

ANTIQUITIES

Abbeys, Castles, Fortresses, Round Towers, Early Churches, Sculptured Crosses, Stone Circles, Ogham Stones, Cairns, Souterrains, Pillar Stones, Cromlechs, Forts, Rathes, Moats, Tumuli or ancient monuments of any kind. Exact location of each with short description, noting condition, etc. Relate local legend or tradition associated with building or object. State if in charge of Office of Public Works. Right of way to public? Admission charge (if any). Name and address of caretaker, or where key is kept.

The Abbey and Round Tower at Aghagower.

^{Church}
The Abbey is in a ruinous condition, the east gable and portions of the side walls still remaining though in a crumbling state. O'Donovan says of this that it has been a good deal modernised but that he could recognise some of the primitive work in it. ~~Patric fully examined and wrote about it but I am unable to obtain a copy of this work. Neither have I been able to learn anything whatever of the history of the Abbey.~~
The Tower adjoins the Church and was badly damaged many years ago by lightning, the cap and the topmost portion of the northeastern wall having disappeared. On the northern side there is a rectangular doorway on the ground level.
~~The ruins are in the care of the O.P.W.~~ See Page 4

Leaba Phadraig or St. Patrick's Bed.

Close to the ruined Abbey is a small walled enclosure which is still regarded as the Saint's resting place. The foliage of a very ancient ash tree overhangs the Bed. The Station of Aghagower when practised, commences here and at one time was part of the Croagh Patrick Station.

Dabhae Phadraigh (St. Patrick's Vat or Keeve) and Tobar na nDeochanⁱⁿⁿ (The Well of the Drinks).

The former, to the east of the Tower, is cherished for its associations with the saint and is included in the Station. On the other side of the road, Tobar na nDeochan is so named because the Pilgrims drank its water when performing the Station.

Teampul na bhFiachal

A few hundred yards to the north of the Abbey are the meagre remains of this ancient church which is said to have been erected by St. Patrick. Portion of one wall is all that remains to be seen of the church but O'Donovan greatly doubted that this was the original foundation. The name Teampul na bhFiachal means the Church of the Teeth. This ruin is on the lands of Mr John O'Grady, Aghagower and whilst it is not in the charge of the O.P.W., may be visited without obligation.

Killeen and Holy Well at Stonepark, Lankill.

At the wood at Stonepark, Lankill (Westport 5 miles) is another Holy Well, also dedicated to St. Patrick since it is claimed that he halted here when on his way to the Reek. Nearby is a small Killeen or burial ground in which there is a trace of a small, crude stone altar. One of the altar stones has been removed a short distance and it is said that an ancestor of the Marquis of Sligo wished to remove this to his mansion but that the horses balked at the task and so the stone was not removed further, ^{superstition} overcoming the workmen.
Well and Killeen are on the lands of Mr Tom Greevy who does not object to sightseers.

Souterrain at Kimeen, Lanmore.

To the left of the narrow road which connects Lankill and Liscarney and about six miles from Westport, there is a slightly noticeable rectangular mound which is called the "Monk's Grave". An old tree grows on the mound which is on the lands of Mr Walsh, Kimeen, Lanmore.

(Plain sheets of foolscap paper to be used, if necessary, for recording additional information).

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Two openings having stone surrounds are almost covered by the soil and these vertical entrances appear as though they might lead to an underground vault or chamber.

Pillar Stone at Lanmore.

Close to another small road connecting Lankill and Lisscarney is a slender stone about six feet in height, on the lands of Mrs King, Lanmore. There is no tradition or legend connected with this stone.

Doon Castle.

The very scant remains of Doon Castle will be seen on the lands of Mr A. Waters, at Dooncastle, four miles from Westport (via Ballinrobe road 3 miles, then branching left). Very little other than some crumbling masonry of the walls now remains but it is thought that the castle, erected by Garrett MacPhilbin, head of that family, about the time of Queen Elizabeth. O'Donovan believed that this was the Dun Mugdord mentioned by the Four Masters as having been an English fortress at 1235.

MacPhilbin's Castle, Aille.

Near the disused Protestant Church at Aille, five miles from Westport on the Ballinrobe road, is another ancient pile, also believed to have been a MacPhilbin Castle. This building is in much better condition; at least the walls are standing but it appears not to have been a very large castle. The ruin is on the lands of Mr Jos. King, Westport and may be visited without charge.

Aille Caves.

Already mentioned under different headings. These may be visited without charge.

Leacht Tomaltaigh.

About a quarter mile southwest of Teampul na bhFiacal at Aghagower, a heap of stones called Leacht Tomaltaigh is believed traditionally to be a monument commemorating the death of Tomaltach, a man of considerable importance who came hither in the time of Saint Patrick to laugh and sneer at the pious pilgrims. As a warning to others, the Almighty put a sudden end to Tomaltach at this spot.

Geology Caid

and very often a great portion of the surrounding country is under water. On many occasions the distant main road is flooded to such an extent as to be impassable.

Serious exploration of the cavern is seldom attempted although at low water, this may be considered reasonably safe, for a distance at least.

A light is necessary for this purpose and for the examination of some interesting stalactitic formations.

The caves are on the lands of Mr King, Westport and may be viewed without charge.

Honor of'Brien
28.9.23.

Round Tower

Aghagower

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Antiquities

Close to the southwest corner of the church, the tower is inclined towards the north west. Many years ago ^{it} the structure was struck by lightning as a consequence of which the cap and a goodly portion of the wall at the top northwest side have disappeared. The ~~gross~~ circumference at the base measures 51' 6" and the approximate height is 60ft. A doorway faces the church on the eastern side, the sill being about 7' 6" over ground level; this is 5ft high, 2' 6" wide at the sill and ~~with~~ ^{has} a slight taper at the top which is roughly arched.

On the ground level at the west side, a modern doorway has been added. Only 2 small windows are remaining, ~~remain,~~ and these one at the southeast side near the top, the other half way up at the south west side; both are square topped.

Both Ruins are in the O.P.W. and there is free access to them.