



72. Martello Tower, Garinish Island



55. Kilcoe Church

101 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES, WEST CORK

This map gives a flavour of the wonderful rich archaeological heritage across the rural areas of West Cork. It gives a great understanding and connection with the past and provides fun and amazing places to visit. West Cork has an extraordinarily rich archaeological heritage stretching back almost 10,000 years to the time when people first arrived. Over the millennia people have left their mark on the landscape, going back to the stone tombs built over 5,000 years ago. Hundreds of these archaeological monuments have been identified throughout West Cork the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (see Sites & Monuments Record (SMR) on www.archaeology.ie) and many are shown on the Ordnance Survey Discovery Maps. This map presents a selection of archaeological monuments in the countryside of West Cork that are accessible to visit shown as a red dot on the map. Sites shown as a blue dot are on private lands and are visible from the road and only accessible with the owner's permission.

Heritage sites in historic towns are covered by the Historic Town Maps. Archaeological monuments in the rural area of North and East Cork are covered by 101 Archaeological Sites to visit in North and East Cork. All are available on www.corkcoco.ie/en/visitor and hard copies are available in the local Tourist Office. The maps are an initiative of Cork County Council to bring a greater understanding and appreciation of the County's unique heritage.



MESOLITHIC: In the earliest phase of human occupation in West Cork small groups of hunter-gatherers lived off what nature provided. Their characteristic stone tools have been found at Ratooragh and Minane Island but none of their monuments survive.

NEOLITHIC: About 3,500 BC everything changed with the arrival of farming. This new era sees the introduction of semi-permanent settlements. These people built timber houses which are now long gone, but fortunately four of their megalithic tombs survive in West Cork. One is the portal tomb at Ahaglaslin [26] and the other a decorated stone from the much collapsed passage tomb on Oileán Chláire (Cape Clear) now in Cork Public Museum.

BRONZE AGE: After c. 2,500 BC, West Cork people began using metal, pure copper at first then bronze. There is a remarkable series of copper mines [58] surviving on Mount Gabriel. During this period the population increased and spread inland. West Cork can boast as having one of the best collection of Bronze Age monuments in the country. The people who built these were farming communities with a sophisticated belief-system linked to astronomical events. They buried their dead in wedge tombs [59] and built "ritual" monuments, notably stone circles [39][89] stone rows [46] and numerous single standing stones [28] [93]. The remarkable stone circle at Drombeg [32] is aligned on the setting sun at the midwinter solstice. There are over 350 standing stones in West Cork, some mark burials or way-markers others had a ritual function. The most common surviving Bronze Age monument is the fulacht fia. These are cooking sites where water was heated in wooden or stone-lined pits by adding stones heated in a nearby fire. The example at Drombeg stone circle [32] shows the excavated water filled stone-lined pit surrounded by a retaining stone wall with some of the typical small heat shatter stones remaining.

IRON AGE: By contrast with the preceding period few monuments of Iron Age date survive in West Cork. However, there are field boundaries, enclosures and house foundations along the Barrees Valley near Eyeries from this period but all located on private land.

EARLY CHRISTIAN: The next major change and population explosion is the early medieval period with the arrival of Christianity and literacy. Literacy arrives slightly the earlier of the two, c. 300 AD, and is represented by script on ogham stones [87]. Christianity comes in c. 400 AD. Monuments such as churches, holy wells [23] [74] monasteries [15] [30], high crosses [69] and even a round tower at Castletown Kinneigh [98] are evidence of the great impact the early Church had in West Cork. The population increases as witnessed by the many fortified farmsteads or ringforts built during this period. Despite the numbers only a few ring forts are accessible to visit [44] [47] [97]. Associated with Early Christian settlements are souterrains, under ground chambers probably used for refuge or storage.

MEDIEVAL: The Normans made only furtive advances into West Cork and by the Later Medieval period the area is dominated by Gaelic lordships. Their castle called tower houses [2] [13] [42] [95] dominated the landscape in the 15th and 16th centuries. This period also sees the arrival of monastic orders, notably the Cistercians and Franciscans. Their characteristic monastic buildings [17] [52] are set tightly around a cloister. There are numerous ruins of medieval parish churches [53] [55] [88] [90] with graveyards and only a small sample is included here.

POST MEDIEVAL: The Reformation and the wars of the late-16th and 17th centuries swept aside the medieval world along with most of its buildings. The building boom of the 18th and 19th centuries replaced the medieval past and make up most of our urban and rural historical landscape that we see today. Only a small selection of sites/buildings from this period have been selected. During this period industries develop [16] [34] [86], new types of fortification [5] [8] [79] [80] were built and communications [10] [56] improve, more comfortable houses large and small are built including fortified houses [31] [51] [71] and later the grander country homes of the new land-owning elite. Sin scéal eile.

