

DUNMORE HERITAGE AUDIT

COUNTY GALWAY

2020/2021

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Huge thanks also to Marie Mannion, Galway County Heritage Officer without whose vision and enthusiasm this Audit may not have happened.

Dunmore Heritage Group

Thanks from the Author

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Placenames: All place names in this report are as per Ordnance Survey spelling.

CONTENTS

Page No.

SECTION ONE: PROJECT BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY

1.1.1. Project Background	1
1.1.2. Project Brief	1
1.1.3. Methodology	2

SECTION TWO: THE STUDY AREA

2.1. Defining the Study Area Boundary	4
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SECTION THREE: NATURAL HERITAGE

3.1. Geology and Geomorphology	8
3.1.1. The Resource	8
3.1.2. Accessibility	10
3.1.3. Importance of Geology and Geomorphology of the Study Area	16
3.2. Habitats	19
3.2.1. The Resource and Accessibility	19
3.2.2. Importance of the Habitats in the Study Area	26

SECTION FOUR: BUILT AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

4.1. Ancient Burial Sites	29
4.2. Fulachta Fia	36
4.3. The Lurgan Dugout Boat	38
4.4. Hilltop Enclosures	40
4.5. Ringforts	42
4.6. Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites	45
4.7. Late Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites	61
4.8. 18 th and 19 th Century Churches	67
4.9. 20 th Century Churches	74
4.10. Holy Wells	80
4.11. Anglo Norman Fortifications	84
4.12. Houses of the Landed Gentry	91
4.13. 19 th and early 20 th century Architecture of Dunmore Town	103
4.14. Mills	114
4.15. Bridges	123
4.16. Pumps	126
4.17. Lime Kilns	128
4.18. Sweat Houses	130
4.19. Schools	131

SECTION FIVE: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Introduction	137
5.2. Dunmore Heritage Group	137
5.3. Creating a Public Image	138
5.4. Geology and Geomorphology	139
5.5. Habitats	141
5.6. Built and Cultural Heritage	143

SECTION SIX: STARTING OUT AND GETTING HELP

6.1. Making Connections	150
6.2. Sources of Information	150
6.3. Facilitation	151
6.4. Prioritised Action Plan	151

Bibliography

153

Appendices

155

SECTION ONE

PROJECT BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY

1.1. Project Background

Following a successful application to Galway Rural Development Company Ltd. under the LEADER programme by Dunmore Heritage Group, the Heritage Audit of Dunmore Parish commenced in April 2020.

The aim was to audit all built, natural and cultural heritage monuments and sites within the Dunmore Civil parish boundary with a view to developing interpretive materials. It is envisaged that the resulting interpretive materials will be of benefit to local residents as well as fostering tourism opportunities in the area in addition to providing educational resources for schools and other interested parties.

Zena Hctor Heritage Services were appointed in April 2020 by Dunmore Heritage Group to complete the tasks outlined in the project brief.

1.2. Project Brief

The brief included the following tasks:

- To compile a desktop inventory of Dunmore town and its civil parish, within approximately a 5-8 km radius of the town as indicated in the maps supplied (Maps 1 and 2)
- To analyse all resulting listed sites in terms of condition and accessibility
- To produce a prioritised list of sites in terms of suitability for the development of interpretive materials for promotion
- To present the prioritised list of sites at an initial community event with the aim of obtaining input and suggestions from the community with regard to any unrecorded sites within the district which may be of interest and to invite participation by the community in the gathering of data on the local heritage sites
- All selected and agreed Heritage sites to be assessed through field survey in terms of access, intrinsic interest and condition for the purposes of potential inclusion in development of future interpretive products
- To present a second community event towards the end of project and prior to publication of the final report with the purpose of ensuring community agreement and inclusion of all relevant information
- The final report to include recommendations for the future use of sites deemed suitable for development/promotion under the following headings:
 - Geology and Geomorphology
 - Natural History
 - Archaeology/Built Heritage
 - Traditions, Placenames & Folklore
 - Cross Section of categories above

and best practice advice in relation to safe storage and future preservation of collected material.

1.3. Methodology

All organisational and consultation emails, phone calls and meetings were organised through the community representative, Sara Slattery.

(A) Defining the Study Area

Maps of the proposed study area were provided as part of the project brief but the exact boundaries were unclear and the first step taken was the precise definition of the study area boundary through consultation with the Dunmore Heritage Group. The outcome of this consultation is detailed in Section Two of this report.

(B) Desktop Inventory

A desktop inventory of the potential heritage sites for field survey, located within the agreed study area of 7.5km radius of the town of Dunmore, commenced in early April 2020. Several online sources were consulted as listed in the bibliography. The Heritage Council's Map Viewer <https://www.heritagemaps.ie/> was an invaluable one-stop source of information in this process. The list of sites compiled was then analysed in terms of location and condition and a prioritised list for field survey was derived.

(C) Prioritised list of potential sites for Field Survey

The prioritised list of sites was presented to the Dunmore Heritage Group through email via Sara Slattery on June 4, 2020. The group members were asked to consider the list of sites and provide information on any additional sites that they would like to see included in the Audit. Feedback for this request was received on June 24, 2020.

(D) Field Survey

When the Covid-19 restrictions allowed, field survey began on June 24, 2020 and continued until mid-October. Sites were assessed in terms of access, intrinsic interest and condition for the purposes of potential inclusion in development of future interpretive products.

(E) Preparation of Database

A specially designed database was created to store the data collected through the Audit, within site specific reports, with the option to insert three Photographs with each site report. It is constructed in MS Access.accdb format. The system was created to be dynamic and new sites can be added to the database as Dunmore Heritage Group carry out further research in their area.

(F) Reporting and Consultation

Regular progress updates were provided to Sara Slattery, the Heritage Group primary contact by email and phone. Due to Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, the first meeting between the group members and Zena Hoctor was arranged on the Zoom platform and hosted by Sara Slattery. This took place on June 11, 2020. Items discussed consisted of the field survey timetable, the selection of the study area, the methodology to be used for the Audit and the prioritised list of sites which had been prepared and sent to the group on June 4. It was agreed that Sara would provide a contact list of local community members to be consulted as part of the field work.

As the field survey progressed several landowners and local residents were met and consulted, with regard to access to sites and information on sites in the locality.

Following a relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions, a face to face progress update meeting with the group took place on September 22, 2020 in the Eurospar coffee shop, Dunmore.

A draft final report was sent to Sara on October 12, 2020 and circulated to the members of the Heritage Group. All feedback and comments had been received by mid-November.

A progress report was presented through a Zoom call to the Heritage Group on December 10, 2020. The main topics covered were the planning of a public consultation event before finalisation of the report and a request to the group members with regard to local information on some identified sites and items of interest.

A public consultation Zoom event was held on January 20, 2021 between 11am and 12.30pm. The event was publicised through an article in the Tuam Herald (13-1-2021) and through the Dunmore Tidy Towns Facebook page. 28 people participated, of which 8 were Committee members of the Dunmore Heritage Group. 4 of the participants, who were originally Dunmore natives, joined from Cambridge UK, Manhattan NY, Houston Texas and Wijchen Netherlands.

An overview of the Audit findings and the proposed recommendations for future interpretation were presented through an illustrated powerpoint presentation by Zena Hocter. Participants were invited to submit questions through the 'chat box' and these were answered by the presenter. The presentation was recorded and the link sent to the Dunmore Heritage Group with the request to submit feedback on the following questions:

1. What did you find most interesting in the presentation?
2. What suggested projects do you think are feasible?
3. Have you any other suggestions for highlighting the heritage of the area?
4. What do you think you need as a group to make these projects happen?

The feedback received was used to refine the recommendations contained in Section Five of this report.

The final draft report was reviewed by the Dunmore Heritage Group in March 2020 and the project was completed with the delivery of this report on April 14, 2021.

SECTION TWO: THE STUDY AREA

2.1 Defining the Study Area Boundary

The Area identified for Audit purposed by the Dunmore Tidy Towns and Heritage Group in the tender documentation was Dunmore town and its civil parish, within approximately a 5-8 km radius of the town as indicated in the maps supplied (Maps 1 and 2)



Map 1: Proposed Area for Audit – supplied by Dunmore Tidy Towns and Heritage Group as part of tender process



Map 2: Townlands in Dunmore Civil Parish (Extract from 'Dunmore' by James Greaney) supplied by Dunmore Tidy Towns and Heritage Group as part of tender process

As the two maps showed different areas and Map 2 (showing 93 townlands) did not include all of the 122 townlands that comprise the Civil Parish of Dunmore, the exact study area boundary needed clearer definition as a primary step in the audit process.

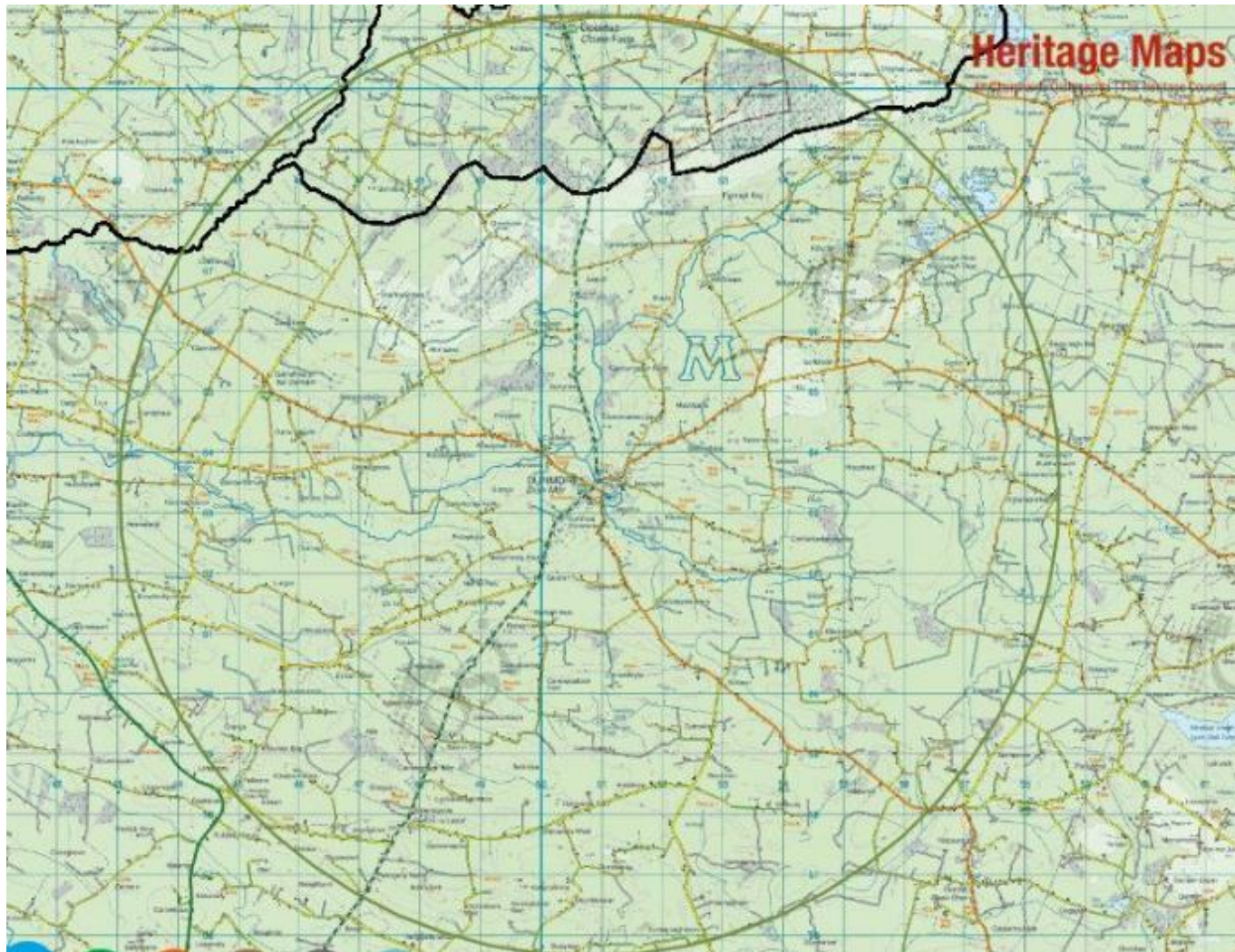
The exact boundaries of the Civil Parish of Dunmore are indicated in Map 3. If this unit was to be used for audit purposes it would provide a very irregular and broken outline and include a number of outlying separate blocks.



Map 3: Dunmore Civil Parish (Data: “© OpenStreetMap contributors”. Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 2.0 license (CC BY-SA).

The Dunmore Heritage Group was consulted as to the exact area of study required and a recommended area of 7.5km radius using Dunmore Town as the central point was presented by the consultant (Map 4). The 7.5km radius covers the area indicated in both maps received with the tender documentation and goes beyond it, as indicated in Maps 5 and 6 below.

It was agreed by the Dunmore Heritage Group that this would be the defined area of study (excluding the section in County Roscommon).



Map 4: Revised and Approved study area (7.5 km radius of Dunmore town) indicated by green circle with Co. Roscommon section excluded (County Boundary indicated by black line)'Data from the basemap gallery accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at www.heritagemaps.ie, [14-4-2020]'



Map 5: Overlay of 7.5km radius (yellow circle) onto original study area proposed (red line).

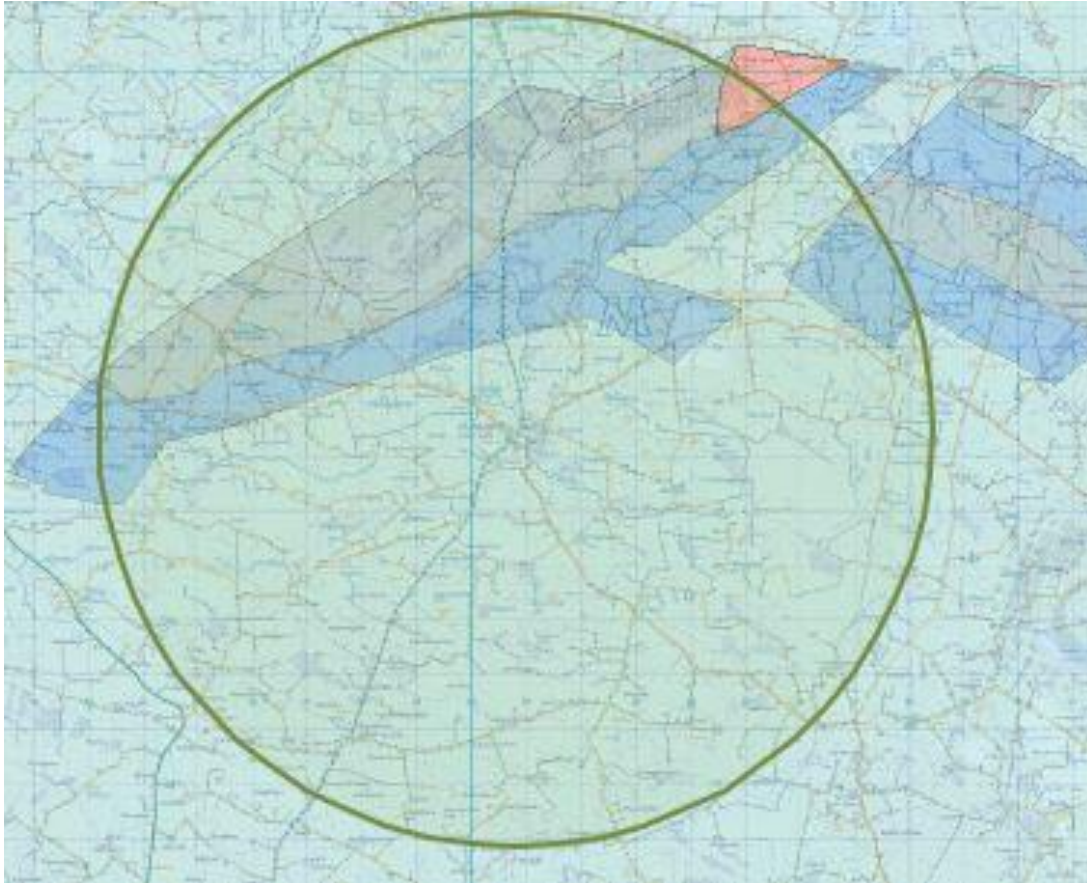


Map 6: Overlay of 7.5km radius (green circle) onto townlands indicated on map supplied in tender (orange line). 'Data from the townlands database accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at www.heritagemaps.ie, [14-4-2020]'.
Heritage 1
An Clonshaigh, Clonsilla | 19

SECTION THREE

NATURAL HERITAGE

3.1. Geology and Geomorphology



Map 7: Bedrock of Study Area Contains Irish Public Sector Data (Geological Survey) licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) licence.

3.1.1. The Resource

A. Bedrock

The dominant bedrock of the study area is limestone with areas of sandstone, siltstone and mudstone occurring in a band from the north-east to the south-west in the northern section. The variation in shading shown on Map 7 denotes the age of the rocks and the type.

The pink area indicates the oldest rocks found in the study area. Located mainly in Flaskagh More townland, they consist of intrusive igneous rocks created during volcanic activity in the Siluro-Devonian age between 420 and 360 million years ago (Ma).

The dark blue area contains limestone, while the grey shaded area has sandstones, siltstones and mudstones as well as limestone. The rocks in the darker blue and the grey area were formed between 346 and 358 Ma.

The palest blue shade indicates the youngest limestones in the area, formed approximately between 346 and 330 Ma.

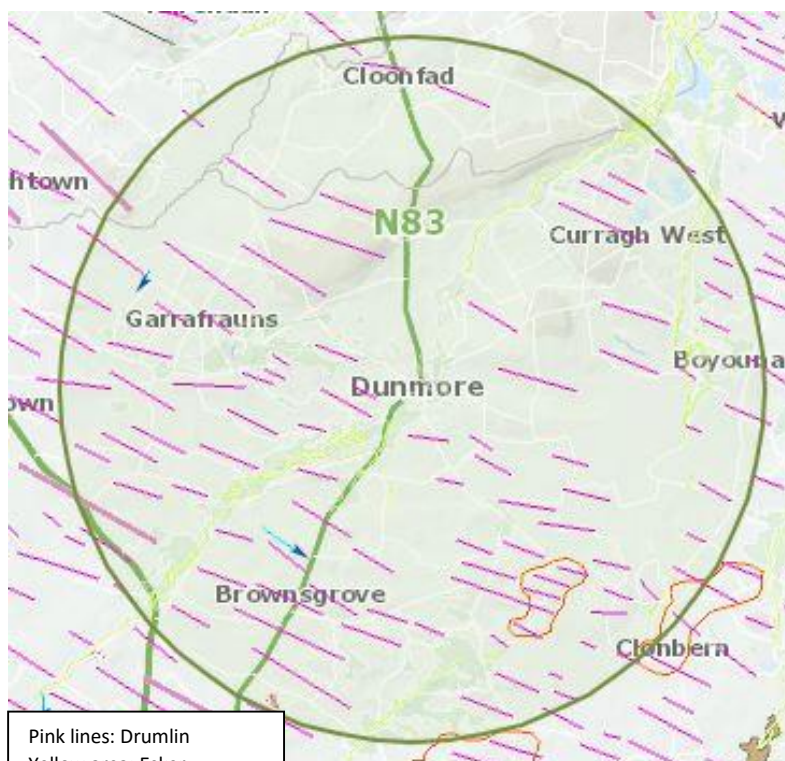
B. Karst

Over the millennia the bedrock has been shaped by the forces of weathering – wind, ice and water. The resulting shape of the landscape today is known as its geomorphology.

Where limestone bedrock has been exposed to weathering over a long period it develops erosion features termed 'karren' and the landscape that contains these features is known as a 'karst landscape'. About 15,000 years ago the glaciers of Ireland's last Ice Age began to melt. The glacial water run-off and rainfall over the following centuries very slowly eroded the surface of the limestone bedrock in the study area. This natural phenomenon occurs as rainwater is naturally slightly acidic and the limestone is composed of calcium carbonate, which is alkaline. Through a chemical process, acid dissolves alkaline.

As the rainwater and ice slowly dissolved the bedrock surface, channels and fissures formed. Over time these fissures deepened and some became quite large resulting in swallow holes, through which surface water flowed into underground channels. Where this occurs, the water flows underground until it emerges over ground again through springs. During periods of very heavy and prolonged wet weather, the underground channels can over fill and the level of the groundwater rises, emerging through the springs and swallow holes and spreading across the fields to form 'turloughs'. Turlough is an Irish word used to describe these temporary, seasonal lakes that occur in the west of Ireland.

C. Glacial Deposition



Pink lines: Drumlin
Yellow area: Esker
Brown outline: Ribbed moraine
Blue arrows: Melt water channels

The last Ice Age in Ireland began to recede c.15,000 years ago. As the glaciers melted and retreated, the boulders, stones and gravel that had been scraped up from the bedrock and carried along in the solid mass of ice were dropped and left strewn across the landscape. How and where they were deposited depended on the direction of the ice flow and the rate of the melting process. A variety of depositional processes resulted in different forms being created on the landscape of the study area. Map 8 illustrates the type and location of these features.

Map 8: Indicative map of the Geomorphology of the Study Area

Source: <https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html> (Contains Irish Public Sector Data (Geological Survey Ireland) licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) licence).

3.1.2. Accessibility

A. Bedrock

The sandstones, siltstones and mudstones of the study area form a high ridge of ground (Slieve Dart) which extends from Flaskagh More to Shanballymore.

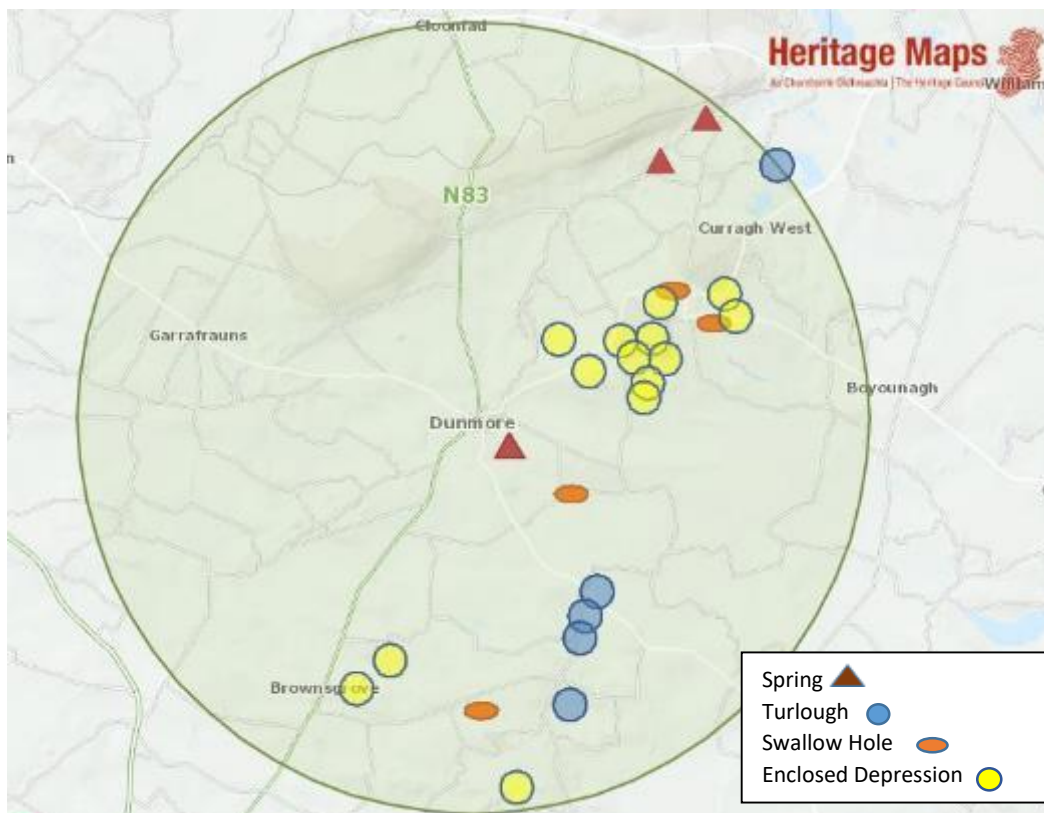
This geology is reflected in the local field walls and older farm buildings, especially in villages such as Cartron, as the sandstone was used extensively for building purposes in the past. The following extract from the memoirs compiled during the Geological Survey of Ireland in 1871 records its use throughout the wider area:

*'On the top and southern slope, which is covered with heathery moorland, the blocks of sandstone are split into flags for flooring, while some are split as fine as to be useful for slating purposes. **

**The town of Tuam and Dunmore are roofed for the most part with the thin flags from this hill, which makes the roof so weighty that in about twenty years after the slating the whole roof falls in.'*

Sandstone quarried in this area was also used in the construction of Garrafrauns Chapel built c.1770 and the limestone piers, bell tower and corners stones of the present day St Patricks Church were quarried on the lands of John (Bull) Keane of Gortnagoyne (Garrafrauns Heritage Group 2013)

B. Karst



Map 9: Karst features in Study Area 'Data from the GSI.ie Geology database accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at www.heritagemaps.ie, [5-5-2020]'.

As illustrated in Map 9, much of the limestone area in the eastern side of the study area exhibits the features of a karst landscape. These include springs, swallow holes, turloughs and enclosed depressions. All of these karst features are post-glacial, formed in the last 11,000 years. The enclosed depressions form where water accumulated on the surface and over a very, very long time period dissolved the limestone and created surface hollows which have no inlets or outlets. The larger depressions may result from the merging of several smaller ones over time. This topography is evident around the Gortleam, Lissyconor, Knockaunbrack area and down into Ballywataire. The Dunmore to Ballymoe road dips between Ballintava and the turn off for Kiltivna as it passes through an enclosed depression. Changes in the vegetation are visible in this depression as it is wetter than the higher surrounding land. Rushy pasture and some peat areas contrast with the drier grasslands of the surrounding higher ground.

Townland	Karst Feature
Flaskagh More	Springx2
Beagh	Turlough
Gortleam	Swallow Hole
Gortleam	Enclosed Depression
Gortleam	Enclosed Depression
Knockaunbrack	Enclosed Depression
Knockaunbrack/Lissyconor/Woodfield	Enclosed Depression
Knockaunbrack/Lissyconor/Woodfield	Swallow hole
Lissyconor	Enclosed depression x2
Meenleana	Enclosed Depression
Tobernaclug	Enclosed Depression x11
Ballywaitaire	Enclosed Depression x5
Breanra	Spring
Breanra	Swallow Hole
Addergoole More/Killuney	Swallow hole
Gorteen	Turlough
Carrowkeel	Turlough x2
Brackloon	Turlough
Carrowroe East	Swallow Hole
Dunblaney	Enclosed Depression
Sylaun East	Enclosed Depression
Carrowrevagh More	Enclosed depression x2
Timadooan	Spring

Table 1: Karst Features and townland locations (extracted from 'Data from the GSI.ie Geology database accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at www.heritagemaps.ie, [5-5-2020]'

Water flowing into swallow holes at Gortduff and Polleagh Lough West was dye-traced and the water emerged from both traces at Tobernara Springs in Flaskagh More Townland, which is approximately 2 km to the south-east (Meehan et al. 2019).

Tobernara spring is the origin of the Derrymore River, which flows south-west before joining the Sinking River at the confluence of Castlefarm, Abbeyland North and Dunmore townlands. Water from this river was used to power the Corn Mill in Attiflynn townland.

The spring in Breanra townland, known as Currabel Well supplied water to Dunmore town before main supplies were connected.

The swallow hole in Addergoole More/Killuney is believed to be the origin of the name of the 'Sinking River' as it can disappear here underground during periods of very dry weather.

The five turloughs within the study area are located within two groupings – one in the north-east of the study area and one in the south-east (Map 8). The grouping in the north-east includes two turloughs – Curragh Lough and Polleagh, which along with Gortduff (located just outside the study area boundary) are classified as the 'Williamstown Turloughs'.

Polleagh Turlough has two sections – Polleagh Lough and Polleagh West. They are joined at times of high flood, when the waters completely surround a low hill of glacial till. In summer, Polleagh West almost dries out, but Polleagh Lough retains a permanent very shallow lake. The likely explanation for this is that the lake sits on an impermeable layer of marl and the water cannot seep through this layer. This is known as a perched water table. The lake is fed by small streams feeding in from the surrounding area and so a certain level of water is always maintained. (Meehan et al. 2019).

Curragh Lough is similar in many ways and is in hydraulic continuity with Polleagh. As the water level lowers during drier periods small hummocks of glacial material are revealed. A very good viewing point is from the Dunmore-Ballymoe Road where a small hill of glacial till is visible to the north--west.



Photograph 1: View across Curragh Lough from Dunmore-Ballymoe Road north-westwards towards Beagh

C. Glacial Deposits

The most abundant glacial depositional feature in the study area are drumlins, indicated by the pink lines on Map 10. The term 'drumlin' originates from the Irish term for a small hill. These small elongated hills resemble an inverted spoon, with a steep end and a gradually tapering end. They consist of a jumble of rocks, stones and gravel which dropped out of the melting ice. They are visible all over the study area and are particularly noticeable between Kiltivna and Slieve Dart and in the Dunblaney area to the south-east.

