

Fig. G.209: Graveslab in the graveyard at Rosbercon church site.

Adjacent sites

The site of Rosbercon Friary (WX029-01307---) is located *c*.200m SE of the church site. The moated site in Garranbehy Big (KK037-04001-) is located *c*.1.2km to the NW.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

The town of New Ross was likely to have been founded by William Marshal who began to develop his Irish possessions in the first decade of the thirteenth century. The first reference to the town dates to 1207 when 'la Novele ville' was plundered by Meiler FitzHenry (Bradley 1990b, 99). The foundation of Rosbercon on the other hand does not appear to have occurred until the later years of the thirteenth century.

New Ross and Rosbercon were both originally part of the holdings of William Marshal. However, in 1247 the Marshal palatinate in Leinster was partitioned, as there

was no male heir. The lands were divided between the five Marshal sisters and their husbands, Bigod, de Vesci, de Clare, Mortimer and de Valence. Kilkenny was granted to Richard de Clare, son of Isabella, one of the five Marshal Sisters, and this grant included Rosbercon. New Ross was included in the Carlow Seignory of the Bigod, Earl of Norfolk (Flynn 1981, 13; Orpen 1920, II 91). Despite the fact that Rosbercon was a separate borough O'Drisceoil (1996, 270) argues that it would been regarded as an integral part of the of the borough New Ross and he points to the usage of the name 'Ross' in documents relating to the Dominican foundation in Rosbercon.

Although Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester and Hertford granted Rosbercon a foundation charter between 1289 and 1295 (Mac Niocaill 1964, 296-299), there is evidence to suggest that a settlement existed at this location at an earlier date. The presence of a bridge from before *c.*1207 linking New Ross to the Rosbercon side of the river Barrow may have attracted the first settlement to the area. Clyn records that a priory of Dominican friars dedicated to St. Mary was founded in Rosbercon in 1267 (*Clyn's annals*, 146). The *Monasticum Hibernicum* gives the Graces or Walshes as the founders of this priory, but not all scholars agree (Gwynn and Hadcock 1988, 229). Ó Drisceoil (1996, 196) argues that because of the date of the foundation of this priory Gilbert de Clare was the most likely patron. He succeeded his brother Robert in 1262 and granted Rosbercon's foundation charter between 1289 and 1295. In 1286 Gilbert was granted a weekly market on Wednesday at his manor of Rosbargun in the county of Kilkenny, and a yearly fair there for four days at the beginning of May (*C.D.I.*, III 109). This grant of a weekly market and yearly fair at Rosbercon would indicate that there was a sufficient population in the area to support such commercial activity.

Bradley (1990b) has suggested that the settlement in Rosbercon was established by Gilbert de Clare in an attempt to capitalise on the commercial success of New Ross. As Rosbercon was no longer part of the same lordship as New Ross, de Clare may have been attempting to create a seaport of his own. Carrigan reports that the Patent and Close Rolls of Henry IV 1399-1400 records that between 1264 and 1295 Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Glouchester and Hertford, lord of the manor of Rosbercon, granted by charter to the burgesses of Rosbargan all the liberties and free customs that had been granted by his predecessors to their burg of Kilkenny (*Rot. Pat. Hib.*, 158; Carrigan 2005, IV 182). In 1294 royal letters patent were sealed which exemplified the charter

of the liberties of Rosbercon granted by Gilbert, Earl of Gloucester (*Ormond Deeds*, I 125-128). This indicated that by the end of the thirteenth century there was a town at Rosbercon and that the inhabitants of that town had acquired a substantial set of rights and privileges.

In 1307 an extent of the lands and tenements which belonged to Joan, Countess of Gloucester and Hertford at Rosbargon (*C.D.I.*, V 194) was taken at Kilkenny in front of Walter de la Hay, escheator of Ireland. The overall impression created by this extent is of a poorly maintained manor, badly affected by what is described as 'the war in those parts'. Sweetman's edition of this document reports that 'there is there the site of a manor in which there are two houses on posts in poor condition and covered in straw, which can be extended 'at no price, for nothing can be got from them' (*C.D.I.*, V 194). However, Dryburgh and Smith's new edition of this document reports that ' there is the site of a manor upon which there is a wooden house with straw-covered cruck roofing, which extends at no value as nothing can be received from it' (Dryburgh and Smith 2007, 76). Dryburgh and Smith (2007, 76) reference the earlier edition but there is no footnote or similar to explain this and other discrepancies between the two sources. Even without the discrepancy between the two editions there are several possible interpretations of this part of the extent. The house(s) on the site of the manor could be the only remains of the previous manorial centre or the house(s) could be the remains of the manor house located at the manorial centre. There are a number of manorial centres in Kilkenny without earthwork castles and it has previously been suggested that a manor house may have acted as the focal point in these caputs (Shine 2004, 45).

