



HERITAGE AUDIT OF

CREGGS & DISTRICT 2018

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Prepared by
Zena Hctor and Dr Christy Cuniffe

This project has been funded by the Heritage Council and Galway County Council



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council





Message from Creggs Tidy Towns

We live in a very historic area and it is important that we have an awareness of the wealth of built, natural and cultural heritage that is on our doorstep. Therefore, Creggs Tidy Towns is delighted to have this excellent report prepared for us by Zena Hctor and Dr Christy Cunniffe which highlights our heritage and is a blueprint for us with regards to developing future heritage projects in our area.

We would like to pay tribute to the Heritage Council for providing the funding to undertake this audit and to Galway County Council and Galway Rural Development who work with us on the delivery of various community and heritage projects in our area.

Creggs Tidy Towns looks forward to working with the various organisations in our own community, our local school, Galway County Council, Galway Rural Development and other agencies in the development of various heritage projects in our area in the future.

Carmel O'Rourke
Secretary
Creggs Tidy Towns

Message from Creggs Junior Tidy Towns

Creggs Junior Tidy Towns is now up and running and we look forward to working on heritage and environmental projects in our area. At Creggs NS we link in with our local Tidy Towns committee to do our bit for the Tidy Towns competition. All our school children are active Junior Tidy Towns wardens. At present we are designing a logo for Creggs Tidy Towns. Each class is working on the logo. The winning logo will be chosen on Mar 21st 2019. Great excitement too for the upcoming visits of Mr Gordon D'Arcy; renowned artist and environmentalist. Gordon is coming to Creggs NS to do a series of workshops leading up to the Dawn chorus in May. Our Green schools work is ongoing and we are engaged in recycling, composting and conserving water. We planted Spring Bulbs in Autumn and they are in full bloom right now. Our daffodils are taking pride of place inside the school wall. Our latest project is the setting-up of a polytunnel. We are busy filling the wooden beds with soil so we can start seed sowing. We are delighted to have all this heritage information available to us about our area and look forward to working on the 'Focus on our heritage' project.

Fiona Brandon
Junior Tidy Towns Co-ordinator
Creggs National School

Message from Marie Mannion

Heritage Officer, Galway County Council

I would like to pay tribute to Creggs Tidy Towns who had the foresight to apply to the Heritage Council for funding to undertake this very important heritage audit for their area and to the Heritage Council for funding the audit. In order to manage and protect our built, natural and cultural heritage we first need to have an awareness, knowledge and understanding of what we have. It is evident from this audit report that Zena Hctor and Dr Christy Cunniffe, working with the local community and undertaking a desktop study and field study left no stone unturned in ensuring that the heritage of the area was identified. This audit is a very important document in that it provides a framework to assist in the delivery of quality and meaningful local heritage projects in the future by the Tidy Towns Group, the local school and other community organisations and individuals.

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Sources of Information

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<https://heritagemaps.ie/WebApps/HeritageMaps/index.html>
<https://www.gsi.ie>
<http://geologicalmaps.net/IrishHistMaps/index.cfm>
<https://www.scottishbrickhistory.co.uk>
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<https://www.archaeology.ie/>
<http://www.buildingsofireland.ie/>

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SECTION ONE: PROJECT BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY

1.1. Project Background

Following a successful application to the Heritage Council by Creggs Tidy Towns for a Community Heritage Grant, the Heritage Audit of Creggs and District commenced in May 2018.

The aim of the project was to audit the accessible built, cultural and natural heritage features of Creggs with a view to developing interpretive materials for local residents and visitors such as a heritage trail. Zena Hctor and Dr Christy Cuniffe were appointed in May 2018 by Creggs Tidy Towns Committee to complete the tasks outlined in the project brief.

1.2. Project Brief

The brief included the following tasks:

- Compilation of a desktop inventory of heritage sites within a 3km radius of Creggs village
- Analysis of all listed sites in terms of recorded condition and accessibility. Production of prioritised list in terms of suitability for future interpretive materials and promotion.
- Community event to present information gathered on selected sites and seek input and suggestions from the community with regard to lesser known sites within the district which may not have been previously recorded and to invite participation by the community in the gathering of data on the local heritage
- 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
- Heritage Week event to be undertaken
- Preparation of final report including recommendations for future use of data collected.

1.3. Methodology

1.3.1. Community Consultation

Initial organisational emails, phone calls and meetings were organised by the consultants with the community representative, Carmel O'Rourke, Secretary of the Tidy Towns Group. Zena Hctor and Christy Cuniffe met with Carmel in Creggs on May 23, 2018 to discuss the work which would be undertaken, including defining the area of study and the methodology. It was agreed that Carmel would provide a contact list of local community members to be consulted as part of the project.



Figure 1: Poster advertising public meeting on Heritage Audit progress

Field survey began in Creggs on May 23, 2018 and community resident Larry Kilcommins provided a guide to features of interest around the area, on the first and several subsequent days, when field survey was in progress. Larry's guidance and introduction of the field survey team to local landowners was an invaluable asset to the progress of the audit.

On August 7, 2018 a public meeting was organised in Creggs National School. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an update on the progress of the desk and field research which had been completed to date and to seek input and suggestions with regard to any lesser known sites which may have been overlooked. The meeting was advertised by the



Figure 2: Notice of Heritage Week Event posted in the 'Roscommon Herald'

local community group (Figure 1). A powerpoint presentation of the audit findings to date was delivered by Zena Hctor. The meeting was attended by ten community residents and the feedback was very positive. An outcome of the meeting was the suggestion that the audit area should be extended to include the area between Kilbegnet and Dunamon. It was agreed by the consultants that the main features of interest adjacent to the roadway in this area would be included in the audit, although it was outside the original agreed field study area.

During Heritage Week 2018, a public talk was provided by Dr Christy Cunniffe in Kilbegnet graveyard. A poster was prepared and posted locally by the community group and a notice of the talk was posted in the local newspaper (Figure 2) and on the Galway County Council Heritage social media system. The talk was well attended and led to information being shared with regard to local heritage sites.



Figure 3: Group at Heritage Week talk in Kilbegnet Graveyard with Dr Christy Cunniffe

1.3.2. Desktop Inventory

A desktop inventory of the potential heritage sites for field survey, located within a 3km radius of the village of Creggs was compiled by the consultants. The Heritage Council Map Viewer was an invaluable one-stop source of information in this process. Searches were made through all the layers available on this system. The list of sites compiled was then analysed in terms of location and condition and a prioritised list for field survey was derived.

1.3.3. Field Survey

The Audit field survey was conducted on a site by site basis. Preparation for field survey consisted of printing out six inch OS townland maps downloaded from the Heritage Council Map Viewer and marking sites of interest noted through desk research. Based on this list of potential sites in a townland, the audit team with the help of the Creggs Tidy Towns Group, made contact with the relevant landowners and sought permission to enter onto private land where required to inspect and document site access, condition and features of interest.

SECTION TWO: NATURAL HERITAGE SITES

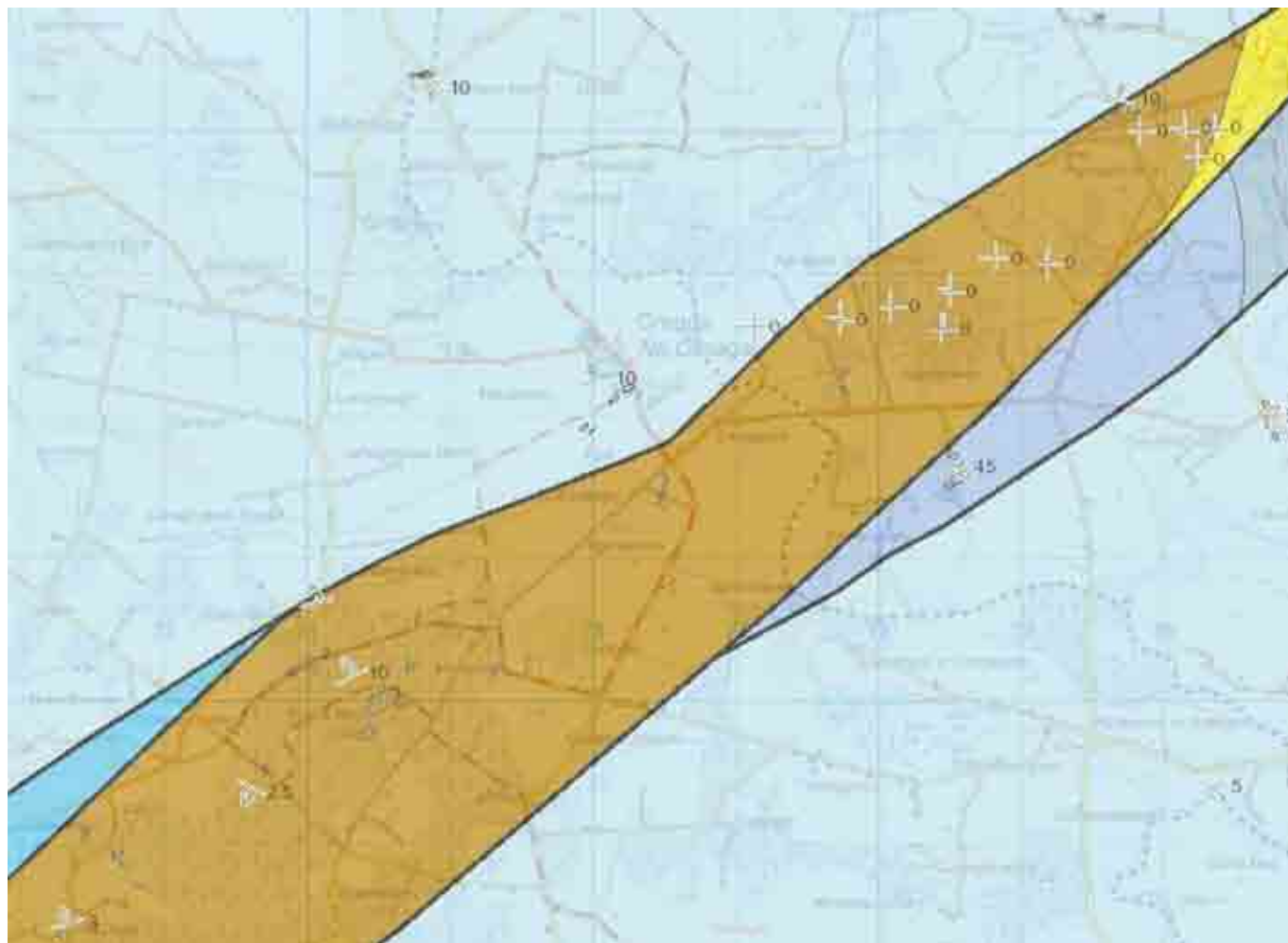


Figure 4: Bedrock (Source www.gsi.ie "Contains Irish Public Sector Data (Geological Survey) licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) licence".

