



GLINSK HERITAGE AUDIT

2025

This project was funded by the Heritage Council
under the Community Grants Scheme 2025

Ref: CH4447



Commissioned by Glinsk Community Development
Society Ltd.



Prepared by
Zena Hctor
DARE Ltd.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Glinsk Community Development Society Ltd. and Zena Hctor DARE Ltd. would like to thank all the people who contributed to the undertaking of this Audit; the people who attended the public consultation meeting and the Heritage Week events; the property owners who provided access to their land and homes and the many people who provided information about their property. Without you, this Audit and report could not have been completed.

We especially wish to acknowledge the work of Marty Ward as former Principal of Glinsk National School and Secretary of Glinsk Community Development for his work in promoting an interest in the rich Heritage of Glinsk over the years.

We thank the Heritage Council for funding this project and to Marie Mannion, Galway County Council Heritage Officer for her support and invaluable advice.

Míle Buíochas

Disclaimer: This report is an information guide and does not act in any way as an invitation to any person to enter onto any of the properties listed. While every care has been taken to ensure accuracy in the compilation of this report, neither the author, Glinsk Community Development Society Ltd. or owners of the properties listed can accept responsibility for errors, omissions or inaccuracies. All information is received and published in good faith. All liabilities for loss, disappointment, negligence or any other damage caused by the reliance on information contained in this report, or in the event of bankruptcy or liquidation of any organisation, company, individual or firm mentioned, or in the event of any organisation, company, individual or firm ceasing to trade, is hereby excluded

Placenames in this report are as per Ordnance Survey spelling with the exception of Ballynakill, which is locally spelt Ballinakill and has been inserted as such on the request of the client.

Table of Contents

1.1.	Project Background	2
1.2.	Project Aim	2
1.3.	Project Brief.....	2
1.4.	Methodology	3
2.	The Study Area	10
2.1.	Geographical Location	10
2.2.	Main heritage attractions	10
2.3.	Townlands	11
2.4.	Topography	12
3.	Natural Heritage.....	13
3.1.	Geology and Geomorphology	13
3.1.1.	Bedrock	13
3.1.3.	Karst	13
3.1.4.	Glacial Deposition.....	15
3.1.2.	Historic Use of the Local Rocks	15
3.2.	Wetlands	18
3.2.1.	River Suck	18
3.2.2.	The Glen Heritage Park	18
3.2.2.	Lakes.....	19
3.2.3.	Turloughs	20
3.2.4.	Peatlands.....	21
4.	Built and Cultural Heritage.....	23
4.1.	Bronze Age	23
4.1.1.	Standing Stones.....	23
4.1.2.	Hilltop Enclosure	24
4.1.3.	Local Bronze Age Finds.....	24
4.2.	Iron Age/Early Medieval Secular Settlement.....	25
4.2.1.	Ringforts	25
4.3.	Early Medieval Ecclesiastical sites.....	27
4.4.1.	Ballinakill	27
	(National Monument) RMP No. GA007-035	27
4.4.2.	Gortmorris.....	28
4.4.3.	Keeloges Beg	28
4.4.4.	Kilmacrickard.....	30
4.4.5.	Kilcolumb.....	30

4.5. Late Medieval Secular Settlement	31
4.5.1. Moated Site.....	31
4.5.2 Castles	32
<i>Map 2 in the accompanying atlas illustrates the castles and reputed battle sites within the Audit area.</i>	32
4.5.2.1. Glinsk Castle GA007-062001.....	32
4.5.2.2. Keeloges Castle	35
4.6. Late Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites	37
4.6.1. Ballinakill 13 th century Medieval Parish Church.....	37
4.7. 19 th -20 th Century Churches	43
4.7.1. Pre-Emancipation RC Chapels.....	43
4.7.2. St Michaels RC Church	44
4.8. Holy Wells	47
4.8.1. St Michaels Holy Well	47
4.8.2. St Columb's Holy Well	48
4.8.3. Aghalative	48
4.9. Burial Grounds and Battle Sites	50
4.9.1. Ardagh Children's Burial Ground	50
4.9.2. Keeloges Beg Children's Burial Ground.....	50
4.9.3. Cloonfaghna Children's Burial Ground and Battle Site	51
4.9.4. Newtown Burials.....	52
4.10. Memorial Monuments and Bushes.....	53
4.11. Industry	54
4.11.1. Linen Production	54
4.11.2. Corn Milling.....	55
4.11.3 Malting	56
4.11.4. Pipe Making.....	56
4.11.5. Saw Milling.....	57
4.12. 18 th - 20 th Century Settlements and Houses	58
4.13. Education	64
5. Recommendations	67
BIBLIOGRAPHY	69
APPENDICES	71

1. Project Background and Methodology

1.1. Project Background

Due to changing farming practices and issues such as climate change, local built and natural heritage is facing challenges. Heritage sites are becoming overgrown, neglected and forgotten to local memory or in the most extreme cases, removed from the landscape entirely. Although the majority are recorded through the work of the State and local authorities, some sites, especially those which are of very local cultural significance are often unrecorded, surviving only in the memory of the older generation. Through contact with local residents, especially those of the older generation, Glinsk Community Development Society Ltd. hope to explore these local memories and share them across the generations.

Local community projects in recent years in Glinsk include the conservation of the medieval church of Ballinakill, the development of the Glinsk Heritage Park, and a celebration of the 100 year anniversary of the division of the big estates. The community group continue to heighten awareness of the importance of the local heritage and work towards its future conservation and promotion.

In early 2025, Glinsk Community Development Society made an application to the Heritage Council under the Community Grants Scheme to carry out a heritage audit of the 34 townlands which comprise the Glinsk National School Catchment Area. This area measures approximately 7km north to south and east to west with Glinsk village as its focus (Map 1).

The application was successful and in May 2025, Zena Hctor Heritage Consultant, was commissioned to complete the Audit.

1.2. Project Aim

The aim of the audit is to collect information on the sites of natural, built and cultural heritage within the Glinsk National School catchment area, with the purpose of providing a comprehensive report with accompanying maps which will be an invaluable source of information for the local schoolchildren, Heritage group, Tidy Towns Committee, residents and visitors to the area. It will be made available to future generations as it will be published on <https://glinsk.ie/> in an accessible format. The report will create awareness and provide a blueprint to guide future heritage related actions within the local community. It will provide an up-to-date descriptive account of local heritage sites, their location and accessibility to the general public.

1.3. Project Brief

The brief included the following tasks:

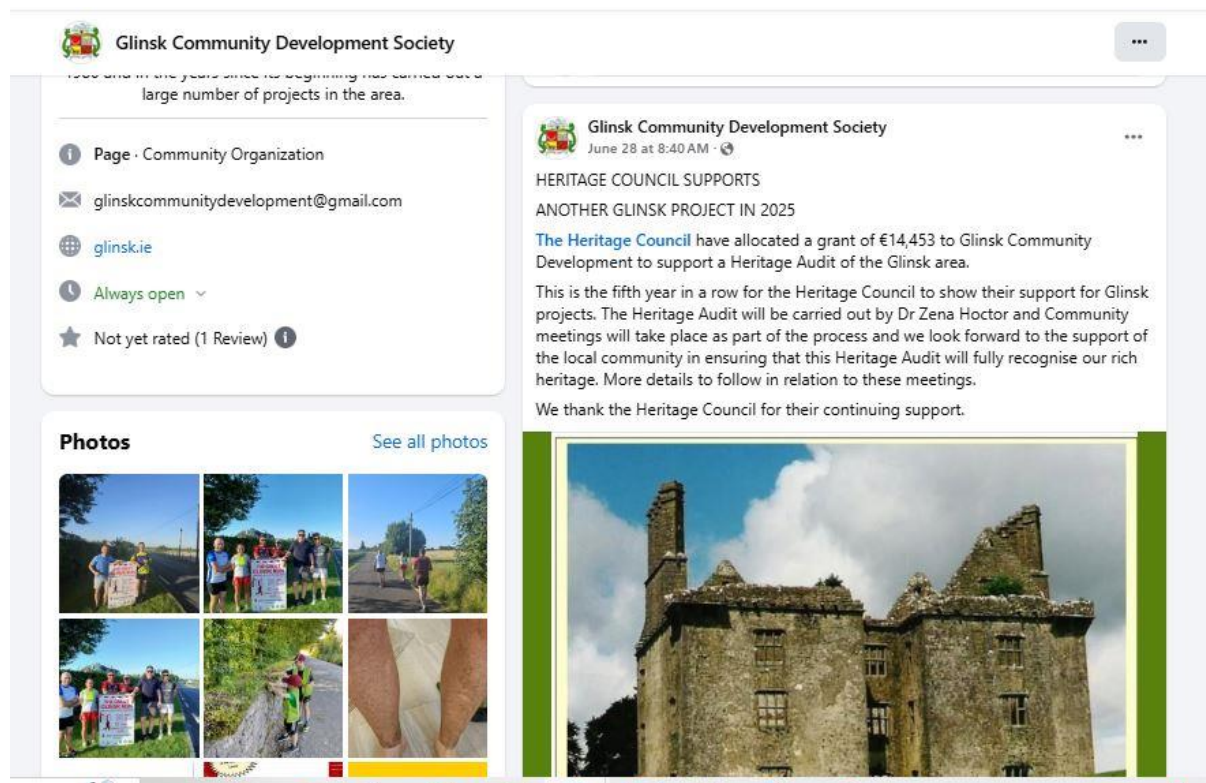
- (i) To undertake a desktop inventory of the built, natural and cultural heritage resources within the 34 townlands that comprise Glinsk National School catchment area.
- (ii) Present information gathered to the local community group and seek input and suggestions with regards to lesser known aspects of the heritage of the area, which may not previously be recorded

- (iii) Carry out a field survey of the selected sites to determine access and condition for the purpose of potential inclusion in the development of future heritage promotional projects and development by Glinsk Community Development Society.
- (iv) Deliver a public presentation of Audit findings during Heritage Week 2025
- (v) Produce a final written report to include:
 - a. A comprehensive account of the heritage sites located in the study area
 - b. Detail of access to and condition of the sites identified
 - c. Recommendations for future community-led heritage projects that utilise the information collected and the heritage sites identified

1.4. Methodology

Project Awareness Raising

In May 2025, when Glinsk Community Development Society Ltd. received confirmation from the Heritage Council that they were successful in obtaining grant aid for the Audit under the Community Heritage Grant Scheme, a notice was posted on the Glinsk Community Development Society Facebook page and on <https://glinsk.ie/> website acknowledging the funding and inviting the local community to support the project. Information on the upcoming Audit was also shared face to face at community meetings.



Photograph 1: Acknowledging Heritage Council Funding - Extract from Glinsk Community Development Society Facebook page



Photograph 2: Acknowledging Heritage Council Funding - Extract from <https://glinsk.ie/>

Desktop Inventory

A desktop inventory of the potential heritage sites for field survey, located within the agreed study area commenced in early June 2025. Several online sources were consulted as listed in the bibliography.

The starting point was a search through <https://www.heritagemaps.ie/> which is an invaluable tool for zoning in on the study area and examining the various heritage layers including historic maps which can be compared to the modern day landscape through the use of aerial photography and the slider tool. This allowed for the exploration of features that were mapped in the past that may no longer be in existence, but allowed the researcher to pinpoint locations for field work to determine whether any traces remain e.g. 19th clustered 'village' settlements.

The Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) of all recorded archaeological sites and monuments within the 34 townlands were accessed through <https://heritagedata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html> and <https://www.heritagemaps.ie/> providing a description and condition context for the majority of sites. The inventory entries are based on field work carried out in the early 1980s by the Archaeological Survey of County Galway with academic references, where relevant. The website also provided access to the relevant records from <https://excavations.ie/> to identify where archaeological materials had been uncovered and to any finds in the National Museum of Ireland database.

The online database of the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) and the Record of Protected Structures for County Galway were examined for sites of architectural importance in the study area through <https://www.heritagemaps.ie/>

Natural Heritage sites including designated protected areas, peatlands, woodlands and freshwater habitats and associated survey reports were all identified through <https://www.npws.ie/>. This provided spatial information and an assessment of level of importance for the purposes of field survey.

The National Folklore Collection was explored through <https://www.duchas.ie/en> with special emphasis on the Schools Folklore Collection from the 1930s which provided stories and traditions around local sites e.g. holy wells and cillíní.

<https://www.logainm.ie/en/> provided information on the origin of the townland names and <https://townlands.ie/> provided information on the administrative divisions and the size of the townlands.

Local publications consulted included the Glinsk Community Council publication 2002 '*History in Glinsk*' edited and presented by Martin Ward; '*Toberroe National School Past Pupils Reunion*' publication 2003 and '*Glinsk 100: Celebrating a century of community life in Glinsk 1912-2012*' published by the Glinsk Centenary Committee. These publications were invaluable in providing cultural heritage information in addition to the built and natural. They provided a local story which is not always documented elsewhere. Further publications were consulted as per the bibliography provided in this report.

From the desktop study, a list of heritage sites in the study area was compiled and analysed in terms of location (potential access) and condition and a prioritised list for field survey was developed.



Prioritised list of potential sites for Field Survey

The prioritised list of sites was presented to members of Glinsk Community Development Society Ltd. at a meeting in Glinsk Community Centre on July 24, 2024. (This meeting had been scheduled for June 16th, but was cancelled as the community were busy with the organisation of the annual 'Great Glinsk Run' on scheduled for June 20th).

Photograph 3: Consultation meeting with Glinsk Development Society in Glinsk Community Hall 24-7-25

Attendees were invited to comment on the prioritised list of sites and provide information on any additional sites that they would like to see included in the Audit. They also supplied the names and contact details for several local community residents who could be contacted for further information.

Field Survey

Field survey began in July and continued until mid-October. Sites were assessed in terms of access and condition for the purposes of potential inclusion in development of future local heritage projects.

Heritage Week Event

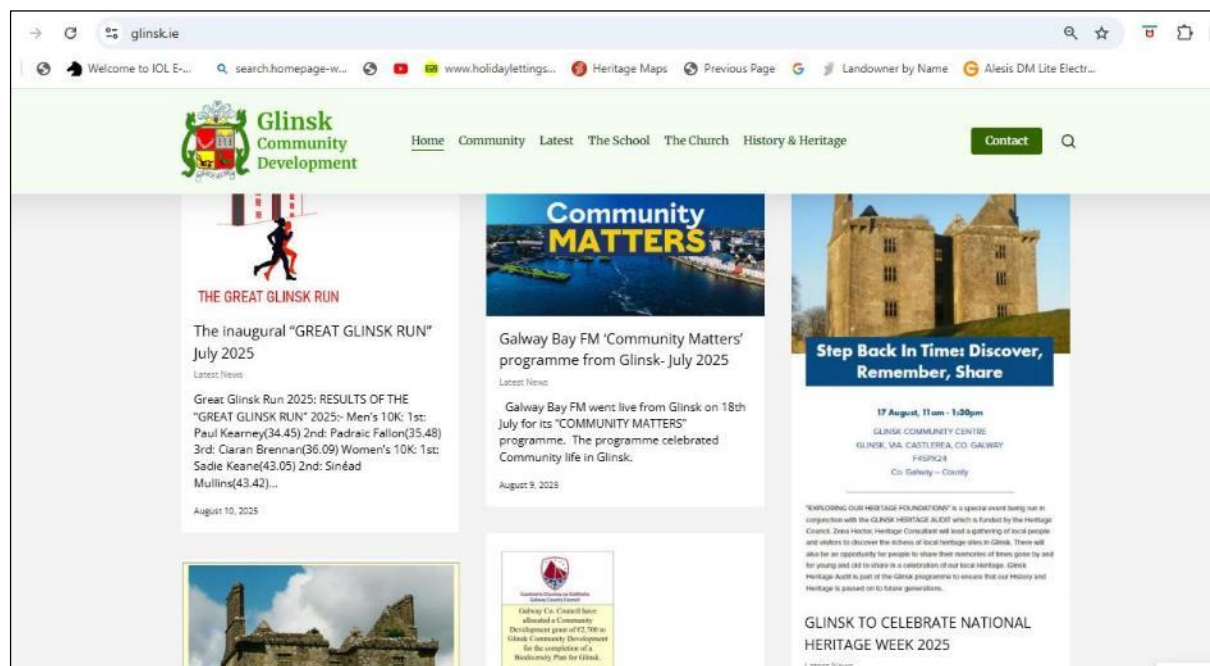


A Heritage Week event was planned for Glinsk Community Centre and promoted for the morning of Sunday August 17 at 11am after the local Sunday Mass.

A promotional poster was designed and shared on the National Heritage Week (Heritage Council) website, Galway County Heritage Office website and social media, Glinsk Community Development website <https://glinsk.ie/> and local social media channels.

The event was well-attended with a multi-generational audience of 35 people. Zena Hctor delivered a PowerPoint presentation of the findings of the Audit to date and several members of the audience contributed information about additional local sites and stories.

Photograph 4: Heritage Week event promotional poster



Photograph 5: Heritage Week event advertisement on <https://glinsk.ie/>



Photographs 6-8: National Heritage Week Event Glinsk Community Hall 17-8-2025

Reporting and Consultation

Contact with Glinsk Community Development Society Ltd. was maintained by the consultant throughout the Audit. Face to face meetings and email correspondence was arranged through Marty Ward, Secretary of the Society, on a regular basis.



Photograph 9: Discussing the findings of the Glinsk Heritage Audit at Glinsk Castle 11-10-2025

An interim report on the progress of the Audit was returned to the Heritage Council via their online portal in June 2025.

A draft copy of the final report was delivered for comment to Glinsk Community Development Society on October 11th and at a follow up public event, members of Glinsk Community Development Society and interested community members accompanied the researcher to a number of sites to discuss the findings of the Audit.

Comments on the draft report were returned to the consultant by October 25th and the final report was drawn up.

The completed report was uploaded to <https://glinsk.ie/> and to the Heritage Council grant returns system on November 6, 2025.

2. The Study Area

2.1. Geographical Location

The maps in the accompanying atlas show the boundary of the Audit area and the 34 townlands it encompasses.

The townland and village of Glinsk (Irish Grid M 71647 66846; ITM 571605, 766866; Lat, long 53.6508, -8.42951) is located in north-east County Galway, approximately 68 km from Galway city and approximately 30 km from Roscommon (Map 1). The townlands of the Audit area are located within the Barony of Ballymoe and the civil parishes of Ballinakill and Kilbegnet. The River Suck, which is the County boundary between Galway and Roscommon, forms the eastern boundary of the study area.



Map 1: Geographical location of Glinsk within County Galway

Source: Data from the basemap dataset accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at <http://www.heritagemaps.ie>, [11-9-2025].

2.2. Main heritage attractions

The most widely known heritage attractions within the area are Glinsk Castle, an early 17th century fortified house, the ruin of the medieval church and surrounding graveyard at Ballinakill known as 'Ballinakill Abbey', 'Glinsk Heritage Park' on the outskirts of Glinsk village and the long distance walking route 'The Suck Valley Way' which passes through the north west sector of the study area and the village of Glinsk.

2.3. Townlands

The Audit area is comprised of 34 townlands of varying sizes covering an area of 5,075.37 hectares in total. The largest townland is Keeloges East which covers 379.19 hectares and the smallest is Treanpark at 45.87 hectares. The origin of the townland names often describe the topography and features of the area.