1. CLASHANIMUD HILL FORT, KNOCKAVILLA, near BANDON: SMR CO096-034 (GPS: 51.802478, -8.693230) Extensive hilltop enclosure defined by two concentric palisaded banks. Dates to the later Bronze Age and probably served as a tribal centre.



2. POULNALONG CASTLE, SHIPPOOL: SMR CO111-010 (GPS: 51.743044, -8.626830) Road side tower house rectangular in plan with circular tower at north east corner. Built by Philip Roche in the 1540s.

3. DUNDERROW GRAVEYARD: SMR CO 111-033 (GPS: 51.726580, -8.586400) Site of medieval parish church and 19th century Church of Ireland. Graveyard contains 17th century chest tomb of the Roche family. In Eli Lilly car park is an Earl Christian Bullan Stone and information panels on a horizontal water mill and fulacht fiadh found during construction work.

4. BATTLE OF KINSALE SITE & THE 'CHAIR OF DESTINY': SMRC0111-100 (GPS: 51.718504, -8.560382) On December 24th 1601, a battle was fought in this area between an Irish army from Ulster and an English army besieging a Spanish force (who came to assist the Irish) in the town. The battle was a crushing defeat for the Irish and marked a major turning point in Irish history. The 'Chair of Destiny' was erected to commemorate this important event. See Battle of Kinsale Map at www.corkcoco.ie/en/visitor



Artist reconstruction of the English main camp

5. CHARLES FORT, KINSALE: SMR CO125-007 (GPS: 51.697130, -8.498867) Artillery fort built between 1677 and 1682 to defend and withstand an artillery attack from the sea and to protect Kinsale Harbour. James Fort [8] provides flanking protection on the other side of the harbour. Burial grounds and Trinity Holy Well outside fort to north east.



6. CORN MILL, BELGOOLY: SMR CO112-007 (GPS: 51.737782, -8.483436) Ruin of large 19th century corn mill, later reused as a corn store and distillery.

7. KILBRITTIAN CASTLE: SMR CO124-025002 (GPS: 51.671534, -8.677364) Originally the chief seat of the powerful MacCarthy Riabhach clan in the late medieval period. Little of the medieval castle survives, having been largely rebuilt as a country house in the mid-18th century by James Stalwell. It was later embellished with addition of corner turrets and castellations in the late 19th century. The house was burnt in 1920 and later demolished leaving only one of wings which was restored in late 1960s. In the 16th century the Book of MacCarthy Riabhach, now housed in UCC, was written here.



James Fort [8]

8. JAMES FORT, KINSALE: SMR CO112-036 (GPS: 51.698373, -8.512399) A pentagonal artillery fort built between 1602 and 1607 to protect the approaches to the harbour following the Battle of Kinsale [4] in 1601, Charles Fort [5] lies across the harbour.

9. KILRONE CHURCH, COURTPARTEEN, near KINSALE: SMR CO125-021002 (GPS: 51.669983, -8.527992) Well-preserved ruins of medieval parish church in scenic coastal location. Two holy wells on approach road are still venerated.

10. OLD HEAD OF KINSALE PROMONTORY, CASTLE AND SIGNAL TOWER, KINSALE: SMR CO137-007-; 008-; 00901 (GPS: 51.620100, -8.542675) Promontory defended by late medieval tower house and curtain wall that may incorporate the fosse (ditch) of an earlier promontory fort, perhaps of Iron Age date. The nearby signal tower was built between 1804 - 1806 as part of coastal defence network to warn of Napoleonic invasion. The restored tower is a visitors' centre focusing on the sinking of the Lusitania.

11. TEMPLETRINE CHURCH & GRAVEYARD, BALLINSPIITALL: SMR CO124-035001 (GPS: 51.662996, -8.614400) Fragmentary remains of medieval parish church in graveyard. Church of Ireland church was built to north in 1821. Ringfort visible in adjacent field.

12. KILPADDER GRAVEYARD, near INNISHANNON: SMR CO111-007 (GPS: 51.753649, -8.654655) Famine graveyard, contains the foundations of a building, possibly the remains of a penal chapel.

13. DOWNDANIEL TOWER HOUSE, near INNISHANNON: SMR CO097-050002 (GPS: 51.767122, -8.678951) A 15th c tower house belonging to the Barry Óge clan and later passed to the powerful Mc Carthy Riabhach. It is visible from N71 across the Bandon River. The East India Company established an ironworks to south in the 17th c.

14. RAILWAY LINE BETWEEN BANDON & INNISHANNON: NIAH 20911041 (GPS: 51.768726, -8.690148) Section of Cork, Bandon and South Coast Railway line that operated between 1849 and 1961. Now a public walkway.

