

Castlearmstrong  
Ballycumber  
Co Offaly R35 NH33

12/02/2026

MKO

An Coimisiún Pleanála  
64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1 D01 V902

*Re: Substitute Consent application under the Section 177e of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) relating to development at Lemanaghan Bog, Co Offaly.*

**CASE No: ACP-323676-25**

**Case Reference: SU19.323676**

For the attention of Catherine Flynn

Dear Catherine,

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission on the Substitute Consent application regarding the area I live in, which is steeped in history, which is very important to preserve.

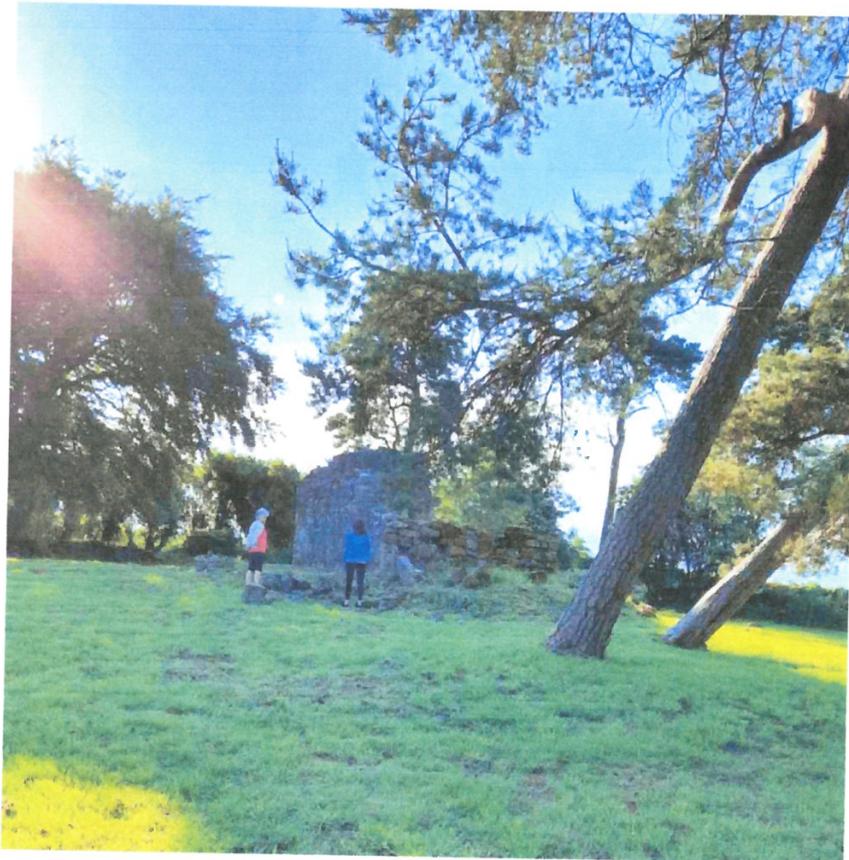
I wish to make a submission on the above Substitute Consent application.

AN COIMISIÚN PLEANÁLA	
LDG-	_____
ACP-	_____
17 FEB 2026	
Fee: €	_____ Type: _____
Time: 9:15	By: Reg post

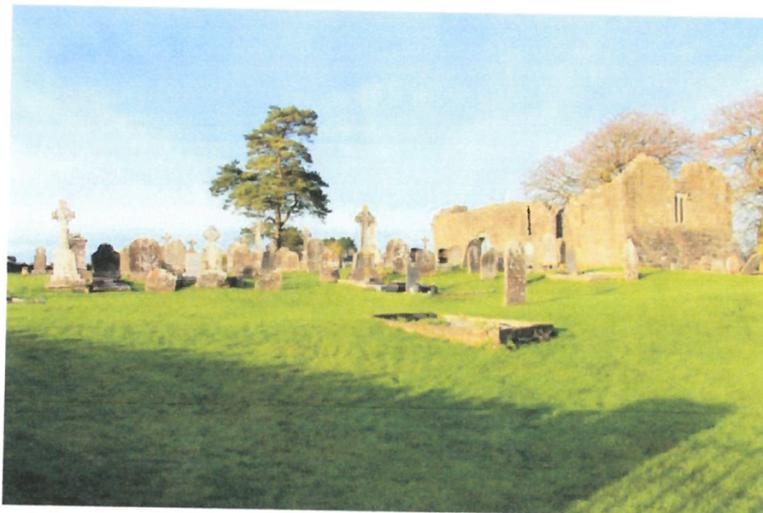
## 1. Lemanaghan

St. Manchan founded the monastic site at Lemanaghan. He died of the plague in 664 AD aged 32. The ruins of the medieval church can be seen and behind the church is the holy well and holy tree. These have been visited for centuries and there is still a strong tradition of people visiting the area.