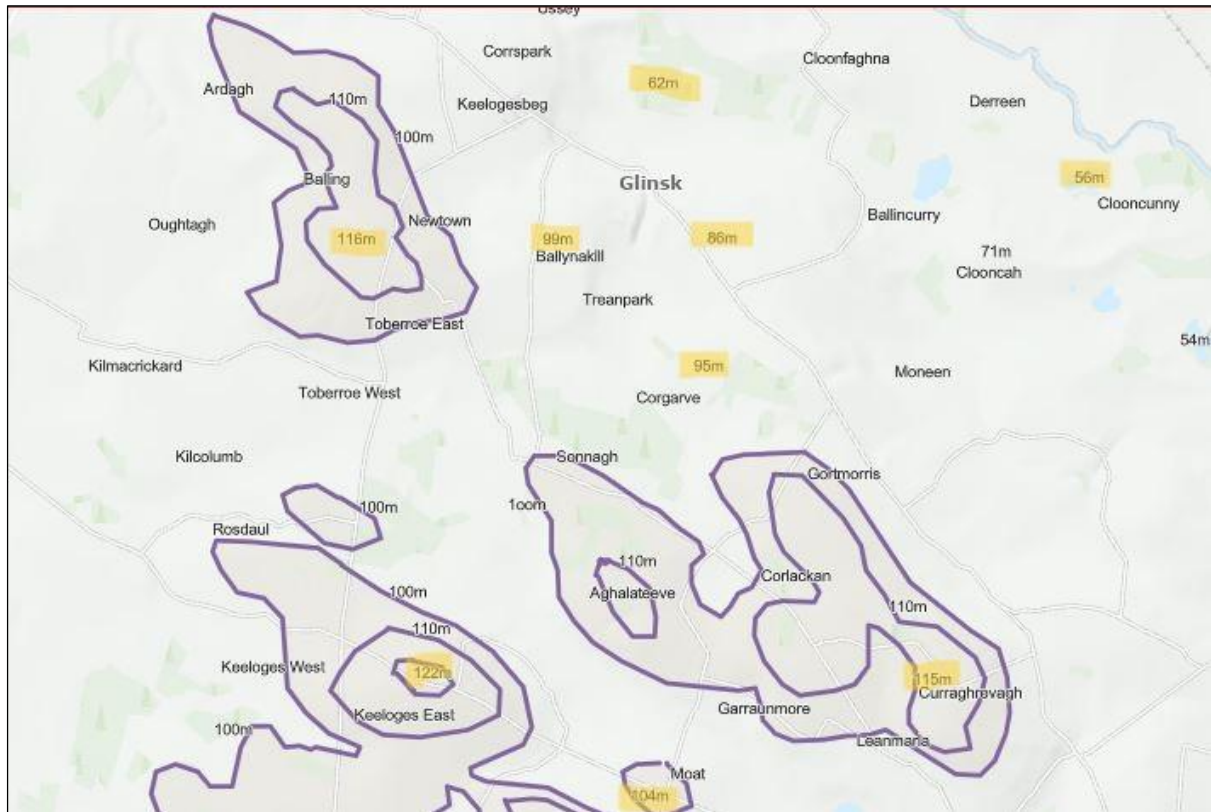
	Townland	Irish	Meaning of placename	Size (hectares)
1	Ardagh	Ardach	High ground	134.97
2	Aghalateeve	Achadh Leataoibh	The field of the hill side	175.37
3	Ballincurry	Baile an Churraigh	The townland of the marsh	185.07
4	Ballinakill	Baile na Cille	The townland of the church or wood	116.51
5	Balling	Baile Uí Fhinn	The townland of the Finns	70.88
6	Clooncah	Cluain Catha	The meadow of the battle	156.23
74	Clooncunny	Cluain Connaidh	The meadow of the firewood (or rabbits?)	143.44
8	Cloonfaghna	Cluain Fachna	The meadow of Fachtna?	236.63
9	Corgarve	An Chorr Gharbh	The rough round hill	107.86
10	Corlackan	An Chorrleaca	The hill of the flagstone (flat stone or rock)	152.36
11	Corrspark	Páirc an Chorraigh	The field of the hills	69.89
12	Curraghrevagh	An Currach Riabhach	The streaked, grey marsh	173.84
13	Curraghmulmurry	Currach Mhaolmhúire	The marsh of flat summit	207.95
14	Derreen	An Doireán	Small oakwood	87.78
15	Garraunmore	An Garrán Mór	The big grove (shrubbery)	100.46
16	Glinsk	Glinsce	Clear view (accepted locally) also may relate to valley (gleann)	298.41
17	Gortmorris	Gort Mhuiríosa	Morrissey's field	86.74
18	Keeloges East	Na Caológa Thoir	The east narrow strips or ridge	379.19
19	Keeloges West	Na Caológa Thiar	The west narrow strips or ridge	211.77
20	Keeloges Beg	Na Caológa Beaga	The small narrow strips or ridge	51.97
21	Kilcolumb	Cill Cholm	The church of Columb	173.24
22	Kilmacrickard	Coill Mhic Riocaird	The wood (or church) of the son of Richard	153.61
23	Lenanmarla	Léana an Mharla	The wet meadow of the marl	116.72
24	Lisnageeragh	Lios na gCaorach	The fort of the sheep	240.00
25	Moat	An Móta	A high mound	152.32
26	Moneen	An Móinín	The small bog	94.55
27	Newtown	An Baile Nua	New town	201.45
28	Oughtagh	Uchtach	West or Upper section	254.14
29	Rosdaul	Ros Táil	The wooded height/promontory of the gathering	50.59
30	Sonnagh	Sonnach	A mound or rampart	170.87
31	Toberroe East	An Tobar Rua Thoir	Red well east	46.29
32	Toberroe West	An Tobar Rua Thiar	Red well west	67.89
33	Treanpark	An Trian	A third part of a field	45.87
34	Ussey	Osadh	Fawn	160.51
				5,075.37

Table 1: List of English and Irish townland names within the Audit area, their meaning and size of each townland

2.4. Topography

The highest ground in the Audit area is in the west and south. It forms three separate blocks (illustrated on Map 2). The highest point is in Keeloges East townland at 122m above sea level. Keeloges East is also the largest townland in the study area. Its placename translates as the east ridge of land describing its height and shape.

From the three blocks of high ground, the land slopes to the east where the Suck River forms the boundary of the study area. The lowest height is in Clooncunny townland, at 56m above sea level.



Map 2: Land heights in the Audit area. Purple lines indicate the contour lines at 100m and 110m. Spot heights are highlighted in orange.

3. Natural Heritage

Map 1 in the accompanying atlas illustrates the land cover within the Audit Area and the designated protected areas

3.1. Geology and Geomorphology

3.1.1. Bedrock



The audit area is underlain by Carboniferous limestone interspersed with Shale. This bedrock was formed, at a time, when the part of the Earth's surface that would eventually form Ireland, was located on the bed of a shallow tropical sea, between 360 and 320 million years ago. When the plants and animals living in that sea completed their life cycle, their remains settled on the sea bed. As thick layers of these remains built up, calcium carbonate precipitated into the spaces between the remains and formed a 'cement'. Eventually through pressure and chemical change over a long time, the 'cement' and the pieces of shell and skeletons formed limestone rock, which is very rich in calcium and full of fossils. These fossils are the remains of the plants and animals and can be seen in many of the exposed rocks of the audit area. They can be found in rock exposures throughout the study area.

Photograph 10: Fossils in boundary wall of Ballinakill graveyard

Variations in sea conditions and the depth of water over the millions of years in which the limestone was formed, resulted in variations in the colour and density of the rocks formed.

There are two different limestone formations in the study area. The Croghan limestone formation is found in the east sector around Glinsk and it consists of a dark cherty limestone, interspersed with shale. Further to the west, the Ballymore limestone formation consists of a dark fine-grained limestone interspersed with shale.

3.1.3. Karst

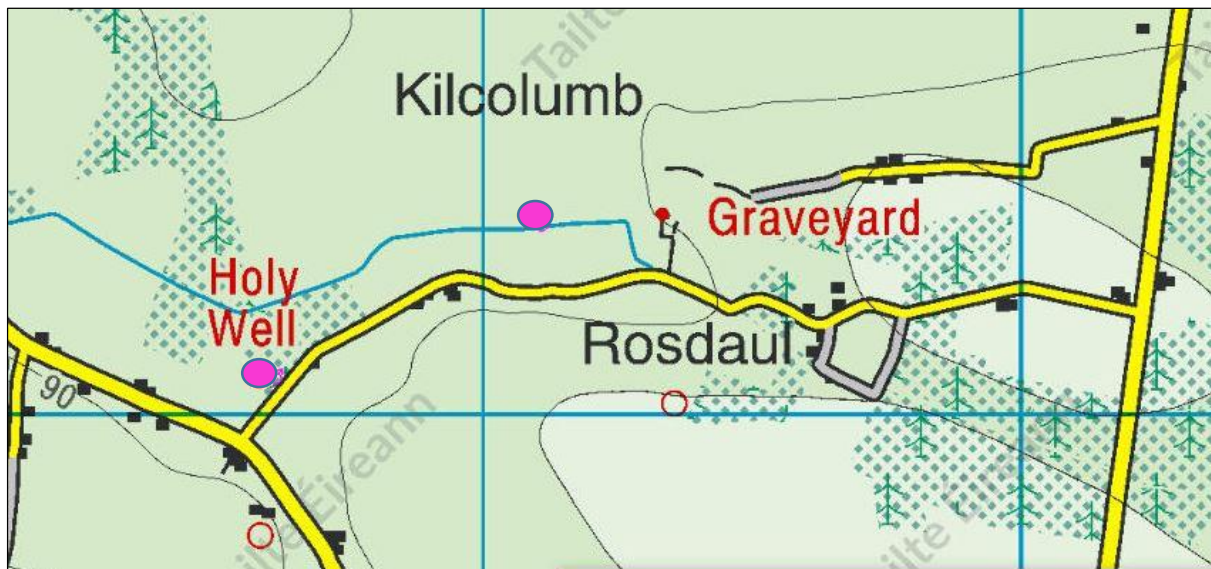
The bedrock of the study area has been exposed to weathering since its formation. Limestone is particularly susceptible to weathering as the slightly acidic properties of rainwater dissolve the alkaline calcium carbonate in the limestone. Water in the form of rain, ice and frost and wind have eroded the rocks.

When limestone is weathered, it can exhibit certain features which are referred to as Karst. There are two types of 'karst landscape' features in the west of the audit area on the Ballymore Limestone Formation. They consist of enclosed depressions in the north-west in the area of Ardagh and springs at Kilcolumb.

Enclosed depressions were created where water gathered in small hollows in the past and dissolved the underlying limestone. Today these appear as large hollows on the landscape which may become waterlogged in times of heavy rain. A cluster of enclosed depressions are located in the townlands of Ardagh, Balling, in the north section of Newtown, the western section of Keelogesbeg and in the west of Ussey townland.

Cracks are often formed in bedrock as a result of earth movements. When these cracks are exposed to weathering, they become larger and widen over time, eventually forming large fissures. Rainwater falls on the land and through these fissures, travels down until it meets a more resistant layer of rock. It has then reached what is known as groundwater level.

When there is heavy rainfall, the groundwater level can rise and the water reappears through **springs**. There are two springs in Kilcolumb townland. One is St Columb's Holy Well. The second is located approximately 500m to the north-west on the banks of a small stream. This spring has been capped and a pump house constructed. Local folklore tells us that the St Columb's Holy Well was originally located closer to Kilcolumb church and graveyard but moved when desecrated by a woman washing her clothes in the water. Could it be, that this second spring, which is closer to the ecclesiastical site, was the original holy well?



Map 3: Location of springs in Kilcolumb townland denoted with pink circles. (Source: <https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=a30af518e87a4c0ab2fbde2aaac3c228> accessed 15-9-25)

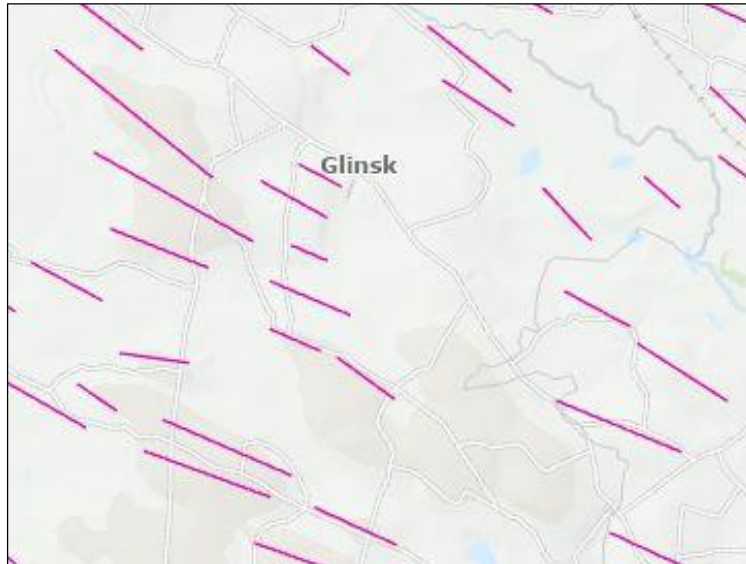
When rainfall is high, the groundwater rises through springs and sometimes swallow holes and spreads out across the landscape creating **Turloughs**. When the weather is drier, the flood waters recede and the area returns to grassland. These features are almost unique to Ireland and are priority habitats under the EU Habitats Directive. Turlough is an Irish word used to describe these temporary, seasonal lakes that occur in the west of Ireland.

During the summer months the dry turloughs are usually grazed by domestic livestock. This is a low-intensity farming practice as the area is usually inaccessible during the winter months. The annual flooding and soil type gives rise to a diversity of small-sedge communities or grass-dominated swards that increases invertebrate diversity. The vegetation growth in the basins of the turloughs provides excellent feeding for over-wintering wildfowl, such as ducks, geese and swans and these are often present in internationally important numbers.

Just outside the Audit area, in the south-west, is Ballinstack Turlough, which is part of the larger Lisnageeragh Bog Special Area of Conservation (SAC) complex. Sections of this SAC are located in Lisnageeragh and Curraghmulmurry townlands, within the study area (See Section 3.2.4).

3.1.4. Glacial Deposition

The last Ice Age in Ireland began to recede c.15,000 years ago. As the glaciers melted and retreated, the boulders, stones and gravel that had been scraped up from the bedrock and carried along in the solid mass of ice, were dropped and left strewn across the landscape as glacial drift. How and where the drift was deposited depended on the direction of the ice flow and the rate of the melting process.



The landscape around Glinsk is covered with thick drift ridges which run in a north-east to south-east direction. The drift takes the form of drumlins (Map 4) from the Irish term for a small hill. These small elongated, round hills resemble an inverted spoon, with a steep end and a gradually tapering end. They consist of a jumble of rocks, stones and gravel which dropped out of the melting ice.

Map 4: Diagrammatic representation of drumlins (denoted by pink lines) in study area

Source: <https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=a30af518e87a4c0ab2fbde2aaac3c228>

"Contains Irish Public Sector Data (Geological Survey Ireland) licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) licence accessed 12-09-2025

A well-known landscape feature within the Audit area is the area referred to as **'The Glen'** within which the stream at Glinsk Castle flows. The action of the flowing water over the millennia has scoured out this deep sided valley from the glacial drift cover.

3.1.2. Historic Use of the Local Rocks

Several quarries were in use in the study area in the 19th century. The larger quarries were located in the neighbouring townlands of Turlough (on the north-west border of the Audit area) and Ussey where a dark grey crystalline limestone is present.

The Geological Memoirs of 1865 states these quarries were

'....chiefly for rough wall building' and the 'considerable lengths raised were especially suitable for gate-posts'.

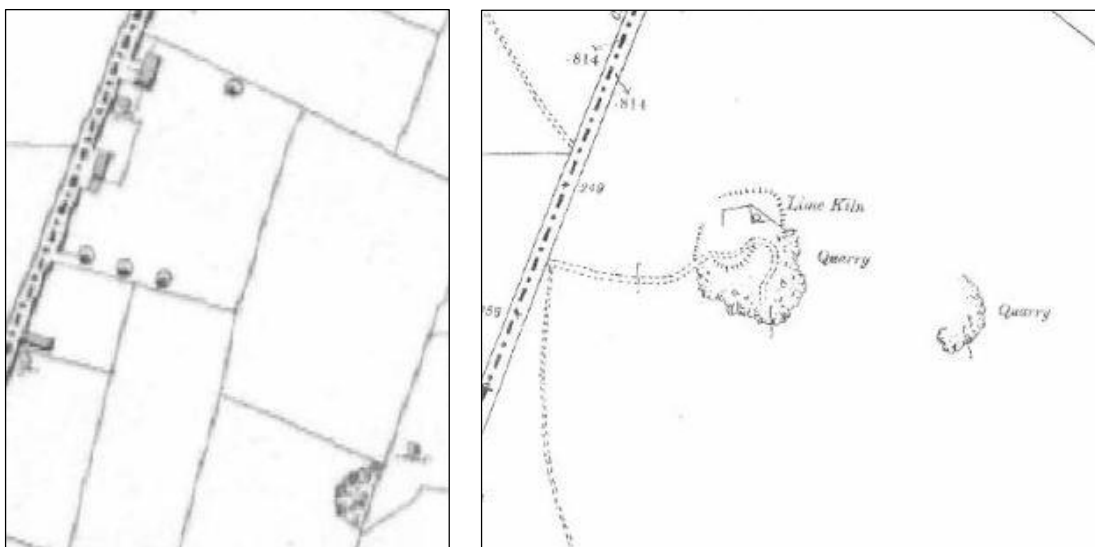
A number of these quarried rocks are still in use in the local area as gate posts and as scratching posts for livestock.

It is possible that the limestone used to build Glinsk Castle originated from local quarries such as that in Turlough townland.



Photograph 11: Quarried stone gate posts in Ussey townland

It is evident from the first edition OS maps c.1840 that the quarry at Ussey was being exploited on a small scale as a source of limestone as a number of lime kilns were located in the field close to the quarry at that time. By the late 1890s these smaller lime kilns had been replaced by a single, larger lime kiln. This was most likely the result of 'improvement' operations on the Pollok estate (See section 4.12).



Maps 5 & 6: The map on the left hand side shows the fields, houses, lime kilns and quarry in Ussey c.1840. The right hand side map shows the same area c.1890 - the smaller lime kilns, field boundaries and houses have been removed, the quarry area has been enlarged and a large lime kiln built.

Smaller quarries also operated in Toberroe East, Ballincurry and Corlackan townlands. These produced a thin bedded bluish flaggy limestone with shale partings and occasional nodules of chert.

The drumlins and glacial drift covering the study area have been exploited at various times, as sources of sand and gravel. The first edition OS 6-inch maps indicates the numerous gravel pits which were active in the study area c.1840. They were located in the townlands of Ardagh, Ballincurry, Corlackan, Corrspark, Currarevagh, Garraunmore, Gortmorris, Keeloges East, Keeloges West, Kilcolumb, Moat, Moneen, Oughtagh and Sonnagh. They were small local pits, the resources of which would have been used for local building works and laying of trackways.

