THE PREHISTORIC BURIAL MOUNDS AND RELATED MONUMENTS OF COUNTY WESTMEATH

III. Monuments in Northern and Eastern Westmeath (Baronies of Delvin and Fore, and parts of Baronies of Farbill, Fartullagh, Moygoish, and Moyashel & Magheradernon)

David McGuinness

This project was funded by the

Heritage Forum of Westmeath County Council

and undertaken in association with

Westmeath Archaeological & Historical Society

2015

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I wish to thank the members of the Heritage Forum of Westmeath County Council, including Heritage Officer Bernadette Solon, for agreeing to fund this project. Additional resources were made available by Dr Michael Herity, MRIA, who also provided advice, support and encouragement.

This survey was instigated by Westmeath Archaeological & Historical Society in conjunction with Dr Herity, and would not have been possible without the constant, voluntary help of its members in liaising with local landowners, supplying much local information, providing transport and enthusiastically participating as volunteers in survey-work at all sites. Peter Wallace and Seamus O'Brien, members of both the Society and the Heritage Forum, provided regular solid assistance in the field; and in his capacity as geographer, Seamus also provided advice on the natural setting of the monuments. Tara Clarke and Brendan Fagan, both with MA degrees from UCD School of Archaeology, generously provided voluntary assistance in the field, as did Patrick Munnelly.

Rachel Barrett of the National Monuments Service Archive Unit was most helpful in facilitating examination of SMR files from the immense Archaeological Survey of Ireland archive in the Custom House, Dublin. The writer gratefully acknowledges the NMSAU and individual ASI fieldworkers for information from these important files cited in the catalogue.

Staff at the Ordnance Survey of Ireland specially prepared the LiDAR images of the remarkable rectilinear barrow at Pass of Kilbride (No. 35), and generously gave of their time in explaining the process to myself and Dr Herity.

In addition to he and his family very hospitably entertaining the survey-team, schoolteacher Phil Tifft of Knockmant liaised with local landowners on behalf of the survey-team, and provided much information on barrows and other archaeological sites in the Killucan area, based on very thorough research into the area carried out by him.

Without exception it has been a pleasure to talk to the many landowners encountered this season, who were highly favourable towards the project and often extremely helpful in locating sites or in elucidating their context. The warmest thanks are due to the Tynans of Tuitestown for facilitating a most enjoyable revisit this season to the remarkable pair of barrows on an enclosed glacial hillock on their land with Michael Herity and Seamus O'Brien, during which 'dead-ice hollows' were identified by the latter.

D. McGuinness

Abbreviations:

ASI: *Archaeological Survey of Ireland*
NMS: *National Monuments Service*
SMR: *Sites and Monuments Record*

INTRODUCTION

The primary objective of the Prehistoric Burial Mounds and Related Monuments of Westmeath project is to gain a broad view of the earthen and earth-and-stone barrows of a county through simple observation and survey-work in the field, followed up by research in library and archive. It seeks to comprehend the full range of formal diversity among these later prehistoric earthworks, to assess the degree to which existing classes can accommodate this diversity, and to identify new types of barrow through a process of induction from field-data. It seeks also to examine the barrows in their natural setting, looking for patterns in siting and recurring associations with natural landscape-features; to place them in their archaeological context by examining associated monuments and stray finds of artefacts, again with an eye towards discerning general, recurring patterns; and to assemble documented traditions and folk-names associated with the barrows, which could potentially influence interpretation and understanding of these sites. Although the project has not yet approached this systematically, the positioning of barrows with reference to early medieval ecclesiastical sites and monuments is also being noted as potentially relevant to the debate over the Pagan-Christian transition.

It is hoped that the broad view thus gained will contribute to our general understanding of later prehistoric ceremonial and mortuary monuments and landscapes in Ireland, a field which has been hitherto dominated by the results of a relatively small number of excavations and by focused studies of the more famous provincial royal sites (e.g. Herity 1983; 1984; Waterman 1997; Newman 1997; Grogan *et al.* 2007; Waddell *et al.* 2009). In addition, through the recognition of the types, locations and numbers of later prehistoric earthen burial and ritual monuments on the Irish landscape, the project should provide a firm, empirically derived body of data which might be used in attempts to elucidate the meaning of terms for monument types referred to repeatedly in the medieval Irish vernacular literature, such as *fert* and *dúmha*, a task first undertaken by John O'Donovan, George Petrie and Eugene O'Curry in their Ordnance Survey work and related studies of the 1830s and early 1840s, which also marked the birth of Irish archaeology as an inductive science.[1]

[1] With Dr Michael Herity, information is also being gathered within and beyond the borders of Westmeath on a subject that is very closely linked to the subject of barrows. Herity's revival of the Westropp/Orpen debate over the nature of many Irish

This, the third interim report so far (McGuinness 2012; 2013), covers the winter season of 2014-15, in which the barrows of the north and east of the county were surveyed and catalogued, including the baronies of Delvin and Fore, and parts of Farbill, Fartullagh, Moygoish, and Moyashel & Magheradernon (Fig. i). A catalogue of these monuments forms the core of the report. As an interim report for an ongoing project, the discursive section is intended principally to draw attention to the variety of field monuments encountered by the survey-team this season, and to some of the questions these raise. Even more than previous season's reports, however, the emphasis here is on the closely related themes of morphology and classification, in recognition of the fact that the most challenging new material lies in these areas. In addition to drawing attention to unusual but recurring features of the known types as they present in the field, particular attention has been given to those nine unclassified-barrows[2]—just over a fifth of this season's total—which find no place in existing typological schemas and, as such, pinpoint gaping lacunae in the framework of archaeological knowledge. The project is far from having a complete picture of Westmeath's earthen burial mounds and related monuments, and surprising new material is turning up each season; in addition to this, the writer has not yet engaged with the library and archival research required to place the Westmeath material in a broader context. As such, the discussion here can only be preliminary, subject to revision based on feedback from further fieldwork and background reading, and must necessarily be replaced by the final report which will include a systematic analysis of the completed catalogue of the county's barrows.

The catalogue of forty-four barrows accompanying the present report is far more complete than the discussion, but even here it is not intended that these entries be taken as final versions. All sites examined in the field were visited only briefly, on a single occasion, under widely varying conditions of lighting and vegetation. In the writer's experience, multiple visits to a site are almost always rewarding. As new comparative material and new questions arise each season, it is also necessary to return to some sites examined before, but this time with a more informed eye and potentially with additional measurements to take. With these factors in mind, it is intended to revisit a number of key sites already examined in the field.

'motes and mounds' saw the identification of a new group of large-scale earthworks, often confused as Norman mottes or mottes and baileys in archaeological publications but mentioned as important places in the native, pre-Norman literature, which can be placed alongside the barrows, internally ditched enclosures and other better-known monument types collectively associated with later prehistoric royal sites (Herity 1993). Two relevant sites in Westmeath, 'The Breen' (*Bruighean Da Choga*) in Breenymore townland, and *Dún na Sgiath* beside the royal crannog of *Cró-inis* on the shore of Lough Ennell in Dysart townland, have already been surveyed through an archaeological research grant generously made available by the Royal Irish Academy. It is intended that more sites will be surveyed in Westmeath and elsewhere in Ireland towards a fuller understanding of this important subject, and of its relationship to the subject of barrows.

[2] Nos 1, 9, 12, 17, 18, 27, 35, 39, 40.

Thirty-four monuments were visited and surveyed this season; six others were searched for but not found, one of which (No. 22) appears to have been destroyed; and four others are known to have been destroyed.[3]

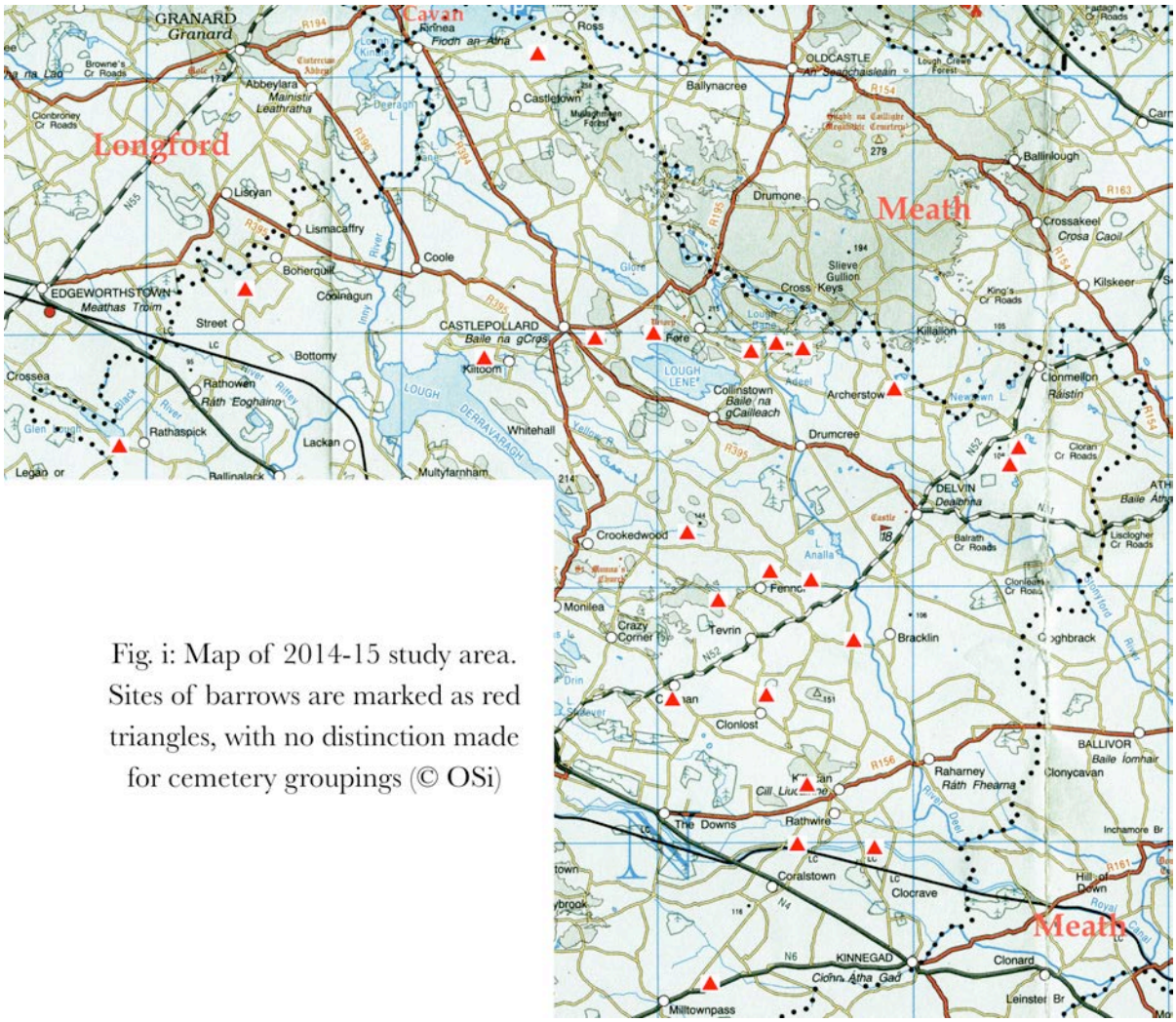

Fig. i: Map of 2014-15 study area. Sites of barrows are marked as red triangles, with no distinction made for cemetery groupings (© OSi)

Morphology & Classification

As with earlier seasons, the survey-team again encountered a broad and challenging range of earthworks, some easily or relatively easily classifiable in terms of currently recognised types, others stretching our understanding of these types, and a few that could not be assigned to any existing, defined category; these latter must remain unclassified pending further fieldwork and comparative observation, and, following on from this, the addition of new types to the current schema (Fig. ii).

Although this is not something that has yet been systematically explored by the project, for the third season running the survey-team accidentally encountered another barrow identified by the ASI as a ringfort (No. 37), which was noticed only on account of its close

[3] *Surveyed sites (34 sites)*: Nos 1-15, 17-19, 21, 23, 28-33, 35-39, 41-43; *Searched for but not found (5 sites)*: Nos 16, 20, 26-27, 44; *Destroyed (5 sites)*: Nos 22, 24-26, 34.

proximity to three other ring-barrows. It seems more and more probable that the immense ASI category of earthen ringforts, with tens of thousands of sites, and the related 'enclosure' category, huge in itself, may conceal significant numbers of barrows across the country. As such, it is hoped that the project will later examine all such monuments in at least one barony of Westmeath, with the intention of seeing what proportion can be assigned to the broad barrow group—this should give a rough sense of the situation in comparable areas of Ireland.

BOX 1: Classification of burial barrow types recorded in Ireland

Archaeological Survey of Ireland

Basic surface features

Type (number in brackets)	Central area—circular or oval	Enclosing ditch	Outer bank
Ring-barrows (1,843)	Raised generally up to 1m above the external ground or level with it	√	√
Bowl-barrows (134)	Mound like an inverted bowl, generally over 1m above the external ground	√	Sometimes
Ditch-barrows (236)	Level or slightly raised (<1m) above the external ground; less than 20m in diameter; often found in association with other barrow types	Defined by a ditch	
Mound-barrows (248)	Earthen or earth-and-stone mound with no external features; found in association with other barrow types		
Pond-barrows (19)	Shallow, man-made circular depression enclosed around its rim by an earthen bank		√
Embanked barrows (52)	Raised area generally less than 20m in diameter; enclosed by a continuous bank; bank size large relative to the small internal diameter		√ Level or concave interior
Stepped barrows (33)	Raised platform; flat-topped or rounded central area; 'stepped' profile		Some sites on outer edge of platform
Unclassified barrows	605 sites recorded		

Fig. ii: Classification of barrows by the ASI based on observation of surface features, after O'Sullivan and Downey (2012).

In a field survey like the present one, in which the overwhelming majority of sites have never been excavated or subjected to geophysical survey-work, the identification of types is of course based primarily on inspection of surface features. But this is not a blind exercise in which each site is taken purely on its own, in whatever state it has come down to us; rather it is based on comparison with other monuments showing similar features, but in better states of preservation, and a consideration of any available information from folkloric, textual or cartographic sources. The low-relief ring-barrow in fairly recently ploughed land at Riverstown (No. 41), for instance, which has only the barest traces of an outer bank today, lies

close to a very similar monument (No. 42), also in poor condition, but with clearer traces of a bank; and inspection of its depiction on the 1838 OS 6-inch map shows it clearly to have an outer bank (Fig. 55). Similarly, the half-destroyed earthwork at Rathwire Upper (No. 40) now looks almost like a miniature motte-and-bailey, but from earlier accounts it seems once to have been a pair of conjoined bowl-barrows with common ditch and outer bank, resembling a well-preserved double bowl-barrow of this type in the Lakill and Moortown cemetery (Nos 32-33) only 19km away (Fig. iii).

Fig. iii: Unclassified-Barrow at Rathwire Upper (No. 40; *Lower*), now severely damaged and superficially resembling a miniature motte and bailey, but once close in appearance to the conjoined Bowl-Barrows at Lakill and Moortown (Nos 32-3; *Upper*) according to earlier accounts (1m scales).

In principle, the longer the survey proceeds and the more comparative material is observed, the more adept at inferring the original form of the monument—and therefore at recognising types—become the survey-team, and ideally the use of the unclassified category should grow less frequent. This phenomenon has been noted by Herity (1984b, 130) in the survey of Irish megalithic tombs initiated by the Ordnance Survey, one of the remarkable first fruits of which was a successful large-scale testing in the field of the fourfold classification (court-, portal-, passage- and wedge-tombs) that had been discerned by the 1930s through increasing familiarity with field data systematically gathered from the mid-19th century onwards. Having specially examined over 900 monuments across the island, De Valéra and Ó Nualláin (1961, xii) concluded that the fourfold classification accounted for the overwhelming majority of tombs 'without significant remainder', this 'remainder' comprising the unclassified group. While the existence of this group gives us faith in their abilities as fieldworkers and in their attribution of monuments to one of the four recognised types, in later published volumes of the Megalithic Survey Herity (1984b, 130) nonetheless notes a decreasing use of the unclassified group, as their confidence as fieldworkers and their knowledge of comparative material both increase, and even the reassigning of previously unclassified monuments to known classes.

We are far from having a classification of barrows to compare with our now time-tested classification of megalithic tombs—for a start, there are many more than four types of barrow

out there, and we do not even have a full list of these types; systematic field study of these monuments is also far, far behind that of megalithic tombs at the time when De Valéra and Ó Nualláin were in a position to test the fourfold classification. Nonetheless, in the project we are constantly modifying our view of these monuments based on an accumulation of comparative material, and we see that same feedback from fieldwork evident in the national survey of megalithic tombs. An incidence is described below, in which two tiny circular ditched mounds on Frewin Hill, while they looked like tiny ring-barrows, were in the 2012-season report very reluctantly—though with the intention of showing the limitations of our set of currently recognised types—assigned to the bowl-barrow category as the nearest available defined group, in the absence of a sub-type of ring-barrow with no external bank to accommodate them. But with the recognition of additional examples this season, two (Nos 29-30) with remarkable similarities in form and positioning to the Frewin Hill sites, it is tentatively suggested below that we could be dealing with a new type of barrow, or more precisely a new subtype of ring-barrow.

As with previous reports, the monuments are here classified on the basis of the ASI schema (Fig. ii), although there is a slight shift in emphasis here. The intention before was to show how the closest available defined types must be stretched and distorted almost beyond recognition to accommodate a significant proportion of the monuments that are being encountered during fieldwork in a single county. Now a more cautious attitude is taken, in that, rather than showing the shortcomings of existing types, the unclassified category has been used where there is any significant doubt as to the identification of a particular barrow as a known type. The intention here is draw attention to this potentially important group, which, though it includes monuments that are too damaged or overgrown to be classified, also includes many others that are well preserved but of unknown type. It is significant that the 605 unclassified barrows grouped together by the ASI (see Fig. ii) represent almost one-fifth (19%) of the total number of barrows in the Republic of Ireland, higher than the proportion of unclassified megalithic tombs (13%) on the island of Ireland.[4] Moreover, while an examination of the published descriptions indicates that the majority of unclassified megalithic tombs were too ruined or overgrown to be identifiable by type, but often showed features that were compatible with one or other of the known types, it is striking just how many of the unclassified barrows in this season's catalogue appear to be *genuinely incompatible* with the existing schema.

[4] Based on national lists published in the fifth volume of the *Survey of the Megalithic Tombs of Ireland* (Ó Nualláin 1989, 115-44).

RING-BARROWS

With 1843 examples documented for the Republic of Ireland alone, *c.* 58% of the total of 3170 barrows, the ring-barrow is by a great measure the most numerous type of barrow on the island of Ireland (see Fig. ii); the next most common of the defined types is the mound-barrow, with only 248 known. The Irish ring-barrow equates with the Wessex saucer-barrow, although the latter appears to be of much less frequent occurrence than its Irish analogue, with only 60+ saucer-barrows among the 4000+ known barrows in Wessex (*c.* 1.5% of the total), as compared to 250 bell-barrows, 160 disc-barrows and approximately 3500 bowl-barrows (Ashbee 1960, 27; Grinsell 1979, 20-21).

The stereotypical ring-barrow is a circular earthwork comprising a low domed mound or central platform which is surrounded by a ditch, outside which is a bank (Figs ii, iv). The merest perusal of published archaeological surveys, inventories, and excavation reports indicates that beyond this minimal definition there is tremendous variety, including multiple banks and ditches; the presence of one or two opposing causewayed entrances; flat-topped platforms rather than domed mounds; incorporation of natural boulders; arcs of stones set in the ground under the mounds; deliberate positioning on sloping ground, the monument either following the slope or leveled in spite of it; flattening of the sides, oval shapes, and other departures from a circular ground-plan; presence of a standing stone on or close to the monument, etc., etc. The central 'mounds' may also be above, below or at ground-level; when at ground level—and this is often difficult to establish without excavation (Newman 1997, 155)—these monument are sometimes called embanked ring-ditches, ring-ditches proper comprising a circular ditch with no mound or bank (or at least none surviving).

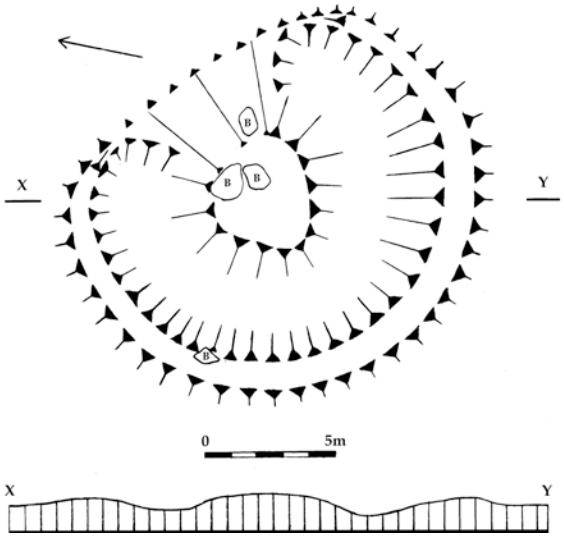

Fig. iv: Plan and N-S profile of newly discovered Ring-Barrow at Cooksborough (No. 14) (B=Boulder).

The ring-barrows encountered this season were, as before, far from homogeneous in appearance, and included unusual attributes of form or location in addition to a very broad range of dimensions. The densely overgrown earthwork at Ballinlough (No. 3) has the peculiarity that the northern half of its central platform is raised up to half a metre above the

southern half, the dividing line formed by a much-denuded ditch and bank—in places more like a scarp—which cut through the monument and continue out on either side of it as a densely-overgrown and now-relict field fence (see Fig. 5). If not for the split-level appearance of the platform this could be easily explained as a cut and dried case of stratigraphy, with a field fence apparently of recent centuries overlaying and cutting into a prehistoric burial mound. In the absence of any comparable material in the project so far, the site remains an enigma.

The newly discovered ring-barrow at Cloghanumera (No. 7) appears to have two banks and ditches, although the outer pair is by no means certain, making it potentially only the second example encountered thus far by the project of an infrequent but documented type (Fig. v); the other is at Habsborough close to Ballina (McGuinness 2014, 47-8). The relative scarcity of multivallate ring-barrows, which can be of great size, brings to mind the analogous situation for ringforts, where it can be argued from the evidence of early medieval law tracts in conjunction with archaeological evidence, that large size or multivallate construction are indicative of high status and based at least in part of the ability of lords to muster their clients as rath-builders (Stout 1997, 18, 113-14). Sharing several features in common with ringforts, including circular shape, delimitation by banks and ditches and causewayed entrances, it may be significant that many barrows are named *Ráth* in the *Dindshenchas* and other medieval vernacular literature, as on the hill of Tara for example; a usage which is also widespread in places names and folk tradition. As early as 1834 this broader understanding of the term is evident in George Petrie's prize-winning essay on pre-Norman military architecture in Ireland, which drew heavily on the expertise of John O'Donovan and others in the native Irish literature alongside careful archaeological observation, such that some 'raths', as with the main mound at Rathcroghan and the 'Rath of Tailtean', were considered to be 'rather of a sepulchral or religious character than a military one' (Petrie 1972, 232-6).

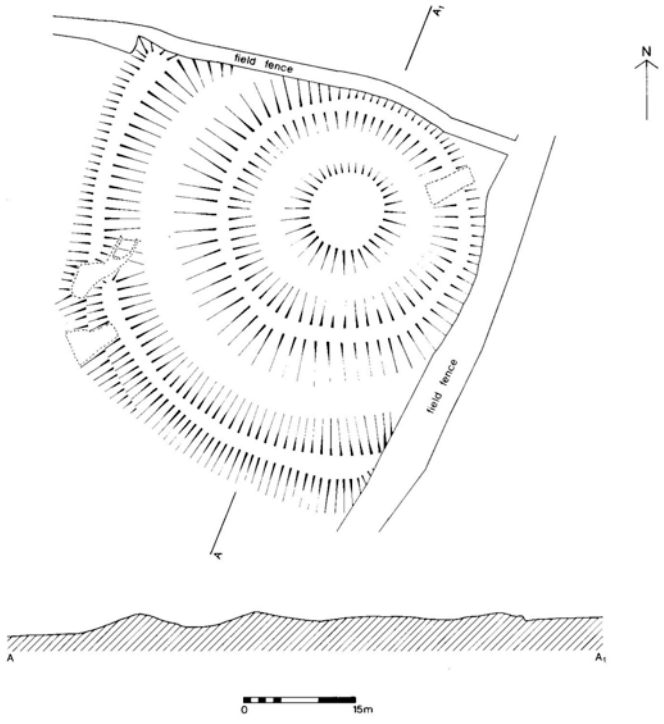

Fig. v: Large multivallate Ring-Barrow at Stabannan, Co. Louth (after Buckley and Sweetman 1991, 56, Fig. 56).

Just 65m away in Cooksborough townland is a second newly discovered ring-barrow (No. 14, Fig. iv above), this time with a single bank and ditch, but here the barrow is almost D-shaped in plan with a causeway across the ditch and a much reduced bank on the flattened side, this side also being marked by a slight drop to less well-drained land bordering a stream. At various points on the mound and bank are large limestone boulders with solution hollows, bringing to mind the boulders or rock outcrop documented on barrows in previous seasons; this may be a more widespread phenomenon, with a large conglomerate boulder observed on the southwest side of the central mound of a ring-barrow at Bantis in Tipperarary, for example (Farrelly and O'Brien 2002, 27-8). The Porterstown ring-barrow (No. 36), though more conventional in shape than Cooksborough, also has what appears to be a causeway on its east side.

As with previous seasons, ring-barrows have again been noted on sloping ground. Two very different ways of handling this are evident. In the case of Lakill and Moortown, two ring-barrows (Nos 29-30) have been placed just west of a bowl-barrow (No. 28), the westernmost of a linear group of bowl-barrows on a hilltop: one (No. 30) on fairly level ground directly beside the bowl-barrow, the other (No. 29) slightly farther out to west-north-west, where the hilltop begins to slope down. The barrow is completely on the slope, which is shallow but noticeable at this point, and looks to the northwest. It is noteworthy that the bowl-barrows only occupy a tiny part of the large flat summit of the hill (See Fig. xvii), suggesting that the later ring-barrows could have been placed on a more level, open area, like the broadly spaced bowl-barrows; but that instead they were deliberately placed just west of the principal bowl-barrow (No. 28), on the edge of the summit, where the land almost immediately begins to slope down in a westerly direction.

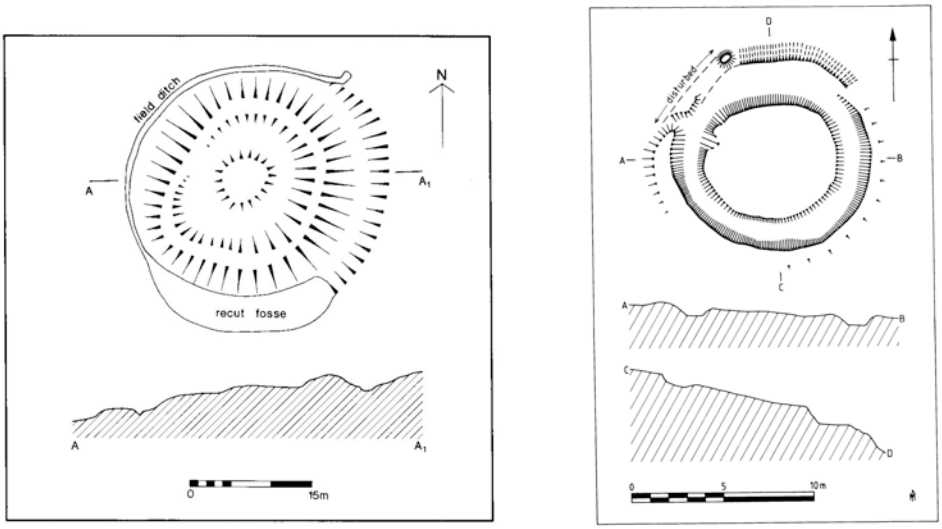

Fig. vi: Ring-barrows on sloping ground: (*Left*) Mellifont, Co. Louth (after Buckley and Sweetman 1991); (*Right*) Hillgrove on the Iveragh Peninsula, Co. Kerry (after O'Sullivan and Sheehan 1996).

