

# Technical Appendix 13.1: Records of Cultural Heritage Assets

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# Inventories of Assets and Excavations

## 1.1 Inventory of Tangible Archaeological and Historical Assets<sup>1</sup>

<b>RMP No.</b>	DG094-017----
<b>Class</b>	Enclosure
<b>Townland</b>	CLOGHER
<b>Irish Grid Co-Ords</b>	199560, 380410
<b>Distance to Site Boundary</b>	130 m
<b>Description</b>	<p>Internal Dimensions 25 m x 16 m. An irregularly-shaped area, enclosed by a series of set stones, is marked 'the ring' on the OS 6-inch maps. Within the enclosure is a low mound which is probably natural and a (probably modern) trench. The interior is very wet. Outside the N section of wall is a seat-like structure known as 'the Chair' formed from a number of stones. 18.7 m NW of this site is a subcircular arrangement of loose stones 20.6 m in diameter. Inside this there is a smaller scatter of stones in a loosely circular arrangement 4.04 m in diameter. The whole site here is very overgrown. WNW of the ring is a triangular-shaped standing stone 1.04 m high and 0.47 m NW-SE. The whole complex, which also includes disused field boundaries and other scatters of stone, is situated on poor boggy hill land.</p> <p>The above description was derived from the 'Archaeological Survey of County Donegal. A description of the field antiquities of the County from the Mesolithic Period to the 17th century.' Compiled by: Brian Lacey with Eamon Cody, Claire Cotter, Judy Cuppage, Noel Dunne, Vincent Hurley, Celie O'Rahilly, Paul Walsh and Seán Ó Nualláin (Lifford: Donegal County Council, 1983). In certain instances the entries have been revised and updated.</p> <p>Date of upload: 22 September 2008</p>

<b>RMP No.</b>	DG094-018----
<b>Class</b>	Standing stone
<b>Townland</b>	CLOGHER
<b>Irish Grid Co-Ords</b>	199530, 380380
<b>Distance to Site Boundary</b>	144 m
<b>Description</b>	<p>No details available.</p> <p>Accessed 18/04/2019</p>

<b>RMP No.</b>	DG094-019----
<b>Class</b>	Structure
<b>Townland</b>	CLOGHER
<b>Irish Grid Co-Ords</b>	199591, 380351

<sup>1</sup> All RMP descriptions are per Department of Culture, Heritage and Gaeltacht (National Monuments Service) Historic Environment Map Viewer Available at: <http://webgis.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/> [Accessed on 18/04/2019].  
All NI SMR and IHR descriptions are per Department for Communities: Historic Environment Division (DfC:HED) NI Historic Environment Map Viewer. Available at: <https://dfcgis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=6887ca0873b446e39d2f82c80c8a9337> [Accessed on 18/04/2019]  
All NIAH descriptions are per National Inventory of Ireland Buildings Survey. Available at: <https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/> [Accessed on 18/04/2019]  
All Excavation descriptions are per Department of Culture, Heritage and Gaeltacht. Excavations of Ireland Database. Available at: <https://excavations.ie/> [Accessed 07/11/2019]


Distance to Site Boundary	210 m
Description	Classified in both the SMR (1987) and RMP (1994) as 'Miscellaneous'. Site No. 1864 in the Donegal Survey (1983) records 'a seat-like structure known as 'the Chair' formed from a number of stones'.

RMP No.	DG095-001----
Class	Standing stone - pair
Townland	BARNESYNEILLY
Irish Grid Co-Ords	203339, 379530
Distance to Site Boundary	1,830 m
Description	<p>Marked as a standing stone on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map and as 'Carrickahattan' on the 2nd and 3rd editions. Its location on the NW slopes of Croaghnameal mountain is almost inaccessible and it could not be inspected.</p> <p>The above description was derived from the 'Archaeological Survey of County Donegal. A description of the field antiquities of the County from the Mesolithic Period to the 17th century.' Compiled by: Brian Lacey with Eamon Cody, Claire Cotter, Judy Cuppage, Noel Dunne, Vincent Hurley, Celie O'Rahilly, Paul Walsh and Seán Ó Nualláin (Lifford: Donegal County Council, 1983). In certain instances the entries have been revised and updated.</p>

RMP No.	DG085-005----
Class	Redundant record
Townland	TAWNAWULLY MOUNTAINS
Irish Grid Co-Ords	202605, 385338
Distance to Site Boundary	1,680 m
Description	<p>On the 1907 OS 6-inch map, a cluster of boulders or stones is indicated on the banks of the Lowerymore River and named 'Cloghaturras' in gothic script. An inspection in 2017 found that the boulders appear to be erratics, naturally deposited on the riverbank, and are not archaeological in nature.</p> <p>Compiled by: Jane O'Shaughnessy</p> <p>Date of revision: 4 October 2017</p>

RMP No.	DG094-026----
Class	Kiln
Townland	KEADEW UPPER
Irish Grid Co-Ords	200958, 383713
Distance to Site Boundary	1,820 m
Description	Excavation licence number 99E0379. Excavation was carried out on the site of a drying kiln between 28 June and 3 July 1999, before the proposed Clar-Barnesmore road realignment. Topsoil, sod and a single stone fill of the bowl were removed, exposing a kiln built into a natural ridge of peat. The kiln comprised a circular bowl with outwardly battered sides, built of randomly coursed, small to medium-sized, roughly rectangular stones with two courses of larger stones at the base, and an outwardly splayed, north-west/south-east-aligned flue, built of upright slabs and roofing lintels (only one of which survived). The bowl had been deliberately backfilled. A stone surface built on

