



Leitrim Sweathouse Project

Project Report 2022

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On behalf of Leitrim County Council, supported by the Heritage Council



Comhairle Chontae Liatroma
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An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
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Contents

i.	Executive Summary.....	2
ii.	Acknowledgements.....	3
iii.	List of Plates	4
iv.	List of Tables.....	4
v.	List of Figures	4
1	Introduction	5
2	Archaeological Field Survey	7
2.1	Field Survey Training.....	7
2.2	Training Workshops/Sessions	8
2.3	Results of Sweathouse Field Surveys	9
2.4	Excavations	14
3	Media, Outreach & Heritage Events	18
3.1	Social Media	18
3.2	Lectures, Events & Interviews.....	19
3.3	Heritage Week	20
3.4	Artists	21
4	Conservation Guidelines	22
5	Results	26
5.1	GIS mapping and analysis	26
5.2	Oral Histories and Accounts.....	31
6	Discussion - Sweathouses in Co. Leitrim	33
7	Further Research	38
7.1	Continued Field Survey	38
7.2	Conservation of Sweathouses.....	38
7.3	Dissemination of Sweathouse Information	39
8	Conclusion	40
9	References	41
10	Appendices	42
A.	Sweathouse Field Survey Record Sheet.....	42
B.	Site Specific Sweathouse Survey Risk Assessment form.....	46
C.	List of Potential Sweathouse Sites	51
D.	List of Sites at Risk.....	52
E.	Monument Report Forms	53

i. Executive Summary

- This phase of the Leitrim Sweathouse project was conducted from April - October 2022
- Four principal objectives were set out for the project in 2022:
 - To provide Community Research through training and supervision of Volunteers in archaeological field methods to survey Sweathouses.
 - To produce Sweathouse Conservation Guidelines
 - Promote the project and provide outreach
 - To report fully on the project, updating GIS mapping and submitted Monument Reports to the National Monuments Service
- Following a good response from the public, 3 training sessions/workshops were held to demonstrate the skills necessary for effective archaeological field survey and outline the health and safety measurements that needed to be undertaken. These sessions were attended by 26 participants.
- Over 50 separate locations were surveyed producing up-to-date and accurate records for 40 Sweathouses. This included 7 newly discovered Sweathouses.
- Apart from the 19 previously unrecorded sites found in 2021-2022, there are still up to 12 potential sites that need to be found, surveyed and verified.
- Three Sweathouse excavations funded by the Royal Irish Academy and Leitrim County Council, complimented the work of this project. They demonstrated certain features and traits of Leitrim Sweathouses and samples have been sent for radiocarbon dating, in an effort to better understand the date range of these sites.
- Media and social media saw the project contacted by several experts in the field from as far away as Australia and the U.S.A., as well as raising awareness amongst local communities.
- The project was involved in a number of outreach events aimed at the general public, the farming community and the project Volunteers. Three Artists were also deeply involved in the project this year and brought different perspectives to the work but also achieved substantial amounts of survey work.
- National Heritage Week 2022 was celebrated with 2 events, at Mohill and Kiltyclogher, giving the general public an opportunity to 'Ask About Archaeology'. It received the County Leitrim National Heritage Week Award.
- A 'Sweathouse Conservation Guidelines for Landowners and Community Groups' document, was produced to summarize accepted procedures and protocols with respect to building conservation. These clear and concise protective measures were also drawn together from the experience practical issues encountered while surveying in Co. Leitrim.

- A more detailed assessment was made of the preservation of Sweathouses in Leitrim, finding that while 34% show no trace surviving, 15% are intact, 26% in a ruinous state and 22% have some minor trace remaining. Three sites have been rebuilt to different degrees.
- The GIS mapping was updated and analysed with some changes to the findings from last year.
- Oral histories were again recorded this year, two from people in their 90s with memories of the last decades of Sweathouse use.
- Suggestions for further research is provided with emphasis on continued field survey, Sweathouse conservation and publicising the findings of this research.
- All newly discovered archaeological sites (7 Sweathouses and 2 possible Ringforts) have been reported to the National Monuments Service.

ii. Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Leitrim County Council and the Heritage Council for supporting this project, and in particular the Leitrim County Council Heritage Officer, Ms Sarah Malone.

Special thanks must be given to all those who participated with this community project, whether from Leitrim or elsewhere. It was reassuring to see that enthusiasm remained high and the efforts given by those who volunteered to carry out field surveys, help with events, call on landowners, and find previously unrecorded sites – the project could not operate without such commitment by so many.

Furthermore, I am grateful to those specialists across the globe who kindly offered expert opinions, data and suggestions. Lastly, thanks to the archaeologists who assisted the associated research excavations, funded by the Royal Irish Academy and Leitrim County Council, and the landowners who permitted access in each instance also.

iii. List of Plates

Plate 1: Greaghmagloach Sweathouse LE016-024	5
Plate 2: Inside of entrance at Tullynahaiia Sweathouse (LE019-008)	6
Plate 3: Training session at Mountallen	7
Plate 4: Training session at Killadiskert	8
Plate 5: Training session at Gortnaskeagh	9
Plate 6: Largandill LE018-075 in 1992 from SW (courtesy of G Burns)	11
Plate 7: Largandill LE018-075 in 2022 from S (by A Harte)	11
Plate 8: Tullynahaiia LE019-005 in 1992 from SW (courtesy of G Burns)	11
Plate 9: Tullynahaiia LE019-005 in 2022 from SE (photo by G Gibbons)	11
Plate 10: Front part of ceiling at Kiltyclogher 2	13
Plate 11: Ardagh (Gilbride) Sweathouse from north	13
Plate 12: View of Alteenacres Glebe at the end of excavation	15
Plate 13: Killadiskert, stone lined drain and entrance from west	16
Plate 14: Cattan end of excavation	17
Plate 15: Publicity for the Connecting through Heritage event	19
Plate 16: Part of the 'Ask About Archaeology' poster	20
Plate 17: Kiltyclogher Heritage Centre (photo: C. Rock)	20
Plate 18: National Heritage Week County Award	21
Plate 19: Rebuilt Sweathouse at Briscloonagh LE012-043 (photo by G Burns)	25

iv. List of Tables

Table 1: Chart showing Sweathouse condition percentages	22
Table 2: Roof survival and type as percentages	26
Table 3: the current state of preservation of Sweathouses as marked on different editions of the Ordnance Survey mapping	27
Table 4: Breakdown of nearest water source by type	27
Table 5: Chart showing entrance orientation	30

v. List of Figures

Figure 1: Sweathouses surveyed in 2022, with all other Sweathouses across Co. Leitrim	10
Figure 2: Recently discovered Sweathouses in Co. Leitrim	12
Figure 3: Locations of excavations in relation to Leitrim Sweathouses and those in surrounding counties	14
Figure 4: Map showing the preservation of Sweathouses across Co. Leitrim	23
Figure 5: Sweathouse chamber size (width) in metres	28
Figure 6: Sweathouse chamber shape in plan	29
Figure 7: Core Area identified in green containing 171 Sweathouses	33
Figure 8: Scaled plan Carrickrevagh	34
Figure 9: Scaled plan Corracloona	34
Figure 10: Scaled plan Kiltyclogher 2	34
Figure 11: Scaled plan Cloone	34

1 Introduction

The Leitrim Sweathouse Project is a community heritage initiative to research Sweathouses across Co. Leitrim. This year saw Phase II of the project implemented, funded by the Heritage Council and supported by Leitrim County Council. This report details the project in 2022 from the 28th of March to the 28th of October.

The aim of this project is to provide opportunities for people to engage with the traditions of sweathouses in Leitrim, through a coordinated programme of heritage activities and events. While COVID-19 restricted much of this activity in 2021, this year saw a return to outdoor events and surveys. It also sought to engage with Landowners, in order to gain access to sites but also in terms of protection and preservation of Sweathouses into the future. The archival research and oral history collection stages carried out in Phase I were also continued and built upon further. However, this report should be read in conjunction with the report from 2021, to avoid repetition.

There were four principal objectives to the project in 2022.

- Community Research - Train and Supervise Volunteers in archaeological field surveying methods to apply to Leitrim's Sweathouses.
- To produce Sweathouse Conservation Guidelines
- Promote the project and provide outreach events and a Heritage Week event.
- To report fully on phase II of the project, update GIS mapping and submitted Monument Reports to the National Monuments Service.



Plate 1: Greaghmagloach Sweathouse LE016-024----

It was known from 2021 that there was interest in researching Sweathouses from local communities across Co. Leitrim. Working only from archaeological surveys, made mostly in the 1990s, a significant database of sites was created. However, there were obvious gaps in the information that could only be resolved through on-site surveys. Therefore, training project volunteers in the methods and techniques needed to collect standardised, useful data in the field was a top priority. Unfortunately, far more people expressed interest in participating in these workshops than could be accommodated. Those that did take part, gained insight into the information that is needed to measure, photograph, and draw these structures accurately. It was also an opportunity to learn how sites are differentiated for one another and identify risks to the preservation of Sweathouse structures.

The conservation needs of Sweathouses in Co. Leitrim was a particular focus in this phase. Numerous factors were found to be threats to their survival as upstanding structures. An attempt to quantify and qualify these impacts has been made, and guidelines refined in as clear a way as possible.

The objectives at the beginning of the project were also continued. Therefore, engagement with the media, and raising awareness of Sweathouses was again a significant task. The promotion of the project last year also paid dividends in that those who had carried out previous surveys (but had never registered the results) contacted the project, providing yet more data to supplement that from the Archaeological Survey of Ireland. Oral histories, while not a primary focus, also came to light giving incredible insights into Sweathouse use in Co. Leitrim in the first half of the twentieth century.

This report seeks to outline the totality of activities undertaken this year and bring together diverse forms and sources of information to further our understanding of Leitrim's Sweathouses. It does so using GIS mapping and analysis but also by traditional means it provides protections by creating an archive and submitting records for posterity. Finally, it suggests option for further research and measures that might still increase our knowledge of Sweathouses and see that they remain a distinct part of the landscape of Co. Leitrim.



Plate 2: Inside of entrance at Tullynahaha Sweathouse (LE019-008----

2 Archaeological Field Survey

The importance of meaningful archaeological field survey cannot be understated. It acts as a snapshot in time of a particular archaeological site. From this surface examination an enormous amount of information can be gathered. Past surveys have all too often put in substantial efforts to get to the location of a Sweathouse only under-record the site, for instance measure the diameter but not the entrance. The training workshops in 2022 proved that interested volunteers could easily be equipped with the basics of field surveying so that such missed opportunities would not occur. The result is that there are now up-to-date surveys for many almost 40 Sweathouses.

2.1 Field Survey Training

A call for participants for the field survey was made in April on all media platforms and by email. There was an overwhelming response from Co. Leitrim and even people all across the country. Three dates and locations were selected in an effort to suit as many volunteers as possible – midweek and weekends, at three different locations from Manorhamilton to Drumshanbo.

An archaeological field survey prompt sheet was created to assist volunteers in their surveys. This meant that the same data was being collected by each participant, information that would be expected to be recorded by any trained archaeologist. The prompt sheet is given in Appendix A.



Plate 3: Training session at Mountallen

2.2 Training Workshops/Sessions

A call for participants for the field survey was made in April on all media platforms and by email. There was an overwhelming response from Co. Leitrim and even people all across the country. Three dates and locations were selected in an effort to suit as many volunteers as possible – midweek and weekends, three different locations from Manorhamilton to Drumshanbo.

The first session was held on the Bank Holiday Monday, 6th June, from 2pm. This was at Mountallen Eco Tours, a short distance from Drumshanbo, where a very well maintained but roofless Sweathouse with parking nearby (Plate 3). The session was attended by 13 participants and genuine thanks to Mr Thomas Early for facilitating the group and maintaining the Sweathouse.



Plate 4: Training session at Killadiskert

The second session took place on Wednesday the 8th of June, at 2pm, at an accessible Sweathouse at Killadiskert, 4 km east of Drumkeeran. In horrendous weather conditions, most of the training was done indoors before venturing out to the Sweathouse itself (Plate 4). Seven project volunteers braved the elements and thanks to the landowner, Mr Joe Early, for permitting access.

A third and final training session was held at on Saturday the 18th of June, at 10am. This was on the farm of Mr James Gilmartin, and the session was attended by nine participants. The site in question was a possible Sweathouse that is much more likely to have been a limekiln (Plate 5). The method of carrying out the archaeological field survey is the same, but the limekiln provided a great opportunity to show how to tell the difference between these very similar structures.

In total, 26 project volunteers were trained to record Sweathouses as archaeological monuments. Furthermore, at each training session, a project health and safety statement was explained and appreciated, and fundamentals, such as landowners permission etc., clarified. The project volunteers were covered by County Council insurance for the duration of the project in 2022, but it was essential that they signed and complied with the project safety statement and completed a site-specific risk

assessment prior to conducting any field surveys. The template used for the risk assessment is given in Appendix B).



Plate 5: Training session at Gortnaskeagh

2.3 Results of Sweathouse Field Surveys

Archaeological field surveys were carried out between June and September. Project Volunteers went out in groups of two or more, conducted risk assessments and spoke to Landowners prior to conducting these surveys.

In total, field surveys of 40 Sweathouses or Sweathouse sites have been carried out in 2022. Over 50 separate locations were investigated. This provided a good coverage across the county (Figure 1). Seven of these sites were those re-discovered in 2021, while seven more were newly located in 2022, and the remainder had been previously recorded by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland.

The main difficulty encountered was where surveyors could not locate or contact the landowner. Farmers and landowners were generally very helpful and cooperative. Project Volunteers tended to work in their own locality, which was best in terms of contacting owners. A second issue was the extent of vegetation growth meant many sites were inaccessible. It was foreseen that conducting field surveys at the height of summer was going to be a challenge, however growth was particularly strong this year. During winter months much of the vegetation has died back and stone structures, such as these, are less hidden and more accessible.



Figure 1: Sweathouses surveyed in 2022, with all other Sweathouses across Co. Leitrim

Many other sites were also surveyed but turned out not to be Sweathouses. These included Limekilns at Meeneymore, Corraclona, Kiltyclogher, Lurganboy, Cattan, Gortnaskeagh and two at Kiltybarden. It is possible that some Sweathouses, once unroofed became used as limekilns. Other sites inspected were small dwellings or outhouses at Faughery a well-house at Kiltyclogher, a reported Sweathouse at Poundhill and another on the upper slopes of Barrs East, neither of which any trace could be found. The latter may have been completely destroyed since it was last reported 30 years ago. The site of a Still house was also visited at Gortnaguinnell.

Notably, of the 26 Sweathouses previously recorded by the Archaeological Survey (Moore 2003) that were visited by Project Volunteers, 11 are officially recorded as having no visible surface trace. However, during the survey it was found that, almost half of these (45%) did in fact remain to some degree. One remained entirely intact, two more were ruined, and yet two more had distinct traces of

wall etc. This questions the reliability of the of the record for the 32 Sweathouse sites that are recorded as having no trace but have yet to be surveyed in this project.

Other surveys undertaken in the past are therefore of utmost importance. Mr Gabriel (Gaby) Burns carried out a survey of Sweathouses in 1992 covering Co. Fermanagh and parts of counties Leitrim, Cavan and Roscommon (Burns 1992). He generously gave his time to forward data that he collected back in the early 1990's, including locations measurements and photographs. Unfortunately, his discoveries were not reported to the Archaeological Survey of Ireland at that time – while they were still surveying in Co. Leitrim up until 2003 – meaning that that his survey work remained largely undocumented for 30 years. For example, the Sweathouse at Largandill (LE018-075----) was recorded as in 1991 as *'Not visible at ground level'* (Moore 2003, 225) yet G. Burns photographed the site in 1992 (Plate 6). In 2008, the Archaeological survey updated the online record to *'it might still survive'*, possibly owing to it being surveyed once again by Bolton in 2005. Finally, it was surveyed for a third time in 2022 and while in a deteriorating condition is still largely extant (Plate 7).