2.1. Geology and Topography

The underlying bedrock in the Creggs district is predominantly Carboniferous limestone (indicated by light blue shading in Figure 4). To the south of Creggs village a linear block of pale conglomerate bedrock consisting of quartz pebble with a mix of micaceous flaggy sandstones and purple and brown quartzite and red sandstone (brown shading), approximately 2km in width, runs from north-east to south-west. This extends from the townland of Cremully and Aghadad to Mount Mary within the audit study area. On its south east side between Gortnalavey and Cremully an area of darker blue shading indicates unbedded lime-mudstone which is dominantly pale grey in colour, crudely bedded limestone. The lighter blue area above Mount Mary is viséan limestones – undifferentiated Carboniferous limestones. The small black boxes (e.g. just south west of Creggs Village indicate bedrock outcrop.

The central conglomerate linear block stands out on today's landscape as an area of higher ground

above the surrounding limestone. This is due to erosion of the limestone over the millennia by weathering. The conglomerate is more resistant to weathering than the limestone and therefore stands higher. The difference between the height of these rocks is very noticeable when a person travels out of Creggs village to the south (past the school and over the bridge) and up the hill to the road junction. The road to the left (R362 to Athleague) brings you right along the top of the ridge of the linear block of conglomerate and as you look to your left, you look down on the lower limestone area which surrounds the village and beyond. If you take the third class road from the junction towards Mount Mary you will travel along the high ground of the conglomerate until Attifarry (where the Suck Valley Way designated walking trail turns into the forestry track up to the summit of Mount Mary).

Looking down from the higher ground of the conglomerate rock onto the limestone, the viewer will notice that the lower ground is undulating and consists of many low hills. This 'hilly' topography derives from the action of ice on



Figure 5: Quaternary geology map of Creggs District showing lines of drumlins (pink) and the streamlined bedrock (grey) which forms the linear block of conglomerate rock to the south of Creggs Village. (Source: www.gsi.ie "Contains Irish Public Sector Data (Geological Survey) licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) licence".

the landscape. Between approximately 25,000 and 12,000 years ago this area was covered by a large ice sheet moving slowly from the NW to the SE scraping the land surface and carrying along boulders, stones, gravel and sand (known as boulder clay or glacial till). Around 12,000 years ago as the climate warmed the ice sheet began to melt and retreat. As the ice flow slowed,

the ice and meltwater shaped the boulder clay into elongated, streamlined hills we know today as 'drumlins'. These drumlins were deposited on the lower limestone areas while the higher conglomerate rock was scraped by the ice. Figure 5 provides an indication of the drumlins (pink) and the streamlined bedrock of the conglomerate (grey).



Figure 6: Quaternary sediments in Creggs District (Source: www.gsi.ie "Contains Irish Public Sector Data (Geological Survey) licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) licence".

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The results of the weathering of the bedrock underlying Creggs and District and overlying glacial deposits has produced the soil sediments indicated in Figure 6. The light green shading indicates a covering of till on the land derived from sandstones and cherts; the light blue areas are covered by till derived from limestone; the mustard coloured areas indicate alluviums soils (derived from freshwater) and the brown indicates areas of cut over raised peatland.

The soils present in the district dictated the type of farming and landuse that has been undertaken in the past. The areas covered by glacial till have good drainage and have been used for animal grazing and some corn production in the past. Drumlins consisting of sands and gravels deposited by the last glaciers have been opened

and exploited for materials for road and house building.

Bogs have been cut and continue to be cut for fuel purposes while the alluvium soils along the river and streams have been important in this area for clay pottery and drainage pipe production in the past (see Section 4.3).

The underlying bedrock, glacial derived topography and soil types have influenced the natural heritage features; the human settlement patterns and traditional industries of the study area as is evident from the data collected through this audit. They can be interpreted from the high road to the south of the Village. This should be included as a point of interest on any proposed heritage trail.

2.2. Freshwater

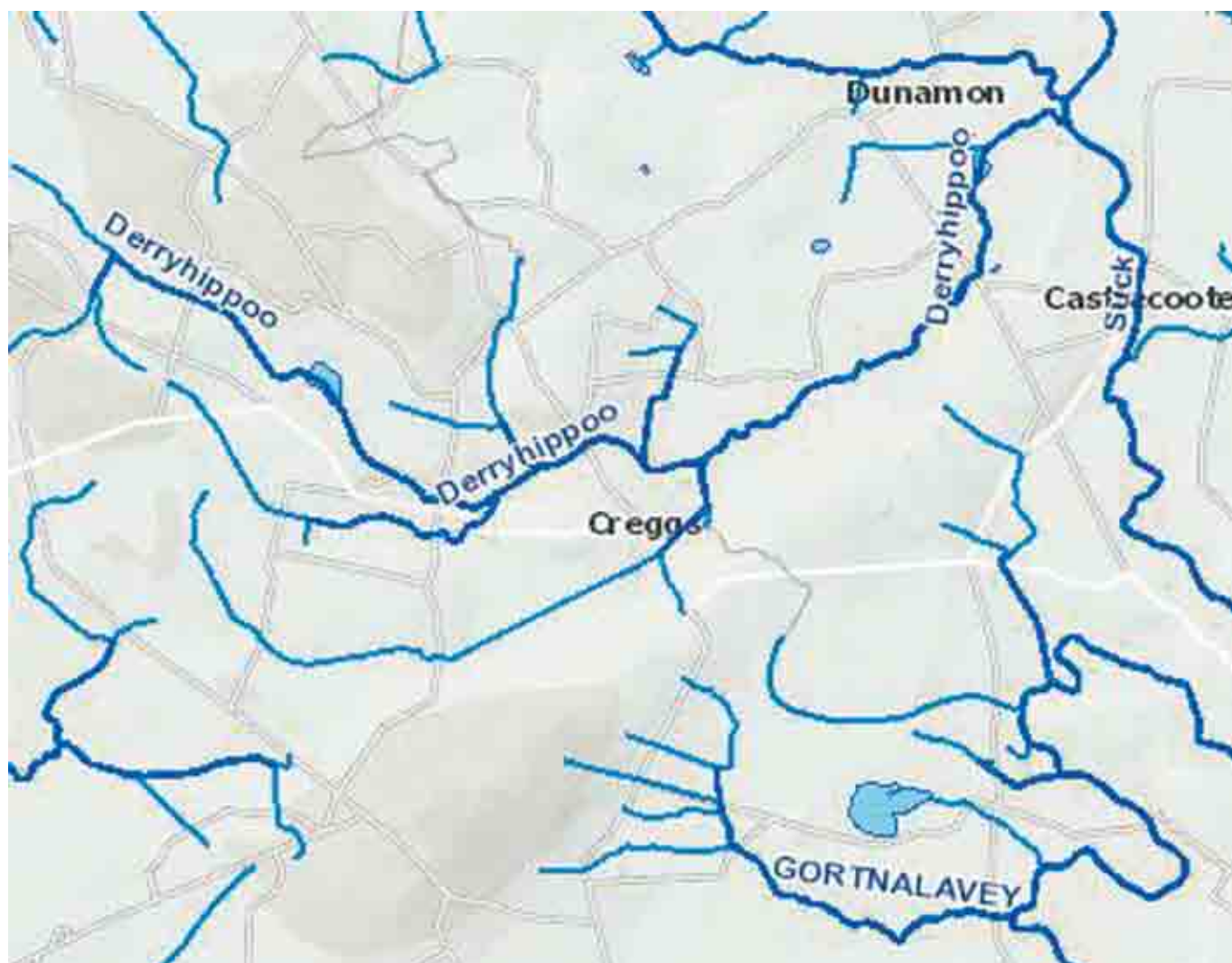


Figure 7: Freshwater drainage system in the Creggs District

The River Suck lies a few kilometres to the east of Creggs village. It is designated as a Natural Heritage Area (NHA) and Special Protection Area (SPA) due to the presence of extensive callows, a type of wet grassland found in river floodplains, other wetland habitats, and important bird populations including Whooper Swan, Wigeon, Golden Plover and Lapwing.

The Derryhippoo River, rises in the townland of Keeloges East. It flows in a south and then east direction before reaching the village of Creggs, from where it turns to the north-east to enter the River Suck at Dunamon. It is joined by a number of small streams between its source and the village of Creggs and spreads out to form Lough Ouver in the townlands of Lenanmarla,



Figure 8: Interpretive Board and Floating Pontoon at Ballydacker Lough

Skehagard and Moat. Just south of its entry point to the Suck it again spreads out to form two small lakes - Lough Nasaggart and An Linn Bhán, or Stoneham's Lough as it is known locally.

In the south east of the district the Gortnalavey River flows into the River Suck and a small stream draining Ballydacker Lough (in the townland of Easterfield or Cornacask) flows into the Gortnalavey river.

Access to the lakes in the Creggs district is facilitated by the amenities provided by Inland Fisheries Ireland for the purposes of recreational fishing. This resource also provides good public access for other visitors to observe the natural ecology of the freshwater ecosystem.

Ballydacker Lough, also known as Hollygrove Lake covers approximately 40 acres. It drains into the River Suck through a short stream, approximately 500m in length. Developed by Inland Fisheries Ireland, access and facilities have been provided including a stand on the south road shore with a floating pontoon and interpretive board; an access track into a parking area (accommodation for about 6 cars) and footbridge to the island. Primarily a tench and pike fishery, hybrids, roach and rudd also occur here.

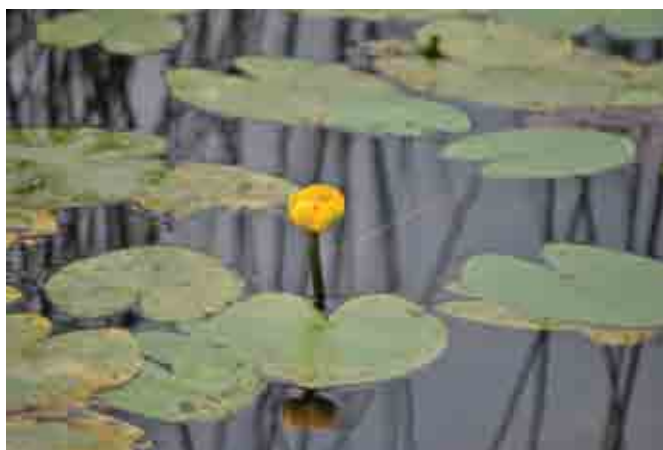


Figure 9: Common White and Yellow Water Lilies on Ballydacker Lake



Figure 10: Forestry Plantations within the study area. Darker green indicates private planted areas; dashed light green areas indicate Coillte owned plantations.