One of the Riverstown ring-barrows (No. 41) is again on noticeably sloping ground, though here the gradient is even gentler. These monuments bear comparison with several already noted in Westmeath, of which the most striking are the steeply sloping ring-barrows at Walshestown South and Wattstown (Frewin Hill) (McGuinness 2012). In all cases seen by the writer, the barrow appears to be on the upper slope, close to the flat summit of a hill or ridge. Other examples have been documented across Ireland on slopes of varying degrees of severity (e.g. Fig. vi). Though clearly related, the famous *Clóenfherta* ('Sloping Trenches or Sloping Barrows') on the Hill of Tara are not precisely similar: the easternmost edges of them are on a much less severe slope than the western part (Fig. vii).

Fig. vii: *Na Clóenfherta* on the western slopes of the Hill of Tara (after Newman 1997). Note the less severe slope on the eastern edge of both barrows.

A very different approach is evident in the two ring-barrows at Porterstown. The first (No. 37) is again placed on partly sloping ground despite higher and more level ground being available nearby; but instead of following the slope, the mound and particularly the bank have been built up on the down-slope side to ensure that the monument appears level from a distance (Fig. 50). A related effect can be seen in some mound- and bowl-barrows (see below).

The second ring-barrow in Porterstown (No. 36) is similar but much better preserved. Here the monument is placed on the edge of a natural escarpment which drops down to northwest; at the southwest side it similarly drops down to a large crescent-shaped hollow, apparently also natural, so that the whole north-western half of the monument is raised well above external ground-level, and the outer face of the bank merges with the naturally steep slope to produce a most impressive effect on this side. Along this elevated side of the barrow the bank is also much more massive than in the southeastern half. It is noteworthy, however, that the flat-topped central mound or platform is not quite level, instead sloping down gently to the south. This barrow has been very deliberately placed on the edge of the escarpment, roughly midway between two kettle-hole lakes.

Several of this season's ring-barrows as they currently present have no clear evidence for an outer bank. That this may be due to differential erosion of the site is suggested by Riverstown (No. 41), where a bank is clearly depicted on the 1838 OS 6" map and the land is known to have been ploughed in recent decades. Similarly, most of the outer bank has been removed at Archerstown (No. 2), but it is known to have existed until the 1970s. The situation is not so clear-cut with Jeffrystown (No. 21) and Lakill and Moortown (Nos 29-30), which currently comprise low domed mounds or flat-topped platforms surrounded by a ditch, but with no clear evidence of a bank beyond the ditch; the maximum diameters of Nos 29-30 are only 7m and 6.4m respectively. Caution is necessary with the small, very low relief Lakill and Moortown sites, which were seriously damaged by ploughing prior to being first described by an archaeologist in 1981, and are now barely perceptible on the ground. Even so, another damaged, low-relief site at Tullystown (No. 44), which the survey-team was unable to examine this season, appears to be very similar. Currently unclassified on the National Monuments Service website, two separate accounts by ASI fieldworkers are suggestive of different types of monument. If we read 'ground-level' for 'level', the 1981 description of Tullystown—'A small circular earthwork outlined by a shallow circular fosse enclosing a level interior. There is no indication of a bank....' [7/4/81, SMR file]—is suggestive of a ring-ditch, which is the type to which both Lakill and Moortown sites (Nos 29-30) are currently assigned on the NMS website. The 1997 account similarly mentions no bank, describing it only a 'low circular mound, *c.* 5m-5.2m in diameter and *c.* 20cms in height, surrounded by a fosse', with an overall diameter of less than 9m [SMR file]; but here the monument is confidently identified as a ring-barrow, presumably based on the low but measurable height of the central mound. Whichever interpretation is accepted, it seems clear from both accounts that this tiny barrow possesses no bank.[5]

The absence of a currently recognised category of ring-barrow with no external bank meant that, when examined by the writer in 2012, two almost identical earthworks comprising minuscule, low circular mounds with traces of a surrounding ditch, and with estimated maximum diameters of only *c.* 7.5m and *c.* 6.4m, were with great reservations placed in the bowl-barrow category as the nearest available type of Irish barrow to include a mound surrounded by a ditch (McGuinness 2012, 35). Having encountered other comparable sites this season, none bar that at Jeffrystown (No. 21) with diameter exceeding 9m, the writer is now inclined to suggest that there may be a distinct type of ring-barrow with low circular mound surrounded by a ditch but with no outer bank, in the same way that bowl-barrows

[5] A third, undated account does mention a 'low earthen bank' surrounding the ditch [SMR file], but this terse and simple description, which does little more than list the characterisitics of a generic ring-barrow, appears not to be based on a fresh examination of the monument.

may or may not possess this feature. Other factors independent of morphology may be in support of this: The sites examined in 2012 are satellites of the focal cairn or tumulus in the Frewin Hill cemetery, being placed just 8m south-west and 10m west-north-west of it respectively, on the edge of the clearly defined level summit of the hill, where the ground begins to slope down steeply to the west; very much in the same way that the Lakill and Moortown sites are placed just west of the principal bowl-barrow (No. 28) in that cemetery, one (No. 30) close to the edge of the flat summit of the hill just 2m west of No. 28, the other (No. 29) on the uppermost slope of the hill 10.5m to northwest of No. 28 (see Fig. 38).

Similar monuments may exist elsewhere in Ireland. In their rich commentary on 'Barrows, Cairns and Mounds' in the North Tipperary *Archaeological Inventory*, for instance, Farrelly and O'Brien note of that region's ring-barrows that 'in some instances there is no evidence of an outer bank which may be the result of levelling'; of these sites, the maximum diameters cited in the *Inventory* are all fairly small, *c.* 18.8m (No. 113), 6.4 to 9.5m (No. 170, multiple sites), and 9m (No. 171) respectively (2002, 25, 27, 34).

The hilltop ring-barrow at Rathnarrow (see Fig. 51) is unlike anything encountered in the project so far, in that it is contained within one end of an approximately rectangular earthen enclosure delimited by a bank, an external ditch, and traces of a counterscarp bank, and measuring 30.3m in length and 25.4m in breadth from outer edges of ditch; the two inside corners on the west side of the enclosure are much sharper than those on the east. The interior of the enclosure is raised above external ground level, indicating that the ring-barrow is unlikely to pre-date it. A cursory examination of published archaeological surveys shows that related earthworks have been documented in other parts of Ireland, a magnificent example being 'Dunmore' on the summit of a high ridge at Belpatrick in south-west Co. Louth, where an oval-shaped or almost elliptical enclosure (62m x 43m), angular in places and delimited by a bank and external ditch, surrounds four ring-barrows. From the published profile (Fig. viii), the interior appears to be raised above external ground level, and there appears also to be a slight counterscarp bank outside the ditch on the west side (Buckley and Sweetman 1991,45-6).

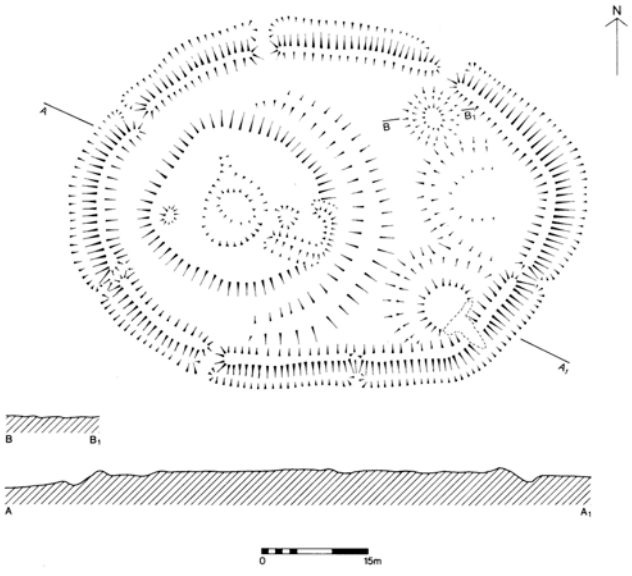

Fig. viii Enclosed Ring-Barrows at Belpatrick, Co. Louth ('Dunmore'), after Buckley and Sweetman (1991, Fig. 38).

Far less similar in appearance, but perhaps also related, is last season's site of Tuitestown, where a bowl-barrow and an unclassified-barrow are positioned on the twin-summits of a small but striking esker-like glacial ridge, the entire landform being delimited at its base by a scarp and ditch (McGuinness 2014, 61-2 with revisions).

MOUND-BARROWS

As many as fourteen of this season's barrows appear to fall into this category.[6] In the ASI classification, mound-barrows or tumuli are simple mounds of earth, or earth and stone, with no ditch or other external features (Fig. ii). As was the case in earlier seasons, this definition again proved insufficient to account for the real variety to be observed among these monuments in the field.

Fig. ix: Mound-Barrow at Ballygarvey Beg (No. 4) from the south-west, showing its asymmetric stepped profile (1m scales).

Cooksborough (No. 13) and Killulagh (No. 23) are both elegant dome-shaped mounds, and the destroyed site at Killagh (No. 22) appears also to have been round-topped. By contrast the Battstown monument (No. 5), though now overgrown and damaged, appears to have resembled a truncated cone; while that at Derrynagarragh, which could not be located by the survey-team, was described by an ASI fieldworker as 'approximately 10m in diameter and approximately 50cms-75cms high with a flattened top' [SMR file], although this might be nothing more than a flattened apex to a domed mound. The mound-barrows at Crowinstown Little (No. 15) and Ballygarvey Beg (No. 4) are more clearly dome-shaped with flattened summit, but the latter site has what appears to be a step or ledge not far below the summit on the southeast side, giving it a strikingly asymmetric profile along the NW-SE axis (Fig. ix). As with a more doubtful ledge running around the circumference much closer to the base of the mound, this stepped effect could be the result of erosion, whether of natural or human origin, and must be treated as such pending examination of further comparative material. The form

[6] Nos 4-5, 10-11, 13, 15-16, 20, 22-6, and possibly 34.

of the destroyed mound-barrows at Killynan (Cooke) (Nos 24-25) and Kilmore (No. 26) is unknown, save that they were circular; and the same can be said for two ransacked sites at Clondalever (Nos 10-11). The unusual Glenidan monument (No. 20), which comprises a 'substantial broad earthen ring encompassing a saucer-shaped depression' [SMR file], is probably also a ransacked mound-barrow, as the ASI accounts suggest, but the original shape of the mound is no longer accessible either through observation or inference.[7] The destroyed mound to the east of four bowl-barrows at Lakill and Moortown (No. 34) could have been a mound-barrow, but more likely it was a fifth bowl-barrow.

The Crowinstown Little mound-barrow (No. 15) has a feature already noted for some ring-barrows (see above) and bowl-barrows (see below): The flattened summit of its domed mound has been kept approximately level despite being sited on a ridge-top which slopes down from northwest to southeast; as such, to achieve the level effect, the southeast side is higher (H. 0.85m) and more massive than the northwest side (H. 0.45m). This measurable effect can be seen in other Westmeath mound-barrows, as with the famous Knockast cemetery 'cairn' (in fact a flat-topped mound of stony earth) north-east of Moate (Fig. x).

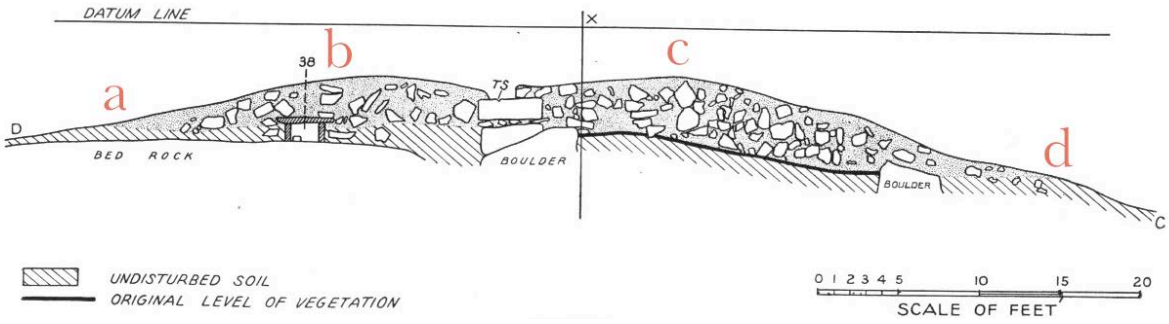

Fig. x: Cross-section (SW-NE) through the Knockast cemetery 'cairn', in fact a flat-topped Mound-Barrow of stony earth. Note how mound is more massive on the right to ensure its upper surface is kept level in spite of undulating topography. This difference can be recorded simply by measuring and comparing either the sloping or vertical distance between points *a* and *b* on the one hand, and points *c* and *d* on the other. After Hencken and Movius 1932-4, Pl. IX.

BOWL-BARROWS

In the sense that it is widely understood in Ireland (Fig. ii), the bowl-barrow has a mound that is dome-shaped, resembling an upturned bowl, and is essentially a type borrowed from Britain and derived primarily from studies of English barrows (Fig. xi); but as some ASI fieldworkers are well aware, this understanding of the term is too limiting, for in Ireland the nearest comparable ditched monuments can also have 'steep-sided conical, or flat-topped earthen mounds' (Farrelly and O'Brien 2002, 25).

[7] The survey-team was unable to locate this site during a single visit in 2015.

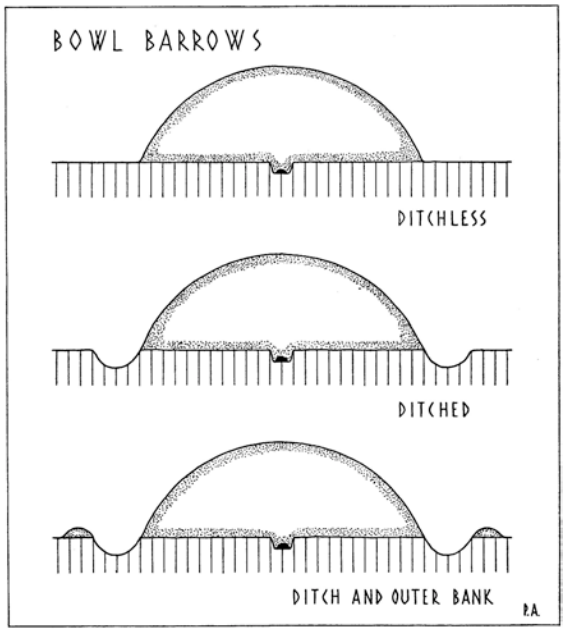

Fig. xi: Generic cross-sections through three types of Bowl-Barrow, from Paul Ashbee's influential 1960 study, *The Bronze Age Round Barrow in Britain*. The uppermost type would now be called a Mound-Barrow in Ireland.

Seven or possibly eight monuments in this season's study area are bowl-barrows,[8] all but three forming part of the Lakill and Moortown cemetery. As with previous seasons the bowl-barrows in the present report come in a variety of shapes and sizes, with some novel forms hitherto unseen in the project. The range of mound profiles includes classic upturned bowls as with No. 31 at Lakill at Moortown, where the mound has the same graceful domed appearance as the mound-barrows at Cooksborough (No. 13) and Killulagh (No. 23). The barrow at Glenidan (No. 9), with much more steeply sloping sides than No. 31, probably also came close to the classic appearance, although damage to its south side in the past has disfigured its profile. The tall mounds at Christianstown (No. 6) and Lakill and Moortown (No. 28) are shaped roughly like upturned bowls, but their steeply sloping and straight to gently rounded sides, and their rounded but distinct apices, give them an almost conical shape (Figs 10, 37). The conjoined bowl-barrows at Lakill and Moortown (Nos 32-33) are linked by a high saddle rising 2.2m above the line of the ditch, but the remainder of these mounds, with their steep, gently rounded sides, compare favourably with Nos 6 and 28 except that their pointed apices give an even more pronounced conical effect. Very different is the mound at Clondalever, which is fairly tall and steep-sided, but has a flat, deliberately levelled upper surface 7m in diameter (Fig. xii). No information is available on the destroyed mound at Lakill and Moortown (No. 34).

All of this season's bowl-barrows of course possess some evidence for a ditch, which is required in Ireland for identification as a bowl-barrow as opposed to a mound-barrow (see Fig. xi), even though only a small arc of it appears to survive at Clondalever (No. 8) and it is

[8] Nos 6, 8, 19, 28, 31-33, ?34.

extremely faint around the conjoined bowl-barrows at Lakill and Moortown (Nos 32-33). The large and well-preserved example at Christianstown (No. 6) has a bank outside the ditch, which appears to be a much rarer feature among the county's bowl-barrows; in addition there appears to be the remains of a boulder kerb around the base of the mound, just above original ground level before the ditch was cut.

Fig. xii: Bowl-barrow at Clondalever (No. 8) from the S. Note that mound is more massive on the left, apparently to keep its upper surface level despite ground sloping down from right to left (1m scales).

The two bowl-barrows at Lakill and Moortown (Nos 32-33) are conjoined so that there is a saddle between their domed mounds with distinct summits (Fig. iii, *Upper*), the whole apparently designed as a unit. One barrow, the northernmost, is slightly broader and taller than the other, and, though this is far from clear on the ground and faint even in aerial views, a single ditch appears to surround the whole. While its present condition and some inconsistencies in earlier accounts necessitate its placement alongside the other unclassified-barrows, these earlier accounts strongly suggest that the earthwork at Rathwire Upper (No. 40) was another pair of conjoined bowl-barrows surrounded by a common ditch, but this time with an outer bank and with the added distinction that at least one of the mounds was flat-topped.

Unclassified-Barrows

Some nine sites have been listed as unclassified in the catalogue, representing just over a fifth of this season's total.[9] The badly damaged Rathwire Upper site (No. 40) has already been discussed above in the context of bowl-barrows. As some of the remaining unclassified sites show clear similarities with one another, and collectively with other sites seen in previous seasons, these are grouped together in the discussion below.

[9] Nos 1, 9, 12, 17, 18, 27, 35, 39, 40.

Annaskinnan (No. 1), Clondalever (No. 9) and Pass of Kilbride (No. 35)

Unquestionably the most intriguing monuments examined this season were the unclassified barrows at Annaskinnan (No. 1) and Pass of Kilbride (No. 35), both very strikingly positioned atop hillocks of glacial drift. The damaged Annaskinnan site (see Fig. 1) comprises a tiny roughly square or subrectangular mound (6.5m x 6.8m) with a flat, approximately level top and steeply sloping sides, its pairs of parallel sides oriented NNW-SSE and WSW-ENE respectively; no trace of a ditch is apparent. The mound is more massive on its WSW side, apparently to keep its upper surface level in spite of the natural ground sloping down on this side.

The monument at Pass of Kilbride (Fig. xiii) is more complex: the mound is again roughly square or subrectangular (8.5m x 9.2m), and again it has its opposing sides oriented NNW-SSE and WSW-ENE, but here the monument is surrounded by a ditch formed of four straight lines, the WSW end being slightly broader (11.9m) than the ENE end (10.4) so that the ditch is trapezoidal in shape. The corners of the ditch are sunk deeper than the sides, possibly indicating the presence of pits or where timber posts have rotted away. Again the mound is more massive at its WSW end, but here it also higher.

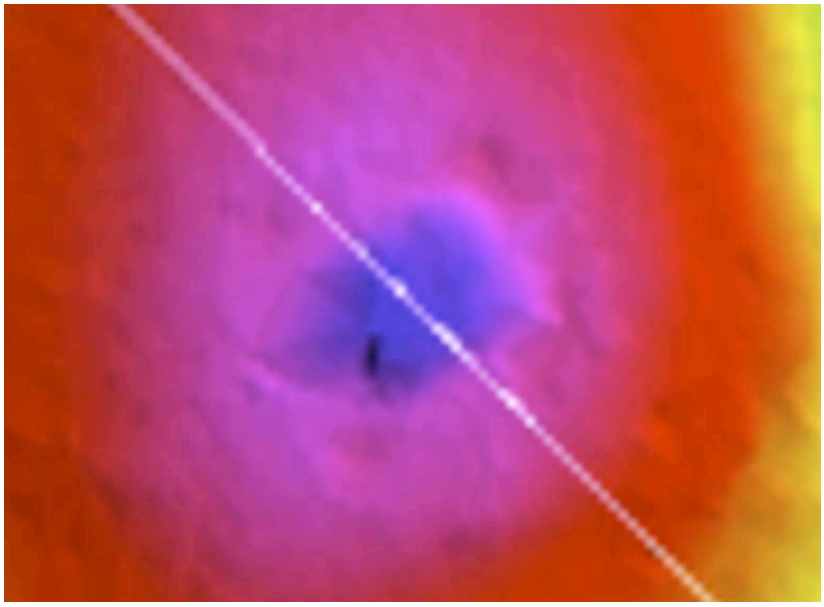

Fig. xiii: LiDAR image of Unclassified-Barrow at Pass of Kilbride (No. 35), showing rectangular shape of mound; the dark spots beyond corners of mound represent deep corners of the trapezoidal ditch where the shallower straight sides (barely visible here) intersect (© OSi).

A third unclassified-barrow at Clondalever (No. 9) also has two 'corners' and one or possibly two straight sides, but this monument has been altered in recent centuries when a drystone revetment was added, and the angular effect is exacerbated (if not created) by the roots of mature trees growing on its perimeter (Fig. 18). That this earthwork is different from Annaskinnan and Pass of Kilbride is further indicated by its gently domed upper surface, an attribute of more conventional barrows.

Additional fieldwork and a full examination of the published literature are required before more can be said about the significance of these remarkable earthworks, but it may be noted that certain features of Pass of Kilbride—the trapezoidal shape of the ditch, with broader end facing WSW, and the slightly higher, more massive character of the WSW-end of the central square mound—can be paralleled in the wedge-tomb, most recent of the four types of Irish megalithic tomb, which is trapezoidal or wedge-shaped in both plan and profile, the wider and higher end with centrally-positioned entrance facing into the southwest quadrant of the compass. The thicker, more massive WSW side of the Annaskinnan site may also be comparable, although here the upper surface of the mound remains level due to sloping ground.

Caution is necessary in interpretation of these earthworks, given that they seem to fly in the face of a general trend in domestic, mortuary and ceremonial buildings from the late Neolithic until the early medieval period. Although rectilinear and trapezoidal forms can be found in the houses and megalithic tombs (court-tombs, portal-tombs) of the fourth and early third millennium BC, alongside the circular mounds covering passage-tombs and so-called 'Linkardstown Cists', the mid-third millennium saw great changes, in which circular and oval forms appear in houses and ceremonial monuments (henges, stones circles), and then slightly later circular barrows become the preferred burial monuments outside those western areas where wedge-tombs were built during the Final Neolithic and Early Bronze Age. After the demise of the wedge-tomb, circular or rather curvilinear forms predominate right through to the beginning of the Christian period, when rectangular churches are being built; and by the late 8th century AD rectangular houses are replacing circular ones. While this is a grossly oversimplified picture, it should be sufficient to indicate that rectilinear forms of earthen burial mound are not readily accommodated by our current picture of Irish later prehistory. Some examples are known in Britain, for instance the rectangular ditched barrows of the Arras Culture in Iron Age Yorkshire, or comparable ones of the early to mid first millennium AD which show up as cropmarks in eastern Scotland, both types occurring in cemeteries alongside circular barrows (Cunliffe 1991, 499-504; Armit 1997, 97-8).

Edmondstown (No. 17)

Another extremely challenging monument is the possible unclassified-barrow at Edmondstown (No. 17), which for the third season running brings to the fore the relationship between barrows and ringforts. Classified as a barrow by the ASI, this circular monument (Figs xiv and 28) comprises a two-stepped mound, the upper step (Diam. 22.2m NS x 21.4m EW) appearing flat and level from a distance but having a very gently domed shape when

viewed up close, as if there were a low mound surrounded by a shallow 'ditch'; the lower step presents as a berm 2.4m-4.8m in width. There are traces of a boulder-revetment on both upper and lower steps. The leveling of the monument has been achieved in spite of sloping ground, a feature we have already encountered for ring-, mound-, and bowl-barrows. Various small boulders are visible on the upper step, some apparently in linear arrangements and possibly indicative of subsurface structural remains.

Fig. xiv: Possible Unclassified-Barrow (No. 17) at Edmondstown, from the SW, showing upper and lower steps (1m scale).

This almost flat-topped monument is unlike either those stepped-barrows with a small rounded mound on a larger platform, as at Cumminstown, or those with tiny steps or ledges near the top of, or part way up, a flat-topped mound, as at Slane More. Double-stepped barrows with a broad flat upper step are not unknown, one example being at Kiltirra in Co. Sligo, although this site is considerably small than Edmondstown and has clear evidence of a low bank on the outside of the lower step (Egan *et al.* 2005, 48-9, Pl. 10). Closer in appearance is the double-stepped mound at Ballymurry near Moate (Fig. xv), traditionally the inauguration site of the Magawleys (Mac Amhalghaidh) of *Calraighe* (Fitzpatrick 2004, 170-71). This comprises a flat upper step (Diam. 29.5m NS x 29m EW) rising from a lower step *c.* 5m in width; as with Edmondstown, boulders protrude from the upper surface, and there is evidence for a boulder revetment on both steps. Although this was not seen by the survey-team during a brief visit to the site this season under very poor conditions, FitzPatrick notes evidence for an earthen bank with internal stone facing around the edge of the upper step.

Fig. xv: Double stepped mound at Ballymurry, arguably the inauguration place of the Magawleys of Calree, from Bing (© Microsoft) and on OS 25" map (© OSi).

Two destroyed mounds on the northeast shore of Lough Derravaragh in Kiltoom townland, not far from an unclassified-barrow (No. 27), are depicted as stepped on OS maps in a similar way to Ballymurry (see Fig. 35, *Upper Left*); they lie beside a part of the lake in and close to which Bronze Age metalwork appears to have been repeatedly deposited. These mounds look west over part of Lough Derravaragh and might bear comparison with the hybrid barrow at Clanhugh Demesne seen in the first season (McGuinness 2012, 26-7), its stepped-half looking west across Lough Owel towards the barrow cemetery on and around Frewin Hill.

If these parallels suggest that the Edmondstown monument could be a barrow or some kind of ceremonial site, this picture is seriously challenged by a neighbouring monument just 300m away to the southeast in Tevrin townland (see Appendix). Here we have a very similar stepped mound, the upper step being of almost identical dimensions (Diam. 22.1m NS x 21.6m EW) and again having a very gently domed upper surface; but here the perimeter of the upper step has distinct traces of a cashel wall with internal boulder facing, such that it is not unreasonably classified as a ringfort by the ASI (WM013-079). Some 120m to south-south-east of this site, and again in Tevrin, is 'Rathmore' (WM013-080), a much larger but again fairly similar monument; but, with clear traces of a cashel wall around the perimeter of its otherwise flat central platform or raised upper 'step' and probable structural foundations in its interior, this very prominently positioned earthwork is much more obviously a ringfort. Further clear support for this is provided by the remains of a substantial bank on the outer edge of the lower step, such that this 'step' is in reality the ditch of a raised ringfort and the bank a counterscarp bank.

With its internally-faced cashel wall, the smaller Tevrin site brings to mind Ballymurry, but its gently domed upper surface, seen also at Edmondstown (No. 17), is best paralleled in the well-known raised ringfort known as 'Rathmore' at the royal site of Rathcroghan (*Cruachain*), which is one of only three ringforts—ostensibly secular monuments in the absence of excavation—to be placed close to the focal monuments of this later prehistoric barrow-cemetery and ceremonial landscape; it is also well above the normal size range for ringforts in this part of Roscommon, with an overall diameter of 79m and an exceptionally high central platform (Herity 1987, 130, 134, 136). The domed upper surface currently presents as a 'low oval-shaped rise with maximum dimensions of about 16m north-south'; there is also evidence for stone facing on this steep-sided mound, and recent geophysical survey-work suggests that the penannular enclosing bank around the summit might have been added at a later date (Waddell *et al.* 2009, 66-79).