The extent also records that twelve score acres of land were demesne lands. Burgesses who live in burgages are mentioned and in times of peace they paid a rental of 8*l*, 4*s*.11½*d*. As the rent per burgage in this period was generally 1 shilling and this rental equals 165 shillings we can estimate that there would have been 165 burgesses, making this a substantial settlement. However, the borough had been 'destroyed and burnt out by common war of those parts and the mutual slaying of the tenants, who are nearly all dead'. A watermill is mentioned and described as being in bad condition, as is a garden and herbage. Further evidence of disturbances in the Rosbercon area are provided by Clyn, when in 1328 he recorded that William Roche and other

'wrongdoers' were killed at Rosbercon, and that his men were dragged from 'the house of the Preachers' (*Clyn's annals*, 188). There were eleven jurors for the 1307 extent six whom have apparently Irish names: Tayg O'Neel, Henry and Luke O'Lyne, John O'Harthyl, Davis O'Breyn and John O'Loyn, but as the extent was taken at Kilkenny, we cannot establish a connection between them and Rosbercon (*C.D.I.*, V 194).

In 1338 letters patent to Richard II which granted Lord Thomas de Ferrars and Lady Anne la Despencer, Kilkenny castle and other lands in Kilkenny, include the borough of Rosbercon and its mill (*Ormond Deeds*, II 208). One of these nine deeds records that the manor of Rosbercon contained mills, weirs, waters, meadows and fisheries (*Ormond Deeds*, II 213). There were disturbances again in Rosbercon in 1409 when a letter of protection for the town of Rosbercon was issued by Thomas Butler then deputy to the Lieutenant of Ireland. The reeve of the town of Rosbercon is also mentioned, the reeve was an official position within a borough, which indicates that Rosbercon was probably still a borough at this date. The main source of potential trouble for the borough appears to be from the sheriff and his men, and their 'coynnys' or 'cessing' are specifically mentioned in the deed (*Ormond Deeds*, II 288).

Despite the war and other disturbances that affected Rosbercon, it appears to have remained a borough of some substance. A rental of James Butler, Earl of Ormond dating to 1411 includes a list of rentals under the heading 'Rossebergon'. These include rental for 'the borough, the demesnes of Whitestown, for the ferry there and the meadows' (*Ormond Deeds*, II 301). A *compotus* or account of William Ilger, deputy for William Lumbard, in the liberty of Tipperary, compiled in 1368, included the burgh of Rosbercon, the services from outside the manor, the court, the meadow and river (*Ormond Deeds*, II 341-343). The presence of a court, or a hundred, as it is later referred to, supports the identification of Rosbercon as a borough. It has been suggested that some towns were given borough status, without ever having functioned as one. These settlements have been termed rural boroughs and as borough status conveyed certain rights and privileges to the borough's inhabitants and it could be used to attract settlers. Martin includes 'Rosbergen' in his handlist of boroughs in Ireland (Harkness and O'Dowd 1981, 49).

In 1418 the Earl of Ormond let an empty plot called 'Whitstongrounde', with its adjacent rabbit-warren near Rosbercon to John Harbrok and David Constall for thirty years (*Ormond Deeds*, III 18-19). Rabbit-warrens are commonly found adjacent to manors in England, especially as rabbits were used as a source of food. Little work has been done on the subject in an Irish context, except to acknowledge that rabbit farming was a feature of some early manors (O'Conor 1998, 34-35). In 1432 a rental of the Earl of Ormond provides a wealth of information on the manor and borough of Rosbercon. Tenants are mentioned, John Harbrigge, Schane Teisler, William Broun and Griffin Bolgir as well as the ferry, the hundred court, and two swarms of bees (*Ormond Deeds*, III 78). Other fifteenth century rentals that include Rosbercon paint a similar picture of a prosperous manor (*Ormond Deeds*, III 109, 131).

The town of Rosbercon and its mill was included in a list of the lands of the Earl of Ormond in Kilkenny and Tipperary, compiled in the early sixteenth century (*Ormond Deeds*, IV 345). In 1572 Thomas Forstall of Haggard, county Kilkenny, granted to William Bary and William Cleri, chaplains, a watermill called the new mill near Rosbercon, with all the tolls, water-courses, fisheries etc, belonging to it (*Ormond Deeds*, V 197). This deed would suggest that the settlement of Rosbercon was continuing to grow, the construction of a new mill would surely only be required if the settlement was thriving.

The friary of Rosbercon was granted to William Johnson, dean of St. Canice's Cathedral, John Archdeakin, dean of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Cashel, Richard Shee and Edmund Butler fitz Theobald by the Earl of Ormond, along with numerous other areas in county Kilkenny (*Ormond Deeds*, V 203). Towards, the end of the sixteenth century, there is reference to the portreeve of Rosbercon and this would suggest that the borough still functioned at this date. However, it is possible that this prestigious title may have continued to be used after the borough had ceased to exist in a real sense (Ormond Deeds VI, 86). The Earl of Ormond continued to control land in Rosbercon until the end of the sixteenth century (*Ormond Deeds*, VI 185). Despite appearing to have been a substantial borough in the later medieval period Rosbercon never seems to have become a town of any consequence and it became a suburb of the larger settlement at New Ross.

