

APPENDIX 15.2
RMP Sites

Sites & Monuments Record, Archaeological Survey, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (Fig 2)

SMR No.: 018-006
Townland: Rathmorgan
County: Mayo
NGR: 8081 / 32700
Description: Holy Well, Cairn & Standing Stone.

Visited 27/07/95 by PO'D/MW

On 1837 and 1921 maps.

Situated on the ESE slope of a steep mountainous hill. Poor mountainous pasture.

Holy Well – natural spring (local information) covered by a massive subrectangular boulder (L 2.69m, dims. 1.3m x 0.27m) which is supported by 3 much smaller stones. There is a small pile of white marble stone on top of the covering stone.

Cairn – immediately SSE of the well is a partially peat-covered low circular cairn of small and medium sized white marble stones (diam. 4.3m; max. H 0.5m) tapering to a point. Protruding from the centre of the cairn is a small irregularly shaped apparently un-inscribed stone.

Standing Stone – immediately WNW of the well is an approx. rectangular upright block (H 1.14m, dims. 0.8m x 0.43m).

SMR No.: 018-007
Townland: Rathmorgan
County: Mayo
NGR: 8087 / 32671
Description: Rath / Enclosure
Visited 27/07/95 by PO'D/MW
On 1837 and 1921 maps.

Situated on the S slope of a steep mountainous hill on poor pastureland. Raised circular area (diam 29.3m) defined by a low irregular scarp (H 0.6m). At foot of scarp is a berm (W 4m). At the outer edge of the berm is a wide shallow fosse (W 4.2m, max. D 0.4m) with traces of a possible counterscarp bank at its outer lip. From NW=N-S-SW the berm, fosse and counterscarp bank have been levelled. Here, the scarp has been modified and incorporated into the field boundary. Original entrance not recognisable.

Sources: Westropp, T.J., 1912 & 1914, The Promontory Forts and Early Remains of the Coasts of County Mayo, JRSAI, vol. 42 & 44, p. 148 – 159.

“... low earthen fort, yellow with moss, standing out against the green fields. Old people say that it is the Real Place, i.e. the Rathmorgan from which the townland is named. The local pronunciation is ‘Rah Murrigan’ – one would like to fancy it a memory of the great queen, Medb of the Cattle Forays, but the Glenmassan manuscript confirms the map form as early, before 1238 at the least. The Rath is

greatly defaced; a steep bank rises 6ft over the field to the S, but hardly 2ft to the N, being terraced up on the slope. In parts, rude facing masonry of large blocks occurs, and all round the edge a slight depression, over 1ft deep and 8-10ft wide, probably marks where a dry stone rampart capped the revetted earthen bank. The garth is somewhat oval, and is 86ft across N & S, and 69ft E & W. This leaves only a small enclosure if a thick stone rampart girt it, barely 66ft by 49ft at most.

SMR No.: 018-008
Townland: Cloontakilla
County: Mayo
NGR: 8582/32482
Description: Children's Burial Ground.
Visited 24/04/96 by PO'D/MW
On 1837 and 1921 maps.

Situated atop a hillock on a generally NNW facing hillside. From NW-N-E, where the hillock is bordered by a fast flowing stream, the hillock is high and steep sided. Low grass covered mound of earth and large & medium sized stones (dims. 6.7m NNW-SSE, 4.6m ENE-WSW) ranging in height between 0.5m at SSE and 1.65m at NNW. There are 4 graves to the ENE & SE of the mound. The best preserved of these, at the SE is stone lined (dims. 1m WNW-ESE, 0.7m NNE-SSW).

Source: O'Donovan, J., 1838, p. 161.

Letters Containing Information Relative to the Antiquities of the County of Mayo, Collected During the Progress of the Ordnance Survey. In Bray, 1927, Reproduced by Rev. Michael O'Flanagan, Vol. I.

"In this parish are several old grave yards, some of which contain the ruins of small rude churches of whose history nothing is known or ever will be discovered. One of these is situated in the townland of Cluainte Cille (the Cloons of the Kill or Church) about 11 miles SE of Belmullet... Those little churches are not ancient, as the architectural antiquary will at once pronounce but they are curious monuments to show that the mountainous parts of Erris were inhabited some centuries back."

SMR No.: 018-010
Townland: Rathmorgan
County: Mayo
NGR: 8212 / 32755
Source: Per. Comm., Noel Dunne, 1991.
Description: Cairn.

SMR No.: 018-011
Townland: Dereens Island
County: Mayo
NGR: -
Source: Per. Comm., R. Chapple, September 1993.
Noone, 1991, p.108, "Where the Sun Sets", The Leinster Leader.

Description: Ecclesiastical Remains.
"At the NE end of the island are the ruins of about 6 dwellings of stone and mortar which contained 2 apartments of equal size. At the SW end of the island are ruins of an old church 45ft x 21ft, which had gabled facing E & W. Nearby, approximately 60ft S of the church is a small dwelling, probably for a priest or a religious community."