Edmondstown (No. 18) and Kiltoom (No. 27)

Both of these barrows appear to have unusual features in common, although Edmondstown has been ploughed so low in the past that it is now barely visible, and Kiltoom could not be located on a single visit by the survey-team, making it necessary to rely entirely on the ASI account.

The Edmondstown barrow (No. 18) currently presents as a circular ditch, 19m across, delimiting a very low circular 'mound' or slightly dished ground-level platform. From the ASI description, made apparently when the monument was in a somewhat better state, the dished platform appears once to have been 'a low rounded earthen bank enclosing a shallow circular depression .... approximately 4m in diameter' [SMR file], such that this small site with inner bank and outer ditch would have had the superficial appearance of a miniature ringfort. The Kiltoom site appears to be better preserved and more certainly comprises a circular ditch, 13m across, within which is a bank surrounding a level interior 7m in diameter; the bank 'slopes gently to the interior', which would give a similar dished appearance to Edmondstown. From the plan and profile made by ASI fieldworkers [see SMR file], this monument again has the appearance of a minuscule ringfort, albeit one without an entrance.

Two monuments seen last season bear close comparison with these sites. The first, at Loughan, lies not far from a ring-barrow and was treated as a possible unclassified-barrow in the report (McGuinness 2014, 54). It too resembles a miniature ringfort with no entrance, its external ditch about 19m in diameter as at Edmondstown, but here the bank has an internal stone-facing, and there is also evidence for a counterscarp bank in places. The second site, Templepatrick, comprises a low, roughly circular dished platform, 8m across, surrounded by a ditch up to 1.5m in width; the distinctly hollowed centre of the platform, 4.3m across, gives the impression of a 1.5m-wide bank around the edge of the platform (McGuinness 2014, 61-2). Like Kiltoom, the Templepatrick monument is located close to the site of an early medieval monastery.

When surveyed last season, the Templepatrick monument was treated as a possible ditch-barrow—the closest available ASI class (see Fig. ii). This common type (236 known) comprises a circular ditch less than 20m in diameter surrounding an area 'level or slightly raised (<1m) above the external ground', and is often found near other barrow types (O'Sullivan and Downey 2012). But there is no sense from this definition that the platform is either dished or surrounded by a discrete bank, and we appear to be dealing with an undefined type at Templepatrick, Loughan, Edmondstown and Kiltoom. Outside of Westmeath this sort of monument has been noted in Sligo, where Timoney recorded several examples quite close to the Carrowmore passage-tomb cemetery under the heading

'miscellaneous barrows', some even with counterscarp banks like Loughan, and others more with a dished central area rather than a discrete bank surrounding a flat central space; these he could distinguish from ringforts on the basis of 'their small size, exposed siting and lack of an entrance' (Timoney 1984, 319, 322-4, Fig. 223).

Rathwire Upper (No. 39) and Clonlost (No. 12)

One of two unclassified-barrows at Rathwire Upper (No. 39) comprises an almost tear-drop or eye-shaped mound or raised platform (24.6m NS x 31.7m EW) with steep scarp-like sides that may be partly defined by a boulder kerb, and a gently domed upper surface (Fig. xvi, *Upper*); no ditch is evident, strongly suggesting that this large mound has been shaped by scarping a natural landform. On top of the monument is a tiny subcircular mound, only 3.9m across and up to 0.5m in height, which is eccentrically positioned 15.2m from the broader west end of the basal platform but only 6.5m from the much narrower east end. The monument resembles the stepped-barrow at Ballinlug near Rathconrath encountered last season, in that it has a circular mound eccentrically positioned on a steep-sided basal platform shaped almost like a tear-drop, but the mound at Ballinlug is much larger and is positioned at the broader end of the platform (McGuinness 2014, 33). The upper mound on the Cumminstown stepped-barrow seen last season is also eccentrically positioned, but the eccentricity is slight; the subcircular shape of its basal mound is also unlike Rathwire Upper, and its proportions and overall appearance are markedly different (McGuinness 2014, 39-40, Fig. 10).

The gently domed upper surface of its steep-sided basal mound, with its tiny, barely noticeable upper mound, give Rathwire Upper a profile resembling the enormous focal mound at Rathcroghan, which also has a tiny barrow on its upper surface (here centrally positioned) and, though essentially an artificial construction (Waddell *et al.* 2009, 177), has also in part been scarped from a natural ridge. A perusal of published sources indicates that the distinct profile of the Rathwire Upper basal platform also appears in other barrows, as at Cummer in Co. Laois (Fig. xvi, *Lower*), although this site appears not to have the upper mound (Sweetman *et al.* 1995, 8-9, Fig. 3).

The possible unclassified-barrow at Clonlost (No. 12) comprises a teardrop or eye-shaped area, over 28m long from east to west, with the broader east end reaching 16m in maximum width and the narrower west end almost reaching a point, which has apparently been created by scarping the summit of a glacial hillock (see Fig. 23), probably a kame, overlooking two kettle-hole lakes; two 'dead-ice hollows' lie just below the scarped area on the south side, on the upper slopes of the hillock. Only 5m from the broader east end of this scarped area but over 14m from the west end is a tiny cairn about 3m across. Though not

obviously an ancient feature, the cairn may be mentioned in the name of the site as given on the OS Fair Plan in the 1830s, 'The Moat of Cornasop', which is suggestive of a *carn* or cairn in addition to an earthen element.

Fig. xvi: (*Upper*) Unclassified-Barrow at Rathwire Upper (No. 39) viewed from the S (1m scales); (*Lower*) Barrow at Cummer in Co. Laois, after Sweetman *et al.* (1995, Fig. 3).

This is not a barrow of any recognised type. Nonetheless, its siting atop a glacial hillock, directly beside two dead-ice hollows, and its creation by shaping that hillock, are features repeatedly encountered among the range of barrows so far examined by the project; and, if the cairn is ancient, its eccentric position on the scarped area or lower platform compares well with the positioning of the upper mound at Rathwire Upper (No. 39), apparently also scarped from a natural landform, and several Westmeath stepped-barrows such as Ballinlug (see above). Another possible parallel is the remarkable scarped summit of Lyons Hill in Co. Kildare (KD015-006, 'Enclosure'), a contender for the *Liamuin* of the *Dindshenchas* (Gwynn 1913, 66-77, 489).

Barrow Cemeteries & Morphological Variety

One of the features of this season's barrows is the extent to which they are grouped together in cemeteries, whether tightly, as at Lakill and Moortown (Nos 28-34) and Cloghanumera/Cooksborough/Killynan (Nos 7, 13-14, 24-25); or more loosely, as at Clondalever (Nos 8-11), Porterstown/Riverstown (Nos 36-37, 41-42) and the area west of Killucan (Nos 38-40).

Although it has been necessary to leave examination of the tightly-knit group of barrows in Rathnarrow and Lisnabin townlands (WM020-109/112/113/114) until the following season, they are part of a more widely spread group on and around the elevated ground west of Killucan, including three unconventional barrows at Rathnarrow (No. 38) and Rathwire Upper (Nos 39-40). Probably also to be included in this broader grouping is the loose cluster of four ring-barrows in Porterstown (Nos 36-37) and Riverstown (Nos 41-42), on much lower ground in the vicinity of the Royal Canal over 2km to south-south-west of Killucan. It is significant that the Killucan area has a cluster of flat or unmarked burials of Early Bronze Age date, which are normally accidentally discovered (Waddell 1990; Grogan *et al.* 2007, 139, Fig. 6.6). This area shows signs of being of special importance in later prehistory, and is perhaps comparable with the better-known groups of barrows on the historically important sites of Frewin (*Frémainn*), Slane More (*Slemain Mide*) and *Uisneach*; Killucan itself was later the site of an early medieval monastery.

Fig. xvii: Overhead view of barrow-cemetery at Lakill and Moortown (Nos 28-33, Sites A-F) with the monuments labeled. Note the ditches visible as narrows bands of darker green around the Bowl-Barrows (Sites A, D, E, F). The destroyed Site G (No. 34), to E of Sites E-F, is not shown. From Bing (© Microsoft).

The hilltop cemetery of Lakill and Moortown comprises a linear grouping of four bowl-barrows (Nos 28, 31-33), two of them conjoined, and two ring-barrows (Nos 29-30); a destroyed mound (No. 34) at the east end of the cemetery, if not a mound-barrow, was presumably another bowl-barrow. The two ring-barrows are at the edge of the flat summit of the hill, just west of the largest and westernmost bowl-barrow, one of them on ground sloping down gently to the northwest; the flat hilltop may have been perceived as already used up by the broadly spaced bowl-barrows by the time the ring-barrows were added to the cemetery.

There is some sense of order to the positioning of the surviving bowl-barrows beyond their roughly linear arrangement: the axis connecting the conjoined pair (Nos 32-33, E-F) is oriented NNE-SSW and forms a right angle with the axis connecting the northern barrow (No. 32, E), larger of the pair, with the principal barrow in the cemetery (No. 28, A); a fourth bowl-barrow (No. 31, D) overlaps the line connecting Nos 28 and 32 (see Fig. 36) but its centre is slightly to the north of it.

The cemetery at Clondalever comprises four barrows, two on either side of the valley of the Drumhurlin River. The northern two are heavily ransacked mound-barrows (Nos 10-11) prominently placed at the western tip of each of two different steps or levels of an elongated hilltop; a mound- or bowl-barrow (No. 8) and an unclassified-barrow (No. 9) lie on kame ridges or similar landforms on the south side of the valley.

Much more tightly distributed on either side of a stream in the townlands of Cloghanumera, Cooksborough and Killynan (Cooke) is a cemetery of five barrows: three mound barrows (Nos. 13, 24-25) on elevated ground to north and south of the stream, but overlooking it, and two ring-barrows (Nos 7, 14) in partly flooded ground much closer to the stream.

As with the groupings of barrows at Frewin, Slane More and *Uisneach*, examined in earlier seasons, all of these groupings bar the cluster of four ring-barrows at Porterstown and Riverstown include barrows of more than one type, illustrating a common but by no means universal feature of barrow cemeteries in Ireland, as in Britain, including the royal sites of Tara and Rathcroghan. To an extent this reflects changing burial practices over time, with bowl-barrows and tumuli arguably predating the majority of ring-barrows (Newman 1997, 168); but the sheer variety of monuments on the larger sites at least, would tend to suggest that a broad range of circular earthworks were in contemporary or overlapping use by the Iron Age at least. This variety would be fully consistent with the more focused evidence from excavations of cemetery mounds and cairns, unenclosed cemeteries and related burial sites of the Early and Middle Bronze Age, in which broad diachronic trends evident in the variable forms of grave (rectangular cist/polygonal cist/pit) and cinerary pot (Bowl and Vase 'Food Vessels' and four types of large cinerary urn), as also burial mode (cremation/inhumation), are offset by clear evidence for contemporaneous use of these different types in individual cemeteries (Cooney and Grogan 1994, 105-13).

Excavation & Treasure-Hunting

The only one of this season's sites to have been excavated is the now-destroyed mound-barrow at Kilmore (No. 26), which had been reduced to a mere quadrant by the time of the 1958

rescue-dig (Prendergast 1960). But what remained was enough to demonstrate that this was once a cemetery mound of earth with some stone, only about 8m in diameter and *c.* 1m high, but containing high-status burials of the Early-Middle Bronze Age, comparable to those from the larger Knockast 'cemetery cairn' in last season's study area, in fact a mound-barrow of earth and stone (Hencken and Movius 1932-4; McGuinness 2014, 32-4).

Among the four discrete cremation burials or collections of burials from the apparently single-phase Kilmore site were the remains of an adult covered by a Cordoned Urn inverted on a flat stone in the usual fashion; and adult remains alongside those of a *c.* 16-year-old youth and a child, accompanied by two men's shaving-razors of bronze in a polygonal cist. Other burials were neither protected by a cist nor accompanied by grave-goods, although fragments of an openwork 'Pygmy Cup' or miniature vessel were found deep down near the centre of the mound.

The Cordoned Urn and razors, which are often found on the same sites and have a closely similar distribution (Kavanagh 1976, 327-9, 330, 333-4), can both be paralleled at Knockast *c.* 30km to south-south-west; and a razor resembling two of those from Kilmore and Knockast was found with one of a pair of burials on the flat summit of a drumlin at Rahinashurock *c.* 35km to south-south-east (Kavanagh 1991, 100; Eogan 1997). It has been observed that of the four types of Irish Early-Middle Bronze Age cinerary urn, Cordoned Urns are most commonly associated with the finest grave goods, including stone hones, battle-axes, faience beads and shaving-razors, and they appear to have had a distinctive tradition when it came to burial places:

> Cordoned Urns compare well with Collared Urns in their burial pattern. One-third of them [i.e., 22 urns] come from cemeteries, five of which are in mounds. However, they do have the interesting feature of mounds being erected especially for them. This peculiarity is found only in the west of Ireland, in Galway and Mayo (Kavanagh 1976, 333).

Radiocarbon dating of a range of Cordoned Urn burials indicates that this type of pot was in use from *c.* 1730-1500 BC in calendar years (Brindley 2007, 287-92).

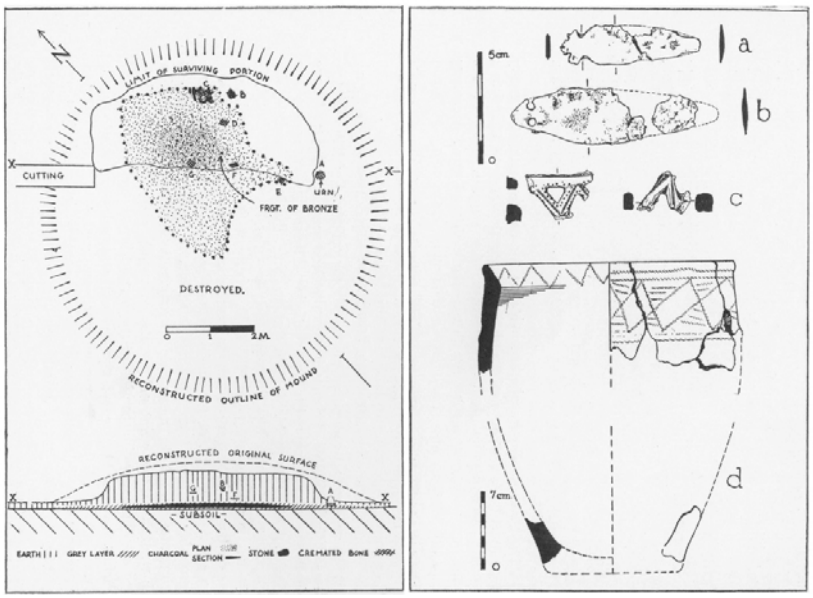

Fig. xviii: Excavated Kilmore Mound-Barrow (No. 26) and associated finds; *a* and *b* are the shaving-razors and *d* is the Cordoned Urn.

Irregular-shaped hollows or depressions at or near the centre of nine barrows, although a few might indicate collapsed cists, more likely testify to the activities of treasure-hunters.[10] A slab visible in the disturbed area at Battstown (No. 5) could be the displaced structural stone of a cist; and, while its mound has not been ransacked, a metal bar inserted into the unclassified-barrow at Clondalever (No. 9) before 1970 'disappeared from view' [SMR file], again suggesting the presence of a cist. The farm-labourers who dug into the tiny unclassified-barrow at Annaskinnan (No. 1) around the 1960s found 'a lot of bones' [SMR file], providing evidence that this square, flat-topped earthwork is in fact a burial mound.

Although technically in the 2014/15-season study area, the excavated ring-barrow at Rathnarrow is one of a group of four or five that remain to be examined and written up next season. When dug by Joseph McCabe in 1973, the mound was shown to cover cremated remains in a central pit and two parallel arcs of stones on the original ground surface, but no artefacts were found.[11]

Newly discovered Barrows, Aerial Photography & Landscape Setting

Extensive use was made this year of Google Earth and particularly Microsoft Bing, both freely available internet-resources that provide valuable overhead aerial coverage of Ireland. Examination on the ground of circular features visible on these sites has led to the discovery of three impressive, well-preserved ring-barrows in the vicinity of known barrows. Other promising features have been noted around several of this season's barrows, and elsewhere in the county, but these have yet to be visited and will be dealt with in subsequent seasons.

Of the three new ring-barrows, the example at Jeffrystown (No. 21) is of the greatest dimensions; indeed, while the denuded state of its outer bank—if such ever existed—prevents a measurement of its overall diameter, the diameter of over 47m taken from points on the outer edge of the ditch places it among the very largest in the county. At the opposite extreme of scale is Cooksborough (No. 14), only 16m across but much better preserved, with a central mound, ditch and outer bank; a few large limestone boulders with tubular solution hollows lie on the mound and elsewhere (see Fig. iv). A second ring-barrow in fair preservation, at least 19m across but with faint traces of a second ditch and outer bank, lies beside a stream only 65m away in Cloghanumera townland (No. 7). Although they lie in close proximity to a mound-barrow and the sites of two others, and are fairly well preserved, both barrows appear

[10] Nos 1-2, 5, 10-11, 19-20, 38, 40; the northern mound of what appears to have been a pair of conjoined barrows at Rathwire Upper (No. 40) was destroyed in the late 1970s, but an earlier account indicated that it had a depression on its summit [SMR file], suggesting that it may have been ransacked.

[11] See www.excavations.ie (Westmeath1973:0037, Rathnarrow)

never to have been documented, and the present survey-team did not notice them on a visit to the mound-barrow; but both shown up clearly on Bing (see Fig. 13), and once identified in that source are impossible to miss on the ground.

In addition to these new sites identified through aerial photography, a fourth, ransacked mound-barrow (No. 11) has been found in the vicinity of a known mound-barrow (No. 10) at Clondalever.

The usefulness of resources like Bing and Google Earth lies not merely in facilitating the discovery of new monuments; far more significantly, they can often provide a clear and informative picture of the positioning of barrows in the natural landscape. With geographer Seamus O'Brien on the survey-team, some of the most significant observations made last season related to the way in which barrows often form an integral part of their surroundings; in particular the extent to which they are sited on or sculpted from glacial landforms such as eskers, kames, moraines and other gravel hills and ridges, or have kettle-hole lakes in their vicinity—locations which are also common for flat cemeteries and other accidentally discovered Early and Middle Bronze Age burials (Ó Ríordáin 1969, 130; Mount 1997, 115). The picture is similar this year, with at least ten barrows of varying type positioned on kames and other gravel hills and ridges,[12] and at least thirteen of them with one or more kettle-hole lakes close by.[13]

An additional type of feature can now be added to the range of glacial landforms seen last season. Close to a mound-barrow at Clondalever (No. 8), an unclassified-barrow at Clonlost (No. 12) and a ring-barrow at Riverstown (No. 41), the survey-team encountered pits in sloping ground with a high back-wall on the uphill side and a low bank at the 'mouth' of the hollow on the downhill side, almost with the appearance of miniature cirques or corries; at all three sites the barrow has been built directly beside these hollows. These are sometimes identified as quarries when noted in ASI accounts, and when the survey-team first encountered them last season at Tuitestown, a striking gravel ridge with barrows on its twin summits and enclosed at the base by a scarp and ditch, they were tentatively interpreted as hollows left by the removal of material for sand or top-dressing (McGuinness 2014, 61). A second visit to the site with Seamus O'Brien necessitated their re-evaluation: they are in fact 'dead-ice hollows', created by the melting of fragments of ice left embedded in the ground by retreating glaciers. Occasionally depicted on OS maps (see Fig. 17), on Bing and Google Earth these can clearly be seen as one of a number of Ice Age landforms that frequently go together to form a distinctive landscape, including eskers, kames, kettle-holes and moraines

[12] Nos 1-2, 8-9, 12-13, 15, 24-25, 35.
[13] Nos 4, 6-8, 12-14, 19, 21, 24-25, 36, 42.

(Figs xix-xx; see also Figs 11, 13); and in Westmeath at least, which has to a great extent been shaped by fluvio-glacial processes, this seems to be have been one of a small range of preferred landscape-settings for barrows of many types, another being on and close to the summits of some of the most prominent hills in the county.

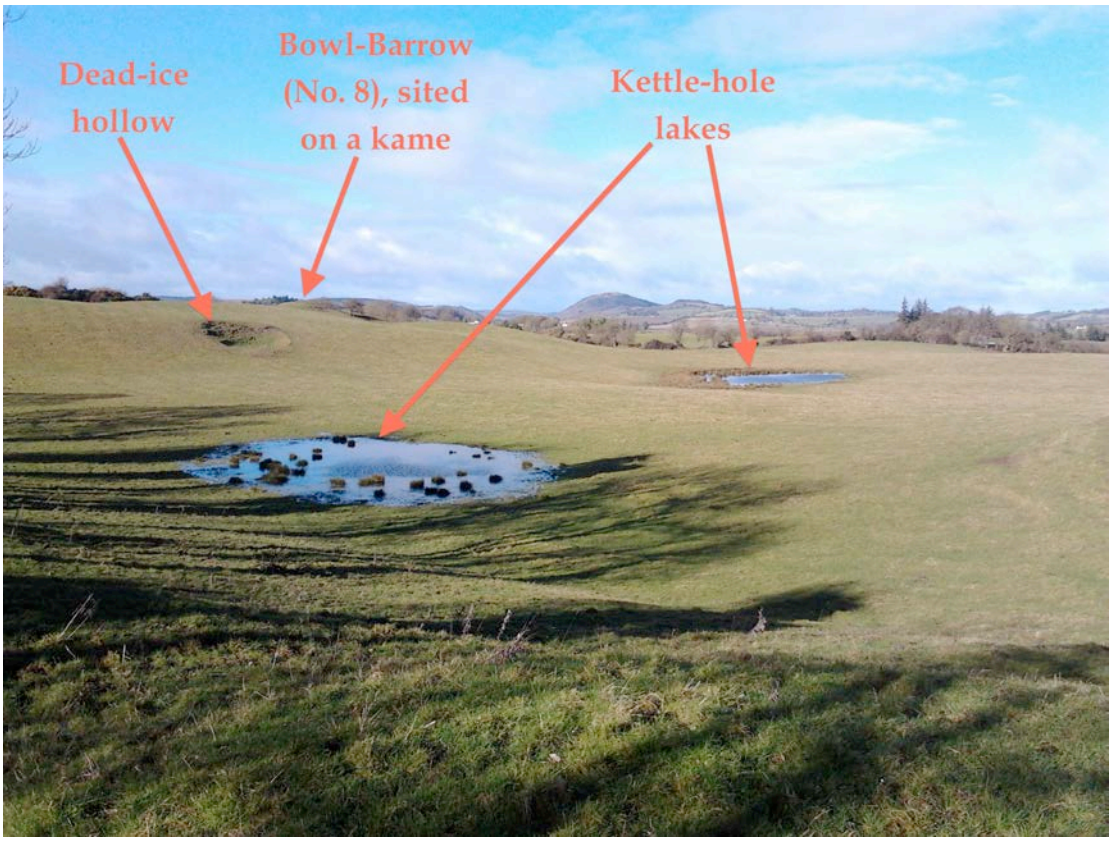

Fig. xix: View west from fortified hillock at Clondalever, showing Bowl-Barrow (No. 8) sited on a kame, along with kettle-holes and a 'dead-ice hollow', comprising a scoop in sloping ground with 'back-wall' on uphill side higher than 'mouth' on downhill side, the latter being delimited by a low bank, giving the appearance of a miniature cirque.

While the author is unaware of this particular range of landforms being commonly associated with barrows elsewhere in Ireland, the siting of barrows on, or their creation out of, glacial hillocks has been observed repeatedly at Rathcroghan in Co. Roscommon, where there are numerous transverse moraine ridges, all running approximately north-south (Delaney 2009, 234-5). Herity saw enough of these part-naturally-shaped barrows to discern a pattern, drawing them together as his 'Group A2 Ring-barrows', which are 'sited, on or around a knoll or ridge-top, incorporating it within the enclosure by means of a bank'; alongside these were a large proportion of his Group B barrows which resemble those of the A2 group except that there is a 'monumental central feature' on top of the knoll or ridge, normally a small mound or cairn (Herity 1984a, 131). The only excavation of a barrow in the large Rathcroghan cemetery, at Daithi's Mound in 1981, confirmed R.A.S. Macalister's claim (1928, 179), based on his own small-scale investigation of the site in 1913, that it was 'not a burial mound at all,

but has been scarped out of a much larger esker [in fact a transverse moraine]'; the 1981 excavation showed that the bank encircling the scarped ridge had a ditch along its inner edge, indicating 'affinities with the ring-barrow class' (Waddell 1987-8, 34). Geophysical survey-work at the main Rathcroghan mound, on the other hand, indicates that, while based on a glacial ridge, it is in large measure an artificial construction (Waddell *et al.* 2009, 177).

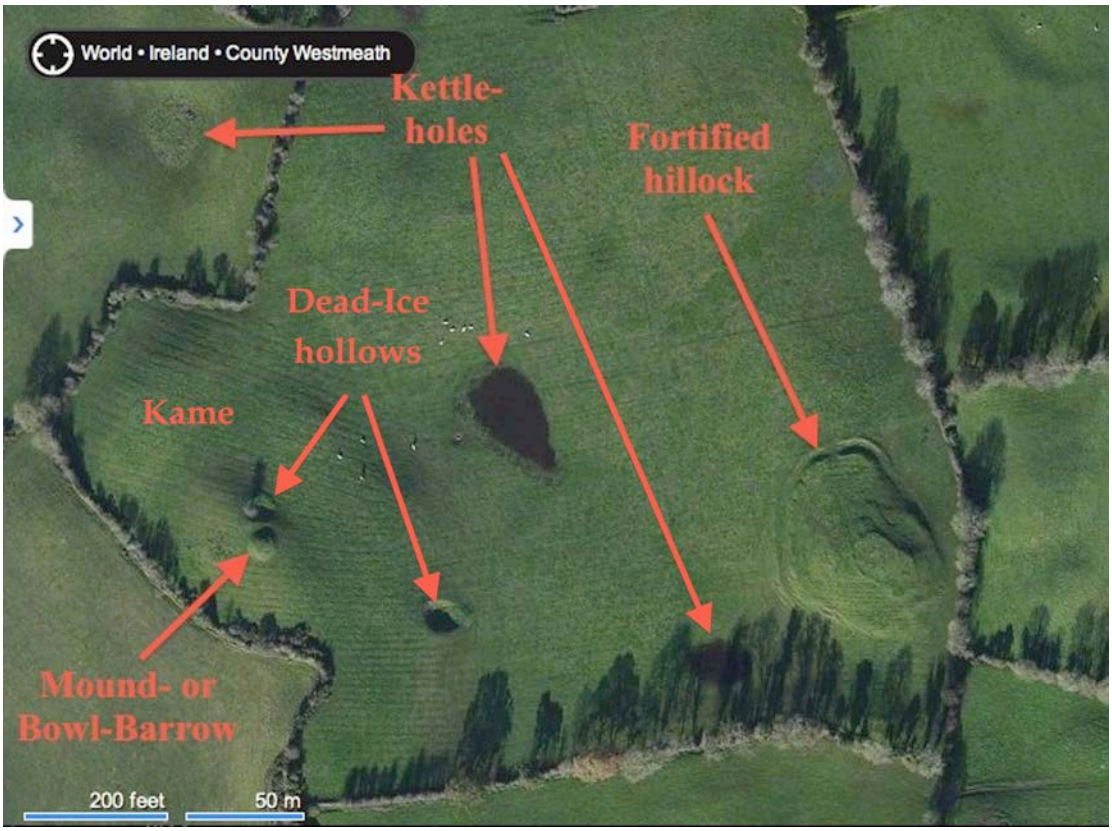

Fig. xx: Overhead view of landscape surrounding Bowl-Barrow at Clondalever (No. 8), showing glacial landforms. From Bing (© Microsoft).