Data from the Forestry Service of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at www.heritagemaps.ie, 1-11-2018.

Lough Nasaggart (Black's Lake) is on the Derryhippoo River which flows into the south side of the lake. This is a small lake of 15 acres located within about 2 kms of the River Suck. It supports populations of roach, Hybrids, Rudd and some good pike. Inland Fisheries Ireland provides car parking (8-9 cars), nine angling stands and an information board.

Interpretation of the rich freshwater resource of the district should be included in any proposed heritage trail and interpretation of the lake and river ecology should be included in the Inland Fisheries recreational fishing signage.

2.3. Woodlands

The majority of the woodland in the study area consist of coniferous forestry plantations both privately and publicly owned. The

The shores of Ballydacker Lough are fringed with reedbeds and the edges of the lake support floating vegetation including water lilies. The grassland between the road and the floating pontoon on the south of the lake is rich in wetland vegetation. Among the species growing here are an abundance of rushes, a variety of grasses including Yorkshire Fog and Creeping Bent, Creeping Buttercup, Silverweed, Willowherb, Meadowsweet and Water Mint.

An Linn Bhán, locally known as Stoneham's Lough has also been developed by Inland Fisheries Ireland. Covering 15 acres, it is located on the Derryhippoo River and supports populations of hybrids, Rudd, Roach and Pike. It is accessible via a short track off the Castlecoote to Dunamon road and via the Suck Valley Way. Facilities include a small parking area and 12 angling stands. Surrounded by woodland it is an important natural heritage site and is also the site of a crannog (see section 3.3.)

dominant tree type is Sitka Spruce, followed by Lodge Pole Pine and Norway Spruce. The largest area covered by forestry is in the south-west on the higher ground around Mount Mary. Fallow deer, grey squirrels and pine marten are common in this area.

Derreen Wood at Rosmoylan is a semi-natural woodland located on the edge of the raised bog. Species on the drier margins include oak, ash, hazel and holly while birch and alder are found in the wetter sections. The rare shrub species Bird Cherry has been recorded here. A rich understorey of flora is a great attraction in the springtime as a carpet of Bluebells and wood sorrel cover the woodland floor. This is an important local woodland site in terms of it's ecology.

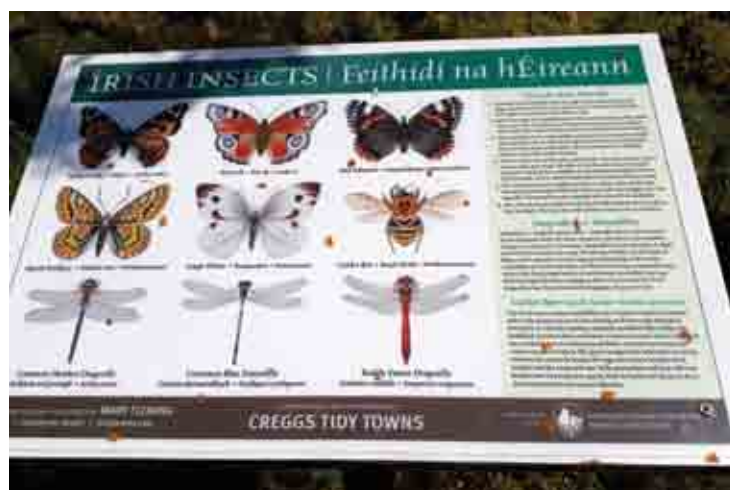


Figure 11: Interpretation in the Wildlife Park Creggs Village

2.4. Peatlands

Aughrim, Funshin and Leaha Bogs are all designated Natural Heritage Areas (NHA) located on the periphery of the study area. Aughrim Bog is located in the southeast and is spread across the townlands of Abbeygrey, Knockaunrainy and Aghrane (Castlekelly). Funshin and Leaha Bogs are part of a larger bog complex and are separated from each other by a public road. Funshin stretches over the townlands of Clooncullaun, Leaha, Funshin and GortnadeeveWest, while Leaha Bog is also in the townlands of Clooncullaun and Leaha.

All three are raised bogs with areas of high bog and cutover.

Aughrim has a good diversity of raised bog microhabitats, including hummock/hollow complexes, pools and flushes and areas of cutaway. Typical high bog vegetation including Ling Heather, Hare's-tail Cottongrass, Carnation Sedge, Cross Leaved Heath, mosses and Liverworts are all found here. Coniferous forestry plantations bound it to the south and north.

Funshin bog has well-formed hummocks while Leaha Bog has a shallow dome with low hummocks throughout the bog. Both bogs have been drained, burnt and mechanically harvested in the past. Due to the dry nature of the peat, Carnation sedge and bog Asphodel are dominant. The rare bird species Red Grouse has been recorded at the site (www.npws.ie)

Leaha and Funshin bogs can be viewed from the third class road that divides these two peatlands. Good cutaway bog vegetation can be seen here and this could be a point of interest on a heritage trail.

2.5. Creggs Wildlife Park

The Wildlife Park in Creggs Village has been developed by the local community adjacent to the Derryhippoo River as a public amenity area. It is in regular use by the pupils of Creggs National School as an educational resource for their Green Schools biodiversity projects. Projects they have completed within the Park include: planting and maintenance of trees and plants; creation of a universally accessible living willow structure and development of a butterfly garden and bug hotel. Wildlife experts are regularly invited to the school and this has led to the identification of mayfly, shrimp and crayfish in the river through kick sampling and Daubenton bats roosting beneath the bridge. The park is planted with nineteen species of native trees. A large interpretive panel provides information with regard to tree type and location within the Park. A photographic identification guide is also provided for the leaves and fruit of some native trees, birds and mammals. Other panels within the Park provide information on birdlife and butterfly identification.

The Suck Valley Way, a popular long distance walking route, runs through the study area from north to south and provides good access to the many natural heritage features of the district. Accessible along the route are the woodlands of Mount Mary, the Derryhippoo River at Creggs Village and Rosmoylan bog and woodland.



Figure 12: Route of Suck Valley Way denoted with Red line through Study Area
Data from the National Trails Office accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at www.heritagemaps.ie, 1-11-2018.

SECTION THREE: BUILT AND CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES



Fulachta Fia are kidney shaped mounds of burnt and fire cracked stone usually found close to a water source. When in use, a pit was dug, lined with wood and filled with water. Stones heated in a nearby fire were placed in the water to bring it to boiling. 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.

3.1. Fulachta Fia

During this audit a previously unrecorded Fulacht Fiadh (burnt mound) was identified in Farranykelly townland (577933 759577), through information received from Larry Kilcummins and courtesy of access permission and guidance to the location by the landowner Eddie McConn. The site is located in a wet grassland habitat dominated by rush (*Juncus* spp.) A small hawthorn tree grows in the centre of the horseshoe shaped mound, where the water trough is likely located. This monument possibly dates to the Bronze Age and the surrounding landscape would suggest that there may be other similar sites in this area. Further intensive field survey would be required to determine if others exist.

Another intact Fulacht Fiadh was located in Abbeygrey, following information received from Denis Healy of Salthill, Galway. This monument is located to the south of the ecclesiastical enclosure of Abbeygrey in the adjacent field. It is approximately 17m from the adjacent road. In a low-lying pasture area it has a large spread of approximately 11 m NE-SW and 10m NW-SE. The pit area opens to the north-west.

Each of these sites is located on privately owned farmland with no public access.

3.2. Ringforts

Ringforts are the most abundant monument type recorded within the study area by the National Monuments Service (www.archaeology.ie). A large number have been removed with only faint traces remaining. The remaining intact examples are all located on privately owned farmland.

A surviving example of this monument type within the study area, which is visible from the public road is located in Millford townland (574621 760477). It is a good example for the purposes of future interpretation as it is sited on a low hill and is clearly visible from the adjacent public roadway. It is a bivallate enclosure with an intervening fosse with a possible entrance in the north-east sector.

There is a large grouping of ringforts in the townlands of Carrownaglogh and Kilbegnet. Local folklore records that one of these ringforts is associated with Queen Meadhbh of Connacht as her husband Tinne MacConnrach was said to have lived there. (<http://www.suckvalleywaywalk.ie/walking-trails/walking-trails/map-2-creggs-to-lough-doo/>) Although these monuments are on privately owned land, this cultural heritage information could be used in a general heritage interpretive guide to the area.

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 domestic farm buildings in the interior. Their size (20m-60m) suggests they were occupied by a single extended family. Most were in use between c.2500-1600 years ago.



Figure 14: Ballydacker Lough Crannógs

Crannógs are enclosures built on islands in shallow lakes, marshy areas or in shallow, sheltered coastal bays. The islands can be man-made from layers of wood, peat and stone. The structures may have been used as permanent or seasonal dwelling places or simply as places of refuge. The tradition of building crannógs dates back to the Neolithic Period with some still in use in the 17th century.

3.3. Crannógs

There are two definite and one possible Crannógs located within the study area. Two are found in Ballydacker Lough and one in An Linn Bán (Stoneham's Lough).

Close to the north shore of Ballydacker Lough an overgrown circular earthen platform with a diameter of 28 metres and a height of 1.75m is connected to the mainland by a curving causeway. This crannóg is generally inaccessible due to the overgrown nature of the causeway and the level of water on the causeway.

A second (possible) crannóg is located off the south-east shore of the lake. It consists of an oval tree-covered island with a width of 90m E-W and 60m N-S, composed of small stones. A possible causeway on its eastern side has had a boardwalk inserted above it by the Inland Fisheries Board to facilitate fishing off the island. This site is easily accessible via a short trackway to a parking area and pedestrian boardwalk out to the island.

In the centre of An Linn Bán (Stoneham's Lough) a circular island with a wooden palisade is visible on the south-east to south-west. This is a recorded Crannóg (www.archaeology.ie).

All of these crannóg sites are visibly accessible due to the fishing facilities which have been installed by Inland Fisheries Ireland.

3.4. Moated site

Located in the townland of Garraun North are the remains of a Moated site. This monument consists of a rectangular platform measuring 41m NE-SW and 33.7m NW-SE. A flat bottomed moat, approximately 7m in width surrounds the platform. An outer bank with a width of approx. 7m, rises to approximately 0.5m from the moat on each side except in the SE. The monument is located on privately owned farmland but is visible from the roadside.

Moated Sites are flat rectilinear habitation sites defined by a bank and external fosse which date from the early 13th to early 14th centuries. The fosse can sometimes hold water and that is way the monuments are known as 'moated' meaning water filled trenches. These were the defended farmsteads of Anglo-Norman tenant farmers.