Plate 6: Largandill LE018-075 in 1992 from SW (courtesy of G Burns)



Plate 7: Largandill LE018-075 in 2022 from S (by A Harte)



Plate 8: Tullynahaia LE019-005 in 1992 from SW (courtesy of G Burns)



Plate 9: Tullynahaia LE019-005 in 2022 from SE (photo by G Gibbons)

Another instance is the Sweathouse at Tullynahaia (LE019-005----) which was recorded in by the Archaeological Survey in 1991 as *'Not visible at ground level'* (Moore 2003, 227), and yet Burns,

together with archaeologist Simon Large, again had photographed and measured the structure in 1992 (Plate 8). This year in the course of the Leitrim sweathouse project, the same site was surveyed but only a trace remained (Plate 9). Had this Sweathouse been recorded officially as an intact example would this have helped protect or preserve it? It is difficult to say with certainty, but it highlights the need for accurate surveying particularly when assessing vulnerable Sweathouse sites.

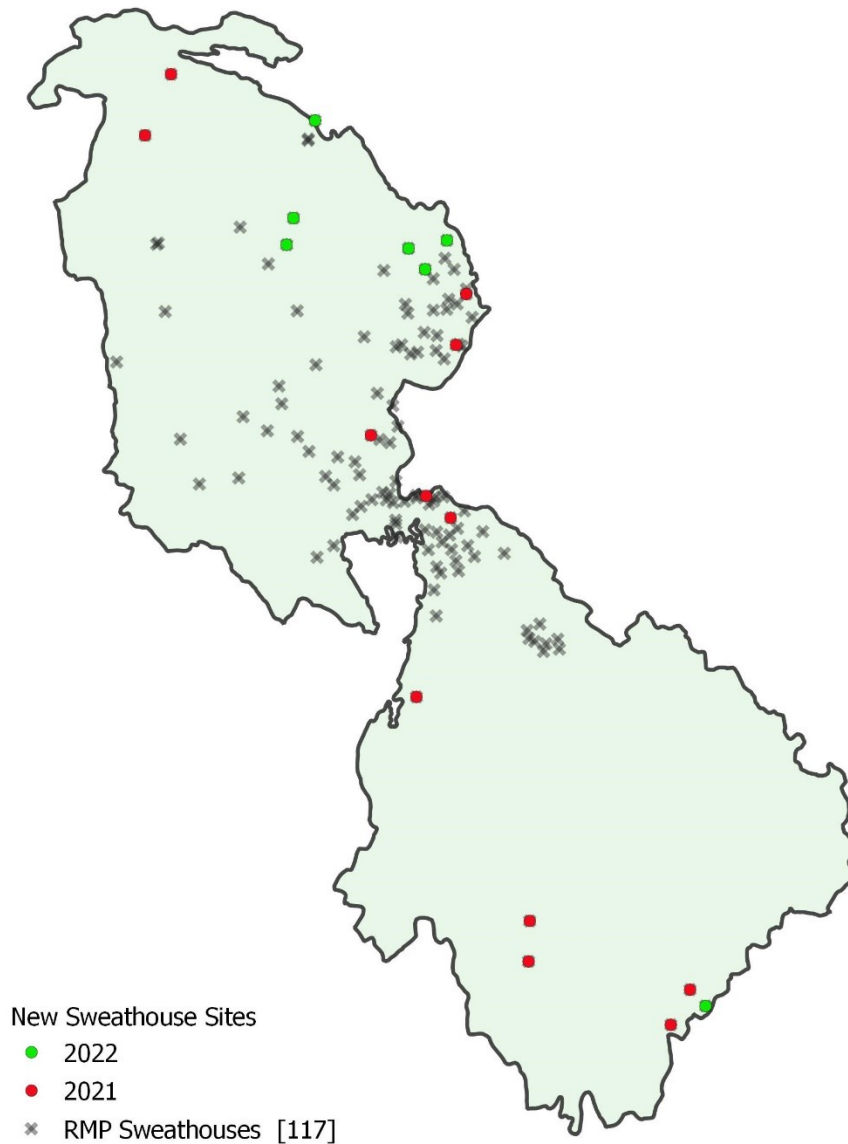


Figure 2: Recently discovered Sweathouses in Co. Leitrim

New sites were discovered at seven locations, one at the south of the county and six in the Kiltyclogher region (Figure 2). The three sites south of Kiltyclogher village are all intact and not marked on any previous maps. All are perfect examples of Sweathouses, especially the southernmost one, but even this has become unstable and requires urgent conservation if it is to remain standing (Plate 10). One on the south shore of Lough Melvin has just recently collapsed, the tree roots which caused this still reflecting the original roof shape (Plate 11). Two found on the Owenbeg River, north of Manorhamilton, appear on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (1836) and in no subsequent editions.



Plate 10: Front part of ceiling at Kiltyclogher 2

One at Brackery More is in poor ruinous condition¹ and there is no trace of the one at Brackery Beg. Similarly, the example near the Co. Longford border is at Fearglass North. This is depicted as a roofless circle, 2-3m in diameter, on the 25-inch O.S. map (1907) but was 'cleared' by hand in the 1970s. Local information states that it was a sweathouse. Each of these 'new' Sweathouse Sites has been reported to the National Monuments Service and the Monument Report forms are provided in Appendix E.

Apart from these new discoveries, further information about further potential sites was given to the project. Because Sweathouses are so often positioned along townland boundaries the names of these locations can get confused. However, careful comparison of the 117 sites recorded so far means that other mentioned sites still have potential. Most of these cases derived from Burns' survey and are often accompanied by photos. These potential Sweathouse locations and details are given in Appendix C.



Plate 11: Ardagh (Gilbride) Sweathouse from north

¹ interestingly this is also noted by Burns but as 'site only' demonstrating that no survey is perfect

2.4 Excavations

While strictly not part of this project, an allied *Sweathouse Excavations Project* was funded by the Royal Irish Academy and Leitrim County Council. Obviously, any such programme of excavations was informed by the research of this project and all excavations were undertaken in Co. Leitrim. The pre-existing research from 2021 provided the ideal background information. Three sites were selected were Alteenacres Glebe, Killadiskert and Cattan (Figure 3).

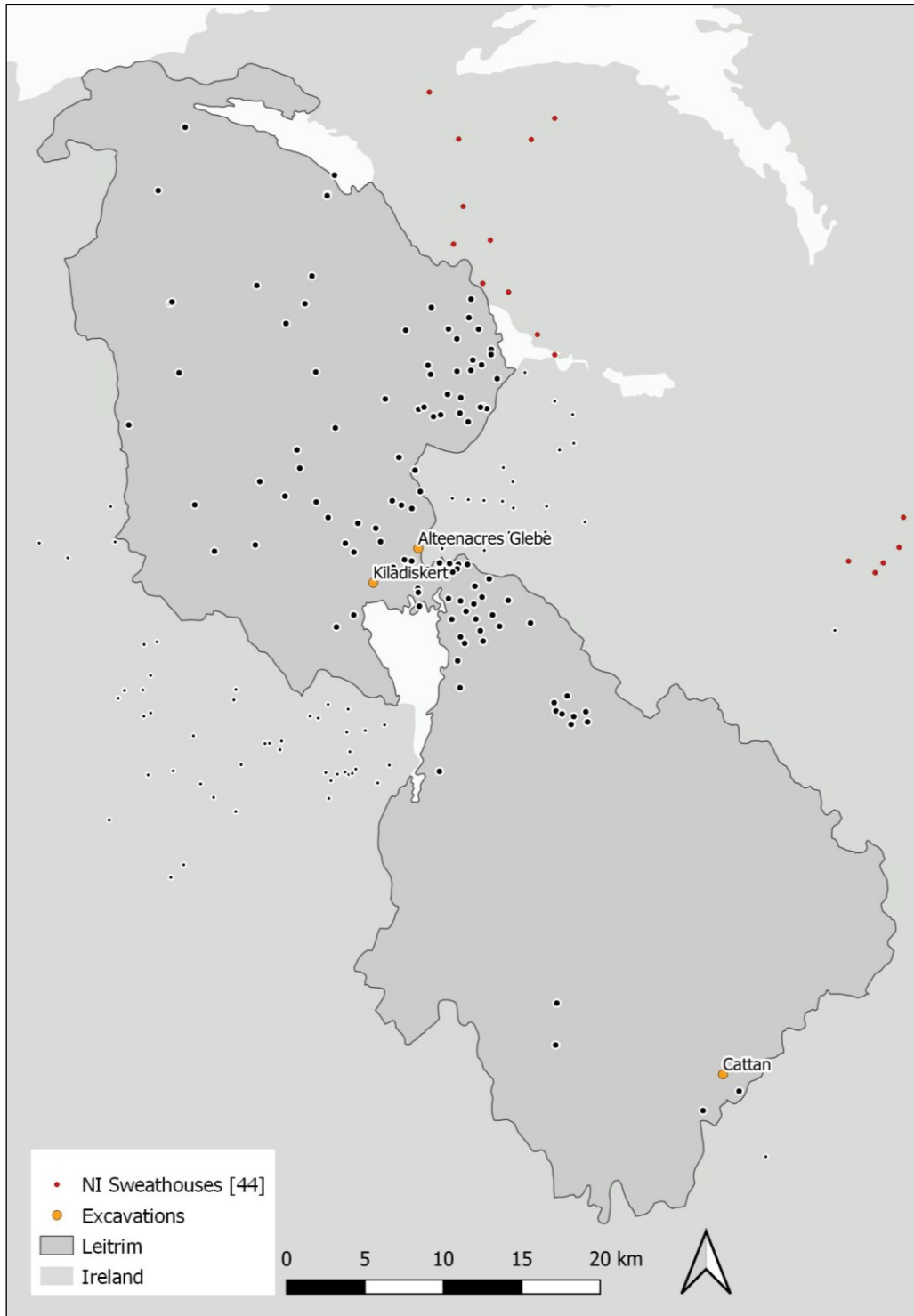


Figure 3: Locations of excavations in relation to Leitrim Sweathouses and those in surrounding counties

There has been an absence of archaeological excavation of the Irish Sweathouse as a site type. Our knowledge of these structures relies heavily on antiquarian accounts and as such their chronology is poorly understood. The purpose of the excavations was principally to retrieve samples for radiocarbon dating but also to see what further information might be collected from such investigations (such as the fuel-types used and the internal floor layout of different Sweathouse types).

Each Sweathouse site offered a different level of preservation. Killadiskert (RMP No.: LE018-062), north of Lough Allen, survives almost intact, with just a few capstones collapsed into the interior. Also in the core area, 3.6km to the northeast, the Sweathouse at Alteenacres Glebe (RMP No.: LE016-023) is a mound, seemingly collapsed inwards and was much disturbed. The site at Cattan, 8km southeast of Mohill, in the south of the county, was discovered in 2021 and was considered the location of a collapsed or infilled Sweathouse, of which only a slight depression remained at the surface. The following outlines a brief description of each excavation in the order in which they were carried out.

Alteenacres Glebe was excavated under licence 22E0288. The site is recorded as a '*Vapour Bath*' on the 1835 edition O.S. map, and subsequently as '*Sweat House*', and now survives as a collapsed mound in forestry plantation. It had not yet collapsed by the late 1970s (Weir 1979) and remained to a height of 1.8m into the 1990s (Burns 1992). In 2021, the internal diameter was recorded as 2.8m and no internal measurements were recorded prior to this. The excavated trench included the circular internal area of the Sweathouse chamber with an extension 2.4m to the southeast, 1m in width.



Plate 12: View of Alteenacres Glebe at the end of excavation

The chamber was represented by a floor comprising both cobbles- and flag- stones set tightly, intermittently bound by the basal course of the structural walls. The heat-effected floor and lower course of wall masonry defined an almost circular area, 1.84m N-S x 1.76m. The entrance was 0.52m

in width and at least 0.6m in length and opened to the southeast. From the entrance, a series of large stones stepped down in the direction of the river (2.5m to south). The path/steps became covered by burnt rake-out, mound slippage and weathered debris throughout the sites period of use. Within the chamber, only thin remnants of burning episodes remained.

There was not enough stone within the collapsed mound to have formed either the walls or roof of the Sweathouse chamber. The mound material had subsided into the central depression. Although severely impacted by roots from nearby trees – planted in the 1990s – it appears that the masonry of the structure was purposefully ‘robbed-out’ prior to this.

Almost all the sampled burnt material consisted of turf embers. Charcoal was recovered from the steps outside the entrance (alder) and within the collapsed mound material (oak), and the former has been forwarded for radiocarbon dating. The site was backfilled and secured to allow the backfilled material to settle.

Killadiskert was excavated under licence 22E0289. The Sweathouse is one of two surviving in this



Plate 13: Killadiskert, stone lined drain and entrance from west

townland, but this example had previous been recorded as ‘*Not visible at ground level.*’ (Moore 2003, 222). However, the site was located in 2021 during the Leitrim Sweathouse Project. The upstanding corbelled dry-stone structure is 2.15m in height, built into a field boundary, with a low entrance opening to west. The structure is drystone built, corbelled, with a large capstone collapsed into the sub-circular chamber (1.64m x 1.54m).

The western half of the interior was excavated, through the entrance, where a 1m wide trench extended out 1.8m. Only deposits above the floor were excavated internally. This found a level flagstone floor, with very thin overlying deposits and only trace indications of burning activity. The flagstones continued through the 0.46m wide entrance. Having both the floor and top lintels of the entrance, a minimum height of 0.53m was measured. Outside, to west, a wide gully ran alongside the field boundary, but only a couple of metres either side of the Sweathouse. A series of large stones formed stepping-stones

leading up to the entrance. Around the base of these stones, a thin burnt deposit was the remnant of burnt material removed from the chamber. Beneath the stepping-stone nearest the entrance, a stone-line drain crossed the trench from north to south. This appears to have been used to keep the Sweathouse dry but may also have provided water to a pool further downslope.

A single find of a partial leather shoe was recovered from the upper fill of the drain and is likely post-medieval in date (*pers. comm.* M Hurley May 2022). All samples were sieved and showed an abundance of turf embers. Charred reeds were also noted from immediately outside the entrance. Charcoal (alder and blackthorn/cherry) recovered from both outside and inside the chamber have been sent for radiocarbon dating. The site was backfilled and cordoned off to allow the backfilled materials to settle.

The final site, at Cattan, was excavated under licence 22E0389. Local information was that a circular depression, c. 4m dia., was the 'place always referred to as a Sweathouse' and that it had had a tunnel or entrance that opened to the west (*i.e.* downslope). This was where the excavation was undertaken at this location.

The structure excavated was a drying kiln, most likely for cereal-drying. This comprised of a funnel shaped bowl, with stone lining, 2.9m in diameter at the top and narrowing to a base c. 1.45m in diameter. It had a depth of 1.28m with a stone-lined flue opening at the base to the west (H: 0.48m; W: 0.62m). A second trench was opened 0.4m to the west. The flue was again located but the capping lintels did not remain after a combined length of 2.6m but the side-walls did continue beyond this trench. A third trench at 1.2m further west, found no evidence of the flue or burning activity. Therefore, the flue length was originally >3m but <4.3m. a small amount of burnt material was found at the base of the flue in Trench 2. Only sparse evidence of burnt material was found within the bowl area, however, several wooden branches were preserved here. These were arranged in such a way as to suggest that they may have been used as a drying rack. Broken fragments of this wood (alder and willow) were sampled for radiocarbon dating. About a third of this material was excavated. The timber at the base was covered with breathable membrane and the site was backfilled, with finer sediments at the base. The sod was replaced at the surface.



Plate 14: Cattan end of excavation

3 Media, Outreach & Heritage Events

A required output again this year was to promote the project through social-, and mainstream-media. It also required that three outreach events be organised and an event for Heritage Week 2022. The following outlines the almost continual social media engagement, organised activities, interviews, and events in this phase of the project.

3.1 Social Media

The social media platforms were very successful at engaging the wider community in 2021. This was continued this year, as a way for people to contact the project and a means of spreading the findings of the project quickly. Follower numbers on Facebook more than doubled (to 1,132) with posts reaching numbers in excess of this. Similarly, on Twitter the Leitrim Sweathouse Project account also more than doubled its followers (to 394) with some Tweets being seen by up to 39,000 people and the project profile was visited approximately 14,000 times over the last 6 months.

Social media was particularly valuable in disseminating the findings of the Sweathouse Excavations Project. This cross-over meant that insight into Sweathouses through excavation raised awareness of these structures. The most popular tweets in relation to this were those of the excavations at Cattan (17k impressions) and Alteenacres Glebe (14k impressions), which really captured peoples' imaginations. Other posts by followers of the project such as Three Provinces Heritage, who posted on the excavations at Cattan had a good response, as did the discovery of a previously unrecorded Sweathouse in Co. Tipperary by 'The Tipperary Antiquarian', Derek Ryan.