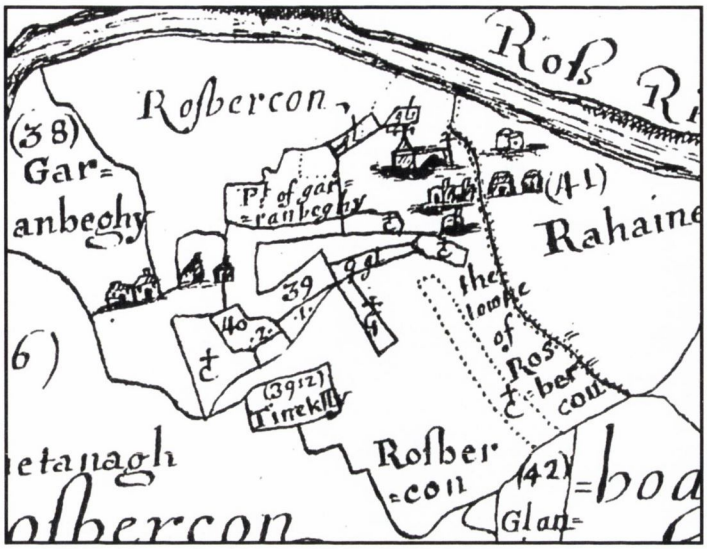

Fig. G.210: Rosbercon townland as depicted on the *Down Survey* map of the barony of Ida.

The *Down Survey* map for the barony of Ida depicts a church and a number of small buildings in the townland of Rosbercon. To the west of this nucleation and further away from the River Suir, 'the towne of Rosbercon' is labelled beside a long narrow area of glebe land. The site of the parish church was probably located in this area of Glebe land, beside the town of Rosbercon and its parishioners, but the church is not depicted on this map. The church beside the River Barrow is likely to be the site of the Dominican Friary. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map depicts and labels the church site in Rosbercon, on the north side of the road that connects the town of Rosbercon with the bridge to New Ross. The church is surrounded by a rectangular graveyard. Rosbercon Castle is marked adjacent to the church in Rosbercon, and while this is today the site of a large, relatively modern, house, there is a suggestion that this was the site of a medieval castle in Rosbercon. No castle is, however, depicted on the *Down survey* map in the townland of Rosbercon.

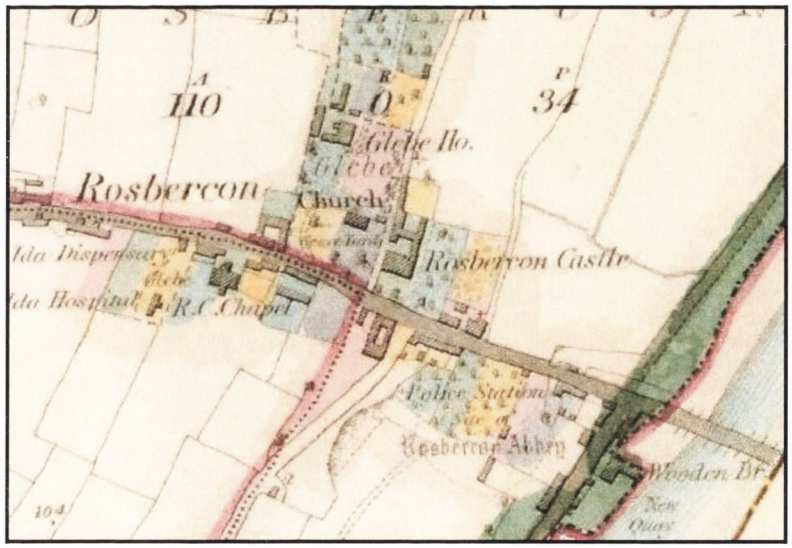

Fig. G.211: The church site in Rosbercon as depicted on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map.

Interpretation

The church is Rosbercon appears to have been located at the heart of the settlement in Rosbercon. Together with the castle site, it would have formed the centre of the manor. It is probable that the church was founded at the same time as the settlement, in the late thirteenth century. Its decline was likely to have coincided with the decline of the settlement. The cross-slabs and the graveyard at this site are all that remain above ground of what, the documentary evidence would suggest, was once a thriving settlement.

Abbreviations and references

C.D.I. = Sweetman, H.S. (ed.) 1875-86. *Calendar of documents relating to Ireland, preserved in Her Majesty's Record Office, London,* (5 Vols). London: Public Records Office.