	<p>the peat ridge surrounded the kiln. The feature had been extensively disturbed at the south-east end of the flue by construction works associated with the present N15 embankment and the earlier construction of the embankment for the railway to the south. It was not possible from the evidence gathered to arrive at a definite date for the kiln. (Excavations Bulletin 1999)</p> <p>Declan Moore, IAC, 8 Dungar Terrace, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin.</p>
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SMR No. (NI)	TYR014:002
Legal Designation	-
Class	A.P. Site – Crannog?
Townland	SLIEVEDOO
Irish Grid Co-Ords	205306, 383873
Distance to Site Boundary	17 m
Description	<p>This feature is a small island in Lough Innaghchola which is on the Tyrone/Donegal border. This may be a crannog. An island in Loughnaweelagh c. 800 m to the south is another site (TYR014:001). The vegetation is bog and rough pasture. To the east of the site is extensive forestation.</p> 

SMR No. (NI)	TYR014:001
Legal Designation	-
Class	Island, possible Crannog
Townland	SLIEVEDOO
Irish Grid Co-Ords	205209, 383033
Distance to Site Boundary	50 m
Description	<p>A small island in Loughnaweelagh which may be a crannog. It is at a very high level, but possible site.</p>



## 1.2 Inventory of Tangible Architectural Heritage Assets

NIAH Reg. No.	40908501
Type	Bridge
Townland	KEADEW UPPER
Irish Grid Co-Ords	201968, 384316
Distance to Site Boundary	1,260 m
Description	<p><b>Date: 1880-1890</b></p> <p>Former railway embankments and cuttings associated with the West Donegal Railway, erected c. 1889. Now out of use (since 1960). Two separate sections of embankment built into side of Barnesmore Mountain. Embankments constructed of dry-stone masonry (local granite); no parapets. Formerly with single railway line, line dismantled. Single-arched bridge to north-west section carrying former railway line over mountain stream discharging into Lowerymore River having roughly dressed voussoirs to arch, squared-rubble stone construction, and with rock-faced coping over parapets. Located to the north-east of Donegal Town at the south-west entrance to the Barnesmore Gap.</p> <p><b>Appraisal</b></p> <p>This well-built if utilitarian structure(s) is an integral element of the extensive narrow-gauge railway heritage of County Donegal. It is well-built using local rubble granite masonry, and its continued survival is testament to the quality of its original construction. The simple bridge to site has rock-faced coping over the parapet walls, which is a characteristic feature of Victorian railway architecture and engineering in Ireland. It was originally built to carry the Druminin to Donegal Town section of the Derry (Victoria Road) to Killybegs narrow gauge (three foot) railway line (originally standard five foot three inch gauge; regauged in 1894), which was built (to Donegal Town) in 1889 by the West Donegal Railway Company, and later extended to Killybegs in 1893. This line was closed entirely in 1960. Although long out of use, these embankments etc act as simple reminders of the importance of this former transport network in the economic and social make-up of Donegal, and also creates an aesthetically-pleasing landmark at the south-west entrance to the beautiful landscape of the Barnesmore Gap.</p>