Eskers were formed when melt water gathered beneath the melting glacier, forming an underground river. The ice of the glacier formed the 'banks' of the river and like any river it carried along the sediments, pebbles and stones that fell out of the melting ice. When the glaciers finally melted completely, the 'banks' of the river no longer existed and the waters flowed over the surrounding landscape, leaving the 'bed' of the river in situ. This 'bed' of layered sands, gravel and stones stood above the surrounding landscape and formed the long, winding, hills that can be seen today. The word esker comes from the Irish word 'eiscir'.

During the last Ice Age, three major melt water systems drained the melting ice sheet in the western portion of the Irish Midlands. The Dunmore-Ballyhaunis esker system is the westernmost of those subglacial systems. It extends through Galway, Mayo and Roscommon and is recognised as one of the finest examples of a long, wide tunnel-deposited esker in Ireland.



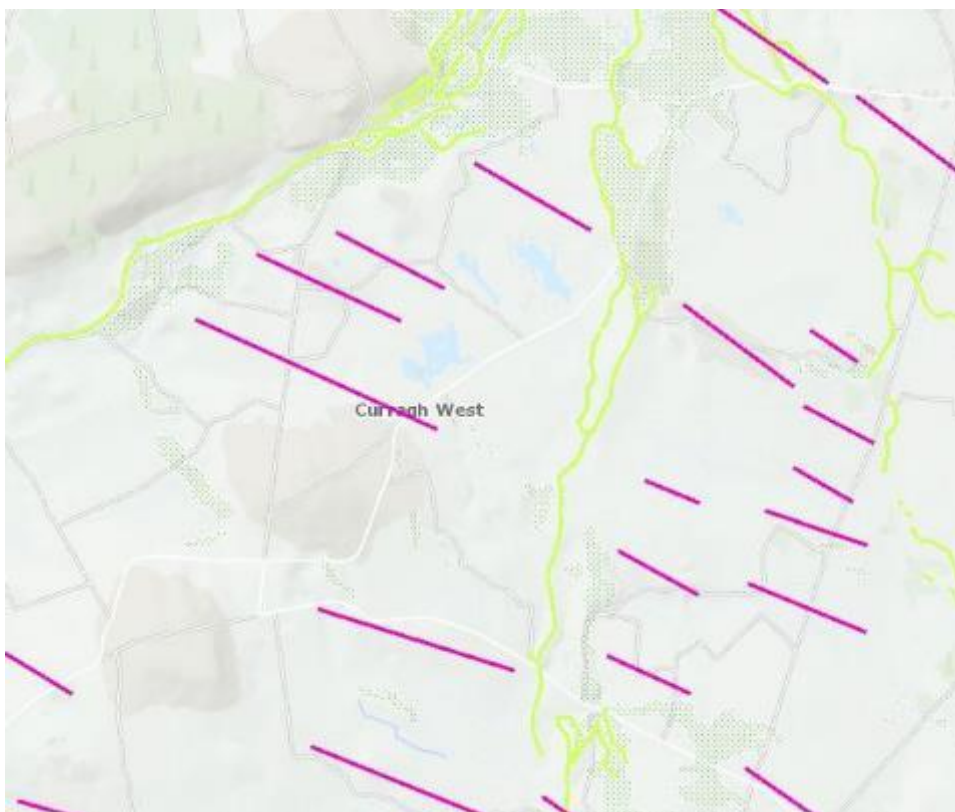
A section runs from the south-west to the north-east of the study area, through the townlands of Flaskagh More, Flaskagh Beg, Drumbane, Shrule, Quarter, Ballagh East, Ballagh West, Ballymoney South, Menus Park, Pollaphuca, Menus, Knockaunnagat, Roy, Kilnaslieve, Gardenfield, Graigueachullaire, Grange and Lenamore.

Photograph 2: View of esker ridge from road in Flaskagh More townland



Map 10: Indicative line of the Dunmore Esker

https://secure.dcae.gov.ie/GSI_DOWNLOAD/Geoheritage/Reports/GY058_Dunmore_Esker.pdf



Map 11: Three esker ridges between Williamstown and Dunmore, which converge at Coolcam Lough (illustrated with yellow lines). The most westerly passes through Flaskagh More townland; the centre ridge goes through Curragh Bog to Lisheehanheltia and the east ridge stretches towards Glenamaddy ('Data from the GSI.ie Geology database accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at www.heritagemaps.ie, [5-5-2020]').



Map 12: Esker ridge to the Southwest of Dunmore town (denoted by yellow lines) 'Data from the GSI.ie Geology database accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at www.heritagemaps.ie, [5-5-2020]'.

Gravel pits have been cut into a number of the drumlins and the esker ridges in the study area for the extraction of sand and gravel over the centuries. There are active cuttings in Flaskagh More and Flaskagh Beg, with the most exploited area to the south-west of Dunmore in the townlands around Menus. There are a number of quarries currently operating in this area, the largest of which are operated by CmC Quarries Ltd. and Finnigans Sand Ltd. Other active quarries are found south of Dunblaney in the south east of the study area.



Photograph 3: Quarry in Esker in Flaskagh More

3.1.3. Importance of the Geology and Geomorphology of the Study Area

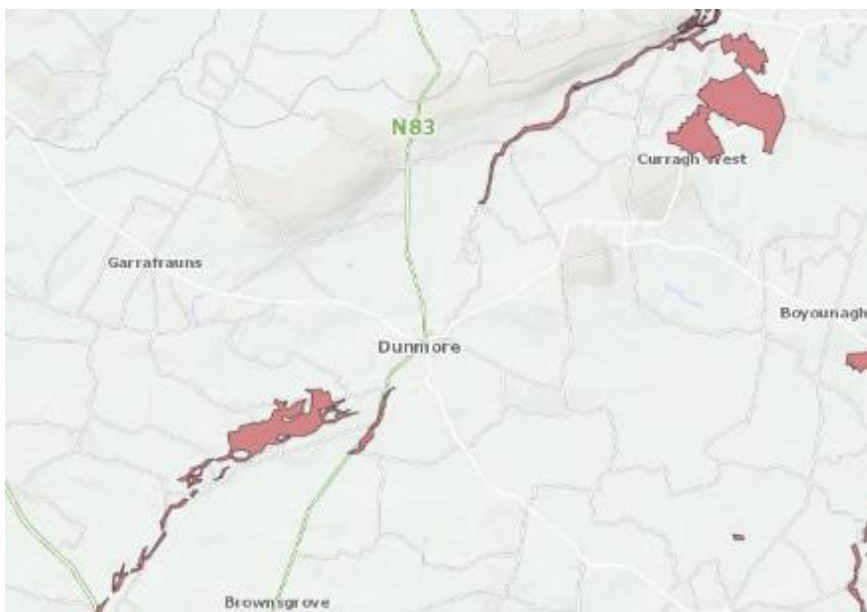
A. Bedrock

The bedrock of the study area consists mainly of limestone with sandstone, siltstone and mudstone occurring in a band of higher ground from the north-east to the south-west in the northern section. The sandstone was quarried in the past in pockets by the local residents for use mainly in local buildings such as Garrafrauns church and for the building of local farmhouses, outbuildings and field walls. The townland of Shanballymore was one of the main sources. Some of the sandstone flags were split very thin and used to slate the roofs of houses in Dunmore and Tuam (Memoirs of the Geological Survey 1867 <http://www.geologicalmaps.net/IrishHistMapsDownload/B02056.pdf>). The use of this resource is still visible in the ruins of several farm buildings in the area, in the houses in the village of Cartron and in the extensive network of 19th century field walls all of which are accessible from a network of minor roads in the north of the study area. Much of the early field patterns of the farmed landscape of this area are associated with the Ultachs. These were a group of Catholic families who fled from Ulster in the late 1790s to avoid persecution by Protestant agitators and they settled mainly in the townlands of Quinaltagh and Shanballymore. In contrast the farmed landscape in the south of the study area consist of larger, more intensively farmed fields, bounded by walls of the local limestone.

B. Karst

Several features of karstic landscape are located in the west of the study area. These are highly accessible and very good examples for the purposes of interpretation and education.

The Williamstown turloughs are included in the recently completed 'The Geological Heritage of County Galway' because of their geological and geomorphological importance (Appendix I). The recommendation of the Audit is that this site should be designated as a Geological Natural Heritage Area (NHA) because of the geomorphological diversity of the features in a very small area and the underground connection with springs to the west (i.e. in Flaskagh More) (Meehan et al. 2019).



Map 13: Geological Heritage Sites (Audited)

<https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=a30af518e87a4c0ab2fbde2aaac3c228> "Contains Irish Public Sector Data (Geological Survey) licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) licence".

This grouping of turloughs is also very important from a biodiversity viewpoint and because of this it has been designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). (See Section 3.2.1)

C. Glacial Deposits

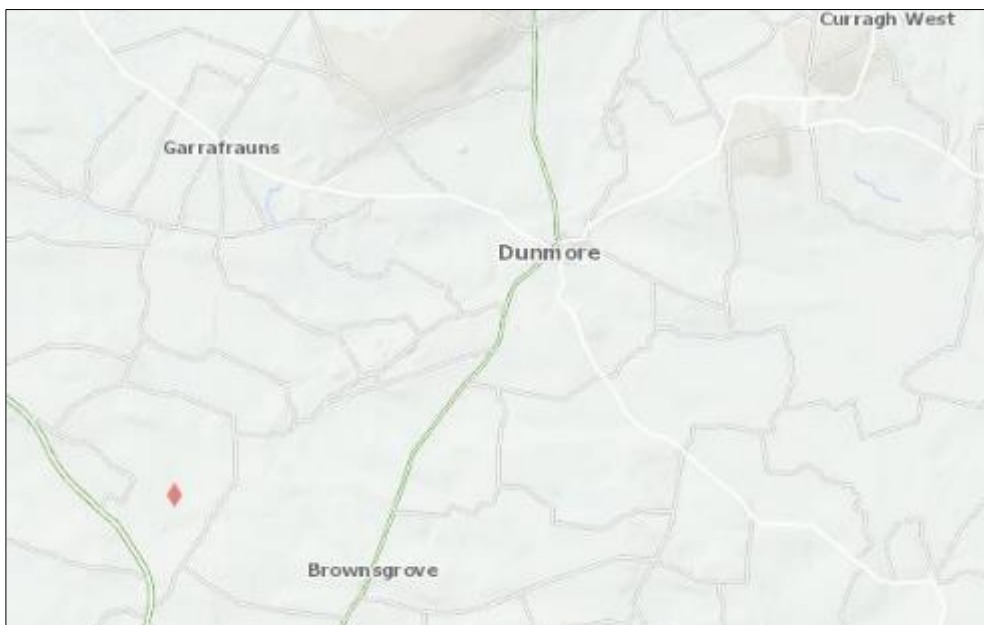
The Dunmore Esker is one of Ireland's best examples of a tunnel-deposited esker and is an impressive, high, striking example of a dry sand and gravel ridge. It has been designated as a County Geological Site and may be recommended for designation as a Geological Natural Heritage Area (NHA).

The recommendations of the Geological Audit of County Galway include the development of signage along the roadside of the R327 roads, especially nearing the Slieve Dart ridge, to help promote and create awareness of these important landscape features.

The drumlins and eskers are accessible along a network of minor roads that pass over and around these features, with several visible cross sections where quarrying has occurred.

A detailed account of part of the Dunmore esker system can be found in the Galway County Council publication 'Galway's Living Landscapes – Part 1 Eskers' where they are labelled 'Williamstown Eskers'.

Brick



Map 14: Clay brick location in Grange townland – indicated by purple triangle. 'Data from the GSI.ie geology database accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at www.heritagemaps.ie, [7-5-2020]'.

The Geological Survey of Ireland mapping system indicates the presence of clay brick in the townland of Grange in the south-west of the study area. The Ordnance Survey first edition 6-inch map c.1840 shows that this resource was being exploited, with a brickfield illustrated in Grange. Griffiths Valuation c.1855 shows the land was being leased from Sir George Shee Bart. by George Reilly at this time.



Map 15: First Edition Ordnance Survey 6-inch map (c.1840) with Brick Field indicated. 'Data from the base maps gallery accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at www.heritagemaps.ie, [7-5-2020]'.

The general process for small, local brick fields in the mid-19th century was that the clay would be dug out during the drier months of the year (generally April to September) and left for a few days to dry (or 'sour'). Stones were picked out by hand and the clay was then worked to the right consistency by watering and trampling underfoot. This was known as 'tempering'. The clay was then spread into wooden moulds which were shod with iron and brought to a drying ground, where it was emptied out of the moulds and left to harden. After this stage of drying, the bricks were arranged in small stacks and traditionally fired in a clamp kiln. The fuel for the kiln was most likely turf in this area, taken from the local bog at Grange.

No local knowledge of this brick field was uncovered during the Audit.

3.2. Habitats

3.2.1. The Resource and Accessibility

A. Dry, Calcareous Grasslands

The geomorphology of the study area, shaped during the last Ice Age, is dominated by eskers and drumlins. These well-drained landforms are covered with a thin layer of limestone - based soil which is particularly suitable for semi-natural grassland habitat. Where the land is extensively grazed without the use of fertilisers, this semi-natural grassland supports flowering plants such as yarrow, common knapweed, bird's foot trefoil, lady's bedstraw, oxeye daisy, field scabious and several orchid species. This habitat is found extensively in the study area on the esker ridges, drumlins and roadside grass verges and is easily viewed from the road network.

B. Wetlands

Interspersed between the eskers and drumlins are valleys and depressions, where drainage is generally impeded. These areas that have been wet for a long enough time period to allow specially adapted plants and animals to become established. Wetland habitats regularly occur as mosaics, so it can be difficult to see where one habitat type ends and the other begins. For example, the land surrounding Carrownagur Lough and into Carrownryla townland supports a variety of wetland habitats including an open water lake, fringed by reed swamp, wet grassland, fen, wet woodland and scrub. Table 2 lists the variety of the wetland habitats within the study area and the townlands within which they occur.

Townland	Wetland Type
Shanballymore	Wet grassland, blanket bog
Derrymore, Cappagh, Prospect	Wet grassland, cutover bog, fen, scrub
Addergoole beg	Wet grassland, fen
Gortnalea west	Wet grassland, fen
Knockatee west, Gortnagoynes	Wet grassland, cutover bog, fen, bog woodland, scrub
Cloonagh, Lurgan	River, wet grassland, raised bog, cutover bog, bog woodland, scrub
Lurgan, Kilnaslieve	River, wet grassland, marsh, raised bog, cutover bog, fen scrub
Knockaunnagat	River, wet grassland, fen ,scrub
Carrowculleen west	River, wet grassland, scrub
Sylaun East	Wet grassland, fen, scrub, river
Ballintise	River, Marsh, wet grassland, fen
Dunblaney	Wet grassland, cutover bog, fen
Kilmury Killavoher	River, wet grassland, raised bog, cutover bog, fen, scrub
Brackloon Kilmurry	Wet grassland, fen
Carantrila and Carrownagur	Lake, reed swamp, river, wet grassland, fen, scrub
Carrownryla	River, wet grassland, raised bog, cutover bog, scrub
Cloonmore Gorteen	River, Wet grassland, raised bog, cutover bog, fen, scrub
Lissybroder Carrownryla	Wet grassland, bog, bog woodland, scrub, cutover bog
Menus Park	Wet grassland, fen, wet woodland (oak ash or willow alder)
Slieve Bog NHA- Lough Corrib SAC (internationally important)	Raised bog, river, cutover bog, fen, reed swamp, marsh, scrub
Ballywataire	River, wet grassland, fen, scrub
Gortaleam Ballaghdorragha	Turlough, river, fen, scrub, wet grassland
Ballaghdorragha Ballintava	River, wet grassland, cutover bog, fen, transition mire, bog woodland, scrub
Ballaghdorragha North	River, wet grassland, cutover bog, fen, scrub

Table 2: Wetlands and their townland locations within study area. <http://www.wetlandsurveysireland.com/wetlands/map-of-irish-wetlands--/>



Photograph 4: Chalk Blue butterfly in wet grassland habitat, Addergoole More townland

Wet grassland habitat supports rushes, sedges and flowering plants such as Creeping Buttercup, Meadowsweet, Silverweed, Cuckoo Flower, Marsh Orchid and Devil's Bit Scabious. Hares, Snipe, Frog and Butterflies are common and it provides good ground cover for Skylark and Meadow Pipit.

This type of habitat is highly visible in the townlands to the south-east of Dunmore town, where the low lying Sinking River often overflows its banks e.g. in Breanra, Addergoole More, Cloonmore and Slieve

Turloughs are internationally important habitats almost unique to the west of Ireland. They support distinctive plant and animal communities because of their seasonal flooding. Many of these species are rare such as the Fairy Shrimp and the Whooper Swan, a winter visitor.

The following site synopsis extracted from the National Parks and Wildlife Service database indicates the high level of biodiversity present in the 'Williamstown group' of turloughs in the north-east of the study area.

Polleagh Lough turlough has a particularly diverse vegetation with eleven true turlough plant communities. Reedbeds with Common Reed (*Phragmites communis*) and Common Club-rush (*Scirpus lacustris* subsp. *lacustris*) cover a significant part of the southern end. Marl pond vegetation with Shoreweed (*Littorella uniflora*), Lesser Water-plantain (*Baldellia ranunculoides*) and Bulbous Rush (*Juncus bulbosus*) occur where a layer of marl deposition covers a bare peat substrate, especially in the northern and eastern shorelines. Wet annual vegetation occurs along the narrow parts of Polleagh West which contains a small number of specialised annual plants such as Redshank (*Polygonum persicaria*), Red Goosefoot (*Chenopodium rubrum*), Marsh Cudweed (*Filaginella uliginosa*) and Northern Yellow-cress (*Rorippa islandica*). Amphibious Bistort (*Polygonum amphibium*) is quite widespread in the turlough and occurs as almost pure stands with Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), Common Spike-rush (*Eleocharis palustris*) and the moss *Fontinalis antipyretica*. Much of the remainder of the turlough comprises a low growing sward of mixed sedges (*Carex* spp.)

Curragh Turlough has a less diverse vegetation with five true turlough plant communities. Pure stands of Amphibious Bistort with *Fontinalis antipyretica* occupy much of the small hollows and larger bays close to the lake margins. Elsewhere sedge grassland is widespread.

For a small site this suite of turloughs is considered to have a good diversity of wintering water birds. Peak numbers at Polleagh during twice monthly counts from December 1995 to April 1996 were as follows: Whooper Swan 8; Mute Swan 3; Mallard 34; Wigeon 230; Teal 20; Shoveler 4; Tufted Duck 17; Pochard 5; Goldeneye 2; Lapwing 1,190; Golden Plover 1,550; Curlew 155; Dunlin 31; Redshank 2; Moorhen 6 and Black-headed Gull 110. Curragh had lesser numbers of all species but there is likely to be frequent interchange between the two turloughs. During a further site visit (31/01/2001) a similar range and number were recorded (numbers refer to Polleagh, Curragh and Gortduff combined): Whooper Swan 9;

Mute Swan 2; Mallard 55; Wigeon 200; Teal 30; Tufted Duck 8; Lapwing 800; Golden Plover 150; Curlew 55; Dunlin 25 and Redshank 1. A good number of waterbirds were present in grassy pools in the north of Polleagh where the two turloughs join at high-water levels. In 1996 Polleagh and Curragh held significant numbers of breeding waders: Snipe 10 (drummers); Lapwing 12 pairs; Redshank 7 pairs and Ringed Plover 2 pairs. In addition, small numbers of Tufted Duck, Mallard, Little Grebes and Moorhen also breed.

The Annex II species Otter (*Lutra lutra*) was recorded at the site in 1996. Fish have been reported in both Polleagh and Curragh Loughs.

Curragh Lough and Polleagh Turloughs are located alongside the R380 road and are easily viewed from this vantage point.

Peatlands consist of bogs (raised, blanket and cutover) and fens. All of which are found in the study area.

Blanket Bog occurs on flat or gently sloping ground above 150m. The depth of peat generally varies between 1-2m (but can be deeper in pockets). The vegetation is dominated by deer grass, cotton grasses and dwarf shrubs such as ling, cross-leaved heath and bilberry. Where the bog is uncut the cover of sphagnum mosses can be high. This habitat type occurs in the north of the study area along the ridge of Slieve Dart.

Cutover blanket bog, much of which has been afforested, is accessible along the Derrylahan Looped walking trail (which is part of the Cloonfad Scenic Walks based in Co. Roscommon), a small section of which crosses into County Galway and the study area in the north tip of Drumbane townland.



Map 16: Derrylahan Loop walking trail. Pink line indicates route. Black line indicates Galway-Roscommon County Boundary. 'Data from the National Looped walks database accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at www.heritagemaps.ie, [18-6-2020]'.

Raised bogs developed in shallow lake basins or topographical depressions. When intact they are dome shaped and can contain between 3 and 12m of peat. This wet, acidic and nutrient deficient habitat supports specialised plant communities. Sphagnum mosses dominate the wet pool areas alongside sedges, bog asphodel, sundews and bladderworts. The drier hummock areas support ling, deer grass, cross leaved heath, lichens, bog cotton and other mosses. Trees such as birch and scots pine frequently invade the drier cut margins, creating a bog woodland habitat. There are several examples of raised bog throughout the study area, all of which have been cut in the past and some currently for fuel. They therefore present a diverse mosaic of semi-wet domes, cutaway margins and marginal bog woodland. The largest blocks of this habitat type are found in the east of the study area where Slieve Bog occurs and in the west where Lurgan bog is located.



Map 17: Areas of grassland (green) and bog land (brown) in study area (red circle). 'Data from the base maps gallery accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at www.heritagemaps.ie, [18-6-2020]'.

Slieve Bog, in the south-east of the study area, is an important raised bog in terms of type and biodiversity and is a designated a Special Area of Conservation under the EU Habitats Directive (Slieve Bog, Co. Galway, NPWS Site Code: 000247)

It consists of one dome of sloping bog, associated with subsidence caused by drainage, and an intact dome to the south-east. Cutover bog occurs all around the margins of the high bog except where the bog slopes down to the river where the edge is semi-natural. The south and east margins of the site are bounded by the Sinking (Yellow) River, the northern and western sections by roads.



Map 18: Aerial view of Slieve Bog showing cutover areas around the margins of the high bog with Sinking River to south and east. 'Data from the base maps gallery accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at www.heritagemaps.ie, [18-6-2020]'.

The following extract from the NPWS site synopsis for Slieve Bog describes the vegetation found there.

The vegetation of the high bog includes Ling Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), Cottongrass (*Eriophorum* spp.), Carnation Sedge (*Carex panicea*), Common Lousewort (*Pedicularis sylvatica*) and the bryophytes *Campylopus atrovirens*, *Racomitrium lanuginosum* and *Pleurozia purpurea*. The intact dome in the south-east is uniformly wet and contains the relic of a good hummock/hollow system. Small hummocks of bog mosses *Sphagnum capillifolium*, *S. subnitens* and the rare *S. pulchrum* are found here. Hollows are poorly vegetated with a lot of bare peat. *Sphagnum papillosum*, *S. cuspidatum*, *S. pulchrum* and the liverwort *Odontoschisma sphagni* occur in small depressions but not in pools. A long sinuous flush dominated by Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*), Ling Heather and Deergrass (*Scirpus cespitosus*) flows out towards the north-east margin. The other flush consists of a series of swallow holes which support a vegetation of tall Ling Heather, Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*). Active cutover is mainly bare peat with Common Cottongrass (*Eriophorum angustifolium*) and Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*); old cutover is dominated by Purple Moor-grass and Ling Heather. Some drains filled with the bog moss *Sphagnum cuspidatum* also occur.

Red Grouse, a species that is becoming increasingly rare in Ireland, has been recorded on this bog.

The raised bogs in the study area, with their mosaics of cutover, reed marsh, fen and marginal woodland are very accessible along the numerous metalled roads and trackways which have been created to provide access to these bogs for turf cutting activities over the centuries.

In the past as the raised bog was being exploited for turf, the cuttings caused the water within the bog to be released, sometimes in huge volumes, especially after heavy rain. The following interesting account of a bog burst that occurred at Slieve Bog in 1873 is found at <http://www.from-ireland.net/bog-bursts-ireland-county/> It caused huge devastation to the landscape in this area at the time and destroyed houses and bridges.

A.D. 1873. October 1.-Bog 3 miles east of Dunmore, Co. Galway.

The bog was connected with the Dunmore river by the Carrabel, a small stream. It was considerably elevated above the surrounding country, its edges presenting the appearance of high turf banks. "A farmer digging potatoes suddenly observed a brown mass slowly approaching. Leaving his spade in the ground, he went for the neighbours, and on his return the mass of moving bog had half covered his potato field, and completely hidden his corn field from sight, except a few stacks which remained on a knoll, an island in the midst of a scene of desolation." The bog slowly flowed down the valley of the Dunmore, burying three farm houses, and covering about 300 acres of pasture and arable land, 6 feet deep. The peat was cut along a perpendicular face, 25 to 30 feet in height, which extended down to the underlying gravel. It was from this cutting that the outburst took place, The flood of peat and water moved rapidly at first, but afterwards slowly, and continued in movement for 11 days. It carried away roads and bridges. The subsided portion of the bog extended eastwards from the face of the cutting for a distance of a quarter of a mile; its greatest breadth measured also a quarter of a mile, down the middle, a valley from 20 to 25 feet deep was formed, and about the sides the crust was torn asunder. The numerous crevasses so formed were fined to the top with black peaty fluid.

Ref: Savage, 'Picturesque Ireland' pp. 234-235

And 128 years earlier there was a similar scene just down the river at Addergoole:

A.D.1745, March 28.- Bog of Addergoole, Dunmore, County Galway-

About mid-day, after a heavy thunder-shower, about 10 acres of bog, the front of which was being cut for turf, moved forward and down the course of a stream, and subsided upon a low pasture of 30 acres by the riverside, where it spread and settled, covering the whole. The stream thus dammed back, rose till it formed a lake of 300 acres, which, by the cutting of a channel, was subsequently reduced to 50 or 60 acres. This area, together with the 30 acres of meadow over which the bog spread, has been destroyed for purposes of husbandry.

Ref: Ouseley, Trans. R.I.A., vol. ii, Science, pp. 3-5, plate I., 1887

Today the highly accessible network of roads that surrounds Slieve Bog provides opportunity for walking and cycling access and limited vehicular access. Lurgan and Drumbulcaun bogs are also highly accessible and visible from the surrounding road system and access tracks.

The community developed Bog walk to the west of Dunmore town passes through the townlands of Prospect Cappagh, Derrymore and Castlefarm and provides access to bog woodland, cutover and raised bog habitats.

Fens are peat forming systems which unlike bogs are fed by groundwater or moving surface water. They occur in river valleys, poorly drained hollows or beside lake margins or river floodplains and on the fringes of bogs when water has been enriched with minerals. A fen is often a mosaic of habitats from open water, reed beds, sedge communities to birch and alder woodland. They are typically dominated by sedges, black bog rush and reed beds. They also support rushes, purple moor grass, marsh pennywort, water mint, grass of Parnassus, butterwort, devils bit scabious, meadowsweet, ragged robin, lady's smock, horsetails, and different species of orchids. They are very rich in insect life with dragonflies, damselflies, midges, water boatmen, water beetles, pond skaters in abundance. Butterflies including marsh fritillary (caterpillars eat leaves of devils bit scabious), otters, frogs, newt, fox, bats, skylark, meadow pipit, reed bunting, sedge warbler are also common inhabitants. A good example of a former lake which has transitioned to fen is Lough Agar, which is located on the north-eastern section of Drumbulcaun bog. A mosaic of wetland habitats including open water (dependent on the time of year – dries up in summer), reed marsh, fen and cutover bog set within a backdrop of drumlins is visible at Drumbulcaun from the community developed walking route along a metalled road.

C. Rivers and Streams



Map 19: Rivers in the Study Area 'Data from the Rivers and Streams database accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at www.heritagemaps.ie. [20-6-2020]'.

The river which has its source in Tobernara Spring (the water of which flows underground from Coolcam Turlough) flows from the north east of the study area in a south-westerly direction before joining with the Sinking River at Abbeyland North. The Yellow River enters the study area at Gortagany and flows south to meet the Sinking River on the east side of Slieve Bog. The Sinking River flows from Lisheenaheltia through Dunmore Town to leave the study area just to the west of

Cloonagh Bridge. It is known as the Clare River as it reaches Milltown and continues westwards to drain into Lough Corrib. All of these rivers and streams are part of the Lough Corrib Special Area of Conservation, as they are important spawning grounds for Brown Trout and Atlantic Salmon. The Sinking River is accessible at several bridges within the study area and along the river walk in Dunmore town.