CATALOGUE OF MONUMENTS

The forty-four monuments in the catalogue are arranged alphabetically by townland. The first line of each catalogue entry contains the site number, followed by the name of the townland and (in brackets) the barony in which it is located, its suggested classification in the opinion of the writer but using the ASI schema (see Fig. ii in main text), and references to any illustrations; on the far right of this line the presence of a V indicates that the monument was visited and examined by the 2013 survey-team. The second line contains the number of the monument, where this exists, in the Sites and Monuments Record for Westmeath as provided in the published *Record of Monuments and Places for County Westmeath* (1996) and on the National Monuments Service website, followed, in brackets, by the classification assigned to it in the latter source. This is in turn followed by a 10-figure map coordinate for locating the monument on the national grid and the height of the monument above Ordnance Datum (i.e. sea level) to within 10m. The bulk of the catalogue entry comprises a fresh description of the monument; information from earlier accounts where a monument has been damaged or destroyed, or is inaccessible; information on the monument's setting in the natural landscape and proximity to other archaeological remains; and, where available, information on associated site-names or traditions. A list of any known references to the monument in publications is given at the end. Unless otherwise stated, diameter measurements refer to the overall diameter of the monument, rather than to, say, the central mound of a ring-barrow; overall diameters are taken to the outside of any surrounding banks or ditches. Widths of banks and ditches are based on a visual estimation of where one ends and the other begins, or where the bank ends and the natural ground begins, boundaries that are not always obvious; diameters of central mounds or platforms are taken from the base of the mound, where this is judged by eye to intersect with the base of the ditch, rather than to its often flat upper surface; although the latter is also provided where there is a clear edge to the upper surface. Given the generally imprecise boundaries between different elements of earthworks, and the difficulties in distinguishing between peripheral features and the natural ground, it should be taken that the majority of measurements are only approximations. This seems preferable to cluttering the text with use of the abbreviation '*c.*' (i.e. *circa*).

CEMETERY GROUPINGS:

Six groupings of barrows have been noticed this season. Of these, the barrows in the cemeteries at CLONDALEVER (**Nos 8-11**) and LAKILL AND MOORTOWN (**Nos 28-34**) are in the same townland and are therefore listed consecutively. Three or possibly four other groupings include barrows in more than one townland, and are consequently spread throughout the alphabetically arranged catalogue. These are as follows:

Nos 7, 13, 14, 24, 25: CLOGHANUMERA/COOKSBOROUGH/KILLYNAN (COOKE)

Nos 36, 37, 41, 42: PORTERSTOWN/RIVERSTOWN

Nos 38, 39, 40: RATHNARROW/RATHWIRE UPPER (the tightly-knit group of four barrows in Rathnarrow should be included here, but it has been necessary to leave examination of these sites until next season)

Nos 18, 21 and possibly No. 17: EDMONDSTOWN/JEFFRYSTOWN

1. ANNASKINNAN (*Farbill By*)**, UNCLASSIFIED-BARROW** (*Figs 1-3*) **V**

SMR: WM027-027 (NMS: '*Barrow-unclassified*'); **NGR**: 25846/24967; **Altitude**: 80-90m OD

Monument consists of an approximately square mound (6.5m NS x 6.8m EW) with slightly rounded corners (?due to erosion), flat top (3.5m NS x 3.3m EW) and steeply sloping sides, its two axes aligned NNW-SSE (N-S here) and ENE-WSW (E-W here); no trace of a ditch is apparent. Where thickest on W side, it rises 0.76m above ground level; it is most massive here, arguably so that upper surface of mound would appear approximately level despite ground surface sloping down to W. Mound is well preserved except for NE corner, where there has been extensive damage and some small boulders exposed. Flat upper surface of mound slopes down gently from W to E; a slight depression at centre could indicate either ransacking or a collapsed chamber, but more likely it relates to an episode from recent decades, as an ASI fieldworker was informed by the landowner on 18/5/71 that 'a few years ago one of his farm labourers dug into the mound and found a lot of bones'.

Although minuscule, this flat-topped mound is most prominently positioned on the flat summit of a striking, steep-sided glacial hillock with stepped base on its W side (Fig. 3), the highest of several in the area; visibility is excellent in all directions. A gigantic erratic stands isolated in a field *c.* 250m to ENE; a large gravel quarry is visible a few fields to S.

This unusual rectilinear mound is not obviously a barrow: As one ASI fieldworker described it on 18/5/71:

> Barrow? A small, low, subcircular, steep flat-topped mound of stony earth. It looks as if it is a very modern platform. Its significance is unknown. [SMR file]

The account of 10/6/80, while acknowledging its angular shape, is also sceptical:

> A small, low, subrectilinear, flat-topped mound of earth & stones. There is no visible sign of a fosse. The sides of the mound are relatively steep on the N, S & W, but on the E the mound is somewhat defaced & it slopes gradually there. The N, S & W sides are almost straight & it looks as if the mound has been scarped at some time in the relatively recent past. [SMR file]

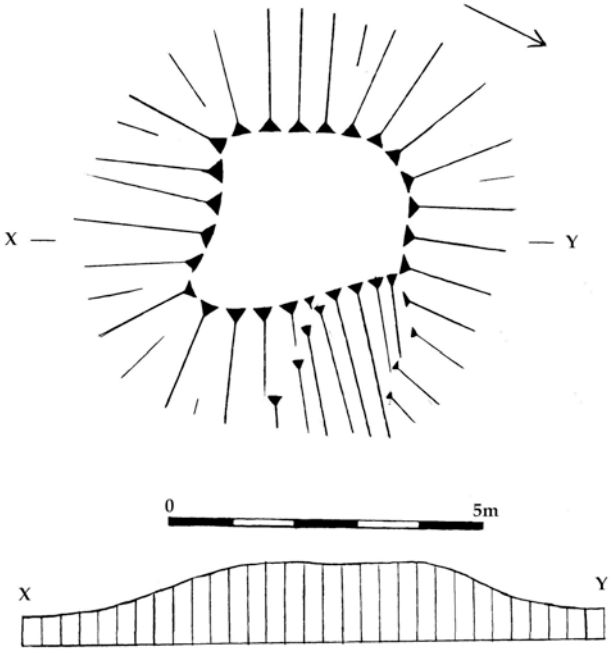

Fig. 1: Plan and SE-NW profile of Unclassified-Barrow at Annaskinnan (No. 1).

Nonetheless, this monument in which bones have been found is very strikingly located on a glacial hillock with excellent visibility, a type of location common for barrows in this and other counties; and the recognition of what appears to be a second, prominently sited rectilinear barrow at Pass of Kilbride (**No. 35**), only *c.* 8km to SW, seems to suggest that it is indeed a barrow, albeit of a hitherto unknown type in Ireland.

Fig. 2: Unclassified-Barrow strikingly positioned on hilltop at Annaskinnan (No. 1), from the W. Note the natural step on lower part of hill.

Fig. 3: Unclassified-Barrow at Annaskinnan (No. 1), from the W; note the flat top and steeply sloping sides (1m scale).

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2. ARCHERSTOWN (*Delvin B*^{y})**, RING-BARROW** (*Fig. 4)* **V**
SMR: WM009-002 (NMS: '*Ring-barrow*'); **NGR**: 25990/26738; **Altitude**: 100-110m OD
Low domed mound (Diam. 9.0m NS x 8.3m EW) with flattish summit, reaching a height of 0.8m at SE where highest over external ground level, with traces of a ditch and external bank on S and possibly SW sides. From the ASI account of 13/4/73, the bank and ditch appear to have been in far better condition forty years ago:

> This consists of a wide deep V-shaped circular fosse with a substantial bank of earth outside it. Inside the fosse is a circular almost flat-topped steep mound like feature. The site is so densely overgorown ...that it is difficult to judge whether or not some of the fosse material was thrown on to it.... At present the almost flat top of the area inside the fosse would suggest that is it in fact a ring-barrow. [SMR file]

Elsewhere its overall diameter is given as 22.5m [SMR file].

Although earthen in appearance, probing indicates that the mound contains much stone. Poaching has removed parts of edge of mound at N, W and SW, but a slight depression in its upper surface might indicate ransacking by treasure hunters, if not a collapsed cist. Probable ditch at S side of mound is 1.7m in width; bank beyond this is 1.5m in width and rises 0.26m above the ditch. On historic OS 25" map (Fig. 2), ditch is shown as complete, and an external bank is depicted for NW quadrant. There is a subrectangular, tongue-like projection at E side of mound, 2.5m in length, 2.3m in width and up to 0.2m in height; there appears to be a corresponding projection at W side, 2.8m in length, 2.7m in width and 0.4m in height. It is unclear whether these are original features.

This monument, which has had a preservation order since 1977 but is currently in very poor condition, is prominently positioned on a low glacial hill (?kame) with good visibility to N and E, one of several in this undulating landscape of glacial drift, now under pasture, and is surrounded by a ring of pine trees planted not long before 1973 [SMR file]. About 750m to NW is a graveyard with ruined medieval church, which Leo Swan (1988, 11) identified as an early medieval ecclesiastical site on the grounds that the shape of the graveyard indicated the former presence of a diagnostic curvilinear enclosure or *vallum* surrounding the site.

There is a NNW-SSE profile of monument in SMR file.

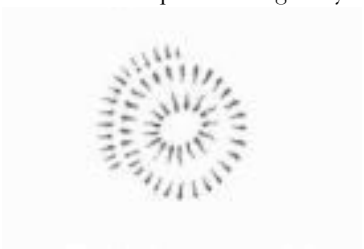

Fig. 4: Ring-Barrow at Archerstown (No. 2), from historic OS 25" map (© OSi).

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3. BALLINLOUGH (*Delvin B*^{y})**, RING-BARROW** (*Fig. 5*) **V**
SMR: WM009-038 (NMS: '*Ring-barrow*'); **NGR**: 26503/26547; **Altitude**: 100-110m OD
Fairly well preserved but densely overgrown ring-barrow, comprising a subcircular central mound or flat-topped platform (Diam. 20.4m NS x 17.9m EW), surrounded by a circular ditch and outer bank (Overall diam. *c.* 30m NS x 29.6m EW). Running across middle of site from E to W, and cutting through the bank at both ends, and through the platform, is an earthen bank (W. 2.1m) with accompanying shallow ditch (W. 2.8m) immediately to S, the two features appearing in places more as a scarp dropping from N to S than a discrete bank and ditch; the ditch continues to E and W of the barrow and is clearly visible as a thick hedgerow on aerial views (Fig. 3); where partly exposed just W of barrow, this feature appears more like a sunken trackway than a ditch. Central mound or platform is raised significantly higher (0.52m) to N of bank and ditch than to S, but there is no clear evidence of rebuilding or disturbance aside from the bank and ditch. There is a plan and profile of monument by ASI fieldworkers in SMR file, clearly showing the split-level platform. Flat upper surface of platform slopes down

gently from S to N. Bank reaches 3.9m in width at NW, and rises 0.90m above the ditch and 0.62m above external ground level; at the same point the ditch is 2.5m wide and 0.56m below the central platform.

Monument is sited on a broad, low N-S ridge, which drops down far more steeply to E than W, in a golf course laid out on former demesne land of the Nugents of Ballinlough Castle.

Fig. 5: Overhead view of densely-overgrown Ring-Barrow at Ballinlough (No. 3); the E-W field fence cutting across it is visible as a line of vegetation, removed in places during the remodelling of demesne land for a golf-course. From Bing (© Microsoft)

Fig. 6: Mound- or Stepped-Barrow at Ballygarvey Beg (No. 4), looking across small natural lake from the north.

4. BALLYGARVEY BEG (*Moygoish By*)**, MOUND- OR STEPPED-BARROW** (*Figs 6-7*) **V**
SMR: WM005-010 (NMS: '*Bowl-barrow*'); **NGR**: 22940/26499; **Altitude**: 70-80m OD
Approximately circular, dome-shaped mound (Diam. 20.4m NS x 19.4m EW) with flattened top (Diam. 4.7m NS x 6m EW) sloping down gently from SE-NW; given that the land on which it is sited slopes down from NW-SE, barrow is lower on NW side (H. 1.63m) than on SE side (H. 2.23m). Running around edge of mound part-way up its slope, though not sticking to the same contour, is what appears to be a step or ledge, but it is unclear to what extent this is artificial or due to slippage, animal traffic or natural erosion; on SE side, upper surface of mound rises 1.65m over this step, which in turn rises 0.50m over ground level. Just 0.70m below top of mound, but only on SE side, is a step or ledge 2.60m in width which appears striking in profile (Fig. 7); this appears more

likely to be original than the lower, circumferential step. Poaching and other erosion has damaged the mound at various parts of its circumference, especially SE-S-W; and SE edge of mound appears to have been shorn off by passing farm vehicles. Although one ASI account, that of 29/5/78, does note that 'there is no clear indication of a fosse though there is a slight depression on the NNE side,' in its current state no perimeter ditch is visible around this tumulus, and its identification as a bowl-barrow by ASI should be rejected in favour of the mound-barrow category.

Monument is situated in good pasture land, which has been under the plough in the recent past, perhaps removing evidence for peripheral features. It is prominently positioned on a glacial ridge sloping down from NW-SE, its highest point being 250m to NW of barrow. There are excellent views from E-S-W, and Frewin Hill and Knockdrin, both very prominent hills with barrows (see McGuinness 2012), are visible to E. Traces of an old field system have been noted by ASI fieldworkers to NE, N and W of barrow [SMR file]. A small natural lake lying downhill *c*. 200m to N (Fig. 6), which has been recently dredged, appears to be a kettle-hole. Only 750m to NE is an old burial ground (WM005-008) containing site of medieval parish church of Rathaspic ('Rath of the Bishops'), which Leo Swan (1988, 14) identified as an early medieval ecclesiastical site on the grounds that the curving road pattern indicated the line of a diagnostic curvilinear rampart or *vallum* surrounding the site; a short distance E of the burial ground is St Dermot's Well (WM005-007), still visited by pilgrims. There is a very large ringfort (WM005-014), about 80m across as measured from Microsoft Bing, some 500m to SE.

There is a profile of this barrow in SMR file.

Fig. 7: Mound- or Stepped-Barrow at Ballygarvey Beg (No. 4) from SW (*Left*) and from NE (*Right*), showing stepped profile (1m scales).

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5. BATTSTOWN (*Delvin By*)**, MOUND-BARROW** (*Fig. 8)* **V**

SMR: WM013-051 (NMS: '*Bowl-barrow*'); **NGR**: 25444/26057; **Altitude**: 100-110m OD

Although difficult to examine because of extensive gorse bushes, other vegetation and a polygonal wooden fence clinging tightly to its base, this appears to be a tall, steep-sided mound (Diam. 18m NE-SW), almost conical with truncated top, rising to a height of 2.44m where this can be measured on NE side; the ASI, whose fieldworkers had better access to the site, give a height of 3-3.5m [SMR file]. Upper surface is difficult to examine but appears irregular and disturbed; a hollow in its SW side (3m x 2.8m) may be due to treasure-hunters, and a limestone flag (1.36m x 0.87m) at SW end of hollow, which rocks when pressure is applied and is hollow underneath, might possibly be part of a cist, presumably displaced by digging as was taken to be the case by an ASI fieldworker on 24/5/83, who noted this and a few other stones close by [SMR file]. Though barely visible now due to vegetation, the ASI also noted that 'the sides have been dug into in several places notably on SW, NE and SE' [SMR file]. Although identified as a bowl-barrow in the SMR file, there is no ditch surrounding this monument and it is best taken as a tumulus or mound-barrow.

This large, prominent barrow is located on a very low rise in flattish pasture, with best visibility to N.

Fig. 8: Mound-Barrow at Battstown (No. 5) from the SW.

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6. CHRISTIANSTOWN (*Fore By*)**, BOWL-BARROW WITH OUTER BANK** (*Figs 9-11*) **V**
SMR: WM008-009 (NMS: '*Barrow-unclassified*'); **NGR**: 25376/26919; **Altitude**: 110-120m OD
Large, well-preserved and very impressive bowl-barrow (Diam. 36m NS x 37.3m EW), comprising a tall circular mound shaped like an upturned bowl (Diam. 16.5m NS x 17.7m EW), but its steeply sloping and straight to gently rounded sides and distinct rounded apex give it a nearly conical shape; the mound is surrounded by a circular ditch, outside which is a bank. The slope of the constructed mound is for the most part continued in the profile of the ditch, although it is unclear to what extent this effect is due to slip from the mound, particularly as the mound originally appears to have been kerbed (see below). On NE side mound reaches a height of 3m above base of ditch. The ASI account notes 'slight terracing of the side of the mound – particularly on the NE-E – due to soil slip' [SMR file]. Several boulders protrude from a similar level part way up the mound, at various points from SE-S-W (Fig. 10, *Lower*), two being closely set near base of constructed part of mound, i.e. original ground level before ditch was dug. These seem to be remnants of a retaining kerb, although they appear to be slightly above rather than at base of constructed part of mound. Noting two of these, the ASI account dismisses them as 'probably part of the make-up of the mound' [SMR file], but the fact that they are at a similar height close to original ground-level suggests that this is a kerb. The broad, deep, flat-based ditch has widths of 5.1m (N), 4.8m (E), 5.1m (S), 4.2m (W); on SSE side where there are thorn trees, it has been severely poached by sheltering animals, and much very stony soil is exposed; some of the larger stones in the ditch, noted also by ASI fieldworkers [SMR file], are field clearance. The outer bank has a range of greatest widths similar to those for the ditch (4.6m (N), 5.9m (E), 3.8m (S), 4.5m (W)), although its flat top is only 1m across, and, where best preserved at E, it rises 1.3m over the ditch and 0.75m over external ground level. Where poaching has taken place, both mound and outer bank can be seen to be of very stony earth, the bank being particularly so on NE side; the ASI account similarly notes 'a good deal of stone showing in the make up of the mound', up to the level of its summit. Although officially listed as 'Barrow-unclassified' on the National Monuments Service website, the ASI account of 18/5/73 identifies it more confidently as a bowl-barrow [SMR file].

Barrow is located in pastureland on a low rise at end of a NW-SW ridge in undulating glacial drift, with poor visibility; about 90m to SSE is a kettle-hole lake, and a second such lake lies at a greater distance to NE. Barrow lies 1.2km to N of E end of Lough Lene and *c.* 2.75km to ESE of the early medieval monastery of Fore.

Fig. 9: (*Upper*) View looking E across N side of Bowl-Barrow at Christianstown (No. 6), showing bank, ditch and mound; (*Lower*) View looking E across S side of dº. (1m scales).

Fig. 10: Bowl-Barrow at Christianstown (No. 6), from NE (*Upper*) and close up of central mound from S (*Lower*). Note the possible kerbstones visible just above original ground level on S side (1m scale).

Fig. 11: Overhead view of Bowl-Barrow at Christianstown (No. 6): (*Left*) Barrow with kettle-hole lakes to NNW and NE; (*Right*) Close-up of barrow. From Google Earth (© Google).

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7. CLOGHANUMERA (*Moyashel & Magheradernon By*)**, RING-BARROW** (*Figs 12-13*) **V**
SMR: —; **NGR**: 25000/25575; **Altitude**: 90-100m OD

Fairly well-preserved, previously unrecorded ring-barrow (Diam. 19m NS x 18.2m *c.* EW), comprising a low, flat-topped circular mound (Diam. (base) 9m NS x 8.2m EW; Diam. (upper surface) 6m NS x 6m EW) with quite well-defined edge, surrounded by a broad, flat-based ditch, and an external bank which has be removed for a few metres on W side due to poaching or other erosion. Greatest height of mound over ditch is 0.46m at SSW; where bank is best preserved at NW, it is 2.50m in width and rises 0.15m over ditch and 0.31m over external ground level, but is 0.22m lower than the central mound; width of ditch at NW is 3.30m. A modern field fence runs NE-SW across SE edge of site; this is just within the line of an older field ditch, shown on First Edition OS 6" map (1838), which appears to have removed the outer bank for a stretch of 11m at this point. There appear to be traces of a second, outer ditch, between 5.20 and 5.50m in width, on N side; and possibly a second bank beyond this, but these are both very faint and are not shown on the plan; the ditch is best preserved in an arc running from a stream (see below), which lies 2.50m from inner bank at SW side of site, through N to NE where it reaches the modern field fence; and further possible traces of outer face of ditch and outer bank are visible across field fence to SE. Unless the stream has been redirected at some point, outer bank could never have been complete on SW side. Although land on which it is sited slopes down gradually towards stream to SW, barrow has nonetheless been kept level by making central mound higher and more massive on SW side (see Fig. 11, *Lower*).

A stream flows from NW-SE immediately SW of barrow. A second ring-barrow (**No. 14**) lies across the stream *c.* 65m to WSW in Cooksborough townland, and on a hilltop in the same townland, strikingly visible across stream 120m to SSW, is a mound-barrow (**No. 13**); two further mound-barrows (**Nos 24-25**), now destroyed, lay on elevated ground on same side of stream as this *c.* 70m or more to NE in Killynan townland. There is a small natural lake (?kettle-hole) at foot a rise *c.* 50m to N. It is notable that while there are many local heights all round, this and the other ring-barrow (**No. 14**) have been deliberately placed in low-lying locations prone to flooding (pers. comm. landowner).

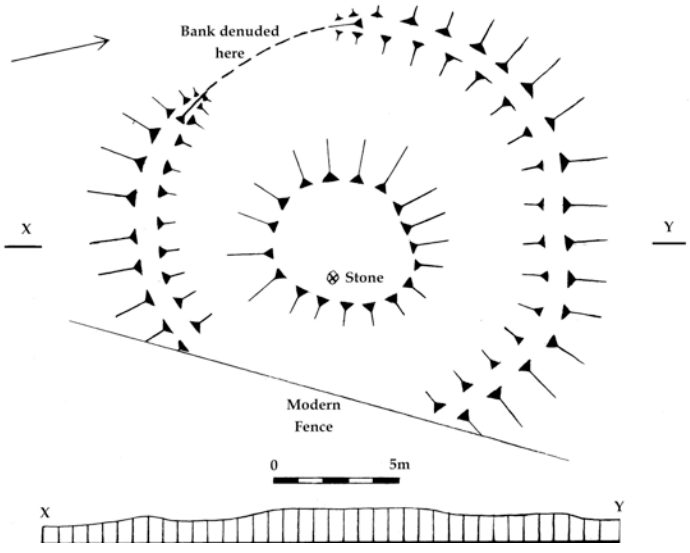

Fig. 12: Previously unrecorded Ring-Barrow at Cloghanumera (No. 7): (*Upper*) View from the N; the 1m scales stand on central mound and in inner ditch; (*Lower*) Plan and S-N profile; the faint traces of a second ditch and bank are not shown.

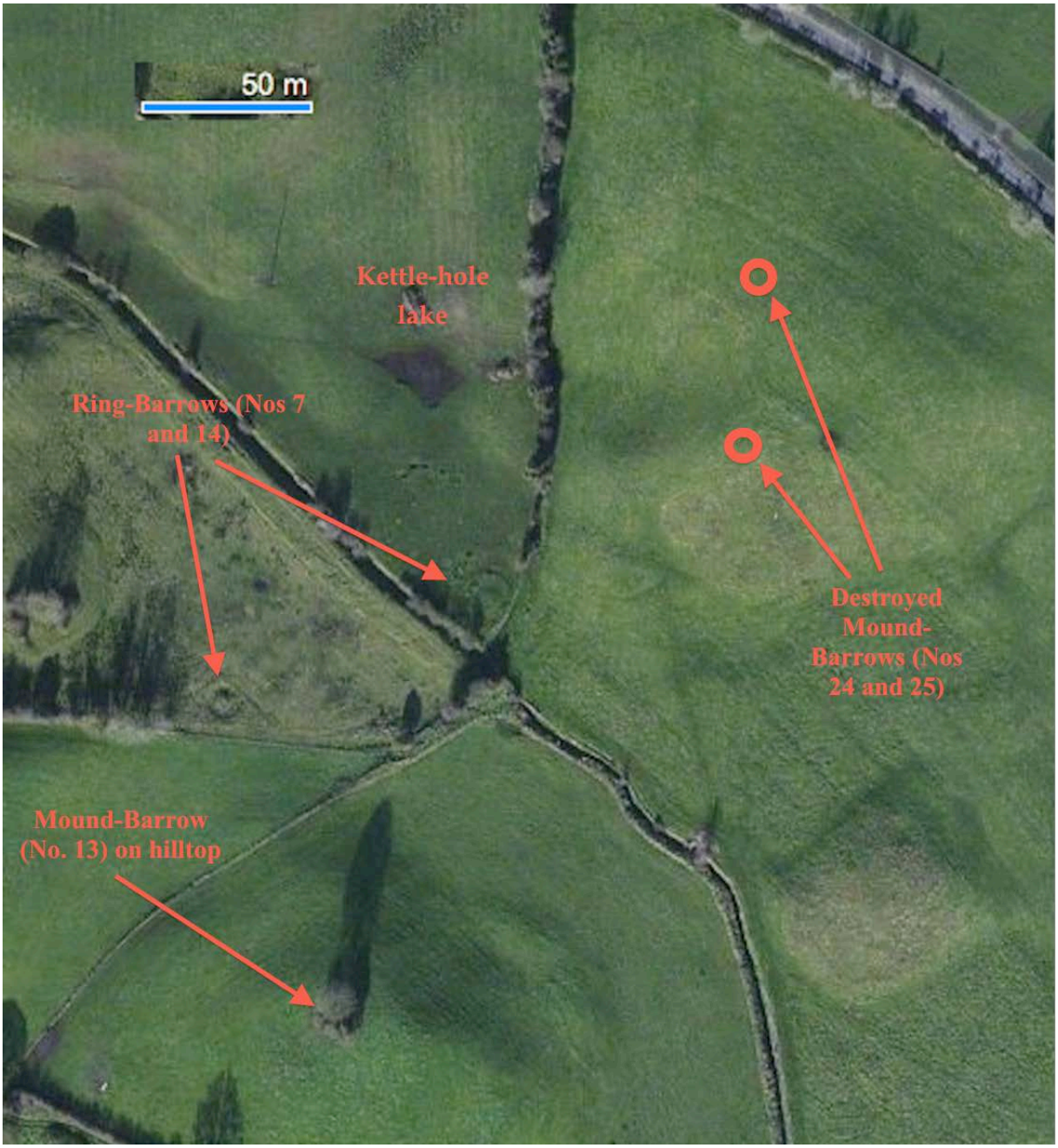

Fig. 13: Overhead view of barrow cemetery on either side of stream flowing from NW to SE, in Cloghanumera (No. 7), Cooksborough (Nos 13-14) and Killynan townlands (Nos 24-5). The mound barrows are on higher ground surrounding the stream; closer to the stream in once-marshy ground at foot of basin formed by this higher ground are two previously unrecorded ring-barrows (Nos 7 and 14). From Bing (© Microsoft).

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8. CLONDALEVER (*Moyashel & Magheradernon B*^{y})**, BOWL-BARROW** (*Figs 14-17)* **V**
SMR: WM013-016 (NMS: '*Barrow-unclassified*'); **NGR**: 25071/26129; **Altitude**: 100-110m OD
Well-preserved, approximately circular, steep-sided mound (Diam. 14.8m NS x 14.1m EW) with flattened upper surface (Diam. 7m NS x 6m EW); although the ASI account of 13/9/73 notes a very slight slope to W [SMR file], the overriding impression from a distance is that the upper surface is approximately level. Except for a short arc on NW side, there appears to be no clear evidence of a ditch, although the 1973 ASI account also noted similar traces on S side [SMR file]. Where highest at NE, mound rises 2.28m above ground level; at lower NW side, it rises only 1.77m above the visible arc of ditch, which is 3.3m in width and sunk 0.17m below external ground level. Despite the sloping ground on which it is located, upper surface of mound has been kept approximately level, so that the amount of mound-material varies at different points around its circumference; as an illustration of this, the sloping N side of mound, from edge of flat summit to ground level, measures 6.5m,

whereas the corresponding dimension on the S side is only 4m. Terraces or ledges at different heights around the sides of the mound appear to be attributable to a combination of solifluction and animal movement.