Figure 15: Aerial view of Moated site at Garraun North (graveyard to north-east)



Figure 16: Dunamon Castle

3.5. Dunamon Castle

The site, on the south side of the River Suck, on which Dunamon Castle stands today has a long history of occupation. The Annals of the Four Masters records that Turlough O'Connor built a fort known as Dún Iomain or Dún Imghain, which was burnt in 1154 by Muirchartach Ua Lochlainn. In 1232 Adam Staunton erected a castle here which was destroyed a year later by Felim O'Connor. In 1283 a second castle was built by John de Stanford, which later passed to the Berminghams before passing to the Burkes c. 1310 (www.archaeology.ie).

The building that is Dunamon Castle today evolved over six centuries, from 15th century castle to 19th century house. It incorporates the remains of a 15th century tower house built by the Burkes and eighteenth and nineteenth-century additions and an extension by the Caulfield Family. Following the dispossession of the Burke Family in the 1650s, the Caulfield family leased the building from 1668, acquiring it outright in 1733. The family continued to live at Dunamon until 1920 and the Divine Word Missionaries acquired it in 1939. It is now a diocesan retreat centre for the diocese of Elphin.

The present day building is a protected structure (NIAH Reg. No. 31938004) consisting of three storeys with attic and basement. The walls of the oldest part of the building are random rubble limestone, while those of the 19th century wing are snecked limestone. The early wing has a double height central recessed bay on both its north and south faces with an arch over the second floor. The entrance doorway within the front bay has a carved sandstone surround and is accessed by a series of steps. All the windows are rectangular in form and have square hood

mouldings with limestone surrounds which were probably part of the 19th century remodelling. The interior was decorated in fine plasterwork in the 19th century and this was restored in the 1990s.

The grounds at Dunamon include farmyard outbuildings, a church and graveyard, a walled garden with pigeon nesting boxes on the south-facing wall and the remains of an ice house which date to the 19th century country house period. A chapel and respite centre were also built on the grounds in the 1960s.

3.6. Medieval Rabbit Mounds?

Rabbit Warrens evolved from the Anglo-Norman concept of free warren, which was essentially the equivalent of a hunting license for a given woodland. In parallel domestic warrens were developed as enclosed areas where the person claimed ownership of the rabbits. Such an enclosure was referred to as a 'coneygarth'. These medieval landscape features referring to by archaeologists as 'pillow mounds' have been identified in some areas in Ireland.

A townland to the west of Creggs Village is called 'Rabbit Park'. The townland name may originate from the presence of domestic rabbit warrens here in the past. However the land today is under intensive pasture land and was the subject of clearance during the Pollok estate changes of the late 19th century. The only visible trace of a historic landscape feature is the faint trace of a circular enclosure. The potential connection between the townland name and possibility of the presence of a rabbit warren here in the past could however be alluded to in future heritage interpretation of the area.

3.7. 19th Century Landscape Changes

Between 1850 and 1875, several large parcels of land were bought in the Glinsk/Creggs area by a wealthy Scottish Family, the Polloks. The purchases were made through the Encumbered Estates Court. The lands were registered in the name of Allan Pollok and his wife Margaret and were formerly the property of the Burke, Dowell and Kenny families.

At this time the 'improved' model of agriculture developed in Scotland was seen as a model of efficiency and Allan Pollok sought to implement this model on his newly acquired lands in Ireland. He set about reducing the number of tenants and their houses and clearing field boundaries to create a new, well regulated, model farming environment of large open fields. His ideal was to replace tenants as paid labourers. The results of this 'improvement' are evident in the regularisation of several townland boundaries, the channelisation of the Derryhippoo River at Creggs village, the installation of new drainage channels, the clearance of old villages and the enlarging of fields between 1850 and 1891, as can be seen from an examination of the First edition 6-inch OS map (1839) and the 1891 revision of that map. The story of these major landscape changes could be interpreted through a display in the Creggs Heritage Centre.

3.8. 19th Century Estate Houses

There are a number of large houses within the study area which date to the late 18th and early 19th century and are connected first to the Burke estate and later to the Pollock Estate.

The Burkes left their main residence, Glinsk Castle, sometime in the late 18th century and Joseph Burke went to live in **Fairfield House** near Creggs. It was held in fee by Alan Pollok at the time of Griffiths Valuation (1855) and valued at £18. The original house is no longer extant but a modern house stands on the site.

In 1813, part of the Burke estate was sold to Allen Dowell, who had family connections in nearby County Roscommon. Dowell built **Skehaghard House** near Creggs in 1840. It was occupied by Edward Dowell at the time of Griffith's Valuation when it was valued at £32 but was purchased by Allan Pollok shortly after. It then became the home of Pollock's steward, George Lowe, for a time before being leased to Martin J. McDonnell from 1883-1912. In 1918 it was taken over by the Congested Districts Board and the house was demolished in 1919. Several of the original farmyard buildings still survive (Scott, P. 2014).

Michael Kelly was the tenant of **Curraghbeg House** when he acted as agent for the Burke estate and the adjoining Dowell estate. He continued to act as agent for Allan Pollok for a short time after Pollok purchased the estates, but



Figure 17: Cut stone estate cottage at Millford.

Kelly resigned when asked to evict large numbers of tenants from the land, for no other reason than clearance. He became a strong voice in the local opposition to the changes being imposed by Pollok. In September 1855, Pollok evicted Kelly from Curraghbeg.

Millford House was also a Pollok estate tenant house in 1855. The house and farmyard buildings remain today.

Creggs House was built c.1860 as part of the Pollok estate. It has a large farmyard complex of single and two storey buildings, reputedly built by a firm of Scottish contractors, located to the east of the house. The house and farmyard buildings are protected structures (NIAH Reg NO. 30402005)

The ruins of two hipped, slated roofs, cut stone, double cottages on opposite sides of the crossroads between Millford and Millpark townlands were probably tenant houses built for the Pollok estate, as they resemble closely in form similar houses built by Pollok on his Lismany Estate near Ballinasloe. Each house has a pair of central doors set into a recessed porch.

At the southern entrance to Creggs Village there is a row of four attached cottages which were possibly built for workers of the Pollok estate. They were constructed sometime between 1891 and 1930. The building is in poor repair and ivy covered. The cottages are one room deep with an upper floor in the roof space. Built with cut limestone blocks, the row is gable ended with two central chimneystacks. The roof is slated. To the front of the block are the overgrown front gardens which are enclosed by a stone wall with entrances through single wrought iron pedestrian gates set between limestone piers.



Figure 18: Row of workers cottages, Creggs Village.



Figure 19: View of central area and treelined bank of Abbeygrey enclosure

Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites are generally characterised by a number of features. The 'termon' or holy area was enclosed with 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.

3.9. Abbeygrey Monastic Site

In the townland of Abbeygrey (also known as Monasternalea) there is a very large oval earthen bank enclosure, which by local tradition is associated with the Franciscan Order. However, Gwynn and Hadcock (1970, 363, also 372 www.archaeology.ie) record it as an early ecclesiastical site. The surviving physical structure supports this early dating placing it in the Early Medieval Period approximately two centuries before the Franciscan Order settled in Ireland.

The monument consists of a well preserved sub circular enclosure measuring 201m from north to south and c.190m from east to west with an entrance in the East-South-East. The enclosure is surrounded by an earthen bank and external fosse.

Mature Oak, Ash and Holly trees grow on the bank, which reaches a height of c. 4m from the base of the fosse in the southern quadrant. The base of the fosse measures c. 6m from the inner bank to the base of the outer slope. (These measurements were taken in the south section where the internal dividing boundary meets the enclosure boundary).

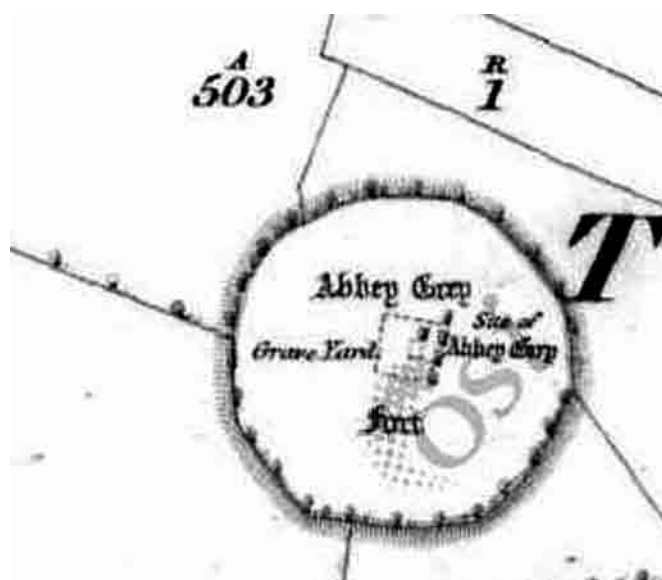
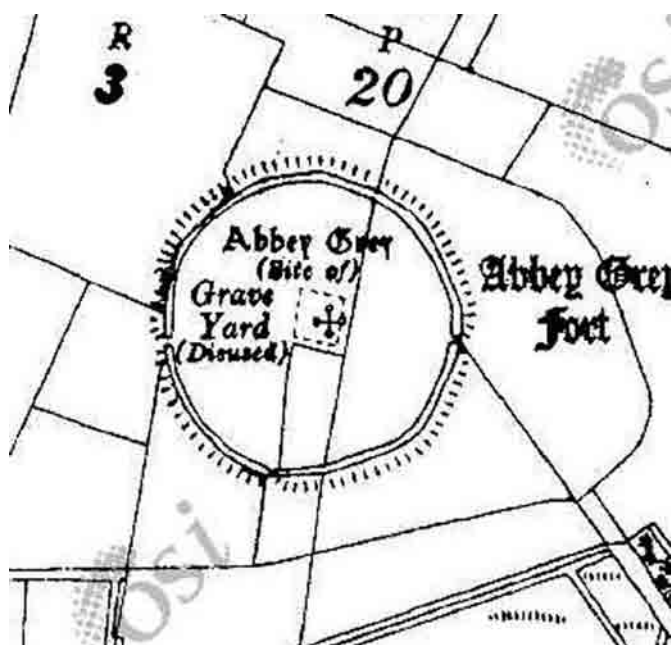


Figure 21: Abbeygrey: first edition OS 6-inch map (1839) and Abbeygrey: second edition OS 6-inch map (c.1930)

A sandstone bullaun stone is set into the inner face of the enclosing boundary in the south east quadrant. It is D-shaped with a large, well-formed central bowl c.7cm deep and has a height of c.20cm on the flat external face.

The central area of the enclosure is improved pasture, which is used for grazing. The interior of the enclosure is divided into two sections (approximately 2/3 and 1/3 of total area) by an earthen bank and treeline along a north-south axis. A local resident, Padraic Kelly, informed the audit team that this boundary had been created c.1910. It is not recorded on the first edition OS 6inch map but is present on the second edition map (c.1930) which would support this dating.