15. KILSHINAHAN CHURCH, GRAVEYARD, EARLY MONASTIC SITE & MASS ROCK, near TIMOLEAGUE: SMR CO123-031001-3; 30 (GPS: 51.667120, -8.762815) Site of an Early Christian monastery, contains remains of a later medieval parish church. Mass rock c. 200m to west.

16. OVERTON COTTON MILLS, near BANDON: SMR CO110-050 (GPS: 51.726908, -8.760920) Imposing early 19th century ruin built by Bandon textile merchant, George Allman. Powered in 1802 by the first suspension waterwheel, a revolutionary industrial development for the time. It employed over 600 workers in its heyday. Closed in 1851 and served briefly as a workhouse.



17. TIMOLEAGUE FRIARY: SMR CO123-050002 (GPS: 51.643088, -8.763694) Magnificent ruins of a Franciscan friary founded in the early 14th century overlooking Courtmacsherry Bay. The Dale Browne Chalice made in 1600 AD for the friary, now on display in the National Museum of Ireland, Dublin. The Catholic church has a fine Harry Clarke window and the Church of Ireland has intriguing mural mosaics.



18. ABBEYMAHON ABBEY, COURTMACSHERRY: SMR CO136-030003 (GPS: 51.637225, -8.736297) The remains of a church associated with the Cistercian abbey established here in the 1270s. The tower located in the adjacent field was also part of the abbey.

19. SEVEN HEADS SIGNAL TOWER near COURTMACSHERRY: (see 10 above) SMR CO145-008 (GPS: 51.570682, -8.714141) Built between 1804 and 1806 as part of a warning communication system constructed around the Irish coast.

20. DARRARY STANDING STONE, near CLONAKILTY: SMR CO135-030003 (GPS: 51.626596, -8.841870) A fine example of a Bronze Age standing stone, now in the grounds of the Catholic church. The stone has the typical NE-SW long-axis alignment.

21. TEMPLEBRYAN STONE CIRCLE, SHANNONVALE: SMR CO122-076 (GPS: 51.643126, -8.883372) Four upstanding stones remain of what was originally a nine-stone circle. There is a quartz stone in the centre of the circle. About 100m to the northeast are remains of an Early Christian monastery. The outer vallum survives enclosing a burial ground with remains of a church, bullaun stone, an ogham stone and site of two souterrains.

22. KILNAGROSS CHURCH & GRAVEYARD, SHANNONVALE: SMR CO122-098001-02 (GPS: 51.649003, -8.868076) Church of Ireland church built in 1821 on the site of an earlier parish church. A children's burial ground lies opposite entrance to graveyard.



23. LADY'S WELL, DUNOWEN, near ARDFIELD: SMR CO144-040 (GPS: 51.542500, -8.920670) A coastal path leads to the Holy well dedicated to Our Lady. Mass is said here annually on May 15th.

24. DUNDEADY CASTLE, GALLEY HEAD: SMR CO144-039003 (GPS: 51.534850, -8.950350) This headland has probably been fortified since the Iron Age. The present defences are composed of the remains of a later medieval castle and curtain walls built by the de Barry's.

25. RATHBARRY CHURCH & GRAVEYARD: SMR CO143-076001-03 (GPS: 51.566074, -8.972905) Ruin of 13th century church located along a forestry walk with the towering remains of the Church of Ireland church built adjacent in 1825. Rathbarry castle, built by Randal Óge Barry in the 15th century, is incorporated in nearby farm buildings. Castlefreke House to the north west was built in the late 18c by Sir John Evans Freke, restored recently as a private residence.

26. AHAGLASLIN TOMB, near ROSSCARBERY: SMR CO143-034 (GPS: 51.575300, -9.000200) One of the oldest structures in the county stands silently on the hillside overlooking the Ownahinchy River, visible from the N71. A sloping capstone is supported on two tall entrance stones, two side-stones and a lower back-stone. The tomb dates to the Neolithic period c. 3,000 BC.

27. ST. FACHTNA'S SHRINE, near ROSSCARBERY: SMR CO143-029002 (GPS: 51.576635, -9.030020) A small structure known as Teampall Fachtna; Fachtna was a local saint who founded an important monastery and school in Rosscarbery [29]. St. Fachtna's holy well is located on the roadside to the east. A fine Bronze Age boulder burial can be seen in a roadside field to the west.

28. BURGATIA STANDING STONE, near ROSSCARBERY: SMR CO143-025 (GPS: 51.573320, -9.017310) A Bronze Age standing stone overlooking Rosscarbery estuary. The striking feature of this stone is the 24 carved cup-marks and a cup-and-circle motif, on its north-west face.

29. ST. FACHTNA'S CATHEDRAL, ROSSCARBERY: SMR CO143-023008 (GPS: 51.577900, -9.029737) This Church of Ireland cathedral was built in 1517 but extensively renovated and extended over the following centuries. St Fachtna is believed to have founded a monastery here in the 6th century.