Fig. 14: Bowl-Barrow at Clondalever (No. 8), from the SE (*Upper*) and from the S (*Lower*). Note that the mound is more massive on those sides where the natural ground slopes down, apparently to ensure that the flat upper surface is kept more or less level (1m scales).

Fig. 15: Natural ridge or hillock fortified by earthen ramparts near its base and with traces of a stone wall around its level summit, viewed from the W close to Clondalever Mound- or Bowl-Barrow (No. 8). Note the two kettle-hole lakes in middle distance. Another barrow (No. 9) lies on the tree-covered ridge beyond and just to the left of the fortified hillock.

Barrow lies in pasture on a NW-SE ridge, apparently a kame, to NW of highest point so that it is on ridge-top sloping down to NW. Just 4m N of barrow a scoop has been taken from side of ridge; although it has the superficial appearance of a quarry or sand-pit—one ASI fieldworker taking it for a 'quarry hole' [SMR file]'—few stones are visible and there is a kind of low bank around the mouth of the hollow on the downhill side: Such features are ubiquitous in the glaciated Westmeath landscape, not uncommonly in the vicinity of barrows (e.g. **Nos 12, 41**), and they appear to represent 'dead-ice hollows', left when fragments of retreating glaciers left partly embedded in the ground have melted away (pers. comm. Seamus O'Brien); a second such hollow lies just over 60m to E, and both of these were in existence in the 1830s, when depicted on the First Edition OS 6" map (1838) (Figs 14-15). There is a kettle-hole lake visible 100m to ENE; a second one lies 150m to NNW, and a third lies 170m to ESE, beyond which, and prominently visible 200m to E, is a remarkable fortified glacial ridge hillock, identified as a ringfort by the ASI (WM013-017) but showing little resemblance to a typical example of that type of monument (Fig. 13); instead the irregular-shaped summit of the ridge has traces of a low stone wall around it, with more significant earthen ramparts around its base, now best preserved in the NW quadrant.

Visibility is excellent from the present barrow, with the two denuded mound-barrows (**Nos 10-11**), or at least their sites, visible 1.5km to NE on opposite side of valley of the Drumhurlin River; the unclassified-barrow (**No. 9**) near the summit of a low hill *c.* 750m to E would be visible but for trees. There is a profile of this monument in SMR file.

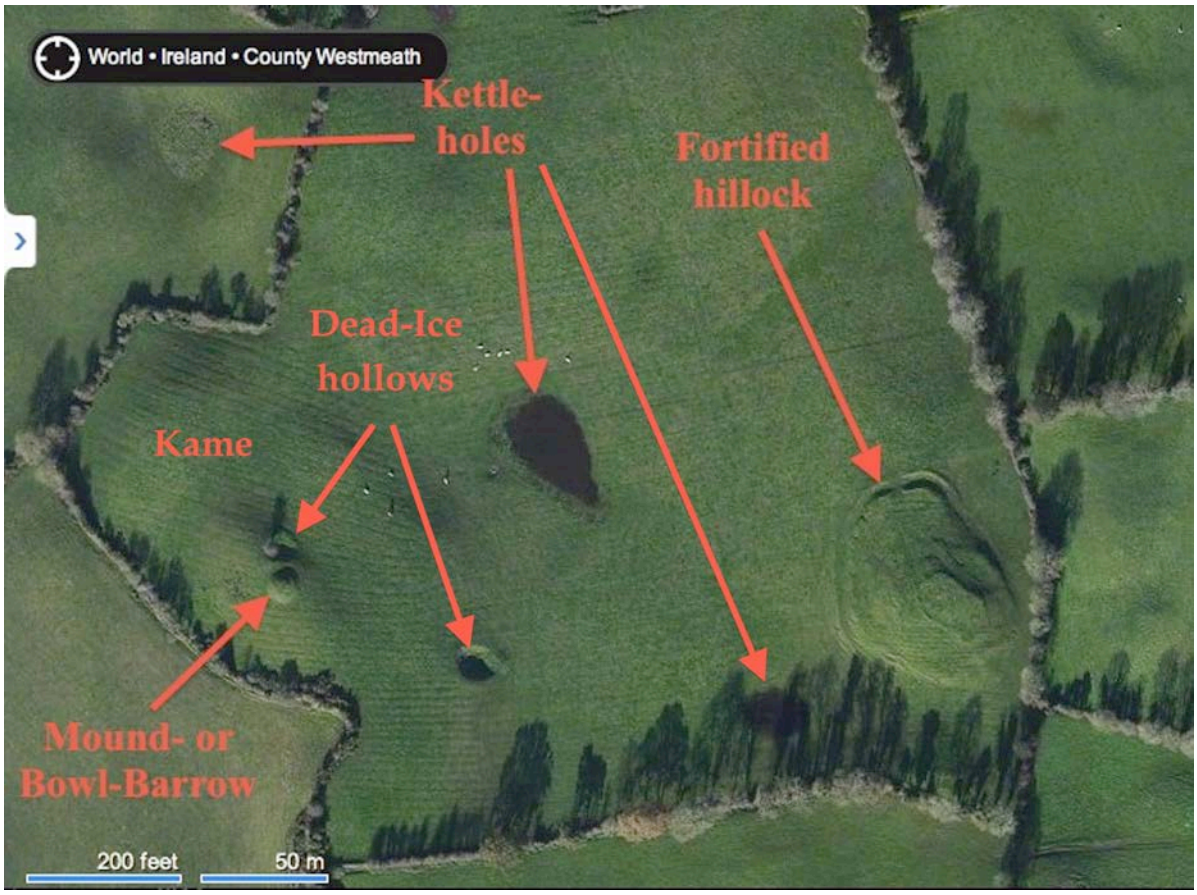
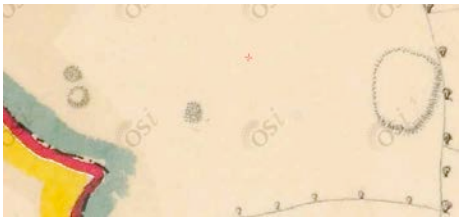


Fig. 16: Overhead view of landscape surrounding Bowl-Barrow at Clondalever (No. 8), from Bing (© Microsoft). Note the two 'dead-ice hollows' near the barrow, comprising scoops in sloping ground with the 'back-wall' on uphill side higher than the 'mouth' on the downhill side, the latter being delimited by a low bank, giving it the appearance of a miniature cirque.

Fig. 17: Part of Clondalever townland from 1838 OS 6" map, showing Bowl-Barrow (No. 8) at left and fortified hillock at right, and also showing (as dark patches) two small and still extant scoops, apparently 'dead-ice hollows', one beside the barrow and the other between the barrow and the hillock (© OSi).



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9. CLONDALEVER (*Moyashel & Magheradernon B*^{y})**, UNCLASSIFIED-BARROW** (*Figs 18-19*) **V**
SMR: WM013-020 (NMS: '*Barrow-unclassified*'); **NGR**: 25145/26145; **Altitude**: 110-120m OD
Steep sided mound (Diam. 11.60m NS x 12m EW) with gently domed upper surface (Diam. 8m NS x 7.70m EW), perhaps originally approximately circular but now angular in appearance, with rounded 'corners' on S side where roots of mature trees have held the mound together, and an almost straight line on W side where poaching by animals and slippage have occurred; other erosion is clearly evident on N and S sides, where large chunks have been removed. That the mound has been reshaped at some stage is indicated by the presence of a much-eroded dry-walled revetment on SW side, with a surviving length of 1m and maximum height of 0.50m (Fig. 17). This walling runs partly under the base of a mature ash tree and might have been added sometime in the last few hundred years to support this large tree at the mound's edge, where it might otherwise have toppled to SW, although loose stones at base of NW side of mound may indicate that the walling ran around a longer stretch of the perimeter. Mound rises up to 1.70m above ground level where highest on W side. To N and S are traces of a low step or scarp extending up to 6m (N) and 4.20m (S) from base of mound. What appears to be an arc of ditch, 1.80m across and sunk 0.16m below external ground level, runs for 4.30m along base of NE side of mound, but, while the ASI account of 4/5/76 refers to 'a shallow fosse around the earthwork & a low irregular bank beyond

it' [SMR file], and that of 9/3/70 refers to 'a shallow trench ... dug around .. [the mound] .. from SE-S-NE' [SMR file], no clear trace of a ditch is currently visible except at NE; and the ASI fieldworkers were uncertain of this monument's status as a barrow, one wondering whether 'The bank and fosse may not be original features' [SMR file]; presumably this 'bank' equates with the low step or scarp visible on the N and S sides of the mound. According to the ASI account of 9/3/70: 'Some years ago a cross-bar was inserted in this mound and disappeared from view. Locals believe on this account that there is a cave in it.' Possibly this is a cist.

Monument lies immediately W of a field fence running NNW-SSE, which marks the boundary between landholdings and passes over E edge of mound. It is located on a low, gently rounded hill that drops much more steeply down to N than to S; slope on E side is similar to that on W, in neither instance quite so steep as on N side. Three other hilltop-barrows in this townland would be visible but for trees: a mound- or bowl-barrow (**No. 8**) *c.* 750m to W and two denuded mound-barrows (**Nos 10-11**) on N side of valley of the Drumhurlin River *c.* 1.2km to N.

The SMR file contains a SSE-NNW profile of the mound.

Fig. 18: Unclassified-Barrow at Clondalever (No. 9): (*Upper*) Viewed from the SW, showing apparent straight edge to mound and fragmentary dry-walling at SW corner; (*Lower*) Viewed from the S, showing straight edge to mound with mature trees at SE and SW 'corners', their half-exposed roots embracing the mound (1m scales).

Fig. 19: Remains of dry-built walling at SW 'corner' of Unclassified-Barrow (No. 9) at Clondalaver (1m scale).

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10. CLONDALEVER (*Fore B*[v])**, MOUND-BARROW** (*Figs 20-21)* **V**
SMR: WM013-003 (NMS: '*Barrow-unclassified*'); **NGR**: 25142/26266; **Altitude**: 140-150m OD
Low, roughly circular domed mound (Diam. 14.4m NS x 16.4m EW), rising up to 1.16m where highest on N side. Mound is heavily eroded and appears to have been extensively dug into by treasure-hunters in the past, as with the nearby site **No. 11**, displacing much mound material and exposing some possible cairn stones at the centre. Standing on top of the mound is a *c.* 2m-high iron cross with the letters AMDG on its base, erected *c.* mid 20th century by Fr Walsh in thanksgiving for delivery of local livestock from Black Leg.

Monument is very prominently located on the highest point of a ridge or spur running ESE-WNW, forming N side of the Drumhurlin River valley, which levels out to E before rising up to another peak, but drops down quite steeply to W where there is another mound-barrow (**No. 11**) lower down 200m to W, beyond which the land falls again to W. The ridge drops very steeply a short distance to N and S of the present barrow; there is what appears to be a small-scale linear quarry on S side, on upper slope of ridge. Visibility is superb except to E, with a mound- or bowl-barrow (**No. 8**) visible 1.5km to SW on S side of the Drumhurlin River Valley; a second, unclassified-barrow (**No. 9**) across the valley 1.2km to S would be visible but for trees.

Fig. 20: Overhead view of Mound-Barrows (Nos 10-11) on upper and lower steps of western spur of hill at Clondalever, marking N side of valley of the Drumhurlin River, from Bing (© Microsoft). No. 10 is on the right and No. 11 is on the left, 200m to W.

Fig. 21: Mound-Barrow with mid-20th century iron cross at Clondalever (No. 10), from the E (1m scale)

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11. CLONDALEVER (*Fore By*)**, MOUND-BARROW** (*Figs 20, 22*) **V**
SMR: —; **NGR**: 25125/26275; **Altitude**: 120-130m OD
This severely damaged barrow, comprising a low, domed mound (Diam. 11.2m NS x 11.0m EW) with somewhat poorly defined edge, rising up to 0.61m in height at E side; a large, irregular-shaped central hollow (1.60m x 1.20m x 0.20m deep) is presumably the result of treasure-hunting, as with **No. 10** close by to E.

Site lies *c.* 200m to W of a second Mound-Barrow (**No. 10**), on the western tip of a lower step of the same E-W ridge or spur on which **No. 10** lies, this time at the western tip of the upper step of the spur (See Fig. 20). Land slopes down in a westerly direction from upper spur to lower, and then again to W of lower spur, so that land is higher to E of barrow than to W. As with **No. 10**, visibility across the valley to the other barrows (**Nos 8-9**) is excellent, although **No. 9** is currently disguised by trees.

UNCLASSIFIED EARTHWORK (Fig. 20): At a distance of 8.90m to W of the barrow, on ground sloping down to W, is an elongated, slightly oval mound or bank (L. 5.40m; W. 1.90m) with what appears to be a shallow ditch surrounding it, most noticeable on N side. It is aligned NWW-ESE, roughly in the direction of the mound-barrow (**No. 10**) on upper step of the spur. There appear to be further earthworks to N but the nature and age of these is unclear.

Fig. 22: Unclassified earthwork comprising an elongated oval mound enclosed by a shallow ditch, less than 10m to W of previously unrecorded Mound-Barrow at Clondalever (No. 11), view from the E (1m scale).

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12. CLONLOST (*Moyashel & Magheradernon By*)**, POSSIBLE UNCLASSIFIED-BARROW** (*Fig. 23*) **V**
SMR: WM020-015 (NMS: '*Barrow-unclassified*'); **NGR**: 25436/25596; **Altitude**: 100-110m OD
Small but complex site including a small cairn atop an unusual earthwork which comprises an irregularly oval-shaped, flattened area created by scarping upper surface of a glacial hillock, the scarp being clearest on E and S sides; a mature sycamore grows near centre of site. Cairn comprises a subcircular pile of stones (Diam. 3.40m NS x 2.60m EW; H. 0.58m on E side) partly covered in soil and grass; it is unclear whether it is the result of field clearance or an ancient feature, although the monument is marked 'Moat of Cornasop' on OS Fair Plan from 1830s according to SMR file, which is suggestive of a *carn* or cairn. Where highest and best defined at E, 5.10m to E of cairn, scarp reaches a height of 0.68m; overall height of monument from top of cairn to base of scarp at E is 1.34m. At W end, scarp seems to reach a point, like one half of an eye, 14.40m to W of cairn; this may represent a lower step, the W edge of the upper step possibly extending only 6.50m to W of cairn, just W of the sycamore, although this 'edge' could well be an effect produced by the partly-exposed curving roots of the sycamore. If genuine, this upper scarp or step (L. 16.7m EW) is roughly centred on the cairn but it is markedly subcircular in shape. Whether or not the upper step is genuine, the overall monument is approximately eye-shaped, its maximum length from base of scarp at E to base of scarp at W being 28.2m; the maximum width from N to S, running through the cairn at broader E end of earthwork, is 16.1m. Midway along S side of scarp it dips in as a V-shaped notch 2.40m in depth and 5.90m across at the mouth, but it is unclear whether this is intentional or due to erosion.

Monument is located on summit of prominent hillock (?kame) overlooking a stream flowing SW-NE, with excellent views all round bar the SW, where there is a small deciduous wood. A large kettle-hole lake lies *c.* 200m to N; a smaller example lies SE of this. Immediately SW of pointed W end of scarped area is a crescent shaped scoop or hollow with high back wall and low bank at its mouth on the downhill side; a second such hollow lies 7.30m to SE of scarped area, its mouth with low bank opening to SE. Such hollows are common on sloping ground in the Westmeath landscape, occasionally near other barrows (e.g. **Nos 8, 41**), and appear to be 'dead-ice hollows' of glacial origin. About 250m to SE is a ruined medieval church (WM020-038) in a burial ground; drawing on extensive comparative evidence, Leo Swan (1988, 26) attributed an early medieval date to the site on the grounds that the curve of the roadway to N, E and SE of the burial ground appears to preserve the line of a diagnostic curvilinear *vallum* surrounding the site, which comes within *c.* 100m of the barrow.

Understandably the identification of this monument as a barrow, even a heavily denuded one, has been treated with scepticism by more than one ASI fieldworker, the earliest account concluding that 'This may be the site of a destroyed barrow, but in its present state it is impossible to say with certainty' [SMR file], while the more recent account (4/3/98) is more decisive:

> I very much doubt that this is barrow. It may simply represent a landscape feature associated with the house that was nearby; alternatively it may be a platform for a windmill associated with late medieval settlement in the area. [SMR file]

To an extent the present writer shares these other archaeologists' doubts over the status of this monument, but its striking location atop a glacial hillock beside two dead-ice hollows, and its creation by shaping that hillock, are both features seen among the range of barrows to be seen in Westmeath; and, if the cairn is ancient, its eccentric position on the scarped area or lower platform compares with the positioning of the upper mound on some of the stepped-barrows of Westmeath (McGuinness 2013, 12). It seems reasonable to accept it as a possible barrow, even if it must for the moment remain unclassified.

Fig. 23: Possible Unclassified-Barrow at Clonlost (No. 12), comprising a scarped hilltop with tiny mound or cairn (not visible here) of uncertain age and character. Note the flattened, slightly raised summit, which represents the scarped area.

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13. COOKSBOROUGH (*Moyashel & Magheradernon By*)**, MOUND-BARROW** (*Figs 13, 24-25*) **V**
SMR: WM020-026 (NMS: '*Barrow-unclassified*'); **NGR**: 25046/25563; **Altitude**: 100-110m OD
Roughly circular, elegantly dome-shaped mound (Diam. 12.6m NS x 12.3m EW) with flattish summit, reaching a height of 1.9m above ground level at N side; although the ASI account of 11/3/70 claims the site is 'probably a bowl barrow' [SMR file], there is no clear evidence for a ditch except for vague and doubtful traces on N side. Mound appears to be very stony under the sod but it is unclear whether it is a cairn or simply made of stony earth. A tree grows on N side of mound and a thorn tree on its S side, and the ASI in 11/3/70 documented a blackthorn hedge at its foot of the mound from S-W, the remnants of a square fence depicted on OS 6" map [SMR file]

Barrow is strikingly situated near N edge of flat summit of very prominent glacial hillock which is stepped at its lower levels, with ground dropping down most sharply to E; it overlooks a stream to N. This is one of a group of five barrows spread over three townlands on either side of the stream, including two other mound-barrows (**Nos 24-5**), now destroyed, which also lay on hillocks across the stream *c.* 200m to NE, but again overlooking it; and two ring-barrows (**No. 7**, *c.* 120m to NNE; **No. 14**, *c.* 90m to NNW), much closer to the stream in the once-flooded area at the foot of the hillocks; when flooded, the hillock on which the present site is located (Fig. 23) rose dramatically from the flooded area to N (pers. comm. landowner).

Fig. 24: Elegantly dome-shaped Mound-Barrow at Cooksborough (No. 13), from the W (1m scale).

Fig. 25: View S towards hillock capped by Mound-Barrow (No. 13) at Cooksborough. Hedgerow running across centre of photo borders a stream, just this side of which, in Cloghanumera, is visible one of two ring-barrows (No. 7) newly identified by the project through inspection of aerial imagery on Bing and Google Earth.

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14. COOKSBOROUGH (*Moyashel & Magheradernon B*[y])**, RING-BARROW** (*Figs 13, 26-27*) **V**
SMR: —; **NGR**: 25045/25570; **Altitude**: 90-100m OD

Small, mostly well-preserved and previously unrecorded ring-barrow, subcircular or almost D-shaped (Diam. 16.2m NS x 14.2m EW), comprising a subcircular mound with steep sides and flattish upper surface (Diam. (base) 6.60m NS x 7.20m EW; Diam. (upper surface) 4.10m NS x 3.90m EW), surrounded by a ditch and external bank. Mound rises 0.62-0.66m above ditch at SW, W and N. At S, bank rises 0.67m over base of ditch and 0.26m over external ground level. Where best preserved at NW, bank is 2.30m in width, and here the ditch is 2.10m in width. On NE half of upper surface of central mound are two large limestone boulders with prominent solution hollows, the larger 1.50m across, the smaller 0.95m across; another two boulders, the larger 1.20m across, the second far smaller, lie at the junction of mound and ditch on E side, and a further example, 1.15m across, lies on crest of outer bank at W; a group of boulders generally of much smaller size, not shown on plan, lie in ditch and on inner slope of bank at NW. At NE side the ditch is not visible, creating a kind of causeway; here the bank is greatly reduced in size, being no higher than line of ditch, and appears to straighten out for *c.* 8m, giving the monument an approximately D-shape. The straight edge to the barrow here, defined by a low scarp, runs NW-SE and continues as a scarp, broken in places and apparently natural, to SE and, from

aerial photographs, apparently, also for some distance to NW, and seems to demarcate the once-marshy ground adjoining the stream, which was formerly flooded, including this monument, within living memory.

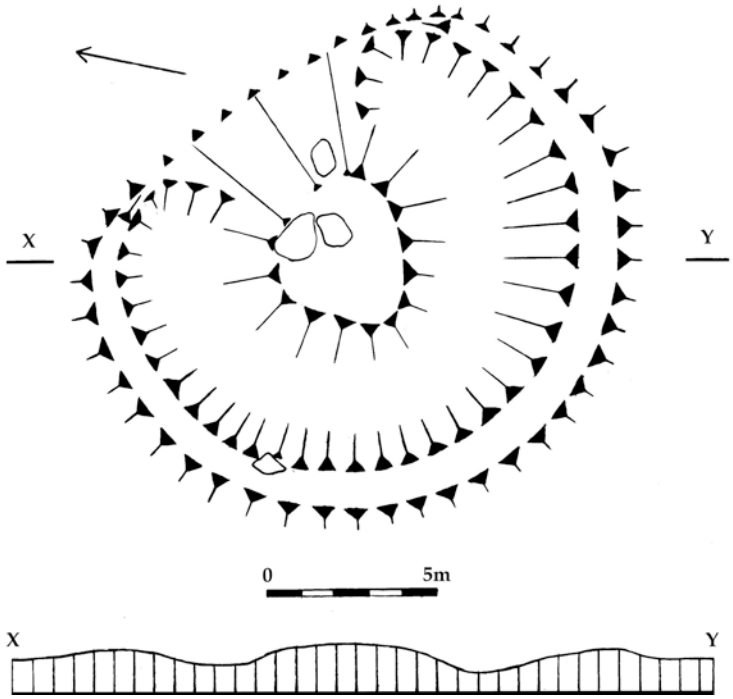

Fig. 26: Plan and NNW-SSE profile of previously unrecorded Ring-Barrow at Cooksborough (No. 14).

Monument lies 102m to SW of a NW-SE flowing stream. It is one of a cemetery of five barrows spread over three townlands: immediately across stream *c.* 65m to ENE, in Cloghanumera townland, is a second ring-barrow (**No. 7**); visible on a prominent hillock on same side of stream *c.* 90m to SSE, is a mound-barrow (**No. 13**); and across stream *c.* 160m and more to NE were two further mound barrows, now destroyed (**Nos 24-5**). It is notable that while there are many local heights all round, this and the other ring-barrow (**No. 7**) have been deliberately placed in low-lying locations, the present site at least having been formerly under water (pers. comm. landowner).

Fig. 27: Previously unrecorded Ring-Barrow at Cooksborough (No. 14), noticed on Microsoft Bing, from the SW; this was formerly in marshy, flooded land according to local information (1m scales).

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15. CROWINSTOWN LITTLE (*Delvin B'*)**, MOUND-BARROW** **V**

SMR: WM009-039 (NMS: '*Barrow-unclassified*'); **NGR**: 26365/26480; **Altitude**: 90-100m OD

Roughly circular, dome-shaped mound (Diam. 7.7m NS x 7.0m EW) with flattened apex that is approximately level, located on summit of NW-SE ridge which falls away to SE, such that NW side of barrow is much lower (H. 0.45m) and less massive than SE side (H. 0.85m). Stumps of trees were observed on the surface of the mound by an ASI fieldworker on 17/5/83. The same account tentatively identifies this monument as a 'small bowl barrow' [SMR file], but, although the site was covered in thick grass when the present survey-team examined it, the absence of any clear evidence for a ditch must, at the level of surface inspection, render it a mound-barrow.

In addition to slope of upper surface of ridge on which barrow is sited (see above), land drops away sharply on either side of ridge to NE and SW; but for trees, visibility would be best to S.

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16. DERRYNAGARRAGH (*Fore By*), **MOUND-BARROW** **V**

SMR: WM007-063 (NMS: '*Barrow-unclassified*'); **NGR**: 24805/26565; **Altitude**: 150-160m OD

Although the survey-team examined this rough hilltop site with high ungrazed grass on a single short visit, nothing was visible at the location marked, and the landowner said he could never see anything here although he knew there was supposed to be a monument. The ASI account of 15/3/82 is given here:

> The remains of a small bowl barrow, now much denuded. The barrow is approx 10m in diameter and approx 50cms-75cms high with a flattened top. The remains of an old field boundary cuts through the Northern part of the barrow in a WNW-ESE direction, disfiguring the Northern part of the mound. Sited on a steep rise with wide views in all directions. [SMR file]

In the absence of evidence for a ditch, this cannot be described as a bowl-barrow and appears instead to be a simple mound-barrow with flattened top.

Barrow is located on a prominent hilltop overlooking the Yellow River to NE and a second river to SW, the latter passing through Bishop's Lough and a string of smaller lakes just 500m to S; but for trees, there would be excellent views in all directions.

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17. EDMONDSTOWN (*Moyashel & Magheradernon By*), **POSSIBLE UNCLASSIFIED-BARROW** (*Figs 28-29*) **V**

SMR: WM013-074 (NMS: '*Barrow-unclassified*'); **NGR**: 25240/25868; **Altitude**: 110-120m OD

Circular monument comprising a broad, steep-sided, flattish-topped mound or platform of stony earth (Diam. (flat top) 22.2m NS x 21.4m EW) rising from a lower platform (Diam. 38m NS x 36m EW) to give a stepped effect. Upper surface of monument appears flat and approximately level from a distance, despite the land on which it is sited falling away much more sharply to E than to W; nonetheless, when seen up close, centre of upper surface is in fact gently domed, as if there were a low mound surrounded by a shallow 'ditch', the latter feature being most noticeable at N and SW. A few small boulders are visible on upper surface, some appearing to form linear features and other patterns. Height of upper step over lower varies only slightly around the perimeter (N: 0.91m; E: 1.36m; S: 1.23m; W: 1.22m), as does that of the lower step over ground level (N: 0.33m; E: not available; S: 0.81m; W: 0.55m); lower step on E side appears to slope gently downwards towards edge of monument. Around parts of circumference, e.g. at NE, lower step appears like a ditch with outer bank, possibly to keep the step at a similar level despite the varying height of surrounding ground level. Width of lower step varies quite broadly (N: 3.80m; E: 4.80m; S: 3.40m; W: 2.40m), although E side, where it is widest, has been disturbed. Edge of upper step from NW-W-S appears to have been revetted with boulders (Fig. 26); no revetment is visible on SE side, where part of upper step has slipped down. A similar boulder revetment or kerb can also be seen on S side of lower step. There appears to be no evidence for an entrance.

Monument is located at edge of a low rise in fairly low-lying pasture, where the rise begins to slope down steeply to poorly drained land at its foot less than 100m to SE; visibility is quite poor all around, being best to E and SE. Visible about 300m to SE is a second, very similar monument (see **Appendix**), but this time with a stone revetted bank on the edge of the upper step, and it appears therefore to be a ringfort (WM013-079); and visible *c.* 400m to SE is a third, much larger monument named 'Rathmore' on OS 6" map, again similar but more clearly a ringfort (WM013-080) with foundations of a structure visible in the interior and a bank outside the lower step, such that the latter is actually the base of a ditch in this monument. About 800m to N in Edmondstown is another unclassified-barrow (**No. 18**) and *c.* 1.2km to NNW in Jeffrystown is a ring-barrow (**No. 21**).