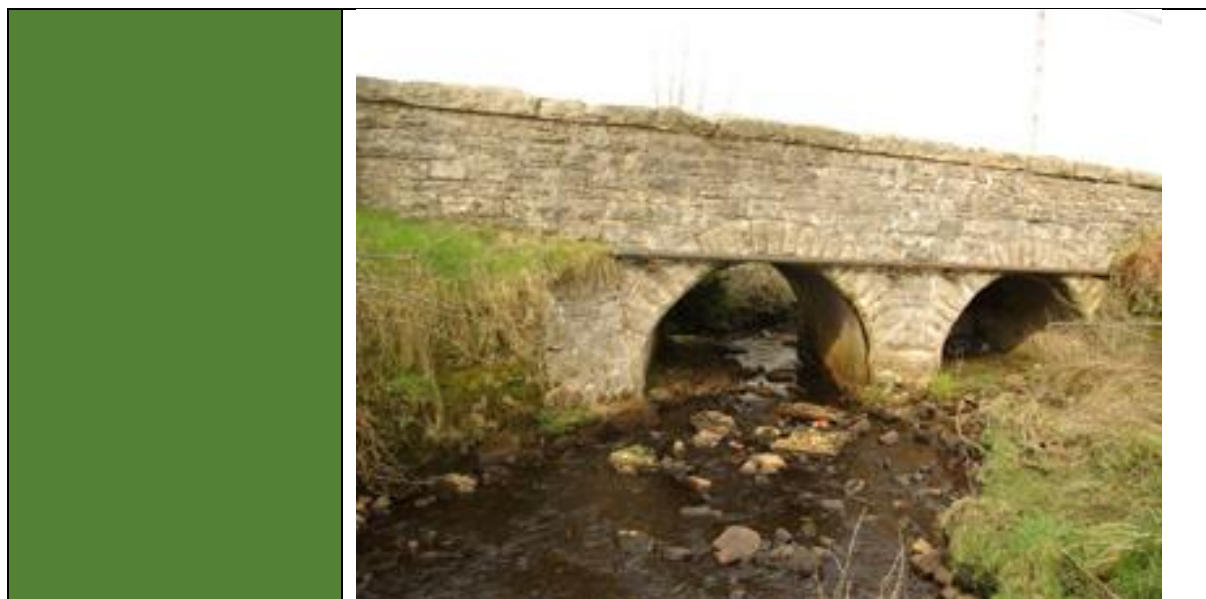


NIAH Reg. No.	40909423
Type	Milestone/milepost
Townland	CULLIONBOY
Irish Grid Co-Ords	200163, 382694
Distance to Site Boundary	2,350 m
Description	<p><b>Date: 1750 – 1800</b></p> <p>Freestanding granite milestone on rectangular-plan, erected c. 1775, having pyramidal head. Inscriptions to the faces now illegible. Located adjacent to the former main road, and to the north-east of Donegal Town close to the south-west end of the Barnesmore Gap.</p> <p><b>Appraisal</b></p> <p>This milestone is an interesting and subtle historical survival in the rural landscape to the north-east of Donegal Town. Unfortunately, the inscriptions are now illegible, but the distance would have been in 'Irish Miles', which are longer than the standard mile measurement used today. It probably dates to the second half of the eighteenth-century, a period when the Grand Juries were responsible for a great deal of improvement in the road transport network throughout Ireland, particularly the development of a series of 'turnpike roads' (from 1729) on which milestones are usually found. Milestones appears to be marked along this road on the Taylor and Skinner road maps of 1777 - 1783, although there were no turnpike roads in Donegal before 1805. This may have been 'milestone marker 34' along the main road from Donegal Town to Derry, although it was probably moved to its present location from a site close by due to road widening over the years etc. This simple item of street furniture acts as a subtle historical reminder the great coach travel in Ireland and is an integral element of the built heritage of the local area.</p>





NIAH Reg. No.	40909424
Type	Bridge
Townland	KEADEW UPPPER
Irish Grid Co-Ords	200350, 382771
Distance to Site Boundary	2,500 m
Description	<p><b>Date: 1820-1870</b></p> <p>Double-arched bridge carrying road over tributary of the Lowerymore River, built or rebuilt c. 1860, having diminutive cutwater to central pier. Round-headed arches having dressed rock-faced voussoirs with dressed margins; cement rendered coating to arch barrels. Snecked and/or squared and coursed mildly rock-faced masonry construction to spandrels and abutments; rubble stone construction to parapets with rock-faced stone coping over. Parapets rebuilt in places. Tarmacadam Deck. Located to the north-east of Donegal Town, and at the south-west entrance to the Barnesmore Gap.</p> <p><b>Appraisal</b></p> <p>This simple double-arched road bridge retains its early character and form, despite some modern alterations, and is an appealing feature in the scenic landscape to the north-east of Donegal Town. It is robustly-constructed in mildly rock-faced snecked and squared coursed rubble stone masonry, and its continued survival and use stands as testament to the quality of its original construction, and of the skill of the masons involved. The good quality rock-faced voussoirs to the arch and the rock-faced construction to the central cutwater are noteworthy features. Although the use of rock-faced masonry is a feature of the many bridges that were built or altered by the Board of Works during the mid-to-late nineteenth century, and particularly between c. 1847 - 60, the small arches and the construction of this bridge suggests that this bridge is earlier, perhaps dating to the first half of the nineteenth-century. This unassuming rustic bridge is a modest addition to the local area and is a feature of some picturesque qualities in the scenic landscape to the south-west end of the Barnesmore Gap.</p>



Industrial Heritage Record No. (IHR) (NI)	04485:000:00
Type	Ruins of Old Still House
Townland/Location	Slievedoo
Irish Grid Co-Ords	206617, 381974
Distance to Site Boundary	1,735 m
Description	No information available.

### 1.3 Inventory of Archaeological Excavations from the Study Area

Licence No.	14E0114
Type	No archaeological significance.
Townland/Location	Croaghnameal
Irish Grid Co-Ords	202904, 378542
Distance to Site Boundary	2.6 km
Description	<b>Author:</b> Martin McGonigle <b>Summary:</b> Testing was undertaken on the site of the proposed Lough Cuill wind energy development, near Laghy, Co. Donegal in May 2014. A total of 15 test trenches comprising 550 m <sup>2</sup> were excavated throughout the site. In addition, a number of geotechnical pits were excavated under archaeological supervision. No features of archaeological significance were identified within the site.

Licence No.	05E1152
Type	No archaeological significance.
Townland/Location	Croaghonagh
Irish Grid Co-Ords	207575, 388948
Distance to Site Boundary	5.5 km
Description	<b>Author:</b> Sinclair Turrell, ADS Ltd <b>Summary:</b> Test excavation was conducted at this site in advance of the proposed N15 Ballybofey–Stranorlar bypass. This site is located within the zone of archaeological potential of a destroyed megalithic tomb and standing stones, depicted on the second edition of the OS map as a ‘Giant’s Bed’.