ACCESS - GEOLOGY AND GEOMORPHOLOGY

Karstic features on the landscape include enclosed depressions, springs, a turlough and drumlins. All of these features can be viewed at several points from public roads.

Enclosed depressions are visible in the townlands of Ardagh, Balling, in the north section of Newtown, the western section of Keelogesbeg and in the west of Ussey townland.

Drumlins are visible throughout the study area.

The spring at Kilcolumb is known as Kilcolumb Holy Well and is signposted and accessible.

Glinsk Heritage Park is publically accessible and provides an example of a glaciated river valley.

Ussey quarry and lime kiln are on private land and are not accessible without the permission of the landowner

3.2. Wetlands

3.2.1. River Suck

The River Suck forms the eastern boundary of the Audit area, separating County Galway from County Roscommon. It flows c. 4km east of Glinsk village. The river is generally wide, very deep and slow moving along this stretch, with depths up to 7 metres in places. Some smaller sections are fast flowing and shallow. The banks are often lined by reedmarsh and waterlilies are common.

The river provides excellent Rudd and Pike fishing. Inland Fisheries Ireland provides footbridges to facilitate anglers. Access is from the road bridges at Castlestrange, Athleague and Rookwood and also from the minor roads between the bridges.

The Suck Valley Way long distance walking route passes through Glinsk and a number of the townlands within the Audit area that border the River Suck. It provides pedestrian access to the



biodiversity of the river and its surrounding grasslands.

The National Trails Office provides support and funding for the maintenance of this walkway.

Local maintenance is co-ordinated on a voluntary basis by Glinsk Community Development Society Ltd.

Photograph 12: Suck Valley Way signage at Glinsk Heritage Park

3.2.2. The Glen Heritage Park

The area known locally as 'The Glen', was purchased by Glinsk Community Development in 1995. The foundation stone for the Heritage Park was laid in 1995 and since then work has been ongoing to create a riverside walk through the 13 acre site.

This work included an Environmental Plan for the development of the area as a Heritage Park drawn up by Dr Mike Gormally and the final year students from the MSc in Environmental Management at NUI Galway. In 2002, the Glinsk Community Council planted several trees in the Park to commemorate the work of the students. <https://glinsk.ie/nui-environmental/>

By 2009, the Glen Heritage Park had been developed and was fully accessible for the community and visitors. In recognition of their work, Glinsk Community Development Society were the recipients of a Galway County Heritage Award for the Tuam Electoral Area that same year.

The park provides a wonderful facility to showcase the biodiversity of this glaciated Glen and has been a popular walking area for community residents and visitors alike. Its location close to Glinsk Castle provides a 'heritage hub' for the local area. However, the facilities developed in the early 2000s are in need of upgrading and management.

In 2024, Glinsk Community Development Society applied for funding under the Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) allocated by the Department of Rural and Community Development, to upgrade 2km of existing trails at the Heritage Park. They were successful in their application and it is planned to modernise the facility and provide increased and improved accessibility for everyone. Upgrades will be carried out on the main walkway along the river so that this will be a fully accessible path while upgrades on the two higher walkways will also be carried out. Works are also to be carried out on a number of bridges which have suffered from erosion over the years as well as works to improve drainage and strengthen the riverbanks. A number of new bridges will also be provided to provide safer crossings of the river. To the front of the Park, a new access and car parking area will be built to replace the existing timber fence and this will also provide parking for Glinsk Castle on the opposite side of the road. There will also be upgrades to picnic facilities throughout the park. The project will greatly improve accessibility at the park which is a popular stopping point on the Beara Breifne Way and the Suck Valley Way and is near Glinsk Castle. Currently Inland Fisheries are working on improvements to the stream that runs through the Park to improve flow of water and habitat for fish. When this work is complete, the improvements granted under the ORIS will be undertaken.

In addition in 2025, Galway County Council allocated a Community Development Grant to Glinsk Community Development for the compilation of a Biodiversity Plan for Glinsk, including Glinsk Heritage Park. This work is currently underway and will add greatly to the understanding of the biodiversity of the area and lend information to its future interpretation for visitors.

3.2.2. Lakes

Between the drumlins and cover of glacial drift, a number of small lakes are located in the low lying land in the east of the Audit area close to the River Suck. These include Lough Lough, Lough Doo, Lough Anargid, Lough Ouver (locally known as Moat Lake) and Peters Lough.

The Suck Valley Way walking route provides access close to these small lakes.

The largest lake is Lough Lough, known locally as Ballincurry Lake. It is approx. 2m deep at the margins but shelves off quite quickly into about 5m of water. Much of the lakeshore margins are heavily reeded. It is regarded as a very good pike fishery and also contains bream, roach, rudd, hybrids, tench, perch and eels

<https://www.activeirishangling.com/angling-centres/roscommon-angling/lough-lough-near-glinsk/>

<https://glinsk.ie/community-groups-and-businesses/ballincurry-lake-lough-lough/>

Locally Lough Ouver (Moat Lake) is known as 'the Enchanted Lake'.

The following story about Lough Ouver (Moat Lake) was collected by Kathleen Gannon, a pupil in Toberroe School in the 1930s, as part of the Schools Manuscripts Collection. She heard the story from Patsy Keenahan who lived in Keeloges East.

<https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4613672/4607071/4624007>

Story Title: Enchanted Lakes

"I knew the man who caught a sea-horse in Moate Lake," said an old man to me one evening, "an' I don't care what any wan says there are mer-maids, sea-horses, an' every other other quare (queer) animal you could think of in that lake. Well to continue me story

this man was walkin' along be the lake an' he saw a lovely little foal that came up out o' the lake; the man caught him and brought him home. The foal grew up to be a big strong horse an' his master taught him to plough an' do other work. One evenin' after a hard day's work the man brought his sea-horse down to the lake for a drink. The horse started to drink an' he drank so much that the lake began to get smaller an' smaller until the poor man thought that his horse would soon empty it so he said to him, "that you may never stop". The words were hardly out of his mouth when the horse jumped into the lake, and as soon as he'd gone in the lake filled up again. The horse was never seen again.

(Ana) Two other lakes are connected with Moate (at least it is said) by an under-ground channel. The names of the other lakes are Lough Lorigeen which is a bogland lake an' is about three miles from Moate, Briggane Lake which is about six miles from Moate an' three from Lough Lorigeen. They are also supposed to be inhabited by sea-horses. It is said that one evening many years ago a few women were washing clothes by Briggane Lake (which was the custom then) when all of a sudden a big black shapless monster came out o' the lake. The women became afraid an' ran for their lives. The animal lay on the shore for a short time an' then went back to the lake again.

Another story about Moat Lake was told to Martin Ward by Mick Connell, who lived in Cloonculane, and Martin included in his book 'History in Glinsk' published in 2002. Mick recounted that Tomas O'Finaghty lived in Moat village with his wife and nine children. Tomas caught a fish in the lake and when he was removing the hook from its mouth, it spoke to him. The fish asked Tomas to release him back into the lake and in return it would grant his dearest wish. Tomas wished that none of his family should drown in the lake and released the fish. When his children had grown, one of the neighbours daughters 'got into trouble'. The finger of blame was pointed at Tomas' son, who protested his innocence. A baby was born and Tomas remembering his wish which was to be granted by the fish, brought the baby to the lake and lay it on the surface of the water. Immediately the baby began to swim and so Tomas knew that it was his grandson.

3.2.3. Turloughs

About 15,000 years ago the glaciers of Ireland's last Ice Age began to melt. The glacial water run-off and rainfall over the following centuries very slowly eroded the surface of the limestone bedrock in the study area. This natural phenomenon occurs as rainwater is naturally slightly acidic and the limestone is composed of calcium carbonate, which is alkaline. Through a chemical process, acid dissolves alkaline.

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

Ballinstack Turlough which is on the edge of the study area, is unusual in that it lies adjacent to Lisnageeragh raised bog. The transition between these two ecosystems is extremely rare and of high ecological value. Lisnageeragh Bog and Ballinastack Turlough as a unit, have been designated a Special Area of Conservation (SAC Site code 000296) under the EU Habitats Directive. Sections of this SAC are located in Curraghmulmurphy and Lisnageeragh townlands, within the study area. Ballinastack

turlough attracts wintering waterfowl, three species of which are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive - Greenland White-fronted Goose, Whooper Swan and Golden Plover.

A full Site Synopsis for this SAC can be downloaded at <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/000296>

3.2.4. Peatlands

Within the study area are a number of ecologically important peatlands. These include Lisnageeragh, Keeloges and Kilsallagh bogs – all of which are designated protected areas under the EU Habitats directive and the Irish Wildlife Act, due to the important habitats and species they support.

They are among a number of raised bogs in the Ballymoe/Glenamaddy region of east Galway, which, together, form the largest and most important cluster of relatively intact raised bog sites in Ireland.

Lisnageeragh Bog is one of the most extensive raised bogs remaining in East Galway. It is a good example of a Western raised bog that forms an irregular plateau, blanketing low drumlin hills and hollows. It includes almost 270 ha of uncut raised bog and approximately 117 ha of cutover bog. Raised bog is a rare habitat in the EU and one that is becoming increasingly scarce and under threat in Ireland. Lisnageeragh Bog supports a significant area of high quality raised bog microhabitats, including some very well developed hummock/hollow complexes and provides habitat for Red Grouse, a species that has declined in Ireland and is now Red-listed.

Keeloges Bog is a remnant of a larger area of bog, much of which has now been cutover and reclaimed for forestry and agriculture with only 219 ha (approximately 49%) of high bog remaining. The most recent survey data indicates a small area, 9.8 ha of Active Raised Bog habitat, is present and an area of 9.9 ha is considered to be Degraded Raised Bog habitat. It is a designated Natural Heritage Area (NHA) under the Irish Wildlife Act.



Photograph 13: View of Keeloges Bog from Ardagh townland.

Kilsallagh Bog is a large raised bog, with a largely intact dome. It is set in a peat basin which is almost completely surrounded by mineral soil. The core of Kilsallagh Bog contains raised bog habitat of outstanding quality, with a vigorous hummock and pool system grading into an extensive areas of Sphagnum mosses, which are actively growing. On the north-east slope is an unusual wetland community supporting a mixture of tall Carnation Sedge, Cottongrasses (*Eriophorum* spp) and frequent large tufts of Deergrass. A large proportion of this bog is owned by the National Parks and

Wildlife Service. Red Grouse, a scarce and declining species in Ireland, and one which is a Red-list species, breeds on the bog. This bog is of considerable conservation value as it contains examples of the Annex 1 habitats active raised bog (listed with priority status), degraded raised bog and depressions on peat substrates (Rhynchosporion). It is a designated SAC (Site Code: 000285)

Because of their ecological importance, all of the bogs described above have been the focus of EU funded restoration projects, under the LIFE programme, since 1994. Drains were blocked to rewet the bog and coniferous forestry was removed. These actions resulted in the area of actively growing bog in Lisnageeragh bog expanding by 16.6 ha between 1994 and 2012. An 'After LIFE project' management plan is being developed by Coillte Teo. for the future conservation management of Kilsallagh bog.

The bog restoration plan for Lisnageeragh and Keeloges Bogs can be downloaded at https://www.raisedbogs.ie/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/0402_RBSB13_Lisnageeragh_Bog_Restoration_Plan_A01.pdf

ACCESS - WETLANDS

The River Suck is accessible to the public via the Suck Valley Way long distance walking route.

The Glinsk stream is accessible at the Glen Heritage Park.

Several local 'bog roads' provide access into the various blocks of peatland in the area and many are visible from the local roadways.

4. Built and Cultural Heritage

4.1. Bronze Age

4.1.1. Standing Stones



Photograph 14: Keeloges West Standing Stone

Single standing stones have been recorded by the National Monuments Service in the townlands of Keeloges West (GA01 9-047----) and Oughtagh (GA007-109----). Both are found in grassland.

The stone in Keeloges west is a tall, irregularly shaped limestone slab which is aligned east to west. It is weather worn and a very unusual shape for a standing stone. It is locally known as 'The Wisdom Stone'.

Local folklore records that the stone marks the grave of a Leinster king who was injured in the Battle of Cong and died here on his way home (Ref: Mary Mannion, Keeloges).



Photograph 15: Ringfort and standing stone in Oughtagh townland.

The Oughtagh stone stands 4.5m to the north-east of a ringfort and is rectangular with a slight taper to the top. It is 2m high. It is used as a scratching stone by livestock.

The date and function of these monuments is unclear. They are thought to date from the Early Bronze age to the Iron Age and may be later. Their purpose is uncertain. It is thought they may have been boundary or route markers, or may possibly mark burials or act as memorials.

4.1.2. Hilltop Enclosure



On the summit of a hill in Clooncah townland there are the remains of a large, poorly preserved subcircular enclosure. It measures 85m from north-west to south east and 65m from north-east to south-west. There is a ditch (fosse) outside the encircling bank of earth. A field monument cuts through the site from north to south.

The Topographical files of the OPW which were compiled in 1967 recorded that the site was 'bounded by a collapsed stone wall (overgrown and giving superficial appearance of a bank). Big wide deep fosse inside'.

Photograph 16: Aerial view of Clooncah hilltop enclosure

'Data from the basemap gallery accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at www.heritagemaps.ie, [6-9-2025]'.

Today the fosse is shallow and broad, measuring c.5m in width, due to infilling. There may have been an outer bank or wall and there are traces of an entrance causeway in the north section. The interior is flat and slightly lower than the exterior.

Fortified enclosures built in elevated strategic positions became common in the Late Bronze Age. They are made up of hillforts and hilltop enclosures. They look alike but the enclosures are of a smaller size and generally at a lower elevation. They are likely to have functioned as high-status residential sites.

4.1.3. Local Bronze Age Finds

A dugout canoe, dating to the Bronze Age c.4,000 years ago was found in the River Suck at Cloonfaghna. An ornamented bronze flat axehead was found in Treanboy townland. Both of these artefacts are held by the National Museum of Ireland.

ACCESS – Bronze Age Monuments

Keeloges West and the Oughtagh standing stones and Clooncah hilltop enclosure are all located on private pasture land and the landowner's permission must be given for access.

4.2. Iron Age/Early Medieval Secular Settlement

4.2.1. Ringforts

The most common archaeological monument dating to the Iron Age or Early Medieval period in Ireland is the ringfort. The majority of excavated sites have revealed construction dates between 600AD and 900AD. Most functioned as the farmsteads of the local population. They are usually circular but can be oval or D-shaped. One (univallate), two (bivallate) and sometime more (multivallate) protective banks of earth and/or stone enclosed the buildings in the interior. When stone is used as the dominant enclosing element they are often referred to as 'cashels' or 'cahers' and when the banks consist of mostly earth, they are referred to as 'raths', 'lis' or 'dun'. They can range in diameter from 20-60 metres. It is generally interpreted that the larger the ringfort and the greater number of surrounding banks, the higher the status of the resident family.

There are numerous bivallate or double banked raths with an intervening ditch in the study area. These vary greatly in condition. Some are very poorly preserved, while others are in a good state of preservation.

Appendix I provides a list of the enclosures and raths found in the study area, categorised by their condition and listed by townland and location.

There are two well preserved examples in Ardagh townland (SMR ref. nos.: GA007-002—and GA007-004----).

The rath (SMR reference number GA007-002—) which is located at ITM co-ordinates 568598 767630, is oval in shape and measures 80m from east to west and 71m from north to south. Attached to its east side is a large subrectangular annexe (GA007-002001--) which is 52m long and 40m wide. The size of this rath and the presence of a large annex, indicates a substantial structure which would have been an important habitation and working site in the early medieval period. The site importance is also extended into the later centuries when a children's burial ground (GA007-010--) was developed 50m to the west of the rath.



Photograph 17: Aerial view of Ardagh rath and annex

'Data from the basemap gallery accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at www.heritagemaps.ie, [6-9-2025]'.

The second well preserved rath in Ardagh townland (GA007-004---) is located at ITM: 569334 767597. It measures 34m north to south and 30.5m east to west and so is substantially smaller than the first example.

Well preserved raths are also located in the townlands of Ballinakill (GA007-034--), Corlackan (GA019-013--), Corrspark (GA007-057--), Kilcolumb (GA019-051), Lisnageeragh (GA019-060---) and Oughtagh (GA007-106--)

These are all bivallate raths which average between 30 and 40m in diameter. All are located on private farmland and access permission must be sought from the landowner.

Ringforts are often associated with the fairies and supernatural happenings in local folklore and there are a number of such stories in the Schools Manuscripts Collection of the 1930s connected to ringforts found in the study area.

The following extract is from the Schools Manuscripts Collection was collected by Kathleen Gannon from Keeloges East when she was a pupil in Toberroe School. The story was told to her by Patsy Keenahan of Keeloges East.

<https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4613672/4607070/4624006>

Story Title: Fairy Forts

That old fort over there is full of fairies and I can tell you a good story about it that I heard my father tell, the Lord have mercy on his soul!

One night a few men were travelling over this village when 'twas a big farm. They heard a noise and looked about them and what did they see but a black carriage drawn by no horses. This was very queer because in those days about one hundred years ago there were no motor cars. The people who were in the carriage could not be seen as curtains were drawn across the windows. The fairy coach went across the village at a great speed and entered that fort. This carriage was called the "coiste bodhar" or "dead coach" and was supposed to carry human persons into the fort and leave "sidhoagues" in their place who used to die after a time.

ACCESS – Iron Age/Early Medieval Secular Settlement

All the ringforts described in this report are located on private pasture land and the landowner's permission must be given for access.

4.3. Early Medieval Ecclesiastical sites

Map 3 in the accompanying atlas illustrates the locations of ecclesiastical sites within the Audit area

4.4.1. Ballinakill

(National Monument) RMP No. GA007-035

The present building known as Ballinakill Abbey very likely occupies a much earlier ecclesiastical site. A poorly preserved bank of earth and stone encloses an oval area which extends 61 metres from



north to south and 41m from east to west. The remains of a fosse (ditch) outside the bank are visible in the south with a possible entrance in the south-east. The size of this enclosure, it's siting on a rise in the landscape and the later addition of a church within its interior may indicate that it was originally built to enclose an early ecclesiastical settlement, which may date to the 5th/6th centuries. However no further evidence survives from this time. A ringfort to the south and one to the east are signs of close-by early habitation.

Photograph 18: Aerial view of early ecclesiastical enclosure at Ballinakill

'Data from the basemap gallery accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at www.heritagemaps.ie, (6-9-2025)'].



Photograph 19: Early ecclesiastical bank enclosure surrounding a later church at Ballinakill

4.4.2. Gortmorris

(SMR No: GA007-068001-)

A large, poorly preserved oval enclosure is located in the townland of Gortmorris. A low bank and a partial external ditch demarcate the site.



Because of its large size, 80m from north-west to south-east and 65m from north-east to south-west, the presence of a holy well, and the tradition that there was a monastery here, indicates that it may be the remains of an early ecclesiastical enclosure. Its large size, suggest this interpretation. A 5m gap in the south-east may mark the entrance. The interior is pitted with hollows, among which is the site of St Michael's holy well (see Section 4.8.). The site is overgrown with small trees, mainly hawthorn and scrub.

Photograph 20: Aerial view of the possible early ecclesiastical site in Gortmorris

'Data from the basemap gallery accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at www.heritagemaps.ie, [6-9-2025]'.