Clyn's annals = Williams, B. (ed.) 2007. *The annals of Ireland by Friar John Clyn.* Dublin: Four Courts Press.

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Rosbercon Friary

RMP no.	WX029-01307-
Townland	Rosbercon
Civil Parish	Rosbercon
Barony	Ida
County	Wexford
OS six-inch sheet no.	Wexford sheet 29, Kilkenny sheet 37
Discovery Series sheet no.	76
Irish National Grid ref.	271580, 127750
Classification	Religious House

Siting

The remains of the Dominican Friary in Rosbercon are located on the west bank of the River Barrow between the former location of the wooden bride in Rosbercon and the location of the modern bridge. The friary was therefore located on the point of connection between Rosbercon and New Ross, both by bridge and by ferry, a mode of transport which remained important even when a bridge was in existence (Ó Drisceoil 1996).

Description

The Dominican Friary is almost certainly located in the position marked on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map, rather than its location on later editions. Excavations carried out in this area in the course of a drainage scheme for New Ross and Rosbercon uncovered walls and a burial. The excavator interpreted these remains as having formed part of the Dominican Priory (McCutcheon 1998).

Grace described the friary in Rosbercon in 1823: 'From the lofty tower of the church, supported on four pointed arches, and adorned with pinnacles, an arcade extends formed by the interior south wall of the aisle, containing five Gothic arches of noble dimension, over which are ten windows, each divided by mullions, and terminating with circular tops. Other less interesting remains, together with numerous tombstones, are dispersed about' (Grace 1823). However, Manning has cast serious doubts on the accuracy and reliability of Grace's illustrations (Manning 1997). According to Manning Sheffield Grace had 'an irrepressible urge to show the Grace family as more important than they really were and to misuse and deliberately falsify different types of evidence towards that end' (Manning 1997, 125-126). Where his drawings could be compared to standing buildings they have been proven to be inaccurate and on this

basis we can give little credence to Sheffield Grace's descriptions. Unfortunately, many later antiquarians, such as Carrigan (2005, 184) reproduced this description in their own work. No accurate account of the architecture and plan of this monastic foundation were uncovered during the course of this research.. The tradition that the Grace family founded this monastery is probably also attributable to the suspect scholarship of Sheffield Grace.

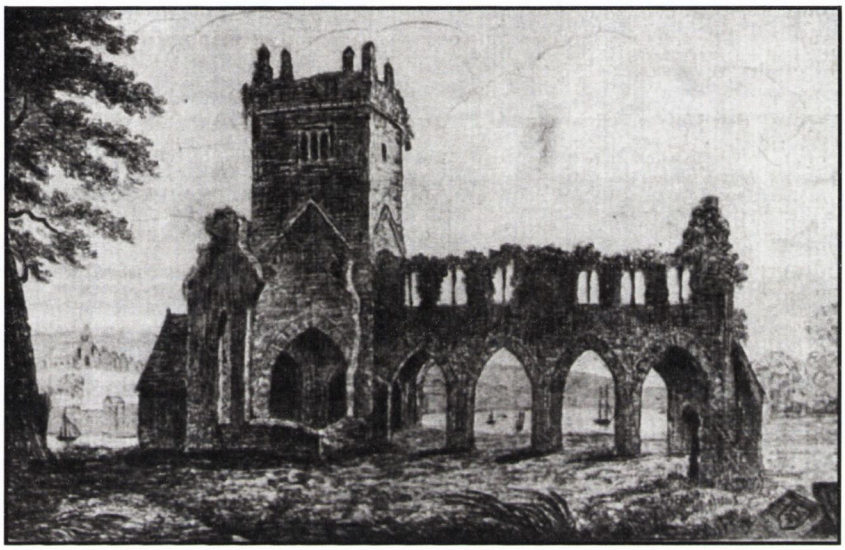

Fig. G.212: Ruins of Rosbercon Abbey from the Memoirs of the Family of Grace 1823 (Carrigan 2005, IV 183).

Adjacent sites

The church site in Rosbercon (WX029-01301-) is located *c.*200m to the NW of the friary site. The moated site in Garranbehy Big (KK037-04001-) is located *c.*1km to the NW.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

Although Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester and Hertford granted Rosbercon a foundation charter between 1289 and 1295 (Mac Niocaill 1964, 296-299), there is evidence to suggest that a settlement existed at this location at an earlier date. The presence of a bridge from before *c.*1207 linking New Ross to the Rosbercon side of the River Barrow may have attracted the first settlement to the area. Clyn records that a priory of Dominican friars dedicated to St. Mary was founded in Rosbercon in 1267 (Williams 2007, *Clyn's annals*, 146). The *Monasticum Hibernicum* gives the Graces or Walshes as the founders of this priory, but this is not accepted by all scholars (Gwynn

and Hadcock 1988, 229) and as argued above was likely to be the product of the suspect scholarship of Sheffield Grace in the nineteenth century. Ó Drisceoil (1996, 196) argues that because of the date of the foundation of this priory Gilbert de Clare was the most likely patron. He succeeded his brother Robert in 1262 and granted Rosbercon's foundation charter between 1289 and 1295. Between 1270 and 1290 the Dominicans of Rosbercon requested 'that the murage of New Ross should be granted for the erection of a bridge at the town of New Ross according to the King's good pleasure' (Flynn 1981, 17n).