30. BENEDICTINE MONASTIC SITE, near ROSSCARBERY: SMR CO143-023003 (GPS: 51.576335, -9.030312) The ruin of a medieval church in Rosscarbery graveyard is all that remains of the Benedictine priory dedicated to St Mary, founded in the early 13th century and in ruins by 1541.

31. COPPINGER'S COURT, near ROSSCARBERY: SMR CO143-014 (GPS: 51.571500, -9.066855) An early 17th century fortified house built by Sir Walter Coppinger. It features defensive elements such as machicolations and gun loops. The house was burned in 1641 and has been in ruins ever since.



Artist reconstruction of Coppinger's Court

32. DROMBEG STONE CIRCLE, near GLANDORE: SMR CO143-051002 (GPS: 51.564590, -9.087056) In a coastal location, this is one of Cork's finest stone circles. It is composed of 17 upright stones and measures over 9m in diameter. It is aligned on the setting sun at the mid-winter solstice and dates to the Late Bronze Age. Adjacent are a pair of huts and a fulacht fia. The site was archaeologically excavated in 1957.



33. OLD MINES, near GLANDORE: SMR CO142-031002 (GPS: 51.574074, -9.122339) The ivy-covered engine house is all that remains of Aghatubrid mine, which began life as a copper working in 1811. Manganese and iron mining commenced in 1840 and continued sporadically until 1882.

34. BENDUFF SLATE QUARRY, near ROSSCARBERY: SMR CO134-035 (GPS: 51.593250, -9.069186) Remains of one of the largest 19th century slate quarries in Ireland. The engine house and some buildings survive along with the large spoil heap now cut by the N71. It was the scene of several accidents including one in 1892 that claimed nine victims; a memorial is in place to west overlooking the quarry.

35. MASS ROCK, CONNONAGH: SMR CO134-099 (GPS: 51.594185, -9.091632) A roadside rock outcrop that was used for open-air mass during the 17th and early 18th centuries when Catholics were forbidden to worship in public under the Penal Laws.

36. BOHONAGH STONECIRCLE, near ROSSCARBERY: SMR CO143-032001 (GPS: 51.580556, -8.999640) Complex of a multiple stone circle, a boulder burial and a cup marked stone, close to the top of a small hill. The circle is part of the West Cork / Kerry group with a typical uneven number of upright stones, 13 in all, which increase in height towards the entrance. The site was archaeologically excavated in 1959 when fragments of cremated bone were found in a pit within the circle. Best seen from [27]

37. REENASCREEENA WOOLLEN MILL: SMR CO134-016 (GPS: 51.626037, -9.056034) A tall stone-built chimney stack, 18m in height, is all that remains of a late 19th century woollen mill, once a thriving industry in the area.

38. CASTLEVENTRY CHURCH, GRAVEYARD & RINGFORT near LISSAVAD: SMR CO134-025001/04- (GPS: 51.629592, -9.014528) Early Christian ringfort, defined by two banks, within which are the remains of an old church and graveyard. The ringfort also contains two souterrains. A holy well is located near the roadside c.50m to the SE.

39. STONE CIRCLE, LETTERGORMAN, near BALLYGURTEEN: SMR CO121-035 (GPS: 51.658570, -9.067010) An interesting little stone circle composed of five stones, the north entrance stone has fallen.

40. BALLINACARRIGA CASTLE, near DUNMANWAY: SMR CO108-051003 (GPS: 51.705485, -9.031800) Ruins of a four-storey tower house probably built in the 15th century and modified c.1585. The interior features some exquisite decorative stone carvings in the window openings and there is a "Sheelagh na gig" on the exterior of the east wall. Entry key available in nearby Castle Bar.



41. CHRIST CHURCH, near DRINAGH: SMR CO120-039002 (GPS: 51.671370, -9.125645) The tall bell tower is all that remains of the Church of Ireland church which was built here in 1819 in north half of graveyard. The southern part of the graveyard was the site of an earlier church that was in repair in 1615.



42. CASTLEDONOVAN, near DUNMANWAY: SMR CO119-017002 (GPS: 51.691999, -9.282867) Impressive remains of a four-storey tower house which was reputedly built in 1560 by Daniel O'Donovan.

43. DRIMOLEAGUE CHURCH & GRAVEYARD: SMR CO119-063001/03 (GPS: 51.663211, -9.262555) Ruins of a late 18th century church built on the site of an older church. A souterrain dating to the Early Christian period, was discovered in the graveyard in 1975.

44. CAHERAGH CHURCH SITE & RINGFORT: SMR CO132-067 (GPS: 51.550050, -9.170336) The graveyard is the site of a medieval parish church. In the field to north of the graveyard is a well preserved ringfort. In Caheragh village to the west are the foundations of a 19th century church.