The following extract from the Schools Manuscripts Collection comes from Sonnagh School where this story was collected from Páraic Mac Oirealla who lived in Sonnagh in the 1930s. It illustrates the local belief that a monastic settlement once existed at this location.

Between the villages of Moneen and Gorthmorris there is a hallowed spot known as St Michael's Well. The well is situated on a high mound and there is a large bush overhanging it. Tradition has it that in olden times a large monastery stood in the immediate vicinity. The monks of the monastery hospitably entertained pilgrims to this holy well. On the 29th September the feast of St Michael local residents perform stations round this well and take away water from it for pious purposes. In the Penal days the monastery fell into the hands of the Persecutors of our people and destroyed it and the monks had to fly to the bogs, glens and mountains for safety. There is not a trace of this monastery now to be seen but there are traces of the avenue which led from the monastery to the public road of Today.

4.4.3. Keeloges Beg



The first edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey map c.1838 shows a site labelled 'Site of Killomaine Graveyard' and a sub-oval area, cut through by field boundaries, outlined with a broken line in Keeloges Beg townland to the north-east of the present Community Centre. The site was neither labelled nor shown on the 1890 25-inch map.

Map 7: OS 6-inch map c.1840 Killomaine graveyard

'Data from the basemap gallery accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at www.heritagemaps.ie, [6-9-2025]'.



Map 8: OS 6-inch map 3rd edition c.1930 Killomaine graveyard

'Data from the basemap gallery accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at www.heritagemaps.ie, [6-9-2025]'.

In 1920 O'Flanagan in the OS Letters (O'Flanagan 1927, Vol. 1, 70) referred to a church called 'Cill O'Mainné' of which 'nothing more than the foundations remain', adding that it was 'more ancient' than that at Ballinakill nearby.

On the 3rd edition 6-inch OS map c.1930 the site is labelled 'Killomaine Graveyard (Disused)' and 'Kilmacangany Church (Site of)' and a roughly oval area is outlined with a broken line.



There is nothing visible today at the site, but the faint outline of an oval area measuring 75m east to west and c.60m north to south can be seen on aerial photographs. The references to a church site and disused graveyard and the large size of the oval enclosure provides some evidence of the probability of an early ecclesiastical settlement at this site.

Photograph 21: Aerial view of slight trace of large oval enclosure in Keeloges Beg
Source: Bing map accessed 6-9-2025

In 2001, archaeological testing was carried out as part of the planning application for a private dwelling 30m from the edge of this possible early ecclesiastical enclosure. The remains of metalworking activity and a pit were recorded.

The pit varied from 0.1m to 0.25m in depth and contained a large layer of mid-greyish brown, silty clay, with frequent charcoal flecks and one small heat-shattered stone. There was a concentration of charcoal at the base of the pit. A sherd of pottery of prehistoric or early medieval date was recovered, in which an oat grain was visible. Initial interpretation by the archaeologist suggests that this was a possible rubbish-pit of prehistoric/early medieval date.

The metalworking feature comprised an oval-shaped, 0.5m by 0.3m, with a dark greyish black sandy silt and a high iron slag and charcoal content. Sixteen slag fragments were excavated, including two fragments of furnace bottom. The feature reached a maximum depth of 0.1m. The archaeologist interpreted that this is probably the truncated (in antiquity) remains of an early medieval bowl furnace.



Photograph 22: Example of a bowl furnace

Two deposits of burnt material were found 0.55m to the north and 1m east of this feature. The first was 0.4m by 0.25m and comprised a dark, brownish-pink silty clay with a maximum depth of 0.03m. This was the result of the subsoil's being in contact with very hot materials. The second was 0.75m by 0.25m in size, comprising a black sandy silt with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional iron slag remains. These were very likely the remains of materials cleaned out from the bowl furnace.

It is probable that the metalworking activity was part of the adjacent early medieval ecclesiastical site. Such activity often took place on the periphery of settlement sites, probably because of the noxious fumes created by the smelting, or the danger of fire spreading.

(Source: <https://excavations.ie/2001:519> Keelogesbeg, Galway. The full report is contained in Appendix II)

4.4.4. Kilmacrickard

The historic first edition OS 6-inch map c.1838, shows a circular enclosure in Kilmacrickard townland which has a diameter of approximately 65 metres. The enclosure's large size and the townland name ('Cill' or 'Kill' meaning Church) may suggest an ecclesiastical site but there is no other evidence.

4.4.5. Kilcolumb

The townland name Kilcolumb is translated as the 'Church of St Columb'. Although there is no visible evidence of an early ecclesiastical enclosure at this site today, the placename associated with the 'Church of Colmcille', presence of a holy well, graveyard and church may indicate early ecclesiastical activity here.

ACCESS – Early Medieval Ecclesiastical sites

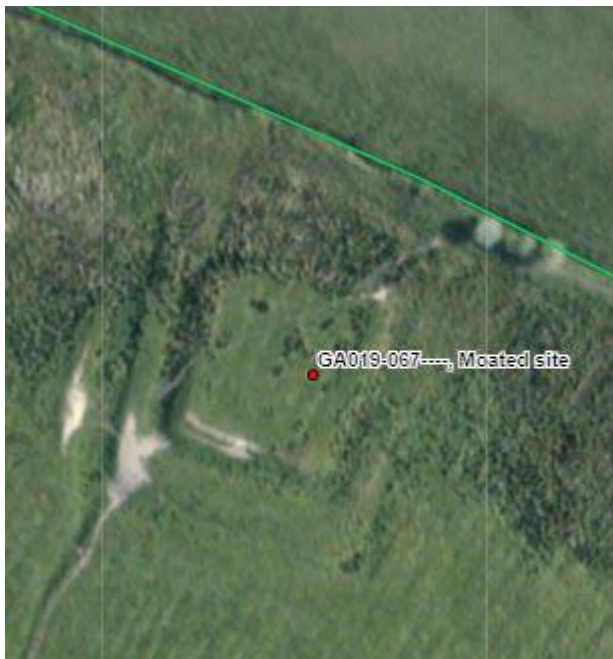
Ballinakill early medieval ecclesiastical site is publically accessible as it is located within Ballinakill graveyard.

All other early medieval ecclesiastical site described above are on private land and are not publically accessible.

4.5. Late Medieval Secular Settlement

4.5.1. Moated Site

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



The townland name Moat probably derives from the moated site (GA019-067----) which is found here. It is located 25m south of a stream and is well preserved. Almost square in plan, measuring 27m east to west and 26m north to south is consists of two banks with an intervening fosse and an external fosse. A deep channel on the west side links the external fosse to the stream and hence this was the source of water to fill the moat.

Photograph 23: Aerial view of Moated site in Moat townland

'Data from the basemap gallery accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at www.heritagemaps.ie, [21-9-2025]'.

4.5.2 Castles

Map 2 in the accompanying atlas illustrates the castles and reputed battle sites within the Audit area.

4.5.2.1. Glinsk Castle GA007-062001

The De Burgo/Burke/MacDavid Burkes

William De Burgh arrived in Ireland in 1185 following the Norman invasion. He was the first in the line that would establish the De Burgh or Burke family dynasty in Ireland. William was appointed Governor of Limerick and granted lands in Munster. He died in Athassel Abbey, near Golden in Co. Tipperary in 1205.

William's son Richard was granted his father's lands in Limerick, Tipperary and Connacht. However there were many battles with the O'Connors of Connacht in the 13th century to control his ownership of the Connacht estates. The King divided Connacht into 30 cantreds of which he bequeathed 25 to Richard and 5 he retained. Glinsk was located in one of the King's cantreds known as 'Tir Máine'. Tir Maine included the ancient territory of Clanconway, of which the O'Finnertys were the hereditary Gaelic lords. They were dispossessed of their lands when the King granted his 5 cantreds to various Norman lords in 1294.

Local folklore records that Nuala Ni Finnerty, who was known as "Nuala na Midoga", (Nuala of the dagger) was married to the O'Finnerty of Kilcroan Castle, who she murdered so that she could marry Richard's son David and that through this alliance, the De Burgos inherited the lands around Glinsk. According to the historical sources, in 1294 the King granted Donamon Castle and the Clanconway territory to William de Oddingles and it is more likely he either leased Clanconway to the De Burgos or they took it by force.

However it happened, by 1307 the De Burgos had arrived in Glinsk. This branch of the De Burgo family became known as the MacDavid Burkes and lived an Irish lifestyle.

In 1334, David's son Hubert was granted all the lands in the Glinsk area by the King and the MacDavid Burkes became Lords of Clanconway. They retained this title up to 1585 when Hubert MacDavid took the 'Surrender and Regrant' terms offered by Queen Elizabeth I. He gave up his title of Lord of Clanconway and was subsequently knighted by the Lord Deputy, Sir John Perrott and became Sir Hubert Burke, under English law.

O'Sullivan Beares Epic March

In 1602, following the Flight of the Earls, O'Sullivan Beare gathered 400 soldiers and 600 followers including women and children to march to O'Rourke's territory of Breifne to seek help. Their destination was Leitrim Castle. They travelled 300 miles in 15 days across the country in harsh winter weather. On January 10th, 1603, they spent the night on Mount Mary in a heavy snowstorm. Bedraggled and starving, with many of the original followers dead, the group arrived at Glinsk Castle the following day seeking food and shelter. However, they were turned away by the MacDavid Burkes.

The present day ruins of 'Glinsk Castle' date to c1630-40, so it is highly probable that an earlier castle existed on this strategic high point or somewhere closeby and this would have been where O'Sullivan Beare and his followers sought help. However there is no visible evidence of this structure today.

A recreation of the epic march was completed by Donnacha O'Dulaing (a RTE radio presenter) in 1987 and 1997 and to celebrate his arrival in Glinsk the community gathered in large numbers to greet him. A medieval style banquet was prepared and O'Sullivan Beare (aka Donnacha) received a great welcome and hospitality from the Glinsk people.



O'Sullivan Beare's march is also commemorated in the present day long distance walking route 'The Beara – Breifne Way' of which 'The Suck Valley Way', a 105km circular route is incorporated. This way marked walking route passes through a number of townlands in the audit area.

Architectural features of Glinsk Castle

The semi-fortified house, the ruins of which are such a prominent feature in Glinsk today, was built c. 1630-40 most probably by Sir Ulick Burke, who was created Baronet in 1628. (Bence-Jones 1978, 141, Craig 1982, 132-3). Set on high ground, above a bend in a stream that runs through the nearby glaciated valley known locally as 'The Glen', it commands a view over the surrounding countryside. It is said that five Counties can be seen from here on a clear day and the placename 'Glinsk' may derive from 'glin-sce' meaning clear-view.

A large limestone quarry located in nearby Turlough townland and local limekilns, such as those in Ussey townland, may have provided the stone and lime used in the mortar. Local oak trees were likely felled to provide the planks needed for construction and scaffolding.

Fortified houses began to evolve at the end of the 16th and in the early 17th centuries, as the need for the defensive features of the tower house began to lessen and people sought more spacious living accommodation. The ground plan was enlarged generally into a rectangle. High gables at each end framed the building and massive chimneys crowned the roof. Larger windows with mullions and transoms allowed more light to penetrate the greater number of rooms than in the earlier castles. Rooms were often divided by wooden partitions and large fireplaces inserted. Defensive features were not entirely abandoned and often took the form of a machicolation over the doorway and/or bartizans on the corner of the walls. Bawn walls with gate houses, mural towers and numerous gun loops added to the defence.

The fortified house at Glinsk is composed of three storeys over a basement (Craig 1982, 132-3). Its ground plan would be rectangular, but for the recessed, narrow centre bay between the two large towers that project from each end of the south wall. The main entrance doorway is set into this centre bay on the west side at ground floor level. The function of the recessed bay was to bring the intending visitor into a confined space where he could be kept in sight and in the sights of the garrison's hand-guns, before he turned left at first floor-level to enter the principal floor (Craig 1982, 132-3). Machicolations guard the corner of each tower. On the South facing wall of the recess a simple square space stands above the first floor window – this space once held the Coat of Arms of the MacDAVID BURKES of Glinsk.

Originally, each tower had a gable front and rear, but only the rear gables survive. A parapet and wall walk were set in front of these gables, from which the guards would patrol and keep watch. A series of slop stones facilitated water runoff from the roof area.

A second doorway is located in the centre of the back wall of the building at basement level. It is a pointed arch. The arch is made up of three segments of stone which was carefully pock-marked for decorative effect while the corners of the stone were dressed and chamfered. A perforation in its west jamb suggests the former presence of a yett. A machicolation is located at parapet level above the doorway.

The west and east gable walls of the house support clusters of five diagonal large chimney stacks. These were the flues for fireplaces which were located on each floor.

At basement level each of the small single-light windows are set in a deep embrasure flanked by a pair of angled musket loops as in late tower house practice. The three upper floors of the house are lit by flat-headed mullion and transom windows of three lights. Hood mouldings above the windows prevent water ingress.

The interior of the house has been gutted and there is evidence of fire damage. But from the traces visible in the surviving plasterwork, it is possible to determine that the stairs were centrally placed (Record of Monuments and Places).

A section of the old bawn wall can be seen to the west of the Castle. This wall was one metre thick but a section of only 18 metres in length now remains. This wall stands approximately 3 metres high externally and 1 metre on the inside.

The remains of the base of a turret, 1m high, is located to the east of the castle. It was circular and 5.7 metres in diameter. (O'Flanagan 1927, Vol. 1, 73; Leask 1951, 131-2)

Medieval Life

King James 1 created the manor of Glinsk allowing fairs, markets and courts to be held near the Castle.

The famous Irish blind harpist, composer and singer Turlough O'Carolan performed in Glinsk Castle on many occasions towards the end of the 17th century and into the early 18th century for the entertainment of Sir Ulick Burke and his guests. He honoured his host by composing the songs *Ulliac Búrca* (Ulick Burke) and *Marbhna Uilliac Búrca* (Lament for Sir Ulick Burke). Sir Ulick died in 1708.

The End of an Era

The Burkes appeared to have stopped living in the castle sometime in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century. Joseph Burke, brother of Baronet John Burke, went to live at Fairfield House in Creggs and eventually the focus of the estate switched to the Creggs area, and Glinsk Castle fell into disrepair. (Scott, P. 2014)

In 1854 the Burke's sold their estate to Allan Pollok, a Scottish investor. The Glinsk Baronetcy became extinct when Sir Theobald Burke died on April 4th 1909.

Glinsk Castle was taken into Guardianship under the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014 - National Monument 439. It is currently in the care of the Office of Public Works.

4.5.2.2. Keeloges Castle

The following extract is from the Schools Manuscripts Collection of the 1930s and was collected by a Kathleen Gannon from Keeloges East when she was a pupil in Toberroe School. The story was told to here by Patsy Keenahan of Keeloges East

Story Title: Old Castles and Ruins

Keeloges castle is situated in the village in which I live. The ruin indeed is not preserved and a farmhouse is built just beside it which spoils the beauty of the old place. This old castle belonged to the Bourke's of Connaught. It was a long building of about two and a half storeys and was thatched as was the custom of the day. There was a private chapel in this building and the inhabitants always kept a priest in the house. The window of the chapel could be seen a few years ago but it has since fallen with a large chimney which the villagers called "the big chimney". An old man in the village remembers another old man who served Mass in the castle this old man has still in his possession a little bell which was used at Mass. There was an avenue leading up to the castle and the trees are still growing on the road-side. This piece of road was always called "the avenue" and is less than a quarter of a mile long. Some of the fields around are called the "old gardens" and they are the gardens and parks of the castle. Some people say the castle is haunted and that some-times carriages and people are seen driving up to the castle. Of course these people are dressed as in olden times.

There is a castle in Glinsk which belonged to the Bourkes also. A man named Liam Garbh lived in this castle. It is said that he fought duels in France and Spain and all over the Continent. No man was able to kill Liam and the inhabitants of the place hold that he was the best man in Connaught if not in Ireland. This story is told of Liam Garbh, that one day he was out hunting and feeling hungry entered a little house in which an old woman lived. He asked her to allow him to cook some food which he carried with him over her fire. But the old dame refused so Liam in a rage lit a pound note and kept on lighting notes until he had cooked his dinner on the flames which the money made.

Liam Garbh's effigy is carved on a large stone in an old church which is now in ruins called Ballinakill. This church is in the neighbourhood of the castle. Liam wears armour in the picture and in his hand he holds a sword. His head is uncovered and a little dog is beneath his feet. A piece is taken out of his leg and it is said that this was a wound in his leg which he received when fighting a duel.

The Burke family of Keeloges were related to the Burkes of Glinsk Castle (<https://landedestates.ie/>). The present day building at Keeloges consists of a residential, two-storey, four-bay farmhouse. The internal walls of the house are approximately 1m thick and the windows have inner embrasures which are plastered and painted. The rooms are generally square in plan with low ceilings. Adjoining the house to the north, are lime mortared walls, with blocked door and window opening in some places, currently roofed and in use as sheds. There is also the remains of a single standing wall adjacent to the road way to the south of the house. These walls are believed to be part of the original 'castle'. The present owner recollects removing large flagstones from the adjoining when reclaiming the land approximately 40 years ago.



Photographs 24-26: From top, left to right: Current farmhouse, lime mortar walls with opening currently in use as sheds and the single standing wall to the front of the property.



Two parallel lines of beech trees which are located on the west side of the road stretching from Keeloges Cross roads towards the site of the Castle' are known as the 'avenue' locally and are believed to have been the entrance driveway to the Castle.

Photograph 27: The 'Avenue' at Keeloges Cross

ACCESS – Late Medieval Secular Settlement

The Moated site in Moat townland is on private land and not publically accessible.

Glinsk Castle was taken into Guardianship under the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014 - National Monument 439. It is currently in the care of the Office of Public Works. The landowner permits access to the site.

The remains of Keeloges Castle are private property.

4.6. Late Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites

4.6.1. Ballinakill 13th century Medieval Parish Church

The interior of the early medieval ecclesiastical enclosure at Ballinakill is occupied by the ruins of a medieval church, a later side chapel and graveyard.



Photograph 28: Remains of east gable of 13th century medieval parish church of Ballinakill

The architecture of the earliest built remains indicate that this church was most likely built in the medieval period, possibly in the 13th century and functioned as the parish church of Ballinakill Civil Parish.

The plan form of the church is defined by the low remains of the west and north external walls and the partial remains to a somewhat higher level of the gable on the east end. There is evidence of two window openings in the east gable.

The south wall was altered to accommodate a doorway into the later chapel. Two small flat headed openings at either end of this wall which are original to the building have been recorded in the past. In 1993 the Galway Archaeological Survey team observed a blocked opening over the one at the western end, which may indicate that there was a loft at the west end of the building. This blocked opening however was not recorded by Richard Crumlish in 1997, when the Conservation Plan for the side-chapel was being drawn up, and none of these features are visible today, due to a thick growth of ivy.



Photograph 29: Exterior view of the remains of the south wall of the 13th century medieval parish church of Ballinakill (24-7-2024)

Side Chapel



It is likely, that it was sometime in the 16th century when a side-chapel was built off the east end of the south wall of the medieval 13th century church ruin. It may have been added by the Burke family as it contains their family memorials, an effigy of William Burke and a monument to Sir John Burke.

The walls of the chapel stand to more or less eaves height and retain most of their architectural features. They are rubble limestone with ashlar quoins and cut stone on the architectural features.