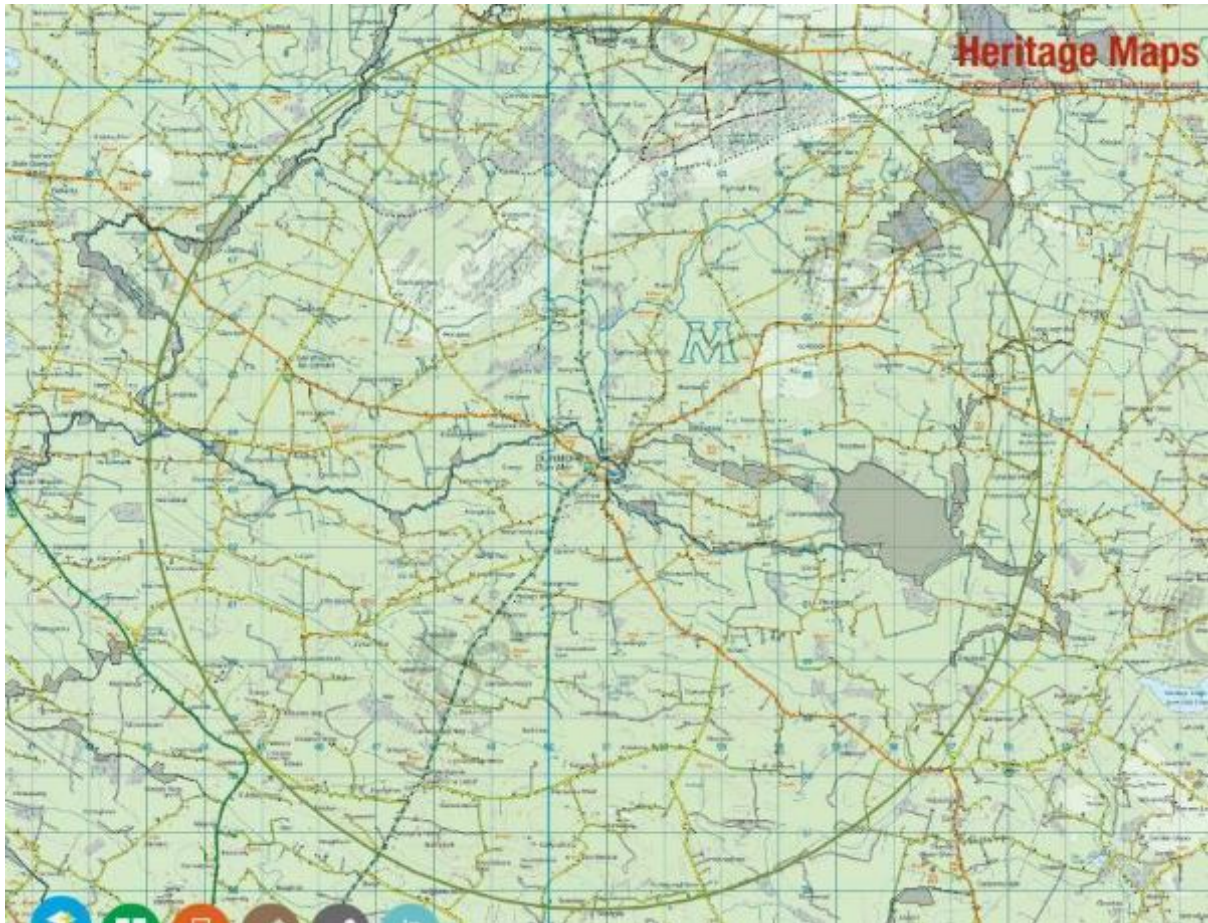
The Cloongarve River flows from Carrowroe East townland west leaving the study area at Lurgan before joining the Clare River in Milltown.

3.2.2. Importance of the habitats in the study area

The Dunmore Esker is one of Ireland's best examples of a tunnel-deposited esker and is an impressive, high, striking example of a dry sand and gravel ridge. It has been designated as a County Geological Site and may be recommended for designation as a Geological Natural Heritage Area (NHA).

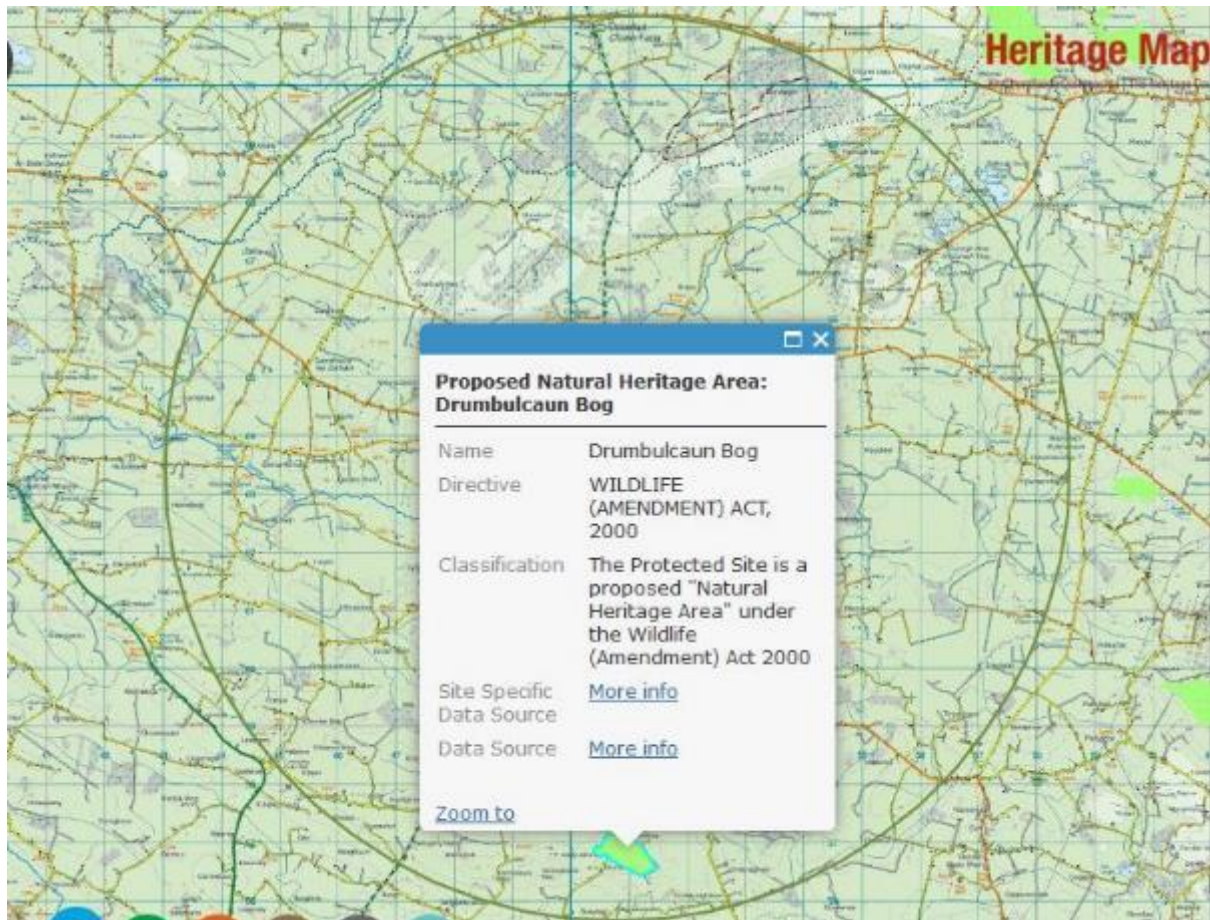
An assessment of the ecological value of Curragh Lough and Polleagh turloughs, using a recognised evaluation system, ranks Polleagh and Curragh combined as being the 11th most valuable turlough in Ireland in terms of nature conservation value. On this basis they are evaluated as being of international importance, meriting strict conservation measures. They are protected under the EU Habitats Directive, designated as Special Areas of Conservation and are recommended to be designated as part of a Geological NHA by the Geological Survey of Ireland (Meehan et al. 2019).

Slieve Bog, is an important raised bog in terms of type and biodiversity and is a designated a Special Area of Conservation under the EU Habitats Directive (Slieve Bog, Co. Galway, NPWS Site Code: 000247).



Map 20: Special Areas of Conservation indicated in grey. 'Data from the Protected sites database (NPWS) accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at www.heritagemaps.ie, [20-6-2020]'.

Drumbulcaun Bog, because of its varied mosaic of wetland habitats, is a proposed Natural Heritage Area under the National Wildlife Act.



Map 21: Drumbulcaun Bog location 'Data from the Protected Sites database (NPWS) accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at www.heritagemaps.ie, [20-6-2020]'.

The Yellow/Sinking River is part of the Lough Corrib Special Area of Conservation (SAC) along with Slieve Bog and is an important habitat for Atlantic Salmon and Brown Trout.

SECTION FOUR

BUILT AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

Note: The study area contains a very large number of archaeological sites and it is not within the remit of this report to provide a description of each one. A selection of representative monuments whose features are in good condition, visible and recognisable to the general public and are accessible are included in the following section.

4.1. Ancient Burial Sites

The oldest human settlement in the study area is reflected in the remains of ancient burial tombs. They include megalithic tombs (large stone structures), tumuli (earthen mounds) barrows (earthen burial mounds encircled by a fosse and sometimes and low earthen bank) cairns (stone mounds) and cists (stone box-like compartments).

The megalithic tombs were built by people who lived here during the Neolithic and early Bronze Age (approximately between 6,000 to 3,500 years ago) while the other tomb types can date as far back as 6,000 years ago but have been known to continue in usage, in some cases up to 1700 years ago.

All of the sites described below are recorded monuments under the National Monuments Service Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). Information on recorded monuments is available on <https://webgis.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment>

A. Megalithic Tombs

Over time megalithic tombs, have been known locally by various names such as dolmens and cromlechs. Archaeologically they are classified into four main types – passage, portal, court and wedge.

Within the study area two tombs have been officially classified as court tombs, while four other sites may have consisted of similar monuments but they cannot be confirmed due to the lack of visible remains.

Flaskagh More – court tomb

The court tomb in Flaskagh More townland is located on the south-eastern slopes of Slieve Dart overlooking a landscape of drumlins and eskers to the south. On the north side of the valley below is a section of the Dunmore Esker extending from Ballycostello to Shanballymore.



Photograph 5: Flaskagh More court tomb view from north-west towards Ballycostello.



The tomb consist of a pair of galleries set back to back and 1.75m apart. The main long axis runs from east to west. The eastern gallery consists of 2 chambers with a small ante-chamber to the front and the barely discernible remains of a court. The west gallery is not as well preserved and only the eastern end survives. No court is visible at this end.

To the south of the galleries there is quite an amount of cairn material. On the north side it is less obvious. There has been considerable disturbance.

The tomb is located on private farmland approximately 100m from a public track way. It is not visible from the road and access should be arranged with the landowner.

Photograph 6: Flaskagh More court tomb view of back chamber in eastern gallery.

Flaskagh Beg Court Tomb

The NMS recorded a court tomb in the townland of Flaskagh Beg but due to the inaccessibility of this site, it was not visited as part of this Audit.

Megalithic structure Lissyconor



Located in the adjoining field, to the north of the private avenue to Rabbits house at Lissyconor, this monument consists of a large rectangular boulder with its long axis running NE-SW. A boundary wall between Rabbits and Moran's land lies over it on the north side. The boulder rests on a smaller boulder at its south end and there is a possible side stone on its west side. This monument is locally believed to be a grave, but due to its condition, the type of megalithic structure present has not been classified by the National Monuments Service (NMS).

Photograph 7: Megalithic structure in Lissyconor townland.

Addergoole More - Anomalous Stone Group

On the 3rd edition Ordnance Survey 6-inch map, dated 1932, a small oval enclosure in Addergoole More townland is marked 'Dolmen'. The site was described by de Valera and Ó Nualláin in the *'Survey of the megalithic tombs of Ireland Vol. III'* (1972), as *'Two prostrate slabs, 3.00m and 2.50m respectively in maximum dimension, lying at the road fence, may have formed part of the monument before its destruction'*.

The site was levelled during land reclamation and no visible surface trace survives.

<https://webgis.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment>

Carrowpadeen East

In 1914, Rev. J. Neary in his paper *'On the History and Antiquities of the Parish of Dunmore'* noted near Kennys fort *'was a cromlech on the westward side: the stones were removed years ago'* (Neary J., 1914, 113, no. 119). The site is recorded as 'an unclassified stone structure' by the National Monuments Service.

Garrafrauns 'Dolmen' ('Anomalous stone group')

Located on John Keavney's land in Garrafrauns, this grouping of large stones is known locally as a 'Dolmen'. The six large stones rest on top of each other on a rise in the ground which may be a stone cairn. They were described in 1972 by de Valera and Ó Nualláin as *'Six large superimposed stones resting in an inclined position and forming no recognizable arrangement'*. Due to their current positioning the National Monuments Service came to the following conclusion *'the nature of the site is uncertain and it may, in fact, be entirely natural'*. The site however is currently a recorded monument on the Sites and Monuments Record compiled by the National Monuments Service where it is referred to as 'Anomalous stone group'.

<https://webgis.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment>



Photograph 8: Possible megalithic structure at Garrafrauns.

B. Tumuli

In **Knockatee East** townland, 250m west of Dunmore Castle and on the opposite side of the Garrafrauns road, close to the Sinking River is a tree topped hillock in the roadside field which is recorded as a possible burial mound by the National Monuments Service (ref no.: GA07810).

It consists of a poorly preserved almost circular enclosure defined by a low bank surrounding the base of a raised mound on a natural hillock. This mound is labelled 'Rathcoll' on the OS 6-inch historic maps and is known locally as 'Fairy Hill'. The sub-townland name in the area in which it is located is Knockmannanan. The blind poet Cormac Dall O'Comán claimed that Dún Mór was actually Dún Móire, after the daughter of Mananáin Mac Lir and this sub townland name refers to him (Greaney, J. 1984)

Killanin and Duignan (Shell Guide to Ireland 1967) stated that it was believed to be the grave of 'King Turlough O'Conor'. Turlough Mór O'Conor was High King of Ireland (1122-1156) and he died at Dunmore in 1156, where he was waked for six days and six nights before his body was brought to Clonmacnois for burial beside the high altar in St Kieran's Church.



Photograph 9: 'Rathcoll' - Possible Burial Mound in Knockatee East.

A **possible tumulus** is recorded in **Roy** townland by the NMS. It consists of a small, circular grassed over mound of earth and stone, eight metres in diameter and approximately one metre in height.

C. Barrows

In **Knockaloura West** townland an unclassified ring barrow is recorded. The monument is poorly preserved and is defined by a circular bank (diameter 7.5m) and external fosse, which is only visible at the south. The interior is slightly hollow. The site could not be located due to the vegetation growth at the time of audit.

In **Abbeylands South townland (Dunmore Town)** at the east end of the Soccer playing pitch is a small well-preserved mound, roughly circular in plan and conical in profile. Traces of a low linear bank and shallow fosse are visible running along the ridge summit to the south-east. The NMS label this monument as an 'unclassified barrow'.



Photograph 10: Unclassified barrow in Abbeylands South townland

D. Cairns

Dunmore Cairn

On the 3rd edition OS 6-inch map (c.1930) a cairn is marked on the land to the west of High St in a field to the rear of the Parochial House. No visible surface trace survives but the site is a recorded monument by the NMS.

Flaskagh More Cairn

In a field to the west of the road between Kiltivna and Ballycostello is a roughly sub circular grassed-over cairn of earth and stone. On the summit is a slight rectangular depression, possibly stone-lined. This cairn has been classified by the NMS as a recorded monument with the proviso that *'though the whole mound could be the result of field clearance, the presence of the latter feature (i.e. the summit depression) suggests that it is of some antiquity'*.



Photograph 11: Cairn in Flaskagh More

D. Miscellaneous Burial

Woodfield Burial

During construction work in 1975, a number of human bones were discovered by the Comer family behind their house in Woodfield townland and 30m NW of a ringfort. The bones were found at a depth of 0.4m and reputedly rested on or in a shallow pit in the underlying boulder clay. The NMS classify it as a '*miscellaneous burial*' and describe it '*as possibly the remains of a crouched burial in an unlined pit*' but no exact dating is available.

4.2. Fulachta Fia

Fulachta Fia are kidney shaped mounds of burnt and fire cracked stone usually found close to a water source. When in use, a trough was dug, lined with wood or stone and filled with water. Stones heated in a nearby fire were placed in the water to bring it to boiling point. It is thought that meat was then cooked in the water, but it may also have been used for bathing or even beer making. The discarded stones form the mound that surrounds the sites. This monument type can date back as far as 4,000 years ago into the Bronze Age.

Killuney

Two fulachta fia were recorded in Killuney townland, one of which was marked on the 3rd edition of the Ordnance Survey 6-inch map (1932) but no surface trace is visible today.

The second example is located in a low-lying field just inside the roadside boundary and is visible from the roadside. It is a well preserved horse –shoe shaped grass and briar-covered mound. The NMS record that it consists of earth and stone.



Photograph 12 : Fulacht Fiadh (GA00745) in Killuney townland.

Carrowkeelanahglas

In Carrowkeelanahglas townland the tradition of another fulacht fiadh is recorded by the NMS as follows: *'according to the landowner, large quantities of black earth and burnt stone came to light during land reclamation some years ago. No visible surface trace survives'*.

Abbeyland North

An archaeological excavation of a fulacht fiadh was carried out as part of the Dunmore Sewage Scheme between the 12th and 16th June 2006 in the townland of Abbeyland North. It was located near a bend on the Sinking River and was first identified as an *'amorphous spread of fire-cracked stones in a charcoal-enriched silt'*. The excavation uncovered the trough in the north-west quadrant of the mound. Shattered stone, ash and charcoal and parts of the timber lining of the trough were

revealed. The timbers, consisting of six base planks and four side planks, were regularly laid, cut to fit and arranged in a rectangular fashion. (Full report Appendix II)

Carrowmunniagh

Three large circular, grassed over mounds are located in a low-lying boggy area beside a stream in Carrowmunniagh townland. They have been described by the NMS as *'possibly a group of boundary mounds, tumuli or large fulachta fiadh'*.

Due to the abundance of wetland habitats that are especially common in the south-east quadrant of the study area – there may be many other unrecorded Fulachta Fia in the locality which in-depth field survey could reveal.

4.3. The Lurgan Dug out Boat (4,400 years old)



Photograph 13: Lurgan dugout boat shortly after discovery

The largest of Europe's surviving dugout boats was recovered from the raised bog in Lurgan townland in 1902. While digging a drain workmen uncovered two pieces of timber a short distance from each other. They cut away enough of the timber to make the bottom of the drain level. Later that year Mr Pat Coen, the bog owner was deepening the drain and when he uncovered more of the timber, he thought it was part of a coffin. He reported his find and Fr Kelly of Milltown contacted Sir Thos. Esmoncle, who investigated and purchased the boat for the Royal Irish Academy from Mr. Coen for £25. The boat was removed from the bog and brought to Milltown Railway Station, a process that took three weeks. From Tuam station it was brought to Dublin on three large railway wagons. It was then housed in the National Museum where conservation work was undertaken. (<https://milltown.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/townlands/the-lurgan-dugout-boat-2>) The drain digging had damaged parts of the boat, but these were later remodelled in plaster after conservation treatment.



Photograph 14: Lurgan boat at gate of National Museum of Ireland – on arrival. (NMI photo)

Unfortunately, the exact location of the find was never recorded. Found at a depth of 2.4m, it measures 15.24m long, 1.11m wide and is 0.77m in depth at its widest point. Radiocarbon dating indicated that it was carved around 4,400 years ago (c.2400 BC).

A huge oak tree trunk was carved out to create the boat using stone axes and fire. An external hull with a rounded stern to the bow which inclines upwards and a flat bottom with slightly flared sides were produced. However, the interior of the boat was not completed (Gregory, N. 1998). The average thickness of the floor of the boat is 24cm, which is far in excess of the average Irish dugout boat. To make it a viable boat for its size the floor would have to be carved to a minimum depth of 12cm. It is unlikely that it was in use for everyday fishing and transport. It has been suggested that it was used by a ruling elite for ceremonial purposes or that the series of paired holes were stabilisers or outriggers and it may have been intended for longer journeys.

<https://www.irishtimes.com/culture/art-and-design/bronze-age-dugout-canoe-circa-2200-bc-1.568194>

Today much of Lurgan townland consists of raised bog, much of which has been cut away. It is likely that some of this area was open water when the boat was built.

The Lurgan boat can be viewed today in the National Museum of Ireland – Archaeology, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

4.4. Hilltop Enclosures

Since Neolithic times, hilltops have been enclosed with banks and walls for various purposes. Such enclosures can range in size from 70m to 300m in diameter. Some were used for defensive purposes, others as ecclesiastical sites and others may have had community ceremonial purposes. Only excavation can provide definite answers to their usage.

Cloonagh



Photograph 16: Aerial view of the hilltop enclosure in Cloonagh townland. 'Data from the base maps gallery accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at www.heritagemaps.ie, [9-8-2020]'

Cloonagh hilltop enclosure is located on a low hill on the north side of the road from Ardclon to Knockaunnagat with a view over Lurgan bog to the south. It is oval in shape and classified as being in fair condition by the NMS. It measures 112m from east to west and 95m from north to south. It is enclosed by two banks and an intervening fosse. The inner bank is in poor condition while a modern field boundary forms part of the outer bank on the west and a farmyard encroaches on the east.

A children's burial ground was recorded in the north-east section of the enclosure, but only a low mound without any grave markers is visible today.

Neary (1914, 113-14, no. 139) recorded that a 'souterrain led into the rath from the N. side' but there is no visible evidence of this today.

Neary also wrote '*It is said to be the largest fort in Ireland*' but he does not state who was making that claim.

In fact Cloonagh is an average size hilltop enclosure. A nearby comparable site is found on Belmont Hill near Milltown which is larger than Cloonagh, measuring 170m north to south and 150m east to west.

In **Carrownryla** townland, there is a large enclosure, known locally as 'Race Park Fort'. It measures 71m east to west and 56m north to south and is enclosed by a narrow bank and shallow fosse. Its exact type is unclassified by the NMS due to lack of diagnostic features but it is a recorded monument on the SMR.

Neary (1914, 116, no. 87) surmises that it may have been a 'pinfeld' i.e. a pound for stray animals.

As John Burke, who lived in Carrownryla House in the 18th century, was famous as a race horse breeder the site may also be connected to this activity. A poem by the blind poet Cormac Dall O'Comáin, tells of the fate of John Burke's horses after his death. All but two were sold and they were put under the plough. Cormac writes that the two horses were so insulted they broke loose, galloped across the country to Race Park and careered around the course, until they collapsed dead from exhaustion. (Greaney, J. 1984)

4.5. Ringforts

Ringforts are usually circular but can be oval or D-shaped. One (univallate), two (bivallate) and sometime more (multivallate) protective banks of earth and/or stone enclosed the buildings in the interior. When stone is used as the dominant enclosing element they are often referred to as 'cashels'. Their size (20m-60m) suggests they were occupied by a single extended family. Most were in use between c.2500-1600 years ago. Many contain one or more souterrains. These are underground passageways, usually with one entrance/exit, which is generally concealed. They are most often associated with storage of food and as refuges during times of danger.

A number were re-used in the 19th century as 'cillíns' (children's burial grounds).

Rev. J. Neary when writing in 1914 'On the History and Antiquities of the Parish of Dunmore' described 140 forts in the parish, but some of these have been re-classified today by the National Monuments Service. They are the most numerous type of archaeological monument found in the study area today.

A small selection of the more accessible sites are described in the following section.

The original **Dún Mór**, constructed by Turlough O'Conor in the early 12th century is believed to be incorporated in the later Anglo-Norman fortifications of Dunmore Castle. The label Dún is generally used in reference to a ringfort type fortification.

It is generally assumed that the larger the number of enclosing banks around a ringfort, the higher the status of the family that occupied the site. There are three **trivallate forts** in the study area located in the townlands of Kilnalappa, Carrowpaddeen East and Bellwell.

Kilnalappa

Located on Rabbits land in Kilnalappa, Neary named this fort 'Woodbed Rath' and stated that 'this powerful fortalice is very perfect in plan'. He went on to record that 'the banks are massive, the ditches wide and the inner rampart was topped by an ungrouted wall 3 ft. in diameter'.



Located on the summit of a hill, it consists of a well-preserved circular rath with a diameter of c.30m. Three earthen stone-lined banks and two intervening fosses enclose the lios. There is a well-defined entrance on the north-east side.

There is a probable souterrain in the north-west section as an L-shaped hollow is visible in the ground. A large limestone upright is locally believed to mark the entrance to the souterrain (Alcock et al 1999)

Photograph 17: Aerial view of Kilnalappa triple banked ringfort 'Data from the base maps gallery accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at www.heritagemaps.ie, [20-6-2020]'.

Carrowpadeen East

Marked 'Lisnadreeglee' on the historic Ordnance Survey maps, Neary (1914) called this fort 'Lisnatreeblee' and describes it as '*a massive, circular, earthen rath much ravelled on the E side*'. He also states that traditionally it is known as 'the Fort of the Three Shouts' because a gigantic Dane gave three shouts in the morning, at noon and at sunset from the rampart of the rath. The fort consists of an inner scarp, two banks and two intervening fosses with an entrance at the north. Quarrying has encroached on the south and north-west sides.



Photograph 18: Aerial View of the 'Fort of the Three Shouts' Carrowpadeen East 'Data from the base maps gallery accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at www.heritagemaps.ie, [20-6-2020]'.

Bellwell (Tobarnaclug)

Neary refers to this fort as 'Gortnaleasa' and describes it as '*half ravelled*' but that the remaining half indicated '*a beautifully formed, circular, earthen triple rath*'. The fort today is poorly preserved. A field wall cuts through the monument with no visible surface trace to the south. The remaining section north of the wall consists of three earthen banks and two fosses. Neary recorded an open souterrain roofed with massive flagstones in the interior.



Photograph 19: Aerial view of the remains of the triple bank ringfort in Bellwell. 'Data from the base maps gallery accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at www.heritagemaps.ie, [20-6-2020]'.

The most numerous form of ringfort found in the study area is the **bivallate**, with several well preserved examples. 'Lios a Roc' ringfort is a typical example. It is sited on the summit of an esker ridge in Flaskagh More townland. This well-preserved monument is enclosed by two banks with an entrance gap in the south west. It is visible from the roadway. However the majority of the ringforts in the area are not visible from public roads and require permission from the landowner to access.



Photograph 20: 'Lios a Roc' fort in Flaskagh More townland

Also present in several area are small **univallate** enclosures, which may have been used as cattle enclosures.



Photograph 21: Univallate ringfort in Carrowroe West townland. The bank is overlain with a stone wall.



Photograph 22: Drumbulcaun Cashel with surrounding dry stone wall.

4.6. Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites

The earliest ecclesiastical sites, associated with the introduction of Christianity to Ireland from the 5th century, are generally characterised by a number of features. The 'termon' or holy area was enclosed with a circular or oval embankment of earth and/or stone. Within this area was a small, simple, rectangular oratory. Other typical features of the site can include a graveyard, cross inscribed slabs, saint's bed, round tower, bullaun stone(s) and a holy well. It is however unusual to find all these features surviving at any one site.

St Patrick is associated with the founding of a number of the early monastic sites in the study area. It is believed that as he travelled into County Galway from Roscommon he founded a monastery at Kiltivna. He then established churches at Carrownseer (Shrule) and Cloondergan, before visiting Tobarnaclog and finally establishing a church for St Fulartach in Dunmore town before travelling on to Kilbannon. (Greaney, J. 1984)

Some of these sites continued in use over the centuries and following the Anglo-Norman conquest, in some cases, the medieval parish church replaced the earlier church and the site became the focal point of parochial worship.

Kiltivna

Kiltivna is reputed to be the first church in the study area founded by St Patrick as he journeyed into the County Galway from Roscommon.



Photograph 23: Ruin of medieval church in graveyard at Kiltivna

In the north-west corner of the modern graveyard in Kiltivna are the foundations of a rectangular building believed to be the remains of a church. The low boundary of a circular enclosure are visible in the field to the west – but only a slight scarp is visible within the graveyard. The 'church' is located in the north-east corner of the enclosure on the highest piece of ground. All that remains is a section of the north wall, part of the east and the low foundation of the remaining walls. The standing wall sections are ivy-covered. The church ruin is surrounded by a burial ground of low stone markers arranged in north-south rows which is believed to be a children's burial ground. From this area, later burials have spread out with the oldest in the northern section of the graveyard and the more recent extending to the south along the eastern boundary.

Carrownseer North (Shrule)



Photograph 24: Looking south to Carrownseer ecclesiastical site

Known locally as Shrule graveyard, the ecclesiastical site in Carrownseer North townland is located on the brow of a low hill, in a roadside field on the Lyons family farm. A rectangular low earth and stone bank encloses the site. Inside the enclosure are the footings of a small rectangular church, a simple cross inscribed graveslab, a tau cross and a possible ogham stone which can all be connected to an early medieval date.



Photograph 25: Part of enclosing wall at Carrownseer



Photograph 26: Footings of church at Carrownseer

The site is traditionally associated with St Patrick (Neary 1914).

O'Donovan in the Ordnance Survey Letters (1838) states:

'In the townland of Sruthair now Sruille in the Eastern extremity of this parish the original parish (church) is said to have stood. Tradition says that it was built by Saint Patrick, who left the impression of his knee in a stone (still to be seen) at the place'.



Photographs 27 and 28: 'St Patrick's Stone' Carrownseer North townland

Approximately 60m to the north-north-east of the enclosure, is the very large bullaun stone known locally as 'St Patrick's Stone' - the bowl of which is said to be the imprint of his knee (O'Donovan's Letters).