At the dissolution the friary was described as being composed of 'a church and belfry, a dormitory, cemetery, four chambers etc, containing an acre of land, of no value besides the reprises'(Archdall 1873, 346). Henry VIII seized control of the monastery and it was acquired by the Earl of Ormond before 1576 when he granted the friary of Rosbercon, along with other areas in county Kilkenny to William Johnson, dean of St. Canice's Cathedral, John Archdeakin, dean of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Cashel, Richard Shee and Edmund Butler fitz Theobald (*Ormond Deeds*, V 203).

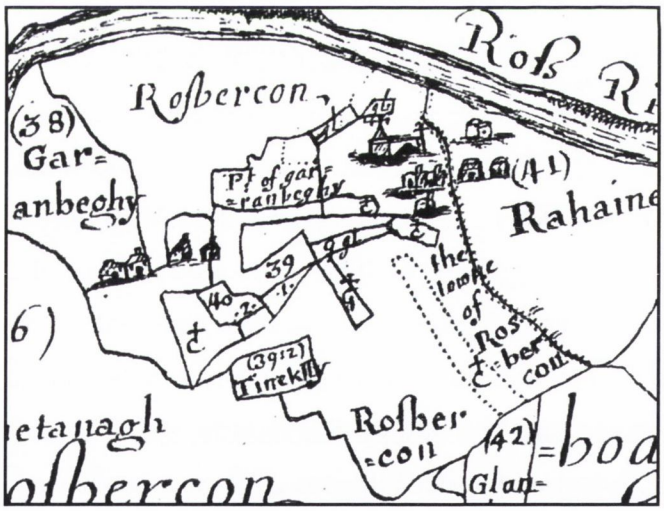

Fig. G.213: The friary in Rosbercon close to the River Barrow as depicted on the *Down Survey* map of the barony of Ida.

The *Down Survey* map of the barony of Ida depicts a church and three smaller buildings close to the west bank of the River Barrow. There are three more small buildings close by, just over the border with the townland of 'Rahaine'. To the west of the church, an area labelled the town of Rosbercon is marked, adjacent to an area of glebe land. A number of other areas of glebe land are also included. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map marks the 'site of Rosbercon Abbey' close to the River Barrow and south of the street that connected Rosbercon to the wooden bridge. In the second edition maps however the site of Dominican Friary has been moved to the location of the church, uphill from the River

Barrow and on the north side of the road that connect Rosbercon to the bridge. On this map the site is labelled 'Convent of the Dominicans (site of)'. There is no clear reason why the site of the abbey should have been moved to this location, but Carrigan also records that the churchyard in Rosbercon was the site of the Dominican friary (Carrigan 2005, 184). However, the archaeology.ie website marks the friary site at the location provided on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map and McCutcheon (1998, 76) also suggested that the friary location on the first edition map was the correct one. A comparison of the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map with the *Down Survey* map suggest that the church marked on the *Down Survey* map was the site of the Dominican Friary rather than the parish church site, which would have been located in the area of Glebe land to the west.

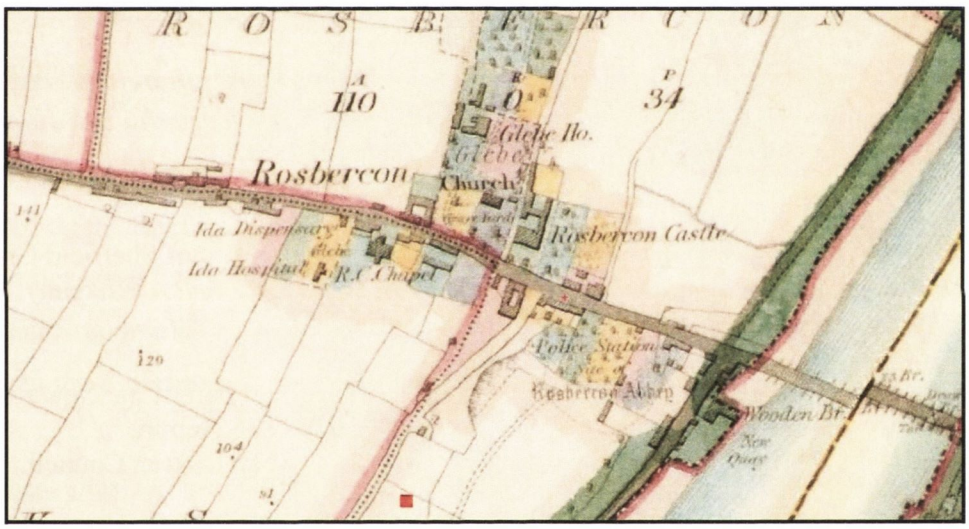

Fig. G.214: The location of the site of Rosbercon Friary as depicted on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map.