The round headed, entrance doorway inserted into the east end of the south wall of the original medieval church is built of ashlar blocks decorated with sparrow pecking. The arch has decorative corbels at the base. It is chamfered on both sides and contains 'nib-holes' on either side of its interior face. These were used to support timbers for the construction of the arch.

Photograph 30: Corbels in entrance doorway to side chapel



Photograph 31: Entrance doorway to side-chapel at Ballinakill

There are two window openings in the east wall of the side chapel, one of which has a Gothic arch head and the other is round headed. On the bottom right hand side of each is an aumbry. These openings may originally have had cut stone surround which has been robbed out.



Photograph 32: Two window openings and associated aumbry in the east wall of the side chapel at Ballinakill



A large window opening in the south wall is blocked internally by an 18th century Burke monument.

The window is best viewed from the exterior.

It consists of a gothic arch opening filled with four, equal size, round headed openings at the base, above which tracery occupies the arch space. A hood moulding surrounding the arch, protects the window.

Photograph 33: Exterior of window in north wall at Ballinakill

The bottoms of the hood moulding are extended horizontally by decorative, flowing stone carvings. The carving to the west consist of a floral device on a stem, which appears to extend through the hood moulding to the east side, where there is a carving of a man's head grasping the stem in his mouth and the stem terminates in the same floral device as seen on the west side. The man is locally referred to as 'the Green Man'.



Photograph 34 & 35: Stone carvings on window in north wall of side chapel at Ballinakill



In the interior of the chapel in the south-east corner is a slab from an altar tomb that has been mounted onto the wall. It is carved with the likeness of a knight, dressed in chain mail, sword in hand and a dog at his feet. The Burke crest of arms is set within a pedimented arch above the effigy and an inscription is located at the base of the slab. The inscription beneath reads:

‘HERE STANDS YE EFFIGY OF WILLIAM BURKE YE FIRS OF MCDAVIDS FAMILY WHO DIED IN 1116 AND ERECTED BY HARRY BURKE 1772’.

However the date of the death of William Burke, who was the first of the Norman de Burgo family to settle in Ireland, is recorded as 1205.

The OS Letters record:

Tradition says that this effigy was cut in France where William Burke was killed in battle by order of a French lady who fell in love with him, and that it remained for a long time in the possession of her family until it was sent over (to Glinsk) to this Harry Burke his lineal descendant who erected it in this chapel of Ballinakill. It is of lime stone, and believed to be a striking likeness of the warrior.

(O'Flanagan 1927, Vol. 1, 70-72)

Photograph 36: Knight Effigy in Ballinakill

Another theory is that this effigy originally stood in Athassel Abbey, Co. Limerick, where William is reputed to have died and after the dissolution of the monasteries, it was moved to Ballinakill, Glinsk as the Burke family in Glinsk claimed to be the senior descendants of the De Burgh family.



A wall monument to Joannes de Burgo, who died in 1721, is inserted into the window space. It consists of a limestone rectangular slab inscribed with a lengthy Latin memorial and decorated with the Burke Family crest. The slab is framed within a rolled, moulded cornice to each side and at the top. It sits between two rectangular columns with flat capitals and an entablature on top. On each side of the base are floral scrolls. The entablature supports a pediment decorated with classical scroll work. Within the pediment is a crucifixion plaque. The figure of Christ is finely carved with long shoulder length hair, beard and moustache. The facial expression, hands, nails, ribs and the perizoma (loincloth) are all obvious.

Photograph 37: Wall monument dedicated to Joannes de Burgo

The crown of thorns is topped with a small cross and the INRI inscription flanks it. On each side are symbols of the Passion. To the left is the pillar wrapped with a cord with which Christ was tied and a monstrance on top, representing the 'Scourging at the Pillar'. Beneath are coins representing the thirty pieces of silver for Judas' betrayal. Alongside is the spear with which Longinus pierced Christ's side. The cock in the pot represents Judas confession to his wife and her reply that Jesus will no more rise from the dead than will the cock she was cooking rise from the pot....which of course, it did. To the right are more of the 'thirty pieces of silver', the ladder for the deposition of Christ and a two-thong scourge with star ends.

Richard Concannon, born in Creggs in 1747 was baptised in the Chapel at Ballynakill by Fr Thomas Plunkett. At the age of 17, he entered the Irish Dominican College in Louvain, Belgium, took his vows and assumed the name Luke. He continued his studies in Rome where he was ordained a priest in 1770. Pope Pius VII appointed him the **first Bishop of the Diocese of New York** in 1808. However the new Bishop never reached his diocese as he died enroute in Naples.

Two other crucifixion plaques and a medieval statue, which are thought to originate from this site are now located in the wall of St Michaels RC Church in Glinsk (See Section 4.7.2.).

A number of grave slabs and a headstone inside the church and chapel date from probably 18th century up to recent 20th century headstones.

The church is labelled as 'R.C. Chapel (in ruins)' on the first edition 6-inch OS map (c.1838) and the NMS Archaeological Survey suggest that the building may have been refurbished in the 18th century for this purpose.

Conservation Works

A FÁS graveyard clean-up scheme in 1997 was monitored by Richard Crumlish, Archaeologist. Two stockpiles of stone from that work were left in church interior.

In 2021 Glinsk Community Development group received funding from the Heritage Council Community Grant Scheme to carry out a Conservation Management report for the Chapel. Funding and support were also received from Galway County Council and St. Jarlath's Credit Union. The Conservation reports can be viewed at <https://dpdgay9x1sxad.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2023/08/Ballinkill-Abbey-Conservation-Architects-Report-Aug-2021-G.-McManus-1.pdf>

On the strength of the conservation report, further funding and support were received in 2022 and 2023 from the same sources. This allowed conservation works to take place in these years under Ministerial Consent No. C001093.

2022

The stockpiles of stone that had accumulated under the FÁS scheme in 1997 were investigated at the beginning of the 2022 works. Two were located in the chapel, a third at the western end of the exterior of the south gable and a fourth at the southern end of the exterior of the east wall. These revealed a total of fourteen architectural fragments and cut and dressed blocks, including a quern stone fragment and the base of a column which had been uncovered during the 1997 works. In addition, a mullion was found within the embrasure of a window at the southern end of the east wall and a tracery fragment was found in the graveyard to the east of the chapel.

Ivy was removed from the exterior of the south gable and the top of the wall was subsequently consolidated. Some consolidation was carried out around the Sir John Burke monument. The top of the southern end of the east wall, including the arch of the window opening directly below, was also consolidated during the works. Shrubs were removed from the interior of the chapel.

2023

Consolidation of the north wall of the chapel, the east gable and attached north wall of the church and the three window embrasures in the east and west walls of the chapel was completed in this year.

A grass-covered mound of rubble located at the northern end of the exterior of the east wall of the chapel was investigated. It measured 3.2m x 2m x 0.5-0.9m high. It consisted of soil and rubble and contained plastic, a modern glass bottle, a modern metal coffin handle, a human bone fragment and two cut stones. Four further architectural fragments and two decorated graveslab fragments were found during consolidation of the walls.

ACCESS – Late Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites

The Medieval ecclesiastical site at Ballinakill is publically accessible as it is located in Ballinakill graveyard

4.7. 19th-20th Century Churches

4.7.1. Pre-Emancipation RC Chapels



Photograph 38: Remains of enclosure where Glinsk RC Chapel was located pre-1843

Before the present day St Michaels RC Church was built in 1843, the RC Chapel which served the community was located approximately 1.25km to the south east in the townland of Glinsk. All that remains today is a rectangular area defined by a low earthen bank with stones incorporated. It is very likely that this pre-Reformation chapel was thatched and had a simple rectangular plan.

Patrick Burke, born in nearby Lisnageeragh townland in 1779, served in Glinsk RC Chapel as curate in the early 1800s. He obtained a doctorate of divinity in 1799 from Maynooth after four years of study and was ordained a curate in 1803. He then went to Sligo where he became Administrator. Following this, he returned to Ballinakill as Parish Priest of Ballinakill/Kilcroan in 1810.

In 1891, he was appointed coadjutor Bishop of Elphin and became Bishop of the Diocese in 1827. For a short time before his death on September 16th 1843, he resided at Turla, near Ballymoe. His grave in Kilcroan cemetery is marked by a very large, highly decorative vault topped by a Bishops cross and mitre.



Photograph 39: Tomb of Bishop Burke in Kilcroan

A T-plan R.C Chapel is illustrated on the first edition OS 6-inch map (c.1838) in Curraghreaveagh townland in Crosswell village. The same map shows that the foundations for a new RC Chapel are being laid at this time to the southeast in Garraun North townland. The updated 1890 map shows that the RC Chapel at Crosswell has been removed and the new Chapel i.e. St Marys Church Kilbegnet Parish is completed. The site at Crosswell where the original chapel stood is overgrown today with trees and scrub.

4.7.2. St Michaels RC Church

Around the year 1840, the parish priest of Ballinakill, the Very Rev Fr Harrington secured a site for a new church in the townland of Keelloguesbeg and building commenced. Dedicated to St Michael the Archangel it was completed in 1843.

Cruciform in plan, the main entrance door is in the gable of the porch which is attached to the north side of the chancel. This doorway faces the road and entrance gateway to the church grounds.



Set into an elliptical, arched recess above this doorway, is a crucifixion plaque carved in relief. The initials INRI are inscribed on the transom of the cross which has serif terminals. This style of terminal is typical of early 18th century work. The figure of Christ is fixed by four nails, with the heads inclined to the right shoulder. The large hands are out of proportion with the body suggesting a folk art influence. The ribs are highlighted and the twisted loincloth is wrapped around the hips.

Photograph 40: Crucifixion Plaque above entrance to Glinsk Church

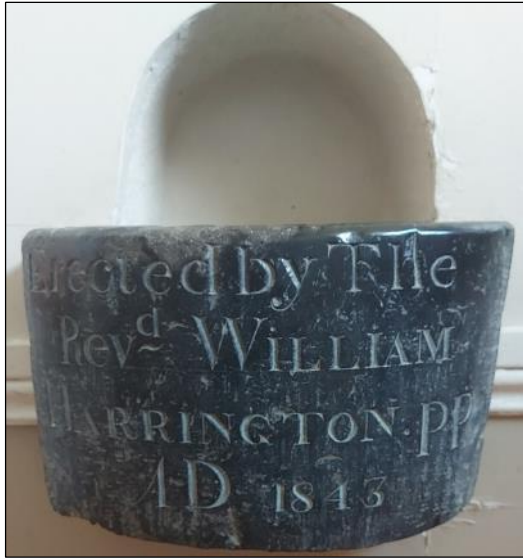
Above this porch at the apex of the north gable is a second Crucifixion plaque. Here the head of Christ leans to the left and the feet are to the left out of line with the rest of the body. A large thorn of crowns surround the head of Christ. On each side of the cross a number of Passion symbols are visible. On the left is the pillar and rope associated with Christ's judgement, the cock in the pot symbolising Judas' betrayal and a box like object representing the tomb. On the right are the ladder used in the deposition, a pair of scourges, a hammer, a pair of pincers and a lance.

The two Crucifixion plaques are 18th century in date and so are earlier than the present day St Michael's Church. They are likely to have originally been part of the earlier RC Chapel in Glinsk townland or may have been part of the chapel at Ballinakill.

In the north porch is a unique carved figure of the Madonna and Child which was found in the nearby Ballinakill graveyard. It is a decorative finial which probably originally formed the apex of a medieval wall tomb.



Photograph 41: Madonna and Child carving in Glinsk Church



Photograph 42: Inscribed stone stoup in north porch

Also the north porch of St Michael's Church is a large limestone holy water stoup set into the west wall. It is inscribed 'Erected by Revd William Harrington PP Ad 1843' (who was the Parish Priest responsible for the construction of this Church) in an incised Roman script. Light lines are visible beneath the lettering which were incised to aid the laying out of the lines of text.

A second stone stoup also dated 1843 is located in the south porch.

Within the body of the Church, the altar is located in the east and the gallery in the west. There is an entrance door beneath the gallery. The ceiling consists of timber trusses and painted panels.



Photograph 43: Gallery and roof in Glinsk Church



Photograph 44: Altar in Glinsk Church

The altar is of polished pine. The central panel is decorated with a raised IHS monogram set within a circular frame surrounded by a stencilled floral motif. Wooden columns with round bases and capitals flank it at either side. The tabernacle has a single brass door decorated with a Celtic Cross surrounded by Celtic interlace. It is set into timber housing. A large wood crucifix with the figure of Christ painted white hangs above the tabernacle. A brass plaque at the base is inscribed: *'Presented to St Michaels Church by Glinsk PTAA on behalf of the people of the Parish July 1985.'*

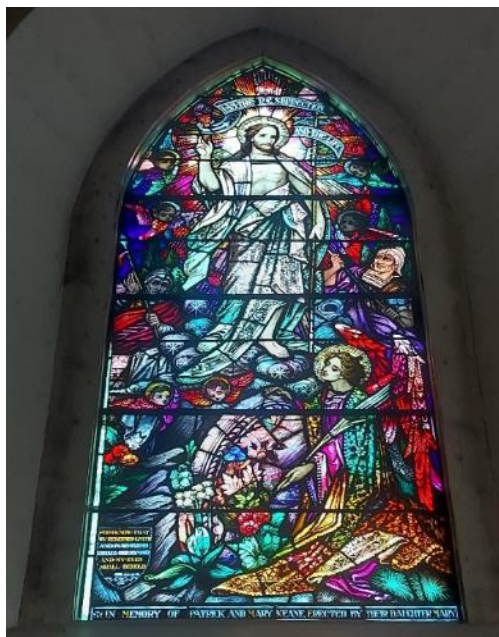
All the windows in the gallery, nave and east wall are pointed arch openings with single lights. They contain multi coloured quarries of glass set in an abstract design with figurative depictions incorporated.



Photograph 45: Crucifixion window in south transept

The widow in the north wall of the nave, depicting the Sacred Heart bears the inscription: *'Erected by the men of Glinsk Parish AD 1898'*. The window in the opposite wall bears the same inscription for the 'women of Glinsk Parish' and the figure depicted is Our Lady.

The south transept window depicts the Crucifixion scene with Mary the Mother reaching up to Christ and Mary Magdalene at the base of the Cross. The window bears the inscription *'Memory of Rose Griffin. Died May 22nd 1931 R.I.P. Donated by her son Owen'*. This window bears the makers address and date *Camden St Dublin 1932*.



Photograph 46: Resurrection Window in north transept

The north transept window depicts the Resurrection with Christ dressed in ornately jewelled white robes. An angel at his feet rolls back the stone of the tomb. A winged cherub above Christ's head holds a shield inscribed: *For know that my redemption Liveth and in my flesh I shall see my God and my eyes shall behold'* Job IXX-25-27. At the base are the donor's names: *In Memory of Patrick and Mary Keane Erected by their daughter Mary*.

Both of these windows are likely to have been manufactured in the Earley Studios, who had a studio in Camden St, Dublin. The firm was founded by two brothers, Thomas and John Earley. Thomas trained as a sculptor while John became a stained glass artist. The company supplied many churches with windows during the Gothic Revival of the 1800s.

ACCESS – 19th-20th Century Churches

The site of the original RC church in Glinsk townland is on private property and not publically accessible.

The present day RC Church, St Michaels is publically accessible.

4.8. Holy Wells

4.8.1. St Michaels Holy Well



Photograph 47: Site of St Michael's Holy Well, Gortmorris

St Michaels Holy Well is located in the townland of Gortmorris in the north-east quadrant of an early ecclesiastical enclosure (GA007-068001-) (See Section 4.4.2.). The interior of the enclosure is filled with hollows. All that remains of the well is an overgrown irregular hollow measuring 5m from east to west and 3 m from north to south, enclosed by an earthen bank opening to the north east. Three hawthorn trees grow above it. The hollow was dry at the time of audit, but the area around supports rushes and yellow flag indicating wetter land.

St Michael's Feast Day is September 29th and traditionally this was pattern day at the well, when it is reputed a cure for eye ailments could be obtained by washing your eyes with the well water. The annual pattern no longer takes place.

According to local tradition, there was a monastery here and human bones are said to have been found close to the well.

The following is an extract from the Schools Manuscripts Collection collected in the 1930s in Sonnagh School by the teacher James Grady from Páraic Mac Oirealla who lived in Sonnagh.

<https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4613670/4606886/4623347>

Between the villages of Moneen and Gorthmorris there is a hallowed spot known as St Michael's Well. The well is situated on a high mound and there is a large bush overhanging it. Tradition has it that in olden times a large monastery stood in the immediate vicinity. The monks of the monastery hospitably entertained pilgrims to this holy well. On the 29th September the feast of St Michael local residents perform stations round this well and take away water from it for pious purposes. In the Penal days the monastery fell into the hands of the Persecutors of our people and destroyed it and the monks had to fly to the bogs, glens and mountains for safety. There is not a trace of this monastery now to be seen but there are traces of the avenue which led from the monastery to the public road of Today.

4.8.2. St Columb's Holy Well

SMR Ref No.: GA019-050----



Photograph 48: St Columb's Holy Well and votive offerings

St Columb's holy well is in the townland of Kilcolumb (Columb's Church). The well is located in a wet grassland field adjacent to the road. It is a spring well enclosed by a mortared limestone circular wall with castellated coping stones. It opens to the south-east and three steps lead up from the outside and another three down into the enclosure. Within the enclosing wall is a paved area which encloses the water in a circular walled area. An inscribed plaque is inserted in the wall at the opening. It is inscribed 'Kilcolumb Holy well March 1999'. This is the date when the surrounding wall was built by a local FAS team.



Photograph 49: Prayer plaque at St Columb's Holy Well

According to the landowner an inscribed prayer plaque inside the well enclosure was placed there by a man who claimed to have an apparition of the Blessed Virgin here in 2004.

The annual pattern was held on the last Sunday in July, traditionally known as Garland Sunday. The *turas* or pattern consisted on the pilgrim picking up seven stones and walking around the well seven times, reciting an Our Father followed by seven Hail Marys on each round. To mark the end of each round, one of the stones was thrown into the well.

An annual Mass is now celebrated in Kilcolumb graveyard, 800m to the north-east of the holy well, at the end of July/ beginning of August each year.

According to local folklore, about 802 years ago, St Columb's well was located closer to Kilcolumb church and graveyard, but it dried up and reappeared at its present location after a woman washed some clothes in it (See Section 3.13.).

4.8.3. Aghalative

GA019-001----

A hawthorn bush locally known as 'Phelim's Bush' once stood above a natural spring in Aghalative townland. According to local tradition, people washed their warts in the spring and then tied a ribbon to the bush. As the ribbon rotted away the warts disappeared. The bush reputedly stood 200m further away to the west until c. 1890 when it moved to its present location (local information). When the Archaeological Survey of County Galway visited the site in 1990, they found that the bush had been recently felled by mistake and was lying in a nearby ditch. The reason for the name Phelim is unknown. Today an Ash tree is located at the site and the water in the roadside drain appears to be coming from a spring source.

The following is an extract from the Schools Manuscripts Collection collected in the 1930s in Sonnagh School by the teacher James Grady.