	<p>Though there are no standing remains of the monument, an oval mound to the east of the site may be associated with it.</p> <p>Seven trenches were excavated across the site using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. Concentrations of bog-fir were noted to the north-west of the site. Occasional small deposits of charcoal were found around these deposits. These features were consistent with slash-and-burn field clearance activity of unknown date. No evidence of either a megalithic tomb or standing stones was discovered in the test-trenches. Nothing of archaeological significance was found within the limits of the test excavation.</p>
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Licence No.	05E1159
Type	No archaeological significance.
Townland/Location	Croaghonagh
Irish Grid Co-Ords	207575, 388948
Distance to Site Boundary	5.5 km
Description	<p><b>Author:</b> Sinclair Turrell, ADS Ltd</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> Test excavation was conducted at this site in advance of the proposed N15 Ballybofey–Stranorlar bypass. This site is located adjacent to the disused railway in a field of unimproved pasture on a hillside that slopes gently downwards to the north. A north–south-running low bank of large limestone slabs, overgrown with mosses and grass, was identified as a possible pre-bog wall in the EIS (AAP9). The wall survives aboveground for a distance of c. 35 m and is on average 0.8 m wide and 0.3 m high. The site was characterised by a system of ‘lazy beds’, which are visible on both sides of the road, indicating that the field was cultivated in the past.</p> <p>Fourteen trenches were excavated across the site using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. Nine stone-lined drains were uncovered. These drains appeared to be associated with the construction of the railway. One of the drains ran under the possible pre-bog wall, indicating that these stones were marking the line of the drain. Nothing of archaeological significance was found within the limits of the test excavation.</p>

Licence No.	10E0309, 10R0103
Type	The site of a prehistoric cairn (DG086-00201), wedge tomb, hearths and a <i>fulacht fiadh</i>
Townland/Location	Croaghonagh
Irish Grid Co-Ords	207575, 388948
Distance to Site Boundary	5.5 km
Description	<p><b>Author:</b> Shane Delaney</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> The site of a prehistoric cairn (DG086-00201), wedge tomb, hearths and a <i>fulacht fiadh</i> were excavated at Croaghonagh, Lough Mourne (165.5m OD), in advance of a proposed dam. This excavation follows on from previous testing and metal detection (10E0309, 10R0103) undertaken by Dave Bayley in 2010 and a ground-penetrating radar survey undertaken by Atlas Geophysical. The archaeological remains were located in two areas and additional machine testing was also carried out immediately surrounding these two areas. The excavation commenced on 8 August 2011 and concluded on 20 October 2011.</p> <p>Excavation at Area 1 revealed the footprint of a large cairn with two internal cists or chambers and some pre-cairn activity. A number of Neolithic flint artefacts were found throughout the cairn. A previously unknown wedge tomb was identified to the south-west of the cairn. Although in reasonable condition, the tomb failed to produce any artefacts or environmental material. An area of domestic activity was identified to the south-east of Area 1. It was identified as</p>

	<p>a spread of burnt material that sealed a pit. A number of flint cores and debitage were recovered from these deposits. A fulacht fiadh with a timber-lined trough and crescent-shaped mound of heat-affected stone was also recorded to the north of the site.</p> <p>Excavation at Area 2 revealed the remains of a small spread of heat-affected material and may be the remains of a hearth or fire.</p> <p>The excavation was undertaken in extreme weather conditions. Rain and strong winds persisted for the majority of the fieldwork and created difficult underfoot conditions, which resulted in constant standing water throughout the excavation area. The excavation failed to identify any intact burials, rock art, prehistoric field systems, human remains, animal bone, cremated bone (human or animal), pottery or any other artefacts other than the flint and quartz lithics.</p>
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Licence No.	12E008
Type	No archaeological significance.
Townland/Location	Croaghonagh
Irish Grid Co-Ords	209325, 391680
Distance to Site Boundary	8.5 km
Description	<p><b>Author:</b> Dave Bayley</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> A programme of testing was carried out in April 2012 as part of the proposed N15 Blackburn Bridge Road Realignment Scheme. Testing was carried out in five greenfield areas (Area 2/2, 2/3, 2/4, 2/6, 2/7) and two wetland areas (Area 2/1, 2/5) in the townlands of Goland, Croaghonagh, Meencargagh and Dooish. This phase of testing follows on from an Environmental Impact Report carried out by Roughan &amp; O'Donovan Consulting Engineers in August 2011. A total of 1,149 linear metres of trenches in Areas 2/1, 2/4–2/7 were excavated. Testing was not possible in Area 2/2 as it was former forestry land and was covered in tree stumps that made machine access extremely difficult. It was not possible to test in Area 2/3 due to lack of access.</p> <p>One area of historic interest was identified during testing, namely the foundations and floor level of a post-medieval house. This was identified in Area 2/5 at the location of a building depicted on the 1st edition map. The record of this building undertaken during Stage (i) was deemed sufficient and no further archaeological mitigation was proposed for this site.</p> <p>No other features of archaeological significance were identified during the course of the works.</p>

Licence No.	13E0343
Type	No archaeological significance.
Townland/Location	Croaghonagh
Irish Grid Co-Ords	206447, 388510
Distance to Site Boundary	5 km
Description	<p><b>Author:</b> Shane Delaney</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> Testing and a GPR survey were carried out to assess the impact on the potential archaeological resource of a proposed dam located at the southern extent of Lough Mourne, Co. Donegal. Testing was recommended following an environmental impact assessment (O'Dwyer and McIlveen, 2003) and a public inquiry (Inspector report ref.: PL05.EL.2039). A ground penetrating radar survey (GPR) was undertaken on the South Dam site in July 2010 (Birtwisle 2010, 13R103). The survey revealed a number of anomalous responses in the South Dam area. It was recommended that the anomalies be</p>

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	<p>targeted with machine and hand excavated test trenches to determine their archaeological significance.</p> <p>Testing was carried out over the course of five days from 19 September 2013. Unstable ground conditions meant that it was not possible to excavate 13 of the proposed trenches. A total of 23 trenches were excavated which revealed a natural origin for all of the previously identified GPR anomalies.</p> <p>No areas of archaeological significance were identified during this program of testing.</p>
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## 2 Contextual Archaeological & Historical Development of the Study Area