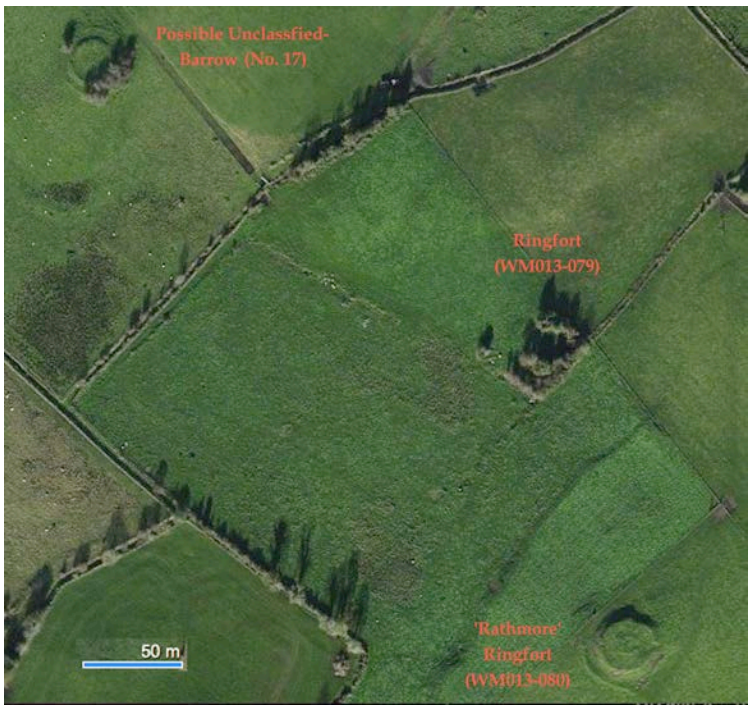

Fig. 28: Overhead view of Possible Unclassified-Barrow (No. 17) at Edmondstown, along with two nearby ringforts. From Bing (© Microsoft)

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Fig. 29: (*Above*) Possible Unclassified-Barrow (No. 17) at Edmondstown, from the SW, showing upper and lower steps (1m scale); (*Right*). Part of boulder revetment around edge of upper step of dº. (1m scale).

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18. EDMONDSTOWN (*Moyashel & Magheradernon Bs*)**, UNCLASSIFIED-BARROW** (*Figs 30-31*) **V**
SMR: WM013-048 (NMS: '*Ring-Barrow*'); **NGR**: 25249/25946; **Altitude**: 110-120m OD

Low, heavily denuded earthwork comprising a circular ditch (Diam. 18.8m NW-SE x 19m EW) which surrounds a very low central 'mound' or slightly dished ground level platform; where best preserved on E side, ditch is 3m in width, 0.3m in depth below interior and 0.1m below external ground level. The ASI account suggests a much-defaced bank immediately within the line of this ditch, although the ditch itself is not mentioned:

> A small circular barrow consisting of a low rounded earthen bank enclosing a shallow circular depression. The depression is approx. 4m in diam while the overall diam of the barrow is approx. 12m E-W. The low bank is now scarcely visible in the summer grass [SMR file]

Fig. 30: Overhead view of heavily denuded barrow showing as a circular cropmark at Edmondstown (No. 18), from Google Earth (© Google)

Presumably this 'low rounded earthen bank enclosing a shallow circular depression' is simply another way of describing the present writer's 'slightly dished ground level platform', although it is certainly possible that further damage has been done to this low-visibility monument in recently ploughed land, since it was examined for the ASI. If there were a bank around the interior, this barrow would be shaped superficially like a miniature ringfort.

Monument is sited on gentle NW-SE slope, just SE of low summit, in recently ploughed land; visibility is poor all round. A large ring-barrow (**No. 21**) lies *c.* 350m to NW in Jeffrystown, a kettle-hole lake lying between the two; and a third, unclassified-barrow (**No. 17**) lies *c.* 800m to S in Edmondstown.

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19. GLENIDAN (*Fore By*)**, BOWL-BARROW** **V**

SMR: WM008-010 (NMS: '*Barrow-unclassified*'); **NGR**: 25462/26945; **Altitude**: 110-120m OD

This monument, densely overgrown with thorn trees, furze and brambles, comprises a steep-sided, bowl-shaped mound (Diam. 8.5m NS x 9.3m EW) surrounded by a circular ditch (Diam. (overall) 14.4m NS). Mound is mostly well preserved, although part of it appears to have been removed at S—apparently the same feature described in the ASI account as 'a depression in the top of the mound which continues down the side on the SE, due to disturbance' [SMR file]; possibly the site has been ransacked by treasurehunters. Where its edge is damaged on E side and the sod removed, mound can be seen to be composed of earth with some stone. Height of mound above well-preserved ditch on S side is 1.5m, but reaches 1.75m over line of filled-in ditch on E side. Where best preserved at NW and S, width of ditch is 1.8m and 3.2m respectively; the corresponding depths below ground level at these points are 0.14m and 0.60m. Although shallow and narrow on N and W sides, and not visible at all on E where it was presumably filled in when adjacent NNW-SSE-running field fence was constructed, ditch is both broad and deep on S side, at least in part due to the barrow's location on land falling appreciably from S to N. There is no clear evidence of a bank having enclosed the ditch; possible traces of one at S are likely attributable to the natural ground rising in this direction, although the ASI account does refer to a 'faint bank outside the fosse [which] seems to have been redug in the past' [SMR file].

Barrow is situated in pastureland close to road. Although visibility is poor in its relatively low-lying location, with land rising immediately to S and SW, the best views are to N and W, with the striking Ben of Fore only *c.* 3.5km to NW. A kettle-hole lake is visible on Google Earth over 100m to W.

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20. GLENIDAN (*Fore By*)**, POSSIBLE MOUND-BARROW** **V**

SMR: WM008-014 (NMS: '*Barrow-unclassified*'); **NGR**: 25561/26936; **Altitude**: 110-120m OD

This site, depicted as a small circular mound on OS 6" map, could not be located by the survey-team on a single examination of the area marked by the ASI; nor did the man who currently rents the land know of its existence. The ASI account of 23/3/73 is given here:

> [A] substantial broad earthen ring encompassing a saucer-shaped depression. The ring is continuous at present and there is no visible trace of an entrance way. No visible trace of a fosse. It is difficult to decide without excavation whether this was a circular ring originally or whether it was a mound which has been mutilated by digging down at the centre and throwing out the dug material. The site is completely overgrown with furze and briars. Sited on a very slight natural rise and surrounded by gently undulating land of average to good pasture. Part of a modern field bank has been built against the mound on the WNW. I prefer to regard this earthwork as a mutilated mound. [SMR file]

Another, undated account questions its identification as a barrow:

> This may have been a mound which has been mutilated by digging down at the centre and throwing out the upcast. It may also have been a not too ancient house-site altered by time so as to have the appearance of a mound. Note its proximity to the modern buildings. [SMR file]

By contrast, a third account makes an attempt to identify the monument within the broad Barrow class:

> This is a small roughly circular mound of earth. At its highest point the mound is about 2m in height. There is a wide circular depression on top of the mound. A field bank adjoins the mound on the western side.... This is presumably a disturbed bowl barrow. [SMR file]

Given the absence of a ditch, the suggested classification of the monument as a bowl-barrow cannot be accepted; instead it would appear to be a ransacked mound-barrow.

The SMR file contains a sketch-plan and profile of the monument with measurements by H.A. Wheeler (1956), along with a more recent profile by ASI fieldworkers.

Monument is in a low-lying, poorly drained location with quite poor visibility.

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21. JEFFRYSTOWN (*Moyashel & Magheradernon By*)**, RING-BARROW** (*Fig. 31*) **V**
SMR: —; **NGR**: 25215/25980; **Altitude**: 120-130m OD
Very large, previously unrecorded ring-barrow (Diam. 44.5m NS x 47.2m EW), comprising a broad and very low domed mound (Diam. 32m NS x 33.7m EW) surrounded by a circular ditch; there appear to be the slightest traces of a bank outside the ditch, best seen on aerial photographs (Fig. 31, *Left*), but these are very unclear and the bank has been excluded from the overall diameter given above. Ditch is broadly U-shaped to flat-based with basal width of 2.70m, and, on N side, is sunk 0.22m below central mound and 0.78m below external ground level (or the denuded remains of the presumed bank); rubble has been dumped in its SE quadrant in recent times. Central mound is currently sunk 0.47m below external ground level where measured at N side, and must have been proportionately deeper when outer bank was intact.

Monument is sited in low-lying basin with higher ground surrounding it, greatly reducing visibility. A second circular earthwork, possibly also a barrow, is visible on aerial photographs in an adjacent field *c.* 60m to WNW (Fig. 31, *Left*), but this has not yet been examined by the survey-team on the ground. Another barrow lies in Edmondstown (**No. 18**) less than 350m to SE of the present monument, and between the two is a small natural lake or pool, possibly a kettle-hole of glacial origin (see Fig. 31, *Right*); between this lake and the present site, which lie 130m apart, is a small stream, its curving channel altered in places for drainage purposes.

Fig. 31: (*Left*) Overhead view of previously unrecorded Ring-Barrow at Jeffrystown (No. 21), from Bing (© Microsoft); (*Right*) Overhead view of Ring-Barrow at Jeffrystown (upper left, No. 21) and Unclassified-Barrow at Edmondstown (lower right, No. 18), from Google Earth (© Google). Note the pale-green patch near centre of picture, which represents a seasonally flooded lake, probably a kettle-hole.

About 700m to NW in Balreagh is a ruined medieval church in a burial ground (WM013-038), the 'regular oval enclosure' surrounding the latter being sufficiently diagnostic for Leo Swan (1988, 26) to identify this as an early medieval ecclesiastical foundation; immediately NW of this church site is a motte (WM013-037) and close by is a souterrain (WM013-039).

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22. KILLAGH (*Delvin By*)**, MOUND-BARROW (DESTROYED)** **V**
SMR: WM013-106 (NMS: '*Bowl-Barrow*'); **NGR**: 25775/25773; **Altitude**: 80-90m OD
Monument appears to have been destroyed: nothing was visible to the present survey-team where it was clearly located by the ASI, and the land has been recently ploughed. Fortunately there are two descriptions of the site by different ASI fieldworkers. The account of 16/5/77:

> Bowl Barrow.... A circular round topped mound of earth and stone. It is grass-covered but where it is slightly defaced in places many stones are visible. These are about 20cms in diameter. There is no visible trace of a fosse. There is no visible trace of a kerb. Sited on the top of a prominent natural rise of gently undulating land of good pasture. Good views of surrounding countryside..... Diameter from lower edge = 9m. Height of mound = 1.40m.... [SMR file]

And that of 21/8/81:

> Bowl-Barrow. Situated on a prominent rise in gently undulating good pasture....The site is a barrow of earth and stones, partially denuded to reveal some of the stones, particularly at the base, perhaps where they may have formed a slight kerb. These stones measure 20-25cm in diameter, and appear to be of local shale. The mound is round topped and grass covered, measuring 9m in diameter, and rising to a height of 1.5m from the lower edge. Due to the undulating nature of the pasture and the erosion of the lower limits of the mound, it is difficult to say exactly where the edge of the barrow is especially on the North and East. There is no trace of an exterior fosse or bank. [SMR file]

The 'slight kerb' of the second account must be treated with suspicion in view of the definitive statement to the contrary in the first account. Both accounts mention site-profiles, but these were not present in the SMR file. Given the absence of a ditch, the suggested classification of this monument as a bowl-barrow cannot be accepted; rather, it would appear to be a mound-barrow.

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23. KILLULAGH (*Delvin By*)**, MOUND-BARROW** (*Fig. 32*) **V**
SMR: WM013-056 (NMS: '*Barrow-unclassified*'); **NGR**: 25601/26006; **Altitude**: 100-110m OD
Dome-shaped tumulus, roughly circular (Diam. 13.8m NW-SE x 12.4m NE-SW) but poorly defined on ESE side, possibly due to slippage, and severely distorted by a mature ash on SSE side, the roots of which spread around and deeply into the mound, especially its S half; these roots to an extent help shore up the mound, which is intact above or upslope of the line of roots but severely eroded below this line. Height of mound above surrounding ground level ranges from 1.5m at SE to 1.75m at SW. W side of mound was densely overgrown at time of visit and could not be closely inspected. The ASI account of 21/8/81 noted that 'The perimeter at SE & the SW has been slightly damaged by digging in the past;' the same account identified the monument as a bowl-barrow, but given that no mention is made of a perimeter ditch; that the ASI account of 13/9/73 specifically mentions that 'There is no trace of a surrounding fosse' [SMR file]; and that the present survey team observed no trace of any, the monument seems best classified as a mound-barrow.

Monument is prominently positioned in pasture on N side of low hill with best visibility to N, the ground dropping away sharply to NE but less so to NW and SE; the land to SW is of a similar height. About 250m to NE is a burial ground containing the ruined medieval parish church of Killulagh (WM013-057); drawing on much knowledge and expertise, the late Leo Swan identified the former presence of a curvilinear monastic *vallum* diagnostic of an early medieval date in the 'irregular polygonal form of graveyard with curving wall to SW and S' (1988, 12); in support of this, the site, whose patron is St. Lonan, was found by John O'Donovan to be named in the 9th-century *Tripartite Life of St Patrick* (Herity (ed.) 2011, 180-81). Atop a natural hillock *c.* 200m to SE of barrow, and to S of the church, is a motte (WM013-058).

There is a profile of the monument by ASI fieldworkers in the SMR file.

Fig. 32: Elegantly dome-shaped Mound-Barrow at Killulagh (No. 23), from the NW (1m scale).

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24. KILLYNAN (COOKE) (*Moyashel & Magheradernon By*)**, MOUND-BARROW (DESTROYED)** (*Figs 13, 33)*
SMR: WM020-027 (NMS: '*Burial Mound*'); **NGR**: 25061/25585; **Altitude**: 100-110m OD
This and a second barrow (**No. 25**) close by to S, both marked as circular mounds on OS maps, have been destroyed, leaving few traces on the ground. The site was examined by an ASI fieldworker on 11/3/72:

> Mounds 3 [the present site] and 4 [**No. 25**]. The two mounds marked on the current 6-inch OS map are completely demolished and have left no recognisable trace on the ground. There is a wide scatter of small stones at and around the sites. Mound 3 [was] situated on a natural rise of average pasture. Good views in all directions from the site.... Mound 4 was on the S. slope of the same rise and again its site is marked by a wide circular scatter of small stones. [SMR file]

According to the same source, this monument is depicted as 'a small circular earthwork marked Moat' on OS Fair Plan from 1830s.

This monument and **No. 25** formed part of a cemetery of five barrows spread over three townlands on either side of a stream; they lay on a rise to S of stream, **No. 25** being on the S slope of the rise facing both the stream and, across it *c.* 200m to S, a third mound-barrow (**No. 13**) strikingly positioned on a prominent hilltop in Cooksborough townland; also in Cooksborough townland and in the adjoining townland of Cloghanumera, but low down in the stream valley, are two ring-barrows (**Nos 7, 14**).

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25. KILLYNAN (COOKE) (*Moyashel & Magheradernon B*[v]**), MOUND-BARROW (DESTROYED)** (*Figs 13, 33)*
SMR: WM020-028 (NMS: '*Burial Mound*'); **NGR**: 25060/25580; **Altitude**: 100-110m OD
This and a second mound-barrow (**No. 24**) close by to N, both marked as circular mounds on OS maps, have been destroyed, leaving few traces on the ground. The site was examined by an ASI fieldworker on 11/3/72:

> Mounds 3 [**No. 24**] and 4 [the present site]. The two mounds marked on the current 6-inch OS map are completely demolished and have left no recognisable trace on the ground. There is a wide scatter of small stones at and around the sites.... Mound 4 was on the S. slope of the same rise [as Mound 3] and again its site is marked by a wide circular scatter of small stones. [SMR file]

According to the same source, on OS Fair Plan from 1830s this monument is 'Shown as a small feature with a single tree marked on it. Not marked as an antiquity'.

For context, see **No. 24**.

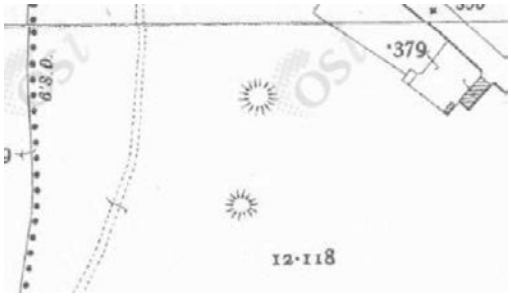


Fig. 33: Destroyed Mound-Barrows (Nos 24-5) at Killynan (Cooke), from historic OS 25" map (© OSi)

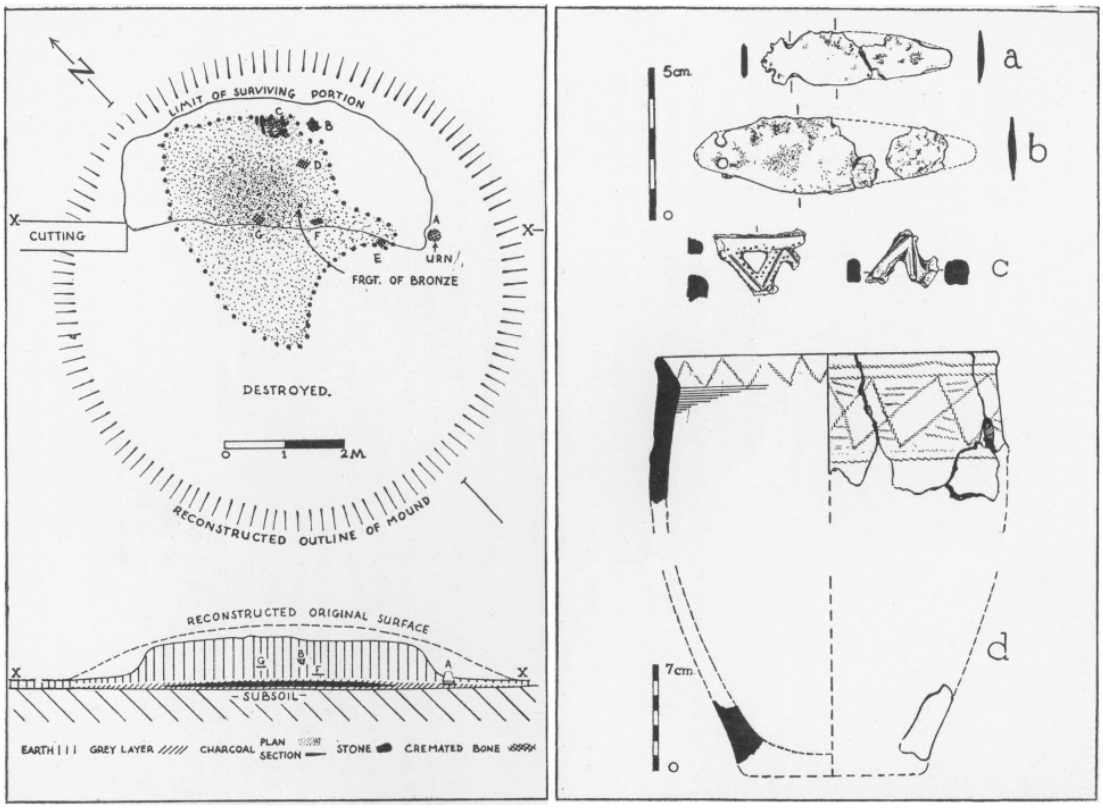
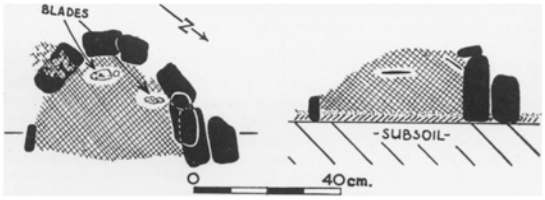


Fig. 34: (*Upper*) Plan with NW-SE section, and grave-goods, from destroyed Mound-Barrow at Kilmore (No. 26); (*Lower*) Plan and section of Burial C in d°., showing position of the men's razors (after Prendergast 1960).



26. KILMORE (*Moygoish By*)**, MOUND-BARROW (DESTROYED)** (*Fig. 34*)
SMR: WM002-011 (NMS: '*Burial Mound*'); **NGR**: 23394/27160; **Altitude**: 80-90m OD
With nothing visible by the time an ASI fieldworker visited the site on 6/8/79 [SMR file], this earthen mound or tumulus had been mostly destroyed by the time of its excavation in 1958, with only the NE quadrant being fairly intact and outline of remainder just traceable, from which Prendergast estimated an original diameter of 8m and a central height of 'probably not more than 1m'. A single cutting on NW circumference revealed no evidence of a surrounding ditch, nor was there surface evidence for one farther out. Mound was of compact brown earth with some stone, on a layer of pasty grey clay which included a layer of charcoal covering the original ground surface including the central area; from the surviving stratigraphy, excavator believed mound to belong to a single construction phase, with the grey layer interpreted as a layer of turfs spread over the charcoal before rest of mound was constructed. Excavation of surviving portion of mound, comprising most of NE quadrant, uncovered four discrete cremation burials or collections of burials, along with three small pockets of cremated bone. Burial A, the remains of an adult, were covered by an Early-Middle Bronze Age Cordoned Urn; Burial B, containing at least one adult, had the barest stone protection and no grave goods; Burial C, comprising a large pile of cremated bones including adult remains and a *c.* 16-year-old youth, was enclosed by a half-destroyed polygonal cist, and contained two men's shaving razors of a similar type to those found in the Knockast mound-barrow (see Kavanagh 1991, 98-100); Burial D comprised some unprotected and unaccompanied adult remains. Given the poor condition of the bones from the burials and cremation-pockets, the total number of bodies and age and gender distribution could not be ascertained beyond the recognition of 5+ bodies including adults and children. In the charcoal layer under core of mound was found a curved piece of thin bronze of unknown function; also found somewhere near centre of mound, at the lowest level, were fragments of a miniature vessel or Pygmy Cup. The excavator took all this material to be contemporary as the mound was a single-phase construction. The ASI fieldworker who visited the site in 1979 was informed of similar pots having been found by a Mr Ross while working his land prior to the excavation of the barrow 'to the E side of the road [from the barrow]', suggesting the possibility that the barrow was just one component of a larger Bronze Age cemetery [SMR file].
References: Prendergast 1960; Waddell 1990, 150-51; Kavanagh 1976, 375-6; 1977, 89; 1991, 98

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27. KILTOOM (*Fore By*)**, UNCLASSIFIED-BARROW AND RELATED MONUMENTS** (*Fig. 35*) **V**
SMR: WM007-006 (NMS: '*Ring-Barrow*'); **NGR**: 24323/26899; **Altitude**: 60-70m OD
Monument was not located by the survey-team during a single examination of the area indicated. The ASI account is given here:

> Ring-Barrow. In good pastureland..... The site is unrecorded from the 6" sheets.... The barrow is 13.25m wide in total, along the line WNW-ESE, the site is circular, but is bisected along the S.W. section of the fosse by a fairly modern field hedge. There is an external fosse, on average 3.75m wide from exterior lip to top of internal bank. The base of the fosse ... averaging 1m wide. The fosse is 25cm deep from the exterior, and 38cm deep from the top of the bank. The internal bank is [?]90cm wide at top, and 2.5m wide in total. The bank is 15cm above the interior, and slopes gently to the interior. The interior is level, 7m in diameter. On the E. the bank and ditch is covered by thorns .... To the S. and S.W. the bank is only 11cm above the fosse, and has been reduced by the hedgerow encroaching on it. To the E. is a removed field-bank 8.2m away, but this is only marked on the 1st edition 6" sh. The land does not appear ever to have been cultivated. [SMR file]

The SMR file includes a plan and profile of the monument, from which it has the appearance of a miniature ringfort.

Barrow lies close to E bank of the Yellow River. A Middle to Late Bronze Age *fulacht fiadh* has been documented close by (WM007-007; O'Sullivan 2007 *et al.*, 64), but this was not located by the survey-team either. Numerous crannogs have been documented in Lough Derravarragh, including a large and important example in Coolure Demesne *c.* 1.5km to W, primarily used from the early 5th century AD onwards but with evidence for a Late Bronze Age palisade, which lies just offshore from a large so-called 'raised ringfort', the two having a near-identical juxtaposition as the historically attested royal crannog of *Cro-inis* and the comparable 'raised ringfort' of *Dún na Sgiath*, also historically attested, on Lough Ennell in the S of the county (O'Sullivan *et al.* 2007, 69-70). About 1.2km to SSW in same townland and close to shore of lake, but above high water mark, were a series of three circular earthworks (WM007-019/023/027), now only visible as cropmarks (Fig. 35) and identifed simply as sites of earthworks by the ASI, but in two instances depicted as stepped mounds on the OS 6" map, and therefore potentially comparable to some other barrows in the county; O'Sullivan *et al.* (2007, 128-9) suggest that these might have been ring-barrows, and, although two of them appear to be stepped on OS 6" map, the southern one is shown as a mound surrounded by a ditch and outer bank, i.e. as a ring-barrow, on the historic OS 25" map on OSi website (see Fig. 35). Close to these earthworks along the shoreline are several 'small, low-cairn crannogs ... [which] ... could well be Bronze Age in origin, although their size, morphology and proximity to an early medieval church [see below] also suggest an early medieval date' (O'Sullivan *et al.* 2007, 64, 128-9). A number of Bronze Age artefacts, including three swords, a leaf-shaped spearhead and a bronze ring, have been found during drainage activities at different times in the lake close to the shore in Kiltoom townland,

fairly close to the stepped mounds and Bronze Age crannogs, and a Late Bronze Age sword and socketed axe were found in a bog close to the lakeshore in the same townland, prompting Eamonn Kelly to comment that the evidence of stray finds from the Bay formed by Derrya, Coolure Demesne and Kiltoom townlands 'suggests that votive offerings were cast into the lake during the later part of the Bronze Age'; more specifically, he isolates the most likely centre of this activity as 'a small peninsula that projects into the eastern part of the bay from the townland of Kiltoom', apparently the very peninsula just above the shore of which the northernmost stepped mound is located (see Fig. 35), but this is not clear (O'Sullivan *et al.* 2007, 23-4, 26, 64, 128-9). About 350m to S of the present site, between it and the stepped mounds, is a burial ground containing the site of Kiltoom church (WM007-008); in the curve of a nearby field fence, the trained eye of the late Leo Swan saw indications that the site had formerly been surrounded by a very large curvilinear *vallum* or embanked enclosure diagnostic of early medieval origin, which would come within a much closer distance of the barrow than the church; and the deaths of abbots of *Cell Tóma*, reputedly founded by St Nennid in 6th century, are reported from mid-8th to late-9th century in *Annals of Ulster* (Swan 1988, 21 (No. 67, given as 'Kiltown'); O'Sullivan *et al.* 2007, 74, 77).

Fig. 35: Destroyed stepped mounds in Kiltoom townland above high water mark on NE shore of Lough Derravarragh: (*Upper left*) mounds as depicted on OS 6" map, as given in *Record of Monuments and Places for Westmeath* (1996); (*Lower left*) Southernmost stepped mound (WM007-027) as depicted on OS 25" map (© OSi), where it looks more like a ring-barrow; (*Right*) Overhead view showing cropmarks, from Bing (© Microsoft).