It was due to this online presence that the acclaimed U.S. photographer and journalist, and author of 'Sweat', Mikkel Aaland contact the project. An online meeting with Aaland explored the international comparisons for Irish Sweathouses, from Mexico to Russia and beyond (Japan). A native of Norway, Aaland travelled the globe in the 1970s researching his book 'Sweat', but never visited Ireland due to the Troubles. He recently completed a documentary series, 'Perfect Sweat', exploring sweating traditions across seven countries. He was therefore interested in the similarities and differences in the Irish tradition. He also requested that some details from this project be presented at the International Sauna Congress in Stuttgart, Germany. Anthony Weir, who published extensively on Irish Sweathouses in the 1970s and 1980s also emailed the project to offer his support.

Website <http://leitrimcoco.ie/eng/Community-Culture/Heritage/Archaeological-Heritage/Sweat-House-Project/>



@leitrimswethouse
<https://www.facebook.com/Leitrim-Sweathouse-Project-109142071357685>



@lsweathouse
<https://twitter.com/LSweathouse?s=20>

3.2 Lectures, Events & Interviews

A lecture on the project was given by the Project Coordinator on the 15th of September, at The Dock, Carrick-on-shannon. This was part of the Connecting Through Heritage series of events. It was well attended with excellent questions and observations made following the talk.



Plate 15: Publicity for the Connecting through Heritage event

Less formally, the Project Coordinator attended an outdoor meeting of the Farming for Biodiversity in Leitrim group, where it met at Pollboy on the 2nd of September. This meeting was primarily dealing with the introduction of the ARES programme – of which archaeological heritage is a part – and the Farmers in attendance were told a little about the Leitrim Sweathouse project and invited to make contact with any information or advice they may have, particularly pertaining to proposed Conservation Guidelines. Furthermore, it was also arranged that A. Harte would chair a session on Cultural Heritage on the 6th of October, as part of a larger workshop on Farming for Biodiversity. Unfortunately, this was cancelled by the organisers.

As previously mentioned, Artists supported by the Creative Ireland programme, were also part of the Sweathouse project. An 'Art Experience' in response the Sweathouse project was organised by the artists and

held at St, Hugh's Well and Sweathouse on the 25th of September. This brought together sound, words and image projections, ceramic vessels with acoustics and materials associated with Sweathouses. It was open to project participants and their friends and families and highlighted the diversity of experience that relate to Sweathouses.

Interviews about Leitrim Sweathouses were given to Shannonside radio on the 12th of May and again on the 19th of August. The Leitrim Observer had coverage on the project on the 24th of August and again on the 13th of October.

In early August, the Leitrim Sweathouse Project Co-ordinator gave an extensive interview to London-based journalist and author Emma Kelly. She is currently writing a book about sauna culture all over the world, along with Finnish photographer Maija Astikainen. The book is due to be published in September 2023 by Welbeck publishing.

There are also planned outreach publications in relation to the Sweathouse excavations described in Section 2.4. It has also been agreed that Aidan Harte will join archaeologist Neil Jackman in recording a Leitrim Sweathouse program for the Amplify Archaeology Podcast. This is a podcast popular with heritage professionals and the general public and is a great opportunity to deliver an in-depth discussion on the topic. This is scheduled for January 2023.

The articles written and interviews recorded continue to reverberate throughout Ireland and beyond. Unfortunately, some facts can go by the wayside, for example, an Irish website states 'Did you know

that Sweathouses have been around since the 1600's in Ireland? As reported in the *Leitrim Sweathouse Project...*². The short answer is we did not. However, widespread communication of these sites can only be helpful in creating broadening awareness. Such a benefit can be illustrated by recent excavations in Australia, where an Archaeologist, Dr Susan Arthure, believes she has discovered a Sweathouse at a 19th century Irish immigrant settlement in New South Wales³. We have been in touch with Dr Arthure and look forward to comparing notes to see if this really is the case.

3.3 Heritage Week



Plate 16: Part of the 'Ask About Archaeology' poster

Aware that almost every part of Co. Leitrim has archaeology which is either under-recorded in official registers or sometimes understood by the community, it was proposed to run 'Ask About Archaeology' events. This invited local communities to come along and tell us what they had found or sites they knew about. It also offered the chance for young and old to call-in to a familiar setting and ask about archaeological sites or

objects they were unsure about.

Two events were held. The first, at Mohill Library on Friday 19th August (2-5pm), used the front space, with seating and library resources set out as well as refreshments. The second event was held at Kiltyclogher Heritage Centre, on Saturday 20th August (10am-1.15pm), with a large table at the centre of their in-house exhibition. Great thanks must go to both the library staff at Mohill and the staff at Kiltyclogher who were enthusiastic and of great assistance at every stage.

Locals who attended for the most part wanted to ask about archaeology in their locality, on topics as diverse as the Legend of Dothar-Chú, retting pits for flax, cross slabs, Churches and Tower houses, and of course Sweathouses. We hope that it was worthwhile to those who attended and thank them for their interest in the counties' heritage.



Plate 17: Kiltyclogher Heritage Centre (photo: C. Rock)

² <https://hookpeninsula.com/guide/sweathouse-sauna>

³ <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-10-08/irish-village-bakers-flat-a-place-of-sweat-after-famine/101499096>

The 'Ask About Archaeology' Heritage Week events were the winners of the National Heritage Week award for Co. Leitrim.



Plate 18: National Heritage Week County Award

3.4 Artists

This year three Artists were attached to the project. These were Laura Gallagher, Natalia Beylis and Kate Murtagh Sheridan with a project entitled 'Monumental Healing'. Their project sought to follow the project, and the volunteers and local communities that engaged with it, towards an examination of the Sweathouses in shape, sound, materials and memory. Further details can be found at www.creativeireland.gov.ie/en/event/monumental-healing-a-project-with-leitrim-sweat-house-volunteer-group/. They have compiled hours of audio and video of sites, volunteers and landowners and presented an outdoor exhibition for project volunteers at St. Hughs well and Sweathouse, Cleighranmore, on the 25th of September.

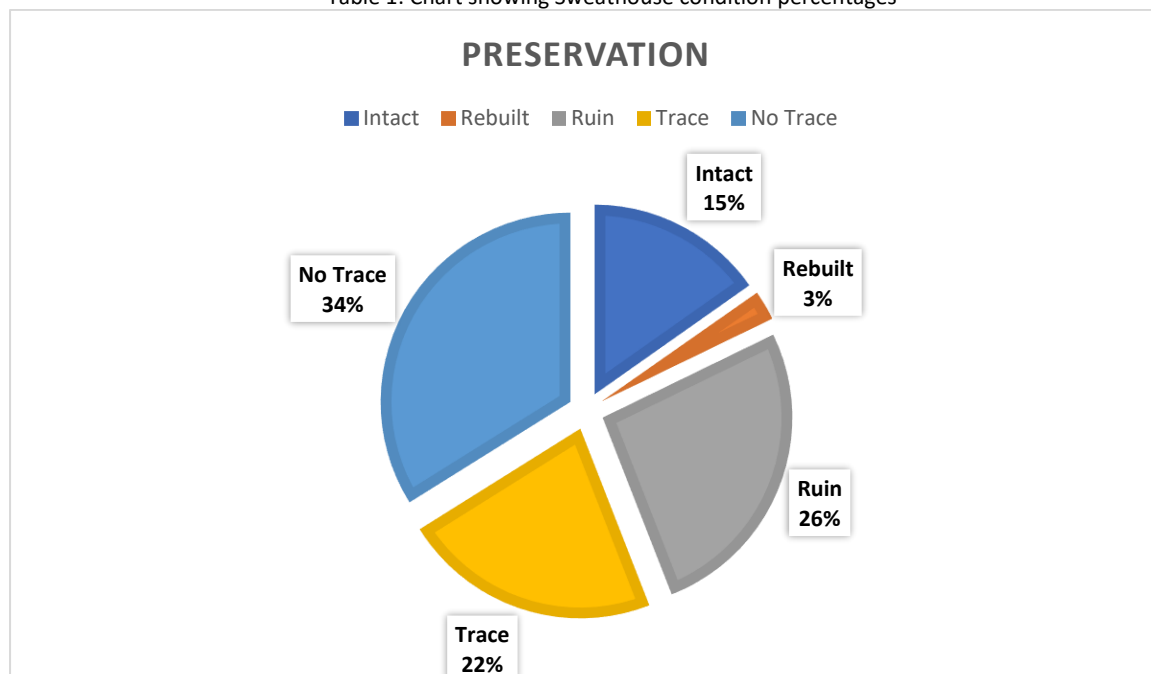
It must also be acknowledged that these artists also did considerable field survey work, right across the county, joining the local field surveyors as they searched for sites.

4 Conservation Guidelines

One of the principle aims of the Leitrim Sweathouse Project in 2022 was to further our understanding of the condition of the many Sweathouses across the county and develop common sense guidelines on the protect and conservation of these sites. There are a lot of general guidelines and an equal amount of legislation. Yet, each and every site will be different and so any guidelines are just that, and not to be seen as instructions. To this end, the Conservation Guidelines for Sweathouses was produced as an information booklet, in as simple and clear terms as possible (see Leitrim County Council website).

From the amalgamation of all available data, it seems that 17 Sweathouses remain intact – that is with a roof remaining. This low number must be seen in the context of these sites being susceptible to collapse because of several factors. Refinement the categories used in 2021 to describe collapse or preservation was necessary, as sites deemed collapsed accounted for 84% of the total. We do know that many sites that cannot be considered intact are still extant to varying degrees. Therefore, three further classifications were applied: ‘Ruin’, ‘Trace’ and ‘No Trace’. A ‘ruin’ in this classification is a structure that has partially collapsed but has side walls and possibly an entrance. A ‘Trace’ site is a structure where the exact location of the sweathouse can be discerned but either a mound of collapsed stone, foundations of the walls or a hollow/depression where the Sweathouse once stood. This has allowed us to see that while there is still ‘No Trace’ of 40 Sweathouses, 31 are ruined structures, and 24 where there is a trace hollow or foundation of a Sweathouse remaining. There are 17 intact Sweathouses, excluding 3 rebuilt examples. Therefore, there is no trace of 34%, while 15% are in good condition.

Table 1: Chart showing Sweathouse condition percentages



The guidelines were compiled with these various states of preservation in mind. Where no trace remains of a Sweathouse, this does not mean there is no value in it. The setting and what remains beneath the modern ground surface can be significant in our understanding of such sites and the earliest examples of Sweathouses in Co. Leitrim are most likely those where there is no visible surface

trace today. Our understanding of where this activity was most intense would also be hindered, as shown in Figure 3.

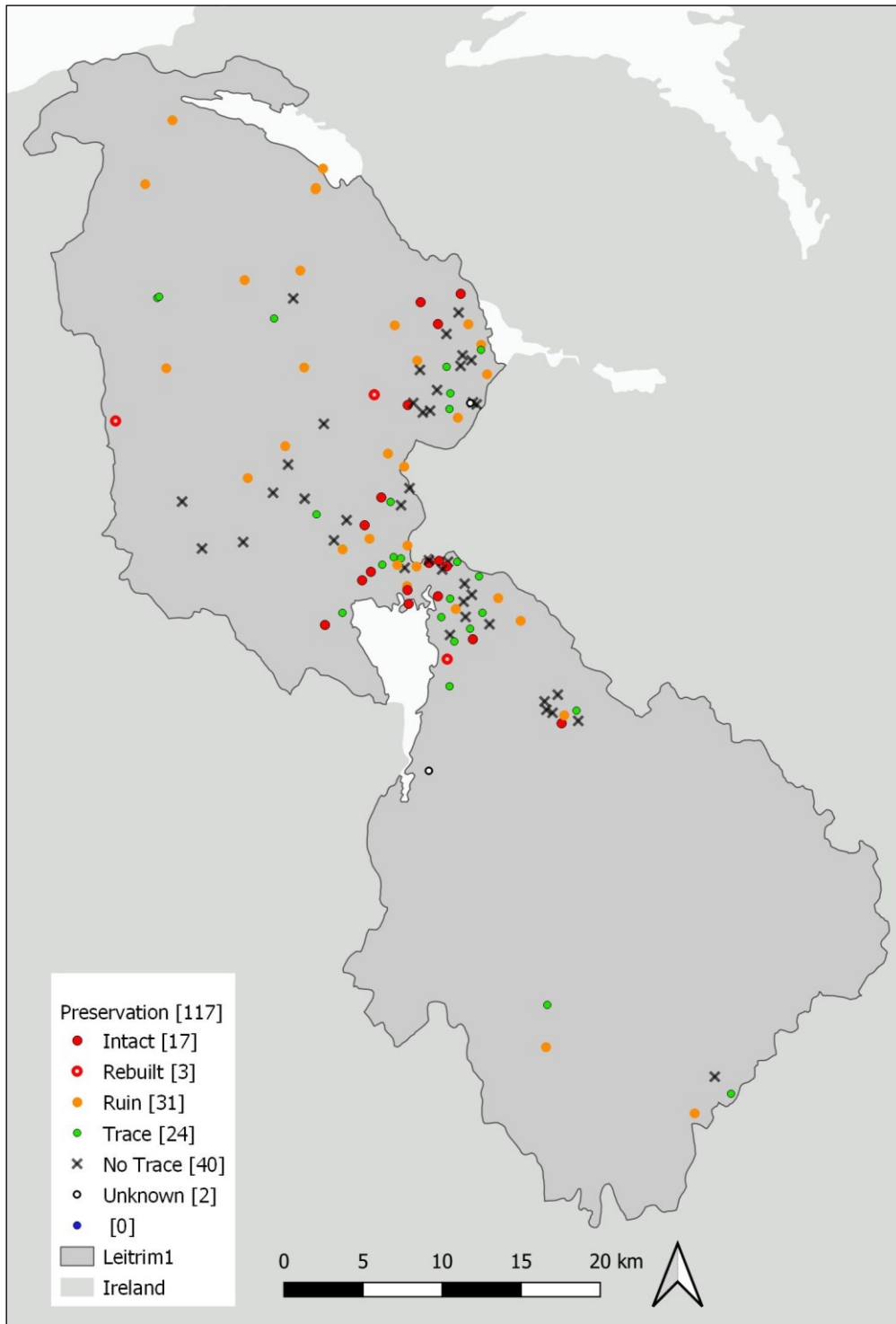


Figure 4: Map showing the preservation of Sweathouses across Co. Leitrim

In 2005, Dr Jason Bolton carried out a Sweathouse survey of a fixed number of sites for the purposes of determining their current condition, and to examine the potential for using these sites as part of walking routes in the Ballinamore to Lough Allen area. As an archaeologist with a PhD in architectural conservation, his findings and recommendations are enormously important. A total of 15 Sweathouses were within the study area, eight were examined, six of which selected for inclusion in

the walking routes, and two Sweathouses were recommended for conservation works (Bolton 2005). At each of the six sites selected for inclusion along walking routes, actions such as the removal of litter and spoil, fencing, and signposting were recommended. The repair works were advised for Gubnaveagh (LE021-002----) and Stralongford (misnamed in the report as it is the second site in Gubnaveagh LE021-001----). It is worth quoting both recommendations in full as good examples of what degree of works might be applied. The first states:

'Gubnaveagh sweathouse is in good condition and requires minimal conservation work to preserve the monument. The loose rubble masonry of the façade and conical mound should be secured and made safe. The work should be undertaken by a stonemason, preferably having previous experience with archaeological monuments and/or protected structures. The work should be undertaken with the supervision of a qualified archaeologist or the local heritage officer, and planning permission will be required from the Local Authority. Notification of any intended works should be submitted to the local planning authorities and to the relevant officials of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government. Please note that repair work should be minimal, confined to the securing of loose masonry units and that reconstruction should not be undertaken.' (Bolton 2005, 10).