### 2.1 Contextual Development of the Study Area from the prehistoric to the modern periods

#### 2.1.1 Prehistoric period

The earliest recorded evidence for human settlement in Ireland dates to the Paleolithic period between 12,800 to 12,600 cal BC<sup>2</sup> whilst the Mesolithic period (7000–4000 BC) is represented in Ireland by nomadic groups of hunter-gatherers who appear to have favoured coastal, lake and river shores which provided a valuable transport and food resource. There are no extant above-ground monuments dating to this period, however the presence of these early groups can often be identified by scatters of worked lithics in ploughed fields, shoreline shell middens and traces of temporary occupation sites occasionally uncovered during modern ground works. There are no recorded Mesolithic sites located within the study area, although it should be noted that a flint arrowhead (1937:3614) was found at 375 m OD on Banagher Hill, near Lough Cam, west of Lough Eske.

The Neolithic period (4000-2400 BC) began with the arrival and establishment of agriculture as the principal form of economic subsistence, which resulted in more permanent settlement patterns. As a consequence of the more settled nature of agrarian life, new site-types, such as more substantial rectangular timber houses, pottery and various types of megalithic tombs, begin to appear in the archaeological record during this period. A large cairn, wedge tomb, hearths and a *fulacht fiadh* were excavated, with a number of Neolithic flints and flint cores with debitage having been encountered (10E0309, 10R0103) at Croaghonagh townland as part of advance works for the construction of a new dam, and at Lough Mourne, c. 5.5 km north of the Site Boundary.

There are no recorded Neolithic sites located within the study area, however the presence of the natural geological formation of 'Barnesmore Gap' and the river valley of the Lowerymore River therein, would have been uniquely important as a means of traversing the county from the coastline at the south and south-west (including the confluence of the River Eske and the Atlantic ocean at Donegal Town); to the north and eastern areas, along the south-eastern extent of the Blue Stack mountain range that occupies a large portion of the central and southern areas of county Donegal. Barnesmore Gap represents a 'natural highway' and an important transport corridor, up to the present day.

#### 2.1.2 Late prehistoric periods

Metalworking arrived in Ireland with the advent of the Bronze Age period (c. 2400–500 BC). This period was also associated with the construction of new monument types such as standing stones, stone rows, stone circles, cist burials and *fulachta fiadh*. The later first millennium BC and the early centuries AD comprise the Irish Iron Age, which is the most obscure period in the Irish archaeological record. While there is general agreement that the introduction of an iron technology was a significant factor in the eventual demise of bronze working on a large scale, but how, why and when this came about in Ireland is unclear. There are two recorded standing stone sites located within the study area: DG094-018--- at Clogher to the south-west of the Site Boundary and a standing stone pair at Barnesyneilly (DG095-001---) to the south of the Site Boundary.

The site of Cashelnavean (DG086-001----), c. 6.2 km north of the Site Boundary, although defined as a hilltop enclosure, shares many similarities with Iron Age Hillforts as it appears to have had a defensive or military purpose and is likely to be have been constructed during the same period. It is situated on a high, dry ridge above the boggy hillside of Lough Mourne, "overlooking (and probably defending) the northern end of the Barnesmore Gap which anciently served (and still serves) as one of the most important routeways from Connacht into north Donegal".<sup>3</sup>

#### 2.1.3 Early Medieval period

This period began with the introduction of Christianity in Ireland and continued up to the arrival of the Anglo-Normans during the 12<sup>th</sup>-century (c. 400–1169 AD). The establishment of the Irish church was to have profound implications for political, social and economic life and is attested to in the archaeological record by the presence of church sites, associated places for

<sup>2</sup> Dowd, M. & Carden, R.F. (2016). 'First Evidence of a Late Palaeolithic Human Presence in Ireland'. *Quaternary Science Reviews*, 139, 161.

<sup>3</sup> Lacy, B. (1995) Prehistoric and early historic settlement in Ireland. In Nolan, W., Ronayne, L. & Dunlevy, M. (eds) *Donegal History & Society* (1-24). Dublin: Geography Publications. p.19.

burial and holy wells. The early medieval church sites were morphologically similar to ringforts but are often differentiated by the presence of features such as church buildings, graves, stone crosses and shrines. There is a recorded site DG085-005--- (now classed as a redundant record) located to the north of the Site Boundary, on the banks of the Lowerymore River (and adjacent the N15) marked as 'Cloghaturras' on the 1907 OS 6-inch map. The boulders at recorded site DG085-005--- have been considered as natural glacial erratics per recorded datasets, although it is noted that their location along the natural highway of Barnesmore Gap as well as its placename *Cloch an Turras* 'Stone of the Turras' ['rounds' or 'pilgrimage'] may be indicative of past pilgrimage associations. It is also notable that Lough Derg, a place of pilgrimage since early medieval times is located c. ten km to the south/south-east of the Site Boundary.