45. LIMEKILN, RINEEN WOOD: SMR CO142-051 (GPS: 51.549772, -9.170336) A rare example of a limekiln in West Cork. Its coastal location suggest limestone was brought in by sea in the 19th century to burn, which was then used as a soil improver.

46. GURRANES STONE ROW, near CASTLETOWNSHEND: SMR CO142-073 (GPS: 51.530833, -9.190500) Locally known as the Three Fingers, it originally consisted of five stones of which three are still standing. This stone row dates to the Bronze Age.



47. KNOCKDRUM FORT, near CASTLETOWNSHEND: SMR CO 142-007001 (GPS: 51.526552, -9.193708) A stone-built ringfort (cashel) in a commanding coastal location. It contains the foundation of a rectangular house and a souterrain. Relocated at the site are a cross-inscribed slab, a cup-marked stone and a stone with rock-art.



48. THE "ROCK", SKIBBEREEN: (GPS: 51.549575, -9.263091) In the fair green on Windmill Hill overlooking the town. The open area has several unusual rock-cut features including foundations of six structures with unusual niches and channels. These structures may have been used for an industrial function, possibly for the manufacturing of textiles, before being re-used as dwellings.

49. HOLY WELLS, near Lough Hyne, SKIBBEREEN: SMR CO150-008 (GPS: 51.510201, -9.306540) Pair of holy wells along minor road to north-west of Lough Hyne. Skour well is named on OS maps but known locally as St Ina's Well. Tobarin na Súil (well of the eyes) is 60m to south-east, in woodland just off road, access across narrow concrete bridge. Both are still venerated and adorned with holy statues and devotional objects.

50. TULLAGH CHURCH & GRAVEYARD, BALTIMORE: SMR CO150-038001/02 (GPS: 51.486311, -9.362812) A graveyard containing the ruins of an early 18th century church, which replaced an earlier church in ruins in 1699. A cross-inscribed slab stands within the church.

51. DÚN NA SÉAD CASTLE & RINGFORT BALTIMORE: SMR CO150-036002- (GPS: 51.483543, -9.373030) An early 17th century fortified house, probably built on the site of an O'Driscoll castle. Enclosed courtyard or "bawn" also survives. Seasonally open. Ringfort c. 400m to NE accessible to the public.



52. SHERKIN FRIARY, SHERKIN ISLAND: SMR CO149-019002 (GPS: 51.476255, -9.399780) A Franciscan friary founded by Fineen O'Driscoll in 1449. The remains consist of a church and domestic buildings arranged around a cloister. The wall of a 17th century fish palace, where fish oil was pressed, stands on the east side of the friary.

53. ST KIERAN'S CHURCH & HOLY WELL, OILEÁN CHLÉIRE (CAPE CLEAR): SMR CO153-017002 (GPS: 51.440659, -9.506153) The surviving late medieval church may occupy the site of an earlier church founded by St. Kieran in the 5th century. A short distance away, on the road leading from the pier, is a holy well dedicated to St. Kieran. A cross-inscribed pillar stands on road nearby and is venerated on the saints feast day 4th March.

54. ABBEYSTROWRY CHURCH & GRAVEYARD: SMR CO141-084001/02- (GPS: 51.551715, -9.288889) Ruin of a medieval church with links to the Cistercian monastery of Abbeymahon [18]. A plot containing the remains of victims of An Gorta Mór (Great Famine) 1845-1852 lies in the south west quadrant of the graveyard.

55. KILCOE CHURCH: SMR CO140-033002 (GPS: 51.543290, -9.410400) Ruins of a typical medieval parish church with a pointed arched doorway and two ogee-headed windows, one in the east wall over the altar and the other in the south wall. Close by stands Kilcoe Castle, a restored 15th century tower house.

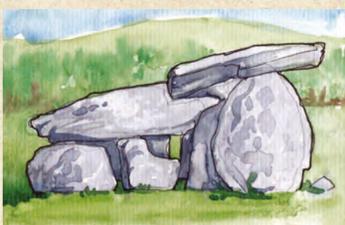
56. BALLYDEHOBO VIADUCT: SMR CO140-028 (GPS: 51.561261, -9.457054) Designed by S.A. Kirby and John William Dorman, this 12-arch railway viaduct carried the Skibbereen to Schull light railway from 1886 to 1952 it is now part of the Fasnet Trail Walks.



57. STOUKE BURIAL GROUND: SMR CO140-050001 (GPS 51.545233, -9.470268) The graveyard contains a number of uninscribed grave markers and a bullaun stone in the south east quadrant.

58. MOUNT GABRIEL COPPER MINES: SMR CO139-026 & 47-60 (GPS: 51.557300, -9.541900) On the south slope of Mount Gabriel are over 30 primitive copper mines dating from the Early to Middle Bronze Age. Fires were used to shatter the rock face and stone hammers to crush the ore that was then transported elsewhere to be smelted and cast into tools and weapons.