<https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4613670/4606887/4623348>

About 400 yards to the south of the Sonnagh School there is a bush on the roadside known as Phelim's Bush. This bush at first was growing about 300 yards father back to the west. Tradition tells us that the bush was abused by cutting some of its branches, that a well which stood near was interfered with + the following morning the bush had moved to the roadside. If a branch happened to be broken no blossoms would come on that side the following year. There is a cure for Warts attached to it. You have to come three Sunday mornings before sunrise, walk round the bush three times saying three Hail Mary's each time, wash the warts with water from the stream running beside it, then tie a piece of white tape to one of the branches and the warts begin to wither immediately. Many local inhabitants were cured of warts in this way. God help the man caught cutting branches of this bush or interfering with it in any way.

ACCESS – Holy Wells

Both St Michael's and St Columb's Holy wells are on private pasture land and access permission should be sought from the landowner.

Phelim's Bush is located on the roadside and can be viewed from the public road.

4.9. Burial Grounds and Battle Sites

Map 4 in the accompanying atlas illustrates the burial grounds within the Audit area.

4.9.1. Ardagh Children's Burial Ground

SMR No. : GA007-010----

According to local tradition there was a children's' burial ground in Ardagh townland.

All that remains today is a low grassed mound in a roadside field to the north of the link road that runs through Ardagh townland. No grave-markers are visible. The field is locally known as the Priest's Field (pers. comm. Pío Byrnes)

The site is located 50metres to the west of a large rath which has a substantial annex on its east side (GA007-002----). (See Section 4.2.1.)

4.9.2. Keeloges Beg Children's Burial Ground

SMR No.: GA007-073001-

Faint traces of a small enclosure, where a children's burial ground is reputed to be located, is visible in a roadside field in Keeloges Beg. The site is marked on the first edition OS 6-inch map as a subcircular enclosure, cut through by a road. No visible surface trace of the burial ground survives today.

The following extracts from the Schools Manuscripts Collection of the 1930s were collected by Margaret Gleeson from Kilcolumb when she was a pupil in Toberroe School.

<https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4613672/4607105/4624024>

Story Title: Old Castles and other ruins

There is a disused graveyard in Keeloguesbeg. It is in Patrick Tarpey's field. There was a child buried there sometime ago and there was a skull of a child's head found there. There is not in it now but a few stones and they are covered with grass.

<https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4613672/4607121/4624031>

Story Title: Old Graveyards

Unbaptised children were said to be buried in forts or in places where there were old ruins or in places where there were old ruins or in dark places. There are said to be some children buried in Tom Courley's field (Ardagh) and more buried in John Kelly's field in (Toberroe,)

4.9.3. Cloonfaghna Children's Burial Ground and Battle Site

In Cloonfaghna townland, the east sector of a large enclosure, was used for burial up to about 1935, according to local information (Alcock, 1993)

An irregular area, measuring 24m north to south and 20m east to west, marked out by a line of grassed-over boulders with a number of small grassed-over set stones in the interior was visible, when the Archaeological Survey of County Galway visited the site in 1993. When this site was visited for the purposes of this Audit in 2025, the stones could not be found. The area consists of rough grassland which is very uneven underfoot and slopes down to the River Suck.

The enclosure within which the burial ground was recorded, is very poorly preserved and hard to define. A triangular flat-topped cairn of stones is located on the high ground towards the centre.

A single burial is also recorded immediately south of the enclosure by the National Monuments Service. Described by the Archaeological survey in 1993 as a rectangular limestone slab, 2m in length and 1.25m wide, aligned north to south and set flush with the ground, it again was not visible in 2025.

Local folklore records it as the burial place of a giant '*McCriosain's Grave*'.

The OS 6-inch map 1927 indicates a battle site at this location in Cloonfaghna townland and a second site 2km to the south east in Clooncah townland. The name of the townland 'Clooncah' (Cluain Catha), may be translated as the 'lawn or meadow of the battle' or, simply, 'battlefield'. The site of a burial place is also marked on this map in Clooncah townland of which no visible trace exists today. An area labelled 'Caltra' on the 6-inch OS 1927 map is located in the neighbouring townland of Clooncunny approximately 1.5km from the site of the battle in Clooncah. The name may be derived from the Irish 'Cealtrach' meaning an old burial ground (Joyce 1923, 98). Again, there are no visible remains today.

Although there is no historical record of a battle having taken place at either location, the Ordnance Survey Letters written during the first OS c.1838 record that in a field lying to the north of Glinsk Castle, is a spot called Leacht Daithi where David Burke was said to have been killed by the O'Conors of Ballintubber. The story told, was that when David saw the strong forces of the O'Conors approaching, he began to flee. His mother, Nuala na Midoga, seeing that her son was panic stricken, raised her petticoats and said '*Téidh suas a bhfóloach uathfa san áit a dtáinig tú*'. At his taunt, David turned to fight his enemies alone, but he was soon killed. (O'Flanagan 1927, Vol. 1, 74-5)

The reputed site of a battle in Cloonfaghna lies less than 2km north-north-east of Glinsk Castle – could this be the site of the battle between David and the O'Conors and could the burial grounds in Cloonfaghna, Clooncah and Clooncunny be associated with this event?

The following extract is from the Schools Manuscripts Collection of the 1930s and was collected by a Mary K. Mee when she was a pupil in Ballincurry School. The story was told to her by Michael Mee. <https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4591099/4590770/4593060>

There is a fort in Love's field in Clooncagh and a 1/4 mile away there is one in Clooncunny. Long ago two parties were at war with one another. One party occupied the Clooncagh fort and the enemy lived in Clooncunny. The battle was fought and those in Clooncagh were beaten. The dead soldiers were buried in Love's field and the fort was robbed. All the valuable things were kept, and the rest

were thrown into the lake. Other things were buried in Clooncunny bog and from time to time, dishes have been found in the bog, mentioned.

There are the remains of an old fort in cloonfaughna and it is supposed that anyone who enters that field after dusk, will be walking all night until he reaches a certain bush in the fort and then he will be able to find his way again.

There is a fort in Feeney's in Ballicurry, and it is called Lios Rubbic. A bullock hanged himself there and no one ever goes near it after dark in case he would be pursued by the animal.

4.9.4. Newtown Burials

SMR No.: Ga007-103---

ITM Co-ordinates: 569428 767390

According to local information, a number of burials have been revealed from time to time in a field in Newtown during ploughing. Some of the burials are said to have been stone-lined and not more than 0.3m below the ground surface. No visible surface trace survives. (Source: Archaeological Inventory of County Galway 1993)

ACCESS – Burial Grounds and Battle Sites

All of the burial grounds and the battle site mentioned above are on private property and not publically accessible.

4.10. Memorial Monuments and Bushes

A number of miscellaneous wayside monuments and bushes are marked and in some cases labelled on the historic six-inch OS maps of the study area.

Two monuments and two bushes are recorded in close proximity to each other on the first edition 6-inch OS map for Corlackan townland (c. 1838) on the Glinsk to Creggs road.

By 1931 when the 3rd edition map was published the locations of both monuments were marked 'Site of'. One of the monuments (GA019-012--) was located on a hillside above the road. The second was labelled '*Bligh's Monument*' (GA019-011--) and was located at the roadside.

The two bushes, in two separate locations on the side of the Glinsk- Creggs road, were labelled '*Eveleens Bush*' and '*Skeaghalaght*'. Neither appear to have survived. Just to the north of Bligh's Monument was 'Eveleen's Bush' (GA019-016) and to the south was 'Skeaghalaght'. A pond now occupies this latter site.

It is likely that these were memorial sites for various people. The name 'Skeaghalaght' with the ending ' -laght' which means a wayside memorial is indicative of their purpose.



Map 9: First edition six-inch OS map of Corlackan townland showing memorial monuments and bushes (c.1838)

'Data from the basemap gallery accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at www.heritagemaps.ie, [21-9-2025]'.

In Kilcolumb townland at the road T-junction with Lisnageeragh townland '*Scotchman's Bush*' was labelled on the 1838 and 1931 OS maps. The bush no longer exists.

In Aghalateeve townland '*Phelim's Bush*' was labelled on the 1890 and 1931 OS 6-inch maps (See Section 4.8.3.)

4.11. Industry

Map 5 in the accompanying atlas illustrates the sites of mills, kilns and forges within the Audit area.

4.11.1. Linen Production

In 2005 a beetle paddle and signs of retting holes with some bunches of flax still evident were



discovered in peatland in Treanboy townland. This artefact and the evidence of steeping ponds indicates that flax growing and its preparation for linen production, occurred in this area.

In the 18th and 19th centuries flax growing and linen production was a very important industry in Ireland. It was mostly based in Ulster but there were some areas of production in North Connaught. It was a cottage industry. Over three quarters of the crop was cultivated on plots of less than two acres in 1899 and 1904 producing little more than the spinning capacity of the grower's family. The growing of flax and the process of linen production is very labour intensive. Spinning and weaving was the work of the women on the small farm and in the villages.

Photograph 50: Flax beetle found in Glinsk bog 2005

To encourage the industry, in 1796, the Board of Trustees of the Linen and Hempen Manufactures of Ireland awarded spinning wheels, reels or looms to flax growers in proportion to the acreage they sowed. A quarter-acre of flax equalled one spinning wheel and if you grew over 5 acres you received a loom.

County inspectors received claims from the growers and county lists were published. The County List of Flax Growers for County Galway includes several from Kilcroan and Ballinakill. However no distinction is made between the different 'Ballinakill parishes' in the County and so it is difficult to determine which growers were in the Glinsk area. Names that appear for Kilcroan include John Browne, James Burke and Walter Burke. Edmond Burke is listed for Ballinakill. The list can be viewed at <https://www.failteromhat.com/flax1796.php>

The flax was usually sown in May and harvested in August. The crop was pulled by hand which was back breaking work. It was then tied in sheaves and place in stooks to dry in the sun for 1-2 weeks. The seeds were then separated from the stems by a process known as rippling. Iron rippling combs were used, which were made by local blacksmiths and placed across a small bench or plank. Handfuls of flax stem were pulled through the comb. The seeds fell out and were collected on a ground sheet laid underneath.

In order to separate the woody part of the stems from the fibres, the stems were then 'retted' i.e. they were left to steep in the water of a pond, stream or lake, weighed down with stones. The process could take 1-2 weeks. In Glinsk, the retting ponds that were found were in a peat bog.

The retted flax was then thrown out on the bank by workers standing in the water. This work was very laborious and smelly as fermentation of the stems had occurred while steeping.

The retted stems were set upright in heaps and left to dry. They were then brought to a bare field and spread out in rows where they dried for a further 1-2 weeks.

Scutching then took place where the outer shell of the stalks was smashed with a heavy roller or a hand 'beetle' like that found in Glinsk. In the 18th century the flax was often hand scutched. By the 19th century scutch mills had been developed, making the work a bit easier. The Glinsk beetle was probably in use sometime in the 1700s.

Once 'beetled' the stalks were pulled through graded combs to separate the fibres into bundles of equal length and quality, which could then be spun and woven into linen cloth.

4.11.2. Corn Milling

There are no upstanding remains of corn mills in the Audit area, but a number of associated sites are recorded on the OS 6-inch historic maps.

Ballinakill/Keelogesbeg



One such mill was located in Ballinakill townland (SMR No.: GA007-065----) on the edge of what is now Glinsk village. A small stream flowed into a mill pond constructed above the mill and the fall of water powered the wheel which drove the grinding stones. The stream still flows here today but all visible evidence of the mill and mill pond are gone. All evidence of the mill buildings had been removed by the time that the revised 25-inch OS maps were compiled c.1890.

Map 10: Location of Corn Mill, Kilns and Pond in Ballinakill town land c.1838

'Data from the basemap gallery accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at www.heritagemaps.ie, [22-9-2025]'.

The site is now managed as a recreational grass area on the roadside, with seating provided.

On the opposite side of the road, within the grounds of the present day Glinsk National School is the site of the former corn kilns, where the grain would have been dried before being transported into the mill for grinding into flour.

Kilmacrickard

A corn kiln is labelled in Kilmacrickard townland on the first edition 6-inch OS map but it had been removed by 1890. Such kilns were in use in Ireland from early medieval times to dry grain and harden it before milling. Up to the mid-1800s almost every townland or group of townlands had a

kiln. This kiln may have been in use by the residents of the village of Kilmacrickard in the 18th and 19th century.

4.11.3 Malting

A malt kiln is labelled in Aghalateeve townland next to a small cluster of houses on the c.1838 OS map. Alcohol production, comprises three basic processes; malting, brewing and distilling. In early 19th century Ireland, most poteen was produced from malt, probably made from barley or oats. The malting process involved steeping a partly filled sack of grain in a bog or stream and when swollen, the grain was lain out in a drying loft until it sprouted. It was then brought to a kiln for drying.

4.11.4. Pipe Making

A story collected in Sonnagh School as part of the Schools Manuscripts Collection in the 1930s recounts how the landlord Pollok evicted people from the village of Corgarve to level their houses and make 'ranches' for cattle and sheep. It also relates that the land was very wet and that Pollok discovered that the clay in the lower end of the townland was excellent quality for the purposes of pipe making.

<https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4613670/4606891>

Story Title: *The Pipe of Clay*

.....found out that the clay in the lower end of Corgarve was often excellant quality for higher he got an engine out to ke place + the clay was dug on and afterward being thoroughly missed by the houses of the engine it became very tough + sticky. It was then forced this a would coming out in long pipes which were cat in suitable lengths. These were left to dry in the sun for sometime afterwards were left on a kiln to become drier + hard. When the estate was drained the machinery was taken away + pipe making in the area was never heard of since.

The clay was dug out and worked by an engine until it became tough and sticky. It was then forced out in long lengths and cut into shorter suitable lengths. These were left to dry in the sun and then kiln dried. In this way Pollok produced pipes which were used for the drainage of land.



The OS 25-inch map of c.1897-1913 shows a linear banked feature with a circular area on one end and a second sub-circular banked feature to the south side. These features have been recorded as a 'Tile Kiln' by the National Monuments Service and it is highly likely that it was part of the pipe making process undertaken by Pollok in Corgarve.

Examples of the pipes produced on the Pollok Estate can be viewed in Creggs Heritage Centre.

Map 11: Linear feature of tile kiln (drainage pipe production) in Corgarve townland

'Data from the basemap gallery accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at www.heritagemaps.ie, [22-9-2025]'.



Photograph 51: Drainage pipes produced on the Pollok estate on display in Creggs

4.11.5. Saw Milling

In 1929 Michael Cuddy, a local farmer who also ran a threshing business, decided to set up a sawmilling business, so that his four sons would be employed and would not have to emigrate.

Demand soon outstripped the production capabilities of the first saw bought and a steam powered saw was purchased to allow the enterprise to expand. A steam engine was brought to Glinsk and it was placed on the unfenced section of land on the Ballinakill road. From here, 20 donkeys and 30 men moved the engine up the road to the bridge where water could be taken from the stream to run the steam engine. The Cuddy's had installed a concrete platform here and the engine was placed on it. It remained there for approximately 20 years. They cut trees from the surrounding area, including the Glen, and as far away as Ballymoe and Williamstown. They brought the cut timber to Ballinakill for milling. When the timber was sawn, it was initially brought out by horses and carts, but later a lorry was purchased. It took four men half a day to load the lorry and the timber was then brought to Donamon or Ballymoe railway station. It was also delivered by lorry to Limerick, Sligo and Castlerea. Some of the timber was used for the production and repair of carts, manufacture of windows, doors, coffins, wheel barrows and sleighs in the Cuddy's Ballinakill workshop

In the early 1940s, the Cuddy brothers bought a large wood in Curraghbeg and moved their operation, including the steam engine to the location until the work was completed there in 1948.

In the 1950s, the operation moved to the Glen in Glinsk where the steam engine stood outside the entrance for many years. Some of the workers lived in a specially constructed hut in the Glen from Monday to Saturday while the work went on. The timber was felled with the slope of the Glen, loaded onto horse carts and brought down along the river.

Employment at the mill was much sought after by local men. At its peak, it employed 5 men along with the four Cuddy brothers.

When operations ceased in the 1960s, the steam engine was sold to Jim Egan who owned a quarry in Ballymoe. When it was no longer of use, it was cut up by Billy Goggins in Castlerea.

Source: Scott, P. *'Cross-cuts and Changing Times'* Roscommon People 15-4-2011

4.12. 18th- 20th Century Settlements and Houses

Map 6 in the accompanying atlas illustrates the location of former villages and schools within the Audit area.

In the 1700s in Ireland, the families of the local small farmer generally lived in one-storey, one room deep thatched cottages. These were often built close to each other in clusters and very often the same extended family occupied the houses within the cluster. The houses along with a strip of land were usually leased from a larger landowner or a middle man – such as the landlords herd. At this time in the Glinsk area, the Burkes would have been the owners of the majority of the land. When they sold their lands to Allan Pollok in the mid-1800s, there were a large number of tenants, living in small village clusters.

The first edition OS map which dates to c.1840 illustrates a number of these clusters within the study area. Table 2 is a list of the named villages or clustered settlements in the study area shown on the first edition OS 6-inch maps c.1838 and their locations in ITM co-ordinates

Village	ITM Easting	ITM Northing
Cloonfaghna	572774	768127
Derreen	573881	767742
Curranagh (Ballincurry td.)	573281	766490
Glinsk	572323	765548
Corgarve	572463	765090
Ballincurry	573337	765994
Moneen	573506	765203
Corlackan	572456	763520
Clifton	572693	763506
Cooltumpaun (Currarevagh td.)	573097	763090
Crosswell (Currarevagh td.)	574755	762448
Moat East	571856	761990
Moat West	571625	762262
Newtown (Moat td.)	571324	762501
Pass if you can (Moat td.)	571029	762479
Keeloges	570101	763299
Rosdaul	568603	764306
Curraghmulmurry	566502	764627
Toberroe	569343	765495
Glenloughra (Oughtagh td.)	568735	766649
Lissacashel (Balling td.)	568931	766949
Sonnagh	571197	764417

Table 2: Names Villages shown on the first edition OS 6-inch map c.1840

The Valuation of Tenements known as ‘Griffiths Valuation’ which was published in 1855, lists the occupants of the houses in these villages in the 1850s, the property they held, who owned the property and its value.

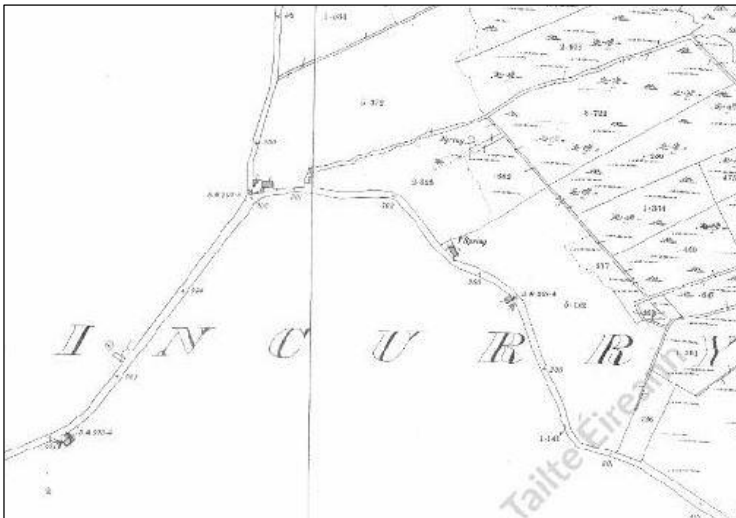


Map 12: Curranagh Village Griffiths Valuation 1855

'Data from the basemap gallery accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at www.heritagemaps.ie, [2-10-2025]'.