Barnesmore Gap is mentioned on several occasions as *Belach Gola*, later renamed *Bernas Mór*, within the stories of *Cenél Conaill* and the Donegal Kingdoms, usually in reference to a method of passage which connects the west of Ireland to the north. The gap also lends its name to the *Battle of Bernas Mór*, which appears in the *Echtra*, when the *Ulaid*, led by Muircertach Mór was defeated by Éogan son of Niall. It is likely that this story may reflect genuine historical events from the eighth century onward, when the area north of the gap became ruled by the *Cenél nÉogain* who had taken it from the *Cenél Conaill* with the latter subsequently confined to the land south of the gap (Lacy, 2006). The names of the mountains which create the gap again highlight the importance of the feature in terms of territory; on the western side is Croaghconnellagh or *Cruach Chonnallach* meaning 'the mountain of the people of Conaill' and to the east is Croaghonagh or *Cruach Eoghanach* meaning 'the mountain of the people of nÉogain'.<sup>4</sup>

The earliest recorded journey through Barnesmore Gap, from Connacht into Donegal, is Tírechán's account of the alleged travels of St Patrick, where he states:

"...And he proceeded over the Gap of the Sons of Conall [Barnesmore] to Mag [n]ltho and founded a great Church there".<sup>5</sup>

This period saw the emergence of the first phases of urbanisation around the large monasteries and the Hiberno-Norse ports. However, the dominant settlement pattern of the period continued to be rural-based in sites such as ringforts, which comprise roughly circular enclosures delimited by roughly circular earthen banks formed of material thrown up from a concentric external ditch. Ringforts are one of the most numerous monuments in the Irish landscape and the early medieval terms for these sites – *rath/lios/dun* these still form some of the most common place-name elements in the country. Archaeological excavations indicate that the majority of ringforts were early medieval farmsteads with internal timber buildings and were surrounded by associated field systems, stockades, barns, mills and drying- kilns. During advance archaeological works conducted for the upgrade and realignment of the N15 along Barnesmore Gap, a drying kiln (DG094-026---) was discovered and excavated (99E0379) at Keadew Upper, c. 1.8 km from the westerly Site Boundary.

There is a recorded enclosure at Clogher (DG094-017---) marked as 'the ring' on the OS 6-inch map, which includes a mound feature and sub-circular arrangement of loose stones, c. 3.6 km south-west of the Site Boundary. Furthermore, there is a feature known as 'the Chair' (DG094-019---) just north-west of the enclosure site. Its function is not clear however it is noted that this area was within the territory of the O'Donnell's by the late medieval period.

Crannogs are also a site type that date to the early medieval period. They consist of an island, partly or wholly artificially constructed by built up material of timber, earth and stones onto a lake (or river) bed, often revetted with timber piles or a palisade. These would have been (defended) homesteads, dating from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. There are two possible recorded crannog sites located within the study area, within Co. Tyrone. One site TYR014:002 is located in Lough Innaghchola, whilst the other site TYR014:001 is located c. 800 m south of the latter in Loughnaweelagh. It is notable that there is also a recorded crannog site DG085-003--- on Lough Eske that was partially excavated by Oliver Davies (1946, 92-9) where objects recovered ranged from Neolithic flints to post-medieval pottery, with most of the material being medieval in date.

#### 2.1.4 High & Late medieval periods

The arrival and conquest of large parts of Ireland by the Anglo-Normans in the late 12th-century broadly marks the advent of the Irish late medieval period, which continued up until the beginning of the post-medieval period c. 1550. Within the late medieval period, towns, markets, and fairs were established and change and reform was attempted in the Irish church. The

<sup>4</sup> Easpaig, D. M. (1995). Placenames and early settlement in County Donegal. In: Nolan, W., Ronayne, L. & Dunlevy, M. (eds) *Donegal History & Society*. Dublin: Geography Publications. p.178.

<sup>5</sup> Bieler, L. (1979). *The Patrician texts in the Book of Armagh*. Dublin. pp. 158-61. In: Lacy, B. (2006), *Cenél Conaill and the Donegal Kingdoms AD 500-800*. Dublin: Four Courts Press Ltd. p.64.



O'Donnell clan retained control and power of these territorial lands from c. 1200 – 1607 AD. The construction of both Donegal Castle and Donegal Abbey in 1474 saw the area emerge as the ruling seat for the powerful and wealthy clan.

At this time, control and defence of the natural highway of Barnesmore Gap would have been paramount. The O'Donnell's had clearly established the castle fortress at nearby Donegal Town however they also established a castle and bawn on a small island within Lough Eske (DG094-008---) and it was also a major stronghold in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century and early years of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. It was described as the place where Sir Niall Garbh O'Donnell chiefly resided (Annals of the Four Masters 1601 and 1602; Murphy, 1895, 277 & 281; CSPI 1600, 281; and CSPI 1600-1, 278). Upon the revolt of Sir Cahir O'Doherty in 1608 (prior to the Flight of the Earls), the island was captured by Sir Henry Folliott (CSPI 1608-10, xlix). This small island is now covered with trees and vegetation and contains the remains of a stone-built keep at the north, and a large bawn (DG094-007002-) at the south. The last vestiges of an O'Donnell stronghold are likely represented by the early 17<sup>th</sup> century remains of a tower-house and bawn at the wooded edge of Lougheske demesne (DG094-006--- and DG094-006001-).

### 2.1.5 Post medieval & early modern periods

The post-medieval period is generally considered to commence at c. 1550 and to continue into the 18<sup>th</sup> century with the period thereafter often referred to as the early modern period. The early part of the post-medieval period was a turbulent time in Irish history and the resultant wars between the 1560s and 1603 brought this unsettled period to an end. The following century was a time of prosperity for the newly established Protestant gentry and landowners and saw the development of high and low status stone houses throughout the Irish countryside. With the Plantation of Ulster, the O'Donnell castle at Donegal Town was granted to Sir Basil Brooke who carried out major reconstruction work and added the 'manor house' however, he eventually moved to the fortified house at Lough Eske. The mid-19<sup>th</sup> century house at Lough Eske occupies an earlier mansion of 1751 (DG091-005002-) (Rowan 1979, 408) which in itself was probably a rebuilding of an earlier 17<sup>th</sup> century house as indicated by the surviving date stone (DG094-005003-) '1621' built into the wall at an outbuilding to the site.