The site was re-used as a children's burial ground in more recent years and there are numerous small graves, oriented east to west, many with undressed head- and foot-stones. Two of the graves are marked by the inscribed cross-slab (GA005-035005-) and a tau cross (GA005-035006-).

The inscribed cross-slab (GA005-035005) is located beneath a hawthorn tree. It consists of a rectangular piece of limestone inscribed with a simple outline cross. Jim Higgins in his work *'The Early Christian Cross Slabs, Pillar Stones and Related Monuments of County Galway Ireland'* (1987) identifies the cross as 'Greek form' created by the pocking out of broad grooves with a point. He records that the stone was standing upright until about the 1950s when it was re-used to cover the last child's burial at this site.

Photograph 29: Inscribed cross-slab at Carrownaseer



The roughly worked and undecorated tau-shaped cross of sandstone is the only such example recorded in Co. Galway (GA005-035006-) (Higgins, J. 1987). Positioned at the head of a grave, which is covered by a flat recumbent stone, the cross appears to have been set upright in the ground to act as a grave marker.

Photograph 30: Tau-shaped cross Carrownaseer

Possible ogham markings have been identified on a stone in the graveyard. However these have yet to be confirmed (pers. com Dr Christy Cunniffe)



Photograph 31: Possible ogham stone at Carrownaseer



Photograph 32: Possible ogham markings on stone

Cloondergan



Photograph 33: Remains of Church and Graveyard in Cloondergan townland

Local tradition records that Cloondergan Church and graveyard are more ancient than Carrowntomush (Ardcloon) and that clay was brought from Cloondergan to the blessing of Carrowntomush. (Neary, 1914)

Cloondergan ecclesiastical site is enclosed by an earthen bank and external fosse and it measures 170m from north to south and 140m from east to west. The poorly preserved remains of a rectangular church (GA004-002----) are located in the north-east section of the enclosure. Sections of the east gable and south wall still survive but there are only fragments of the other walls. The church possibly dates to the medieval period (NMS).

On the south side of the church is a small area enclosed by an earthen bank. Some small set grave marker stones are visible in the interior. According to local information, this graveyard is believed to be a children's burial ground, though some adult human bones were noticed during bulldozing. (Alcock et al. 1999)

Carrowntomush (Addergoole/Ardcloon)



Photograph 34: Addergoole graveyard in Carrwntomush townland

Locally known as Addergoole graveyard and sometimes Ardcloon, this important early medieval ecclesiastical site is located in the townland of Carrowntomush on the boundary with Ardcloon townland.

Though marked on OS 6-inch maps as 'Abbey', there is no definite evidence of a monastery here (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 363). Named by Neary (1914, 125, no. 76) as 'Ardcloon Church', he described it as *an 'ancient church [of which] only the W. gable and small portions of side walls remain'*. At that time he recorded two windows, one in the south wall and one in the west gable. He also noted 'inlet holes for joists on the inner side of the gable' which suggests that there may have been a loft at the west end of the building. Priests often lived in such lofts in medieval churches. There are no visible remains of the church today.

The graveyard contains a number of important items which are associated with early medieval ecclesiastical sites. These include a bullaun stone, a medieval cross head and early cross slabs. A stone head which was originally found in this graveyard and may have been part of a medieval church fabric is now housed in Milltown Museum.



The bullaun stone is set into the graveyard wall to the left of the entrance stile. This may have functioned as a holy water font in the original church. When the remains of the church were demolished in the 1960s, this and other stones from the church were used in the construction of Dalgin Bridge (Greaney, J. 1984) – it has since been returned to Carrowntomush graveyard.

Photograph 35: Bullaun Stone in boundary wall of Addergoole graveyard.



Photograph 36: Medieval Cross Head set into boundary wall in Addergoole Graveyard

The unfinished head of a sandstone medieval cross, depicting the Crucifixion, appears to have moved position several times. The original site appears to have been on the summit of a hillock in the adjoining field 65m west of the graveyard. (Historic OS 6-inch maps). Neary (1914) wrote 'A rudely-sculptured cross stands in an adjoining field'. Local tradition states that it functioned as a market cross in this location, but it could also have functioned as a termon or boundary cross of the early ecclesiastical monastic site.

In 1984 the Galway Archaeological Survey recorded its position as lying against the outer face of the west wall of the graveyard. It is currently mounted on the corner of the west perimeter wall of the graveyard. Both the arms and shaft of the cross are decorated with spiral scroll-shaped ornamentation known as 'volutes'. The face turned into the graveyard bears the raised outline of the figure of Christ with his head tilted and drooping outstretched arms. Dr Christy Cunniffe has dated this cross to the 12th century.

Jim Higgins recorded three cross slabs in the graveyard in 1987. Only one of these crosses was located during this audit, after a thorough search of the site.

One of the unlocated stones was described by Higgins as 'A large rectangular sandstone slab (H 0.96m; Wth 0.32m; T 0.07m) that bears three single-line Greek crosses: one larger cross is placed above two smaller ones. The slab was upright but set loosely in the ground. A notch noted about half-way down each side of it may have been intended to mark the approximate depth to which it was to be sunk into the ground'.

The second unlocated cross slab 'consists of a sandstone block (H 0.65m; Wth 0.44m; T 0.13m) bearing a ringed two-line Latin cross with single 'lobes' in the angles of each arm. The block is broken and the design is incomplete as a result. The surviving terminal on the head of the cross is wedge shaped while that on the surviving arm is straight. Two lines forming slight arcs at the bottom of the cross may have continued to form a semicircle beneath it. Some pieces of mortar on the surface of the block suggest that it was reused as a building stone at some stage.'



The only cross slab identified by Higgins which was located in the graveyard during this audit, consists of a large sandstone slab (H 0.85m; Wth 0.71m; T 0.06m) inscribed with a two-line Latin cross with simple straight-ended terminals. The upper left-hand corner and bottom part of the slab are missing.

Photograph 37: 2-line Latin Cross inscribed slab in Addergoole graveyard

There are also several vernacular sandstone crosses and slabs which are difficult to date scattered throughout the graveyard.



Photographs 38-41: Selection of vernacular graveslabs in Addergoole graveyard



A small carved sandstone head, of medieval date was set on the same plinth as the large 12th-century cross but in recent years this head has been removed and is now housed in Milltown Museum. Dr Christy Cunniffe has identified its purpose as a decorative stop or label from a window or door.

Photograph 42: Medieval sandstone head when it was set in wall of Addergoole graveyard (courtesy of Dr Christy Cunniffe)



Close to the summit of the hill on which the graveyard is located, a holed stone is partially hidden in the grass. This has been mistakenly identified as a bullaun stone in the past, but is in fact a broken mill stone. Its origin is unknown and it may have been used as a grave marker.

Photograph 43: Broken mill stone in Addergoole graveyard

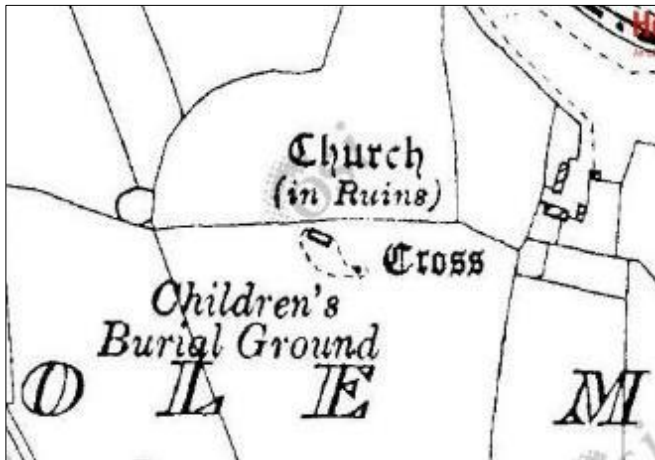
Addergoole More

This poorly preserved site is located on the slope of a low hill close to the Sinking River on land owned by Kay Jennings of Tuam. It consists of a low circular enclosure marked by a low earth and stone boundary, the interior of which is divided in two by a modern field wall. The grassed over foundations of a rectangular church are set within a smaller enclosure in the interior and a more recent children's burial ground (CBG) is found to the south of the church site. The CBG has several closely set stone markers and a number of upright markers. Higgins (1987) recorded an inscribed cross slab at this site and it was mentioned in the Archaeological Survey of County Galway in 1985. In 1996, it was recorded by the National Museum of Ireland (NMI), reference number: IA/87/1996.



Photograph 44: Remains of ecclesiastical enclosure in Addergoole More townland

The cross is marked on the 1932 OS 6-inch maps but is not marked on the earlier 1st edition map of 1840 or the later 1890 map.



Map 22: 1932 OS six-inch map showing location of church, enclosure and cross at Addergoole More 'Data from the base maps gallery database accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at www.heritagemaps.ie, [3-7-2020]'.



Higgins records the cross '*lying recumbent inside the bank of a sub-circular enclosure which delimits the site*' and that according to local people, the stone was still upright until about the mid-1970s when a segment of the bank surrounding the site was removed and the cross uprooted.

The measurements he provides for the stone are 1m 16cm long, 36cm wide across the arms 27cm wide across the shaft and an average of 22cm thick. He describes a grooved single line Latin cross with three slightly expanded or wedge-shaped terminals. The fourth terminal, that is the bottom of the shaft, is of an irregular oval shape.

Photograph 45: Drawing of Addergoole More inscribed slab taken from Higgins, J. 1987.

Cappagh

A very well-known ecclesiastical pilgrimage site is located in Cappagh townland. The reputed site of a church, today it consists of two holy wells, a penitential station, altar and cross slab.

O'Donovan in the OS letters records: *'There is a holy well called Tobar na croiche naomhtha in the townland of Cappagh, which is dedicated to the holy cross of Christ.'* Neary (1914, 126, no. 62) recorded that this was once *'the scene of a large pilgrimage'*.

He also noted *'some small sections of foundations about 3 ft. in diameter'* which he believed marked the site of a *'church ... which ... stood E. by W. above the wells'*. Only very faint traces of the possible site of the church are now visible in the undergrowth immediately to the east of the penitential station.

One of the holy wells consists of a spring enclosed by a rectangular mortared stone wall which opens to the south-east through a water channel. Above this opening is a small rectangular alcove in the interior wall, which may have been used in the past for the deposition of votive offerings.

The second well is enclosed by a dry stone wall on three sides with an opening on the south side where a single step gives access down to the water. A grotto containing a statue of St Patrick has been erected on top of the east wall.



Photographs 46-47: Holy wells at Cappagh

Just above the wells to the north-west is a Penitential Station which consists of a small crudely built U-shaped stone wall. In recent times a steel post and roofed canopy has been erected over the structure for the sheltering of the celebrant while Mass is being celebrated at the annual pattern day.



Photograph 48: Altar or 'leacht' at Cappagh

An Altar or leacht is located on the opposite (west) side of the boreen from the wells. It consists of a square, dry stone table – like structure with a cross slab in its east face. The cross slab was described by Higgins (1987, ii, 313, no. 39) as a limestone slab bearing *'three one-line Latin crosses, one large one and two smaller ones'*. The two smaller crosses extend from beneath the arms of the larger one. Traditionally pilgrims trace the outline of the crosses with a stone while performing the pattern of rounds at the site. It is this cross inscribed slab that gives the site its name 'Tobar na Croise'. It is also known locally as the 'Dean's Grave' (pers comm Hubert Birmingham).



Photograph 49: Cross inscribed slab at Cappagh

The following story is recorded in the Schools Manuscripts Collection for Flaskagh School. It was collected by Paddy Coleman, Cappagh from Paddy Tierney in May 1938

<https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4591089/4589545>

'There are two wells in Cappa Dunmore Co Galway. People visit one of them every year. There is a bush near the holy well. One day a pagan tried to cut down the bush, a cross flew out of the bush and hit him in the forehead. Michael Bounes Cappa was passing and he got the cross. The cross is in the Museum in Dublin. When the people visit the well they get ten

small stones and throw them in the old chapel every time they pass. It is called "Tobar na Croise Naofa".

There is a big stone in Cappa Dunmore. The track of St Patrick's foot is on the stone and there is another stone in the village and the track of his hand is on the stone. '

There is no evidence of such stones connected to St Patrick in this area today – it is very likely that the reference is to the bullaun stone at Carrownaseer/Shrule early ecclesiastical site.

A townland stone, set into the boundary wall at a turnoff to the west from the N83 road, approximately 2.5km north of Dunmore town, is inscribed "Ceapac Holy Well Cappagh". Approximately 600m after this turn off a short boreen (300m) to the right leads to the site. Unfortunately there is no directional signage at the boreen turn off and this can lead to difficulty finding the site for non-locals.



Photograph 50: Townland directional sign to Cappagh Holy Well

Brackloon (Clocmakeeran Church)



Photograph 51: View of Brackloon ecclesiastical site from north

An early ecclesiastical enclosure in Brackloon townland is located on the summit of a low hill overlooking Gortagarraun turlough to the south. It was described by Neary (1914, 125, no. 100) as '*a large cashel ... of which the wall was 6 ft. [1.8m] thick, ... roughly oval, 300 ft. [91.4m] by about 400 ft. [121.9m], perhaps more*'. Today it survives as a roughly circular enclosure surrounded by a low scarp which has been dug out on the west side for gravel.

In more recent times a stone wall was built to enclose the graveyard which surrounds the remains of a medieval parish church known locally as 'Clocmakeeran Church'. Neary described the church in 1914 as '*its foundations [could] be plainly traced*' and it measured '*70 ft. [21.35m] E. to W., by 26 ft. [7.9m] N. to S. [with] walls ... 3 ft [0.9m] thick, and the foundation of a cross wall, 24 ft. [7.3m] from the E., seem[ing] to mark the division of nave and chancel*'. Today all that is visible is the outline of the chancel to foundation level with the exception of the north wall which survives to a height of 1.4m.

The only visible gravestone is inscribed to "Patrick Conway Cornagur" who died in 1889.

Access to this site is across private farmland for approximately 200m. A metal pedestrian gate is located in the north wall of the enclosing wall of the graveyard, but due to the vegetation growth and the rough nature of the terrain of the interior of the graveyard it is very difficult to open. The graveyard is very overgrown and the vegetation cover and rough nature of the ground due to burials make movement around the graveyard very difficult. Without permission from the landowner of the surrounding land and clearance work being completed in the graveyard, access to this site is not recommended.



Photograph 52: Remains of north wall of Clocmakeeran church



Photograph 53: Gravestone inscribed to Patrick Conway Cornagur

Kilmurry

It is highly probable that the ecclesiastical site in Kilmurry townland was once a small medieval monastery of the Franciscans or Dominicans. Knox in 'The History of Tuam' (1902) attributes it to the Dominicans and writes that they '*owned a cemetery adjoining containing half an acre, 2 cottages and gardens, 20 acres in Kilmurry, 4 acres arable and 3 acres bog in Lislonbeg*'.

All that remains today are the overgrown foundations of a rectangular building and piles of rubble in an agricultural field overlooking bogland to the east. The site is located on the south side of a breen which leads down to bog. The west gable is the best preserved section and the interior floor area is at a much lower level than the exterior. In the field on the opposite side of the approach breen to the site is a curved scarp which is likely the remains of a circular enclosure which originally surrounded the site. Neary (1914) records the remains of '*a segment of the old cashel wall or bank*' 70 yards to the north-west.

The OS Letters (O'Flanagan 1927, Vol. 1, 103-4) refer to this site as a small graveyard but no visible surface trace of such now survives. However, Neary mentions that '*Bones were dug up in quantities on N. side*' of the church.

The site is poorly preserved and located on private farmland.



Photograph 54: Remains of Medieval Church at Kilmurry

4.7. Late Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites

Dunmore Friary (National Monument)

In 1425, Walter de Bermingham (Uaitear Mor) Lord Baron of Athenry and Dunmore built the Friary in Dunmore for the Augustinian Order. The site was recorded by Lewis in 1837 as that of the old Patrician Church of St Fulartach, however this has never been proven (per comm Hubert Birmingham).

The only visible remains of the monastery today is the church which has been added to and taken away from over the centuries. It consists of a nave and chancel with a short section of the west wall of the former south aisle surviving. Three large arches that allowed access from the nave into the south aisle were blocked up. Later windows were inserted into the central and eastern-most arches, probably when the chancel was in use as a Protestant Church during the 18th and 19th centuries, but they too are now blocked up. The large East window is also blocked up. A carved female head with an elaborate head dress was reused as a quoin stone in the eastern window.

A 15th century doorway provides access through the west gable of the church into the nave. The doorway is decorated with three shallow orders which have fluted chamfers and moulded capitals. The side pinnacles and that at the centre of the ogee-form hood are tall and slender and terminate in carved poppy-heads (Leask, H. 1960, 76).

In the south jamb of the door is a holy water stoup. Above the doorway is a recess for a memorial tablet to the de Berminghams. According to Leask (1960) it contained the Bermingham coat of arms and the inscription 'Gaulterius de Bremwyham' which referred to Walter Mór of Dunmore, the founder who died in 1428, but the door appears to be later in date. The inscription and coat of arms are no longer visible.

A three storey crossing tower was inserted in the 16th century over the pointed chancel arch. Some of the original plaster and wicker-centring survives on the underside of its vault and a small carved head is visible on its south-east pier (<https://webgis.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment>).

The Friary was taken into ownership by the State under the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014 and assigned the National Monument No. 273. It is currently undergoing conservation work by the Office of Public Works and access is not possible.



Photograph 55: Dunmore Friary Crossing Tower



Photograph 56: Detail of carved stone head Dunmore Friary



A cross-slab (GA017-005004-) found within the Abbey was described by Higgins (1987, 361, no. 83) as a sub-rectangular, weathered slab of limestone measuring 95cm long, tapering from 52.4cm to 49 cm wide and between 14 and 16cm in thickness. The tapered slab is broken with the lower end missing. The upper section is incised with a two-line Greek ringed cross on a long shaft, enclosed in what was probably originally a single-line rectangle.

Photograph 57: Ring Headed Cross Slab Dunmore Friary (courtesy of Dr Christy Cunniffe)

A 17th-century rectangular graveslab is lying recumbent in the chancel of the church. It bears the following inscription, which was recorded by Bradley and Dunne (1992, 70): HERE LYETH TH/ E BODY OF ANN/ N..XODE WHO/ DEPARTED THIS/ LIFE XRE THE 12/ ANNO DNI 1691/ ... H THE/ SO...S MVX/ OE...ANO/ D/ PS (<https://webgis.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment>).

In the interior of the Friary church there are headstones and family tombs of the de Bermingham and Kelly families.

Local council workmen carrying out ground works in the late 1980s in Barrack St. recovered some human bones and reburied them with the backfill. Monitoring as part of the Dunmore Sewage Scheme excavations in June and October 2006 and January 2007, confirmed the earlier find when articulated bones were exposed near the entrance to the Fair Green, adjacent to the Eurospar Centre and in the vicinity of the Bank of Ireland. Further excavation revealed that the human remains ran parallel to and beyond the grounds of the friary with a general east–west orientation. In total, 287 individual skeletons were recovered.

Generally the burials were interred in simple grave-cuts and wrapped in shrouds rather than placed in coffins. It is probable that this was a community graveyard dating from the foundation of the Friary and possibly in use up until the late 18th century, when Colonel Gore cut a carriageway through the old graveyard to the cavalry barracks, thus forming present-day Barrack Street. The only other finds from the excavation were two coins, one a James II halfpenny of 1686 and the other a large shilling or piece of gun money dated 1689. (Full report: Appendix III)

Possible Medieval Parish Church of Dunmore



Marked on the 1st ed. OS 6-inch map (c.1840) is a rectangular roofed building labelled as 'Abbey' in the graveyard on Chapel St.

It is highly unlikely that this was an Abbey but was probably the medieval parish church of Dunmore. The only upstanding part of the building remaining today is an overgrown section of the west gable.

Map 23: 1st ed. OS 6-inch map (c.1840) detailing location of "Abbey" in Chapel St Graveyard. 'Data from the base maps gallery database accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at www.heritagemaps.ie. [7-7-2020]'.

The following extract is taken from Mc Keon & Fuller (2014) 'St Nicholas's Abbey Graveyard, Dunmore, Co. Galway Conservation & Management Plan':

In the northwest corner of the graveyard stands a dilapidated and ivy-clad stretch of wall (length 7.2m, height 1.7m, thickness 0.4m,) aligned precisely north/south. The roughly coursed and heavily mortared wall comprises mostly limestone rubble with some sandstone. Loose stone rubble abuts its eastern side covering possible wall foundations, and another large spread of rubble lies against the graveyard enclosure wall to the east. Marked 'Abbey in ruins', but depicted as a fairly substantial building on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1838–9, it is possible that the ruined wall represents the remnants of Dunmore's medieval parish church.The presence of the wall inside a graveyard, in the townland of Abbeyland North, near the former church (St. Nicholas's) and glebe-land (marked on the 1st ed. OS map) shows significant ecclesiastical continuity in the area. The surrounding graveyard has been heavily disturbed and appears to be contemporary with St. Nicholas's church rather than the wall but..... graves may lie beneath the later slabs. It is felt that the location of the wall and graveyard on the opposite side of the river to the main nucleus of the Anglo-Norman town and marketplace casts doubt over its role as Dunmore's medieval parish church. Given its location on the approach road to the town it is perhaps more likely to be the remains of a suburban church/chapel or even a hospital. It is considered by this writer that the Augustinian friary on the south side of the river, rather than the ruined wall, is more likely to mark the site of the town's high-medieval parish church (McKeon 2008, I, 358–9).



Photograph 58: Remaining section of west gable of the Medieval Parish Church of Dunmore

Hidden in the undergrowth within the 'church' site are two moulded sandstone architectural fragments which were likely to have been part of a window. They have evidence of diagonal tooling on the dressed face and have been dated between the 11th-13th centuries by Dr Christy Cunniffe as part of this audit. This indicates that the foundation of the building that stood here very likely dated back to this period.



Photographs 59-60: 11th-13th architectural fragments in St. Nicholas graveyard, Chapel St. Dunmore

An additional architectural fragment is in Hubert Birmingham's safe keeping. It consists of part of a 15th century window. The tracery shows a division for two lights, but the window is likely to have been larger and may even have been the east window of a church. Glazing grooves visible on the fragment show that glass was used.



Photographs 61-62: 15th century Window fragment possibly from the medieval parish church of Dunmore. Photograph on right shows glazing grooves.



Also in Hubert Birmingham's possession is a quernstone which was found in the graveyard. It has a hollowed out area surrounding the central hole and could possibly have been reused as a door stop or cross base.

Photograph 63: Quernstone found in St Nicholas Graveyard, Church St. Dunmore.

4.8. 18th and 19th century Churches

St Nicholas Dunmore



In 1771 the Very Rev. Nicholas Lovelock P.P. constructed a chapel to the north of the present day Chapel St graveyard. The 1st edition OS 6-inch map (c.1840) shows this building as a simple barn-type structure.

Map 24: 1st edition OS 6-inch map (c.1840) showing R.C. Chapel. 'Data from the base maps gallery database accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at www.heritagemaps.ie, [7-7-2020]'.

The foundation stone of this chapel is located today in the nave of St Nicholas RC church, Dunmore. It bears an inscription in Latin which translates:

'This church was erected, under the superintendence of the Most Rev. Nicolas Lovelock, to the honour of the One and True God, under the appellation of St Nicholas, Archbishop and patron of the parish. Lord Ross generously donates the site. Let us ever pray that he and his offspring may live eternally with God. 1771 AD. Eugene O'Cahan, Sculptor.' (Birmingham. H. 2012)

In the 1850s the church was re-constructed to a cruciform plan with side transepts and a front porch. A bell tower was added in 1860. The architect was John S. Butler of Dublin. The bell, cast in John Murphy's foundry in Thomas St., Dublin was installed and blessed in 1866. (Birmingham H.)



A Mission Cross was erected in the grounds in 1879. The superimposed image below shows the location and form of the church.

Map 25: 1890 OS 6-inch map showing St Nicholas' RC Chapel. 'Data from the base maps gallery database accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at www.heritagemaps.ie, [7-7-2020]'.



Photograph 64: Aerial view of St Nicholas's graveyard with former R.C. Chapel superimposed (Cambridge collection 1963, AJV019). – extracted from McKeon & Fuller 2014.

The Church was demolished in 1975 and the grounds were purchased by the Rural Housing Organisation in 1980. The Mission cross was taken down prior to the building of Abbeylands Housing Estate. It was re-erected in 1983 at its present location at the entrance to the housing estate. The stone from the bell tower was used in the building of a wall at Lisduff. (pers. comm. Hubert Birmingham)



Photograph 65: Mission Cross



Photograph 66: Stone from St Nicholas RC Chapel in Lisduff townland

Three stone carved heads, set into the exterior wall of the graveyard on Chapel St. are also believed to have been part of the former St Nicholas Church. They are thought to depict the sculptor Eugene O’Cahan and the Pope and the Archbishop of the time (pers comm Hubert Birmingham).



Photograph 67-69: Three carved heads in boundary wall of St Nicholas Graveyard, Chapel St. Dunmore



Other remnants of St Nicholas 19th century church, which are now in the Chapel St graveyard, are several broken fragments of statues which originally stood in a grotto in the church grounds (pers comm. Hubert Bermingham)

Photograph 70: Fragments of statues in St Nicholas graveyard, Chapel St., Dunmore

St Nicholas Graveyard Chapel St.



Within the graveyard are a large number of upstanding, recumbent, and fragmentary grave slabs, box tombs and stone crosses with the majority dating from the 19th century while the earliest is dated 1763. A number are decorated with metal working from that period which may have been the work of local craftsmen. They include a metal cross on a stone mount inscribed in metal and dated 1880 and an upright limestone slab encased in a cast iron cladding, decorated with Gothic tracery and a series of bosses. It is dated June 1858 and was erected in memory of Michael Donelan and his wife Mary. Several other decorative ornamentations such as railings and the entrance gate to the graveyard exhibit what could be the work of local artisans.





Photographs 71- 75: Selection of burial markers in St Nicholas Graveyard Chapel St., Dunmore



The most noticeable memorial stone in the graveyard towers high above the boundary wall overlooking Chapel St. It was erected to the memory of '*Peter Delaney, Irish Patriot who died March 9 1895 aged 55 years*' and was sculpted by Hawthorne

Photograph 76: Delaney Memorial, St Nicholas Graveyard, Chapel St., Dunmore



Photographs 77: Detailed carving on the Delaney Memorial, St Nicholas Graveyard, Chapel St., Dunmore

The memorial is a tapering pedestal set on a stepped cut limestone base and topped with a cornered obelisk and a carved ringed cross.

The base is decorated with carved Celtic motifs. On both the west and south faces of the pedestal are the memorial inscriptions. Above the inscription on the west face is the carved figure of the Maid of Erin set into a recess and flanked by Ionic engaged columns topped by a canopy. On the south face the carving is of a stylised round tower. All of the inscriptions, carvings and motifs emphasise the Celtic Revival culture. The memorial is a protected structure listed on the NIAH (Reg. No.: 30330005) and on the RPS.

St Patricks Garrafrauns – R.C. Chapel

Around 1770 a chapel was built in Garrafrauns village as a replacement for the medieval church which stood in Carrowntomush graveyard (Ardcloon/Addrigoole). This is also the time that St Nicholas RC chapel was constructed in Dunmore.

Garrafrauns chapel was built by local stonemason, Dan Gleeson of Cloondalgin, using sandstone taken from several different areas in Shanballymore townland rather than from one defined quarry (Garrafrauns Heritage Group 2013).

The ruins of the chapel are located opposite the present day St Patricks RC Church in Garrafrauns village. Aligned east –west, the west gable and both side walls are still standing while a concrete built shop was inserted into the east end of the building around 1963/64 (pers. comm. Pat Slattery)



Photograph 78: South wall of St Patricks Chapel Garrafrauns



Photograph 79: Shop inserted into east gable of St Patricks Chapel Garrafrauns.



The chapel was a substantial single cell building with opposing Gothic style pointed arch windows in each side wall. A pointed arch doorway, of similar style to the windows, is located in the centre of the west gable. There is evidence of a lower roofline on the west gable and this may indicate the presence of a former outer porch and that the doorway that survives was an inner door, leading from the porch into the nave. The building today is roofless and the interior is overgrown and filled with rubble.

Photograph 80: View through window opening in north wall St Patricks RC Chapel, Garrafrauns



Photograph 81: Doorway in west gable of St Patricks RC Chapel, Garrafrauns

The ruins of this church are accessible through a well maintained garden which is part of the adjoining public houses premises. Care needs to be taken however as the interior is filled with rubble and not safe for public access.

4.9. 20th century Churches

St Patricks Church, Garrafrauns



Photograph 82: St Patricks RC Church Garrafrauns

Reverend Canon Macken P.P. of Dunmore organised the construction of a new church in Garrafrauns in 1911-13. The site was donated free of charge by Mrs. Millar a native of Blindwell, Kilconly and a local landlord. Mr Robert Kirwan, surveyor of Sligo was awarded the commission of designing the church. The main contractor was Michael Finnegan, Dunmore, and work began in spring 1912. Stone was transported by horse and cart from the villages of Quinaltagh, Cloondargan and Shanballymore. A stonemason named Hawthorn from Castlerea, Co. Roscommon and two Dunmore carpenters, Reddington and Mannion constructed the open timber A-frame truss roof and seats.