59. ALTAR WEDGETOMB, near SCHULL: SMR CO148-005 (GPS: 51.513729, -9.644000) Dating to the period between 2500 and 2000 BC, this wedge tomb is one of 12 known on the Mizzen Peninsula. When archaeologically excavated in 1989 a small quantity of burnt human bone was found within the chamber and some whale or dolphin bones at the entrance. As is common for tombs of this type the entrance faces south-west, and seems to be aligned on Mizzen Peak in the distance.



60. KILMOE CHURCH & GRAVEYARD, near BARLEYCOVE: SMR CO147-024001/02 (GPS: 51.478523, -9.772676) Ruins of a medieval parish church overlooking Barley Cove. Just inside the doorway is a cross-inscribed stone. Immediately to the south east of the graveyard is a bullaun stone, a depression cut into the rock outcrop. To the east of the graveyard is another rock outcrop bearing at least 23 cup marks but heavily overgrown and difficult to find.

61. MIZEN HEAD SIGNAL STATION: (GPS: 51.450362, -9.819227) Built as a fog signal station in 1909, the complex, which includes lighthouse keepers' cottage and an engine house, now houses an interpretive centre.



62. PAIR OF STANDING STONES, COOLCOULAGHTA NEAR DURRUS: SMR CO130-032002 (GPS: 51.596711, -9.54336) On terrace on north-west side of Mount Corrin. Pair of bronze age standing stones typically orientated NE/SW. Dunbeacon stone circle [63] lies 400m to south-west.

63. DUNBEACON STONE CIRCLE near DURRUS: SMR CO130-030 (GPS: 51.595669, -9.549121) Located on the west shoulder of Mount Corrin are the remains of a stone circle, six stones are still upright while five have fallen. About 400m to north-east is a pair of impressive standing stones [62].

64. MOUNT CORRIN CAIRN & HUT SITES, near DURRUS: SMR CO130-015 (GPS: 51.594340, -9.527680) At the summit of Mount Corrin is the remains of a prehistoric cairn. About 100m to the north east along the Sheep's Head way are three hut foundations.

65. DURRUS CHURCH & GRAVEYARD, near DURRUS: SMR CO131-007001/02 (GPS: 51.634859, -9.461561) Ruins of a medieval parish church. The graveyard contains a cross-inscribed stone and a bullaun stone.

66. RINGFORT, BRAHALISH, SHEEPS HEAD: SMR CO130-003 (GPS: 51.624958, -9.582357) Located on top of a small hill on the Sheep's Head way. It is an oval enclosure defined by an earthen bank that contained an Early Christian farmstead.

67. KILCROHANE CHURCH: SMR CO138-015002 (GPS: 51.575490, -9.698762) Ruins of a late medieval parish church that was in repair in 1615 but in ruins by 1639.

68. REENPOUT PROMONTORY FORT, SHEEPS HEAD: SMR CO129-001 (GPS: 51.652134, -9.572174) One of several fortified headlands along the Cork coast. Here a modern field boundary runs across the neck of the headland following the line of an earlier defensive line. The profile of the earlier defences can be seen on the cliff face to the north. Such sites possibly date to the Iron Age (500 BC to 400 AD). [see 24 & 10]

69. KILNARUANE MONASTERY & PILLAR STONE, near BANTRY: SMR CO118-031001 (GPS: 51.671250, -9.468180) Site of a large Early Christian monastery on a hilltop overlooking Bantry Bay. The church and associated buildings are long gone but what does survive is a carved cross shaft bearing religious scenes, including the earliest depiction of a native Irish boat. Other stones include remains of a shrine and two bullaun stones.

70. WHIDDY ISLAND REDOUBT: SMR CO118-078 (GPS: 51.694892, -9.487061) One of three similar circular artillery batteries built on the Island in 1808 in response to the threat of a French invasion. The large hilltop fortification was protected by a substantial moat.

71. REENADISERT CASTLE, near BALLYLICKEY: SMR CO105-020001 (GPS: 51.721824, -9.445870) Ruin of a fortified house, built c.1610 by Sir Owen O'Sullivan following the destruction of the O'Sullivan Beare stronghold at Dunboy [81] in 1602. It has many defensive features including corner bartizans. It was captured by Cromwell's forces in 1650.



72. MARTELLO TOWER, GARNISH ISLAND: SMR CO104-015001 (GPS: 51.736110, -9.542045) Circular tower, built c.1804 to protect Bantry Bay against the threat of the French invasion.

73. BALLYNAHOWN WEDGE TOMB, near ADRIGOLE: SMR CO103-014 (GPS: 51.705250, -9.672850) Remains of the eastern end of a wedge tomb located at the head of a small valley. Dates to the later Neolithic/early Bronze Age period.