A rectangular area in the centre of the enclosure to the west of the dividing boundary is marked as the site of a graveyard and an associated building on the Ordnance Survey first edition and second edition 6 inch maps. This area is very overgrown today and the foundations of a building are hard to discern. The boundary of the area is marked by the foundation stones and earth of an enclosing bank/wall and there are a number of set upright stones scattered throughout the enclosed area which may mark burials.

Access to Abbeygrey ecclesiastical site is through privately owned farmland.



Figure 20: Bullaun stone at Abbeygrey



Figure 22: Kilbegnet Graveyard

3.10. Kilbegnet Graveyard

Kilbegnet Graveyard is likely the site of the medieval parish church of the Civil Parish of Kilbegnet, which was listed as Kilbegnata in the ecclesiastical taxation of Elphin in 1306 (Cal. doc. Ire., vol. 5, 224). Located adjacent to the road from Creggs to Donamon, it is situated on a low hill. Access is provided through a metal pedestrian gateway. The graveyard is wedge shaped and surrounded by masonry walls. In the centre is a small cairn of stones which may be the remains of the church.

Two sections of a post medieval cross are located within the graveyard. It has a square profile and the remains of the shaft have chamfered edges with angular stops.

The remains of the head is inscribed with the initials JOS and the date 1632. Information from Larry Kilcommins indicates that this cross may have been erected for Jacopus O Scingín (James Skeffington) who held a Brehon school nearby and is listed in 1574 as the owner of a castle and lands at Kilbegnet in the list of Connaught landowners. Larry has traced the foundations of the Skeffington Castle in the townland of Carrownaglogh.



Figure 23: Inscribed section of post medieval cross



Figure 24: 17th century graveslab in Kilbegnet graveyard.



Figure 25: Remains of Mort Safe in Kilbegnet Graveyard.

A branch of the Uí Scingín migrated from Roscommon (where they had been *erenaghs* of Ardcarne) to Tír Conaill in the thirteenth century. This kind of migration of learned men in search of new patrons was common at this time following the break-up of the monastic schools and the ongoing formation of parishes. The Uí Scingín became chroniclers and traditional historians to the Uí Dhomhnaill chiefs of Tír Conaill between the 13th and 15th centuries. But, other branches of the family remained on in the Roscommon area, such as the Kilbegnet branch.

Invariably, learned family landholdings are found in territorial boundaries and this is the case at Kilbegnet, being on an old boundary of Uí Maine (on border between baronies of Ballymoe and Athlone). (Information courtesy of Dr Elizabeth Fitzpatrick NUIG).

Within the footprint of the church is a 17th century graveslab. It consists of a ring headed cross with ornate Fleur-de-Lys terminals and a stepped Calvary base, typical of the period. The initials IB are inscribed in the lower quadrant of the circle and the date 1624 below the circle.

Another interesting feature found within the graveyard is a blacksmith made mort safe. This unusual item is similar to two examples found in Ahascragh graveyard, County Galway, also in the Diocese of Elphin. All three could possibly have been made by the same blacksmith. Their function was to protect the freshly interred corpses from body snatchers, also known as 'resurrectionists' or 'sack 'em ups'. The practice of supplying fresh cadavers to the medical profession was at its height in the 18th and 19th centuries, when the study of the human anatomy for the purposes of medical science was in its infancy. The mort safes are of simple design and although unlikely to cause a major barrier to robbery, they were used as a 'preventative' measure.

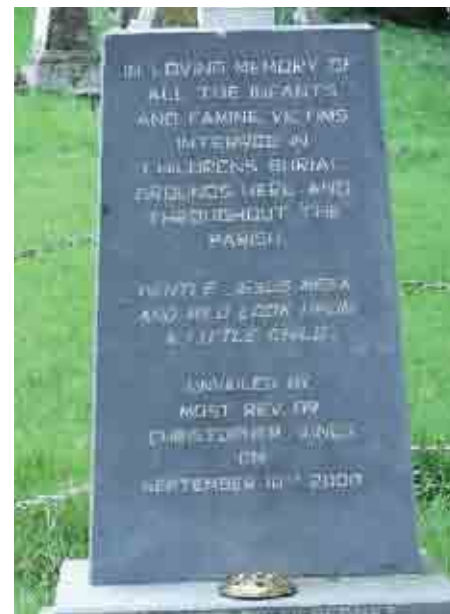


Figure 26: Gravestone iconography at Kilbegnet

There are a number of interesting gravestones with iconography and heraldic inscriptions also to be found within Kilbegnet Graveyard.

An area within the graveyard was used for burial during Famine Times and as a children's burial ground. This space has been enclosed and a memorial stone was erected by a local committee in September 2000.

3.11. Coolaspadaun Church and Graveyard

To the east of Ballydacker Lough on the opposite side of the road are the wall foundations of a rectangular structure believed to have been a church. An area around the church which is partially enclosed by an earthen bank is believed to be a graveyard.

The site has recently been cleared of overgrown vegetation by a local group of volunteers and a wooden stile erected to allow access to the site. A large pillar stone which has been inscribed with a large cross and a series of smaller crosses is being prepared for installation at the site entrance.



Figure 27: Remains of church wall



Figure 28: Modern inscribed pillar stone under preparation

3.12. Crosswell and Kilbegnet RC Chapels

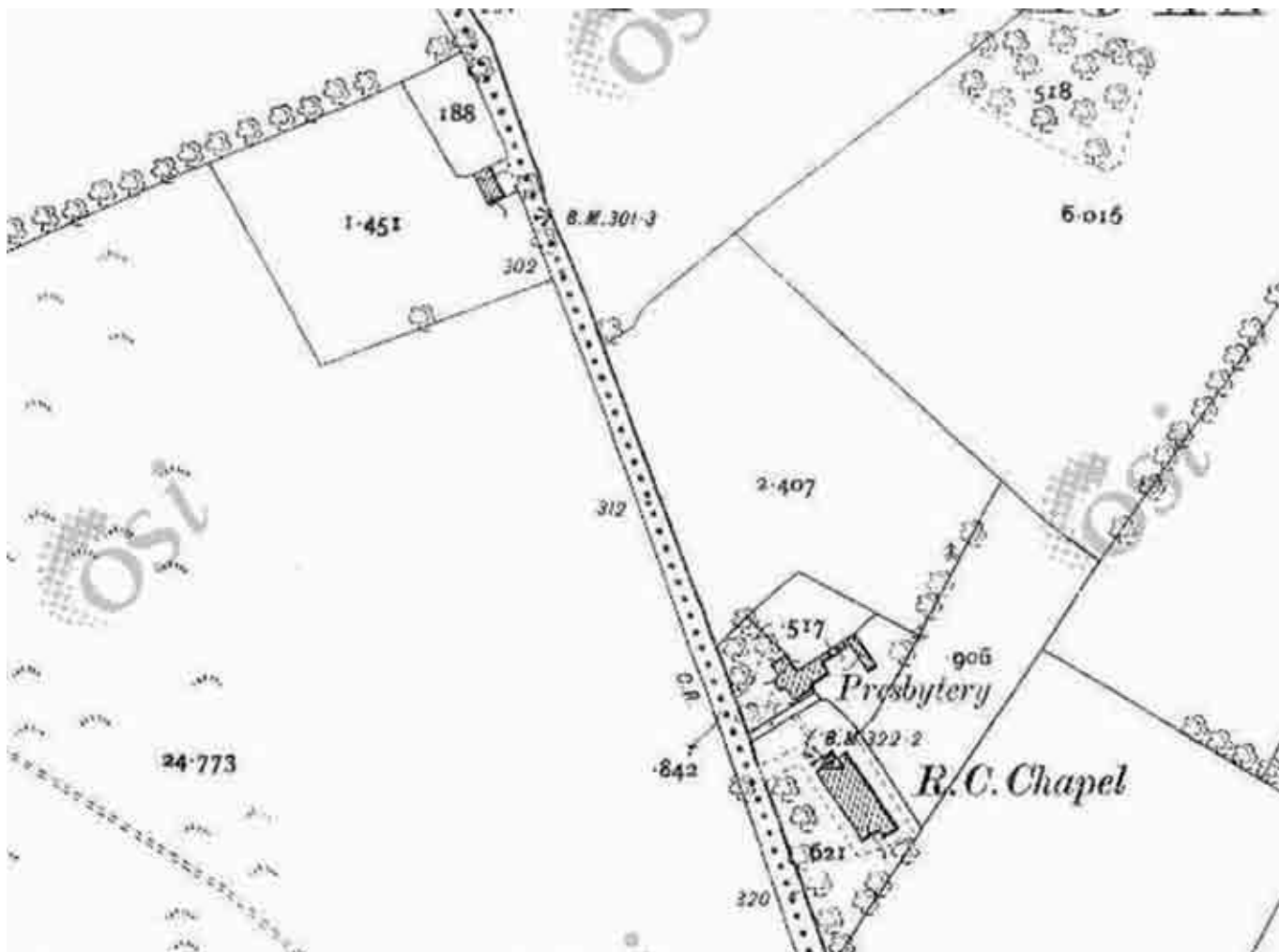


Figure 29: First Edition OS maps Crosswell.

An important penal era stoup which is incorporated today into Kilbegnet Parish church of St Marys bears the date 1777. This simple, punched dressed vessel very likely was originally part of the RC Pre-Emancipation Chapel at Crosswell and may provide a date for the origin of that chapel.



Figure 30: Penal era stoup in St Mary's RC Church



Figure 31: J.P Florence Stained Glass, St Mary's Church

St Mary RC Church

Kilbegnet was originally built in 1839 and reconstructed in 1963. Dedicated to the Virgin Mary, it contains a suite of stained glass by the French stained glass makers J.P. Florence of Tours and Paris. Windows by this firm can also be found in Ballygar Church (also in Elphin Diocese). Dated to c.1892 they show a period of enrichment of the church.



Figure 32: Presbyterian Church Creggs.

3.13. Former Presbyterian Church



Figure 33: Gravestone in Creggs Presbyterian Church.

Creggs Presbyterian church was built in an informal Gothic design in 1862 at a cost of £620 and was designed to accommodate 110 persons. The foundation stone was laid by Alan Pollok, who was a Scottish Presbyterian and he contributed half the cost of the church and half the cost of the home for the resident minister. Pollok brought in Presbyterian skilled workers to work his estate and so was very influential in the provision of this church for their religious worship. It was opened in January 1863 and continued in use until the 1920s by which time the small Presbyterian congregation had dwindled.

The church stands as a ruin today within its own walled grounds planted with oak and lime trees.