The second refers to site LE021-001--- also in Gubnaveagh townland, and states:

'The site... requires urgent conservation work to ensure its survival. The two ash trees should be removed, with minimal repairs to the façade to secure loose rubble masonry. The work should be undertaken by a stonemason, preferably having previous experience with archaeological monuments and/or protected structures. The work should be undertaken with the supervision of a qualified archaeologist or the local heritage officer, and planning permission will be required from the Local Authority. The work should follow the following steps:

- *The ash trees should be cut off 30 cm above the root and removed. The exposed root should be treated with a suitable biocide to kill the plants and retard further growth.*
- *The trees should be allowed to die and the roots allowed to shrink – the monument should be monitored to note the effect of shrinkage on the monument and the immediate surrounding ground surface [shrinkage may cause structural faults in the monument].*
- *Once the biocide has taken full effect, the condition of the monument should be re-assessed with a view to removing the root system with minimal impact to the sweathouse.*
- *The root systems should be removed using hand tools, taking care not to unduly disturb the stone masonry.*
- *If the root systems have penetrated the structure, the top 1.5 m of the monument may have to be taken down and rebuilt in order to make the monument safe. In this case, the monument should be fully recorded, and each stone numbered prior to any work to allow an accurate reconstruction. Please note that further guidance should be sought from the planning authorities of the Local Authority*

and Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government prior to any work of this nature being carried out' (Bolton 2005, 11)

The removal of trees, as in the last case, is a good example as it occurs at numerous Sweathouses and Sweathouse sites across Co. Leitrim. Trees grow on the sides of these structures because there is well-drained soil and rock within the mound (particularly ash but also holly, willow and alder) and they survive as they do along any boundary. The problem is that roots widen the gap between the stones of the structure causing it to be less stable. Still worse is the fact that increased high winds and storms in the spring/summer when these trees are in leaf cause the tree to sway, putting the roots under pressure. All this action destabilises the structure. However, there is a danger in removing tree roots entirely and the use of biocide (as in the recommendation above) is probably best avoided unless immediate preservation work has been approved. The absence of roots leaves gaping holes in the once tight masonry and the structure even more prone to collapse.

The recommendation to remove 'litter and debris' at other sites (such as Slievenakilla) is important as debris can include fallen stones. This type of activity should only ever be done with the express consent of the National Monuments Service (Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage) in advance. The overall survey is informative, and the issues encountered are the very similar to those found during fieldwork in 2022.

It must be noted that currently two of the Sweathouses recorded in this project have been 'rebuilt' to some degree (Plate 16). This can be problematic as we often do not know from what basis they were rebuilt. The advice from the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage is that *'the primary aim of conservation is to prolong the life of something of value, and to do so in a way that protects what is valuable about it'* (Quinlan Hanna & Kelly, 2010, 22). If the size or orientation or setting of a Sweathouse is altered during rebuilding, then much of that value is lost.

Recommended guidelines that exist for building and archaeological conservation were consulted. These included the NIAH advice series on masonry ruins (Quinlan Hanna & Kelly, 2010) and the guidance for community archaeology projects (Heritage Council 2017). Furthermore, Dr Shirley Markley, an expert in historic building construction and lecturer at ATU Sligo provided advice and assistance specifically relating to ruinous Sweathouses, as did Dr Conor Shaw, a construction engineer, based at UCD.

The Sweathouse Conservation Guidelines document is available from the Leitrim County Council Heritage webpage.



Plate 19: Rebuilt Sweathouse at Briscloonagh LE012-043 (photo by G Burns)

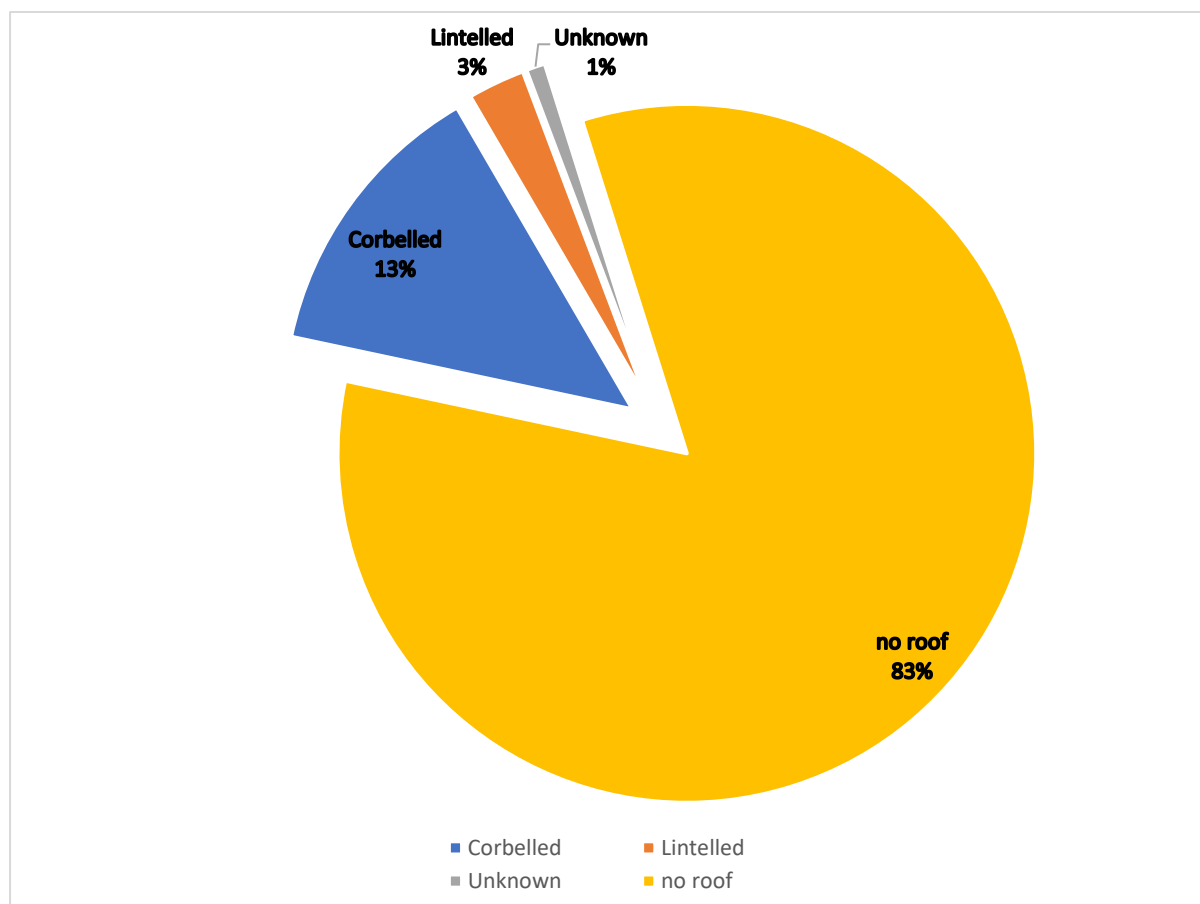
5 Results

5.1 GIS mapping and analysis

The following results are the product of the field survey work together with research from the period May – October 2022. There have been seven sites added to the database, 6 % that would be unlikely to change the results from last years analysis in themselves. However, the entire number of sites surveyed has provided additional and updated measurements for about 34% of sites and the notes provided by G. Burns also cover about 20% of sites (although there is considerable overlap). In contrast, three Sweathouses are known to have been rebuilt in recent decades (Briscloonagh, Kilmore and Cleighran More). The extent of rebuilding is unclear, as is the accuracy of the restoration, therefore the detailed data from these sites was omitted. The following are therefore the most significant findings.

The main function of the GIS was to reliably position each Sweathouse site within Co. Leitrim, and this is demonstrated in previous sections (Figures 1-3). The assessment of condition was progressed significantly this year. However, roofed structures still only accounted for 17% - 19 sites – and this can be broken down into those with corbelled or lintelled roofs. This simplified categorisation is also problematic as it assumes that both techniques are exclusive to one another. An unusual, pitched lintel – corbelling is see at a selection of sites in north Leitrim

Table 2: Roof survival and type as percentages



It was thought that charting the different editions of Ordnance Survey mapping may provide insight into rates of destruction as in 2021, 93% of the sites on the 1st edition 1836 map had collapsed with only 83% of later editions had collapsed (Harte 2021). It can be seen in Table 3 that the current preservation of Sweathouses is relatively similar regardless of have which edition of mapping it appears on. However, less Sweathouses are recorded on the 1830s map because of the scale, then more on the 1907 map because of its high resolution (*i.e.* 25-inch to the mile). Those that are not

Table 3: the current state of preservation of Sweathouses as marked on different editions of the Ordnance Survey mapping

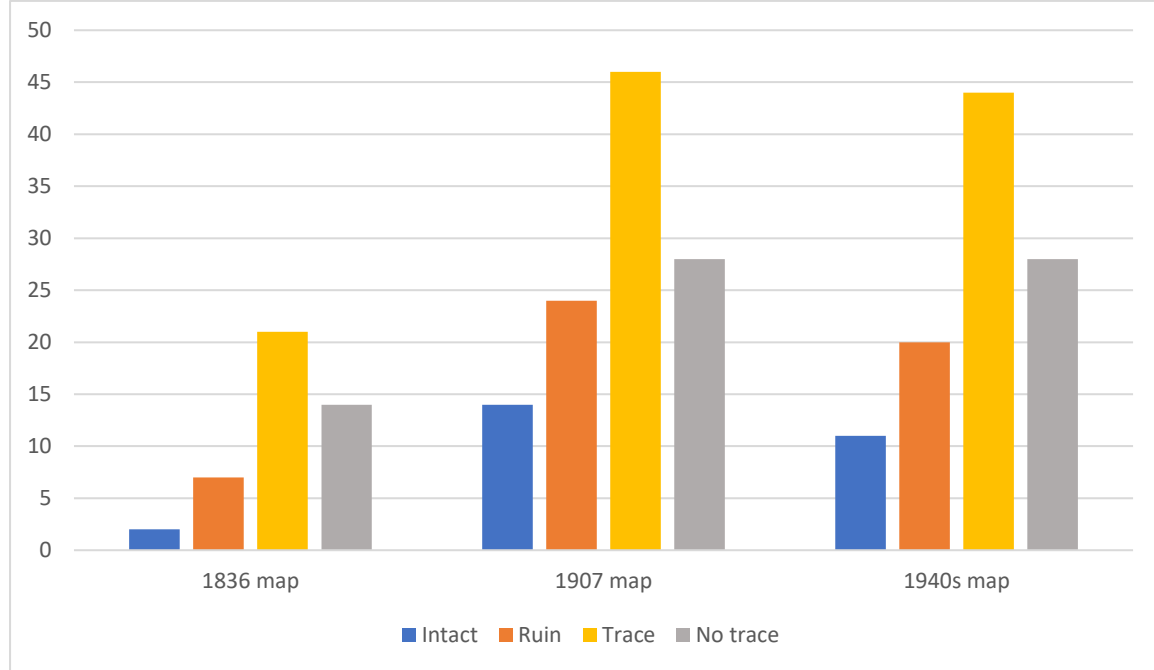
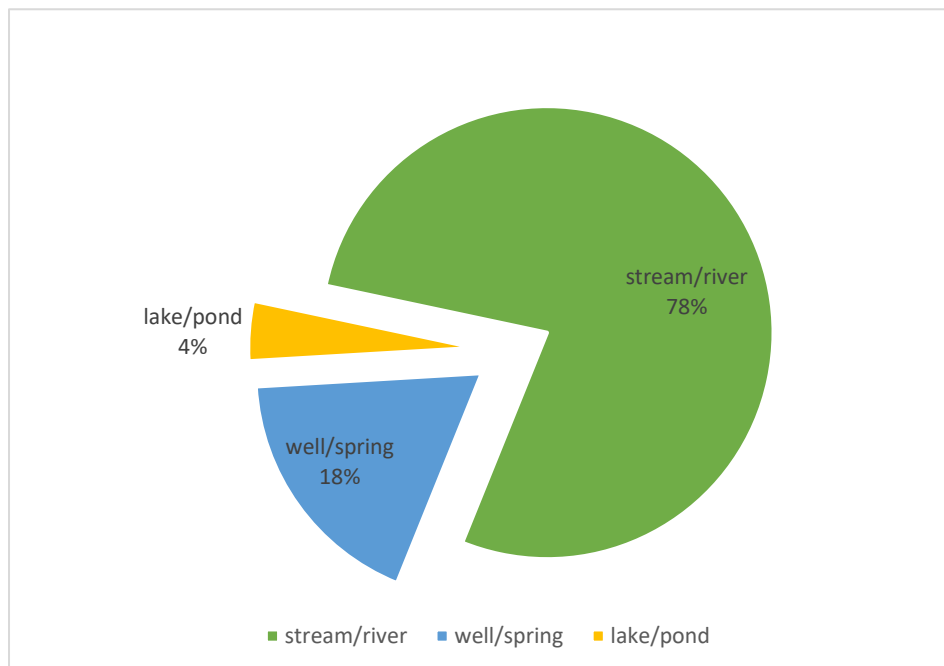


Table 4: Breakdown of nearest water source by type



redrawn on 20th century maps may be significant (21 Sweathouses, 10 of which are in the parish of Cloonclare). Similarly, 75 Sweathouses arrive on the 1907 map, having not appeared on the 1830s map. This marked increase is what is effectively shown in Table 3.

Several general aspects attributed to Sweathouse locations were analysed in 2021. To update the statistics provided then, 20 Sweathouses (17%) were found at 200m or more above sea-level, 79 sites (68%) were less than 100m from a structure, usually a dwelling house. This reaffirms that these structures were not located in isolated upland areas. The majority of the 117 were again shown to be close to water source – 73% within 40m. This was most often a river or stream, and unexpectedly low use of lakes or ponds (Table 4)

There remains relatively limited data on the Sweathouse structures themselves but a vast improvement on last year where less than a third of sites had internal dimensions noted. This number is now 52 (43%) and the maximum internal width of the interior ranged between 1.1m – 2.5m (see Figure 4). Large examples appear to be uncommon, just 5 have recorded widths greater than 2m, it may be noteworthy that 3 such chambers are rectangular in shape. The average internal width is 1.62m.

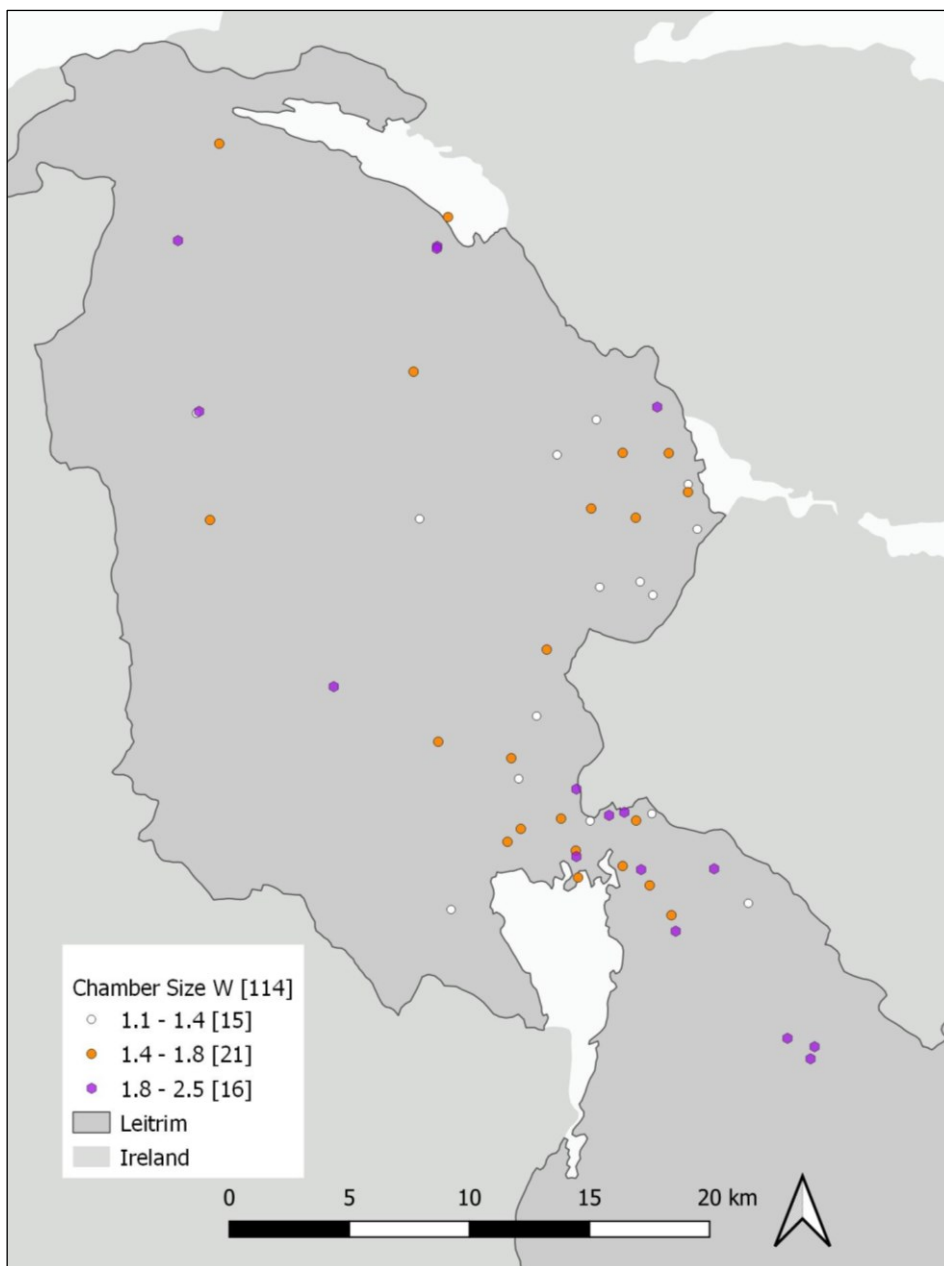


Figure 5: Sweathouse chamber size (width) in metres

Internal height could only be recorded for 16 intact Sweathouses. This ranged from 1.06m – 2.15m, average was 1.79m. The difficulty with this data is that soil has covered the floors of many examples and so it become an inaccurate measurement.