Other local masons included Martin Devine and his son also Martin, Pat Mullen, Eddie Nestor, Pat Glynn, Tom and Patrick Fleming from Quinaltagh, Thomas Connally, Oggie McWalter, Patrick Sheridan, Bartholomew McWalter from Cloonfane; John Healy and John Connally from Garrafrauns. The limestone for the building was quarried on the lands of John (Bull) Keane of Gortnagoyme. (Garrafrauns Heritage Group, 2013)

Thomas McHugh, Tuam, sculpted the altars from Carrara and Connemara marble. As a result of changes to church law after the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s the main altar was restructured to face the congregation, the two side altars were removed and the altar rails were reinstated to the front of the gallery. The main altar which survives is carved with a full depiction of 'The Fall of Christ'. The altar is similar to those found in the Church of St Joseph Kilkerrin and the Church of Our Lady of the Mount Carmel, Clonberne (Hoctor, Z. Cunniffe, C. 2020).



Photograph 83: Altar in St Patricks Church Garrafrauns.



On the background of the altar are the lightly-carved images of Mary the Mother of Christ and Mary Magdalene set in a hilly landscape, adorned with a palm tree and floral devices.

Photograph 84: Detail of altar St Patricks Church Garrafrauns

The matching Gothic Revival white marble reredos has a tall narrow, round arch canopy on top of the plain marble tabernacle housing. The arch of the canopy is supported by two columns similar to those of the main altar. The brass tabernacle was made by 'J&C McGloughlin Ltd. Dublin'

According to an account written in 'St Patricks Church Garrafrauns 1913-2013 – A celebration of Christian Worship' published by Garrafrauns Heritage Group there had been a mix up in the bell order for the Church as the bell destined for Garrafrauns was installed in St Nicholas Dunmore and the Dunmore Bell was erected in Garrafrauns.

The Church was completed in 1913 and was consecrated by Archbishop Healy assisted by Dean Macken P.P. on October 5th 1913. A round window was added to the north gable c.1920. It has limestone between the glazing giving a wheel pattern and the stained glass in the central hub bears a depiction of the 'Pelican in Piety'. The sections between the spokes are decorated with a 'fleur-de-lys' motif.



Photograph 85: Round window in north gable St Patricks Church Garrafrauns



In 1938, a grotto dedicated to Our Lady was erected in the Church Grounds in memory of John and Catherine Fleming, Corohan.

In 1960, JJ. Rhattigan, Builders of Milltown, plastered the exterior and interior walls and central heating was installed.

During the 1990's the perimeter wall was demolished and was replaced by a cut stone wall of limestone (www.garrafrauns.com)

Photograph 86: Flemings Grotto in grounds of St Patricks Church, Garrafrauns



In 1974 the bell and housing were removed from the church and the bell was transported to a parish in Africa. The housing was placed in the church grounds and now contains a statue of St. Patrick.

Photograph 87: Former bell housing, St Patricks Church, Garrafrauns

Church of Christ the King Kiltivna



Built c. 1850 this barn style church stands on an elevated site in Kiltivna village. The church has a seven bay nave, a lower single-bay chancel and a later flat-roofed sacristy on the south-east corner.

The interior of the church has the original mid-nineteenth-century open timber kingpost truss roof with perforated trefoil and drop details. It is supported on limestone corbels.



Photograph 88: Front elevation of Kiltivna Church

Photograph 89: Interior roof, Kiltivna Church

To the rear of the church is a freestanding belfry built of limestone with a square-headed arch into which a bronze bell is hung. The bell bears the date 1896 and the makers name "J. Murphy Foundry Dublin 1896" – some letters are missing.



Photograph 90-91: Belfry and bell Kiltivna Church

St Nicholas RC Church Dunmore



Photograph 92: St Nicholas RC Church Dunmore

The building of this church started in October 1964 and the church was dedicated by Archbishop Joseph Walsh of Tuam, on 8th September 1967.

It is a very large single cell modern church with a red brick exterior and the side walls laid out in a series of interlocking angles or v's creating a zig-zag pattern. The gables of the roof have cross finials and the low pitched roof is covered with copper.

The main entrance in the north gable is constructed of an angled plate glass and copper grid, with doors in each side of the angle. The entrance is covered by a low pitched roof canopy. Above the canopy is a large hexagonal window reaching to the apex of the roof. Outside the main entrance doorway is a square bowl stoup supported on a square plinth, the bowl of which is engraved with the inscription 'Church of St Nicholas 1771.' This was the original baptismal font of the former RC Church that stood in Chapel St.

To each side of the projecting gable front are a linear series of five square windows from ground to roof level. A matching series occur in both north walls of the nave. An angled window with stained glass is located between the two entrance doors to the porch.

The porch interior has a mosaic tiled floor with a free standing metal round bowl water stoup supported on four narrow columns.



Attached to the interior west wall of the nave is a Latin inscribed foundation stone of St Nicholas RC Chapel which stood in Chapel St. (Section 4.8). The inscription reads:

'This church was erected, under the superintendence of the Most Rev. Nicolas Lovelock, to the honour of the One and True God, under the appellation of St Nicholas, Archbishop and patron of the parish. Lord Ross generously donates the site. Let us ever pray that he and his offspring may live eternally with God. 1771 AD. Eugene O'Cahan, Sculptor.'

(Birmingham. H. 2012)

Photograph 93: Foundation stone of 18th century St Nicholas Chapel, Dunmore

The Stations of the Cross, tabernacle and Sanctuary Cross are by Richard King Designs, renowned for their enamelling and metalwork techniques in ecclesiastical designs. Richard Joseph King (1907-74) designed the Stations of the Cross while his son Richard Enda King (1943-1995) designed the Crucifix.



The Stations of the Cross consist of tile collages on wood.

Photograph 94: 14th Station of the Cross, Dunmore Church



The Tabernacle is set in a white marble disc attached to the rear wall of the Sanctuary. The tabernacle door is framed with a brass band and consists of a cream coloured enamelled double door decorated with a red Chi-rho and two fish and a plate with loaves of bread.

Photograph 95: Tabernacle, Dunmore Church



The 2.5m high metal Crucifix hangs on the rear wall of the sanctuary. The body of Christ is in cast aluminium set on an enamelled bronze cross.

Photograph 96: Crucifix, Dunmore Church

4.10. Holy Wells

Cappagh

Tobar na Croise Naofa in Cappagh townland is the most frequented and best known holy well site in the study area. It is also the only holy well which is connected to an early ecclesiastical sites and its description is provided in Section 4.6 of this report which covers this site type.

Bellwell or Tobernaclog



In Cluid townland on the side of a stream in level poorly drained terrain is the spring well, known locally as Bellwell, Tobernaclog and Tobar na bPéist (pers comm, Enda Glynn). The site is well maintained by the local community with a low stile and a paved track providing easy access from the road to the well. The well is surrounded by a square dry stone wall topped with concrete which opens to the south and the water flows into the stream along a short stone lined channel.

Local folklore records that the daughter of Walter Lynch (for whom Ballywaitaire townland is reputedly named after) was a lapsed Catholic. One Sunday morning she went to fetch water from the well and while there, she heard the peal of the church bells in Dunmore. Taking it as a heavenly sign she returned to the Faith. (Greaney J., 1984). Hence the name Bellwell or Tobarnaclug.

The well has never gone dry in living memory (pers. comm. Enda Glynn)

Photographs 97-99: Bellwell (Tobernaclog) in Cluid townland.

St Patricks Well, Ballywataire

The site of this former well is located to the south of the cul-de-sac off the R360 in Ballywataire townland. It is on private land at the base of a ridge in wet grassland. A large circular rubble strewn hollow marks the site.

Beagh Holy Well and Altar (Tobar na Caltra)

In the townland of Beagh to the rear of Tom and Mary Barrett's House is an altar associated with a holy well. The origin of this altar and the pattern at the well is documented in the Schools Manuscripts Collection from 1938. An entry from Poll Réamoinn (Cailíní) School Pollremon, titled 'Our Lady's Well at Beagh' was collected obtained from Mr Michael Walsh (aged 60) and Mrs Patrick Glennon (aged 50) of Beagh

'This is the story of the origin of the well at Beagh. A woman had a son who was unable to walk although he was seven years old. She usually carried him on her back. One day as they were crossing a certain field the boy said to his mother "Look at the candle "Where is it" said the mother. "Let me go and I will show it to you." The lad walked and took the candle in his hand and water sprang up at that spot. The people kept pulling the grass round it. A sister of the boy's mother came home from America and built a glass house near the well and put a statue of Our Lady in the house. Beside it is a Copper Beech tree that sprang up with the well. The people go there at certain times of the year to perform stations. On the tree are pieces of cloth, ribbons and hair pins which people put there when they have their stations done. At the same time another well sprang up in another field where Miss Hoban saw the Blessed Virgin.'

An entry from Flaskagh School was collected by Peg Dowd from Mrs Dowd.

<https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4591089/4589546>

'There is a holy well in Beagh Dunmore Co. Galway called "Tobair na Caltra". The people make a pilgrimage there in the month of July on three Sundays in succession. They go around the well seven times and the last time they go on their bare knees.

There is a bush near the well and when the pilgrimage is made the pilgrims hang something on this each for his own private intentions. A lady got an altar erected there and blessed. Her name is Miss Hoban who is still living.'

In Liatra School Annie Morgan from Croaghill, Williamstown, Co. Galway was told the following story by Mrs. Delaney, aged 65, a farmer's wife from Beagh, Currough W. Dunmore, Co. Galway.

<https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4591091/4589747>

'The Blessed Well is situated in the middle of a field of rushes. A woman named Sarah Hoblan, Beagh, is supposed to have seen the Blessed Virgin at the well. She has a small stone, slated house with one window erected as a memorial on the spot, where she saw the vision about thirty years ago. There are three medium-sized statues, the B. Virgin, Saint Joseph, and St. Anthony inside the window, and on the broad window-sill outside, there are a few flower-vases which are kept well-filled all summer. There is a certain kind of station to be done at it. Crowds of people are there every Sunday in the Summer. To do the station one must come three Sundays to the well. One has to go ten times around the well praying, sometimes walking and sometimes on ones knees. The way the people reckon the number of rounds is to pick ten pebbles and to drop on at each round until none remain. The last Sunday of the three, each person ties a red ribbon on the tree by the well and long before the summer is over, the tree is well decorated in red.'



Photograph 100: Well house at Beagh well



Photograph 101: Rag tree at Beagh Well

The area today consists of wet grassland which would appear to have an underground spring. Adjacent to the area is a stone built table like structure with a flat stone on its south-west face which has a black painted cross on a white background. Mounted on top of the stone structure is a white and black painted stone box with a glass door. A cross is placed on the top of the box. Four statues have been placed within the box – two of which are modern, while the other two may date back to the original construction of the altar in the early 1900s. The statues are of a naïve vernacular style and may have been made locally. They appear to be constructed from a clay type material. One depicts the Virgin Mary holding the Child Jesus while the other is of a hooded lady – possibly the Virgin Mary. The two modern statues were sent from England in recent times by a relative of the family (pers comm. Tom Barrett). To the south-east of the altar is a hawthorn tree which is reputed to be the original rag tree associated with the well and pattern at this site. Visits to this site are rare today.



Photograph 102: Statues encased on the altar at Beagh Holy Well.

4.11. ANGLO-NORMAN FORTIFICATIONS

Motte and Bailey

Mottes are earthen fortifications erected by the Anglo-Normans. They were constructed relatively quickly as the armies moved into an area and needed easily defended military outposts. The motte generally consists of a steep sided mound with a flat summit, surrounded by a fosse and external bank. A wooden tower would have been constructed on the summit enclosed by a wooden fence. A 'bailey' or crescent-shaped enclosure was sometimes attached to the base of the mound.

An existing hill, which is part of the Dunmore Esker, was used for the construction of the motte and bailey in Graigueachullaire townland. It is likely that this fortification was built during the initial conquest of this area shortly after 1235 when Richard De Burgh invaded Connacht. At a later stage a stone castle, 'Doonbally' was built on the summit. Its date of construction is unknown but it was in the possession of 'Thomas Balve' in 1574 (JGAHS 1 (1900-1)). Neary in 1914 described the ruin as *'nine huge blocks of masonry strewn around and upwards of ten tons each, have kept together with wonderful cohesion'* and he surmises from the state of the ruin that it was blown up.



Photograph 103: View of Motte and Bailey in Graigueachullaire townland, from the east.



Photograph 104: Masonry blocks on summit of motte in Graigueachullaire townland

Moated Sites

The basic plan of a moated site is a rectangular area enclosed by a bank and external fosse. Some examples can have two banks with an intervening fosse. Irish examples are generally considered to be the defended farmsteads of the Anglo-Norman farming tenants in the 13th and 14th centuries. The farmer's house and outbuildings occupied the interior of the enclosure, while the fosse was often water filled hence the term 'moated'. They usually occur as isolated settlements scattered around the countryside rather than in the town.

The largest example within the study area is found in Carrowmunniagh townland and it is classified as a 'well preserved conjoined moated site' by the NMS. It is labelled 'Lisduff' on the OS 6-inch historic maps. It consists of a rectangular enclosure and an adjoining D-Shaped enclosure, both enclosed by two banks and an intervening fosse (or moat). It is sited in a shallow valley, on the south bank of a stream, with traces of dried up channels visible on the east and north-west side which would have allowed water to be diverted from the stream into the moat. In the interior of the D-Shaped enclosure is a grassed over structure of earth and stone which may be the remains of a house. <https://webgis.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment>



Photograph 105: View of conjoined moated site, in Carrowmunniagh townland, from north.

A second moated site is located in Darry North townland. It is poorly preserved and overgrown and access is difficult. The interior is enclosed by a scarp, fosse and outer bank, but these do not survive on the east side, and the outer bank on the north is now in use as a field boundary.



Photograph 106: View of Moated Site in Darry North townland, from the west

A third example is found in Graigue townland, just behind the field boundary immediately west of the Tuam-Dunmore road. This well preserved example is defined by two banks and fosse, but the outer bank does not survive on the north and east sides. There is a possible house site on the inner bank in the south-south-west.



Photograph 107: View of Moated site, in Graigue townland, from the south-west.

A possible fourth moated site in Carrowpadeen West was marked on the 3rd ed. of the OS 6-inch map (1932) as a rectangular enclosure, but no trace of the structure remains today and so it's classification cannot be verified (Holland P., 1994)

Dunmore Castle

Dún Mór

Dunmore Castle is located on a semi-natural hill above the Sinking River. Its commanding location may have been in use as a strategic defensive site as far back as the 12th century, when King Turlough O'Conors Dún Mór may have been sited here.

When the O'Conors were driven out of the area by the Anglo-Norman conquest in 1235, Piers de Birmingham was granted Conmaicne Dúna Mór. He built a fortification adjacent to the Sinking River on what is believed to have been in the vicinity of the site of Turlough O'Conors Dún.

Motte and Bailey

A story passed down from the blind poet Cormac Dall O'Coman to Donnell Treacy who lived in the castle in the 19th century tells of a fairy who presided over this area and did not want the Anglo-Normans to build their castle on the site which they had chosen. So every night whatever had been built that day was destroyed. Eventually a magician informed Hosty Merrick, who was in charge of the construction that the fairy would allow him build on the site of her own fort (i.e. the ancient Dún). And so they did. (Neary 1914)

A structure which may survive from that time, is a poorly preserved oval platform at a lower level than the present day castle mound. It is separated from the mound by the laneway. It is very likely that the initial fortification built by de Bermingham was a motte and bailey and that the surviving lower oval platform was likely part of the bailey.

The 13th century Hall House



As the Anglo-Normans foothold in the area strengthened, they built a stone castle on the mound. This castle was of the type known as a 'hall house' and the lower sections of the present day castle may incorporate parts of the 13th century hall house. The hall house was likely to have been two storeys high. On the internal east and west walls of the present day castle, traces of a line of gables between the 2nd/3rd floor can be seen. These probably mark the roof of the original hall house.

The first floor or 'hall' was accessed through a doorway in the south end of the east wall. Its position is still visible today, but the doorway has been robbed out. Two of the beam holes which supported the framework for an external access stairs are still visible below the robbed out doorway.

Photograph 108: Original doorway to 'hall' in east wall of Dunmore Castle.

On the first floor are the remains of a garderobe in the north-west corner and a fireplace in the north wall, which may also date to this time.

In the adjoining garden on the south side of the castle there are a number of architectural fragments which may have been part of the 13th century hall house (pers. comm. Dr. Christy Cunniffe). These include an arch fragment. Carved on the arch, in relief, are two sets of initials EB and MB. These,

very likely, relate to members of the Birmingham family. When initials were carved together like this on a medieval building they usually signify a marriage between the two individuals concerned.



Photograph 109: Fragment of arch stone inscribed with initials



Photograph 110: Initials carved in relief on arch stone (possibly a marriage stone)



Photographs 111-112: 13th century architectural fragments from Dunmore 'Hall House'

A Possible Castle Site

In Castle townland, in the east of the study area, is a grassed-over mound of earth and stone. The site is known locally as 'Caislean Beg or Little Castle'. The antiquarian, Neary described it in 1914 as a 'small square castle ... long a quarry, and only the foundation remains, 24 ft. [7.3m] square in plan, walls 4 ft. [1.2m] thick'. When the NMS surveyed the site in 1998 they described the surviving elements as follows

'...an E wall (L 5m, Wth >0.3m, H 2m max.) along with short sections of the adjoining N wall (L 1.3m, Wth 0.7m). At S end of the former is a blocked ope (Wth 1.6m), possibly a door or gateway. The S side of the ope is formed by a short separate wall fragment (S wall), running E-W (L 1.2m, Wth 0.7m, H 2.2m).'

Neary had also recorded the 'openings of two souterrains ... in the centre of the castle ruin', but the NMS found no trace of these and surmised that they were possibly cellars but unlikely to be souterrains.

The NMS have classified this sites as 'Unclassified – Castle' (GA00204)



Photograph 113: 'Unclassified Castle' site in Castle Townland

The Development of the Town of Dunmore

In 1278-80 a 'charter of murage' was granted to the de Berminghams and Dunmore officially became a town, taking its name from the original O'Conor fortification of Dún Mór. The murage grant records burgesses and taxes collected on a range of commodities and also details the wages of masons and the burning of lime, which indicates that stonewalls were built at the time (McKeon, J. 2011). However there is no surviving wall defences and the location of this early town is uncertain. James McKeon in *'Urban Defences in Anglo-Norman Ireland: Evidence from South Connacht'* suggests that due to the limited period for which tax was collected (1279-1280); the relatively small amount of money raised for the masons work (50s 11d); the absence of documentary and cartographic evidence and the fact that no trace of a wall has been uncovered to date, it is likely that only a limited stretch of town wall – perhaps just a gate – was ever built.

Other historians have suggested that the town may have begun life in the vicinity of the castle. Neary in 1914, plotted the line of some 'ruined walls' which survived around the edge of the castle mound which may have been part of Piers de Birmingham's 13th century fortification (Greaney, J. 1984 and Birmingham H. 2012) Unfortunately there is no visible trace of these walls today.

McKeon surmises that the most plausible explanation is that a masonry wall was begun but abandoned at an early stage. However he also states that given the town's frontier location and distance from the castle, it would have needed a defensive wall and in the early 13th century this may have consisted of an earth and timber structure.

The hall house and 'town of Dunmore' was the scene of several attacks and warfare over the centuries as it stood in the buffer area between the de Burgh held lands in Connaught and the O'Conors strongholds to the north-west. It was burnt in 1249, 1284 and 1315.

16th-17th century Tower House

In 1574, the de Berminghams made Dunmore their primary residence when they lost their castle at Athenry due to debts. Sometime around 1589, the 13th century hall house at Dunmore was rebuilt and extra floors were added. A new doorway was inserted into the ground floor (below the original 13th century first floor doorway). Access to the 1st floor from the ground floor was via a spiral staircase located in the north-east interior corner.

In 1650 Col. Gore, serving under Cromwell, attacked Dunmore Castle, bringing to an end the power of the de Birmingham's in the area. Some years later, Jaspar Ouselay came to Dunmore as agent to the Gore Estate and lived with his family in the Castle, before moving to Prospect House.

The castle today consists of a five storey rectangular keep with a sharp batter on each corner of the exterior wall. The gables rise inside the parapets. There are fireplaces in the north wall of the first floor; in the north wall and east gable of the second floor and in both the east and west gables of the third floor. The chimney breast in the west gable is on the outer face, while that on the east gable is on the inner face. Slop-stones are found at parapet level in the north, east and south walls.

The surviving windows include an oculis on the 3rd floor of the north wall, two mullioned windows with hood mouldings in the south wall and a number of rectangular slits.

Dunmore Castle was taken into state ownership under the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014 – and assigned the reference number: National Monument 248.

4.12. Houses of the Landed Gentry

Barrack House

Sir George St. George was granted over 8,000 acres in the baronies of Dunmore, Ballymoe and Tiaquin by patent dated 18 December 1666. He married Elizabeth Hannay and had two sons and a number of daughters. His son Richard inherited the estate but died without heirs in 1726. Richards's niece, Elizabeth Ashe married Sir Ralph Gore in the early 18th century and the family resided in a house at the end of Barrack Street. They developed an avenue to the house by cutting through the former graveyard which was located to the south of the Abbey Church (Appendix III). The avenue was the precursor for what is now Barrack St.

Their second son Sir Ralph Gore became Earl of Ross in 1771 and later sold his Dunmore estate to Sir George Shee and gave the house on Barrack St to the military.

The house no longer exists but some of the walls that surround Barrack Square are the former boundary walls of the grounds.



Map 26: Dunmore Barrack c. 1840 'Data from the base maps gallery database accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at www.heritagemaps.ie, [24-7-2020]'.

Lissyconor

Jaspar Ouseley first came to Dunmore in the late 1600s as agent to the Gore Estate. He initially lived in Dunmore Castle. He had five sons. The eldest son, William (who became Lord Tollendol) was born in 1693. He died in Dublin in 1775 and is buried in Dunmore Friary. Williams's son, Ralph was living in the castle in 1779 when Beranger and Bigari visited Dunmore (Birmingham, H. 2012). James Greaney (1984) in his book 'Dunmore' states that Jaspar Ouseley built a house in Lissyconor townland.

A poorly preserved shell of a rectangular two-storey building (E-W; L 22.7m, Wth 8.6m) is located in Lissyconor townland on the south side of R362 road. The NMS records it as possibly of late 17th/early 18th-C date, so it may be the house connected to the Ouseley family. The upper storey was contained within the pitch of the roof. Only fragmentary sections of rear wall still stand, in which at least three opes are visible; the front wall is completely gone. The main architectural features are the steeply pitched gables, each crowned by a tall rectangular chimney stack. There are two flues on ground floor, in both gables, possibly for fireplaces and ovens. Above these, on 1st floor, are separate flues, probably for fireplaces, each flanked by rectangular windows.



Photograph 114: Remains of a late 17th /early 18th century house in Lissyconor.

Prospect House

Jaspar Ouseley's son, Richard (1733-1804) rebuilt Prospect House and let it to Captain Charles



O'Connor. Richard died in 1804, leaving his property to his nephews Jasper Kelly and William Langley. Jasper Kelly was the father of Richard Kelly, editor of the "Tuam Herald" in the early 20th century

(www.landedestates.ie)

Prospect House is no longer extant but a wall of an outbuilding is still visible and is currently being incorporated into the construction of a new agricultural building.

Photograph 115: Remains of Prospect House.

Woodfield

Gideon Ouseley, one of the five sons of Jaspar, resided at Woodfield House and later moved to Derrymore House (Greaney, J. 1984).

Three generations of Kirwans are recorded as living at Woodfield during the 18th and early 19th centuries. They were a junior branch of the Kirwans of Cregg Castle. They lost their estate when the Tuam Bank collapsed in 1815. By the time of Griffith's Valuation Woodfield belonged to the Handcocks of Carrownryla. (www.landedestates.ie)

All that remains today at Woodfield are the courtyard boundary walls and some outhouses. A more recent house which stands in the grounds is currently under reconstruction.



Photograph 116: Remains of boundary walls and gateway at former Woodfield House.

One of the most famous residents of Woodfield was Richard Kirwan. Born in 1708 he was educated in France after which he joined the Irish Brigade and at another time he served in the army of the Empress of Austria. He became famous as a swordsman – hence his nickname ‘Yellow Richard of the Sword’. He is reputed to have fought nineteen duels though it is claimed that he never sought a quarrel and indeed did his best to avoid all personal differences. When he returned to Ireland in 1751, he married Maria Bermingham of Barbersfort near Tuam. He died at Woodfield in 1779. Richards’s son Martin inherited Woodfield. He was a Justice of the Peace. Soon after his death the Woodfield estate got into financial difficulties and the family lost the property.

Dunmore House

Sir Ralph Gore sold the Dunmore part of his County Galway estates to Sir George Shee in the late 18th century.

Sir George Shee built Dunmore House c.1790. He also had several other residences in Ireland. His only daughter married Robert Deering and their son George inherited the estate. The Deerings were absentee landlords and Mr William Downes Griffiths was one of their agents who lived in Dunmore House. He was the brother of Richard Griffith who led the countrywide 'Valuation of Tenements in Ireland' in the 1850s.

Anthony Trollope, based his novel 'The Kellys and the O'Kellys' in Dunmore in 1848. The fictional O'Kellys lived in Dunmore House and the Kellys in the Hotel. (Greaney, J. 1984)



Photograph 117: Dunmore House in 1973 – opening of Dunmore-MacHales GAA grounds (courtesy of Hubert Bermingham)

The ruin of Dunmore house is surrounded today by the grounds of Dunmore Golf Course. It was a three-bay three-storey over half-basement house with bowed ends and a shallow entrance breakfront. It had a hipped slate roof and two centrally placed cut limestone chimneystacks. The front of the house was ashlar limestone. The round headed front door was accessed by a series of stone steps.



Photograph 118: Dunmore House today

The house is a protected recorded structure under the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH Reg. No. 30330014)

Carrowntryla House

Carrowntryla Estate was originally a de Burgo (Burke) property which was confiscated and granted to Maurice Power under the Cromwellian Acts. However, in 1676 William Burke was reinstated under the Decrees of Innocence and Sale Forfeitures. It was sold in 1753 to Anne Henry, widow of Hugh Henry, a Dublin banker, who died in 1743. It passed to William Henry, who died in May 1786. His only daughter, Anne, married William Handcock in 1802 and it became the home of the Handcock family before it was sold to Sir Henry Lopez and Mr Fitzwilliam Dick in 1897 as an investment. It was known as the Dick estate after the purchase (www.landedestates.ie).

In 1914 the estate was sold to the Land Commission for division among the tenants. In 1928 the house and 100 acres of land was purchased by Major Gerald Stratford Handcock. On his death in 1938, it was inherited by his niece, Mrs Voss, who sold the house to Hector McDonnell, a Galway building contractor. He demolished the house for salvage. The entrance gates and pillars were still on site in 1984 (Greaney, J.) but they were later sold to a buyer from Co. Tipperary (pers. comm. Hubert Bermingham)



Photograph 119: Carrowntryla House

A monumental obelisk stood to the rear of house bearing the inscription: 'Erected to the memory of the lamented and amiable owner of Carrantryla, Ann Handcock, died August 20th, 1818' (Greaney, J. 1984)

Joycegrove/Brownesgrove

In the late 1700s and early 1800s the Joyce family lived at Joycegrove. Henry Joyce was the proprietor in the 1830s. Thomas Browne, a younger son of the Brownes of Tuam bought the estate in the Encumbered Estates' Court from Thomas Reilly assignee of Henry Joyce in the early 1850s. He renamed it Brownesgrove. A modern house is now located on the site of the original house with the old farm buildings in the courtyard behind. The impressive entrance gates, piers and railings still remain. They are a protected structure listed on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH Reg. No. 30403001) and on the County Galway Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and are dated between 1840 and 1860. The ornate cast-iron double-leaf gate is flanked by square-plan ashlar limestone piers with chamfered corners supported on moulded plinths and topped with carved moulded pyramidal caps. There is a pair of limestone wheel guards (jostle stones) at the base of the gate pillars. Cast-iron railings on moulded limestone plinths create an S-plan between the terminal and gate pillars.



Photograph 120: Gates to former Joycegrove House

Curraghaun

A detached, three bay single storey house with dormer attic and cut limestone detail is located in Curraghaun townland. It is part of a complex consisting of the house, an outhouse, a large stable block (on the opposite side of the road), a freestanding stone arch and the remains of a formal garden feature.



Photograph 121: House and stable block at Curraghaun

The house, outhouse and stable block all have inscribed cut limestone date stones. The inscription on the stable block identifies that this building and very likely the house (due to the cut limestone detail present) were constructed from stone from the former Curraghaun House (which was a Kirwan House) over a period of 2 years (1864 – 1866).



Photograph 122: Date stone (1874) on Stable Block



Photograph 123: Date stone (1866) on house



Photograph 124: Date stone (RK 1874) on outhouse.



Photograph 125: Free standing arch

The house is thought to have been built as a residence for the Kirwan's herd. Griffiths Valuation (c.1855) lists Richard Kirwan as holding the 'herd's house, offices and land'. The census of 1901 records John Duggan and his son Sean as herds at that time. The house was occupied in recent times and has a contemporary vernacular interior, but is now derelict.