A togher (stone lined causeway) connects the graveyard with St Mella's Cell (a rectangular medieval enclosure containing a single oratory). St Mella was the mother of St Manchan. Recently, human remains were discovered beneath trees which were blown down during Storm Eowyn. These remains have been carbon dated to between 662AD and 939AD, which means these people existed around the same time as St Manchan himself. The local community were unaware that St Mella's cell was a burial ground all those years ago. ***This proves the significance and heritage of this monastic site.***



St Mella's Cell. These are some of the trees that blew down exposing human remains.



Ruins of St Manchan's Church at Lemanaghan Monastic Site.



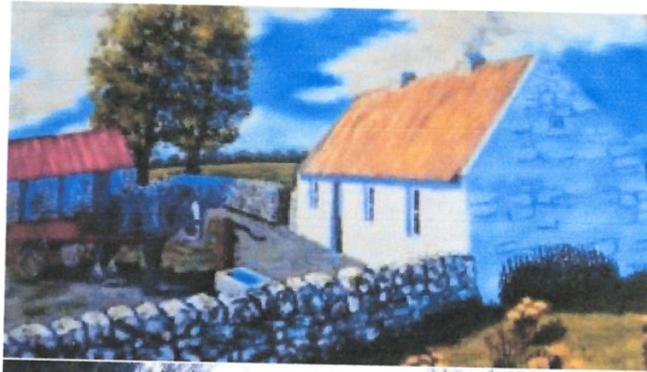
There is a linear plank trackway traced for 350m across the western extent of Castletown Bog. It has been dated to AD 684-9. It leads from the monastic site at Lemanaghan, across the bog to Boher church, where a 12<sup>th</sup> century Shrine dedicated to St Manchan is housed.  
***This trackway is another piece of history that should be preserved.***



Last September, during Heritage Week, a walk was organised along the old pilgrim route from St Mella's Cell to Boher Church, and then on to Clonmacnoise.

***I think this old pilgrim route could be enhanced to become "The Offaly Camino"***

## 2. The Cottage at Derrevane, Lemanaghan Bog



This cottage was a traditional thatched building in the Irish vernacular style divided into three rooms stretching across its full width, with the addition of a loft above the room behind the fireplace. The loft was accessed by means of a wooden ladder from the kitchen and had a small window in the gable wall. It was the home of the Connor family from the mid-19th century or earlier.

The importance of this house lies in its connection to the activities of Active Service volunteers during the War of Independence 1920/21. What it probably looked like at that time can be gleaned from the picture painted, conjecturally, about 2008 by artist, Michael Egan of Kilnagarnagh, with the help of the recollections of his elderly cousin, the late Josephine Connor O'Meara, who had been born and reared in this house. It is at present in a ruinous condition with a tin roof, as shown in the photos above. The house stands on an area of arable land surrounded by bog and was ideally situated as a safe house for the care of wounded or injured IRA volunteers during the War of Independence. During the War of Independence 1919-21 (Black & Tan war) the house at Derrevane, townland of Tumbleagh, was used extensively as an unofficial field hospital by the IRA volunteers. This house is situated in a derry, which is a kind of oasis or island in the middle of the bog of Lemanaghan and would have been relatively inaccessible to the motorised "Tans". The ruin of the house is still standing, with a temporary tin roof for protection from the elements.

Apart from local folk memory of the use of this house at that time, documentary evidence from at least two independent witnesses is in existence.

1. Thomas (Con) Costello, of Kilgarvin, Ballinahown, who was Commandant of the Athlone Brigade, in his "witness statement" made to the Bureau of Military History (Document No. W.S. 1296) in 1955, wrote that following an engagement with Black & Tans at Carricknaughton on the Roscommon side of Athlone in which George Adamson was shot and wounded, he had "Adamson removed across the Shannon to a place near Ballycumber where he was nursed back to health in a house owned by relatives of mine". The relative he refers to was Ellen Costello, wife of John Connor of Derrevane and the house is undoubtedly the one mentioned above.