Interpretation

The excavated evidence together with the Ordnance Survey First Edition six-inch map would suggest that the Dominican Friary was located close to the River Barrow. While, this friary played a central role in the life of the settlement at Rosbercon, it is clear from the request of the friars that a bridge be constructed in the late thirteenth century that the friary was also closely connected to the settlement of New Ross, both its religious communities and its trading activities.

Abbreviations and references

Clyn's annals = Williams, B. 2007. (ed.) *The annals of Ireland by Friar John Clyn.* Dublin: Four Courts Press.

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Slievecarragh castle site

RMP no.	KK037-017---
Townland	Slievecarragh
Civil Parish	Dysartmoon
Barony	Ida
County	Kilkenny
OS six-inch sheet no.	Kilkenny Sheet 37
Discovery Series sheet no.	76
Irish National Grid ref.	266790, 128250
Classification	castle site

Siting

Slievecarragh Castle was located at the north side of a large field, the highest point in the immediate area from where there are good views in all directions especially to the E. The site is located close to the townland boundary with Ballyreddy townland.

Description

There are lots of lumps and bumps in this field but they do not form any discernable pattern. The nettles are especially dense at the N end of the field where the castle is marked on the RMP map. A report on the site compiled for the SMR file reported that the farmer has a fragment of a doorjamb and a stone mortar that were found on the site. The same report also recorded that a local woman indicated that a spot against the field fence to the S of the castle site was a burial ground.

Adjacent sites

There are two churches within 1km of the site of Slievecarragh castle; Ballyreddy church (KK037-01002-) is located *c.*1km to the N and Kilbraghan Church (KK037-042001-) is located *c.*800m to the E. The medieval parish church site is located *c.*2.7km to the N in Ballyneale (KK037-00301-). There is also a moated site *c.*800m to the NW in Ballyknock (KK037-01101-) and a possible moated site *c.*2km to the NW in Brownstown (KK037-009---). Finally the castle site in Tullagher (KK037-00201-) is *c.*3.8km to the NW.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

The *Down Survey* map of the barony of Ida does not include the townland of Slievecarragh, which could suggest that this area of Dysartmoon parish was not forfeited after the Cromwellian conquest. No castle in depicted in the townland of

Ballyreddy, as it is possible that Slievecarragh was included in this townland originally. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map marks the castle site with a broken line enclosing a circular area that is labelled '(site of) Castle'.

Although, the castle site is located in the townland of Slievecarragh, Carrigan refers to it as Ballyreddy castle and reports that Francis White occupied it, after the De la Freignes had forfeited it. He also reports that the site was largely destroyed in 1770 and that the foundations were completely removed about 1840 (Carrigan 2005, IV 189). It is clear that the castle had been destroyed by 1840, as it was described as a site on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map.

Interpretation

The original form of this castle is unclear, and no castle is depicted in Ballyreddy in the *Down Survey* map for the barony of Ida. Carrigan's description would suggest that it was a stone castle, but he reported that the castle had been destroyed more than sixty years before the publication of his four volume work, and before his birth, but within the living memory of the older people of the area he consulted during this research. There is not enough evidence to give this site a more definite classification than a castle site.

References

Carrigan, W. 2005. *The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory*. Revised edition with a biographical essay by Fearghus Ó Fearghail Edition. Dublin: Archive CD Books Ireland Ltd.

Templeorum church and castle sites

RMP no.	KK039-005---
Townland	Templeorum/ Oldcourt
Civil Parish	Fiddown
Barony	Iverk
County	Cavan
OS six-inch sheet no.	Kilkenny Sheet 39
Discovery Series sheet no.	75
Irish National Grid ref.	247840, 125830 and 247836, 125826
Classification	Church and castle sites

Siting

Templeorum Church is located within the hamlet of Templeorum. It is located at the top of the valley of a stream, with extensive views in all directions. The Comeragh Mountains are located east of the site.

Description

Church site

The church is located in a sub-rectangular graveyard with the road curving around the southeast corner. There is an elaborate gateway at the entrance to the graveyard, which contains a bell-cote. This gateway appears to date to the eighteenth and nineteenth century when the Earls of Bessborough, who lived in nearby Piltown, developed a settlement at Templeorum. During the compilation of the *Ordnance Survey* maps of the area, O'Donovan recorded that 'in Temple Orum also were lately the ruins of a church and castle said to have been built by the Orum Walsh, who was brother of the aforementioned Una'. The plaque on the current church building records that it was built in 1812 and was reconstructed in 1929. The headstones in the graveyard date from the eighteenth century to

Fig. G.215: The modern church in Templeorum.

the present day. There are no visible remains of the site of the church built by Orum Walsh.