The outhouse is referred to as the 'high barn' and is believed to be where tenants came twice-yearly to pay their rents on 'Gale Days' (www.garrafrauns.ie). A free standing stone arch to the rear of the herd's house and the outhouse may have been connected to this practice.

The 1st edition OS historic map (c.1840) shows a group of buildings which are likely to have included the original Curraghaun House, although it is not labelled as such, and a formal laid out garden. The 1890 map shows that all of these buildings and garden have been removed with the exception of what is being referred to in this report as the stable block (on the east side of the road) and that the present day herds house has been constructed along with the present day outhouse (on the west side of the road).



Map 27: Curraghaun c.1840



Map 28: Curraghaun c.1890

'Data from the base maps gallery database accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at www.heritagemaps.ie, [20-7-2020]'

A feature that survives of the formal garden is shown on the 1st edition OS 6-inch map. It is an almost rectangular enclosed platform to the south of the herd's house. The platform is enclosed by an approximately 1metre high earth and stone bank. A modern house has been constructed between the herd's house and the feature.

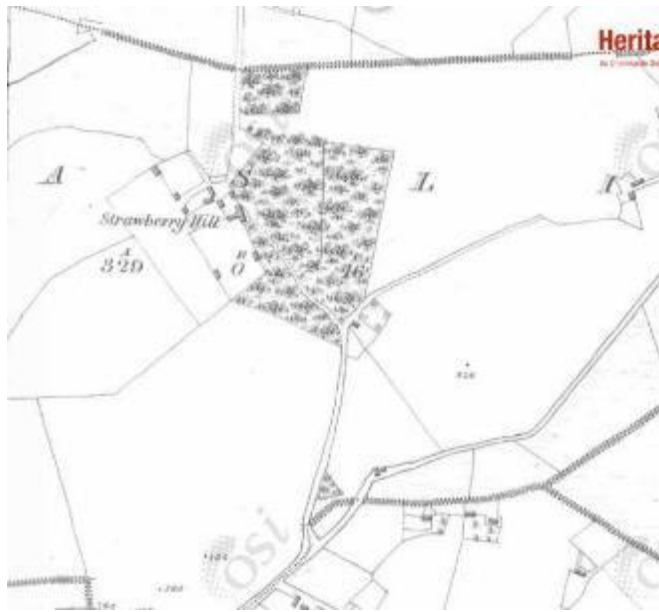


Photograph 126: Remains of late 18th/ early 19th century formal garden feature Curraghaun.



Photograph 127: 'Stable Block' at Curraghaun

Kilnaslieve



The house locally known as Kilnaslieve House is labelled 'Strawberry Hill House' on the 1st edition OS 6-inch map. In 1850 Griffiths Valuation recorded that the occupant was Matthew Jennings who was leasing the property on 267 acres, 2 roods and 28 perches from Honoria Handcock.

The OS map shows that the approach avenue to the house from the south was along what is today the link road (L2215) to Lurgan. The avenue ended at the house but there was a local 'right-of-way' which continued as a cart-track to Lurgan Village.

Map 29: Strawberry Hill House in Kilnaslieve townland c.1840 'Data from the base maps gallery database accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at www.heritagemaps.ie, [20-7-2020]'.

Local folklore relates that the lady of the house would lock the main gate once every year, to assert that the 'right-of-way' was not permanent and to show the locals it was a privilege and not a right. There was also a right-of-way on foot only, through what was called the Lawn to the east of the house. This came out on the road, where a new 2 storey house is now built, not far from the 2nd Strawberry Hill School, built in 1958 and now converted to a dwelling house.



Photograph 128: Kilnaslieve House (2020)

Towards the end of 19th century Jennings fell on hard times and was forced to sell the property. It was purchased by Thomas Mc Loughlin from Mullaghmore, Moylough. He married Sarah Steed from High St. Dunmore town. Mc Loughlin died young and tragically around 1916, family still living in the area (information from JJ Higgins).

The following story was collected by Eibhlín Ní Ailledéa a local teacher, from James Mullin, a farmer, (aged 71) for the Schools Manuscripts Collection in the 1930s.

'In olden times there lived in Strawberry hill, Dunmore, Co Galway a poor man who had but two goats and the people called him Bodarc na nGabhar. He lived in a small hut within which was a huge rock. One night a voice spoke to him down the chimney and told him to go to the Bridge of Athlone and that he would get a fortune there. He paid no heed to it. In a fortnight's time he heard the same voice and the same order but still he heeded it not until he heard it a third time. He then made up his mind to go to the Bridge of Athlone and next morning he arose early, milked the goats and set off. When he reached the bridge he walked up and down along it for three days and at last an old man approached him and asked him what he was doing there. Bodarc na nGabhar told him the instructions he had received from the voice that spoke down the chimney to him. Then the old man told Bodarc that a voice spoke to him down his own chimney and told him to go to the house of Bodarc na nGabhar in Strawberry hill, Dunmore, Galway and that he would get his fortune there. Bodarc na nGabhar said nothing but went home. Next morning he arose early, milked his goats, ate his breakfast, got a spade and began to dig under the rock in his hut. After a while he got a pot which was filled with gold and a note in it saying that he would find luck on the other side. He then dug under the other side of the rock, there he found another pot of gold in which there was a note similar to that found in the first pot which he got and containing the same instructions. He was now a very wealthy man, he had two pots of gold and he built a great mansion. The ruins of this mansion are still to be seen in Strawberry Hill'.

4.13. 19th and early 20th century Architecture of Dunmore Town

Sion Hill (The Glebe)



This Georgian detached three-bay two-storey over basement house was built in 1828 for Sir George Shee (info from Renate Cooke). It was the residence of a number of Church of Ireland Ministers whose church was at that time part of the Augustinian Friary. Church of Ireland services were held in the house in 1865 as renovations were taking place to the church in the Friary. There is allegedly a tunnel linking the house to the Abbey under the river (pers. comm. Joan Walkin) The Black and Tan soldiers occupied the house for a while. It was bought by Dr John Cooke from the Bank of Ireland c.1931 and the Cooke family remained in residence until 2002.

Photograph 129: Sion Hill (The Glebe) 2020

The house is set on its own grounds adjacent to 'Friars Walk' Housing Estate. It has a shallow breakfront to the entrance bay and a flat-roofed entrance porch with a flat concrete roof supported on square columns. The porch was added c.1920. The six-panelled double-leaf timber front door has an elaborate Adam-style fanlight with radial glazing bars forming a central orb and each segment ending in an ogee arch.

There are single-storey, rubble stone outbuildings to the rear of the house. The house is now derelict and the square-headed windows are boarded up. The house is a listed protected structure on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH Reg. No. 30330006).

The set of stone piers and cast iron gates on Sion Hill opposite the National School, mark the original back entrance way to the house. They are not original to the house but were purchased from a Convent in Ballyhaunis Co. Mayo in the 1970s. (Information from Renate Cooke to Joan Walkin). The main entrance to the house was located close to the present day entrance to Friars Walk housing estate.



Photographs 130-131: Back entrance cast iron gates and stone pillars to the former Sion Hill House (The Glebe)

St Marys' House



Photograph 132: St Mary's House Dunmore

Set in its own grounds this simple Georgian style house is composed of a detached four-bay two-storey block built c.1810 and a three-bay additional block added c.1830 to the side. Two Victorian-style canted-bay windows were added to the front of the house c.1880. The grounds are enclosed by rendered walls and metal gates.

The house has a natural slate roof which is pitched on the older block and hipped on the later block. The walls are roughcast rendered, with dressed limestone quoins and plinth. The timber eight-panel main entrance door is flanked by side-lights. A flat concrete canopy supported on cylindrical cement columns shelters the doorway.

The house is a protected structure listed on the NIAH (Reg. No.: 30330003) and on the RPS.

High St



Photograph 133: House on High St., Dunmore

The terraced three storey house in High St. was built c.1820 and retains its original proportions and use. It has a four-bay ground floor and three-bay upper floors. The walls are cement ruled and lined with probable rubble stone beneath. The square-headed windows have raised moulded cement surrounds and limestone sills. The ground floor windows are the original margined timber sliding sash one-over-one pane but the upper floors have replacement uPVC windows. There are two doorways at ground level. The round-headed doorway has a spoked timber fanlight, while the square-headed doorway has an overhead. Both have 19th century timber panelled doors. The house is a protected structure listed on the NIAH (Reg. No.: 30330010) and the RPS.

Parochial House, High Street



Photograph 134: Parochial House, Dunmore

The Parochial House on High St is a detached three-bay two-storey L-plan house which was built c.1820. On the 1890 OS 6-inch map, it is labelled as 'Merton House'. It is placed in a strategic position facing down the street opposite and is set back from the street with wrought-iron railings on a rendered plinth wall and a decorative wrought-iron pedestrian gate set between a pair of limestone piers with caps.

The façade is of fine squared limestone with rendered ends. The hipped roof has graduated slates which are now quite rare.

The rendered chimneystacks are set behind the roof ridge. A shallow entrance breakfront has a wide segmental-headed doorway with a replacement timber door and fanlight. The tall square-headed windows have limestone sills and replacement uPVC glazing. The house is a protected structure listed on the NIAH (Reg. No.: 30330013) but it is not included on the RPS.

Thomas Byrne, The Square

Thomas Byrne's commercial premises in the Square is a well-proportioned and significant building which retains its original use. It is one of the few buildings in the town to preserve an original late nineteenth-century shopfront, which is enhanced by the hand-painted signage.

The shopfront is set into a terraced five-bay three-storey house with an integral carriage arch to the ground floor. The house was built c.1830 and the shop frontage added c.1870.

The building has a low pitched natural slate roof with three rendered chimneystacks. The rubble limestone walls are rendered and painted, ruled and lined on the upper floor and channelled on the ground floor. The square-headed window openings on the upper floors have stone sills and raised render surrounds. They are replacement uPVC windows.

The shopfront is defined by decorative pedimented brackets, a plain fascia with a moulded cornice and painted lettering. A central double-leaf panelled timber door is flanked by two display windows divided by a central mullion. The building is listed as a protected structure on the NIAH (Reg. No. 30330012) and also on the RPS.



Photograph 135: Thomas Byrne Bar and Lounge, Dunmore.

Thomas Fahy & Son, Castle Street



Photograph 136: Thomas Fahy & Son Public House 2020.

This terraced two-bay two-storey house was built c.1830 and a public house front was added c.1881 to the ground floor. The building was remodelled c.1910. There has been a marked dilapidation of the building and shopfront since it was recorded for the NIAH inventory in 2009. In 2009, the NIAH described it as *'the fine render shopfront is one of the best in Dunmore and the incorporation of mirrors into the brackets is unusual and decorative'*.

It has a pitched slated roof with rendered chimneystacks and the walls are rendered and painted with parallel, raised quoins. The shopfront has panelled pilasters with plinths and brackets which were recorded as incorporating mirrors by the NIAH. The double-leaf timber panelled entrance door has a rectangular overhead. The display windows are protected by wrought-iron railings. The building is listed on the NIAH (Reg. No.: 30330008) and on the RPS.

Castle Street



Photograph 137: Former shopfront, Castle Street

This early twentieth-century shop and house are a noteworthy part of Castle Street. The range of well-maintained mouldings and plasterwork sets the building apart from its neighbours and adds to the architectural variety of the town.

The building is a four-bay two-storey terraced house, dated 1902, with a shopfront and integral carriage arch to the ground floor. The front is rendered with raised plaster quoins.

The whole of the ground floor is capped by a moulded cornice at first floor sill level. Panelled pilasters with fluted consoles and pediment tops with shamrock motifs bookend the ground floor.

The carriage arch at the north end is flanked by panelled pilasters and topped with a moulded arch with a fluted keystone. The first floor windows openings are camber-headed with moulded architraves and replacement timber casement windows. They are grouped in two pairs to the south end.

The timber entrance door is square-headed and flanked by decorative pilasters with moulded panels and has ornate brackets, a moulded cornice and dentil course, with a date plaque between brackets.

The shopfront also has panelled pilasters with square-headed display windows set between them. The centrally placed, square-headed shop door has an over light. A decorative wrought-iron bracket extends from the first floor and was possibly used for signage. The building is listed on the NIAH (Reg. No. : 30330007) but it is not included in the RPS.

Bank of Ireland



Photograph 138: Bank of Ireland Dunmore

The building that currently houses the Bank of Ireland, though typical in detailing of a late Victorian bank building, is unusually single storey. It is sited on Barrack St and has a small grass area to the front enclosed by metal railings on a rendered plinth.

The detail of the elaborately moulded entrance porch and timber roof brackets make it a unique feature of the town's architectural heritage. Built over one hundred years ago c.1880, it continues to provide financial services to the local community.

It is a detached five-bay single-storey building with a gabled breakfront which houses the main entrance round headed doorway. The breakfront has render copings with ball finials and apex detail, and the projection to which it is inset has a curvilinear gable with ball finials to ends. The roof is hipped with carved timber brackets. It has a natural slate roof with two rendered chimneystacks with moulding copings. The walls are rendered with raised plaster quoins and a moulded plinth. The windows are camber-headed with moulded surrounds. Double windows flank the porch. The painted stone sills have decorative brackets beneath. One of the window openings has been converted for use for the ATM.

The building is listed on the NIAH (Reg. No.: 30330009) and on the RPS. The Bank of Ireland in Dunmore is scheduled for closure in September 2021.

The Weighbridge



The weighbridge and house located in the Town Square is a notable and unique feature of the architecture of Dunmore and its history as a market town. Once a common feature in market towns most have been removed.

The octagonal-plan single-storey weigh-house has a conical roof and rendered painted walls. A square-headed doorway is located on the north side. Limestone plaques commemorating local history and events have been inserted around the exterior walls.



Photographs 139-140: Weighbridge and House, the Square, Dunmore

The decorative cast-iron weighbridge is located on the south-east side of the house. There are four wheel channels at the corners. The makers name and date 'W&T Avery Ltd Birmingham 1925 No. 537' are inscribed in raised lettering and decorative motifs give a very attractive pattern. The house and weighbridge are listed on the NIAH (Reg. No.: 30330011) and on the RPS.

Other architectural notables around the Town



Photograph 141: The Bridge Bar, Dunmore

This building dating to the late 1800s was designed to fit into the layout of the earlier, possibly medieval street plan. John Loftus, the owner of the Bridge Bar built a Handball Alley to the rear of the building. The back wall of the alley is still standing. (Information from Hubert Birmingham).



Photograph 142: Former McDonnells Department Store, Bridge St., Dunmore

This derelict building on Bridge St. exhibits many of the architectural features common in the town including square headed windows with moulded surrounds set on brackets, a continuous sill course to the first floor and a shopfront inserted into the ground floor. The recessed entrance doorway is

tilled with a very attractive mosaic pattern inscribed with the owner's name. This was once the entrance to a large department store owned by Martin McDonnell, a merchant from Roscommon who prospered significantly in the mid-1800s. He later opened branches in Tuam, Milltown, Mountbellew, Ballyhaunis and Cloonfad. He held eight townlands in the parish of Boyounagh, one in the parish of Tuam and one in the parish of Dunmore at the time of Griffith's Valuation. He bought almost 6,000 acres of Lord Fitzgerald's estate in the vicinity of Dunmore in the early 1850s. By the 1870s he owned over 9,000 acres in county Galway, 2,940 acres in county Roscommon and three acres in county Mayo. (<http://landedestates.nuigalway.ie/>) His life and times are detailed in the book 'The Life and Times of Martin McDonnell, Merchant, Landlord and Poor Law Guardian' by William Keaveney. (Information from Joan Walkin)



Photograph 143: Mosaic tiled entrance door step Bridge St., Dunmore



Photograph 144: Former houses with integral shopfronts, Bridge St., Dunmore

A number of derelict houses with integral vernacular shopfronts are located on Bridge St. A noticeable feature of these buildings are the high chimneystacks. The buildings on the east side of Bridge St. are due for demolition under the Dunmore Rural Regeneration Scheme which is underway by Galway County Council. <http://www.galway.ie/en/services/roads/roadsprojects/dunmore/> The purpose of the project is to improve the centre of Dunmore to enable regeneration within the town, improve the usability of Bridge Street and encourage use of the Square. A feasibility study was completed with public consultation in 2020 with five route options presented to alleviate traffic flow problems in the town. Option 2 has been selected and is currently being forwarded for planning.



Photograph145: An unusually narrow three storey, two bay building with integral shopfront, the Square, Dunmore



Photograph 146: Traditional shopfront with hand painted name plate and modern post office shopfront set into ground floor of house. Second floor windows with decorative channelled architrave with central pediment.

An elegant carriage archway is located in the corner of the Square. It is the original entrance to the rear yard and stables of the Steed's family shop and public house. Customers would leave 'sidecars' and horses there, when visiting the public house or when attending mass. (pers. comm. JJ Higgins)

Plaster work

A number of buildings display decorative plasterwork which was very likely to have been the work of a local craftsman. John McHugh was a local plaster craftsman in the early part of the 20th century (pers. comm. JJ Higgins)



Photograph 148: Plaster decoration on quoin stones of building in The Square.



Photograph 149: Plaster decoration on lined and rendered façade of upper floors of house in Castle St. with remains of fascia of a traditional shopfront over ground floor.

4.14. Mills

There is evidence for nine corn mills within the study area which operated in the 19th century and into the early 20th century. All of these are marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey 6-inch map published c.1840. These mills were important for the economic life of the local communities of the area at the time.

The publication Hogg, William, E. 1997 *The Millers and the Mills of Ireland of about 1850 – a list compiled by William E. Hogg* Betaprint, Dublin 17 lists seven of those mills as operational in 1850. The mills which are not included in the list are Comer's Mill in Woodfield and Heverin's in Garrafrauns townland.

The table below adapted from the entries in Hogg's publication provides the millers name and details with regard to the size of the water wheel, the number of grinding stones, the number of months that the mill operated in the year and a financial valuation for some of the mills.

Townland	Miller	Type of mill	Water Wheel*	Pairs of Stones	Time+	Valuation
Addergoolemore	Augustine Corcoran	Corn	12 2 2	1	3/12	-
Drumleane^	Michael Corcoran	Corn	12 1 2	1	2/12	-
Knockatee East	Owen Patten	Corn	11 1 2	1	3/12	-
Clooneen	John Mannion	Corn Tuck	14 2 3 12 1 4	3/4	6/10 3/18	2 14 9/-
Gortaganny	Michael Connell	Corn Tuck	12 3 10 1 wheel does both, can be worked at the same time	¾ 1stock/2arm	4/12 4/12	2 10 15/-
Killuney	Michael Haneran	Corn	12 1 3	3/4	4/12	2 Add for old tuck mill 10/-
Attiflynn	John Concannon	Corn	10 1 10	3/4	3/12	2 0 X ¾= 1 10

Table 3: Extract from Hogg, William, E. 1997 *The Millers and the Mills of Ireland of about 1850 – a list compiled by William E. Hogg* Betaprint, Dublin 17 showing detail with regard to mills listed in study area.

*the dimensions for the water wheel are given in feet and in the following order: diameter of the wheel, breadth of bucket and fall of water.

+ the first number refers to the number of hours that the mill operated for in an average day and the second to the number of months in the year that the mill operated e.g. Addergoolemore operated on an average of 3 hours each day over a 12 month period.

^ The townland name Drumleane appears to refer to Drumbane townland



Garrafrauns Mill

A Corn mill, marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map c.1840 in Garrafrauns townland is not included in Hogg's list.

However, a comprehensive account of this mill is included in the locally produced journal 'Garrafrauns – Through the Ages 2011' <http://garrafrauns.com/our-heritage/heverin-s-mill/>

The mill was built in 1842 by Daniel Heverin on the site of an earlier mill. Daniel was a member of a family of mill wrights who lived in Lavallyroe, near Cloonfad.

Map 30: 1st edition OS map (c.1840) showing Corn Mill and Mill Dam in Garrafrauns townland. 'Data from the base maps gallery database accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at www.heritagemaps.ie, [insert date]'.



Photograph 150: Ruins of Millers House at Garrafrauns mill site

Photograph 151: Aerial view of the present day Garrafrauns Corn Mill site 'Data from the base maps gallery database accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at www.heritagemaps.ie, [insert date]'.

The water wheel at Garrafrauns mill was a top fed, bucket wheel which measured 11 feet, (3.5metres) in diameter and 2ft. 8ins (2/3metre) in width. The river which worked the mill was dammed upstream to create a mill pond, the boundary of which was formed with earthen banks. The pond measured 140 yards by 20 yards and let in just enough water to turn the wheel. The water-run to the mill was called the *tarae*.

Internally the water wheel was attached to a pit wheel, a bull wheel, a spur wheel, pinions and two grinding stones. The wheel also drove a winnowing machine which separated the chaff, shells and seeds from the meal. It was called *Lochan* and *deannach*.

The locally written account of Heverin's Mill states that the grinding stones were made from conglomerate, quarried on Slieve Dart Mountain by men from Gortnalea, Cappagh and Cloonkeen, and that this quarry supplied stones to mills in Galway, Mayo and Roscommon. This is compatible with the account in the Ordnance Survey Memoirs (c.1835) which record that in the period from c.1790 up to the late 1820s, a millstone quarry at Dunmore, supplied a number of mills in that county, including those of Galway City (Rynne C. 2006).

Garrafrauns was a single movement mill i.e. the same millstones were used to shell and grind the corn. They were raised every three weeks to be pricked and sharpened.

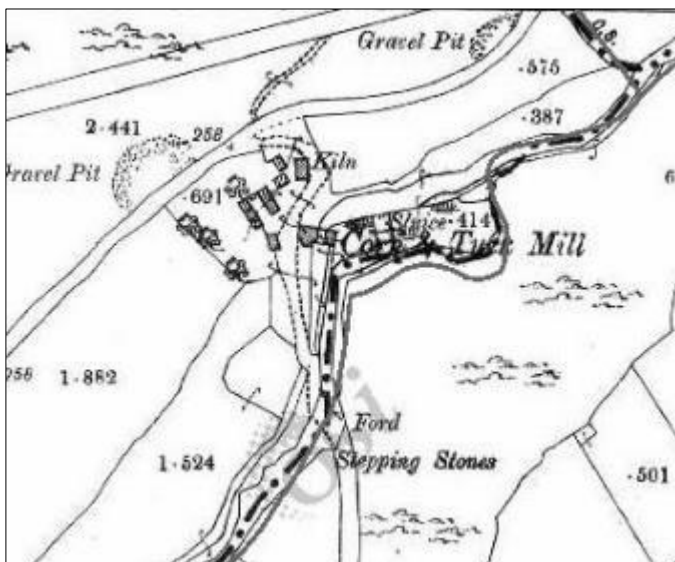
The corn was dried the night before milling. There were two drying kilns, made from stones covered by straw and heated by a turf fire. One kiln could dry a cast of 12cwt. and the other could dry 11 cwt. While one was drying, the other was emptied. The turf was supplied by the customer. When the corn was ground, the oatmeal was stored in a mill chest or a very large bag that would hold 2 to 3 cwt. The miller's payment was every fifth quart of the grain.

The weeks before Christmas were the busiest time at the mill. It is reported that a plug of tobacco was the best bribe to give the miller if you wanted to skip the queue!

Oatmeal was a very important and nutritious element of the Irish diet at that time. It was used to make bread, stirabout (porridge), black pudding and was often boiled with turnip when potatoes were scarce. A drink called Suidin was also made from oaten meal, milk and sugar.

Daniel Heverin had two sons, Patrick and John. John's son, Pat, was the last miller and the mill closed in the early 1960's. Pat died in 1981.

The site of the mill is very overgrown today. The ruin of the one-storey miller's house is still standing. There is a very low flow of water in the adjoining stream at present.



Drumbane Mill

Corcoran's corn and tuck mill in Drumbane townland was built sometime between 1840 and 1850, as it is not shown on the first edition OS 6-inch map (c.1840) but is listed in Hogg's list of operating mills in 1850.

Both the corn and tuck mill, the mill race, a sluice and the miller's house are all still extant today. Steven Corcoran of the milling family, still lives in the house. His father was the last to operate the mill and his uncle Mick Corcoran owned the mill in Addergoolemore.

Map 31: Corcoran's Mill c. 1890 'Data from the base maps gallery database accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at www.heritagemaps.ie, [7-7-2020]'.

One of the millstones of the Drumbane mill lies against the exterior wall. A second stone from this mill is currently located outside the entrance to a newly built nearby house. An extra storey was added to the existing two storey mill in 1928 and the mill ceased operation in the 1960s. The tuck mill is a one-storey building on the opposite side of the mill race to the corn mill. Both mills operated

from the one wheel and the wooden shaft of the wheel is still in place in the mill race between the two mills. A chaff house for collecting the husk from the oats is attached to the rear of the mill. The chaff was used as fertiliser on the adjoining land (information from Steven Corcoran)



Photograph 152: Drumbane mill



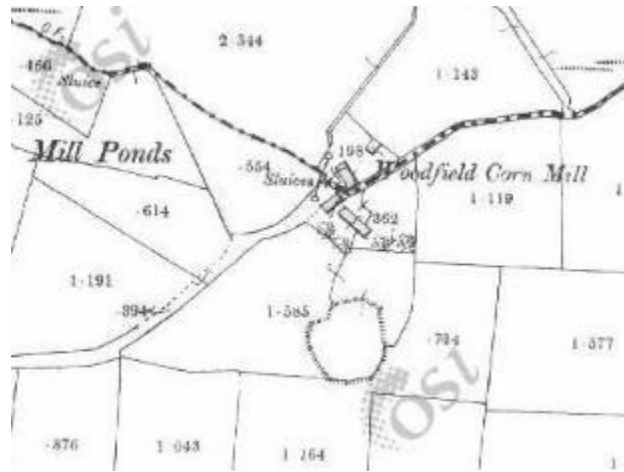
Photograph 153: Millstone at Drumbane mill

Woodfield Mill

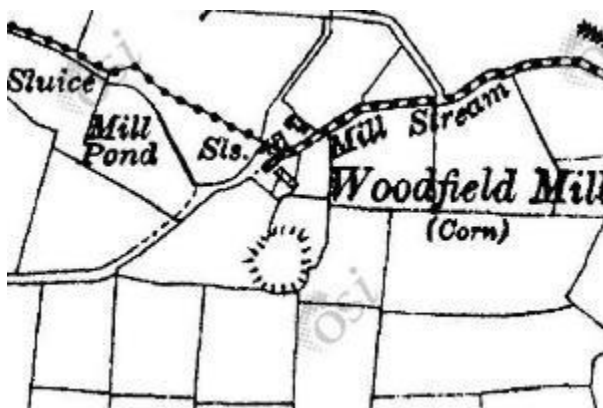
The Corn Mill in Woodfield, locally known as Comers Mill, was also not included in Hogg's list (c.1850), although it was in existence at the time.



Map 32: Woodfield Corn Mill c.1840



Map 33: Woodfield Corn Mill c.1890



Map 34: Woodfield Corn Mill c.1930 'Data from the base maps gallery database accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at www.heritagemaps.ie, [20-7-2020]'.

From the maps there appear to have been changes in the mill race, a removal of an L-shaped building and the construction of a new building between 1840 and 1890. This re-development work may have meant that the mill was out of commission at the time that Hogg's list was compiled and his list is only concerned with 'operating mills'.



The mill at Woodfield was always operated by the Comer Family, members of whom still live here. The corn mill was demolished in the late 1960s and a modern agricultural shed stands on the site today. A rubble stone, one-storey with attic out building survives. This would appear to have been a storage barn for the grain. One of the mill stones is placed against the side wall of this building along with the original wooden shaft of the mill wheel, a rynd from a stone and a cog.

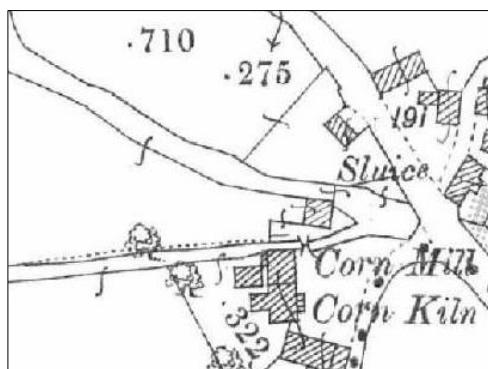
Photograph 154: Surviving storage shed, mill stone, wheel shaft, rynd and cog at Woodfield

Clooneen Mill

An important group of mill buildings are set back from the road on the south side of the Sinking River in Clooneen townland. The main mill building is three storeys and was built c.1760. Attached to it on the south is a two storey building with a one storey return to the rear, which is the former kiln with the perforated floor and fireplace still visible. Tom Byrne, the current owner, carried out some restoration work on the buildings in recent years, reconstructing the mill wheel and repairing the walls of the mill race. The interior of the mill is in a collapsed state, but the iron shafts, cogs and millstones are still present.



Photograph 156: Clooneen Mill



Map 35: Clooneen Mill 1890 'Data from the base maps gallery database accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at www.heritagemaps.ie, [20-7-2020]'.