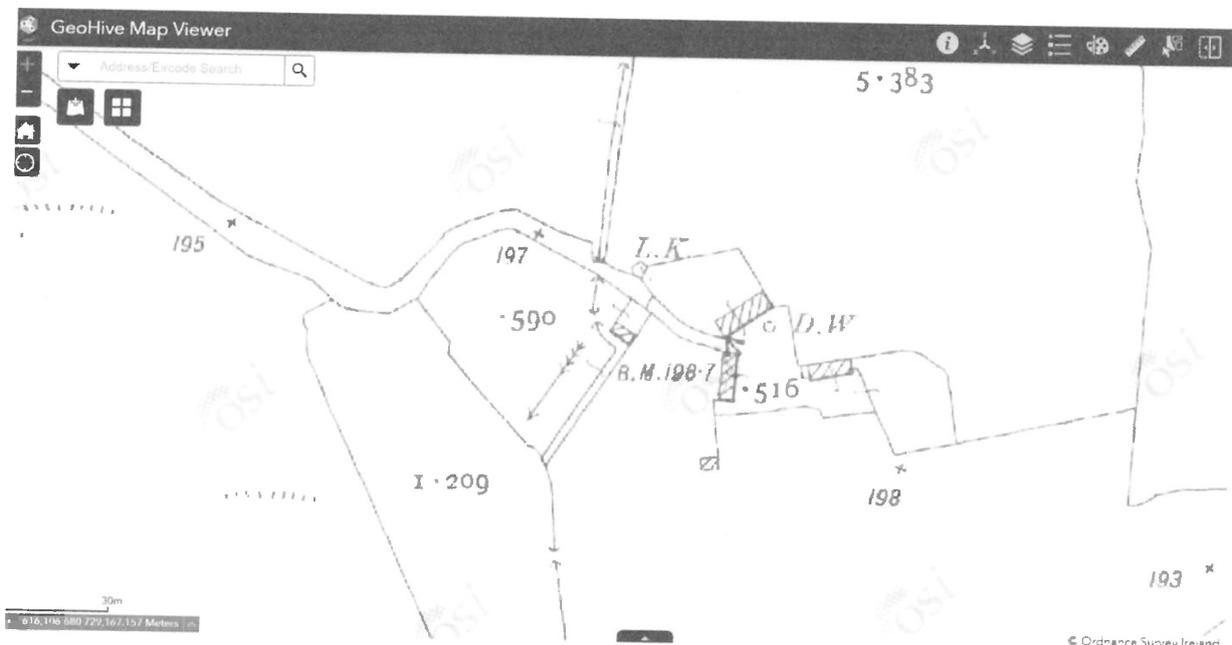
George Adamson (of Moate) was afterwards a Brigadier General in the Free State Army and was killed in action in 1922 in Athlone.

2. Annie (Nan) O'Connor (nee Connor), an active service member of Cumann na mBan in Athlone from 1915 to 1923, in her APPLICATION to the MINISTER FOR DEFENCE for a SERVICE CERTIFICATE, written in 1935, states that in early 1921 "Took two wounded ASU men to my home in Offaly and got doctor for them". Her home in Offaly was the house in Derrevane, she being the daughter of Ellen & John Connor. The doctor referred to would have been Dr. William Meagher of Ferbane, who was closely associated with the Offaly Volunteers. Local folklore has it that many other volunteers were also attended to in the house, including Dan Breen, the famous Tipperary freedom fighter.

Annie O'Connor, married Ned Dowling and died in 1937, 18 years before Costello wrote his version.

Some of this is mentioned in a recently published book entitled "They Put The Flag a-Flyin', The Roscommon Volunteers 1916-1923" by Kathleen Hegarty Thorne.

The story of this house is also covered in the Journal of the OFFALY HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, Vol 9, 2016. Historian, Ciara Molloy, outlines the part this house played in the fight for our freedom in an article entitled "Cumann na mBan in county Offaly, 1915-22" (see pages 236/7).