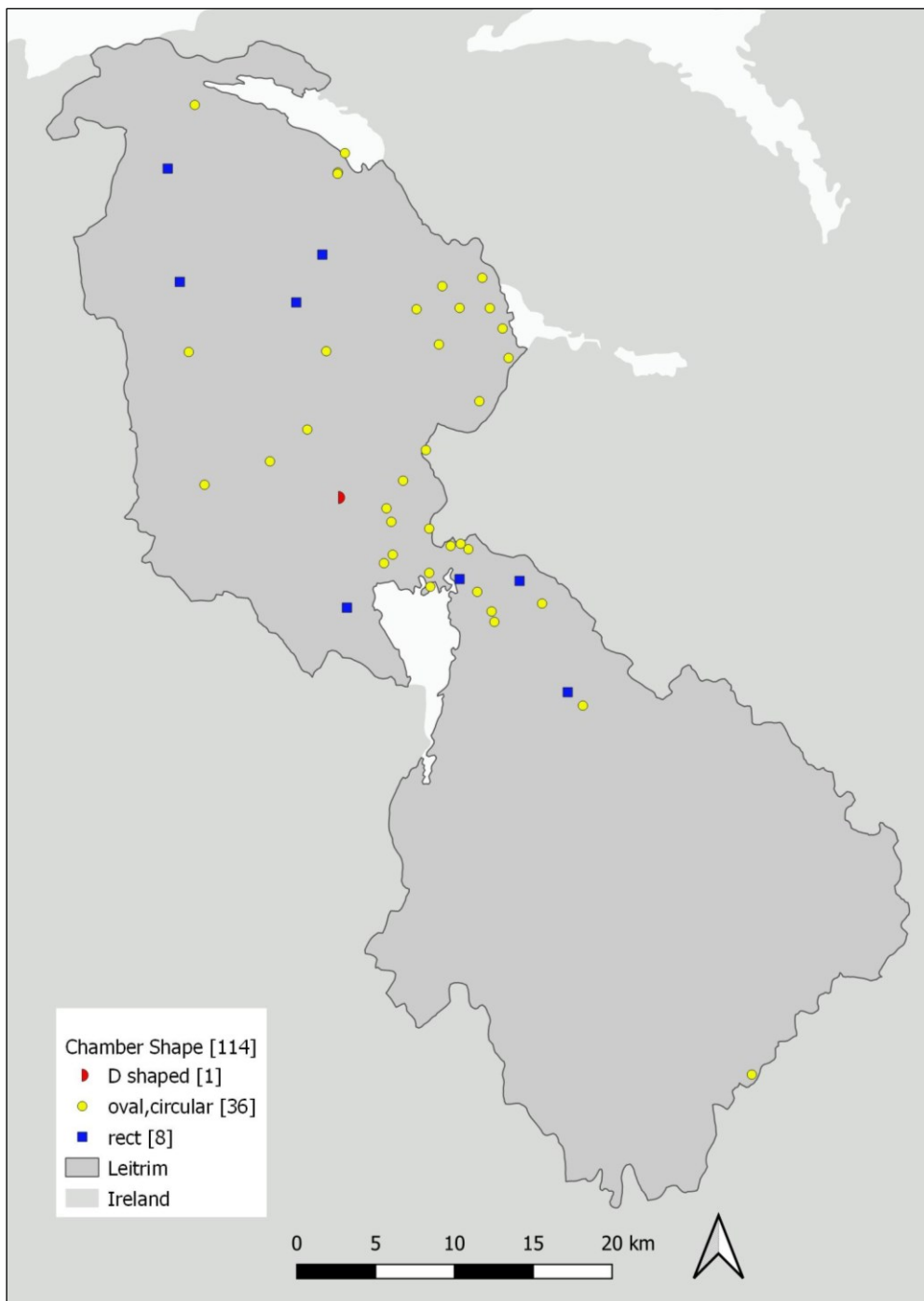


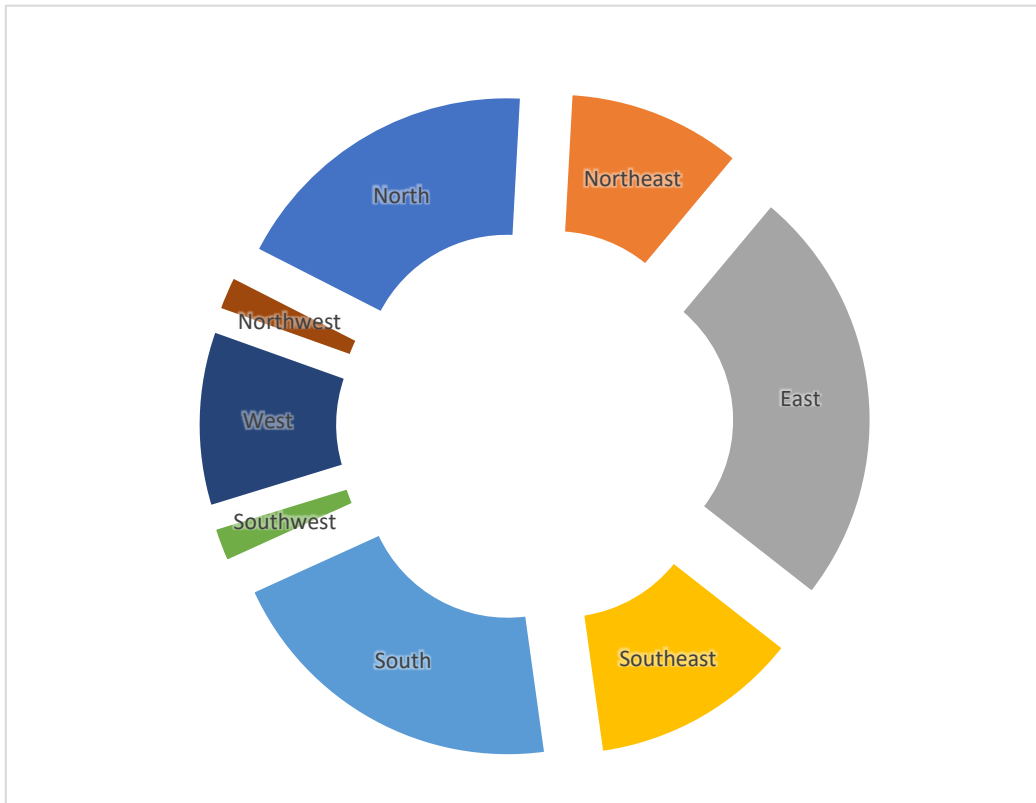
Figure 6: Sweathouse chamber shape in plan

The internal shape is now recorded for 10 more sites and again circular and sub-circular chambers are most common (80%), then rectangular chambers (18%). Only one D-shaped chamber exists where it has not been rebuilt (Gowlaun) and only a trace of this Sweathouse remains.

The entrance at Sweathouses is usually low and narrow. Refinement of the data from 34 sites in Co. Leitrim confirms that entrance widths range from 0.35m – 0.9m (average 0.53m) and height from 0.4m – 1.1m (average 0.63m).

The direction that the entrance opens to is available for 49 sites (Table 6). It is likely a product of the setting of the Sweathouse but there does appear to be a tendency to avoid facing southwest or northwest. This may be incidental, the slope or aspect determining the position of the entrance.

Table 5: Chart showing entrance orientation



5.2 Oral Histories and Accounts

Although not a stated aim of this year's project, encountering oral histories is in many ways an integral part of archaeological field survey. In the interests of maintaining GDPR compliance the interviewee names have been redacted in some cases.

The most important information, however, came from a Mr Robert Boyle, born in 1930 and living and working on the southern slopes of Gubnaveagh all his life as a miner and farmer. His account of Sweathouses is remarkably matter of fact and was recorded by project Volunteers in August 2022 (first informally by N. Foulkes, and then by L Gallagher and N Beylis).

He remembered people using them in the 1940's, 'mostly older people, in their 70s or 80s... would ride an ass [donkey or mule] up to them... the Maguire man, and Paddy Guckion used go too'. 'They were using them into the 50s but as the older crowd were dying the younger crowd didn't have much interest in it...'. He had never used the Sweathouse, nor had his father but he thought that his grandfather had done so. He seemed to refer to each Sweathouse by whose land it was on 'Culls, Callaghans, Priors' but was clear that anyone could use them, there was no payment, 'you'd put down the fire yourself... no one stopped you'.

He had a straightforward and clear view of Sweathouses and how they were used:

'Turf and coal and timber' was all that was ever brought into it.

'They'd put down a big fire in this Sweathouse and warmed it all up',

'There was a little door alright but you couldn't close it so well... old towels would close the door'

'they had some kind of light in there alright'

'Use it on your own but different people would use them... it wasn't kept quiet... there was always a watch on... always someone on guard, women used go up too, in case someone passed out... [but I] never heard anyone carried away from it.'

'stay in as long as you like until the bad water was out that was causing the rheumatic'

'You'd be in an hour or a few hours until it'd cool down'

'it was beside a river and when you'd be sweating like hell you'd walk out and leap into the turnhole and wash in the cold water'. The turnhole here, was on a stream where 'pools were made, widened out'.

'the heat of that sweathouse was a sight people would tell me when I was a *gasún*... heat coming off the ground for a couple of days after'

He had a story about prank that a young man played on an older man who used the Sweathouse:

'I knew him well Maguire, he was having his Sweathouse and you had to leap into the turnhole of water, and there was this young lad going round and he put a whin bush [Gorse] in the bottom of it [weighed down with stones] and when he [Maguire] leap in he was all thorns'

When asked had water ever been used in the Sweathouse he said, 'it was built so the water wouldn't go into it'. He had never heard of any superstition, or herbal medicine or related practices around Sweathouses. He was clear that it was to cure 'the rheumatic' and they had great belief in it, 'they'd be ... going around [saying] such a man was in the Sweathouse and they'd see him out walking around today'.

On the structures themselves, he said, 'small inside they were... they were all the same, but there was a lot of them, then when they could bath, they were knocked and used in walls around... t'would be a pity they'd be done away with'.

Mr Boyle summed it up saying 'that's all there was to it, you went in and sweated'.

Sincere thanks to Mr Boyle and his son for giving their time and for being so welcoming, open and honest.

Two other people gave interesting oral accounts. The first was a 90-year-old, Mrs Kelly, from near Kiltyclogher. She had not witnessed the nearby Sweathouse being used but understood how it was used. She had heard the local lake, quite a distance away, was used afterwards to wash. Similarly, Melvin Lough on which the Sweathouse at Ardagh was located was used afterwards. The Landowner had been told by his grandfather how it would be used multiple times, sweating, then into the lake, then back sweating inside again. He had also been told that people had died while sweating here. All the people mentioned, by Mr Boyle and others, who had lived around 1900, could be traced on the 1901/1911 census. It is remarkable that stories about these features of the landscape can be passed down through the generations and names remembered with such accuracy. Many elderly people in Co. Leitrim are surprised to hear that Sweathouses are not commonplace across Ireland, and it became apparent that what was considered normal or unremarkable was seldom talked about all that much.

6 Discussion - Sweathouses in Co. Leitrim

Distribution

The main core area of Sweathouse use is south of a line from Dromahair – Manorhamilton – Kiltyclogher, down the south of Lough Allen and Gubnaveagh. In this area, 99 Sweathouses are now recorded. A further 72 Sweathouse are either side of this core area, in counties Fermanagh, Cavan, Roscommon and Sligo. These 171 Sweathouses are all within an area of 811km² (including Lough Allen), which means a Sweathouse every 4.72 km². It is a significant frequency not seen anywhere else on this scale and accounts for 55% of all Sweathouses recorded on the island of Ireland (Figure 7). It is almost certain that Sweathouses in other counties are under-represented. It must also be considered that some sites recorded as Sweathouses in other counties may not be Sweathouses⁴.

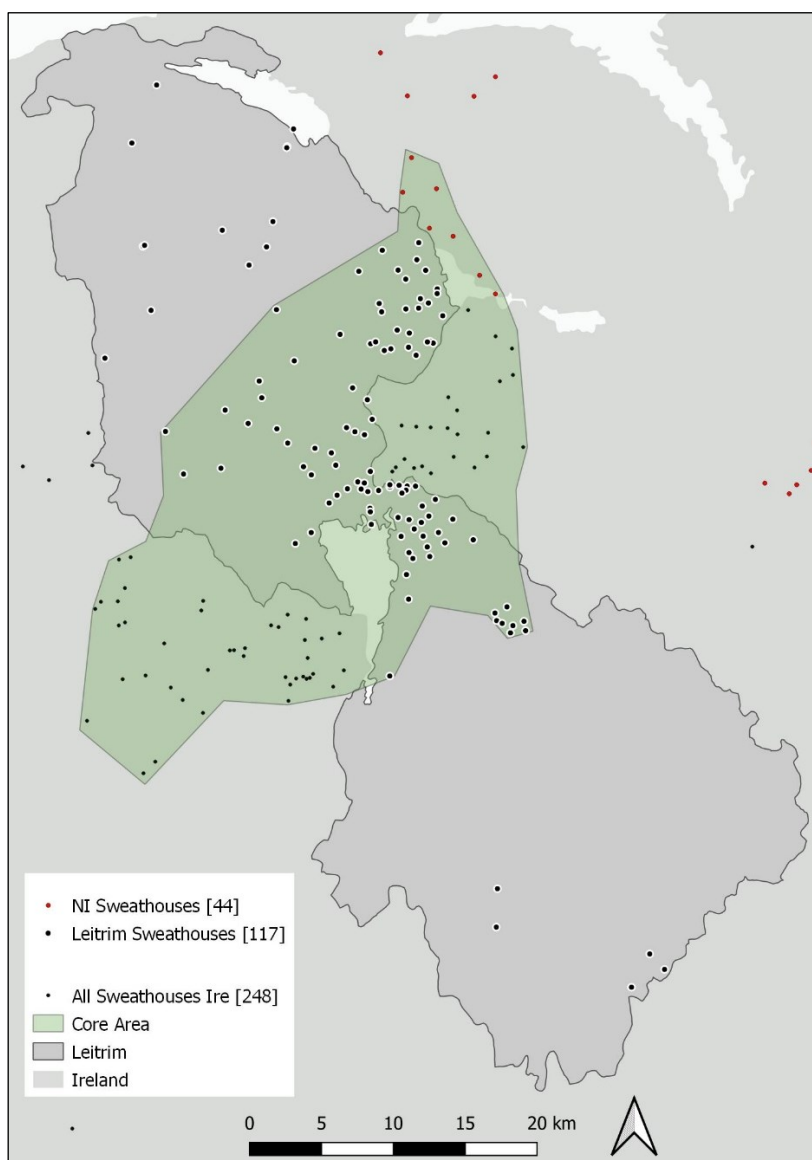


Figure 7: Core Area identified in green containing 171 Sweathouses

⁴ Just some questionable examples of Sweathouses are MA117-022----; MA097-023----; WX031-046----; and WX007-031----.