The gable front of the church has a central shallow projection into which the entrance doorway is set. The doorway is a pointed arch with a moulded surround and hood moulding. Above the doorway is a trefoil window opening and above that is the bellcote with a round arch bell opening and pyramidal roof.

The walls of the church are ashlar limestone. The pitched roof of the four bay nave is no longer extant and no interior features survive. A single graveyard headstone commemorating 'Jane McCracken' has been placed within the church interior.

The building is a recorded protected structure (NIAH Reg number 30402001).



Figure 34: Dunamon Church of Ireland

3.14. Dunamon Church of Ireland Church

The CI Church at Dunamon was built in 1854 on a site donated by Sir George Caulfield Esq., who owned Dunamon Castle at that time. He also donated £50 to the building works. This church was built to replace the older church which stood in the grounds of Dunamon Castle. Several mural plaques within the present day church originate from the older church. The church was designed by Joseph Welland who was the appointed architect to the Board of First Fruits in Tuam Province in the early 1800s. He designed several Church of Ireland churches in County Galway including those in Ballinalsoe, Clifden, Aughrim and Portumna. Built in Gothic Revival style, Dunamon Church stands within its own grounds, enclosed by a rendered stone wall. Entrance to the site is through a set of cast iron gates set between ashlar limestone gate piers. The church is built from rock faced cut limestone.

It is gabled ended with a four bay nave and a pitched slate roof. Buttresses project at the side of each gable. Above the south-west gable is a bellcote with a cast iron bell and chain. The chain hangs through an opening in the stone roof of a bell ringing room which projects from the lower section of this gable. A similar projection from the opposite gable houses the vestry.

The entrance doorway is set in a projecting pitched roof porch at the south-west end of the building. The doorway has a pointed arch with a tooled stone surround and studded timber battened door decorated with cast iron fittings. Two stone steps lead up to the entrance door. The windows have cast iron fittings and diamond shaped glass inset.



Figure 35: Dunamon Bridge

3.15. Bridges

The Creggs District is crisscrossed by several streams and rivers, which has led to the building of various sizes and shapes of bridges overtime. Three of these bridges, Dunamon, Rookwood and Creggs, are Recorded Protected Structures (RPS) under the County Council Records and the National Inventory of Architectural heritage (NIAH).

Dunamon Bridge crosses the River Suck at a historical strategic crossing point, immediately in front of Dunamon Castle. The Castle was first recorded in the Annals of the Four Masters and it is likely a bridge crossing of some form was present at this time. The Down Survey map of Ballymoe Barony, created in 1683 records a bridge at this point. The present day bridge was probably built by the Caulfield family c.1770 when they were extending and altering Dunamon Castle. It has ten arches and full height V-cutwaters on both sides. Pedestrian refuges at parapet level protect walkers from oncoming traffic.

Creggs Bridge was built c.1800 and reconstructed c.1850. It is a small hump-backed bridge, built of rubble limestone with two arches of unequal size and rectangular plan cutwaters. The Derryhippo River which flows under Creggs Bridge was realigned probably during drainage works on the Pollok estate in the mid-1850s. The bridge was reconstructed at this time to facilitate the new flow pattern. In more recent years, the channel of the river has been channelized further at this point by the insertion of concrete banks.

Ballina Bridge crosses the Derryhippoo River on the Creggs to Glinsk road. This low, single arch bridge is built of rubble limestone with cut stone limestone voussoirs. It lies at the intersection of the townlands of Millford, Garraun South and Oughtagh.. The name Ballina translates as 'Béal-an-Átha' – the mouth of the ford, indicating that this was a fording point on the river prior to any bridge being constructed. Named on the First Edition 6-inch OS map its construction predates 1839.



Figure 36: Creggs Bridge



Figure 37: Ballina Bridge



Figure 38: Pollok estate houses.

3.16. Creggs Village Buildings

The stone building which housed Connelly's Lounge Bar was built by Alan Pollok to house his workers. It contains two semi-detached, gable roofed, houses built of rubble limestone with cut stone quoins, limestone plinth and cut stone window surrounds. The house to the right has a plastered and painted front elevation. A concrete shop front was inserted into the exposed stone house on the left in the mid-20th century. This building is notable for its connections to the Pollok Estate, its 19th century architectural features, its mid-20th century shop front and the historic fact that Charles Stewart Parnell made his final public speech from this location.

On the east side of the main street in Creggs Village a small cottage has an open walled addition with a stepped top to its street front elevation. This structure housed Jimmy McKeague shop in the 1950s. A statue of Our Lady originally stood in the small alcove above the name plate which is still visible.

The Art Deco style shopfront on the west side of Creggs Main Street was originally operated as a Public House, Grocery and Drapery by Martin Tiernan. The front elevation of the building has a smooth painted knap finish with corner and window quoins, base plinth and upper cornice picked out in a contrasting shade. The top has a stepped curved decorative pediment which reflects a moulded architrave above the name



Above: Figure 39: McKeagues old shopfront.



Right: Figure 40: Art Deco style shopfront.



Figure 41: Creggs Heritage Centre

plate of the shopfront. Although no longer operational, the shop front has been maintained with central doorway and large side display windows with the words Bar and Lounge on opaque glass and painted concrete window sills.

The Charles Stewart Parnell Heritage Centre is located in a cut stone building which was owned by the Southwell or Shadwell family when they operated an iron working forge here in the 19th century. The building has been renovated by the local community and developed to house an interpretive display of local history interests. Features of the interpretation include written and photographic descriptions of the Land Wars and Parnell's address at Creggs, historic and natural heritage features within the greater region, O'Sullivan Beare's route through the area on his epic march and displays of heritage artefacts found in the locality.

The freestanding ashlar limestone monument to Charles Stewart Parnell in Creggs Village was unveiled on December 29, 1946 by Taoiseach Éamon DeValera, to commemorate Parnell's visit to the village, where he addressed a public meeting. This was Parnell's last public address as he died shortly afterwards. The monument is a protected structure under the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH Reg No 30402002) and the County Galway Record of Protected Structures. It is comprised of a pair of piers supporting a lintel capped by a stepped pyramid top incorporating an Irish Harp carving. A framed portrait sculpture of Parnell is inserted into a recessed area between the piers with the words 'Ireland a Nation' and 'Let my love be conveyed to my colleagues and to the Irish people' inscribed. This plaque is the work of the Dublin artist Des Broe. The surrounding monument was produced by the monumental sculptors M. Murphy of Glenamaddy.



Figure 42: Parnell Monument with makers name inscribed.



Figure 43: Hollygrove National School

3.17. Schools

The present day Creggs National School stands on the site of a school built in 1852 and reconstructed in the 1930s. The 1897 school replaced an earlier school which stood closer to the River, where the Wildlife Park is located today. The present day building was constructed in 1979/80.

Hollygrove National School was built in 1899 and stands in ruins today on the south shore of Ballydacker Lough. It has the uniform plan of the schoolhouses built at this time. It is a detached four-bay single-storey building with the square-headed windows now boarded up. It has a pitched slate roof, with rendered chimneystack, and cast-iron rainwater goods. The walls are rendered with cement and an inscribed limestone plaque reading 'Hollygrove National School 1899' is placed over the square-headed main entrance door opening.

Kilbegnet School had 80 pupils in the 1840s and was closed in the 1970s. The building is located next to the new Kilbegnet Graveyard.



Figure 44: Unidentified wall recess

3.18. Unidentified Feature

A heavily overgrown, stone built recess in a boundary wall on the Millford Road was shown to the consultants by Larry Kilcummins. The purpose of this recess could not be determined but local comments received through the community consultation process suggest that it may have been a guards hut during the Land Wars period. Located close to Fairfield House, which was a Pollok estate house, this could possibly be its purpose but it cannot be verified.

SECTION FOUR: REMNANTS OF PAST LOCAL INDUSTRIES AND CRAFTS



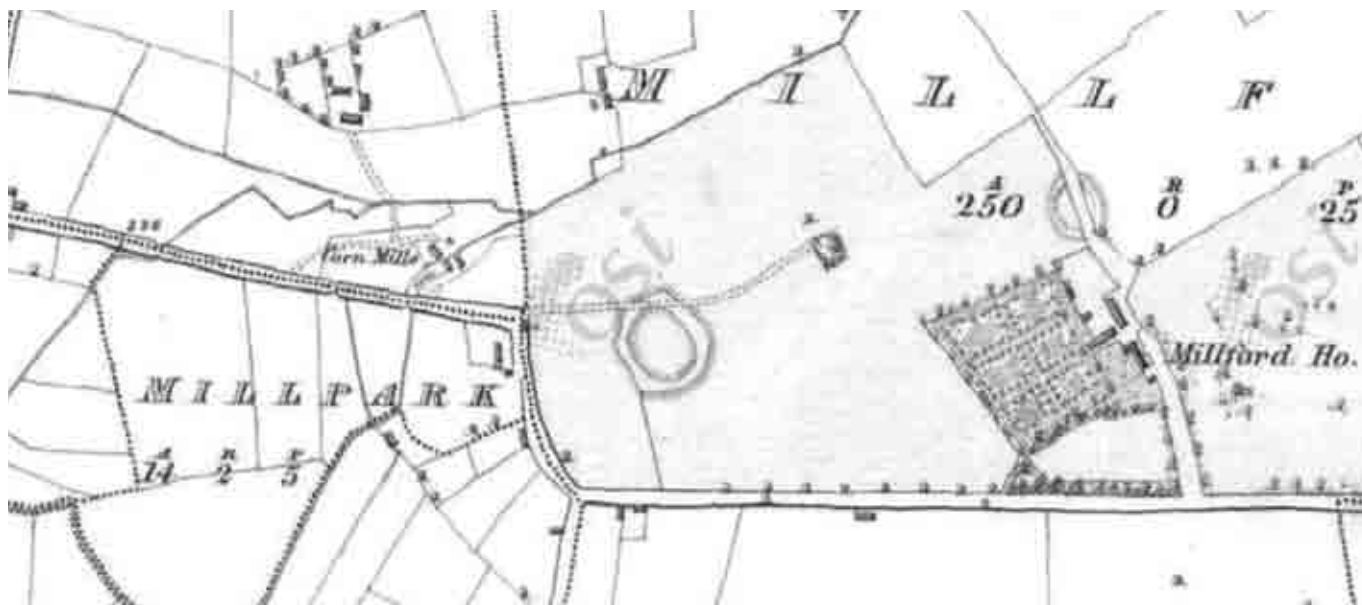
4.1. Grain Milling

A section of the upper stone of a disc quern used for grinding grain is housed in Creggs Heritage Centre. This sandstone quern is unusual in that it is inscribed with an ornate cross. Crosses of this type can be dated to anywhere between the twelfth and seventeenth century. The stone was found in nearby Rosmoylan Wood.