SMR No.: 018-013
Townland: Gortmore / Attavally
County: Mayo
NGR: 8379 / 32524
Source: Pers. Comm., R. Chapple, September 1993.
Visited 29/05/96 by PO'D/DS

Description: Architectural Fragments.
The 'dressed stones' may originally have been in the church (018-011) or dwellings (018-012).

SMR No.: 018-014
Townland: Carrowmore Lake
County: Mayo
NGR: 8427 / 32573 & 8422 / 32569
Source: Pers. Comm., R. Chapple, September 1993.
"Report on the Possible Crannog Sites in Carrowmore Lake, County Mayo", Robert Chapple, Erris Survey Office.

Description: Lake Carrowmore is the largest lake in the barony, 1000 hectares in area. By tradition it is one of the oldest in Ireland. There are 27 sites listed by the SMR as possible crannogs. Three in N Carrowmore lake look most archaeologically promising. They were inspected on the 30th July – 2nd August, 1993.

Site A – 100m to the W of Derreens Island and 350m from the lake shore. Small, lightly overgrown, roughly oval island. C. 40m NW-SE, c. 26m NE-SW. The edges of the island slope gently under water. No archaeological remains.

Site B – Above Muingerroon Island, c. 450m to NW of Derreens Island, and c.

280m S of the lake shore. Small circular island. Surface is marshy, heavily overgrown with small trees and dense scrub-bushes, therefore it could not be inspected internally. The surface is composed of natural limestone bedrock. Sides dropped away steeply but no signs of human intervention. Aerial photos showed possible causeway associated with it, but it could not be relocated.

Site C – Muingerroon Island. Small, roughly shaped, c. 50m NE-SW, c. 32m NW-SE, lies c. 320m to NE of Dereens Island. The surface is made of sand and gravel like the bottom of the lake. Interior is lightly wooded with low, weather-beaten trees. Completely natural.

Site D – Gortmore Island. It was decided that this site was too big to be used as a crannog, therefore it was not surveyed.

Site E – Attavally Island. Small, oval shaped island, c. 118m NE-SW, c. 50m NW-SE, lies c. 612m to SE of Gortmore Island, and c. 176m from the lake shore. Interior is flat, except for a small mound or cairn that dominates the centre, measuring c. 3m in height and c. 4-5m in diameter. Constructed from stone and earth. Now grassed over. It is the remains of a trigonometrical station (33ft OD) as shown on the 3rd ed. 1921 OS 6" sheet. Not ancient. Island slopes gently under water. On the SE side the bottom is thick marl mud. 5 – 10m from the shore there are 5 – 10 partially decayed tree-branches imbedded horizontally in the mud. Cannot tell if they are worked in any way. Not placed in any defined order nor do they have a structural function. Aerial photos show a possible causeway, extending from the SSW corner of the island, heading to the nearest part of the shore for approx. 60-80m in SW direction, turning slightly WSW before disappearing from view. On inspection it could be traced for 70m and is 0.7m – 1.5m in width, 0.25 – 0.5m in height, and the sides possess an angle of repose of roughly 45 degrees. Constructed of sand and gravel, like the bottom of the lake. Couldn't see where it joined the land, but hampered by poor visibility and density of rushes. Existence of the causeway attested locally. Known as the "Roadeen" and was visible just below the lake surface in exceptionally dry summers before the local dam was erected. Chert scraper found 8m S of the island, between the causeway and submerged timbers. 0.75m under water. 40.5mm long x 31mm wide, 6mm thick.

SMR No.: 025-00101 (church) & 00102 (midden)
Townland: Bunawillin
County: Mayo
NGR: 7364 / 32482 (church), 7363 / 32477 (midden)
Source: Noone, Fr. Sean, 1991, "Where the Sun Sets", NAAS, p. 127.
Description: Church and Midden.
Visited 25/04/96 by PO'D/MW

There was an old chapel by the sea shore at the end of Joseph Scanlon's property. The ruins were plainly visible at the end of the last century. Since then the sea has washed away much of the land, so all that is left... are a few stones and the remains of a kitchen midden with an assortment of seashells. A circular stone cup dating from the period prior to 1600AD was found in the sand near the site. Now in National Museum, Dublin. Named "Doocreghan" in early maps.

SMR No.: 025-00201 (enclosure) & 00202 (house)

Townland: Muingmore

County: Mayo

NGR: 7557 / 32456

Description: Enclosure.

Situated 7.7m from Muingmor house. Circular area (diam. 12.4m) defined by a low narrow earthen bank (H 0.5m, W 1.6m). No fosse. Original entrance (W 2.5m) at ESE. Interior largely occupied by irregular shaped mound of earth and stone. Otherwise, internal ground level is lower than that of the ground outside. Probably modern structure.