Barnesmore Gap has been recorded as the site of an ambush in the middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> century whereby, the Regiments of Sir Ralph Gore and Sir Robert Stewart had been returning to safety after having successfully relieved settlers in central Donegal which had been under siege by the MacSweenys and O'Donnells. Stewart had described the Barnesmore Gap as "being three miles long and not above a musket shot in breath".<sup>6</sup>

Later evidence suggests that Barnesmore gap continued to act as a location for ambush, given the following article which was published in the Derry Journal in July 1773:

*"On the 29th of June 1773 a young gentleman who was on his way from Sligo to Derry was attacked in the Barnesmore mountains by two ruffians armed with hangers. Endeavouring to defend himself his whip was cut right through with one stroke and his horse deeply wounded. However on recovering a little from his surprise he fired his pistol at the villains and clapping spurs to his horse he fortunately got clear of them without damage."*

Several other incidents of a similar nature were recorded in subsequent years.

### 2.2 Placename Evidence and Folklore

Townlands are the smallest unit of land division in the Irish landscape and many may preserve early Gaelic territorial boundaries that pre-date the Anglo-Norman conquest. The layout and nomenclature of the Irish townlands was recorded and standardised by the work of the Ordnance Survey in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Irish translations of the townland names often refer to natural topographical features, but name elements may also give an indication of the presence of past human activity within the townland. The translations of the townland names within the study area were sourced from [www.logainm.ie](http://www.logainm.ie) and mainly record topographical features and associations with past landowners.

A review of the townland names from the area indicate several notable (natural) topographical features whilst there is some potential cultural heritage significance attached to a number of townlands. Most notably is Croaghonagh: *Cruach Eoghanach* meaning 'Peak [of the] [Cineál] Eoghain' which is substantiated by early medieval documentary references of the *Cineál Eoghain* having won lands at the northern side of Barnesmore from the *Cineál Conaill*.

There are possible defensive indications in the placename Druminnin: *Cnoc Druím Inneóin* 'Defensive Hill' which is located adjacent Barnesmore Gap itself and may have been utilised as a viewing/vantage point of same. There are two possible

<sup>6</sup> McKenny, K. J. (1995). British Settler society in Donegal. In: Nolan, W., Ronayne, L. & Dunlevy, M. (eds) *Donegal History & Society*. Dublin: Geography Publications. p. 331.

cairn inferences for which neither townland has a recorded cairn site: Birchhill: *Carn Beitheach* 'Cairn with Birches' and Croaghnakern: *Cruach na Carn* 'Hill of the Cairn'. There are possible midden inferences at Ardnabask: *Ard na mBlaosc* 'Hill of the Shells' located east of Lough Eske. Ownership of a pass/gap in the mountains is indicated in Barnesyneilly: *Beámas ui Neillidhe* 'O'Nelly's Gap' (there is recorded a pair of standing stones in this townland also that may be indicative of territorial markers) whilst there may be possible associations with the Abbey established in Donegal town by the townland Friarsbush. Booley huts and a settlement cluster are recorded in the area north of Lough Eske which border the townland of Ardatowel: *Ard na tSodhail* 'Height of Good Grass' which may be direct indication of the summer located pastures of the area.

**Table 1: Translation of townland names within the study area (Source: [www.loganim.ie](http://www.loganim.ie))**

Name	Irish	Logainm Translation	Indicative Potential
Tawnawully Mountains	<i>Tamhnaigh an Mhullaigh</i>	<i>Mullach/Mullaigh</i> : hilltop <i>Tamhnach</i> : arable place, field 'Hilltop field'	Farmed area
Cullionboy	<i>Cuilleann Buí</i>	<i>Cuilleann</i> : Slope <i>Buí</i> : Yellow 'Yellow Slope'	Natural topography
Croaghnageal	<i>Cruach na Míol</i>	<i>Cruach</i> : Stack, peak [of the] <i>Míol</i> : midgets 'Ridge of the Midgets'	Natural topography
Meelbog	-	<i>Maol</i> : bare, flat-topped; derelict; bare, flat-topped hillock [bog] 'Bare flat-topped bog'	Natural topography
Finnabanes	<i>Fionna Bána Cnoc Fíonn Bán</i>	<i>Cnóc</i> : Hill <i>Fíonn Bán</i> : white spots 'Hill of the white spots'	Natural topography
Corveen	<i>An Chormhín / Corr Mhín</i>	<i>Corr</i> : Round hill, pointed hill, hollow; pointed, conspicuous, odd <i>Mín</i> : smooth 'Smooth Hill'	Natural topography
Birchhill	<i>Carn Beitheach</i>	<i>Carn</i> : pile of rocks/stones <i>Beitheach</i> : Birches 'Pile or Cairn with Birches'	Potential Cairn location
Finnadoos	<i>Fionna Dubh Cnoc Fíonn Dubh</i>	<i>Cnóc</i> : Hill <i>Fíonn Dubh</i> : Black spots 'Hill of the black spots'	Natural topography
Aghlem	<i>Agh Léim</i>	<i>Agh</i> : Field <i>Léim</i> : Leap Possibly 'Leap Field'	Farmed area
Druminnin	<i>Druim Inchinn Cnoc Druím Inneóin</i>	<i>Druim Inchinn</i> 'Ridge of the herb <i>inchinn</i> ' (type of 'jelly' found in marshy land) <i>Cnoc Druím Inneóin</i> 'Bird Hill' or signifies a defensive hill	Possible defended location
Mullanalamphry	<i>Mullach na Lamhraidhe</i>	<i>Mullach</i> : Summit <i>Lamhraidhe</i> : Elm trees 'Summit [of the] Elm trees' Or <i>Labhraí</i> : 'babbler' in the context of	Natural topography