Fig. 36: Overhead view of barrow-cemetery at Lakill and Moortown with the monuments labeled. Note the ditches visible as narrows bands of darker green around the Bowl-Barrows (Sites A, D, E, F). The destroyed Site G, to E of Sites E-F, is not shown. From Bing (© Microsoft)

28-34. LAKILL AND MOORTOWN (*Fore B'*)**, BARROW CEMETERY (7 SITES)** (*Figs 36-42*) **V**
SMR: See under sub-headings; **NGR**: 24965/27008; **Altitude**: 140-150m OD
A cemetery of six surviving barrows and a seventh destroyed site, standing in open grassland on a hilltop, including, from W to E: 2 ring-barrows (Sites B & C), 2 or possibly 3 freestanding bowl-barrows (Sites A, D and G), and 2 conjoined bowl-barrows (Sites E & F); what may be a third possible ring-barrow (Site Ci) lies to S of Site C, but this is barely perceptible and very doubtful, and has not been included among the overall tally of seven monuments for this site. The cemetery is a National Monument, with four bowl-barrows (A,D, E, F) the subjects of preservation orders since 1979. Although the bowl-barrows appear to be in fair condition, their appearance was modified at least once in the late 20th century, as the ASI account of 14/5/81 testifies:

> Entire hill is under grassland at present; ploughing in past number of years has damaged the remaining three barrows and destroyed two ring-barrows [Sites B and C here] ... on natural terrace to W of Site No. 2 [Site A here]. To E of site No. 4 a mound was removed [Site G here] – this however probably related to quarrying (there is a quarry hole nearby) and is not thought therefore to have been an antiquity. [SMR file]

A: **BOWL-BARROW** (*Figs 36, 37*)
SMR: WM007-013 (NMS: '*Bowl-barrow*')
By far the largest and most prominent barrow in the cemetery, this partly overgrown monument comprises a bowl-shaped, almost conical mound with steep, gently rounded sides and a distinct rounded apex (Diam. 17.2m NS x 17.1 EW), which is surrounded by a ditch (Diam (overall). 22.4m NS x 22.2m EW). On N side, where a measurement could be taken rather than on overgrown NE side where ditch was deepest, mound rises 3.8m above the ditch; where deepest at NE, ditch drops 0.45m below external ground level. Ditch is far better preserved at N than at S, where it is shallow and mostly silted, but the range of widths is fairly narrow: 2.4m (N), 2.6m (E), 2.8m (S), 2.5m (W). Where mound has been poached or otherwise eroded, as at SW, it can be seen to comprise very stony soil. Barrow is located where land begins to slope down gently to N; as such, and possibly to make the monument appear fairly symmetric with respect to the central vertical axis, N side of mound would appear to be more massive and the ditch correspondingly deeper.

Fig. 37: Bowl-Barrow at Lakill and Moortown (Site A, No. 28), from SE (1m scale).

B: **RING-BARROW** (*Figs 36, 38*)
SMR: WM007-017 (NMS: '*Ring-ditch*')
Very low-relief earthwork comprising a low central mound or platform (Diam. 7m NS x 6.7m EW) surrounded by a ditch (Overall diam. 10.5m NS x 10.2m EW); there appear to be no surface traces of an outer bank but this need not be surprising in view of the near-flattened condition of the site. Ditch reaches a greatest depth of 0.40m below central mound at W and 0.35m below external ground level at E. Monument is located on land sloping down gently but clearly from SE to NW, and lies 10.5m NW of Site A and 3m NW of Site B.

Fig. 38: Low-relief, plough-damaged Ring-Barrow on sloping ground at Lakill and Moortown (Site B, No. 29), from SE (1m scale).

C: **RING-BARROW** (*Fig. 36*)
SMR: WM007-016 (NMS: '*Ring-ditch*')
Very low-relief earthwork similar in appearance to Site B but even less well preserved, comprising a low roughly circular central mound or platform (Diam. 6.4m NS x 6m EW) surrounded by a ditch (Overall diam. 9m NS x 8.7m EW); as with Site B, there appear to be no remains of an outer bank, but this could easily have been ploughed out prior to the 1981 ASI account (see above). Ditch reaches a depth of 0.28m below central mound and 0.05m below external ground level at N. Monument is located on more or less level ground 3m SE of Site B and just 2m W of Site A.

Ci: *Possible Ring-Barrow*: Very faint traces of what may be a third ring-barrow are visible 5m SW of Site C.

D: **BOWL-BARROW** *(Figs 36, 39-40)*
SMR: WM007-014 (NMS: '*Bowl-barrow*')
Monument comprises a domed or inverted-bowl-shaped mound (Diam. 12.4m NS x 11.7m EW) with flattened summit, surrounded by a broad, flat-based circular ditch (Overall diam. 17.9m NS x 16.7m EW), now mostly silted up. At NNW, where best preserved, ditch drops 1.80m below summit of mound and 0.13m below external ground level; its range of width measurements is fairly tight: 2.80m (N), 2.80m (E), 2.70m (S), 2.20m (W). Where mound has been poached or otherwise eroded on SE side, it can be seen to comprise very stony soil. Monument is situated 29.5m SE of the larger bowl-barrow, Site A, and 64.5m NW of Sites E-F.

Fig. 39: Bowl-Barrow at Lakill and Moortown (Site D, No. 31) from W; Sites E-F are visible at right (1m scale).

Fig. 40: Bowl-Barrow at Lakill and Moortown (Site D, No. 31) from E, with much larger Bowl-Barrow (Site A, No. 28) visible in background (1m scale).

Fig. 41: Pair of conjoined Bowl-Barrows at Lakill and Moortown (Nos 32 (*Right*) and 33 (*Left*)), from the E (1m scale).

***E-F*: CONJOINED BOWL-BARROWS** *(Figs 36, 41-42)*
SMR: WM007-015 (NMS: '*Barrow-unclassified*'); WM007-015001 ('*Barrow-unclassified*')
An impressive and unusual pair of conjoined mounds, the axis along their conjoined diameters running NNE-SSW for a length of 22.5m, with possible traces of a broad shallow ditch around the pair visible on aerial photographs better than on the ground; it should be noted that the ASI account of 14/5/81 is clear that 'No trace of any fosse is to be seen around either site' [SMR file], although a more recent plan of the site included in the SMR file clearly shows the discontinuous remains of a ditch surrounding the mounds. Both mounds are dome-or bowl-shaped with distinct summits and a saddle between them, its lowest point rising 2.2m over line of adjacent ditch on W side; the N-most (E) is the broader and taller of the two with a diameter of 13.5m NW-SE, a height of 0.85m over the saddle, and a height 3.1m over line of ditch on W side; the S-most (F) has a diameter of 11.0m, a height of 0.50m over the saddle, and a height of 2.6m over line of ditch on W side. Poaching on E side of Sites E and F show the mounds to be of very stony earth. Barrows lie 64.5m to SE of Site D.

Fig. 42: Pair of conjoined Bowl-Barrows at Lakill and Moortown (Sites E (*Right*) and F (*Left*), Nos. 32-3) from SE, with Bowl-Barrows (Sites A and D) visible in left background (1m scale).

***G*: POSSIBLE MOUND- OR BOWL-BARROW (DESTROYED)**
SMR: WM007-018 (NMS: '*Barrow-unclassified*')
This monument, listed on NMS website as an unclassified-barrow, was located 100m or so to E of Sites E and F. It appears to be the mound referred to in ASI account of 14/5/81, which specifies that it had been removed in recent years, adding that 'this however probably related to quarrying (there is a quarry hole nearby) and is not thought therefore to have been an antiquity' [SMR file]. Given its hilltop location in immediate vicinity of a barrow cemetery, this site must be regarded as a possible mound-barrow or, perhaps more likely, a fifth bowl-barrow with shallow ditch.

This hilltop cemetery of six barrows overlooks Lough Lene, which lies 0.5km to S. Although not visible, the important early medieval monastery of Fore lies on lower ground only 1.2km to ENE, at foot of group of hills on N side of Lough Lene, of which the present site is on the westernmost hill. On a sketch-map of Fore and other important pre-Norman locations around Lough Lene prepared for the *Ordnance Survey Letters* in 1837, John O'Donovan marked three barrows ('*na móitínídhe*') on this hill (Herity (ed.) 2011, Fig. 6), which is labeled '*Cnoc na Caillíghe*' like the analogously named passage-tomb cemetery at Loughcrew ('*Sliabh na Caillighe*') and other sites of hilltop burial cairns linked to the Cailleach Bheara in folklore. On a prominent hilltop across W end of Lough Lene in Ballany, *c.* 2.2km to SSW of the barrows, is *Ráth an Dúin* or *Dún Doirbhgheis* ('Turgesius's Fort'), a remarkable monument (WM007-035 ('Ringfort' in RMP)) described by John O'Donovan of the Ordnance Survey in 1837 as consisting of 'one *ring of earth* which, enclosing the whole *apex* of the hill and being adapted to its outline (contour) is nearly of an oval shape, being about 160 feet in breadth and 210 in length. It extends east and west'; although traditionally linked with the Viking Turgesius, O'Donovan argued that this naturally and artificially fortified hill was a seat of Irish kings prior to the time of Turgesius, based on similarities with *Dún na Sgiath* on Lough Ennell (Herity (ed.) 2011, 172-7, Fig. 7).

There is a superb plan of the entire cemetery in SMR file, including profiles of the barrows.

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35. PASS OF KILBRIDE (*Fartullagh B*)**, UNCLASSIFIED-BARROW** (*Figs 43-46*) **V**
SMR: WM034-004 (NMS: '*Barrow-unclassified*'); **NGR**: 25217/24437; **Altitude**: 90-100m OD
Monument comprises a roughly square-shaped mound with rounded corners (8.5m NNW-SSE x 9.2m WSW-ENE), flat top (5.0m NS x 5.2m EW) and steeply sloping sides, delimited by a shallow ditch formed of four straight lines (Overall dims. 11.5m NNW-SSE x 13.0m ENE-WSW), the corners sunken deeper than the channels connecting them as if the ends overlapped; possibly these represent pits or hollows left by decayed timber posts. Mound is oriented ENE-WSW (NE-SW), being higher and more massive at SW end; ditch is slightly trapezoidal in shape, the SW end measuring 11.9m in length while the NE end measures only 10.4m (see Fig. 43). Where highest at SW, mound rises 1.26m above ditch. Ditch appears to be best preserved on W side, where a thorn tree growing from side of mound arches over it; here it is up to 0.16m below external ground level. Ditch at E side appears at least as deep but is densely overgrown and inaccessible; ditch is very poorly preserved on S side. Ditch ranges in width from 1.60m at well-preserved W side up to 1.80m at N side. Immediately

beyond ditch on W side is what appears to be a low external bank—as this is by no means certain, maximum dimensions for the monument given above are derived from the ditch.

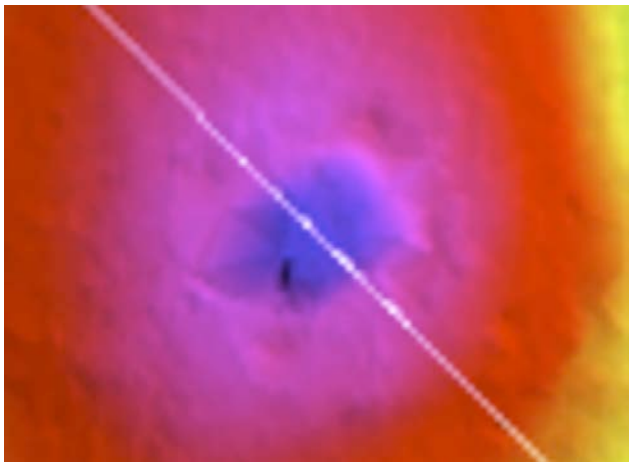

Fig. 43: LiDAR image of Unclassified-Barrow at Pass of Kilbride (No. 35), showing rectangular shape of mound; the dark spots beyond corners of mound represent deep corners of the trapezoidal ditch where the shallower straight sides meet one another (© OSi).

This barrow, marked '*Moateen*' on OS 6" map, is strikingly positioned on flat summit of S end of low but very prominent glacial hillock with long axis running N-S, just N of the N6; and, but for vegetation, there would be good views in all directions. A raised bog visible only a short distance to N has been harvested for peat on an industrial scale, as have other raised bogs to S. This hillock is at N edge of the pass or strip of dry land that gives the townland its name—less than 1km across at this point—which runs E-W between areas of bog that have been an impediment to movement since prehistoric times: a remarkable cluster of ancient trackways has been discovered in the bogs to the S, the nearest cluster being *c.* 1km to SSE (WM034-009/010/012/014/015), including one (WM034-014) that has been radiocarbon-dated to 1390-1046 cal. BC, placing it around the junction of Middle and Late Bronze Age. The ASI document a possible ringfort (WM034-005) about 350m to SE. Although not yet examined by the survey-team, a 'motte' (WM034-003) lying immediately S of the N6 *c.* 700m to WSW of the present site could, from the ASI account given on the NMS website, be interpreted as a bowl-barrow, perhaps with stepped or otherwise shaped summit like those at Slane More and elsewhere in Ireland (see McGuinness 2012, 12-13):

> Steep-sided mound (H 2m), there is a low rise on the centre of the summit, the significance of which is unclear. At the base of the motte from NE-E-S-W to WNW there is a wide shallow fosse. No visible trace of a bailey…. Traces of linear earthworks in field to the SW are visible on Bing Maps…. [and] could be the remains of a medieval road associated with the motte. [NMS website]

Fig. 44: (*Above*) Unclassified-Barrow strikingly positioned on glacial hillock at Pass of Kilbride (No. 35), from the SW; (*Right*) View from SE (Visible red part of scale is 1m long).

Monument lies between two ruined medieval parish churches on sites which Leo Swan (1988, 13, 21) attributed to the early medieval period: Pass of Kilbride, with St Bridget's Well (WM034-001/002), only *c.* 700m to W but not certainly of early medieval date; and Clonfad, 2.5km to ENE, with a ruined medieval church, standing stone, early medieval high cross (Crawford 1927, 1-2) and a burial ground, including 'the bishop's grave', surrounded by subcircular earthworks representing the enclosing monastic *vallum* (WM027-066/067).

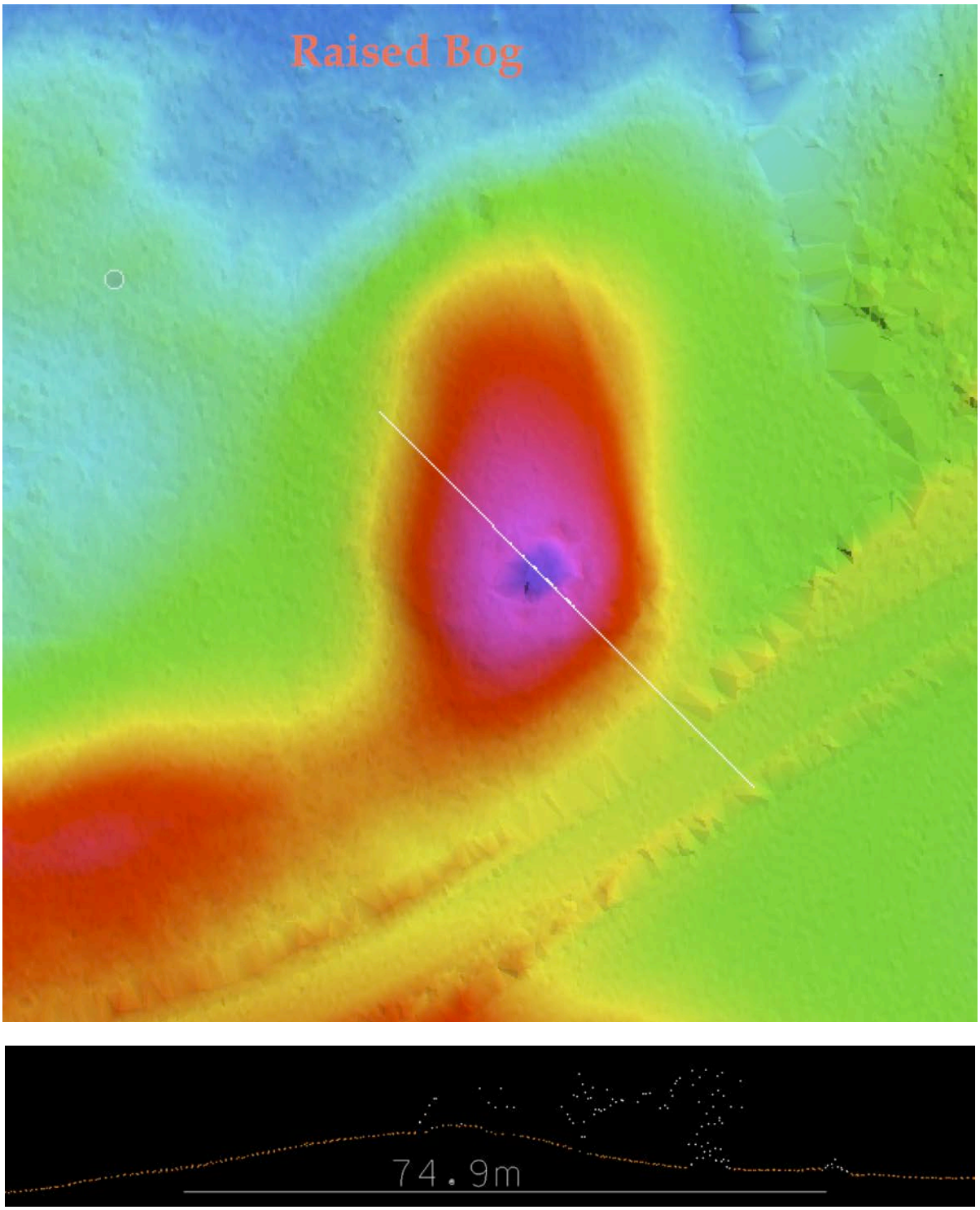

Fig. 45: Overhead LiDAR view of Unclassified-Barrow at Pass of Kilbride (No. 35), with NW-SE profile (© OSi). Note the ENE-WSW orientation of the monument, with the trapezoidal ditch broader at WSW.

The unusual rectilinear earthwork described here is not obviously a barrow, and indeed, as one ASI fieldworker observed on 8/6/71, 'It does not appear to belong to any of the known classes of antiquity in Ireland' [SMR file]. Nonetheless, it is a flat-topped mound surrounded by a ditch, which—angularity of plan aside—are features found in other Westmeath barrows; it is very strikingly located on a glacial hillock with excellent

visibility, a type of location common for barrows in this and other counties; and the recognition of a second, prominently sited rectilinear barrow (**No. 1**) only *c.* 8km to NE seems to suggest that it is indeed a barrow, albeit of a hitherto unknown type in Ireland.

There is a NE-SW profile of the monument in the SMR file.

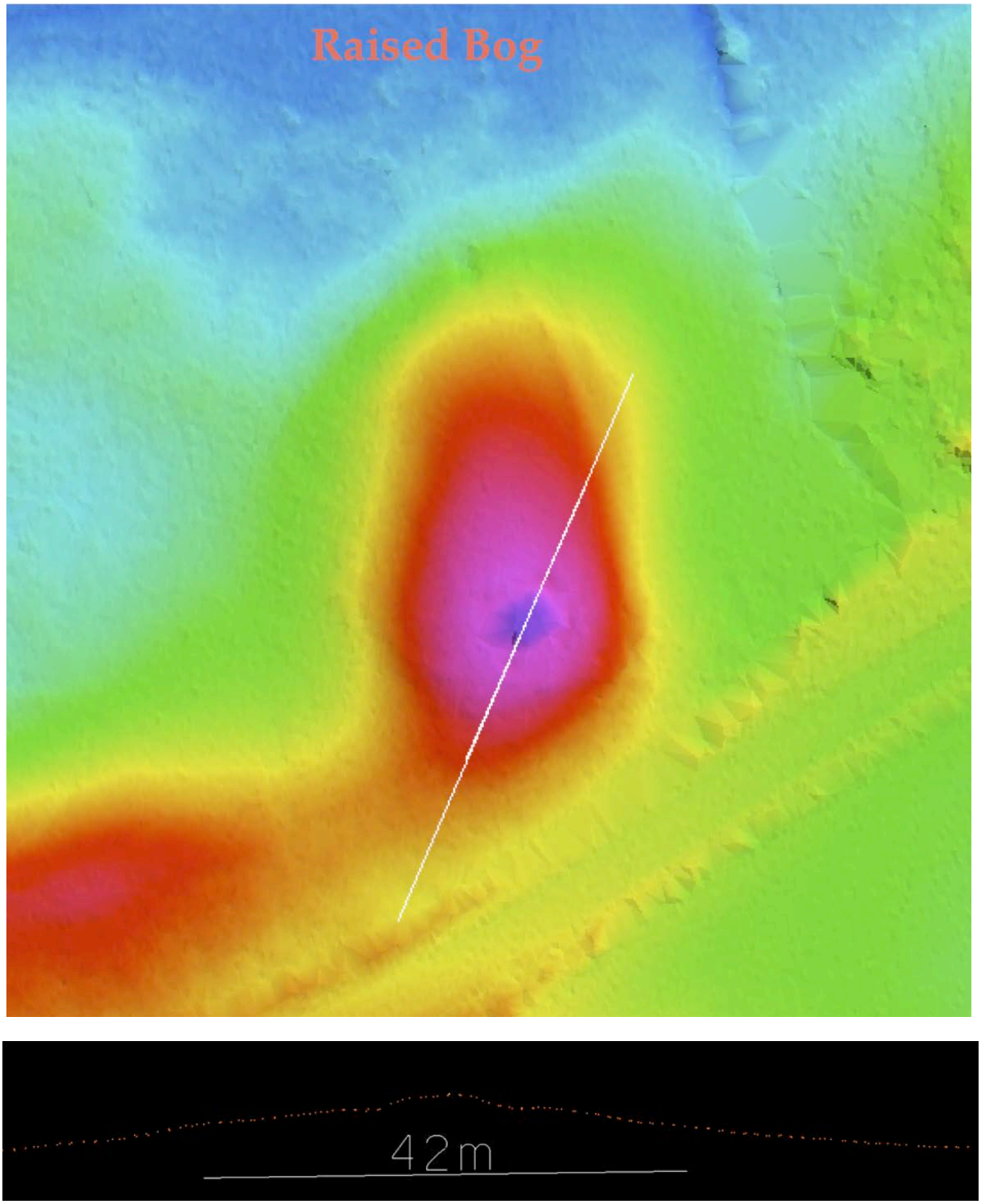

Fig. 46: Overhead LiDAR view of Unclassified-Barrow at Pass of Kilbride (No. 35), with NE-SW profile (© OSi).

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36. PORTERSTOWN (COOKE) (*Farbill B*)**, RING-BARROW** (*Figs 47-48*) **V**
SMR: WM027-036 (NMS: '*Ring-Barrow*'); **NGR**: 25505/24941; **Altitude**: 90-100m OD
Large, well-preserved ring-barrow (Diam. 32.2m *c.* NS) in high relief, its N half and parts of its S perimeter now covered by vegetation. It comprises a roughly circular, flat-topped central mound or platform (Diam. (top) 17.1m

NS; Diam. (base) 19.9m) with sharply defined upper edge and steeply sloping sides, its upper surface sloping down gently to S, which is surrounded by a ditch and a large, flat-topped outer bank. Mound rises 0.74m over ditch on SW side. Ditch is broad, deep and flat-bottomed through U- to V-shaped in section where best preserved, reaching a width of 2.80m at E side where it is not overgrown; in its S side are remains of fallen trees and other vegetation. Where largest on SW side, bank is 2.80m in width and rises 1.28m over base of ditch and 0.65m over nearest part of central platform; although it rises 2.72m over external ground level at this point, its outer face plunges down to the broad side of a large, possibly natural, crescent-shaped hollow (see below) which runs from SW-W, making it difficult to discern where bank ends and natural slope begins; giving a much better sense of actual height of constructed bank, the corresponding measurement just a few metres to E is only 0.74m. Bank is lowest on SE side of monument, where it rises only 0.27m above external ground level.

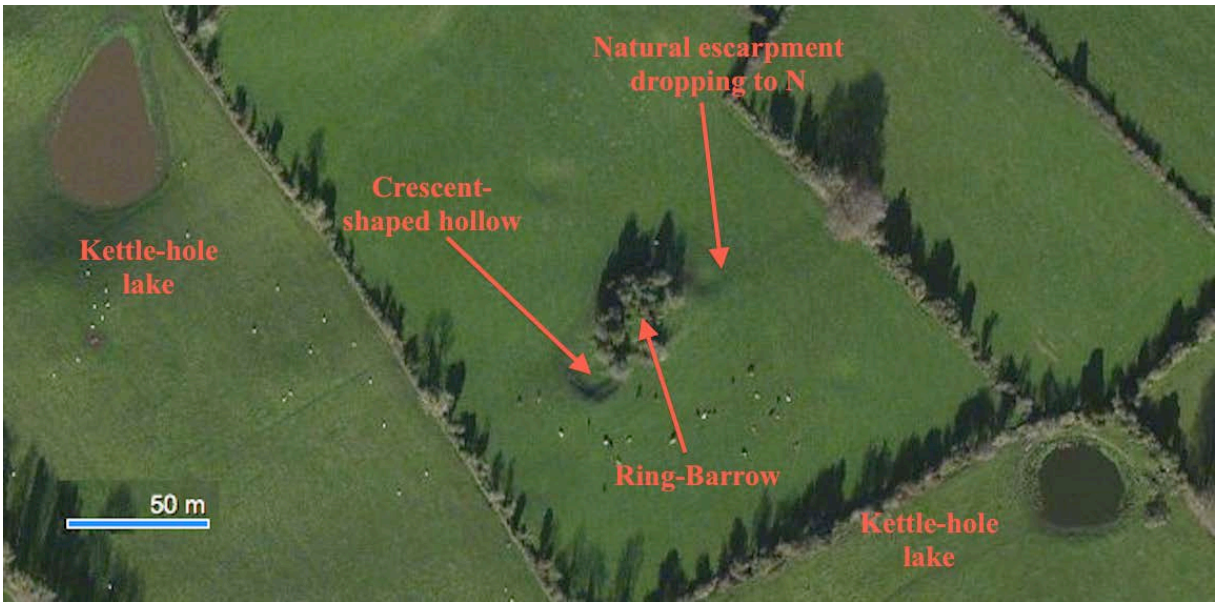

Fig. 47: Overhead view of Ring-Barrow (No. 36) and environs at Porterstown, form Bing (© Microsoft).

On E side of monument, running approximately radially across ditch from ENE-WSW is what appears to be a causeway or partially uncut stretch of ditch, 3.10m in width and reaching a height of 0.43m above base of ditch immediately to NW. In its current state this feature is quite irregular in appearance, perhaps due to erosion, and it dips down slightly in the centre so that it is lower than both external bank and central platform; nonetheless it has the rough appearance of a causeway and was tentatively identified as such, along with a corresponding gap in the bank (see below), by the ASI fieldworker who visited the site on 19/5/71 [SMR file]. There appears to be a breach in the outer bank beside the 'causeway' but this is much narrower than the latter and even less regular in appearance, with bank on its N side being much higher and more massive than on S side, where it has been much reduced in height. The bank becomes more massive at the point where the natural ground surface begins to plunge down dramatically as a natural escarpment around NW half of monument, further increasing the apparent height of bank; this appears closely similar to the situation at SW, where bank rises by 0.66m close to the point where its outer face plunges into the crescent-shaped hollow (see above). The bank is much lower and less massive on SE half of monument.

In a postscript, the ASI fieldworker who visited this site on 19/5/71 makes a case for the causeway and corresponding gap being secondary, drawing on observations of certain features which appear now to be concealed by fallen trees and other vegetation on S side of monument:

> The gap and "causeway" at the E. … would appear to be later features. The trench which cuts through the bank and fosse on the S. extends round to E. and has a slight bank along its NW side. The bank is against the inner side of the fosse between S. and E. it crosses the fosse to make causeway-like features [SMR file].

Fig. 48: Possible causeway in Ring-Barrow at Porterstown (No. 36), from the N (1m scale).