The OS six-inch map of c. 1890 illustrates how the water pooled on the west side of the bridge at that time, before being diverted into two mill races. The mill race on the south side powered the main Corn Mill and the northern mill race powered a smaller building which was a tuck mill (see Hogg's list Table 3). In later years electricity was generated in what had been the tuck mill and the building was locally known as 'The Lighthouse' (pers. comm. Tom Byrne). This would have been prior to the connection of the town to the ESB network in 1950. The Dunmore Electric Light Company operated between 1934 and 1950 (<https://esbarchives.ie/>). Clooneen mill is listed on the NIAH (Reg. No.: 30330002) but not on the RPS.

Attiflynn Mill

In Attiflynn, the existing buildings consist of the ruin of a two storey house (which appears to have been occupied in more recent times) and an adjoining outhouse to the east. On the west side, where the mill race ran there is the ruin of a one storey building where the mill workings would have been. On the opposite side of the road is a large rubble stone building which may have been a grain store and possible kiln. A millstone from this mill is now located nearby, outside Eddie O'Loughlins house.



Photograph 157: Attiflynn Mill



Photograph 158: Attiflynn Mill store



Photograph 159: Addergoolemore Mill

Addergoolemore Mill

The remains of Corcoran's Mill at Addergoolemore consists of a three storey rectangular mill building. The mill race and wheel are no longer in evidence. A millstone from this mill is currently found outside Dunmore Friary. It was installed here to commemorate the twinning of Dunmore with Quierrien.



Map 36: Addergoole More and Killuney Corn Mills c.1840

'Data from the base maps gallery database accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at www.heritagemaps.ie, [20-7-2020]'.
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Killuney Mill

Approximately 250 metres downstream on the opposite bank of the Sinking River was Haneran's Corn Mill, in Killuney townland. It had a tuck mill attached. Very little remains of this mill, except for a ruined building overgrown by trees and scrub.



Photograph 160: Remaining two storey storage shed at Gortaganny Mill

Gortaganny Mill

The remains of Connells mill at Gortaganny consist of a two storey storage shed. The mill has been demolished and the mill pond and mill race removed.

Although Hogg recorded an operating mill in **Knockatee East** townland in 1850, no evidence of this could be found. Marked on the 1840 OS map are two corn kilns, which have since been removed. No local knowledge of this mill was found during this Audit.



The Dunmore Millennium Sundial in the town square is mounted on a millstone set on a stone pillar. The sundial is based on a 19th century sundial which was made for Black Rock Lighthouse, Co. Sligo and bought by local man, Tommy Keaveney in 1948. Tommy had the vision of enlarging the 12-inch sundial into a 30-inch version to be placed in Dunmore. In conjunction with Dunmore Tidy Towns Committee the project was brought to fruition in 2000 AD. Seamus Kilgarriff Engineering, Dunmore made the brass disc and Jimmy Mullins Engineering, Stonepark prepared the base. The dial is mounted on a mill stone which was originally part of Gannons mill in Cloonarkin, near Cloonfad.

Johnny Glennon, Kiltivna made the concrete plinth and Paul Murphy, stonecutter made the commemorative plaque and cut the Latitude and Local Apparent time into the millstone base. (Information taken from an article by David Burke, Tuam Herald, 30 December, 2000)

Photograph 161: Sun dial mounted on a mill stone in Dunmore Square

4.15. Bridges

The earliest bridges were of wood usually at a shallow crossing point in a river. By the 1500s stone bridges were being constructed. The improvement of roads from the mid-1700s resulted in many new bridges being built and older ones improved. Usually built with local stone, many of these 18th century structures still survive today displaying great engineering and craftsmanship as they carry heavy traffic loads which were never envisaged at the time of their construction.

The four-arch, rubble limestone, bridge over the Sinking River in Clooneen townland was built c.1760 and retains its original form (www.buildingsofireland.ie). The river has since been channelized and now flows through the two central arches. There are metal bracing clamps to either side of each



arch and flat-fronted concrete cutwaters between the arches. A section of the parapet to the south-west has been replaced with concrete block and flat coping and concrete block work supports pipework on the south-west elevation. Due to its historical and architectural importance the bridge is listed on the NIAH (Reg. No.: 3033001) and on the RPS.

Photograph 162: Bridge over the Sinking River at Clooneen



Further upstream is the bridge in Dunmore town. Built of rubble limestone, it has roughly hewn copings and cut limestone detail to the arches. The most southern arch has been converted into a public walkway. Large cutwaters protect the structure from floodwater flow on the upstream side.



Photographs 163-165: Views of bridge in Dunmore Town

Many of the smaller bridges found in the study area are located adjacent to mills and their mill races. They are likely to have been constructed at the same time as the mill sometime in the late 18th to early 19th century. Good examples can be seen at Killuney and Attiflynn.



Photograph 167: Killuney/Addergoole More Bridge



Photograph 168: Attiflynn Bridge

The beautifully constructed, small, one-arch bridge at Clooneen mill, at the edge of Dunmore Town, originally crossed the mill race that fed the mill wheel. Built from rubble limestone, the parapet and arch voussoirs are of cut stone. Today the mill race channel is dry and the limestone bedrock is exposed, allowing a good view of the underside of this bridge.



Photograph 169: Clooneen Mill Race Bridge



A small hump backed, single arch rubble stone bridge with cut stone arch detail is found in Woodfield townland. It may have been constructed as part of the Kirwan's Woodfield estate.

Photograph 170: Woodfield Bridge



In more recent years, concrete bridges have been constructed such as that at Cloonmore and Cloonaghgarve. The bridge at Cloonaghgarve was built as part of the River Corrib Drainage Scheme which began in 1954.

Photograph 171: Concrete Bridge at Cloonaghgarve



Photograph 172: Dedication stone on the Cloonmore-Slieve Bridge dated 1930

4.16. Pumps

The water pump was a vital utility in daily rural life in the past. The most common type that survives in the study area is the typical freestanding cast-iron pump with a fluted cylindrical shaft, spout with fluted neck and plain bucket grip, and a cow's tail pumping arm, fluted upper part topped with fluted domed cap with pointed finial. The pump is generally set on a concrete plinth with a protective wall to the sides and rear and it is accessed by a flight of concrete steps. There are a number of these pumps surviving in good condition, maintained by the local community and painted in a variety of colours. A selection are shown in the accompanying photographs. The general date for this type of pump is the late 1800s. Many were made in Shannon Foundry Limerick, as is stamped on the pump in Kiltivna village.



Photographs 173-174: Kiltivna pump and makers stamp.



Photograph 175: Curragh West pump



Photograph 176: Gorteen Pump



Photograph 177: Knockaloura West pump



Photograph 178: Kilmurry Pump

4.17. Lime Kilns

Lime kilns were stone built structures made to produce lime or “quick lime” as it was often called. The type of kiln commonly used in the study area was a ‘draw’ kiln, where a fire was lit in a ‘draw’ hole at the bottom of the structure and the heat was drawn up through layers of wood, scraw and stone which were laid into the interior ‘egg-shaped’ chamber of the kiln.

A well preserved example in Cloonfane townland is built into a low hill allowing the operator easy access to the top of the kiln where the limestone, which had earlier been broken down by hand into pieces about the size of a man’s fist, was loaded. The rocks were layered with turf, scraw from the top of the bog, and wood. A fire was then lit in the draw hole. When the temperature in the chamber reached over 900°C, a chemical reaction occurred where the calcium carbonate in the limestone was broken down into calcium oxide (lime) and carbon dioxide gas was released. The kiln was left to burn for 3-4 days. The material that came out of the kiln after burning still consisted of some stone pieces and powder. Water was then poured over the burnt stone i.e. slaking. This often caused small explosions resulting in bad burns or eye injuries for nearby workers.

The lime powder had various uses, including fertiliser, lime mortar, “white wash” for the inside and outside walls of the farm house and outbuildings, prevention of foot rot in farm animals, slug repellent and a chicken feed to strengthen the egg shells.

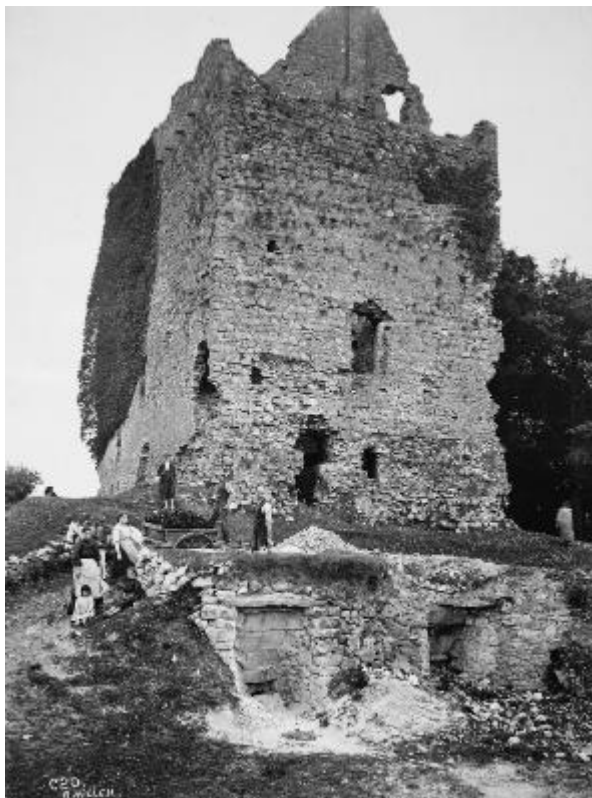


Photograph 179 : Cloonfane Lime kiln

There were three lime kilns in the vicinity of Dunmore Castle, one of which is still very evident today adjacent to the laneway beneath the Castle. A 19th century photograph shows people working the kilns and very likely using stone from the castle walls, the lower sections which appear ‘robbed out’.



Photograph 180: Lime Kiln at Dunmore Castle



Photograph 181: Working the lime kiln at Dunmore Castle in the 19th century



Photograph 182: Lime Kiln on the Bog Road at Dunmore (courtesy of Sara Slattery)

Other examples can be seen in the study area, including on the Bog road walking route and in Gurteen townland.

4.18. Sweathouses

The 3rd ed. of the OS 6-inch map (1930) shows a cluster of circular and rectangular structures labelled as 'Clacan' (which is a name for a house cluster) in Shanballymore townland. The map also individually names two structures as follows: (a) a small square structure on the west face/bank of a boundary or stream is labelled 'Sweating Kiln'; (b) a small open circle at the head of a stream is labelled 'Sweating Kilns (in Ruins)'.



Map 37: 3rd edition OS map (c.1930) showing 'Sweating Kilns' in Shanballymore townland

Due to land clearance in the area, no visible surface trace of any of these features could be found, but it is likely that they were 19th century sweathouses. These were small, beehive shaped buildings used like a modern day sauna. Sweating was believed to cure aches and pains. A fire was lit inside the sealed house several hours before it would be used. The fire was then put out and the people sat inside to 'sweat'. After, they would plunge into a cold river or stream.

A sweating house was also noted by Neary (1914, 126) '*on the north side of the mountain road at Quinultagh*'. The location shown on his map is c. 2.2km to WNW of the sites in Shanballymore. This area was searched for the purposes of this audit, but no trace of any structures could be found.

4.19. Schools

Before the early 19th century, formal education in Ireland was reserved for the non-Catholic classes. Catholics were forbidden education under the Penal Laws (1695 to 1782) but there were secret schools referred to as 'hedge schools'. An educated local person or a travelling teacher usually provided the tuition. The schools were generally located in fields, barns or any empty building. The teacher received payment from the children's family.

The first known school in Garrafrauns was a thatched barn on the Kilgarriff family land at the edge of the village on the Dunmore Road.

In the Folklore Commission the following description is recorded:

".. the building was about 34 foot long by 12 foot wide and 9 foot high. It had one door, one 4 paned window at the front and a smaller sized one at the western side. The floor was made of clay and the roof thatched. Each pupil had to pay the teacher 1 penny per week for education. The greater number of pupils the more money the teacher earned. He was also obliged to carry one sod of turf daily for the fire. This burnt at the corner of the room and the smoke went out through a hole in the roof. The desks were made of sally rods woven together with boards left on top of them."

In the early 1800s Government inquiries into spending of public money on education were set up. A list of pay/hedge schools in the parish of Dunmore was recorded in the 'The Second Report of the Commissioners of Irish Education Inquiry 1826'. Of the nine schools listed all were pay schools and the masters/mistresses were Roman Catholic.

Townland	Name of Master or Mistress	Total annual income of Master or Mistress	Description of the school house	Number of pupils	No. of pupils who are RC	No. of pupils who are Protestant
*Dunmore And Carrownaseer	Patrick Reilly and John O'Donnell	20 £	Held in the chapel	340	315	25
Dunmore	Eliza silk	12 £	A bad cabin	54	48	6
Dunmore	Bridget Neewan	About 6	A bad cabin	27	23	4
Dunmore	William Toole	About 6	A miserable hovel	24	23	1
Iruel	John Brennan	About 12	A poor cabin	50	50	-
Flaskagh	Patrick Godfrey	About 20	A poor cabin	70	70	-
Gortnalea	John Hopkins	About 10	A poor cabin	63	63	-
Capaunagh	John Lynsky	Charges from 1/8d to 2/6d per quarter	A bad cabin	-	-	-

Table 4: Information extracted from 'The Second Report of the Commissioners of Irish Education Inquiry 1826' for schools in the Dunmore Parish. (Data received from Clare Lowery)

*Dunmore and Carrownaseer are treated as one school in the listing and are linked to the Kildare Place Society. This Society aimed to provide a Bible-based but non-denominational education that was acceptable to Catholics. The Chapel that the school was held in is most likely to have been St Nicholas Chapel built in 1770.

Hedge schools became legal with Catholic Emancipation in 1829. In 1831 a national system of education was introduced which gave financial assistance to local communities to build school houses. This brought to an end the 'hedge school' system.

Among the first formal school houses built in the study area under this system were in Dunmore town, Flaskagh More, Strawberry Hill and three in Shanballymore – all of which are marked on the 1st edition OS map c.1840.

In Dunmore Town the first official school house stood close to the site of the present day Scoil Nioclás Naofa. Its date of construction is unknown but it was in existence c. 1839 when the first edition OS map was produced. By 1890 this school was no longer in existence and a new school had been built close to the corner of Sion Hill and the road to Carrownanseer. It was a large building with a girls and boys side divided by a wall that ran through the grounds from front to rear so that the playground was also divided. It was replaced in 1940 when the present day Scoil Nioclás Naofa was built on the site of the original 1840 school house. Originally a five-roomed school, three new classrooms were added on at later dates. In 1972 an Assembly Hall was added, the yard was extended and the boys' and girls' school amalgamated. In 1972, Carrowkeel National School was amalgamated with Dunmore and in January 1981 Flaskagh National School amalgamated with Dunmore. In 1987, the playground was extended and in 2002-2003, major refurbishment work was undertaken and the school further enlarged.

An application to the Commissioners of Education by the Parish Priest of Dunmore Canon McEville for a payment of teacher's salary and a supply of books dated 1/1/1863 tells us that the school at Garrafrauns was established on April 1863 and catered for 24 families. The building was constructed of stone and mortar using local funds. The teacher mentioned was Patrick Godfrey aged 22 and he paid rent of £2.10.00 to the local landlord. This Patrick Godfrey is very likely a relation of the Patrick Godfrey who was recorded in the 'The Second Report of the Commissioners of Irish Education Inquiry' as the Master in Flaskagh pay school in 1826.

However 16 years later, the building was obviously in disrepair as a letter dated 10/1/1879 stated that the school would be "struck off roll unless a suitable house is provided before September 1879."



In 1886 the first state school was built at the rear of the Catholic Chapel on the Cloonfad road. The site was leased from the local landlord Richard Kirwan and the appointed trustees were the Archbishop of Tuam, Most Reverend John McEville, Rev. Jeremiah McEville, PP. and Thomas Fahy of Dunmore. The contractor was Flec Fleming from Shanballymore.

Initially just two classrooms were built and the pupils were segregated into the Boys side and Girls side.

Photograph 183: Date stone for Garrafrauns School (Courtesy of Pat Slattery)

Both sides operated as distinct schools with their own principals who taught all classes from infants to sixth. In 1896 two junior rooms were constructed to the front as well as a teacher's residence. The playgrounds were covered with a layer of sandy gravel. Dry toilets and a turf shed were at the rear of each school. The only means of heat in wintertime was an open fire at the front of each classroom.

Each family was requested to bring a cart of turf annually. Those that did not own a bog could donate a bag of coal in lieu. Electricity was not connected until 1968.

(The above description was extracted from <http://garrafrauns.com/education/schools/garrafrauns-ns/>). The present day school in Garrafrauns, Scoil Mhuire na Garfraín, was opened in 1975.



There are three schools marked on the first edition OS 6-inch map of Shanballymore townland (c.1840). Garrafrauns Heritage group recorded that there were one large school and two smaller schools in the townland at this time. The two smaller schools only had 10-15 pupils registered between them.

Map 38: Three school houses in Shanballymore c.1840 (underlined in yellow). 'Data from the base maps gallery database accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at www.heritagemaps.ie, [7-8-2020]'.

Only one school is marked on the 1890 map and although close to the site of one of the original 1840 schools (the centre school on the map), it is by this time located on the opposite side of the road and labelled Shanballymore School.

An article '*Shanballymore National School*' by Pat McWalter in 'Garrafrauns through the Ages' published by Garrafrauns Heritage Group in 2012 provides a detailed account of the history of the schools in Shanballymore and much of the following information is extracted from this article. In 1862 an application was made to the Commissioners of Education for the fitting out and payment of a teacher's salary in Shanballymore. The school house was described as originally being a private house but at this time was leased from the farmer. The building was 40 foot long, 14 foot wide, thatched and had walls of lime and mortar. 113 pupils were registered with an average attendance of 50 males and 30 females. The request for aid was approved and the inspectors report stated that it was much needed '*in this remote district to save the people from ignorance*'. The school referred

to is most likely the one marked on the 1890 map as by this time, the other two smaller schools had closed.



Map 39: Location of Shanballymore School c.1840



Map 40: Location of Shanballymore School c.1890

'Data from the base maps gallery database accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at www.heritagemaps.ie, [9-8-2020]'



The location of the most recent Shanballymore School (date stone 1906) was just to the north-west of the late 19th century school. It was originally a two teacher school but with an enrolment of 122 pupils by 1916, a third teacher was employed. By 1975 the number of pupils had decreased to 21 and the school was closed and amalgamated with Garrafrauns School. The ruin of the early 20th century Shanballymore School survives today.

Map 41: Location of Shanballymore School built in 1906 (map dates to c.1930) 'Data from the base maps gallery database accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at www.heritagemaps.ie, [8-8-2020]'



Photograph 184: The ruin of Shanballymore School (2020) Inset: Date stone over entrance doorway

Flaskagh School was built in 1906 and is marked on the third edition OS 6-inch maps dated to c.1930. It closed in 1958. All that remains is the date stone, which is now located in a local residents garden. In 1955 a 'new' school was opened in Flaskagh. It closed in 1981 and was amalgamated with Scoil Níoclás Naofa in Dunmore. (Information courtesy of Pat Slattery)



Photograph 185: 1906 Date stone of Flaskagh School (Photograph courtesy of Diane Mahon)

The first school in Strawberry Hill was located on the Jennings property and had a date stone which indicated that it was built in 1895. Locals were asked to contribute one day's labour to the build. JJ Higgins of Graigueachullaire informed this study that his grandfather was one of those who contributed. Shortly after WWI (1914-1918) a dance-hall was built close to the school, the ruin of which is still visible today. The hall burned down in the 1920's in suspicious circumstances. In 1985 Strawberry Hill N.S. was amalgamated with Garrafrauns.

The first school in Gortaleam opened on October 1st 1886. The present day St Patricks NS opened February 26th 1964.



On the 1890 OS map Ballinlass School is located on the opposite side of the road from the present day school. The ruin of a stone and mortar building still exists on this site.

Photograph 186: Former and Current Ballinlass School

Loorha School was located in Lisduff townland to the east of the Dunmore-Cloonfad road. It was built in 1898 and closed in 1948. No buildings survive today.



Map 42: Loorha School in Lisduff townland c.1930 'Data from the base maps gallery database accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at www.heritagemaps.ie, [8-8-2020]'.

SECTION FIVE

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Introduction

The aim of this community-led project was to audit the potentially accessible built, cultural and natural heritage of the Dunmore area with a view to developing interpretive materials that will benefit local residents, provide educational resources for schools and foster tourism opportunities in the area.

The audit process has successfully identified a wide scope of heritage resources, which in terms of accessibility and intrinsic interest, have the potential for interpretation.

This section of the report provides a series of practical recommendations by which the identified heritage resources can be interpreted under a number of themes.

The focus of these recommendations is

- to raise awareness among the local community of the richness of the heritage within the study area
- to provoke an interest in exploring that heritage further
- through that interest, strengthened the membership of the existing Heritage Group to pursue the development of heritage related projects.

5.2. Dunmore Heritage Group

In 2018, Dunmore Tidy Towns group became interested in carrying out some heritage related projects and they contacted Marie Mannion, Galway County Council Heritage Officer for advice on the best way to proceed. She suggested that compiling a heritage audit was the best starting point to provide the group with the necessary knowledge and guidance to plan future strategy and raise awareness of the heritage of their local area. It quickly became apparent that this was a bigger project than the small Tidy Towns group could manage and a call was put out for people interested in their local heritage to assist. As a result Dunmore Heritage Group was formed in April 2019.

The group's activities in 2019 included:

- hosting a talk by Dr Christy Cunniffe on the hidden historical gems of Dunmore, during National Heritage Week 2019,
- undertaking 'Interview Skills Training' for a planned Oral history project
- seeking funding from Galway Rural Development Co. Ltd (GRD) to carry out the 'Heritage Audit of Dunmore'.

After successfully obtaining funding from GRD, the Audit commenced in April 2020 and has culminated in the production of this report.

As a relatively new group, the profile of the Dunmore Heritage Group is currently low in comparison to other more established heritage groups within County Galway. The group currently has 12 members and operates as a sub-group of the Dunmore Tidy Towns Committee.

It is the aim of the group to now act on the recommendations of this baseline report, expanding their activities, strengthening their profile and increasing the awareness of the rich local heritage of the Dunmore area among residents and visitors.

5.3. Creating a public profile

The first recommendation of this report is that a recognisable public image/brand should be developed which promotes the Heritage Group. The purpose of this action will be to create awareness of the Group and their work. It will provide the group with a presence which will be recognisable on a local, regional and national level. It is important that the group create this presence in order to grow the membership base and seek guidance, facilitation and funding for future activities and research.

Recommendation: Raising Awareness

- ❖ Create a strong, recognisable brand for the Dunmore Heritage Group
 - Develop a logo for the Heritage Group
 - In addition to the Logo and group name - Use a tagline for all future projects undertaken e.g. 'Sharing our Stories'. This will give a brand image and a unifying theme for projects undertaken.

- ❖ Raise awareness of the wealth of local heritage among the wider Dunmore Community
 - Develop a heritage quiz competition using information gathered through the audit and contained in this report.
 - The purpose of the quiz is to act as a publicity tool for the recommended public launch of this Audit report (see below).
 - Sell sheets in local shops, schools, post office and through individuals (to help cover printing costs).
 - Attach a Unique identifier number to each sheet (to prevent photocopying of sheets and sharing – each accepted sheet for the competition must display its unique number).
 - Participants answer the quiz questions and enter the competition.
 - Supply a prize for the winning entry.

- ❖ Raise awareness among the wider Galway County Community
 - Print copies of this report. Organise a public launch and publicise the projects you are going to undertake. Promote through the local newspapers, parish newsletters and social media.
 - Develop web pages on specific items of heritage interest from information contained in this report and post regularly to the Galway Community Heritage website. **As a result of the completion of the Dunmore Heritage Audit and the content of this report, a page has been reserved on the Galway Community Heritage website for the Dunmore Heritage Group, courtesy of Marie Mannion, Galway County Heritage Officer.**
 - Promote all of these actions and the Group's page on the Galway Community Heritage website through social media - the Dunmore Heritage Facebook page - and Twitter.

5.4. Geology and Geomorphology

The bedrock of the study area consists mainly of limestone with sandstone, siltstone and mudstone occurring in a band of higher ground from the north-east to the south-west in the northern section.

Sandstone was quarried in the past in various locations for use mainly in local buildings such as Garrafrauns church and for the building of farmhouses, outbuildings and field walls. The townland of Shanballymore was one of the main sources. The use of this resource is still visible in the ruins of several farm buildings in the area, in the houses in the village of Cartron and in the extensive network of field walls.

The shaping of the landscape of the study area by ice and water is highly visual and has been classified of regional importance by the Geological Survey of County Galway. There are several important features including the Dunmore Esker and the Williamstown Turloughs all of which have been scientifically studied and academic accounts are available. However, the language used in such publications is specialised. A more accessible account of the formation of eskers and the natural history of the Dunmore esker system can be found in the Galway County Council publication 'Galway's Living Landscapes – Part 1 Eskers'.

A publically accessible, user-friendly Interpretation of the important geomorphology of the study area, which is a prime visual example for the whole of County Galway, would greatly enhance the awareness of its existence and help in its future conservation.

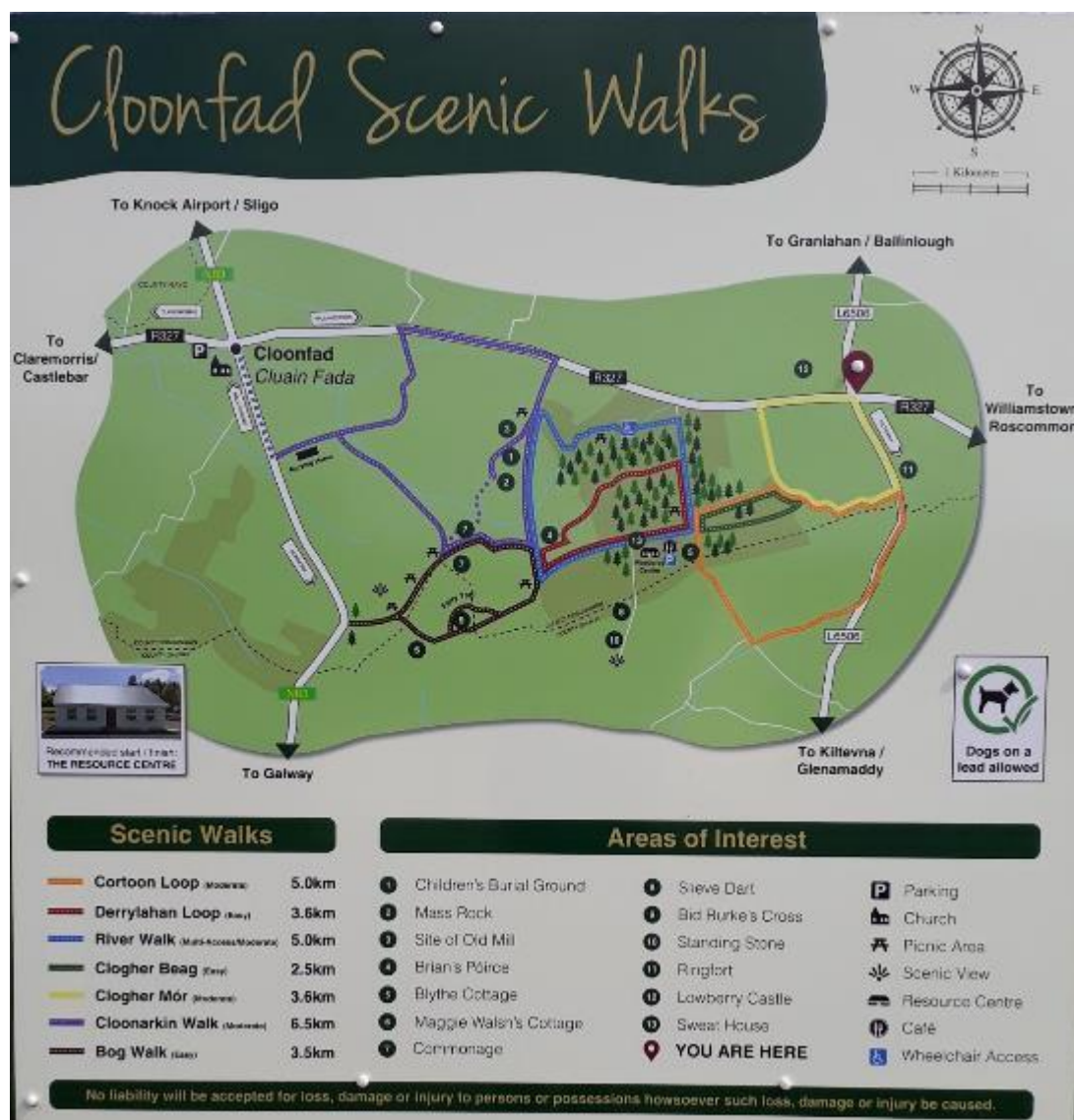
RECOMMENDATIONS: Geology and Geomorphology

- ❖ Network with Galway County Council Heritage section when the interpretative signage recommended by the Audit of the County Geological sites (Meehan, R. & Co. 'The Geological Heritage of County Galway' 2019, GSI, Galway County Council and the Heritage Council) for the Dunmore Esker is being developed.
- ❖ Develop signed looped walks and cycling trails along the minor roads in the north of the study area and connect to the existing series of 'Cloonfad Scenic Walks' in the adjoining area of Co. Roscommon as a cross-border project. (Photograph 187)
 - Explore the placing of a small number of well-designed directional and interpretational signs at publically accessible viewing points along these routes.
 - Develop digital online route maps and interpretation
 - Develop trailheads for the walking routes in the villages of Kiltivna and Garrafrauns.
 - Provide information and interpretation on the theme of the geomorphological landscape of eskers, drumlins, springs and turloughs in Kiltivna (see recommendation above re the Audit of the Geological sites proposed interpretation)
 - and for the themes of sandstone quarrying, upland small farms and the Ultach settlement associated with the townland of Quintalagh in Garrafrauns.