Morphology

This project has researched the differences between Sweathouses in Co. Leitrim. It must also acknowledge the similarities. While not uniform, there are definite traits that can be pointed to. The first is the simplicity of the structures. There are no flues or chimneys, no double entrances and no complex arrangement of chambers or evidence of indirect means of heating the chamber. The chambers tend to be circular in plan (*i.e.* shape of the floor). In reality, they are sub-circular, oval, teardrop shaped or even 'squircular'. This can clearly be seen in the scaled drawings of the floors (Figures 8-11). The project has focused on the largest recorded width of the floor-space as an indicator of how many people could have used the Sweathouse at any given time. The average diameter is 1.62m, and if a circle would provide 2.06m² of floor space.

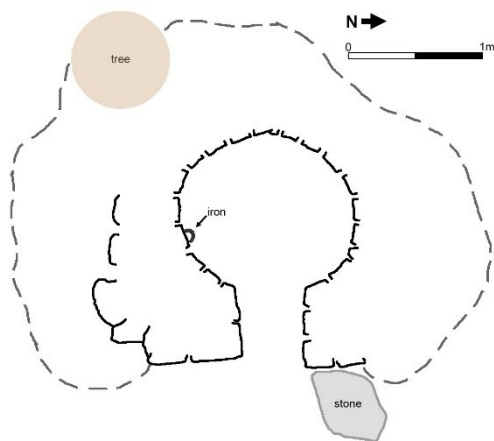


Figure 8: Scaled plan Carrickrevagh

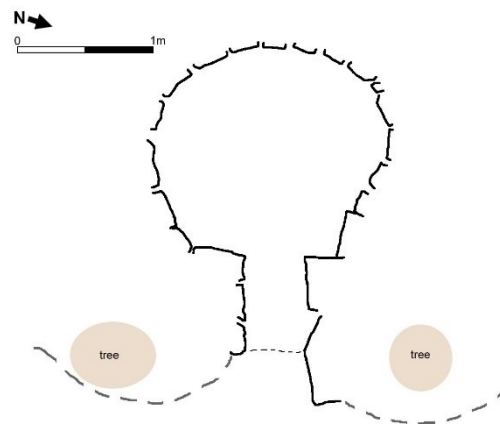


Figure 9: Scaled plan Corraclona

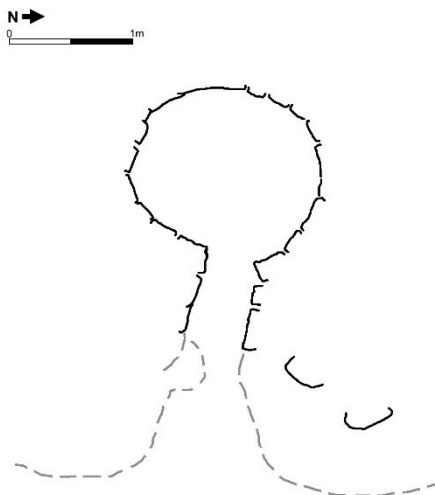


Figure 10: Scaled plan Kiltyclogher 2

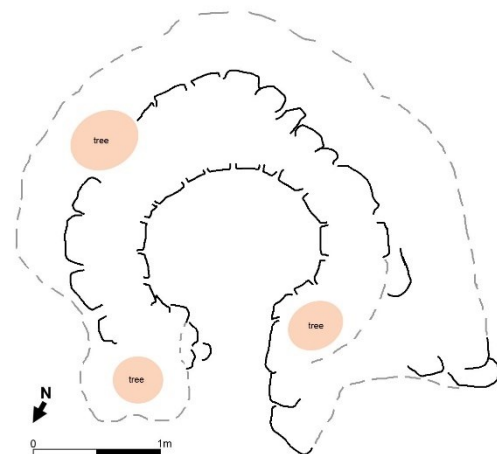


Figure 11: Scaled plan Cloone

The other commonality of Leitrim Sweathouses is that they all have just one entrance. This might be expected but elsewhere there can be two chambers alongside each other, or a fire chamber and a

patient chamber, both with similar sized openings (as at Ballyourane, Co. Cork or Anaverna, Co. Louth). The entrance is low, currently the average is 0.63m. The narrowness and minimum height of the entrance is key as the patient entered naked, on their hands and knees, into a crawl space where the walls are hot. Therefore, the minimum height of the entrance is the height under which the patient won't injure themselves. The findings of the excavation at Killadiskert show prior to excavation the entrance was 0.45m in height. Following excavation, from the flagstone floor an accurate minimum height of 0.53m was recorded. Osteoarchaeological analysis of burials from the nearest Workhouse (Manorhamilton) indicated average male height at 1.67m and female height at 1.59m (Dr L.G. Lynch *pers. comm.* May 2021). If this Sweathouse operated in the mid-nineteenth century, then we might surmise that it was significantly safer for a female to enter than a male. Notably, the next nearest Sweathouse (LE018-009----) has an unexcavated entrance height of 0.56m. This prompts us to think why two similarly built Sweathouses have different height entrances. It would seem that the excavated example was used by females and the other by males, but this might be overly simplistic. This may have been the style of this particular area, or perhaps the families or individuals who used them were smaller in stature than the statistics available to us.

Practice

How Sweathouses were used is now largely accepted. There is general agreement that a fire was placed inside, burned down and raked out through the entrance. A person, naked or almost naked, entered and sweated for an hour or more, then left and either wrapped up warmly or washed in a nearby stream or pool. It seems that in Co. Leitrim, the latter was the accepted practice, and there was almost always a nearby water source. Communal usage does not seem to be a practice in the county, largely evidenced by the size of most of the chambers. Yet one account of the use of the Sweathouse at Alteenacres Glebe states that '*One time there went a few women together to the sweat house and when they were inside a boy named John McGovern came along and he climbed up on the house and jumped above on it.*' (The Schools' Collection, Volume 0962, 39). This implies that 2, or maybe 3, women went inside at the one time. This sweathouse measures, 1.84m x 1.76m, larger than most in Co. Leitrim but still only about 2.5m² inside. The prank, or trick, is again a theme, as it was in Mr Boyles story of the young lad putting a thorny bush at the bottom of the turnhole.

The fuel used to heat the Sweathouse was turf, likely because this was the fuel people had to hand, and brambles and rushes cleared nearby would be put inside the Sweathouse as tinder for the next use. It is interesting that Mr Boyle remembers coal and timber burned too. It seems whatever fuel was available was that used.

The practice of sprinkling water on hot stones is something occasionally mentioned in accounts. It is first mentioned by P.W. Joyce who tells us that '... embers and ashes were swept out, and water was splashed on the stones, which produced a thick warm vapour' (1903, 278), and later in relation to Sweathouses in west Co. Cavan (Richardson 1939). It is interesting that one oral history from the very south of Co. Leitrim noted this during last year's project (Harte 2021), but the use of water inside the Sweathouse is never referenced elsewhere. Maybe it was a regional difference but a scarce practise if it existed at all.

Origins

The question of the origins of the Irish Sweathouse remains unanswered. Hopefully the radiocarbon dating of samples from the two Sweathouses excavated in Co. Leitrim this year will shed some light on the subject. However, theories continue, not least the Scandinavian connection. The obvious evidence of Norse settlements in Ireland and Britain are ignored, preferring to focus instead on Viking raids which happened where Sweathouses are now found (Ylimaunu and Kearns 2021). It seems a perfect answer but seems unlikely that raiding parties constructed Sweathouses. Without trying to force the answer, it might be more likely that captured Irish, or traders, may have returned from Scandinavia with this knowledge of sauna. The other possible external source for their introduction is from the Gallowglass – migrant mercenary soldiers – in the late medieval and post-medieval period. The McCabes who would have been one such family of Gallowglass did settle in southern parts of Leitrim, but again the issue is that Sweathouses are not found in Scotland.

If Co. Leitrim, as a core area of Sweathouse use, is also the origin point within Ireland, then earlier historical invasions are unlikely to be the source. In the course of excavating a corn-drying kiln at Cattan, the similarities in form between cereal-drying kilns, limekilns, malting kilns and Sweathouses became more apparent. If a drying kiln was in operation and then people could go inside while the work was on going and maybe find relief for cold pains. The benefits of such extreme heat may have been well-known to those who had worked corn-drying kilns or at forges. It is interesting to note that the drying kiln at Cattan is not marked on any map and likely went out of use prior to the 1830s. This may have necessitated the construction of a Sweathouse here, to continue the practice. Similarly, we can find two 'Malt kilns' within the townland of Annagh Upper on the 1836 map, but no Sweathouse. By 1907 there are two Sweathouses but no malting kilns. The exact same scenario applies to 'Corn Kilns' in Cortobar, Sranagarvanagh, Largandill, Sradinagh and Cornaguillagh. This might in part explain why Sweathouses are generally not found in towns and villages – places where blacksmiths and millers lived – in the 19th century.

Regardless of the date or point of origin, Sweathouses fell into disuse from the early years of the 20th century. In some remote areas they did continue until the 1950s. Interestingly, this has usually been explained as the spread of Dispensaries and modern medicine, but Mr Boyles observation that once 'younger people' had heated baths in their homes they no longer had a need for Sweathouses. Electrification must surely have ended their usage.

Conservation and protection

The 19 Sweathouses found during the last 2 years of this project are now being added by the National Monuments Service to the register of monuments on the Historic Monuments Viewer (see www.archaeology.ie). This protects each site under the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004. Furthermore, one Sweathouse, Gubnaveagh has been included in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (Reg, No. 30921001). This is categorised as of Regional significance built between 1700-1740. While it is excellent that it is included in the NIAH register, the information given is poor. The description states 'Corbelled limestone sweat house, built c.1700,' neither of which are correct and the register is attached to Knocknacullion LE021-014, a levelled Sweathouse. The Gubnaveagh data from NIAH has in turn been copied by the National Monuments Service, but this can be corrected.

The risks identified for sweathouses have shown that forestry, and trees generally, pose the most immediate threat to updating remains. The maintenance of these sites is relatively straightforward, but proper management plans must be put in place. Equally, the conservation of the masonry itself is something that can be done without too many resources, but the correct procedures must be adhered to. The Community Monuments Fund would seem an ideal approach to take with many of these Sweathouses, particular those that are in an unstable or vulnerable state. It is hope that the Sweathouse Conservation Guidelines can be of some use in protecting the integrity of these structures.

7 Further Research

While significant progress has been made in our understanding and awareness of Sweathouses in Co. Leitrim, the future of the project must meet the needs of the local communities in which these sites are found. Some Sweathouses are far from accessible, others may be considered unsafe structures, and these sites may be best preserved by limiting public interaction. Other sites, which are accessible and safe (but perhaps on privately held lands), could be developed for use as visitor and local attractions, and to promote an appreciation for this curious practice that was once so commonplace in Co. Leitrim.

The views of those with expertise from a number of different sectors would be hugely beneficial at this point. Those for the Tourism and Marketing sectors should advise on what can be gained from this type of heritage and how best to promote it to visitor from home and abroad. Structural Engineers and Conservation Architects should be consulted about the potential of repairing some of the intact but vulnerable structures. Associated traditional skills, such as dry-stone masonry could also be developed during the implementation of such works. Community Development workers may have insights into how future research can implement cross-border initiatives. The prevalence of Sweathouses in counties Fermanagh and Tyrone might be utilized to this effect. Finally, the timeframe of the project over the last 2 years has meant that schools have not had the opportunity to engage with the project. This might be remedied through the Heritage Experts approved under the Heritage in Schools scheme.

A number of distinct areas of future research actions have been identified and are outlined as follows:

7.1 Continued Field Survey

While a lot has been achieved in 2022, there were many sites that could not be visited and surveyed for a variety of reasons (*e.g.* overgrown, landowners could not be contacted, livestock and other risks). It is important that those who now have the ability to carry out archaeological field surveys of Sweathouses continue to do so, especially when seasonal growth of vegetation allows access and after Landowners have been contacted. This would undoubtedly expand on our knowledge of Sweathouses, further raise awareness and appreciation of a practice particular to the northwest of Ireland.

Newly discovered or confirmed Sweathouses must be reported to the National Monuments Service (at www.archaeology.ie). Such reporting and subsequent inclusion on the register of sites is the first step in protection and conservation of these monuments. A list of potential sites is given in Appendix C, but should not be considered exhaustive and it is likely that more will come to light in the coming years.

7.2 Conservation of Sweathouses

Several Sweathouses which are largely intact are in a precarious condition. Urgent action is needed to secure the stonework of these sites and to highlight their existence to avoid any further damage. It is advisable that community groups and Landowners be actively encouraged to participate in the Community Monuments Fund or the Adopt a Monuments programme. It is these groups, supported by such schemes that will ultimately decide the fate of many of these Sweathouses.

There are less immediate risks and these also need to be addressed. These can be classified as moderate risks. The best course of action may be to take no measures, only to highlight any threats to the structure to the Landowners and people in the area.

7.3 Dissemination of Sweathouse Information

The GIS mapping that now exist includes all 117 Sweathouses in Co. Leitrim and will be forwarded for inclusion at www.heritagemaps.ie. Similarly, the archive of field surveys that have been completed so far will be submitted to Leitrim County Council. At this juncture it may also be appropriate to prepare a paper on the project for an archaeological publication to allow all archaeologists a quick oversight of the project. Recent research continues to publish outdated figures and statistics relating to Leitrim's Sweathouses. Further engagement with the wider archaeological profession not only showcases the work done so far but positions Co. Leitrim at the core of Sweathouse study and highlights the heritage of the region within a national and international framework.

8 Conclusion

In 2002, the Leitrim Sweathouse Project set out to train local Volunteers in archaeological survey to gain greater insight into these structures. The additional information gathered was significant, not least the discovery of another seven Sweathouses. The total number of recorded Sweathouses in the county stands at 117, more than 2.5 times that of any other county. However, it is in the detail of the survey that the real value lies, allowing us to assess the form and state of preservation of the structures. This has been updated for 40 of the sites. Of concern is the amount of incorrect data collected in past surveys that currently stands as the official record. Hopefully this can be rectified quickly.

The new survey data has not only given insight into the preservation of Sweathouses but also the risks and the level of the risk posed in each instance. Trees and vegetation stand out as the main risk to intact examples. The Sweathouse Conservation Guidelines will hopefully be of use to Landowners and Community Groups who want to protect Sweathouses. This is a starting point, but small measures can make a difference, and the document also provides information on the stages to consider in more substantial works in terms of repair and restoration.

This year saw a variety of media engage with the project, particularly international experts, and journalists. The project still garners interest across media platforms; however, it is the in-person and local events that likely do the most in terms of appreciating Sweathouses as an integral part of the region's cultural identity. It is this knowledge that may save some of the Sweathouses so that future generations can see one.

Further work is needed to complete the survey. This is by no means a simple task, yet there are now people in the community who have the skills to do so. Project Volunteers must be appreciated and thanked for the considerable time and effort that goes into such work. Should such Volunteers be interested in forming local groups and training others, to either to adopt a monument or continue the survey, they should be strongly encouraged.

9 References

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10 Appendices

A. Sweathouse Field Survey Record Sheet

Pre-survey Checks

- Maps and any previous surveys
- Landowners
- Health & Safety Risk Assessment

Note either RMP number or townland on all notes/sketches

Describing Surroundings

Boundaries <i>ditches, fences, cliffs, streams</i>	Settlement & Land Use <i>houses, farming, industry etc</i>
Water source <i>stream, well, lake and approx. distance</i>	Slope, aspect, is it in full view <i>steep, moderate, gentle</i>

Structure Description

Overall condition	Collapse – Vegetation/trees – Burrowing – No Trace Visible		
Setting	Built into a field bank, riverbank, hillside or free-standing? Or other?		
External Mound	Is (or was) the sweathouse covered by earth/sods?	Approximate measurements of extent	
External shape	From above (plan)? <i>terms: rectangular, circular, irregular, etc.</i>	From the front (elevation)? <i>terms: rectangular, conical, domed etc.</i>	
External Masonry	Stone size & type <i>terms: blocks, dressed, rubble, rounded, angular etc.</i>	Coursing <i>see page 4*</i>	
		Bonding <i>Lime mortar, earth mortar, concrete, none</i>	
External Features	Entrances, chimneys, steps, enclosing walls, drains		
Entrance	Height/Width (base) <i>Is there a sill?</i>	Wall Thickness	
	Top (or Head) <i>Flat-lintelled, arched, segmental arch, corbelled etc.</i>	Sides/Jambs <i>does it widen or narrow? is it splayed, tunnelled, buttressed etc.</i>	
Internal chamber(s)	shape	Width/diameter/height	Walls, stones, courses
Floor	Is the floor visible? If so, is it flagstones or cobbles or earthen?		