Figure 44: Decorated remnant of a upper stone of disc quern

The first edition OS six-inch maps (c.1839) shows corn mills with a small millpond in Milford townland. These structures no longer existed when the maps were revised in 1891. It is very likely that they were removed during the major landscape changes made in this area by Alan Pollok between the late 1850s and 1890.

Below: Figure 45: Corn mills and pond at Millford on 1st ed OS 6-inch maps (c.19839)



The first edition OS six-inch maps also show corn kilns in Farranakelly and Aghagower and a malt kiln in Creggauns townland.

The corn kilns would have been used to dry the corn before milling, while the malt kiln indicates a stage in the whiskey brewing process.

Early kilns, such as these, consisted of a fire below a floor of fine wire mesh or perforated tiles. The corn or malt was spread thinly over the floor and the fire's heat allowed to rise through it. Peat was most likely used as the fuel in this area giving a smoky flavour to the malt and clay tiles were probably available readily from the local brick works (see section 4.3). These structures are no longer visible today, but the sites can be indicated and interpreted for future heritage trail purposes.

4.2. Stone Quarrying

The hard block of conglomerate rock that runs through the centre of the study area has been quarried out over the centuries, especially in the Mount Mary area, to provide building blocks for local buildings. This rock is visible in many of the local buildings and field walls. The following extract from the Memoirs of the Geological Survey of Ireland 1868 provides a description of the exposure of the rocks on Mount Mary in 1868 and the number of small quarries which were active at this time.

quarters of a mile S. of Park, on the road-side, and in a small brook, may be seen, *in situ*, red and greenish shales and yellow flaggy sandstones lying horizontal. Proceeding westward from this, toward the summit of Mount Mary, trigonometrical point, \triangle 540, we meet with a considerable exposure of thick beds of conglomerate, at first nearly horizontal, but dipping, as we approach the summit, S.S.W. and W. at from 3° to 5° .

Immediately at and about the trigonometrical point occur horizontal beds of yellowish white micaceous flags. The surrounding heathery moorland is thickly strewn with the angular *debris* and blocks of these grits, flags, and conglomerates.

About one-third of a mile N. of the summit, on the road side, are quarries in beds of yellow and yellowish white quartzose sandstones, thick grits, and flags, dipping from W.N.W. to N.W. at from 5° to 20° . Due W. of the summit, at and near the cross-roads, are old quarries in similar beds, but the dip is obscure; and one-third of a mile W.S.W. of it is another quarry showing yellowish sandy micaceous flags, dipping S.W. at from 2° to 5° . Stretching away thence towards the east, south, and west, the hill consists of barren moorland, thickly strewn with large and small angular fragments and blocks of conglomerate and grits, the weathered *debris* of the subjacent rock protruding through a scanty covering of heather and peat.

Less than a mile to the S.W. are some small quarries in yellowish grits, the beds lying horizontal. Another, less than a quarter of a mile N.W. of Retagh, shows a southerly dip of 5° ; and in another, about half a mile to the S.W. of this, similar beds may be seen dipping N. at 3° , or nearly horizontal. At Boggans, along the side of the road, are several small exposures of yellowish white sandstones dipping to S. and S.W. at 2° or 3° . One-third of a mile S.W. of Boggans, on the road-side, are yellowish gray sandstones, with a slight dip, if any, to the W., and at the same distance, still further S.W., are gray micaceous flags, dipping W. at from 3° to 5° .

A little more than half a mile further S.W. on the same road, close to Cappagh, green gritty flags dip to S.E. at 3° . All about Cappagh the ground is strewn with the angular *debris* of red and yellow grits and flags, and in several new drains these rocks have been reached, *in situ*, at a short depth below the surface. The conglomerate, sandstones, shales, grit, and flags, have all been coloured as Old Red Sandstone.

Figure 46: Extract from the Geological Survey of Ireland 1868 Memoirs (<http://geologicalmaps.net/IrishHistMaps/index.cfm>)

4.3. Clay Brick, Pipes and Pottery Manufacturing

As previously mentioned, the clay deposits which form the alluvium soils along the rivers and streams of the area have been exploited in the past for the production of bricks, clay pipes and drainage pipes. Examples of clay pipes made on the Pollok estate in the mid-19th century and used for the drainage of the land are on display in the C.S. Parnell Heritage Centre in Creggs village. These short pipes vary from cylindrical circular tubes, to rectangular box-like structures. They were made from the local clay in a pipe factory and fired in a kiln.

Figure 47: Clay drainage pipes on display in the Heritage Centre



HERITAGE AUDIT OF CREGGS & DISTRICT

Mineral deposits recorded in the townland of Park by the Geological Survey of Ireland (red diamond marked areas on Figure 48 consist of non-metallic coarse pottery clay).



Figure 48: Mineral Deposit localities in Park townland
(Source: www.gsi.ie "Contains Irish Public Sector Data (Geological Survey) licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) licence").

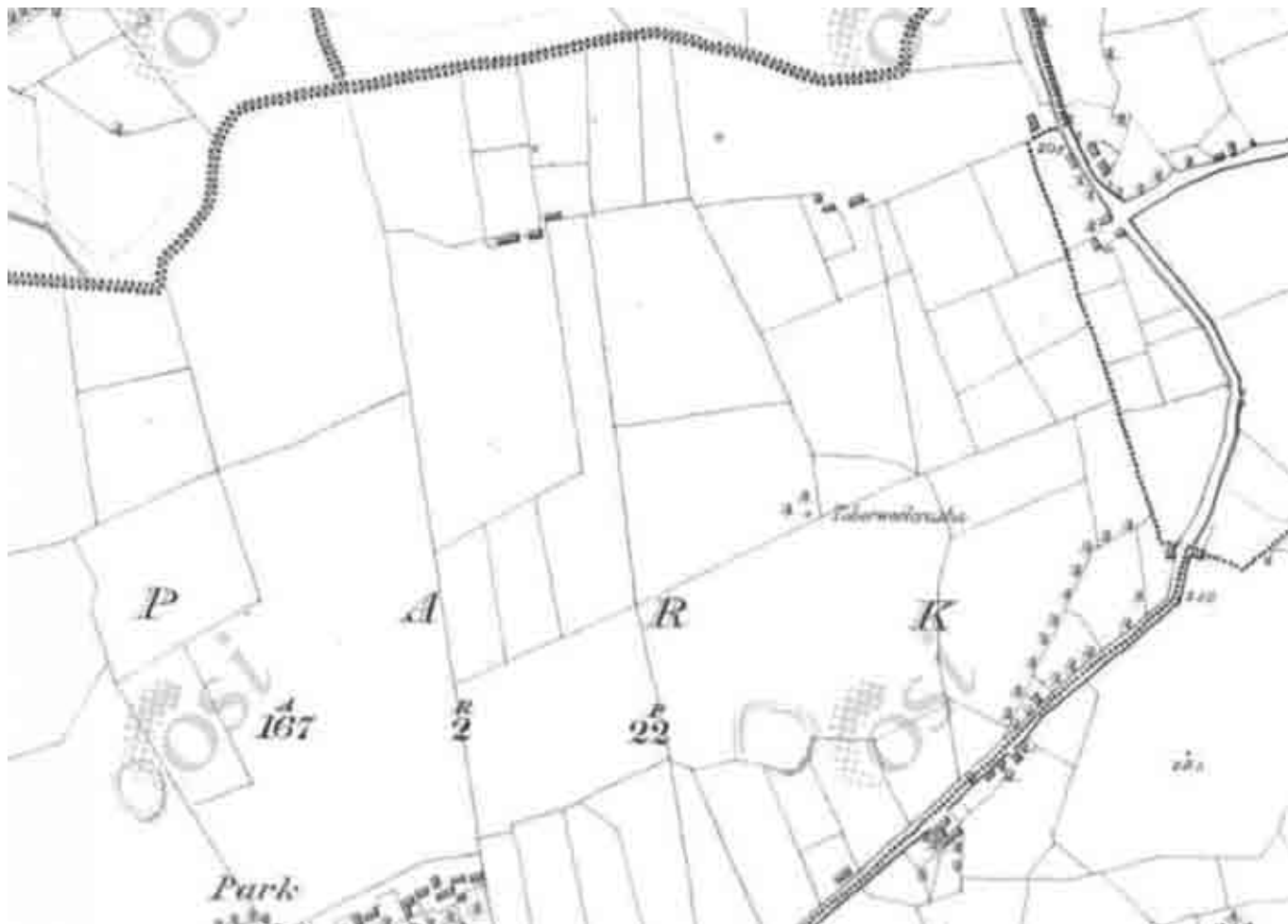


Figure 49: First Edition OS 6-inch (c.1839) map showing a section of Park townland

On the first edition OS six-inch map (c.1839) this area is occupied with houses and a well to the south named Toberweelcrusha.

By 1891 (revised 1st ed OS six inch map) the houses and well have been cleared, the river has been straightened and the area is occupied by a lime kiln with surrounding quarry. These changes were very likely part of the 19th century Pollok estate 'modernisation'.

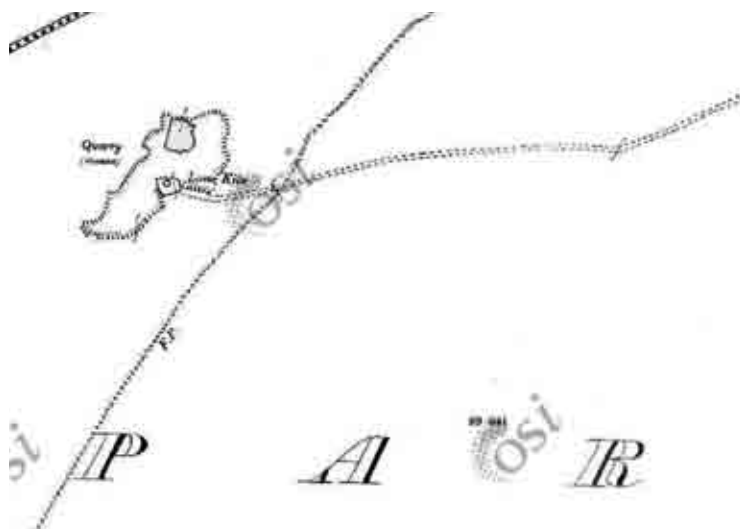


Figure 50: Revised First Edition OS 6-inch (c.1891) map showing a section of Park townland
(www.hertiegemaps.ie)

Samuel Lewis in his 'Topographical Dictionary of Ireland' 1840 records 'Tobacco pipes and coarse pottery were made at Creggs'. The Geological Survey Memoirs of 1868 record that coarse bricks are being made at this time from clay found in the alluvial flats along the Creggs River. The bricks were being sold for between 7s and 10s per thousand.

in lamina ; it also curls round the blocks that protrude up out of bed No. 1.