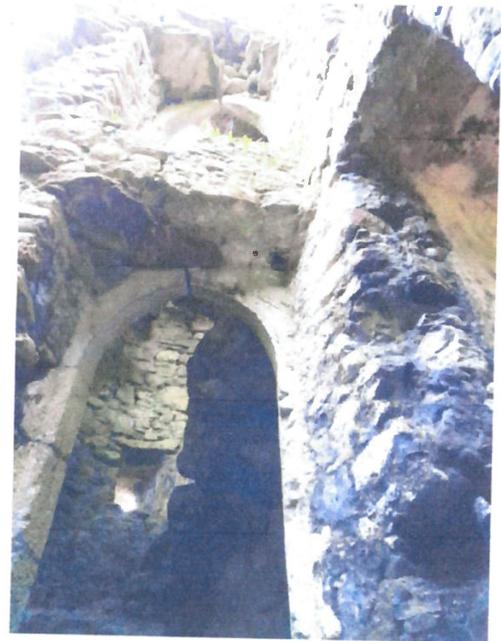
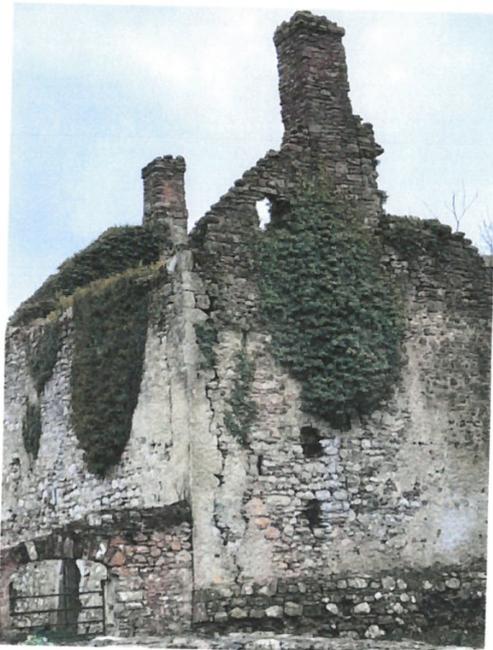


1910 OSI (25 inch) Map of Derrevane, showing the cottage, Bench Mark, Draw Well and a Lime Kiln, all of which are still there today. The proposed windfarm would completely surround this little island in the middle of the bog.

***Another part of the history of this locality that I would like to see preserved.***

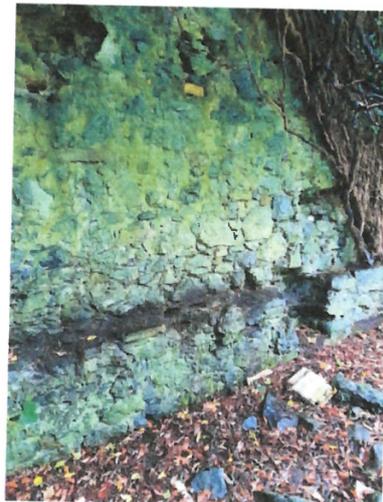
### 3. Castlearmstrong

The remains of a fortified house at Castlearmstrong is on the edge of the bog. The ruins of the house are situated on top of a high rocky ledge with a steep drop to the ground on one side. It was formerly a rectangular three storey high fortified house with rectangular gable ended chimney stacks and base batter (an upper slope of an external wall). Attached to the one corner is a later 19th-century bawn wall (a defended courtyard) with original bawn attached to North and South corners of the building. On the centre of the South East facing wall there is a two centered pointed doorway which gives access to the ground floor and spiral stone stairs. Directly above the inside of the doorway there are two barrel vaulted chambers running along the South East wall at first floor and second floor levels. There is evidence of wickerwork centring (frame of wicker built to hold the vault) on the underside of this vault (arched stone roof). There is a curious oriel (bay) window protruding from the South West facing wall which is carried on three massive corbels (projecting stones) at first floor level. This information suggests that the building was probable built in the mid 17<sup>th</sup>-century.

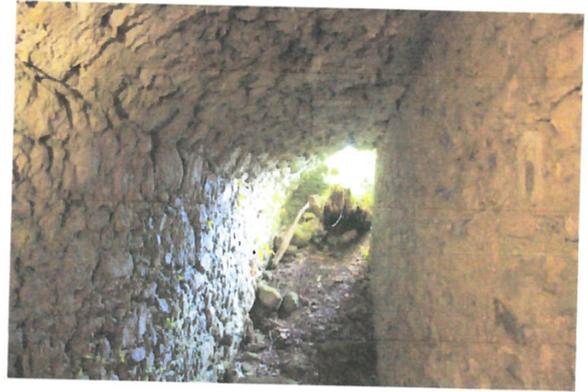


Remains of the Fortified House at Castlearmstrong.