Name	Irish	Logainm Translation	Indicative Potential
		Lowerymore River <i>Labhraí Mór</i> : 'Big babbler' 'Summit of the big babbler'	
Leghawny	-	<i>Log</i> or <i>Lug</i> : hollow	Natural topography
Ardeevin	<i>Ard Aoibhinn</i>	<i>Ard</i> : high place <i>Aoibhinn</i> : beautiful 'Beautiful [view] height'	Natural topography
Clogher	<i>An Clochar</i>	Stony place	Natural topography
Ardatowel	<i>Ard a tSodhail</i>	<i>Ard</i> : height <i>tSodhail</i> : mirth/jollity 'Hill of the mirth' Or <i>Tomhailt</i> : good grass 'Height of good grass'	Farmed (pastoral)/ booleying area (per recorded hut sites in this area) Possible location of <i>Poitín</i> Still
Meenadreen	<i>Mín an Draighin</i>	<i>Mín</i> : Mountain pasture <i>Draighin</i> : blackthorns 'Mountain pasture of the blackthorns'	Natural topography
Ardnableask	<i>Ard na mBlaosc</i>	<i>Ard</i> : Height <i>Blaosc</i> : Shell 'Hill of the shells'	Possible midden material
Loughkip	<i>Loch an Chip</i>	<i>Loch</i> : lake; inlet	Natural topography
Tawnaghlahan	<i>Tamhnach Leathan</i>	<i>Tamhnach Leathan</i> : broad clearing/green spot on a moor/bog area 'Field [at the] moor'	Farmed area (pastoral/arable)
Keadew Upper	<i>Céide Uachtarach</i>	<i>Crúch a Céideamh</i> : signifies either the road, hill or hill of the plain level top <i>Céide</i> : hill, mound, open space; meeting-place, assembly, road, path	Topographical feature/ farmed area
Straness	<i>Strath hEanaigh</i>	<i>Strath</i> : holm, river- meadow, valley-bottom <i>Eanach</i> : marsh 'Marsh [area of the] river meadow'	Natural topography
Ardinawark	<i>Ard an Amhairc</i>	<i>Ard</i> : height <i>Amharc</i> : View 'Height of the view'	Natural topography, potentially defensive
Loughcuill	-	<i>Loch</i> : lake <i>Cuill</i> : slope / <i>Coill</i> : wood 'Lake of the wood'	Natural topography
Friarsbush	-	'Bush [of the] Friar'	Possible monastic associations (with nearby Donegal Abbey?)
Barnesyneilly	<i>Beármas ui Neillidhe</i>	<i>Beármas</i> : gap <i>ui Neillidhe</i> : O'Nelly's 'O'Nelly's gapped mountain [path/road]'	Natural topography and ownership of the gap pass
Croaghonagh	<i>Cruach Eoghanach</i>	<i>Cruach</i> Stack/peak	Territorial

Name	Irish	Logainm Translation	Indicative Potential
		Eoghanach (member of <i>Cineál Eoghain</i> )	(topographical) marker/lands of the <i>Cineál Eoghain</i> (early medieval references to ownership also)
Croaghnakern	<i>Cruach na Carn</i>	Cruach: hill Carn: Cairn 'Hill [of the] Cairn'	Possible cairn location
Meenabrock	<i>Mín na mBroc</i>	<i>Mín</i> : Mountain Pasture <i>mBroc</i> : Badgers 'Field or Flat [of the] Badgers'	Farmed area (pastoral)
Slievedoo	<i>An Sliabh Dubh</i>	<i>Sliabh</i> : Mountain 'extended heath, alpine plain, moorish ground; extensive tract of dry moorland; mountain grass, moor bent grass; face of a hill' <i>Dubh</i> : Black 'The Black Mountain/Moor'	Natural topography



### 3 Photographic Record



**Plate 1:** View towards SW and location of T1



**Plate 2:** View towards SW from location of T2





**Plate 3:** View of location area for T3



**Plate 4:** View of landscape of at area of T5





**Plate 5:** View of area for T6



**Plate 6:** View of area for T7





**Plate 7:** View of area for T8



**Plate 8:** View N from Area of T9





**Plate 9:** View towards area for T4



**Plate 10:** View towards area for T10





**Plate 11:** View towards area for T11



**Plate 12:** View towards area for T12





**Plate 13:** View towards area for T13



**Plate 14:** Turf-cutting/cut away bog N of T13





**Plate 15:** Indicative peat depths at T12



**Plate 16:** View towards crannog site TYR014:002





**Plate 17:** View towards crannog site TYR014:001



**Plate 18:** View towards valley floor and Barnesmore Gap below from NW portion of Site Boundary



**Plate 19:** View towards Lough Eske from Site Access Track to Operational Barnesmore Windfarm