Internal Features	Note all flues, possible seats, flags, corbel stones, vitrification/burning, other items <i>e.g.</i> bottles <i>etc.</i>
Roof/Ceiling	flat, corbelled, arched, vaulted, other

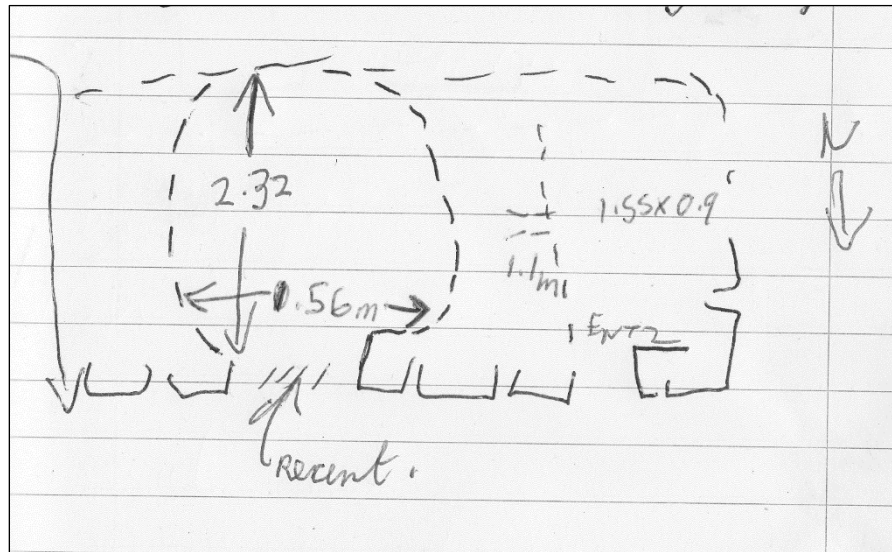
Photography

- Note what you are photographing
- Use a scale if you have one
-
- External front
- External side/back
- Internal floor/entrance/features can be difficult

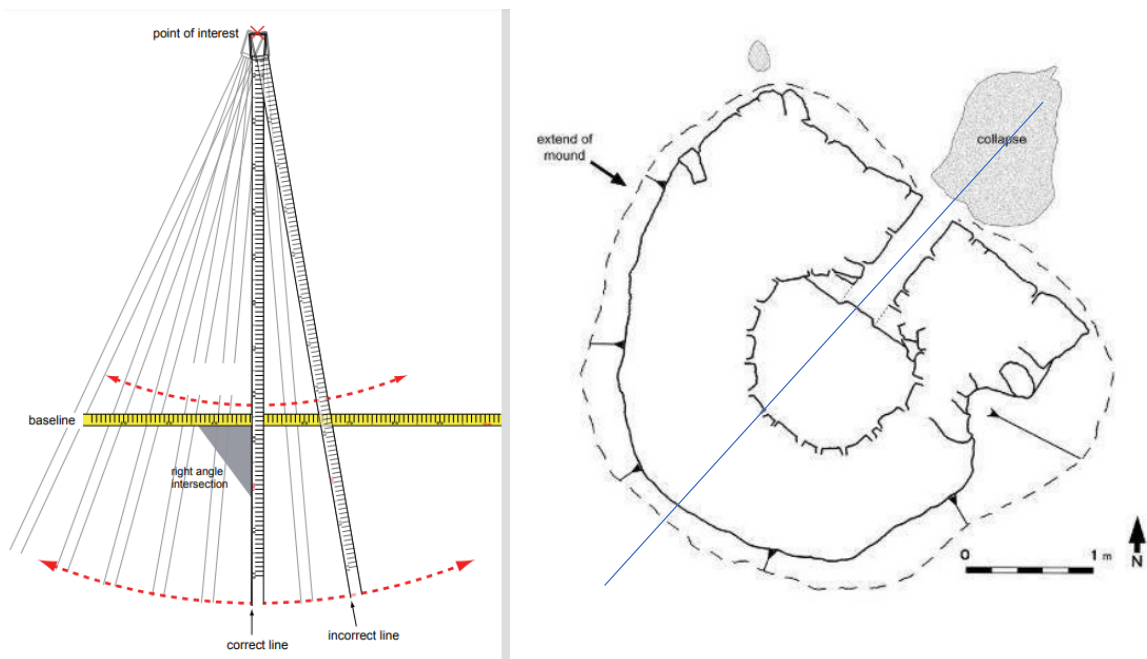
Drawing

- Sketch plan

This is a freehand drawing showing the general shape of the Sweathouse and where key measurements have been taken from. Really, it's a rough layout drawing



- Scaled plan, using off-sets



This is a more detailed drawing with a proper scale (usually 1:20). This can be done by drawing directly onto graph paper.

Lay out a long measuring tape through the entrance (or over the sweathouse if it's collapsed). Then using this as a baseline, take off-sets. The shortest distance is the correct offset. Use a plumb bob if you can.

- Profile/Elevation (sketch or scaled)

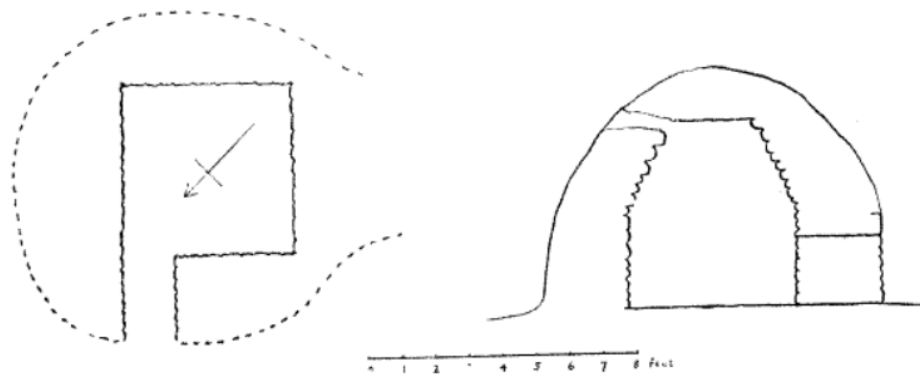


FIG. 1. *Plan and Section.*



Sweating-house, Legeclan, near Blacklion, County Cavan.

(From a Photograph by W. F. Gilchrist, C.E., Sligo.)

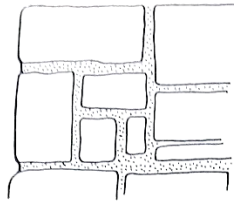
Monument Risk Assessment

- Has the structure already been damaged?
 - What is the extend of that damage?
- Is the masonry/stonework in danger unstable?
 - What is causing this instability? (livestock, vegetation, water, burrowing animals etc)
- Has the soil eroded from the mound?
- Is there an obvious solution to conservation/preservation?

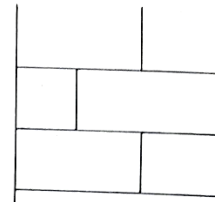
*Describing coursing



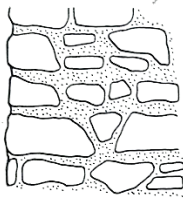
1 Random uncoursed



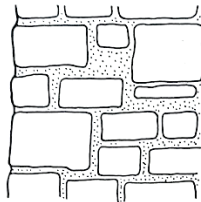
2 Squared random



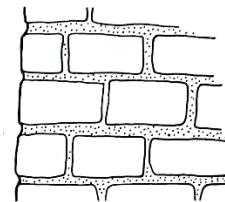
3 Ashlar



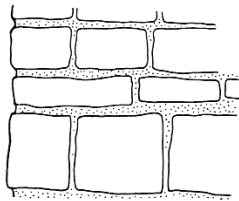
4 Random coursed



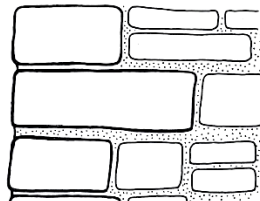
5 Squared, built to courses



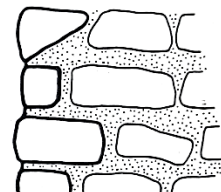
6 Regular courses



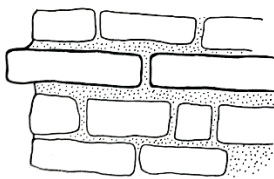
7 Uneven courses



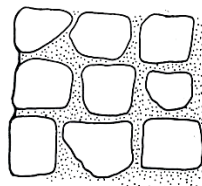
8 Quoins (corners) stressed



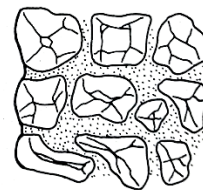
9 Quoins unstressed



10 A String



11 Fair face




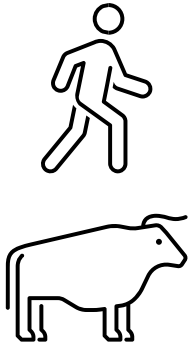
12 Rough face

25 *Main styles of stone finishing and coursing.*



B. Site Specific Sweathouse Survey Risk Assessment form

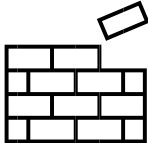
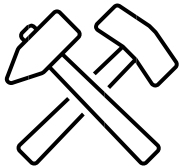
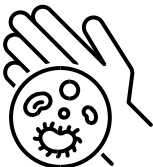

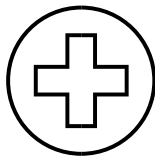
1. Site Specific Information			
Name of Site			
Name of Owner		Permission granted?	Yes <input type="radio"/>
			No <input type="radio"/>
Surveyor Name(s)			
Notes			

2. Site Specific Risk Assessment			
Hazard	Risks	Measures	Action Required
Weather Conditions 	• Slips/trips/falls	• Appropriate footwear and clothing	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
	• Sunburn	• Sun protection	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
	• Dehydration	• Bottled water, other drinks.	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
Access/Egress	• Fallen trees or projecting branches may cause injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess areas for trees/hedges (possible hazards) • Avoid fallen trees and overgrown boundaries • Use established routes if possible 	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uneven or unstable ground can result in slip/trips/falls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proceed slowly and be aware of conditions underfoot • Appropriate footwear that protects the ankle to be worn. • Use established routes if possible 	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Livestock can cause harm/injury (also to road users and others) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform landowner day and time of survey Use established routes if possible • Close farm gates • Do not enter if livestock present 	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>

2. Site Specific Risk Assessment contd.

Hazard	Risks	Measures	Action Required
<p>Parking/Traffic</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parked cars can restrict other road users and emergency vehicles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park responsibly in an area that will not obstruct others 	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
<p>Electric Fences</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electric shock, can lead to falls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check with landowner that electric fences are off, or there is a clear route • Always be aware of possible live electric fences 	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>

<p>Collapse</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unstable masonry can collapse causing severe injury 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assume all sweathouse structures to be unstable. Do not enter any roofed structures When inspecting the structure from the outside, wear a hard-hat and any other PPE where appropriate 	<p>Yes <input type="radio"/></p> <p>No <input type="radio"/></p>
<p>Tools</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Misuse of Ranging Rods or other tools may cause injury 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only use tools for their specific purpose 	<p>Yes <input type="radio"/></p> <p>No <input type="radio"/></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tape measures can cut especially if old or rusty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retract carefully 	<p>Yes <input type="radio"/></p> <p>No <input type="radio"/></p>
<p>Hygiene</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> infection (e.g. Weil's disease) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wear gloves where possible Use hand sanitizer Do not eat or smoke until hands are washed 	<p>Yes <input type="radio"/></p> <p>No <input type="radio"/></p>
<p>Ticks/Lymes Disease</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lymes Disease, from tick bites, can cause chronic illness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repellant sprays Appropriate clothing, e.g., long sleeves, trousers, no shorts. Need to cover up. Check for ticks after survey, and again later that night If bitten seek medical advice 	<p>Yes <input type="radio"/></p> <p>No <input type="radio"/></p>
<p>Personal Health</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If fatigued or ill, judgement and decision making can be impaired, heightening all risks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not undertake work if tired, or ill, or physically unfit Carry necessary medication with you if needed 	<p>Yes <input type="radio"/></p> <p>No <input type="radio"/></p>

3. Risk Assessment Checklist

Measures Taken

Do you feel physically well?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
Are the weather conditions appropriate?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
Have you spoken with the landowner?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
Have you a mobile phone and notified someone of where you are going?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
Have you parked responsibly?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
Have you identified a clear path to and from the site?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
Are there any Livestock you need to be aware of?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
Have you gloves, water, hand sanitizer etc.	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
Have you the necessary tools to carry out the work?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>

Any other Hazards identified:

Please sign when completed and submit to the Project Coordinator:

Signed _____ Date _____

C. List of Potential Sweathouse Sites

Townland	ITM Co-ordinate	Description
Corracloona	600149, 843141	Small roofed structure on 25-inch O.S. map
Dergvone A	595711,831124	Approximate co-ordinate of a ruined site indicated by G Burns from O.S. mapping
Dergvone B	596304,830972	Approximate co-ordinate of a levelled site indicated by G Burns from O.S. mapping
Brocagh Upper	600682, 835278	Intact Sweathouse, photographed by G. Burns in 1992. Not marked on O.S. mapping
Beagh	583667, 827026	Sweathouse should be found south of the bridge
Derrycullinan	590114, 823574	Possible Sweathouse 5m x 4.5m D-shaped enclosure on 1907 O.S. mapping
Tullyclevaun	596275, 828174	Possible Sweathouse, unroofed circular building adjacent to stream
Drumnafinnila	599915, 823201	Foundations (G Burns code D14)
Barrs East	597481, 839260	Approximate co-ordinate of a largely intact site indicated by G Burns (code A11), searched in 2022 but not located.
Deffier	none	Sweathouse reference in the Schools Collection
Coolegreane	595776,829589	Approximate co-ordinate of a levelled site noted by G Burns (his code B15)
Lisdarush	none	G Burns – Local information, no co-ordinates

D. List of Sites at Risk

Site Name	RMP no.	Risk	Level
Ardagh (Gilbride)	none	vegetation	High
Cornageeha	none	vegetation	High
Doolargy Glebe	LE018-066----	forestry	High
Gortnasillagh East	LE016-032----	erosion	High
Kiltyclogher 2	none	erosion	High
Laghty Barr	LE009-010----	forestry	High
Liscuillew Lower	LE018-055----	vegetation	High
Stranlongford	LE021-011----	vegetation	High
Alteenacres Glebe	LE016-023----	forestry	moderate
Annagh	LE013-008----	vegetation	moderate
Annaghoney	none	vegetation	moderate
Carrickrevagh	none	forestry	moderate
Cuiltia	LE018-060----	forestry	moderate
Gortahork	LE015-167----	forestry	moderate
Kiltyclogher 1	none	erosion	moderate
Knockacullion	LE021-014----	forestry	moderate
Largandill	LE018-075----	vegetation	moderate
Loughaphonta Barr	LE008-031----	forestry	moderate
Slievenakilla	LE019-014----	erosion	moderate

E. Monument Report Forms



An Roinn Cultúir,
Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta
Department of Culture,
Heritage and the Gaeltacht

NATIONAL MONUMENTS SERVICE

Monument Report Form

The following report form has been designed to assist persons who may wish to supply information on newly discovered monuments. The current operational policy of the National Monuments Service is primarily to record monuments dating from the pre-AD 1700 period. Please check the records of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland on the National Monuments Service website www.archaeology.ie before sending in a report to ensure that the monument has not already been recorded. This Monument Report Form will form part of the Sites and Monuments Record.