Potential Funding Source

The Geological Survey of Ireland operate a Geoheritage Grant Scheme. Information is found at <https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/programmes-and-projects/geoheritage/activities/geoparks-and-geotourism/Pages/GSI-Geoheritage-Grant-Funding-.aspx>

The deadline for applications for the 2020/2021 scheme was November 6, 2020. If the Dunmore Heritage Group wish to apply for this grant aid in 2021, it is recommended that they have all documentation prepared by September- October 2021.



Photograph 187: Signboard for the Cloonfad Scenic Walks

5.5. Habitats

Wetlands consisting of rivers, streams, springs, turloughs, small lakes, raised and blanket bogs, fens and reed marshes are all found in the area interspersed with the dry calcareous grasslands of the eskers, drumlins and roadside verges.

Due to their important biodiversity, Slieve Bog and the Yellow/Sinking River are designated Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) under the EU Habitats Directive. Slieve Bog is highly accessible with its network of metalled roads, suitable for both cycling and walking. There is currently no public interpretation or promotion of this resource.

The community developed Bog walk to the west of Dunmore town provides access to bog woodland, cutover and raised bog habitats. Directional signposts are provided. Part of this walk won Galway County Golden Mile Awards in 2006 and 2009. A stand alone, large hand painted signage board is located adjacent to the lane beneath Dunmore Castle. It illustrates several birds and animals who inhabit the bog. Several installations have been placed along the walk connected to the theme of 'fairies' as attractions for children.



The mosaic of fen, reedmarsh, remaining open water of former Lough Agar and the cutaway of the former Drumbulcaun raised bog, set within a backdrop of drumlins, in the south of the study area, is visible from a community developed walking route along a metalled road. A number of hand painted signs highlight local features such as 'Cnoc na hAltor' but no further information or direction is provided.

Photograph 188: Seat at Lough Agar/Drumbulcaun Bog with directional sign for 'Cnoc na hAltor'

A short gravelled walk extends from the bridge in Dunmore town to the end of the rugby/soccer pitch, providing access to the river habitat. A small interpretive board, installed by Dunmore Tidy



Towns, is located on the bank of the River in Dunmore town to the rear of the Eurospar Centre. It provides information about the river name and flow pattern, the kingfisher, the brook lamprey, an invertebrate sampling project by the local school, brown trout and the riverside vegetation. However, the river walk is not signposted and visitors to the town may be unaware of its existence.

Photograph 189: River Walk Interpretive Board

Biodiversity training was provided to the Dunmore community in 2011 by Dr Janice Fuller with funding from Galway County Council and Galway Rural Development Ltd. As a result the 'Biodiversity Action Plan for Dunmore 2011-2014' was compiled.

<https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/heritage-publications/biodiversity-action-plan-dunmore-2011-2014> Galway County Council Heritage Office Biodiversity Project is currently producing Biodiversity and Pollinator Plans for the Municipal Districts of the County. The plans will include maps of Designated Protected Sites and Geological Heritage sites along with a resource list of organisations and useful information. Local groups will be encouraged to undertake Biodiversity Action Plans for their own specific area.

In conjunction with Galway Rural Development Company Ltd., the Local Authority Waters programme is currently providing a Water and Biodiversity Training programme with the aim of enabling community groups/ individuals to learn more about environmental stewardship and develop and bring forward projects relevant to their local waterbody. The focus of the programme is to develop local Water Biodiversity plans with communities.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Habitats

- ❖ Develop interpretation on the formation of the bog and wildlife on Dunmore bog walk.
 - Visually connect the existing, illustrated signboard of bog animals and birds to the walk.
 - Present the interpretation on small illustrated trailside panels, repeating illustrations from the larger illustrated signboard where relevant so as to unify the signage.
 - Review the current trail furniture 'fairy installations' in terms of quantity and condition.
- ❖ Develop a signed walking/cycling trail around Slieve Bog
- ❖ Develop teacher's resource for local schools providing indoor and outdoor learning modules on the formation, flora and fauna and local economic use of the raised bog habitat
- ❖ Review the information provided on the interpretive panel at the riverside in Dunmore.
 - Consider expanding this interpretation to provide a series of well-designed and branded, similar sized panels sited along the whole of the river walk which will create awareness around the existence of this walk and encourage users to explore.
 - Link the panels to a directional signposting system as part of the recommended Digital StoryMap/town trail (see Built and Cultural Heritage recommendations)
- ❖ Review the 2011-2014 Biodiversity Action Plan and assess any actions which need updating or are incomplete
 - Develop a new 5 year Biodiversity Action Plan
 - Connect with the Galway County Council Biodiversity Project in the planning of future actions.
 - Connect with the GRD/Local Authorities Water Programme to incorporate a local Water Biodiversity Plan.

Potential Funding Sources

The Peatland Community Engagement Scheme seeks to encourage local peatland communities, local groups, local schools and individuals to engage with the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in relation to the conservation and revitalisation of raised and blanket bog Special Areas of Conservation, Natural Heritage Areas and other peatland areas and to promote public engagement with and awareness of our natural heritage.

Each year applications are invited for a diverse range of initiatives from events, education programmes, conservation management plans, public amenity and recreational measures to invasive species and fire control measures near/within raised and blanket bog Special Areas of Conservation/Natural Heritage Areas or other raised bog/blanket bog areas and peatlands areas which will encourage communities to enhance their natural surrounding areas and raise awareness of environmental issues and concerns.

Successful applicants will be awarded funding to support a maximum of 75% of the project eligible costs with a maximum grant of €25,000. The Call open date for this funding is usually in the month of July. Further information can be found at <https://www.npws.ie/peatlands-and-turf-cutting/peatlands-community-engagement-scheme-funding-2020-2021>

The GRD/Local Authorities Water Programme 'Water and Biodiversity' Training Programme is free to applicants and begins in April 2020. <http://www.grd.ie/blog/water-and-biodiversity-training>

5.6. Built and Cultural Heritage

The study area has a huge array of built and cultural heritage dating from prehistory up to the 20th century which has been detailed in Section 4. With the exception of Dunmore Castle and Dunmore Friary, interpretation for the general public is limited to local publications such as Birmingham H. 1996 and 2012, Greaney J. 1984, journals of the Garrafrauns Heritage Group and academic papers.

The strong themes that emerged from the exploration of the built and cultural heritage of the study area are:

- Ecclesiastical Dunmore
- The Development of Medieval Dunmore
- The 18th-19th century architecture of the town
- Mills and Millers
- Schools and Folklore

RECOMMENDATION: Built and Cultural Heritage

Theme: 'The Story of Dunmore'

- ❖ Develop a **Digital Multi-Media StoryMap** highlighting the history and development of Dunmore Town from Medieval Times to the present day.
- Create the StoryMap around a number of local buildings/features (points of interest)
 - Images (past and present), text, illustrations and film can be used to tell the story at each point of interest
 - Themes and suggested points of interest to be included
 - History of the development of the town
 - The Castle
 - The Friary
 - Early Houses
 - 18th-19th century architecture
 - Commercial life
 - Shopfronts
 - Churches
 - Community Life – past and present
- The story portrayed will include aspects of the Ecclesiastical, Medieval, architectural history of the town, the natural history of its setting and the stories and cultural connections of its people, forming a visual trail on a map platform as the user moves from point to point.
 - For example, the story might begin at Dunmore Castle. The user clicks on an icon placed on the map where the Castle is located.
 - A pop-up box appears with text, images and in some cases film telling the story of the origin of the castle and the people who built it and lived there.
 - The user then moves to other locations where icons have been placed to access other stages of the story.
- ❖ For each point of interest selected for inclusion in the StoryMap the following will be required:
 - high resolutions photographs of various views of the building and its features
 - old photographs sourced to show the building in the past and changes that have occurred
 - descriptive text of the buildings, their features and history
 - Videos of people talking about the building and/or interviews with residents/stories connected to the town and its features
- ❖ The completed StoryMap could be hosted on Galway County Council Heritage Office Geographical Information System (pers. comm. Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer).
- ❖ Once incorporated into the GCC GIS system the StoryMap can be showcased on the Dunmore Page of the Galway Community Heritage website and the information can form the basis for the development of paper format interpretive trails and physical signage if required in the longer term.

Potential Funding Source

It is strongly recommended that the Dunmore Heritage Group make an application to The Heritage Council for grant aid for the StoryMap Project under the Community Grant Scheme 2021.

<https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/funding/community-heritage-grant-scheme-2021>

One of the project types being covered by this funding in 2021 is 'Development of Digital Heritage Resources' and the recommended 'Digital Storyboard for Dunmore' fits the criteria required for application for funding. Applications must be received by the Heritage Council by **Monday 29th March 2021 at 5pm**. Successful projects will receive funding offers in early May and if accepted, the project must be completed by October 8, 2021.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Built and Cultural Heritage

Theme: Place Making

- ❖ As the Dunmore Rural Regeneration Scheme by Galway County Council is currently in planning and its potential implementation will include the removal of the buildings on the east side of Bridge St., it is recommended that Dunmore Heritage Group undertake a photographic and descriptive inventory of these buildings for future reference
- ❖ To provoke investigation and raise awareness of the towns architectural features organise a Town Treasure Trail, with the theme - can you find this feature?
 - This project could be undertaken as part of the Dunmore Festival/Heritage Week
 - The participants photograph the feature when they find it, state what it is and where it is located
 - They are also asked to pick their favourite building/feature
 - explain why they chose it,
 - relate any history/stories they know about the building/feature
 - Can they spot any local materials that have been used e.g. sandstone from Shanballymore, work by a local plasterer etc.
 - Request comments - How do you feel about your town and how would you improve your town?
 - Gathering this information will allow the community to take ownership and express what they feel about their own town and its future. Such information could be incorporated into future town planning and schemes such as the Heritage Council's Town Centre Health Check Programme <https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/projects/town-centre-health-check-programme>. and into the Digital Multi-media StoryMap 'The Story of Dunmore' recommended previously.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Built and Cultural Heritage

Theme: Mills and Millers

❖ Stage 1: Inventory and exhibition

- Carry out an in-depth study of the remaining mill buildings in the study area
- Photograph all buildings, features and associated artefacts
- Compile map of mill locations, source of water and mill races
- Complete an inventory of the remaining Millstones and their current locations
- Identify the location of the millstone quarry
- Create an exhibition of the findings to highlight the history of this resource and to create public awareness of this aspect of the area's socio-economic past.
 - The suggested location for this exhibition is the Eurospar windows/foyer/café. This shop is a strong community focal point for gathering and chat. With the current Covid-19 restrictions the large outward facing windows could provide an ideal location by which the public can view the exhibition from a safe and socially distanced public space.
- Develop an exhibition name which links with the Heritage Groups recommended new logo and tagline e.g. 'Gone but not forgotten, Sharing our Story'

❖ Stage 2: The Human Story – an Oral History Project

- Record stories and memories from local people whose families owned and/or were involved in the working of the mills
- Suggestions:
1. Run a number of open, social sessions in the Eurospar local coffee shop – this is a place where older people often come for lunch so between 12 noon and 2pm would be the recommended time slot. Set up small photographic exhibition to spark memories (as developed in stage 1). Some members of the Heritage Group who have been trained in oral heritage interview techniques record the memories of the participants.
 - Those who may be reluctant to be recorded can be encouraged to write their thoughts/memories on supplied notepaper and stick them onto a board or directly onto a photograph in the exhibition that may relate to the memory.
 - Alternatively (or in addition) set up a mock telephone box as a recording device – the participant sits in the box and tells their story into the phone. Decorate the box with visuals of the local mills to help spark thoughts and memories
- Compile all the information collected through stages 1 & 2 above and create a booklet/exhibition/ web pages/ calendar. This would be a good outcome for a Heritage Week project
 - Through the oral history recording outlined above, other memories and stories will be sparked – this could lead to other similar projects under different themes e.g. farming in the past, field names, past commercial life of the town.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Built and Cultural Heritage

Theme: Ecclesiastical Dunmore

Connecting the Early Medieval Churches, the Medieval Dunmore Friary and the 18th, 19th and 20th century churches of the study area.

- ❖ Select accessible sites for inclusion in an ecclesiastical heritage driving trail
 - Obtain permission to include the selected sites from landowners, the OPW and clergy.
 - Discuss with all local residents and landowners the inclusion of sites in the proposed trail and invite comments on same.
 - In agreement and in co-operation with the OPW, develop Trailhead Interpretation at Dunmore Friary.
 - When full community agreement has been obtained, proceed with developing text and illustrative materials for trail interpretation.
 - Present the trail through a web based GIS system in the same style as the recommended Digital Multi-media StoryMap. Post on Galway Community Heritage webpage and in hard copy map leaflet guide form, which can be sold through local outlets.
 - Provide a numbered, branded directional signpost system to direct the user along the trail.
 - Explore the possibility of linking the Dunmore Driving Trail with that developed for the neighbouring Milltown District.
 - Link the driving trail to the Digital StoryMap through the trailhead.

- ❖ In partnership with the OPW, organise a ‘Luminaries’ event for Heritage Week or the Dunmore Festival or Culture Night, projecting illuminations onto the outer wall of Dunmore Friary which faces onto Barrack Street. Examples are shown in Photographs 190 and 191.
 - Base the illuminations on the ecclesiastical and medieval themes identified through this audit.
 - Match the style of visuals and branding used, to that developed for the recommended on-site storyboard and associated driving trail.
 - Include in the final section the existing video which highlights the present day conservation work being carried out at Dunmore Friary (with permission from the OPW)
<https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/topics/feile-na-gcloch/opw-athenry-apprentice>

- ❖ Review the St Nicholas Conservation Plan 2014
 - Discuss with Bernie Doherty, Galway County Community Archaeologist, the potential for the implementation of the recommended actions of the plan
 - Explore possible funding streams e.g. the Community Monuments Funding scheme and the Heritage Council’s Adopt-a-Monument scheme.

Potential Funding Sources

The **Community Monuments Fund** is administered by the National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Department in conjunction with the Local Authority. Its purpose is to invest essential capital to help owners and custodians of archaeological monuments safeguard them into the future for the benefit of communities and the public. Potential projects will

- o enable conservation works to be carried out on monuments which are deemed to be significant and in need of urgent support;
- o encourage access to monuments and improve their presentation;

- o build resilience in our monuments to enable them to withstand the effects of climate change.

The final application date for the 2021 fund is April 12, 2021. Up to 100% of project costs may be funded. Applications from landowners, custodians and community groups within the County of Galway must be completed and forwarded in Word Format to mmannion@galwaycoco.ie, by Friday 12th April 2021.



Photograph 190: Illuminations projected on the wall of a medieval church in Birr, Co. Offaly depicting the sea and the voyage of St Brendan.



Photograph 191: Illuminations projected onto a church wall in Birr, Co. Offaly, depicting monks working on the *Cáin Adomnáin* – a 7th century law tract written in this monastery.

RECOMMENDATION: Built and Cultural Heritage

Theme: Medieval Dunmore – Interpretation at Dunmore Castle

- ❖ Discuss with the OPW, the inclusion of information, illustrations and a location map for the following items as part of an interpretive board at the Castle:
 - Turlough O’Conor, the original Dun and the associated folklore of Rathcoll
 - The arrival of the Anglo-Normans and their settlement in the area, including the motte and bailey at Graigueachullaire and moated sites at identified locations
 - The 13th century Hall House
 - The 15th-16th century additions
 - The De Berminghams
 - The Ouselays occupation of the castle

- ❖ Explore with the OPW the inclusion of connecting directional signage between the Castle and the Friary to be included on interpretive panels at both sites.

RECOMMENDATION: Built and Cultural Heritage

Theme: Schools and Folklore

- ❖ Map the locations of former National Schools in the study area
- ❖ Photograph buildings and features that remain
- ❖ Collect old photographs and memories from local residents about the schools
- ❖ Compile the information contained in the Schools Manuscripts collection
<https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes>
- ❖ Post all the information collected as an online exhibition on the Dunmore page of the Galway Community Heritage website.

SECTION SIX

STARTING OUT AND GETTING HELP

6.1. Making Connections

The recommendations which have been outlined in Section Five for the themes of ‘The Story of Dunmore’, Medieval and Ecclesiastical Dunmore strongly connect the Friary and Castle as the main focal points. These two National Monuments are currently undergoing conservation work by the OPW and when this is completed they will again be the primary tourist attractions for this area.

It is extremely important that the Dunmore Heritage Group establish a relationship with the OPW as soon as possible and seek to create a partnership which will enable a co-ordinated approach to future interpretation of these very important aspects of the areas heritage and how that interpretation links into the ‘Story of Dunmore’.

Connect with the Galway Biodiversity Project and the current work on Biodiversity and Pollinator Plans for the Municipal Districts of the County.

Connect with the Galway County Council Heritage Office and the recommendations made in the Audit of the County Geological Sites for sites within the study area.

Develop the pages on the newly created Dunmore section on the Galway Community Heritage website <https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/places/dunmore-places>

Connect with Bernie Doherty, Galway County Community Archaeologist with regard to the possible implementation of the actions recommended in the St Nicholas Graveyard Conservation Plan.

Apply to the National Heritage Council for funding under the Community Heritage Grants Scheme and liaise with Marie Mannion on planning and implementation of the recommended Digital StoryMap project.

6.2. Sources of Information

The Luminaries Project, illustrated in photographs 190 and 191, was part of the Birr Vintage Arts Festival in 2018, 2019 and 2020 and funded by Creative Ireland. Further information and advice can be obtained by contacting the Offline Film Festival Project, based in Birr, Co. Offaly.

The Schools Manuscripts Collection for the local schools of the Dunmore area can be viewed and downloaded at <https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes>

The Biodiversity Plan for Dunmore 2001-2014 is downloadable at <https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/heritage-publications/biodiversity-action-plan-dunmore-2011-2014>

6.3. Facilitation

Since 2004 Galway County Council has worked with local communities in various parts of the county of Galway in the development and delivery of the ‘Reading Your Local Landscape’ training course. This course provides the participants with the skills to recognise, manage, protect and promote their local heritage resources. The aim of the training is to create a greater awareness, knowledge, understanding and pride in the rich heritage assets that are all around us and how they contribute to the character, culture and economy of a locality. The training course consists of a series of modules delivered through lectures, case studies, group research, discussion and field trips to sites of interest within the local area in which the course is delivered. The modules cover geology, geomorphology, map reading, biodiversity, archaeology, architecture, industrial archaeology, settlement, communication, heritage conservation and interpretation. Each participant is then mentored in a compilation of a short project on their own chosen aspect of local heritage.

This course, if run in the Dunmore area, could facilitate the implementation of a number of the recommendations of this report, through mentoring of the participants practical project work. The following action plan lists suitable projects which could be pursued by the course participants. Contact: Marie Mannion, Galway County Heritage Officer.

6.4. Prioritised Action Plan

The following table provides a suggested phased approach to the implementation of a number of the recommendations proposed in 2021 and planning for projects in 2022.

Year	Action
March 2021	Make online application to Heritage Council for funding for Digital StoryMap Project.
April 2021	Develop Logo for Dunmore Heritage Group to create a recognisable brand Organise a Heritage Quiz for the local community. Sell question sheets locally to act as a pre-publicity tool for Audit report launch. Print copies of the Audit Report.
May 2021	Organise a public launch of the Audit Report (online event if Covid 19 restrictions are still in place). Publicise on social media, in local newspapers, parish newsletter etc. Following launch of report, start posting local heritage information on the Dunmore Page of the Galway Community Heritage website on a regular basis. (extracts can be used from the Audit Report) If funding application to Heritage Council is successful, start organising work plan for Digital Storyboard project.
June-Oct 2021	Complete Digital Storyboard project and work with Galway County Council (GCC) Heritage Officer to host on Council’s GIS platform. Deliver a Reading Your Local Landscape training course in conjunction with Galway County Council Heritage Office. The training course should focus on the facilitation and mentoring of participants in the development of the following projects recommended in this Audit Report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and update the Dunmore Biodiversity Plan

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a storyboard for the production of interpretive panels exploring the biodiversity and bog formation for the Dunmore Bog Walk • Review current interpretation on the Dunmore River walk and develop text and visuals for expanded interpretation of the local wetlands • Carry out an inventory of the remaining Mills and the associated artefacts • Develop the Oral Heritage project based on Mills and Millers • Collect information on former local schools and compile the information contained in the Schools Manuscripts collection for posting on the Dunmore page of the Galway Community Heritage website.
August 2021	Present progress of Digital StoryMap project on National Heritage Week online platform.
Sept-November	<p>Complete the Digital StoryMap project and in conjunction with GCC IT section post on the GCC ArcGIS platform.</p> <p>Prepare application to Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) Geoheritage Grant Scheme for development walking/cycling trails in the north of the study area in a cross County border project with the existing 'Cloonfad Scenic Walks'. The aim of the project will be to develop trailheads at Kiltivna and Garrafrauns and provide interpretation (digital and physical) on the geology and geomorphology of this area.</p> <p>Work with GCC Heritage Office and Audit of Geological Heritage in the planning of this project for 2022.</p>
2022	<p>Expand the Digital StoryMap Project (2021) to develop physical trailhead signage and directional signage for Dunmore Town Trail.</p> <p>If the application for funding under the GSI GeoHeritage Scheme is successful, develop the planned walking/cycling geology themed trails.</p> <p>In conjunction with the OPW develop the 'Luminaries' Event projected onto the walls of Dunmore Friary for Heritage Week 2022.</p> <p>Make application to the Peatland Community Engagement Fund to develop Teacher and Student Resources for the interpretation of the formation and biodiversity of Slieve Bog.</p> <p>Make application under the Community Monuments Fund to complete actions in St Nicholas Graveyard recommended in the Conservation Plan.</p> <p>Implement actions developed in Dunmore Biodiversity Plan compiled in 2021.</p>

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APPENDIX I

Report on the Williamstown Turloughs from “Audit of Geological sites in Co. Galway

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest The turloughs site lies within a complex of low hills of glacial till, esker ridges and raised and valley peats, close to the Shannon - Corrib watershed. There are a number of small streams feeding surface water into the features, but no surface outflows. Polleagh Lough is an oligotrophic turlough. It has a permanent very shallow lake which is probably dependent for its existence in summer on a perched water-table fed only by water from its surrounding small catchment area flowing onto peat and marl. This catchment area includes a significant area to the east of the Regional R360 road. Polleagh Lough is joined to Polleagh West at times of high flood, completely surrounding a low hill of glacial till. In summer, Polleagh West almost dries out. Curragh Lough is similar in many ways and is in hydraulic continuity with Polleagh. Gortduff is a small, well-grazed, elongated and undulating steep-sided turlough at the northern end of the site, with a number of swallow holes therein. It has a permanent pond (at its southeastern end) which is also dependent on a perched water table. Water flowing into swallow holes at Gortduff and Polleagh Lough West has been previously dye-traced and the water emerged from both traces at Tobernara Springs near Kiltvna, in Flaskagh More Townland, which is 2-3 km to the west of the Williamstown Turloughs site. This proves that subsurface, groundwater flow from the Williamstown Turloughs locality is westwards, via conduits underground. Site Importance – County Geological Site; recommended for Geological NHA This County Geological Site is worthy of recognition as a Geological NHA owing to the local scale geomorphological diversity across the features across a relatively small area, as well as the well-defined subsurface hydrogeological connections with springs to the west. The feature is already designated as an SAC (Site code 002296). Management/promotion issues Issues such as cattle encroachment and soil disturbance of the margins may cause problems. Threats to the site would include drainage of surrounding lands or the release of polluting substances, e.g. silage effluent, into the system. (Meehan et al. 2019. Geological Survey Ireland).

APPENDIX II

<http://excavations.ie/report/2006/Galway/0015537/>

County: Galway **Site name:** Dunmore

Sites and Monuments Record No.: - **Licence number:** 06E0605

Author: Billy Quinn, Moore Archaeological & Environmental Services Ltd, Corporate House, Ballybrit Business Park, Ballybrit, Galway.

Site type: Fulacht fiadh

ITM: E 550812m, N 763821m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 53.621893, -8.743519

Excavation was carried out of a fulacht fiadh in the townland of Dunmore, Co. Galway, between 12 and 16 June 2006 as part of ongoing works for the Dunmore sewerage scheme. The fulacht fiadh was found near a bend on the Sinking River in a marshy field of rushes liable to floods. Specifically, the feature was located 39m to the east-south-east of F4 (a manhole for the foul sewer) and 5m from the edge of the southern boundary of the temporary wayleave. It was first identified as an amorphous spread of fire-cracked stones in a charcoal-enriched silt, measuring c. 10.8m north-north-west/south-south-east by 9.5m. Initially the burnt spread was partially obscured by overburden and pockets of peat and it was difficult to ascertain its extent or shape; it did not, however, conform to the classic kidney-shaped mound diagnostic of this monument type.

The mound consisted of mottled grey/black/

orange, charcoal-enriched sandy silt with frequent inclusions of heat-fractured stone, mostly of metamorphic gneiss and schist. There were also variable percentages of ash (5–10%) and, to a lesser extent, charcoal, within the matrix.

The depth of the mound material averaged 0.3m near the centre-point, tapering to 0.07m at its southern extremity. The trough was identified by a conspicuously dark rectangular feature located in the north-west quadrant of the mound. The trough was orientated north–south at a 30° angle from the west-facing baulk. It was filled with both redeposited mound material and peat. A half-section through the fill exposed a section face of shattered stone, ash and charcoal contained within a wood-lined rectangular cut that measured 1.25m east–west by 2.1m. What survived of the timber lining was quite shallow, the side and base elements having been reduced to a degraded spongy mass. The timbers, numbering six base planks and four side planks in all, were regularly laid, cut to fit and arranged in a rectangular fashion. The four side planks had an average height of only 0.18m. No joints were evident, nor were the planks tightly fitting. On average, the base timbers measured 2m in length by 0.2m in width and had a depth of 0.07m. There was no evidence of clay at the base, but there was a fine sand lodged between the base planks that represent the finer sediments from the shattering of the stones. Following the recording of the trough in situ, the individual timbers were lifted piece by piece for sampling purposes.

APPENDIX III

Dunmore Friary

<http://excavations.ie/report/2006/Galway/0015538/>

County: Galway **Site name:** Dunmore Friary, Barrack Street, Dunmore

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A **Licence number:** C120, E2037

Author: Billy Quinn, Moore Archaeological & Environmental Services Ltd, Corporate House, Ballybrit Business Park, Ballybrit, Galway.

Site type: Medieval cemetery

ITM: E 550766m, N 763390m

Latitude, Longitude (decimal degrees): 53.618016, -8.744146

Excavations were carried out in the townland of Abbeyland South, Dunmore, Co. Galway, between June and October 2006 and in January 2007. The proposed works involved the excavation of a linear trench running east–west along the northern carriageway of Barrack Street to accommodate the installation of a storm drain, as part of the Dunmore sewerage scheme. The trench directly impacts on an unrecorded cemetery associated with the nearby Augustinian friary. The friary in Abbeyland South is part of the historic town (GA017–002) of Dunmore, and is a national monument. The excavation ran c. 70m along the length of Barrack Street near the northern kerbline and had an approximate depth of 1.5m.

According to local sources, groundworks carried out by the local council in the late 1980s had disturbed human remains; workmen at the time had recovered some bones and reburied them with the backfill. Monitoring during the initial groundworks confirmed the presence of these remains by exposing articulated bones to the west of Barrack Street near the entrance to the Fair Green, adjacent to the Eurospar Centre and in the vicinity of the Bank of Ireland. Excavation work was carried out along the length of the road, working generally from east to west. A 2.5m-wide trench was initially opened in the vicinity of the manhole opposite Dunmore Garda Station. The trench was mechanically dug to below the level of the road fill and manually excavated from this point. The human remains ran parallel to and beyond the grounds of the friary with a general east–west orientation. The majority of the remains were phased at two levels, earlier burials being cut by later ones. In total, 287 individual skeletons were recovered from the excavations at Barrack Street.

Generally the burials were interred in simple grave-cuts with very little evidence for an accompanying coffin. It is likely that the remains would have been interred wrapped in a shroud, evidenced by a small number of corroded shroud pins found in association with the burials. Osteological analysis for this project is still ongoing. The only finds of note were two coins, both dating to the Jacobite wars. These were a James II halfpenny of 1686 and a large shilling or piece of gun money dated 1689.

It is clear from the excavation that this was a community graveyard dating from the foundation of the friary in the early 15th century and possibly in use up until the late 18th century, when a Colonel Gore, dissatisfied with the existing approach to the cavalry barracks to the east of the town, cut a carriageway through the old graveyard, thus forming present-day Barrack Street.