For example in the village of Curranagh in the townland of Ballincurry, there were 10 households renting a house and a small parcel of land from the landowner Allan Pollok. The houses had values between 5s and 10s and they all stood within an area of 1 acre 2 roods and 37 perches. The occupiers were Catherine Keane, Jeremiah Corboy, John Rowan Senior, John Rowan Junior, Mary Keane, Thomas Keane, John Connell, Bridget Heather, Patrick Lambert and Edward Doyle.

Allan Pollok had purchased the 7,414 acre Burke estate in 1853. His 'improvement plans' were to increase the size of the farms by evicting tenants, compensating them and re-employing them as labourers, as he had done on his estate near Ballinasloe. However, there were over 3,000 tenants in the Glinsk area and much of the marginal land was held by tenants with very small holdings. The evictions caused much land agitation in the area and Pollok's plans were often upset.



Map 13: The 1890 OS map shows the former site of Curranagh Village

'Data from the basemap gallery accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at www.heritagemaps.ie, [3-10-2025]'.

However, he did evict a large number of people, cleared villages and expanded the field system. The 1890 2nd edition 25-inch OS map shows that the houses of Curranagh village and the field systems that surrounded them no longer exist.

This was a common occurrence for several of the villages in the area.

The original Glinsk Village was located to the south of the present location and south of the former RC Chapel (Section 4.7.1). It was cleared c.1860 and the present day village grew up around the St Michaels RC Church, which was built in 1843.

The following extract from the Schools Manuscripts Collection from Ballincurry School was collected by Mary K. Mee in the 1930s. Her informant was Thomas Lohan and he describes what Ballincurry village was like when he was younger in the late 1800s.

<https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4591099/4590776/4593253>

I live in Ballincurry. It derived its name from the marsh adjacent to the lake. There was a little town in the district years ago. There are twenty-four houses and one hundred and four houses altogether. There are seven pensioners. Two of those are able to tell Irish stories. All the old houses are relegated to oblivion except the old school. Most of the houses are quite new, some of the oldest being only thirty years built. The majority of the people are farmers and the land is very productive. The river Suck drains the land in the adjacent village. The name, Kelly and Lohan are quite familiar in this district. All the people are mostly from Friaryland, where they exchanged old places for those newer and better ones.

Thomas Lohan's account of Ballincurry illustrates the change in the number of houses and the occupants between the late 1800s and the 1900s. After the evictions many people were misplaced off the land and moved to new locations to set up home. The vast majority of Pollok's land in the Glinsk area was empty of tenants, apart from herds and gamekeepers. A large portion of the population had been moved to the Mount Mary area. BY 1881, six townlands in that area contained 58% of the population (Scott, 2014). In Ballincurry in the 1930s, Thomas remarks that many of the 'new people' were from the townland of Friaryland which is near Mount Mary.

Kathleen Kelly's account of life in Toberroe Village was part of the Schools Manuscripts from Toberroe School: <https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4613672/4607099/4624021>

I live in a village called Toberroe, in the parish of Ballinakill and barony of Ballymoe. It gets its name from a red well which was supposed to be (in) situated in the village but disappeared on account of a woman bathing her child in it. Near the place of well a pump is now erected. There are eleven families in the village now but there were twice as many there, in the long ago. The most popular names in the village were Cuniff and Kelly. There were three families of Cuniffs on one street where there is but one family now. There were about six families of Kellys there long ago.

Long white-washed houses that were in the village up to a few years ago but some of the people are now reconstructing them and slating them. There are two shops in the village.



The land is very good except near the (village) bog which is boggy. Many of the villagers till the boggy lands. The chief crops they sow are:- oats, wheat, barley, potatoes, mangolds, turnips and they also sow vegetables such as- onions, carrots, parsnips, cabbage, lettuce and nearly all the people have fruits mostly apples, plums, currants, gooseberries, rhubarb and strawberries.

There are only about five old people in the village and about forty-eight inhabitants in the village entirely. Mostly all the people speak English.

Photograph 52: Ruins of a 19th century house in Toberroe Village



Photograph 53:19th century cottage in Glinsk Village

Some larger houses were built on the Pollok estate in the late 1800s. These were the homes of 'the herd' i.e. the person who oversaw the estates farm. Ardagh House (which is no longer extant) was such a house.

Moat House was built sometime between 1855 and 1890 as it is not included in Griffiths Valuation (1855) but is shown on the OS 25-inch map c.1890. It stands today in ruin at the crossroads in Moat townland. This large detached, T plan house consists of a three bay, two storey entrance block with a lower four-bay two-storey block to the rear and one bay deep re-entrant block. It has hipped slate roofs with wide eaves with timber brackets and rendered chimney stacks behind the front block and to the middle of the return block. The window openings are square headed with limestone sills. The original six over six pane timber sash windows are evident in some openings. The front entrance has a square-headed limestone doorcase with carved brackets and cornice.

The farmyard complex of Moat House is located to the rear and on the opposite side of the road from the house. It comprises a number of multi-bay, single storey buildings in a bad state of disrepair. They would have been used to house animals and machinery used on the farm. They have hipped slated roofs, many of which are in the process of collapse. There is a tooled limestone bellcote at the gable end of one of the ranges. To the rear of the complex is a high, brick tapered chimney with a limestone cap. It was most likely used for the drying and processing of grain. The 1890 OS 25-inch map labels 'Smithy' on one of the roadside buildings of the complex.



Photograph 54: View of farmyard complex at Moat showing the large chimney to the rear

Moat House and its farm buildings, are listed on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) and on the Galway County Council Record of Protected Structures, due to their architectural merit. The house is reference number 30401904 on the NIAH and the farmyard complex is 30401903. Both are rated as being of regional importance.



Photograph 55: Moat House

Allan Bingham Pollok (grandson of the original Allan Pollok) sold the Glinsk-Creggs estate in 1910. The Land Purchase (Ireland) Act 1903 provided government finance to buy out freeholds, with the former tenant farmers paying back the capital over 68 years.

With these changes, many of the 'villages' (clustered settlements) of the study area fell out of use as the tenants bought their land and houses began to be constructed often along the road frontage. A common style of house emerged at this time in the study area. It is a two storey, gabled ended, detached dormer with central doorway flanked by a rectangular window on each side. A similar window is inserted directly above into each dormer. There is an end chimney on each gable. The roofs were slated and walls dashed. A large number of these houses survive today, in various states of repair, a number have been extended and others are undergoing restoration.



Photograph 56: Land Commission house under repair. Photograph 57: Land Commission House extended

To celebrate the movement of people into the area c.1912, the local community compiled a publication '*Glinsk 100 – celebrating a century of community life in Glinsk 1912-2012*' which provides a detailed account of the various villages of the time and the families who lived there, including information on the local people involved in the construction of the new houses.

ACCESS –18th- 20th Century Settlements and Houses

All of the houses and ancillary buildings described in this report are private property and not publically accessible. But they can be viewed from the public road.

4.13. Education

Before the early 19th century, formal education in Ireland was reserved for the non-Catholic classes. Catholics were forbidden education under the Penal Laws (1695 to 1782) but there were secret schools referred to as 'hedge schools'. An educated local person or a travelling teacher usually provided the tuition. The schools were generally located in fields, barns or any empty building. The teacher received payment from the children's family. Hedge schools became legal with Catholic Emancipation in 1829.

In 1838, Samuel Lewis' account for Ballinakill Parish in his *Topographical Dictionary of Ireland* records

"There are five hedge schools in which are about 270 boys and 70 girls."

The following extract from the Schools Manuscripts Collection collected in Ballincurry School by Mary K. Mee, informs us about some of the teachers and hedge schools that were found in this area.

<https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4591099/4590783/4593261>

(I) Mr Dalby was the teacher in the old school in Ballincurry, and the payment he got was a penny from each scholar.

(II) Under the bushes of Crann Doire, in a field of Love's farm, a Mr. O' Rourke taught during the 18th century.

(III) In Corlackin an old shed owned by the Egans was utilised and this was the only school for miles around. The teacher was a native of Cloverhill, Co. Roscommon.

In 1831 a national system of education was introduced which gave financial assistance to local communities to build school houses.

The application for a national school in Ussey was considered in 1842 and a teacher's salary was granted from January 1844. In 1845 the inspector reported that the school was held in the chapel due to fever in the area.

In Keeloges, an application was made by Rev Matthew Barrett to the Commissioners in 1844. In 1845 funds were granted to build a one room school measuring 34 feet by 18 feet to house 100 children. In May 1847 the teacher closed the school because of the prevalence of fever in the area. It was re-opened in September 1848. In November of that same year, the inspector notifies the school that they are being moved to a premises in Toberroe.



The first National School in Toberroe was located on the opposite side of the road from the later school. It is now a private residence.

Photograph 58: Location of the first Toberroe National School founded c.1848

Eileen Quinn from Ussey contributed the following information in the Schools Manuscripts Collection. Her informant was Thomas Quinn.

<https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4591099/4590817>

- (1) *In the land now occupied by Thomas Quinn, Ussey, Ballymoe Co. Galway there is the remains of an old school. It was a one chimney thatched compartment. Most of the children sat on the floor as there were no seats except the teacher's desk and a few desks where the big scholar's did their writing. In those days each child brought two sods of turf each morning in the winter. The teachers that got no pay from the government, but instead each child in the school brought a penny a month to them and only a few dozen scholars went to them. It was Mr. Waldron and his wife that taught in this old school.*
- (2) *Where Morris's house in Tobberoe is now, there was an old school once. In it Mr. Waldron taught for a while. No loads of turf would be brought and two sods had to be brought each morning and else two slaps would be awaiting them.*

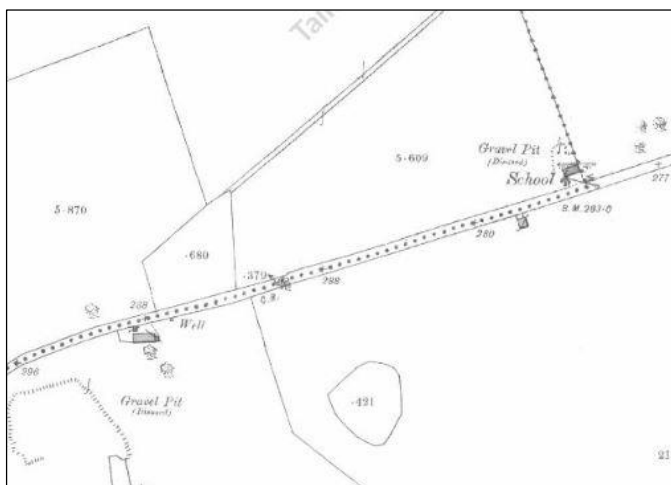


In 1901 Toberroe National School moved across the road when a new building was constructed with separate male and female sections.



It was reconstructed in 1933 and the pupils were mixed from c.1935. Toberroe School closed in 1983 and the pupils moved to the new St Michaels National School in Glinsk.

Photographs 59 & 60: Toberroe School and datestone



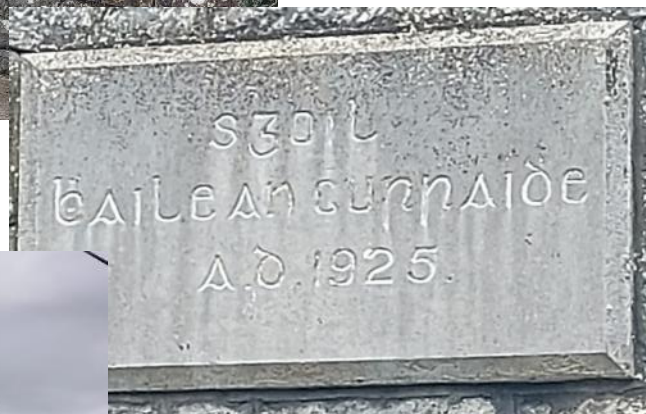
Map 14: Location of Ballincurry School c.1890

'Data from the basemap gallery accessed through the Heritage Maps Viewer at www.heritagemaps.ie, [10-10-2025]'.

The first National School in Ballincurry townland was located on the north side of the road opposite to where a later school was built in 1925. The 6-inch OS map c.1890 shows its location.



The second school in Ballincurry, built in 1925, is a private residence today. It retains many of its original architectural features.



A two storey teacher's residence is located adjacent to the former school house

Photographs 61-63: from top: Former Ballincurry School, date plaque on school and former Teacher's Residence.

The first National School in Sonnagh was built in 1884. It was replaced by a more modern building c.1950. Today it is in ruin and very little remains of the building.

ACCESS –Education

All of the school houses and ancillary buildings described in this report are private property and not publically accessible. But they can be viewed from the public road.

5. Recommendations

5.1. Introduction

The aim of this community-led project was to audit the potentially accessible built, cultural and natural heritage sites in the 34 townlands that make up Glinsk National School Catchment area with a view to informing the Glinsk Community Development Society about the heritage resources of the locality. The purpose is to raise awareness of the heritage of the local area among the community, both local and regional, and to provide a blueprint to guide future local heritage-related projects.

The audit process has successfully identified a wide scope of heritage resources and this report provides descriptive, photographic and cartographic detail.

This section of the report provides some practical recommendations by which the identified heritage resources may be further developed through community-led heritage projects and the information spread to a wider global community.

5.2. Recommendation One: Interpretive Signage

There is a lack of interpretive signage at a number of the accessible, high value heritage sites within the area. These are Glinsk Castle, Ballinakill 'Abbey' and Glinsk Heritage Park.

It is recommended that interpretive panels are designed, manufactured and installed for each of the above sites illustrating the following features:

- Glinsk Castle
 - The history of the castle and the Burke family
 - Important visitors to the castle
 - The architectural features of the building
- Ballinakill Abbey
 - the layout of the associated buildings and the chronology of their construction
 - architectural features of note e.g. the East window
 - descriptive guide of the effigy of the knight and the iconography of the crucifixion plaque on the Burke tomb
- Glinsk Heritage Park
 - The unique shape of the valley and the story of glaciation
 - The changing history of the Glen – from where timber was cut (Cuddys Sawmill) to present day recreational space
 - The terrestrial and aquatic animals and plants of the Glen
- Work with the OPW< National Monuments Services, national Parks and Wildlife Service, Inland Fisheries, LAWPRO and Galway County Council's Community Archaeologist, Heritage Officer and Biodiversity Officer in the planning, design and location of these panel.

5.3. Recommendation Two: Develop a Digital StoryMap

This Heritage Audit has brought together a wide range of information on the natural, built and cultural heritage of the Glinsk area. In order to spread this information and provide interpretation of the heritage assets of the area to a global audience it is recommended that a GIS based Digital StoryMap be developed using the information contained in this report.

The StoryMap should incorporate text, photographs, and local people telling stories, music and film, highlighting the following themes:

- Glinsk Castle – history, remains and the lives of the people who lived there.
- The Crucifixion plaques of Glinsk
- ‘Villages’ of the 18th and 19th century - locations, remains of houses, local memories of life in the village.
- Memories of the Pollok Estate and its legacy in the area
- Past local trades and crafts: Shops, milling, lime making, thatching, tailoring, blacksmithing
- Local stories and events of the past

The completed StoryMap could be hosted on Galway County Council Heritage Office Geographical Information System which currently hosts a number of community created StoryMaps

<https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/topics/digital-story-telling-with-maps>

5.4. Recommendation Three: Produce Guide Booklet to the Local heritage

Compile an illustrated pocket-size map guide book to local heritage sites.

Select a number of visible and accessible sites and compile short text, photographs and map for each selected point of interest– using the information in this audit. Employ a graphic designer to undertake artwork and layout and printing firm for production.

An example of such a booklet which was produced for Mountbellew, Co. Galway can be found at

<https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/places/mountbellew-heritage-andtourism-network/mountbellew-pocket-guide-5>

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Publications

Alcock, O. de hOra K. Gosling, P. 1999 *Archaeological Inventory of County Galway Vol. II North Galway* Stationary Office, Dublin

Bence Jones M. 1978 *Burke's Guide to Country Houses Vol. 1 Ireland* Glasgow

Burke 1904 *The Landed Gentry of Ireland* London

Craig M. 1982 *The Architecture of Ireland From the earliest times to 1880* Eason & Son Ltd, Dublin

Duffy M. 2022 *The Burkes and the Polloks in the parish of Kilbegnet (Creggs/Glinsk) on the Galway/Roscommon border* Fitzpatrick Printers, Tipperary.

Glinsk Centenary Committee 2012 *Glinsk 100, celebrating a century of community life in Glinsk 1912-2012* Roscommon People.

Hector Z, Cuniffe, C. 2020 *The Illustrated Guide to the Ecclesiastical Heritage of the County of Galway* Galway County Council and the Heritage Council

Hogg W. E. 1998 *The Millers and the Mills of Ireland of about 1850* Betaprint, Dublin

Joyce. P.W. 1827-1914 *Irish Names of Places Vol. 1* Phoenix Publishing Co. Ltd. Dublin, Cork. Belfast

Leask, H.G. 1966 *Irish Churches and Monastic Buildings Vol. II* Dundalgan Press, Dundalk.

Lewis, S. 1837 *A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland*

Meehan et al. 2020. *The Geological Heritage of County Galway – An Audit of County Geological Sites in County Galway 2019* Geological Survey of Ireland

Melvin, P. 1996 *The Galway Tribes as Landowners and Gentry* in Galway History and Society, Dublin.

Nolan J.P. 1901b *Galway Castles and Owners in 1574* JGHAS 1 (1900-1) 109-23

O'Flaherty E. 2018 *Deserted Schoolhouses of Ireland* The Collins Press, Cork

O'Flanagan, M. 1927 *Letters containing information relative to the antiquities of the county of Galway collected during the Ordnance Survey in 1839. Vol. 1.* Typescript in 3 Vols. Bray. (1927).

Rynne C. 2006 *Industrial Ireland 1750-1930 – An Archaeology* The Collins Press, Cork.

Scott, P. 2014 *Evictions on the Glinsk Creggs estate of Allan and Margaret Pollok in the 1850s* PH.D thesis, National University of Ireland, Galway.

Scott, P. *Cross-cuts and Changing Times* Roscommon People 15-4-2011

Toberroe Reunion Committee 2003 *Toberroe N.S. Toberroe National School Past Pupils Reunion.*

Ward, M. (ed) 2002 *History in Glinsk* Glinsk Community Council.

Websites

<https://www.logainm.ie/en/>

<https://www.townlands.ie/>

<https://www.duchas.ie/en>

<http://askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/>

<https://fieldmonuments.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/tag/abbeygormican>

<https://heritagemaps.ie/WebApps/HeritageMaps/index.html>

<https://heritagedata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html>

<https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/>

<https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/heritagepublications/galway-east-ecclesiastical-trail>

<https://landedestates.ie/>

<http://webgis.npws.ie/npwsviewer/>

<https://www.wetlandsurveys.ie/>

<https://data.gov.ie/dataset/ancient-and-long-established-woodland-inventory-2010>

<https://buildingsofireland.ie>

<https://gsi.ie>

<https://landedestates.ie/family/1140>

<https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/topics/digital-story-telling-with-maps>

<https://excavations.ie/>

APPENDIX I

The following tables 1-4 provide details of the townland location of the recorded ringforts and enclosures within the study area. Each monument is identified with a unique SMR (Sites and Monuments Record) No. assigned by the National Monument Service (NMS).