House.

Situated on a prominent rise within an extensive area of peatland. Rectangular house (dims 13.7NNE-SSW, 6.2m WNW-ESE). Outlined by lower portions of walls of drystone masonry (wall thickness 1.1m). The remaining stones are mostly large and medium sized. Entrance (W 1.3m) is at the NNE end of the ESE wall. House divided internally into 2 rooms of unequal size by a WNW-ESE dividing wall. Probably relatively modern.

SMR No.: 025-003

Townland: Muingmore

County: Mayo

NGR: 7588 / 32292

Description: Possible crannog. On 1921 map.

SMR No.: 025-004
Townland: Doolough
County: Mayo
NGR: 7683 / 32194
Description: Possible crannog. On 1921 map.

SMR No.: 025-005
Townland: Doolough
County: Mayo
NGR: 7737 / 32157
Description: Possible crannog. On 1838 and 1921 maps.

SMR No.: 026-00101 (burial ground) & 00102 (cist)
Townland: Tristia
County: Mayo
NGR: 7894 / 32309
Sources: Aldridge, 1969, p. 86, "Notes on Children's Burial Grounds in Mayo", JRSAL, Vol. 99, Part 1, pp. 83 – 87.

Description: Burial Ground.
Visited 29/05/96 by PO'D/DS

Situated on SW facing slope. Poor mountainous terrain. Ill defined on ground. Comprised of a series of natural occurring boulders following no particular pattern. Max diam. 16.8m NNE-SSW. NE possible cist burial.

Cist Burial.

Situated NE portion of Tristia Children's Burial Ground. Large irregularly shaped boulder aligned NNW-SSE (max. L 2.05m, W 1.3m, D 0.3m) split into 2 roughly equal portions and resting on number of small stones.

SMR No.: 026-00201
Townland: Tristia
County: Mayo
NGR: 7904 / 32279
Description: Megalithic Court Tomb.
Visited 25/04/96 by PO'D/MW

SMR No.: 026-00202
Townland: Tristia
County: Mayo
NGR: 7893 / 32273
Source: Per. Comm., P.Walsh, 1990.
Description: Pre-Bog Walls.

SMR No.: 026-00301 (church)
026-00302 (graveyard)
026-00303 (abbey)

Townland: Kilteany

County: Mayo

NGR: 8222 / 32300

Description: O'Donovan, J., 1838, "Letters Containing Information Relative to the Antiquities of the County of Mayo, Collected During the Progress of the Ordnance Survey", in Bray, 1927, Reproduced by Rev. Michael O'Flanagan, vol. I, pp. 161 – 162.

"In the mountains the ruins of the chapels of Kilcummin, Kiltena, and Fahey in Ballycroy show little architectural ornament in their construction, but serve as marks to show that inhabitants existed in their era in these parts, sufficient to support and fill them, though at this day they cannot boast so many houses."

Erris, "The Irish Highlands", 1836, p.13.

"In this parish are several old grave yards, some of which contain ruins of small rude churches of whose history nothing is known or will ever be discovered... and a third which contains a rude old church in the townland of Cill Teine, about 9 miles SE of Belmullet."

Rev. Neary, 1913-14, "Some Notes on Killala Diocese", Galway Archaeological and Historical Society Journal, vol. VIII, pp. 12 – 38.

"An old church exists at Killteany, west of Bangor, and it may be the Insula Dori."

Lewis, Samuel, 1837, "A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland", London, Vol. 2, p.67.

"At Kiltairn, on the banks of the Owenmore, are remains of an ancient abbey, and also of the old parish church."

Site Visit 29/06/96 by PO'D/DS.

Kilteany Church in Ruins.

Situated on low lying ground, adjacent to stream. Late medieval parish church (ext. dim. 13.95m NE-SW, 6.1m NW-SE, wall thickness 0.9m). Single light round headed NE window, round headed rear arch, wall presses at ground floor level at either end of the E wall. Plain flat headed single light window at NE end of SE wall. Rounded headed doorway with pointed segmental arch at SW end of SE wall. Most of dressed stone is missing but 2 portions of chamfered jambs are in situ. 2 opposing joist holes in SW end of NW and SE walls and third close to WNW angle. Its counterpart in the SE wall has collapsed. Remains of N-S wall to E of building represents remains of further buildings.

SMR No.: 026-004
Townland: Bangor
County: Mayo
NGR: 8008 / 32328
Source: Per. Comm., P. Walsh, 1990.
Description: Megalithic Tomb, unclassified.
Visited 23/10/97 by PO'D/MW.

SMR No.: 026-005
Townland: Bangor
County: Mayo
NGR: -

Description: Neary, 1913-14, p.24, "Some Notes on Killala Diocese", Glaway Archaeological and Historical Society Journal, Vol. VIII, pp. 12 – 38. "Old churches also exist at Bangor."