74. ST. MOCHUDA'S HOLY WELL, near ADRIGOLE: SMR CO116-014001 (GPS: 51.693587, -9.698213) A water-filled depression in a rock. The rock bears roughly incised crosses and a harp and it is still venerated.

75. MASSMOUNT R.C. CHURCH, near ADRIGOLE: SMR CO103-006 (GPS: 51.695592, -9.700119) Ruins of a small late 18th/early 19th century chapel.

76. KILCASKIN CHURCH & GRAVEYARD, near ADRIGOLE: SMR CO103-003001 (GPS: 51.708300, -9.710707) Remains of a medieval parish church on the site of an earlier church founded by St Caskan. Just to the south east of the church is a broken ogham stone. A bullaun stone, known as Toberatemple, is located on the roadside about 30m to the east; the water in the hollow is reputed to cure eye ailments.

77. AGHAKISTA BRIDGE, near CASTLETOWNBERE: SMR CO115-022002 (GPS: 51.656115, -9.902780) A hump-backed bridge over the Kista River. It is narrow and built without parapets to allow packhorses laden with goods to cross. Now disused, it possibly dates to the 17th century.



78. DEREENATAGGART STONE CIRCLE, near CASTLETOWNBERE: SMR CO115-011002 (GPS: 51.653837, -9.929006) A multiple-stone circle, may have originally consisted of 15 stones, only 12 of which survive. It has a diameter of almost 8 metres and dates to the Bronze Age.

79. ARTILLERY FORT, BERE ISLAND: SMR CO128-015 (GPS: 51.642001, -9.791041) A battery, protected by a wide ditch, still retains its heavy guns. Built c. 1900 to protect the British fleet when anchored in the Island's harbour. Bere Island was one of three "Treaty Ports" that remained in British possession after the declaration of the Irish Free State in 1922. They were handed over to the State in 1938.

80. MARTELLO TOWER, BERE ISLAND: SMR CO128-014 (GPS: 51.633769, -9.847819) One of four circular Martello Towers built on Bere Island around 1804. These towers were built as a small defensive fortification mounted with a cannon on the roof. The strategic importance of the island became apparent after the attempted French Invasion of 1796. In the early 19th century a major naval base was established here and needed protection.



81. DUNBOY CASTLE, near CASTLETOWNBEARE: SMR CO128-001002 (GPS: 51.633216, -9.924887) Remains of a 15th century tower house, the principal seat of the O'Sullivan Bere clan. It was besieged in 1602, one of the final major acts of the Nine Year War (1593-1603) and left in ruins. A star-shaped fort was built around the ruined castle in the mid-17th century.

82. KILLOUGH WEDGE TOMB, near ALLIHIES: SMR CO116-014001 (GPS: 51.613041, -10.066500) Remains of an early Bronze Age tomb consisting of two side stones which support a large roof stone.

83. HOLY WELL, DURSEY ISLAND: (GPS: 51.603000, -10.169280) A natural spring with two adjacent flat rocks, one bearing five curved cup marks and the other possibly two.

84. CHURCH & GRAVEYARD, DURSEY ISLAND: SMR CO126-012003 (GPS: 51.604300, -10.159279) An old burial ground with roughly parallel row of upright slabs forming grave markers. The site of a medieval church said to have been destroyed by English forces during the siege of Dunboy Castle [81].

85. MASS ROCK, ALLIHIES: SMR CO114-053 (GPS: 51.669364, -10.043941) On the northern slope of Knocknagallaun, a natural table of rock where clandestine mass was said in Penal times. Cross was erected in 1755.

86. COPPER MINES, ALLIHIES: SMR CO114-022002 (GPS: 51.648230, -10.037432) Established by John Puxley in 1812, the mines reached peak production in 1845, before declining and finally closing in 1884. Cornish engine houses were constructed to pump out water from the mines, these are still a striking feature of the landscape and are now part of an interesting Mining trail. Experienced Cornish miners were brought in to work in the mines and a Methodist chapel which was built for them in 1845, now Allihies Copper Mine Museum.



87. OGHAM STONE, FAUNKILL & THE WOODS near ARDROOM: SMR CO102-013 SMR CO102-013 (GPS: 51.713020, -9.945050) One of the tallest ogham stones in the country standing to a height of 5.3m. Ogham inscription of incised lines reads MAQI DECCEDDAS AVI TURANIS (son of D. grandson of T.)

88. KILCATHERINE CHURCH & GRAVEYARD: SMR CO101-005001 (GPS: 51.715500, -9.969581) Ruins of a medieval parish church on the site of an earlier church. There is a curious carving of a human head near the doorway in the south wall, identified as the 'iron cat' of 'Cill-cait-iairn'. An early stone cross stands to the south east. A three chambered souterrain was found here in 1990.