(Source: <https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/>).

The tables are ordered in terms of the condition of the monument as recorded by the National Monuments Service with the townland location given in alphabetical order.

Table 1: Possible Ringforts of which no visible surface trace survives

Townland	Description	SMR No.
Newtown	On E flank of a glacial ridge in tillage. Marked on 1st ed. of OS 6-inch map as a circular enclosure (D c. 30m).	GA007-101----
Oughtagh	Immediately E of a ringfort (GA007-107----). Marked on 1st ed. of OS 6-inch map as a subcircular enclosures (c. 20m by c. 15m). Apart from a vegetation band at SE and SW,	GA007-108----
Ussey	In pastureland. Marked on 1st ed. of OS 6-inch map as a circular enclosure (D c. 45m) cut at NW and E by a road.	GA007-006----

Table 2: Poorly preserved Ringforts

Townland	Description	SMR No.
Ardagh	On W face of a ridge in undulating grassland overlooking bogland to S subcircular rath (E-W 32m) enclosed by a degraded scarp and shallow external fosse; the latter is present from E through S to W. A field boundary cuts the enclosing element at N.	
Ballinakill	Some 50m SSE of Ballinakill Church (GA007-035----), just outside the line of an early ecclesiastical enclosure (GA007-035002-) a subcircular rath (N-S 38m, E-W 35m) defined by a low bank breached by numerous cattle gaps. A field bank overlies the enclosing element at S.	GA007-036----
Ballinakill	On a SE-facing slope in grassland subcircular rath (E-W 38m, N-S 35.5m) defined by a denuded earthen bank at NE, and elsewhere by a scarp. An external fosse is present from SSW to NW. The monument is cut by a field bank at NW and NE, and the td. boundary encircles it from NE to SE.	GA007-037----
Balling	In gently undulating grassland circular rath (D 38m) defined by a degraded scarp and external fosse. The fosse is present from NW to NE and from SE to SW. Field boundaries cut the monument at NE and SE and at NNW and SW. Another curving field boundary running just outside the fosse, from NNW to NNE and from SE to SW, could overlie an outer bank	GA007-016----
Balling	In undulating grassland, circular rath (D 28m) defined by a bank from NW to E; elsewhere a degraded scarp, overlain by a field boundary from SE to SW, forms the enclosing element. A ringfort (GA007-016---) lies c. 170m to NNE.	GA007-015----
Balling	In level grassland circular rath (D 32m) defined by a bank from SE through W to N. No visible surface trace survives from N to ESE and a field wall overlies it at SE. An external fosse survives from W to N.	GA007-017----
Corlackan	Some 170m SSW of a ringfort (GA019-009----) subcircular rath (NE-SW c. 45m) defined by an overgrown bank from NE through E to SSW. No	GA019-010----

	visible surface trace survives elsewhere. Field boundaries cut the monument at NE, SSW and W.	
Corrspark	On a rise in grassland subcircular rath (N-S 30m, E-W 28m) defined by a denuded bank and external fosse, both of which survive at N and from SE through S to SW. A scarp forms the enclosing element elsewhere. A field bank cuts the monument at NNE and SW.	GA007-055----
Corrspark	On E-facing slope of a hill in grassland almost circular rath (N-S 46m, E-W 45m) defined by a degraded scarp and external fosse; the latter survives from S through W to N. A ringfort (GA007-057----) lies c. 200m to E.	GA007-056----
Curraghrevagh	On a rise in undulating grassland conjoined rath; the S subcircular enclosure (N-S 41m, E-W 37m) is defined by a bank and external fosse with an entrance (Wth 3.5m) at S. The enclosing elements are best preserved from NE through E to SW. The N enclosure (E-W 34m, N-S 28m) is defined by two banks and an intervening fosse with an entrance (Wth 4m) at E. A field bank overlies the enclosing elements from SE through S to WNW	GA019-029----
Lisnageeragh	On a NE-facing slope in grassland circular rath (D 32m) defined by a degraded scarp and external fosse. Field boundaries encircle the monument from W through N to NE.	GA007-097----
Newtown	Some 100m W of an enclosure (GA007-099----) subcircular rath (E-W 53.7m, N-S 50m) defined by a degraded scarp, intervening fosse and outer bank. A field wall cuts the monument at SSE and SSW and no visible surface trace survives to S of it.	GA007-100----
Oughtagh	On N-facing slope of a ridge in grassland circular rath (D 33m) defined by a denuded bank from W to N, and elsewhere by a scarp. An external fosse survives from NW through N to E. A field bank overlies the e	GA007-104----
Oughtagh	In grassland overlooking a bog to W circular rath (D 26.5m) defined by a denuded bank and external fosse. The bank is present from NNW through E to S; elsewhere a degraded scarp forms the enclosing element. The numerous gaps in the bank all appear modern. Field boundaries radiate from the monument at E and SW. An earthwork (GA007-108----) lies immediately to E.	GA007-107----
Oughtagh	On N-facing slope of a ridge in grassland overlooking bogland to N almost circular rath (N-S 36m, E-W 35m) defined by an overgrown bank from E through S to NNW, and elsewhere by a scarp. A number of field banks radiate from the monument. A standing stone (GA007-113----) lies 4.5m to NE.	GA007-109----
Oughtagh	Some 100m SSW of a ringfort (GA007-110----) subcircular rath (N-S 32m, E-W 30m) defined by a bank and external fosse. The bank survives from SW through W to NE; elsewhere a scarp forms the enclosing element. The fosse is visible at NE and S. Numerous gaps in the bank appear modern. A field boundary overlies the enclosing elements from NE through E to S.	GA007-111----
Ussey	On an E-facing slope in grassland subcircular rath (N-S 34m, E-W 32m) defined by a bank.	GA007-133----

Table 3: Ringforts in Fair Condition

Townland	Description	SMR No.
Corlackan	Close to the summit of a low hill in grassland. Subcircular rath (N-S c. 40m, E-W 35m) defined by a bank and external fosse. The bank is best preserved from NNW through N to ENE, a scarp forms the enclosing element from ENE through S to SW; elsewhere a field boundary overlies the enclosing element. A number of other field boundaries cut the monument. An enclosure (GA019-008----) lies c. 160m to N and two ringforts (GA019-010---- and GA019-013----) lie c. 170m and c. 5m to SSW and E respectively.	GA019-009----
Curraghrevagh	In gently undulating grassland. Subcircular rath (N-S 26m, E-W 24.5m), defined by a bank and external fosse. The bank is present from NW through E to SSW; elsewhere a scarp forms the enclosing element. The	GA019-021----

	fosse survives from S through W to WNW. Field walls cut the monument at SSW and NW.	
Keeloges West	In level grassland overlooking bog to S and W. Subcircular rath (N-S 34m, E-W 28m), defined by two banks and an intervening fosse. The enclosing elements are best preserved in S half; elsewhere the monument has been extensively quarried.	GA019-042----
Lisnageeragh	On a rise in grassland overlooking bogland to N and S. Subcircular rath (E-W 37m, N-S 35.5m), defined by two banks and an intervening fosse. According to local tradition, there is a 'cave' (possible souterrain) within the interior; but no visible surface trace survives.	GA019-059----
Oughtagh	On a gentle NE-facing slope in grassland. Almost circular rath (N-S 27m, E-W 26m), defined by a bank and external fosse. The bank survives from W through N to NNE; elsewhere a scarp forms the enclosing element. The fosse is visible from NNE through E to S. A ringfort (GA007-111----) lies c. 100m to SSW.	GA007-110----
Rosdaul	On a rise in undulating grassland overlooking bog to N. Circular rath (D 37m), defined by a bank. A field bank cuts the monument at NW and SW, and no visible surface trace survives to W of it. Numerous gaps in the bank appear modern.	GA019-075----
Toberroe East	On a S-facing slope in grassland. Overgrown subcircular rath (E-W 34m, N-S 32m), defined by a denuded bank and external fosse; the latter survives only at NW. A scarp forms the enclosing element from E to SE. The boundary overlies the enclosing elements from SE through S to SW, and a field bank cuts them at W and E.	GA007-119----
Ussey	On NE-facing slope of a rise in grassland. A D-shaped rath (ENE-WSW 38.5m, NNW-SSE 36.8m), defined by a bank and external fosse. Field banks surround the monument from SE through S to NW.	GA007-132----

Table 4: Well preserved Ringforts

Townland	Description	SMR No.
Ardagh	On a ridge in grassland oval rath (E-W 80m, N-S 71m ext.) defined by two banks and an intervening fosse. Possible entrance at SE. A field boundary cuts the monument at NW and SW. Abutting the rath at E is a large subrectangular annexe (N-S; L 52m, Wth 40m; GA007-002001-) defined by two earthen banks and an intervening fosse. A CBG (GA007-010----) lies 50m to W.	GA007-002----
Ardagh	On a S-facing slope in grassland subcircular rath (N-S 34m, E-W 30.5m) defined by a bank and external fosse. Numerous gaps in the bank appear modern. No visible surface trace of the fosse survives from E through S to SW. A ringfort (GA007-125----) lies c. 350m to N.	GA007-004----
Ballinakill	On a steep E-facing slope in grassland subcircular rath (N-S 40m, E-W 33m) defined by a much-overgrown bank and external fosse; the latter survives from S to W. Numerous breaches in the bank appear modern. An enclosure (GA007-038----) lies to S, and Glinsk Castle (GA007-062001-) is visible to NE.	GA007-034----
Corlackan	Some 270m E of a ringfort (GA019-009----) circular rath (D 33m) defined by a bank and external fosse. Several gaps in the bank appear modern	GA019-013----
Corrspark	Some 200m E of a ringfort (GA007-056----) circular rath (D 35.5m) defined by a bank and external fosse. The bank is present from W through N to NE; elsewhere a scarp forms the enclosing element. A gap at NNW appears modern.	GA007-057----
Kilcolumb	In level grassland sub-circular rath (N-S 46m, E-W 43m) defined by a bank of earth and stone and an external fosse. There is an entrance (Wth 3.4m) at S.	GA019-051----
Lisnageeragh	In level grassland circular rath (D 38m) defined by a bank and external fosse. No visible surface trace of the fosse survives from E to SSW.	GA019-060----
Oughtagh	In level grassland almost circular rath (E-W 29m, N-S 28m) defined by a bank and external fosse; the latter survives from N through E to S. A	GA007-106----

	field bank overlies the enclosing element from SSW through W to N. Numerous gaps in the bank appear modern. Enclosing element at S.	
--	---	--

Table 5: Enclosures

Townland	Description	SMR No.
Ardagh	On a N-facing slope in pastureland. Marked on 1st ed. of OS 6-inch map as an oval enclosure (c. 40m by c. 30m). All that survives is a flat subcircular area (N-S 37m) defined by a shallow fosse (Wth 5m) from SE through S to NNW. Possibly a barrow or a ringfort.	GA007-003----
Ardagh	In gently undulating pastureland. Marked on 1st ed. of OS 6-inch map as a circular enclosure (D c. 20m). No visible surface trace survives.	GA007-005----
Ardagh/Ussey	In pastureland. Marked on 1st ed. of OS 6-inch map as a circular enclosure (D c. 45m) cut at NW and E by a road. No visible surface trace survives.	GA007-006----
Ballincurry	In pastureland overlooking partly drained marshland to N. Poorly preserved subcircular enclosure (N-S 112m, E-W 109m) defined by an earthen bank and external fosse. The td. boundary, running N-S, cuts the monument in half, and the area to E of it has been partly levelled and is planted with trees. The bank (H 1.5m max.) and fosse (Wth 3-4m) are well defined from S through W to N, though partially overgrown and mantled with trees. There are traces of a possible entrance (Wth 4m) at SE and of an internal division in SW quadrant. A field boundary, running E-W, also cuts through SE quadrant.	GA007-012----
Ballincurry	On an E-facing slope in pastureland. Poorly preserved enclosure, possibly subcircular in plan (N-S c. 60m). A field boundary, running N-S, cuts the monument in two and no visible trace survives to E of it. The surviving section is defined by an earthen bank from SW to NW, outside of which at WSW are traces of a possible fosse. From NW to N, the monument appears to have been truncated somewhat and is now defined by a straight scarp.	GA007-013----
Ballincurry	On a slight NE-facing slope in grassland overlooking Lough Loung to NE. Marked on 1st ed. of OS 6-inch map as a large roughly circular enclosure (D c. 65m). No visible surface trace survives; a large hollow marks the site. However, the field in which the site was situated is known locally as 'fort field'.	GA007-011----
Cloonfaghna	On the crest of a hill in pastureland. Poorly preserved subcircular enclosure (NW-SE 34m, NE-SW 32.5m) defined by a degraded scarp, overlain from E to SW by a field boundary.	GA007-047----
Corlackan	On the slopes of a low hill in pastureland. Very poorly preserved circular enclosure (D c. 40m) defined by a degraded scarp and external fosse from S to SW. A field boundary overlies the enclosing element from W to NE. No visible surface trace survives elsewhere.	GA019-008----
Corrspark	On a slight S-facing slope in pastureland. The very poorly preserved remains of a probable rectangular enclosure (NW-SW 43m) defined by a degraded scarp, intervening fosse and traces of a possible outer bank at NW. A road cuts through the monument at NW and SE, and no visible surface trace survives to N of it.	GA007-059----
Curraghmulmurry	In pastureland sloping to NE. Very poorly preserved circular enclosure (D 26m) defined by an earthen bank from S to WSW which is overlain by a field boundary. Elsewhere a vegetation band	GA007-060----

	marks the limits of the monument. A large breach at S appears modern.	
Curraghmulmurry	In grassland with boggy terrain to E and W. Marked on 3rd ed. of OS 6-inch map (1930) as an oval enclosure (N-S c. 30m, E-W c. 20m). Apart from a slight depression from N to NE, the remains of a possible fosse, no visible surface trace survives	GA006-065----
Garraunmore	no info	GA019-086----
Glinsk	On flat pastureland, 300m SSW of Glinsk Castle (GA007-062001-). Aerial reconnaissance in January 1985 (ASGAP 233:46) revealed a circular univallate enclosure (D c. 25-35m) enclosed by a denuded bank, with possible traces of an external fosse at S and W. Not visited.	GA007-067----
Glinsk	In pastureland. Marked on 3rd ed. of OS 6-inch map (1930) as a circular enclosure (D c. 43m) cut by a number of field boundaries from SW to NNW, and from ENE to SE. No visible surface trace survives.	GA007-038----
Glinsk	In pastureland. Marked on 3rd ed. of OS 6-inch map (1930) as a circular enclosure (D c. 43m) cut by a number of field boundaries from SW to NNW, and from ENE to SE. No visible surface trace survives.	GA007-038----
Glinsk	In a slight hollow in grassland. Rectangular enclosure NW-SE 24.5m, E-W 17m), in fair condition, defined by a bank of earth and stone along S, W and N sides. A chapel (GA007-063001-) lay within the interior. Named on 1st ed. of OS 6-inch map as 'Site of' suggesting that little or nothing of its fabric then remained. No visible surface trace survives.	GA007-063002
Keeloges Beg	On townland boundary with Corrspark On a slight S-facing slope in pastureland. The very poorly preserved remains of a probable rectangular enclosure (NW-SW 43m) defined by a degraded scarp, intervening fosse and traces of a possible outer bank at NW. A road cuts through the monument at NW and SE, and no visible surface trace survives to N of it.	GA007-059----
Kilmacrickard	On a ridge in grassland overlooking bogland to S, W and N. Marked on 1st ed. of OS 6-inch map as a circular enclosure (D c. 65m). All that survives is a D-shaped field (N-S 54m) delimited by a modern field bank. Directly inside the field bank is a shallow fosse (Wth 3m) curving from SSE through W to N. While the morphology is reminiscent of a barrow, the monument could equally be a ringfort defined by a scarp and fosse. From the size of the monument, it could also be ecclesiastical in character; note the td. name.	GA007-083----
Newtown	At SE end of a glacial ridge in gently undulating pastureland. Very poorly preserved subcircular enclosure (ENE-WSW 60m, N-S 52m) defined by a degraded scarp. A field wall cuts through the monument at NW and NE. A large but shallow hollow occupies E half of the interior.	GA007-099----
Newtown	On a slight E-facing slope in pastureland. Very poorly preserved subcircular enclosure (E-W 43m, N-S 38m) defined by a degraded scarp and external fosse	GA007-102----
Oughtagh	no info	GA007-114----

APPENDIX II

excavations.ie

Database of Irish Excavation Reports

2001:519 - KEELOGUESBEG, GALWAY

County: Galway

Site name: KEELOGUESBEG

Sites and Monuments Record No.: RMP 7:74D

Licence number: 01E0361

Author: Michael Tierney, Eachtra Archaeological Projects

Author/Organisation Address: River Oaks, Birr, Co. Offaly

Testing at the site of a proposed private dwelling, 30m from the edge of an early ecclesiastical enclosure containing the site of an early building, found two features that required excavation. The licence was upgraded and the remains of metalworking activity and a pit were recorded.

The pit feature was in the north-eastern corner of the footprint of the building. It was partly truncated by the machine, being visible in the section with 0.45m of the base being left in the cutting. It was overlain by 0.21m of mid-brown sandy silty clay topsoil and the sod. The feature varied from 0.1m to 0.25m in depth and consisted of one large layer of mid-greyish brown, silty clay, with frequent charcoal flecks and one small heat-shattered stone. There was a concentration of charcoal at the base of the feature.

A sherd of pottery of prehistoric or early medieval date was recovered. An oat grain was visible in the fabric of this fragment. Initial interpretation suggests a possible rubbish-pit of prehistoric/early medieval date. The homogeneous soil matrix may have been caused by the decay of organic material over an extended period of time.

At the southern end of the pit there were the remains of a stake-hole, underlying the charcoal concentration. It was 0.1m deep, with a sharp break of slope at the top, smooth tapering sides and a rounded base. The fill comprised a mid-brown sandy silt. It was cut into the natural, a mid-brown sandy clay.

The metalworking feature was in the south-eastern quadrant of the site. It comprised an oval-shaped feature, 0.5m by 0.3m, with a dark greyish black sandy silt and a high iron slag and charcoal content. Sixteen slag fragments were excavated, including two fragments of furnace bottom. The feature reached a maximum depth of 0.1m. It is probable that this is the truncated (in antiquity) remains of an early medieval bowl furnace.

Two deposits of burnt material or burnt soil were found 0.55m to the north and 1m east of this feature. The first was 0.4m by 0.25m and comprised a dark, brownish-pink silty clay with a maximum depth of 0.03m. This was the result of the subsoil's being in contact with very hot materials. The second was 0.75m by 0.25m in size, comprising a black sandy silt with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional iron slag remains. These are more than likely to be the remains of materials cleaned out from the bowl furnace.

There was no stratigraphic relationship between the features. It is likely that the metalworking activity was synchronous with the early medieval ecclesiastical activity nearby. It is not unusual for such activity to take place on the periphery of settlement sites. This may be explained in terms of health and safety issues, owing to the noxious fumes created by smelting, or the danger of fire spreading. Smelting may also have been seen as symbolically dangerous and thus was separated from the other activity of the settlement.

It was recommended that further archaeological investigations were necessary