Monument is located on a low rise in undulating pasture, right on the brink of a natural escarpment, and up against what appears to be a second, at least partly natural, crescent–shaped hollow, so that the height of its NW edge, where the bank is most massive, is greatly exaggerated by the natural slope. The irregular, stony ground at the base of the crescent-shaped hollow might preserve the foundations of some structure if it does not indicate recent quarrying; the ASI accounts of 19/5/71 and 3/7/78[?] both identify the hollow as a disused quarry [SMR file]. But for vegetation, visibility would be fairly good on all sides, with a prominent hill (153m OD) visible to N, on the summit and slopes of which are further barrows (e.g. **Nos 38-40**), including the tight-knit Rathnarrow group (to be dealt with next season). Barrow lies roughly midway between two kettle-hole lakes, the nearest visible *c.* 130m to ESE and the second *c.* 160m to WNW (Fig. 45). Three further ring-barrows lie within *c.* 750m of this barrow on the opposite, northern side of the Royal Canal and railway line in Porterstown (**No. 37**) and Riverstown (**Nos 41-2**) townlands.

There is an excellent plan of this monument with profile in SMR file.

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37. PORTERSTOWN (COOKE) (*Farbill B*)**, RING-BARROW** (*Figs 49-50*) **V**
SMR: WM027-019 (NMS: '*Ringfort - rath*'); **NGR**: 25519/25005; **Altitude**: 90-100m OD

Severely damaged earthwork, comprising a circular, approximately flat-topped mound or platform (Basal diam. 14.8m NS x 15.2m EW), its upper surface kept roughly level despite undulating ground level, which is surrounded on its NE side by an arc of ditch and external bank 18m in length; overall diameter of monument including central mound and the surviving ditch and bank on one side, is 21.3m NE-SW. Monument has been deliberately placed on sloping ground rather than on more even ground, or on a local summit; but its builders have made it more massive on N side than S, in order to ensure that it remained approximately level. Bank is up to 4.10m in width and, rising 0.92m over the ditch, is of a similar height to the central platform, which rises 0.90m over the ditch. Height of bank, taken down to a break in the steep natural slope immediately NE of the barrow, is 0.88m; there is a further drop of 1.22m before the natural ground levels out, so that the monument is most imposing from this side in the same way that the other Porterstown ring-barrow (**No. 36**), placed on the edge of an escarpment but kept approximately level, is most striking when seen from the N where its banks are most massive, and further exaggerated by following the slope of the escarpment.

Although this was not observed on a single, short visit to the site by the survey-team, the ASI account of 17/5/71 notes that 'On the W a slight earthen bank can be seen, extending approx E, on the central area' [SMR file].

Fig. 49: View across NE side of severely damaged ring-barrow at Porterstown (No. 37), showing the only surviving stretch of the outer bank (*left*) and inner ditch (*centre*), and with part of mound visible at right (1m scale).

Although the monument is currently identified as a ringfort on the NMS wesbite, one of the ASI accounts (17/5/71) is nonetheless headed 'Ring-Barrow?' [SMR file], and this classification seems most fitting: there is no clear evidence for an inner bank and there are three other ring-barrows (**Nos 41-2**) close by, at least two of them within sight in Riverstown; the well-preserved ring-barrow at Porterstown (**No. 36**), only 600m to S, has a very similar appearance, with flat-topped central platform, deep ditch and large external bank, and it too is kept more or less level despite greatly undulating topography, so that one side appears much higher from the outside, where the natural ground is lower.

Monument lies beside road at edge of a large, recently ploughed field; presumably ploughing and related activities are responsible for removal of bank and ditch. Although the site is now mostly clear of vegetation, with only a few young trees growing on it and stumps of two older felled trees, it was covered by dense growth and fallen trees when visited by ASI fieldworkers on 17/5/71 and 5/6/80 [SMR file]. As such, while upper surface of central mound has the overall appearance of being flat-topped, it is in fact heavily disturbed with bumps and hollows presumably left by uprooted trees and burrowing animals.

Fig. 50: Severely damaged Ring-Barrow at Porterstown (No. 37), from the SE. Note how upper surface of mound and bank are kept approximately level in spite of steeply sloping natural ground (1m scale).

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38. RATHNARROW (*Farbill B*[y])**, ENCLOSED RING-BARROW** (*Fig. 51*) **V**
SMR: WM020-087 (NMS: '*Ring-Barrow*'); **NGR**: 25565/25280; **Altitude**: 150-160m OD
Rectangular or partly subrectangular earthen embanked enclosure with external ditch and raised interior containing what appears to be a denuded ring-barrow at its N end. Dimensions of enclosure are 30.3m NS x 25.4m EW from outer edges of ditch; 27.2m NS x 21.7m EW from outer edges of bank; and 17.3m NS x 16.2m EW for the interior. There are clear traces of a counterscarp bank just outside ditch at NE and S, and slighter traces of one at NW, which would increase overall dimensions for enclosure. Main enclosure bank rises up to 0.50m above interior at S side, where it rises 1.05m above the ditch and 0.90m above the counterscarp bank. Overall width of flat-topped inner bank is 3.4m at E side, its upper surface 0.80m across. Width of bank at S side is 1.7m, where width of ditch is 1.5m. Part of outer face of inner enclosing bank has been poached, especially on S side. Long axis of enclosure runs roughly N-S (NNW-SSE), with corners being sharpest at NW and SW, and more rounded at NE and especially SE. Interior of enclosure is raised up to 0.50m above external ground level at NE corner but is higher than ground level on all sides. Slippage from the inner bank and raised interior has occurred in various places, most notably midway along W side, although the ASI account of 13/4/70 suggests that this might be the original entrance [SMR file].

Fig. 51: Overhead view of severely denuded Ring-Barrow at N end of rectangular enclosure at Rathnarrow (No. 38). From Bing (© Microsoft).

At N side of interior of enclosure are remains of what appears to be a greatly damaged ring-barrow (Diam. 10.5m EW), comprising a ransacked central mound (Diam. 6.5m EW) surrounded by a roughly circular ditch and an outer bank which is best preserved at E but almost obliterated on S side. Mound rises 0.23m above ditch on E side, where bank rises 0.19m above ditch. It is possible that this is not a ring-barrow, not least in view of its unusual location within a rectangular enclosure; the ASI account of 26/7/72 queried its identification as a ring-barrow, while that of 13/4/70 had described it as 'two slight banks forming concentric arcs with the open sides on the S.', suggesting that 'These could represent a two-period house site. The inner structure [i.e. the hollowed mound of the 'ring-barrow'] having been built inside the outer'. Given its hilltop location amidst the important Killucan group of barrows, and that some other enclosed ring-barrows are known from Ireland (see section on Ring-Barrows in main text), this writer is much more inclined to opt for identification as a ring-barrow.

Monument is located on prominent hilltop close to mobile phone mast; visibility would be excellent all round but for trees. Barrow forms part of a loosely knit cemetery on and around the elevated ground W of Killucan, including two in Rathwire Upper townland (**Nos 39-40**) within 1.3km to S, and a tight cluster of four or five others in Rathnarrow townland (to be dealt with next season) within 1.2km to SW.

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39. RATHWIRE UPPER (*Farbill By*)**, UNCLASSIFIED-BARROW** (*Fig. 52*) **V**
SMR: WM020-124 (NMS: '*Barrow-unclassified*'); **NGR**: 25585/25151; **Altitude**: 90-100m OD
Markedly tear-drop-shaped or eye-shaped earthwork (Diam. (overall) 24.6m NS x 31.7m EW), broader at W end than E, comprising a large basal mound with gently domed upper surface (Diam. 18.4m NS x 26m EW) and delimited by a steep scarp on all sides; on top of this is a low mound, eccentrically positioned 15.2m from broad W end of basal mound but only 6.5m from narrow E end. This upper mound is irregular shaped but roughly circular (Diam. 3.9m NS x 3.8m EW), and rises only 0.5m above basal mound where highest on S side. Height of scarp defining basal mound is up to 1.2m on N and S sides; and absolute height of monument, from upper surface of upper mound to ground level, is 2m at SE. Various kerb-like boulders protrude from edges of scarp, with several visible on N and S sides; but these are found at differing heights, and, as one ASI fieldworker observed on 27/7/72, 'there is no clearly visible indications that they are formally set' [SMR file]. Chunks have been removed from edge of mound in various places, especially at NNE but also at SE, the result of cattle erosion or small-scale quarrying; but overall the monument is well preserved. Faint traces of a bank observed by an ASI fieldworker on 10/4/70 were in the disturbed NNE area and, as such, were 'probably not original' [SMR file].

Barrow is sited on a local eminence from which it has at least in part been shaped, given that there is no ditch to account for the massive basal mound. The complex, prominently positioned barrow at Rathwire Upper (**No. 40**) is visible uphill to N, on S slope of hill that is capped by a ring-barrow in an unusual rectilinear enclosure (**No. 38**). Lower down again, a couple of hundred metres to S of present barrow, are two branches of the EW-flowing Riverstown River, a tributary of the Deel.

Fig. 52: Unclassified-Barrow at Rathwire Upper (No. 39): (*Right*) Overhead view, from Bing (© Microsoft); (*Below*) View from S (1m scales).

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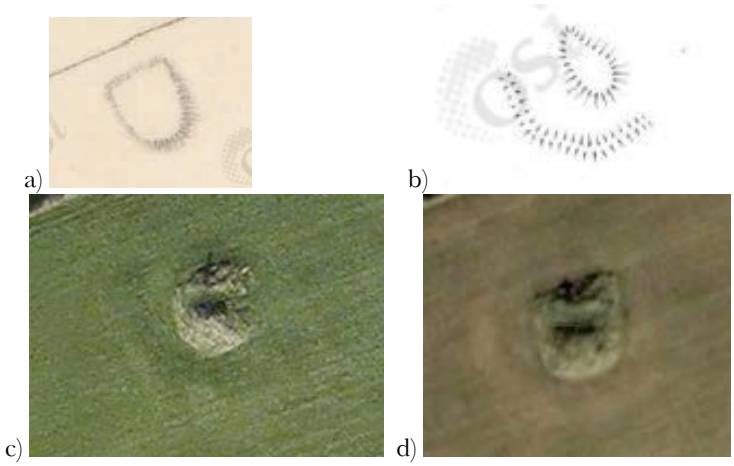
40. RATHWIRE UPPER (*Farbill By*)**, UNCLASSIFIED-BARROW** (*Figs 53-54)* **V**
SMR: WM020-123 (NMS: '*Barrow-unclassified*'); **NGR**: 25596/25190; **Altitude**: 110-120m OD
Complex, challenging and greatly damaged earthwork, currently comprising an elongated, roughly heel-shaped and steep-sided basal mound or platform (20.1m NS x 16.4m EW), with curve of heel to S, on which end is a roughly circular, steep-sided mound with overall EW diameter of 7.6m and flat top (Diam. 3.8m NS x 4.2m EW). Basal platform rises up to 1.05m above ground level on E side and 1.10m at W. Its N end is defined by a straight line running at an oblique angle to its long axis; although this has the appearance of having been done by modern farm machinery, and we know that the site has been extensively damaged in recent decades (see below), it nonetheless seems to be depicted on 1838 OS 6" map where it runs at right angles to long axis of monument—here shown with its long axis running NNW-SSE (see Fig. 53a). On the surface, this appears to be the result of confusion on the part of the surveyors: the WSW-ENE orientation of the straight line is accurate, but the surveyors have projected the rest of the heel symmetrically at right angles to this line. Earlier accounts provide a significant challenge to this interpretation, however, which will be considered below. Near centre of flat side of heel as it currently presents is an indent 1m in width and *c.* 2m in depth, sloping up from current edge of mound to top of platform, with the appearance of a ramped entranceway (but see below). Close to N end of platform, just S of this indent, is a low, E-W-running elongated mound or ridge of earth—much overgrown when visited by the survey-team on a single occasion—which effectively blocks direct access from 'ramp' to mound. On its N side, upper mound on S side of platform rises 1m above basal platform which extends 7.8m to N of it; its height is similar above the narrow ledges forming adjacent E and W sides of platform; on S side the slope of side of mound continues that of basal platform, giving a total height of 2.3m at this end of monument.



c=, aerial view from bing (© Microsoft); d= GE

Fig. 53: Complex barrow at Rathwire Upper (No. 40), from (a) historic OS 6" map (© OSi); (b) historic OS 25" map (© OSi); (c) Bing (© Microsoft); (d) Google Earth (© Google).

This site has been severely damaged, leaving it with the appearance of a miniature motte and bailey (see Fig. 54). For a start, the historic OS 25" map shows a segment of bank composed of three straight lines surrounding SW quadrant of basal platform, *c.* 10m out from it, which has been removed by ploughing but still shows up in aerial photographs (Fig. 53b-d). When the same ASI fieldworker visited the site in both 1970 and 1977, the bank was still visible with a ditch between it and the platform, and more intriguingly, a greater extent of N end of platform survived. The more complete account of 29/4/77 is given here:

> The site consists of two conjoined artificial earthen mounds enclosed from NW-W-S-SE by an earthen stone bank which is best preserved on the SWW. The bank is absent on the E, NE and N – may have been ploughed out – there are traces of old cultivation ridges between the bank and the mounds in the W sector. Between the bank and mounds there is a wide flat shallow fosse and the area enclosed is roughly set circular or square in plan. Three are no indications of a fosse outside the bank. The bank has been dug into on the SW and here too there are two boulders on the crest. The mounds have a fairly circular shape, the S mound somewhat steeper than the N. There is some recent defacement on the SW slope of the S mound and the N mound has an older depression on top. The junction is regular and show incurving. The bank has sharp 'corners' and a sharp profile. It may be that the two conjoined barrows are the original site with a later stone earthen (field) bank placed on the W-S. There is also a short projecting bank at the SW corner extending down the natural slope. [SMR file]

The account of 10/4/70 gives additional information on the mounds and dimensions for the bank:

> The two conjoined mounds are unusual. They may be barrows or they may be formed from the material of the demolished part of the bank. They are conjoined in the N-S line. The S. one is flat-topped and oval. The N one is also oval and portion of its top has been dug away…. Top width of bank at W = 80cm; Overall width of bank at W = 3m; Internal height of bank at W = 60cm; External height of bank at W = 65cm. [SMR file]

A sketch-plan of the site in the earlier account clearly shows the two mounds at opposite ends of a long oval platform, the whole surrounded at S and W by the now-destroyed outer bank—shown as curvilinear rather than angular. A third short account by the same fieldworker, dated 17/5/77, only a month after the second, pinpoints the time of its destruction:

> Having seen the twin mounds at LAKILL AND MOORTOWN [**Nos 32-33** here] I would take this to be a pair of burial mounds too. The bank from SSE-S-W has been completely removed recently and most of the north eastern mound has been removed also.

It would appear from these accounts that the north end of the platform was of much greater extent until recently. This conflicts with the suggested interpretation given above, according to which the obliquely sliced N end of platform and its overall heel-shape—both features still apparent—are shown on the 1838 OS 6" map (Fig. 53a). When we consider that the 25" map, which is of a *later* date than the First Edition 6" map, shows a more complete oval or rather pear-shaped central element with pointed end to N (Fig. 53b), and a stretch of bank beyond it at S and W—far from its current appearance and much closer to the 1970s ASI accounts,—a revised interpretation seems more probable. If we take it that the 1838 map depicts the outer edge of the *entire monument*, rather than just the inner, currently surviving platform and mound, then the heel-shape refers to the *outer bank* and not the platform, which is not depicted and was presumably oval-shaped to go by the 25" map: the orientation of the heel shape would therefore not, as suggested above, be the result of a mistaken projecting of the rounded southern part of the heel at right angles to an obliquely sliced northern end; rather it would quite

accurately depict the curve of the SW-stretch of outer bank as it was shown on the 25" map (compare Fig. 53a and b) and survived until 1977, but this is continued around E side of platform either to ensure symmetry in the depiction or perhaps because in 1838 the bank actually did extend around this side. Although this monument must for the moment be left as unclassified, it can be very tentatively suggested that in its original form it comprised a pair of conjoined bowl-barrows sharing a common, oval-shaped ditch, as at Lakill and Moortown (**Nos 32-33**), but here with a bank outside the ditch.

This monument, the subject of a preservation order since 1977, is very prominently situated at SW edge of a NW-SE-running spur of a hill rising up to 153m OD *c.* 1km to N; visibility is excellent to S and SW. Although there is higher ground to N, where a prominent hilltop just under 1km away has another unusual barrow (**No. 38**), the land falls away much more sharply to SW, so that when approached from this side, where a second unclassified-barrow (**No. 39**) is visible much lower down, the present barrow appears to be prominently located on a false summit. This and **Nos 38-39** are part of a broader group of barrows on and around the elevated ground west of Killucan, including the well-known and tightly-knit cemetery at Rathnarrow/Lisnabin (WM020-109/112/113/114) not yet examined).

Fig. 54 Unclassified-Barrow at Rathwire Upper (No. 40): (*Upper*) from the W; (*Lower*) from the E (1m scales).

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41. RIVERSTOWN (*Farbill By*)**, RING-BARROW** (*Fig. 55*) **V**
SMR: WM027-020 (NMS: '*Barrow-unclassified*'); **NGR**: 25545/24991; **Altitude**: 80-90m OD
Large, heavily eroded ring-barrow (Diam. 33.2 NS x 32.8m EW) in very low relief, comprising a low roughly circular domed mound (Diam. 20m NS x 18.7m EW) surrounded by a shallow, poorly defined ditch and what appear to be the remains of an external bank which is now broad, almost flattened and very difficult to discern. Although neither ASI fieldworker who saw the site in the 1970s refer to a bank—the 17/5/71 account, headed 'Platform barrow?', describes the site as 'A small circular or subcircular low, smooth sided platform surrounded by a wide shallow fosse' [SMR file]—an outer bank is nonetheless clearly depicted on the 1838 OS 6" map (Fig. 55, *Left*). Where ditch is deepest and best preserved at SE, it is sunk 0.74m below mound and 0.11m below bank. When the site was visited by the ASI on 17/5/71, it had 'been ploughed recently and it supports corn now' [SMR file], indicating that the monument was more pronounced until quite recently.

Barrow is situated in undulating pasture that has been under the plough in the recent past, and which slopes down very gently, but noticeably, from WNW-ESE; it lies a short distance N of the Royal Canal, just S of which again passes the main railway from Dublin to Sligo. Immediately to W is a crescent-shaped hollow with high back wall to N and low bank forming mouth on lower S side, which is marked on 1838 OS 6" map; this type of feature, taken to be artificial—in one case a quarry—by ASI fieldworkers on 17/5/71 and 22/7/76 [SMR file], is common in the Westmeath landscape and found near other barrows (e.g. **Nos 8, 12**), and appears to be a 'dead-ice hollow' where a fragment of ice left by a retreating glacier was embedded in the gravel and silt

at the front of glacier, and then melted away (pers. comm. Seamus O'Brien). Monument forms part of a loose grouping of four ring-barrows, lying *c.* 200m to NW of a second similar, but slightly smaller, one in this townland (**No. 42**), and *c.* 280m to E of a third in Porterstown (**No. 37**); the fourth ring-barrow, also in Porterstown (**No. 36**) lies across the canal *c.* 600m to SW. On a gently rounded glacial hillock in Riverstown, on slightly more elevated ground (OD 90-100m) *c.* 950m to N, ploughing in 1969 uncovered a short rectangular cist containing a crouched skeleton with Early Bronze Age Bowl Food Vessel; radiocarbon assay of the bones yielded a date of 3645±30 BP, falling well within the date range of *c.* 2200-*c.* 1800 BC for these vessels (Ó Ríordáin 1972, 234-5; Waddell 1990, 154; Brindley 2007, 67, 74, Table 6). Although the other nearby ring-barrows are visible, overall visibility is poor in this low-lying location.

There is a N-S profile of monument in SMR file.

Fig. 55: (*Left*) Severely denuded Ring-Barrows at Riverstown (No. 41 to left, No. 42 to right), as depicted on the First Edition OS 6" map (© OSi). Note the outer bank on No. 41, now almost obliterated, and the 'dead-ice hollow' immediately W of it, also visible in the accompanying aerial view; (*Right*) Overhead view of denuded Ring-Barrow at Riverstown (No. 41), showing 'dead-ice hollow' immediately to W and low ridge crossing from NW-SE, from Bing (© Microsoft).

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42. RIVERSTOWN (*Farbill By*)**, RING-BARROW** (*Figs 55-56*) **V**
SMR: WM027-021 (NMS: '*Barrow-unclassified*'); **NGR**: 25563/24977; **Altitude**: 80-90m OD
Heavily eroded ring-barrow (Diam. 26.1m NS x 29.5m EW) in very low relief, comprising a low roughly circular domed mound (Diam. 13.9m NS x 13.5m EW) surrounded by a shallow, poorly defined ditch, and an external bank that is broad, almost flattened and difficult to discern. Where best preserved, ditch is sunk 0.40m below mound and 0.22m below bank. There is an old beech growing in ditch at SSE; part of the stump of a second with saw marks lies at interface of mound and ditch at NW, the ground has been disturbed here, presumably when the tree collapsed or was felled.

Fig. 56: Greatly denuded Ring-Barrow at Riverstown (No. 42), from the NE. Raised area at centre is the central mound, with part of the ditch and outer bank faintly visible around it to right (1m scale).

Barrow caps or is shaped from a low eminence (?kame) 90m W of a kettle-hole lake, in undulating pasture immediately N of the Royal Canal, just S of which again passes the main railway from Dublin to Sligo. Monument forms part of a loose grouping of four ring-barrows, lying *c.* 200m to SE of a second similar but

slightly larger one in this townland (**No. 41**) and *c.* 500m from a third example in Porterstown (**No. 37**); a fourth ring-barrow, also in Porterstown (**No. 36**), lies across the canal *c.* 700m to WSW. On a gently rounded glacial hillock in Riverstown, on slightly higher ground (OD 90-100m) *c.* 950m to N, ploughing in 1969 uncovered a short rectangular cist containing a crouched skeleton with Early Bronze Age Bowl Food Vessel; radiocarbon assay of the bones yielded a date of 3645±30 BP, falling clearly within the date range of *c.* 2200-*c.* 1800 BC for these vessels (Ó Ríordáin 1972, 234-5; Waddell 1990, 154; Brindley 2007, 67, 74, Table 6). Although the other nearby ring-barrows are visible, overall visibility is poor in this low-lying location.

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43. SLIEVEBOY (*Fore B*^{y})**, RING-BARROW** (*Figs 57-58*) **V**
SMR: WM007-011 (NMS: '*Barrow-unclassified*'); **NGR**: 24771/26975; **Altitude**: 120-130m OD
Roughly circular, fairly well-preserved ring-barrow (Diam. 23.5m NNE-SSW), comprising a flat-topped, steep-sided platform (Diam. 11m NNE-SSW) surrounded by a broad, deep, flat-based ditch, and, where best preserved, by a broad, flat-topped outer bank. For a stretch of 10m+ at NNW, bank appears to have been mostly removed and the ditch filled in. On NE side, where it appears also to have been damaged, bank bulges outwards and is most massive, possibly incorporating spoil from removal of adjoining stretch of bank at NNW. Although bank and ditch are densely overgrown on W side, visible parts of ditch are fairly uniform in width (2.8m (NE), 2.7m (SE), 2.7m (SW)); the slightly broader range of corresponding measurements for the bank (4.5m (NE), 4.2m (SE), 4.0m (SW)) are attributable to differential erosion of its exterior. Bank rises up to 0.50m above external ground level and up to 1.15m above ditch on E side, and up to 0.20m above central platform on NE side.

Barrow is located on level summit of hill in uncultivated land at SW corner of very large ploughed field; the prospect is good, with barrow-cemetery at Lakill and Moortown (**Nos 28-34**) visible to E, and but for vegetation, the view to W, where the land falls away most sharply, would be superb.

There is a ground-plan of the monument with profile in SMR file.

Fig. 57: Overhead-view of Ring-Barrow at Slieveboy (No. 43). Note probable damage to ditch and outer bank in NW quadrant. From Bing (© Microsoft).

Fig. 58: (*Upper*) View across Ring-Barrow at Slieveboy (No. 43) from the NE, showing outer bank, ditch and central mound; (*Lower*) d^{o}. from the SW (1m scales).

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44. TULLYSTOWN (*Fore By*)**, RING-BARROW**
SMR: WM001-015 (NMS: '*Barrow-unclassified*'); **NGR**: 24547/28060; **Altitude**: 80-90m OD
Monument could not be seen from the roadside, and landowners later informed the survey-team that they could never see anything at the location marked. Although it could not be located on 26/7/79 due to high grass, it has been described on two subsequent occasions by different ASI fieldworkers. The account of 7/4/81:

> A small circular earthwork outlined by a shallow circular fosse enclosing a level interior. There is no indication of a bank. The site slopes very slightly from NE-SW. The area around the site is crossed by old cultivation ridges running NE-SW, & the site has been somewhat defaced by these. It is likely that any trace of a bank would have been removed by the cultivation. Sited on the top of a large prominent natural ridge running NW-SE. The ridge has a broad flat top. Located in pasture land with other ridges to the E, S & W, but with lowlying bog to the N & NW.... [SMR file]

And that of 1997:

> The site is located on top of a low rise with excellent views over bogland towards Lough Sheelin to the north-west. Condition: Poor. The site is very difficult to make out. The site is now under pasture. Description: The site consists of the remains of a ring-barrow. It consists of a low circular mound, *c.* 5m-5.2m in diamater and *c.* 20cms in height, surrounded by a fosse. The fosse has an overall width of *c.* 1.8m. Its base is 20cms in depth beneath external ground level. [SMR file]

An undated, very abbreviated account which appears not to be based on a site visit describes it simply as a 'small low circular mound of earth is delimited by a shallow fosse which in turn is surrounded by a low earthen bank' [SMR file]. This account, though it mentions an outer bank, should probably be rejected in favour of those descriptions clearly based on a site visit.

From these accounts, this tiny earthwork placed atop a 'large prominent natural ridge' with 'excellent views over bogland towards Lough Sheelin to the north-west', might be interpreted as a ring-barrow with the bank flattened by past cultivation. If there never was a bank, the level interior raised 0.20m above ground level, which can be gathered from the 1981 and 1997 accounts suggests that this monument might be either a type of ring-barrow with no external bank or a ditch-barrow, a type more recently identified by ASI fieldworkers (See Fig. ii).

APPENDIX
(see No. 17 above)

TEVRIN (*Moyashel & Magheradernon By*)**, STEPPED RINGFORT WITH BARROW-LIKE FEATURES** (*Fig. 28*) **V**
SMR: WM013-079 (RMP: '*Ringfort*'); **NGR**: 25264/25853; **Altitude**: 110-120m OD
This monument is very similar to **No. 17** in both form and dimensions, comprising a broad, steep-sided, flattish-topped mound or platform of stony earth (Diam. (flat top) 22.1m NS x 21.6m EW) rising from a lower platform (Diam. 33.8m EW) to create a stepped effect. As with **No. 17**, upper surface of monument is gently domed. The key distinction between the two sites is that there are clear but heavily denuded traces of a cashel wall around edge of upper step, with boulder revetment on its inner face, which rises 0.27m over the interior where highest at ENE, and 1.38m over the lower step where the latter is best preserved at NW. Part of cashel wall has been almost completely removed from disturbed SE edge of upper step. Lower step is best preserved at W and NW, where it is 3.50m in width, but it has been partly removed on SE side where a drainage ditch has been dug running NE-SW. On N side of monument, where external ground is higher than the lower step, it has been cut through for the step, giving the impression of a 'ditch', 2.80m across, and outer 'bank'; the cashel wall rises 1.25m above the 'ditch'. There appears to be no evidence for an entrance, but this need not be surprising in view of poor state of monument.

Monument lies only *c.* 300m to SE of the unclassified-barrow in Edmondstown (**No. 17**) which it closely resembles. About *c.* 120m SSE of the present site is a much larger but again fairly similar monument (WM013-080) named 'Rathmore' on OS 6" map (see Fig. 28); but, with clear traces of a cashel wall around parts of the otherwise flat perimeter of its high central platform or upper 'step', and structural foundations in its interior, this very prominently positioned earthwork is more obviously a ringfort. Its lower step has also has clear evidence for a bank at its outer edge, though erosion in places makes it appear more as a step. These three closely set sites are all visible from one another.

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Abbreviations:
JIA: *Journal of Irish Archaeology*
JRSAI: *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland*
PRIA: *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy*

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