Castle site

Templeorum Castle is marked on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map for the area, in a field on the east side of the road, opposite the church. The *Down Survey* barony map of Iverk, depicts in large buildings surrounded by a five smaller buildings in Templeorum. The large building appears to be some type of castle building. This map indicates that there was a settlement of some size in Templeorum in the seventeenth century.

There is a pedestrian gate into the field where the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map indicates that Templeorum castle once stood. Earthworks have previously been recorded in this field strengthening the argument that the castle and associated buildings once stood here. A local resident reported that there had been a mass path to the church through this field. There is a general slope down from north to south towards the river.

The earthworks extend over a large area (approx. 150m x 100m) and don't appear to have any obvious pattern. The earthworks in the NE corner of the field are the most obvious. There is a platform in the corner of the field and immediately south of this there is a flat area, defined by the platform to the east and a bank to the west and north. It is possible that this area (*c.* 20m x *c.* 17m) was the location of a masonry building. Towards the NW of the field there is a linear bank which runs NW-SE through the top half of the field. A linear depression runs along its western side. The earthworks in the south end of the field are even less distinct and appear to consist of a wide curving linear depression, with a bank along its southern 'edge'. It is probable that agricultural activity in this field have altered the earthworks significantly. Aerial photography or topographical survey might cast more light on the form of these earthworks.

<u>Adjacent sites</u>

The parish church site in Fiddown (KK042-00103-) and the associated settlement (KK042-001---) are located *c.*6km to the south of this site. The deserted settlement (KK039-04002-) and castle (KK039-039---) in Jamestown are located *c.*1km to the S.

Oldcourt castle site is located c.1.3km to the NNW and Kilmanahin church is located *c*.1.7km to the W.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

Templeorum is mentioned a number of times in the documentary sources of the fifteenth century, but at this date it is referred to as 'Fowram' (*Ormond Deeds*, III 135), 'Fotherom'(*Ormond Deeds*, III 163) and 'Ffothram' (*Red Bk of Ossory*, 162). In 1442 the parish of 'Fowrom' in the barony of Overk is first mentioned (*Ormond Deeds*, III 135). In 1446 William Walsh, chaplain, grants Nicholas Henneberry a number of manors in modern county Kilkenny including 'the parish of Fotherom in Overk' (*Ormond Deeds*, III 167). In the mid-fifteenth century 'ffothrom' is included in a list of the churches in Overk Deanery (*Red Bk of Ossory*, 162). This reference also include the church in Fiddown so it is unclear whether Templeorum was a parish in its own right at this date, or was always part of the parish of Fiddown.

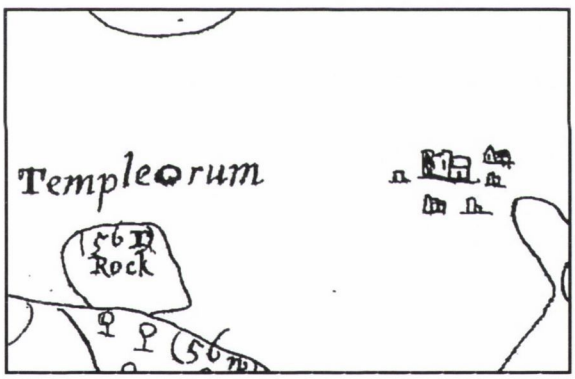

Fig. G.216: The townland of Templeorum as depicted on the *Down Survey* map of the barony of Iverk.

The *Down Survey* map for the barony of Iverk includes one large and four smaller buildings in the townland of 'Templeorum'. The large building appears to be a tower, with a lower building attached to it. None of the smaller buildings are surmounted by a cross, which would indicate that they functioned as a church. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map of the area indicates that the modern church in Templeorum, is in fact in the adjoining townland of Oldcourt. The label 'site of Templeorum Castle' is marked on the Templeorum side of the townland boundary, but the site of the castle appears to be marked by a sub-circular area on the Oldcourt side of the townland boundary. On the twenty-five inch Ordnance Survey map the symbol to denote the former site of an antiquity is located in the same location as the sub-circular area on the first edition six-inch map. However, the field in which earthworks have been observed is located on the other side of the road and townland boundary in Templeorum. The field in which

the earthworks are located, is today one large open field, but the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map of the area depicts the area as being divided into two separate fields, the eastern one containing a building enclosed by field boundaries, with another enclosed area to the south.

Fig. G.217: Templeorum Castle and Oldcourt Church as depicted on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map.