89. ARDROOM STONE CIRCLE: SMR CO102-006001 (GPS: 51.735920, -9.870030) Remains of stone circle east of Ardroom village. It is one of a number of Bronze Age monuments, including standing stones, fulacht fia and boulder burials in the area.



90. KILMOCAMOGUE CHURCH & HOLY WELL, near BANTRY: SMR CO105-013003 (GPS: 51.742000, -9.401279) Ruins of a medieval parish church. A souterrain was found in the modern part of the graveyard in 1960 and dates to the Early Christian period when there was a monastery here. A holy well is located in the southern part of the graveyard.

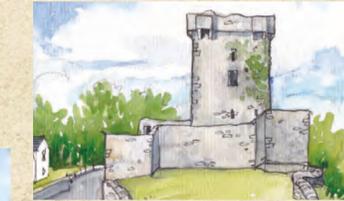
91. BREENTY MORE STONE CIRCLE & BOULDER BURIALS, near BANTRY: SMR CO106-005001 (GPS: 51.742125, -9.375054) A Bronze Age multiple stone circle that has four boulder burials arranged in its centre. Ringfort in the same field.

92. KEALKILL STONE CIRCLE: SMR CO106-006001 (GPS: 51.745200, -9.370650) A five-stone circle which forms part of a larger complex including a pair of standing stones and a radial cairn, all of which are typical Bronze Age ritual monuments. The site was archaeologically excavated in 1939 and evidence of a central wooden post was discovered.

93. STANDING STONE, near KEALKILL: SMR CO092-054 (GPS: 51.757134, -9.266984) A standing stone in the Coussane Gap overlooks the valley of the Owvane River. Possibly erected as a boundary marker in the Bronze Age.

94. CASHEL, MAUGHANACLE, near KEALKILL: SMR CO092-047001 (GPS: 51.760418, -9.307360) A stone-built ringfort or cashel near the Coussane Gap. Dates to the Early Christian period.

95. CARRIGANASS CASTLE, near KEALKILL: SMR CO106-001 (GPS: 51.754058, -9.379300) The remains of a tower house and bawn, reputedly built by Dermot O'Sullivan in 1540. Surrendered after the fall of Dunboy in 1602. Now on the Beara-Breifne Way.



96. INCHINCURKA WEDGE TOMB, near CAPPEEN: SMR CO093-052002 (GPS: 51.783737, -9.111406) A prehistoric megalithic tomb. It has a narrow, wedge-shaped gallery covered by two roof stones, with traces of a covering mound.

97. CAHERVAGLIAR RINGFORT, near CAPPEEN: SMR CO094-060001 (GPS: 51.793329, -8.996350) A ringfort (fortified farmstead) built in the Early Christian surrounded by two earthen banks, the innermost of which was faced with stone. The stone-built entrance passage is an unusual feature. The houses and farm buildings, probably of timber, have long gone.



98. KILNEIGH ROUND TOWER, near CAPPEEN: SMR CO094-104002 (GPS: 51.764130, -8.975550) Located beside St. Bartholomew's Church of Ireland church (built in 1856). This six-storey round tower was built as part of an Early Christian monastery between the 10th and 12th centuries and would originally have functioned as a bell tower. It is unusual in having a hexagonal base and is one of only two surviving round towers in the county.



99. BALLINEEN BRIDGE: SMR CO109-020001 (GPS: 51.734070, -8.951026) A ten-arch rubble stone road bridge, built c.1760 and spanning the Bandon River. It was widened downstream in the late 18th century enabling two-way traffic. This bridge was selected to represent the many fine stone bridges found throughout West Cork.

100. KNOCKANEADY CHURCH, near BALLINEEN: SMR CO109-022002 (GPS: 51.729052, -8.950312) Ruins of a 17th century church located to the east of St Paul's Church of Ireland church built in 1849. The graveyard contains an interesting collection of 18th century tombs and grave markers.

101. KNOCKS BOULDER BURIALS, near BALLINEEN: SMR CO122-007001 (GPS: 51.690690, -8.935969) Three Bronze Age boulder burials located adjacent to an early medieval ringfort.

- No access to the monument on private land.

Please respect private property and comply with roadside safety and regulations.

Further Information: Many of the selected monuments are described in more detail in the Archaeological Heritage of County Cork which was published by Cork County Council in 2020. www.corkcoco.ie/en/resident/heritage-and-conservation/publications

April 2023

101 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES to visit in WEST CORK



Ahaglaslin Portal Tomb [26]



Produced by
COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHORCAÍ
CORK COUNTY COUNCIL



Design and artwork by Rhoda Cronin-Allanic - 2021

<https://www.corkcoco.ie/en/visitor/historical-and-archaeological-places-to-visit-in-cork-county>