***Brick Clay.*—Coarse bricks are made out of clay raised east of Cross House, which lies near the N.E. corner of Sheet 106, and out of clay raised in the flat on the N.E. of Athenry. They are also made from clay found in the alluvial flats along the Cregg River, at the west of the district. In the latter place they get from 7s. to 10s. a thousand for them. The bricks are coarse and ill-favoured on account of the calcareous matter contained in the clay.**

The age of the clay near Cross House is uncertain, but the clays in the other localities have undoubtedly been deposited during the formation of the alluvial flats and bogs."

A T T

Figure 51: Extract from the Geological Survey of Ireland 1868 Memoirs (<http://geologicalmaps.net/IrishHistMaps/index.cfm>)

This area today consists of large mounds of soil with quarried areas which are now waterlogged and the remains of a lime kiln set into one of the mounds. Also located here are four salt glazed animal drinking troughs. Inscribed on the troughs are three names – Eglinton, Redstone and Perceton. These have been traced through this audit to the Scottish Fireclay Works of The Eglinton Fire Clay Works in Kilwinning, Redstone Fire Clay Works Kilwinning and J & M Craig, Perceton Fireclay Works, Dreghorn, Ayrshire). <https://www.scottishbrickhistory.co.uk>

As the landlord Alan Pollok was Scottish, it is highly probable that these troughs were imported by him and used on his estate at Creggs in the late 19th century.

The story of the clay pottery industry should be interpreted in the Creggs Heritage Centre. The quarry area and lime kiln in Park townland are on private land and are inaccessible, but can be viewed across the river from the Suck Valley Way walking route.



Figure 52: Remains of Scottish salt glazed drinking troughs

4.4. 18th century Iron Works

In several localities around Creggs Village pieces of iron bloom have been identified. This bloom is derived when bog iron ore is smelted in a blast furnace. The following newspaper clipping from the Dublin Journal 14 February 1743 records an Iron Works at Creggs.

Figure 53: Piece of iron bloom found in Creggs by Larry Kilcommins (July 2018)



...said House of Ardara, and be further informed.
TO be sold, the large Wood now growing on the Lands of the
 Pollough, within 4 Miles of Mountmelick, and 7 of Mountrath, in
 both which Towns there are Iron Works. Also the Woods on the Lands
 called the Deerpark, near Mountrath; and the Woods on the Lands of Ag-
 harpey in the Kings County, near Tullamore. Also a Parcel of full grown
 Ash and Sycamore, fit for Coachmakers or Turners Use; and the Oak Woods
 on the Lands of Castlecoote and Crevenmully, in the County of Roscommon,
 within 3 Miles of the Iron Works at Creggs. The said Woods belong to the
 Rt. Hon. the Earl of Mountrath. Proposals to be sent in Writing to Henry
 Uscher, Esq; in Peter-Street, Dublin. NB. No second Proposal will be re-
 ceived from any Person.
 * * * * * and sold by Messrs. Neal and Manwaring, the

Figure 54: Extract from The Dublin Journal dated 14 February 1743 (courtesy of Dr Paul Rondalez)

The sale particulars of the Dowell estate, purchased by Allan Pollok in the late 1850s suggested that Mount Mary was reputed to contain a valuable iron mine (Scott, P. 2014)

The townland name 'Coalpits' may refer to the same area. This area is now planted with commercial forestry. Larry Kilcommins remembers hollows in the ground in this area, which were believed locally to be coalmine shafts. However there is no recorded evidence of coal seams in this area. The hollows could possibly have been where bog ore was dug out or more likely charcoal pits where local trees were burnt to make charcoal which in turn would be used to smelt the bog ore and make iron. Larry also remembers the original townland name as Rosálainn, which translates as 'beautiful wood' and supports the idea of an earlier woodland on this site.

4.5. Forging Iron

The entrance gateway to the former Presbyterian Church has cast iron gates decorated with acanthus leaf finials, set between cut limestone piers with pyramidal capstones.

Outside the rugby grounds a high quality, wrought iron, blacksmith made, one and a half gate is set between two square cut limestone pillars with pyramidal capstones. The gate is decorated with three open lozenge

shaped designs. Local information from Larry Kilcommins related that this gate was manufactured in the Shadwell forge (located where the heritage centre stands today) and it was made for the Pollok estate.



Figure 54: Blacksmith made wrought iron gates in Creggs Village



Figure 54: Blacksmith made wrought iron gates in Creggs Village



A cast-iron village water pump was erected c.1870 and is set into the enclosing boundary wall of the grounds of the Presbyterian Church. This was the village water supply. Today it is an attractive decorative feature with its fluted shaft with attached cow's tail pumping handle, spout with bucket grip and fluted conical cap with pointed finial. The raised area around the pump has been planted by the Creggs Tidy Towns Group. The pump is a protected structure listed on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH Reg No 30402008) and the County Galway Record of Protected Structure.

Two Smithys are recorded in Creggs Village in 1891 on the revised OS 1st Ed six-inch map. Both were located on the east side of the main street.



Figure 55: The Village Pump

In recent memory Luke Kelly and Mick Murray each operated a forge in Creggs village which serviced the local community.

Mick Murrays forge was located behind a small thatched house with a wrought iron gate, decorated with round headed finials, leading into the area. The house stands today with an asbestos roof and sections of the gate survive.



Figure 56: Site of Mick Murrays forge with wrought iron gate

4.6. Plaster Craft

Jack Gavin a local craftsman from the Creggs/ Glinsk area was responsible for several decorative plaster mouldings which adorn houses in Creggs Village and St Marys Parochial Hall. He was assisted in some works by Larry Mulague (pers comm Larry Kilcommins).



Figure 57: Decorative plaster features in Creggs Village



St Mary's Hall was built in 1954 and the decorative plaque depicting the apparition of Our Lady at Fatima on the gable was erected to commemorate that Marian Year. The oval medallion-shaped panel is over one metre high

and a plaster insert depicts the scene of Our Lady appearing in the fields to the three young shepherd children at Fatima in the summer of 1917.

4.7. Stone Craft

An octagonal slate, sun dial decorated with roman numerals and a sunburst and inscribed 'Constructed and engraved by Hugh Kelly Gorteenruckaun 1885' is in the possession of Padraic Kelly the makers grandson. The revised first Edition OS six-inch map (1891) indicates a sun dial in the garden beside the Kelly House in Gorteenruckaun townland.

Hugh was also the stonemason who cut the stone for Hollygrove School.



Figure 58: Gorteenruckaun Sun dial
(courtesy of Padraic Kelly)

SECTION FIVE: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Conclusions

The aim of this community-led project was to audit the potentially accessible built, cultural and natural heritage of Creggs with a view to developing interpretive materials and a heritage trail for local residents and visitors.

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

The story of the evolution of the local geology and shaping of the landscape by ice has good intrinsic interest and open accessible viewing points from public roads and the Suck Valley Way designated walkway. However there is no interpretation of this resource at present.

The natural heritage of the district is varied and accessible. The Suck Valley Way designated walking route provides an important publicised marked routeway for access to these sites, including rivers, lakes, woodlands and peatlands. The freshwater resource of the district is well developed in terms of access and recreational fishing facilities by Inland Fisheries Ireland. Sites are promoted on their web sites and signage and information boards are provided on-site with regard to the fish community present. However there is little interpretation with regard to the holistic ecology and archaeology of the lake sites.

The Creggs Wildlife Park is an accessible area for the local community, especially the schoolchildren, for natural heritage educational and awareness purposes. Informative and active interpretation is provided to the wildlife and plants of the park through illustrated panels and biodiversity projects.

The district has a rich built and cultural heritage dating from prehistory up to the 20th century. Many of the sites associated with these aspects of heritage identified in this audit are accessible and have the potential for inclusion in a walking/driving heritage trail for the district and to be the subject of fixed interpretation within the Creggs Heritage Centre. The Heritage Centre is a great local community and visitor resource but at present it is underutilised. The display format and the information presented is in need of updating.

5.2. Recommendations for the Development of Heritage Interpretive Materials

1. Consult with Inland Fisheries Ireland with regard to increasing the variety and amount of ecological interpretation provided on their lakeside information boards and seek to have this information included when signage is being reviewed and replaced. Current signage is in good condition but may need replacement/updating in the future.
2. With permission of landowner, remove fireclay animal troughs in Park townland and place in Creggs Heritage Centre for safekeeping and display. Develop interpretive display for origins and working of Pollock Estate using troughs and clay pipes as visuals.
3. Update the interpretive displays in the Heritage Centre and use the information provided in this report to inform a more comprehensive display of local heritage sites which would link with the proposed heritage trail of the district (item 4 below)
4. Develop two heritage trails starting from Creggs Heritage Centre using the data collected in this audit.
 - a. A driving heritage trail of the district: the suggested points of interest are provided in the map and table below (Figure 59)
 - b. A looped walking trail of the features of interest in Creggs Village (Figure 60)

Steps Required to Develop Heritage Trails:

- Discuss with all local residents and landowners the proposed development of each trail and invite comments on same.
- When full community agreement has been obtained, proceed with developing text and illustrative materials for trail interpretation.
- Present both trails through a web based GIS system on a local community webpage and in map leaflet guide, which can be sold through local outlets.

Provide a numbered directional signpost system to direct the user along each trail.

HERITAGE AUDIT OF CREGGS & DISTRICT

POI no.	Site Name
1	Derreen Wood/Rosmoylan Bog
2	Dunamon Castle and bridge
3	Dunamon Church of Ireland
4	An Linn Bhan lake and crannog
5	Kilbegnet Graveyard
6	Moated site
7	Site of Crosswell RC chapel
8	Lough Nasaggart
9	St Marys Church and Hall
10	Ballina Bridge
11	Funshin/Leaha peatlands
12	Pollok tenant houses Millford
13	Ringfort Millford
14	Rabbitpark possible warren site
15	Derryhippoo River
16	Landscape viewing point
17	Mount Mary woodland walks and site of O'Sullivan Beare camp
18	Hollygrove School
19	Ballydacker Lake and Crannogs
20	Coolanspaduan church and graveyard
21	Abbey grey monastic site



Figure 60: Suggested points of interest for heritage driving trail



Figure 60: Suggested sites and route of Creggs Village Heritage Trail

Point of Interest No.	Name
1	Heritage Centre
2	Art Deco building
3	Plaster work on house doorway
4	Pollok estate tenant houses and shopfront
5	Presbyterian Church
6	Village pump
7	Forge gate
8	McKeagues shopfront
9	Murrays forge site
10	Creggs Bridge
11	Row of Pollok estate workers cottages
12	Wildlife Park
13	Creggs National School





Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council