Carrigan argues that the church in Templeorum was probably originally a parish church, but that in the centuries preceding the Reformation it was merely a chapel of ease of the parish church in Fiddown. He goes on to state that what became known as Templeorum castle was in fact a presbytery attached to the west end of the church, and that it was located at the exact spot of the altar tomb of the Quinlans of Maganstown (Carrigan 2005, IV 231).

Interpretation

Carrigan's report on the site combined with the *Down Survey* depiction of the site, could suggest that the original Templeorum church and castle were composed of a church with an attached residential tower for the local priest. The documentary evidence suggests that Templorum became a parish in its own right in the fifteenth century, when 'the parish of Fotherom in Overk' is mentioned (*Ormond Deeds*, III 167). This was the era of tower house building and a tower house like structure could have been constructed adjacent to the newly established, or at least elevated, parish church to provide accommodation for the parish priest. Bermingham (2006) has identified both free-standing priests residences and accommodation attached to one side of a church at medieval churches in Ireland.

Abbreviations and references

Ormond Deeds = Curtis, E. (ed.) 1881-1943. *Calendar of Ormond Deeds*, (6 Vols). Dublin: Stationery Office.

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Tullagher castle site

RMP No	KK037-00201---
Townland	Tullagher
Civil Parish	Dysartmoon
Barony	Ida
County	Kilkenny
OS six-inch sheet no.	Kilkenny Sheet 37
Discovery Series sheet no	76
Irish National Grid ref.	264550, 131320
Classification	Castle Site

Siting

Tullagher castle is located close to the modern hamlet of Tullagher on sloping fields looking E to the Nore valley.

Description

A local man, who lives opposite the site, pointed out the castle site and the field walls close to it are made of large stones that are reputed to have come from the castle. The form of the stone would not dispute this suggestion. The field was under corn when the site was visited but the local man described the site as a square platform, 'the only flat part of the field', and this platform could be seen in the differential corn growth. He also reported that blackened stones were also found in the field during ploughing. A previous report compiled for the SMR file on the site described the platform as being no more than 20m square, delimited by a scarp, most prominent to the E and S. It also reported the presence of a number of irregular earthworks probably contemporary with the castle.

Fig. G.218: Stone wall reportedly built with stone from the castle.

Adjacent sites

The medieval parish church (KK037-00301-) for the parish of Dysartmoon is located *c.*1.7km to the S in the townland of Ballyneale.

Documentary references, antiquarian accounts and cartographic information

Before 1205 William Marshall granted Theobald Walter a number of places including 'the vill of Thelagh in Ossory', which Curtis had identified as Tullagher (*Ormond Deeds*, I 17). There is no further evidence for this vill in the documentary sources. Carrigan (2005, IV 195) reports that Tullagher Castle belonged to the Earls of Ormond and that it was demolished in 1760. He describes the site as a low grassy mound a little to the south of modern Tullagher Chapel.

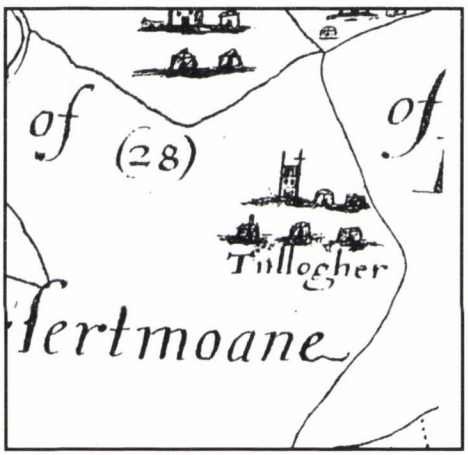

Fig. G.219: The castle in Tullagher as depicted on the *Down Survey* map of the barony of Ida.

Fig. G.220: The castle site in Tullagher as depicted on the *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map.

The 1653 survey into the lands granted to the Countess of Ormond reported the presence of 'an old broken castle with several thatched cabins' in Tullagher (Manning 1999, 53). This correlates well with the depiction of Tullagher on the *Down Survey* barony map where a tower house like structure is depicted in the townland of 'Tullogher'. Five cabins are also included in this map adjacent to the tower house like building. This tower house like structure appears to have a cross on one of its gables. The *Ordnance Survey* First Edition six-inch map marks the castle site with a broken line enclosing a circular area labelled '(site of) Tullagher Castle'.

Interpretation

The evidence from the *Down Survey* map of the barony of Ida would suggest that this castle was in fact a late medieval tower house. However, in the absence of any archaeological evidence this classification cannot be verified. The SMR lists the site as a castle unclassified and in the absence of further evidence this would appear to be the most appropriate classification.

Abbreviations and references

Ormond Deeds = Curtis, E. (ed.) 1881-1943. *Calendar of Ormond Deeds*, (6 Vols). Dublin: Stationery Office.

Carrigan, W. 2005. *The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory*. Revised edition with a biographical essay by Fearghus Ó Fearghail Edition. Dublin: Archive CD Books Ireland Ltd.

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