At this site, there is also the remains of a Mill and from the size of site it was most certainly a corn mill.



There is an underground tunnel at this site, also. It may have been used as a service passageway as part of the Fortified house.



The heavy machinery required for the proposed wind farm would pass directly beside these structures, which would undermine the foundations.

***I would like to see these structures preserved and enhanced.***

There is sufficient evidence to prove that these structures have been in this locality for hundreds of years. The proposed windfarm will greatly impact these historic places. I would much prefer if the history and heritage of this area could be enhanced and appreciated.

Please acknowledge receipt of this submission.

Regards,

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Angela Kelly

Catherine

**Cathy Carleton**

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**From:** Angela Kelly <angela.kelly@live.ie>  
**Sent:** Sunday 15 February 2026 20:56  
**To:** Appeals2  
**Subject:** Case Number ACP-323676-25 - Case Reference: SU19.323676  
**Attachments:** Submission to An Coimisiun Pleanala.pdf

You don't often get email from angela.kelly@live.ie. [Learn why this is important](#)

**Caution:** This is an **External Email** and may have malicious content. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments. When in doubt, contact the ICT Helpdesk.

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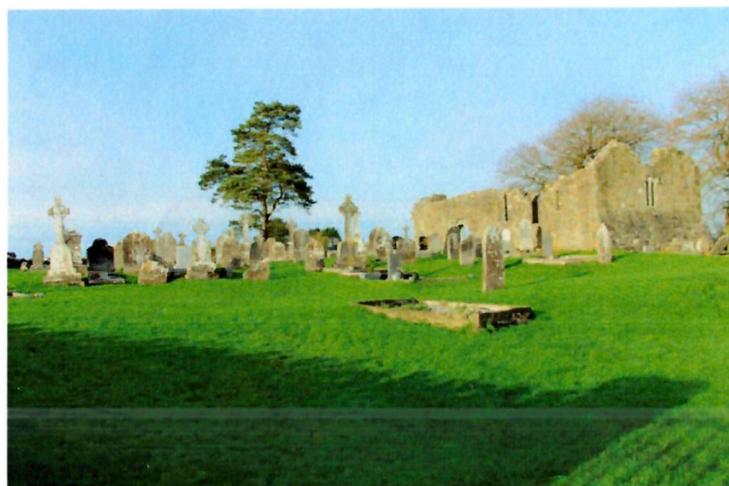
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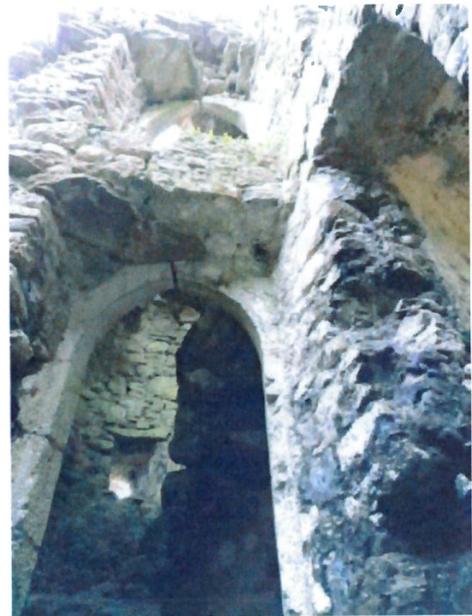
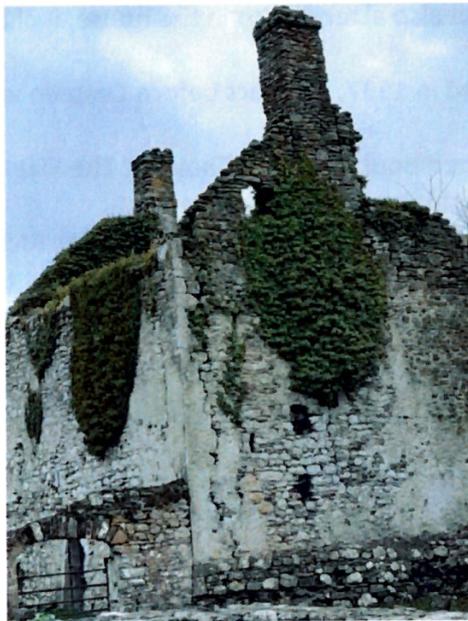


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