County: Leitrim

Townland(s): Corraclona

Classification: (e.g., ringfort, standing stone, cairn, mound) Sweathouse

Irish Transverse Mercator co-ordinates: E:

6	0	0	0	1	2
---	---	---	---	---	---

 N:

8	4	3	1	8	2
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Irish Grid co-ordinates: E:

--	--	--	--	--	--

 N:

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The Archaeological Survey of Ireland uses mapping provided by OSI: this utilises the Irish Transverse Mercator (ITM) co-ordinate system. This replaces the former Irish Grid referenced mapping. If possible, please supply ITM co-ordinates. These should be determined using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit that is enabled for the ITM co-ordinate system. A twelve-figure reference should be determined at the centre of the monument (six for easting and six for northing). Alternatively, users may derive the ITM co-ordinates from the mapping component of the National Monuments Service website (www.archaeology.ie).

Source of co-ordinates (please fill one): GPS Website

Date of inspection of monument (dd/mm/yyyy): 29 / 08 /2022

Name of person compiling report (Block Capitals): AIDAN HARTE

Address: Baile na mBrabhach	Phone no.: 087 2963795
Indreabhán	
Co. na Gaillimhe	Email address: harte.aidan@gmail.com

Are you content to be identified by name on the Historic Environment Viewer as the person who reported the monument. Yes No

Setting of monument: (i.e., situation and land use in and around monument, etc.)

Built into a natural rock outcrop at top of a slope facing NE, c.25m to the NW of a ruined settlement. SW of some derelict farmstead. Positioned within a semi-circular field (pasture). Views restricted in all directions, c. 180m OD

Condition of monument: (i.e., whether obscured by trees, scrub, bushes, etc.)

Well-preserved, roofed Sweathouse with mound. Internally, the chamber has filled with soil but roof is intact. Trees are growing from the surrounding mound/rock outcrops

Local information: (i.e., local name, field name, past history, etc.)

Mrs Kelly, born in 1932 and who owns the land, maintains this was always known as the Sweathouse and people used head to the lake after using it (350m to NE)

References (where relevant): (i.e. publications, web address, etc.)

Other notes: For example, if the monument has been found as the result of a licensed archaeological investigation then the **licence number** should be given and if the monument has been completely excavated (i.e. there is **NO** surviving archaeology above or below ground surface) this should be noted here. If the monument has been discovered as the result of geophysical investigations then this should be stated. If there is a planning application associated with it, the planning reference number should be given.

Reported to the Leitrim Sweathouse Project by Mr Ciarán Rock

Summary description of monument: (additional details may be supplied on a separate page(s))

Sweathouse. Built between rock outcrops at the top of a NE facing slope. Indicated as L.K. (lime-kiln) on the 1907 O.S. map. A grass covered stone built-structure, H: 2m, with a large capstone covering a sub-circular chamber (Dia: 1.84m N-S x 1.56m; H:1.86m) with vertical sides up to 1.2m before large slabs corbel inwards to form the ceiling. The interior has an eathern floor. The entrance opens to SE (H: 0.7m; W: 0.48m)

Report accompanied by a sketch plan and/or section, elevation drawings? Yes

Report accompanied by a photograph(s): Yes X

Where possible the date the photo was taken should be written on the back if not already imprinted on it.

Report accompanied by a copy of OS map Yes X and/or aerial photo: Yes

It is important that the report be accompanied by either a map or aerial photograph (web-derived aerial photos are acceptable) with the location and extent of the 'monument' clearly marked on it. The aerial photo or map must be at a scale where field boundaries are clearly visible to enable it be referenced to Ordnance Survey Ireland mapping.

Checked against National Monuments Service website, Yes X
www.archaeology.ie:

Signed: Aidan Harte

Date: 25th October 2021

On completion of this form please send it, together with any supporting documentation, to:

nationalmonuments@chg.gov.ie

Archaeological Survey of Ireland

National Monuments Service

Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

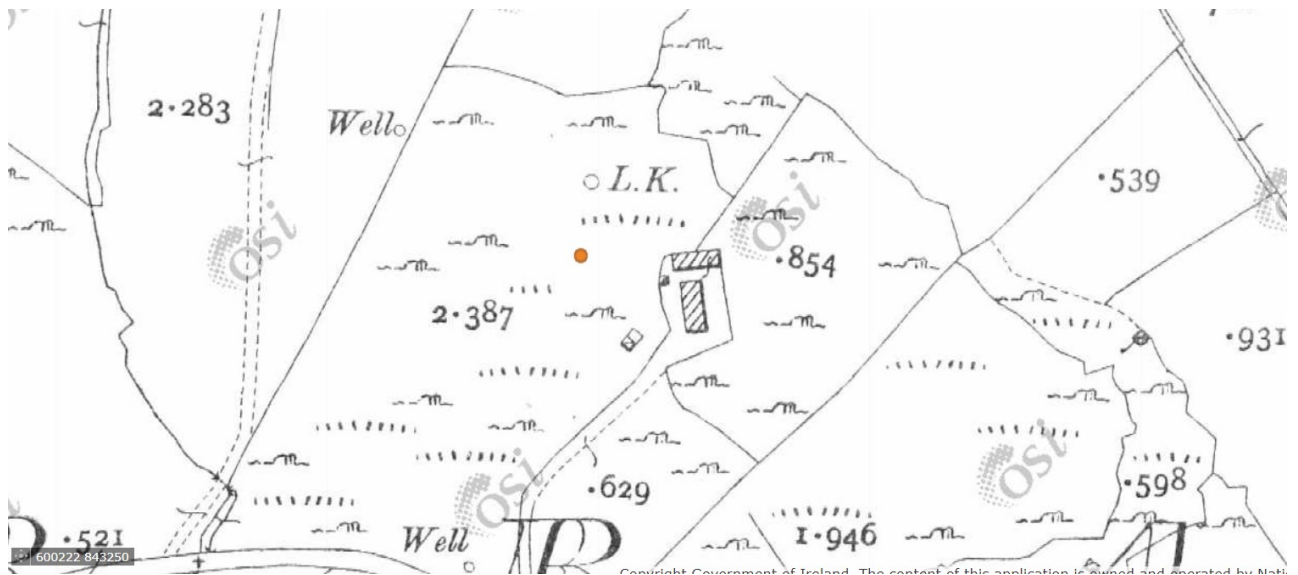
The Custom House (Room G50)

Dublin 1

Dublin D01 W6XO

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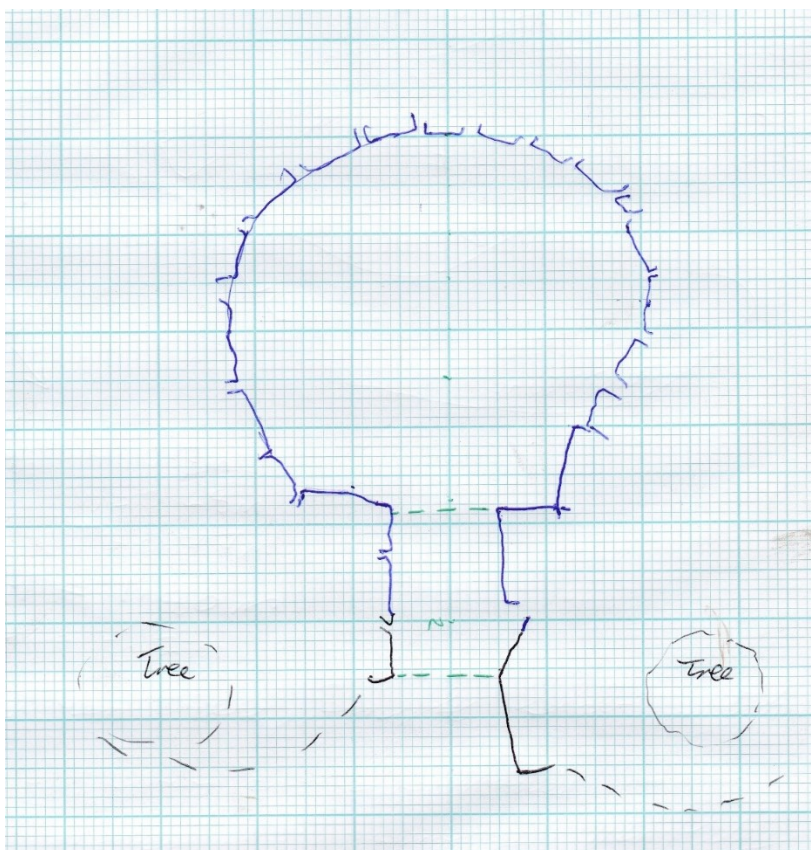


1907 Historic 25-inch O.S. extract

Site highlighted in as orange dot – co-ords are not derived from this mapping



View of Sweathouse from SE, 25th Aug 2022



Sketch plan of interior (at 1:20) W to top, by A Harte



An Roinn Cultúir,
Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta
Department of Culture,
Heritage and the Gaeltacht

NATIONAL MONUMENTS SERVICE

Monument Report Form

The following report form has been designed to assist persons who may wish to supply information on newly discovered monuments. The current operational policy of the National Monuments Service is primarily to record monuments dating from the pre-AD 1700 period. Please check the records of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland on the National Monuments Service website www.archaeology.ie before sending in a report to ensure that the monument has not already been recorded. This Monument Report Form will form part of the Sites and Monuments Record.

County: Leitrim

Townland(s): Ardagh (Gilbride)

Classification: (e.g., ringfort, standing stone, cairn, mound) Sweathouse

Irish Transverse Mercator co-ordinates: E:

5	9	1	3	0	1
---	---	---	---	---	---

 N:

8	5	1	1	0	0
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Irish Grid co-ordinates: E:

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 N:

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Source of co-ordinates (please fill one): GPS Website

Date of inspection of monument (dd/mm/yyyy): 13 / 09 /2022

Name of person compiling report (Block Capitals): AIDAN HARTE

Address: Baile na mBrabhach **Phone no.:** 087 2963795
Indreabhán
Co. na Gaillimhe **Email address:** harte.aidan@gmail.com

Are you content to be identified by name on the Historic Environment Viewer as the person who reported the monument. Yes No

Setting of monument: (i.e., situation and land use in and around monument, etc.)

Built into S bank of Lough Melvin, 96m NE of a derelict farmstead. Positioned below the level of the field to S. Views restricted only by trees, c. 30m OD

Condition of monument: (i.e., whether obscured by trees, scrub, bushes, etc.)

Collapsed (recently), interior is filled with collapse material, the roots of a tree mirror the shape of the capstones and roof. Internally, the sub-circular chamber (dims: c.1.5m E-W by 1.2m) has filled centrally and 8 courses of rubble sandstone form walls at least H: 0.95m, T: 0.7m. The front façade is H: 1m. The entrance has been disturbed from W so that the width is just 0.26, but H:0.62. The top lintel is ex-situ.

Local information: (i.e., local name, field name, past history, etc.)

Landowner Phil McGown was shown the site by his grandfather in the 1960s and was told it was a Sweathouse and how it worked.

References (where relevant): (i.e. publications, web address, etc.)

Other notes: For example, if the monument has been found as the result of a licensed archaeological investigation then the **licence number** should be given and if the monument has been completely excavated (i.e. there is **NO** surviving archaeology above or below ground surface) this should be noted here. If the monument has been discovered as the result of geophysical investigations then this should be stated. If there is a planning application associated with it, the planning reference number should be given.

Identified during the Leitrim Sweathouse Project by Mr C. Rock

Summary description of monument: (additional details may be supplied on a separate page(s))

Sweathouse. Built into the bank at the S shore of Lough Melvin. Not indicated on any O.S. map, c.96m NE of ruined farmstead. A recently collapsed mound (Ext. Dim: 3.4m E-W by c.3.5m) surrounds a sub-circular chamber (Dia: c.1.5m E-W x 1.2m; H: 0.95m) with vertical sides to a corbelled ceiling. The interior has filled with soil and the overhanging tree roots mirror the former roof. The entrance opens to N, c.10m from the lake and the western side has been displaced by root activity (H: 0.62m; damaged W: 0.26m).

Report accompanied by a sketch plan and/or section, elevation drawings?

Yes

Report accompanied by a photograph(s):

Yes X

Where possible the date the photo was taken should be written on the back if not already imprinted on it.

Report accompanied by a copy of OS map

Yes X

and/or aerial photo:

Yes

It is important that the report be accompanied by either a map or aerial photograph (web-derived aerial photos are acceptable) with the location and extent of the 'monument' clearly marked on it. The aerial photo or map must be at a scale where field boundaries are clearly visible to enable it be referenced to Ordnance Survey Ireland mapping.

Checked against National Monuments Service website, Yes X

www.archaeology.ie:

Signed:

Aidan Harte

Date: 25th October 2021

On completion of this form please send it, together with any supporting documentation, to:

nationalmonuments@chg.gov.ie

Archaeological Survey of Ireland

National Monuments Service

Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

The Custom House (Room G50)

Dublin 1

Dublin D01 W6XO

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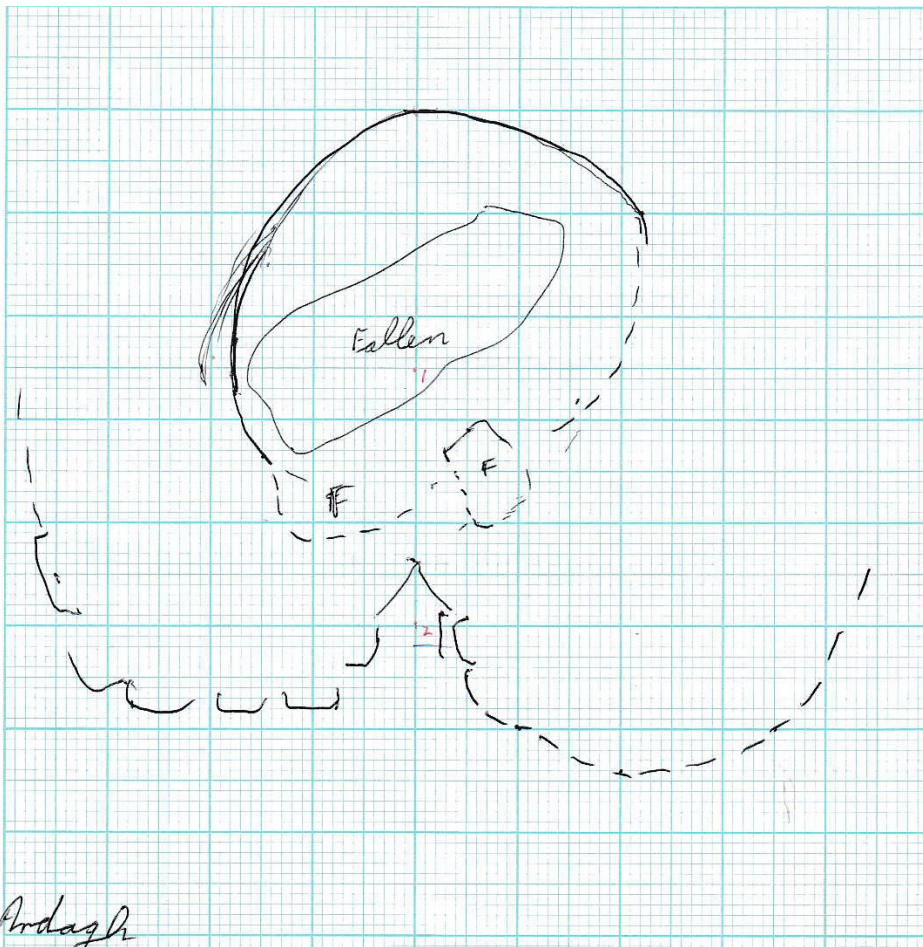


1836 six-inch O.S. extract

Site highlighted in as orange point – co-ords are not derived from this mapping



View of Sweathouse from N, 13th Sept 2022 (A. Harte)



Sketch-plan of Ardagh Sweathouse, SW to top, scale 1:20, by A Harte



Monument Report Form

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County: Leitrim

Townland(s): Brackary Beg

Classification: (e.g., ringfort, standing stone, cairn, mound) Sweathouse

Irish Transverse Mercator co-ordinates: E:

5	8	9	4	2	0
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 N:

8	4	2	8	9	1
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Irish Grid co-ordinates: E:

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 N:

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Source of co-ordinates (please fill one): GPS Website

Date of inspection of monument (dd/mm/yyyy): 08 / 07 /2022

Name of person compiling report (Block Capitals): AIDAN HARTE

Address: Baile na mBrabhach	Phone no.: 087 2963795
Indreabhán	
Co. na Gaillimhe	Email address: harte.aidan@gmail.com

Are you content to be identified by name on the Historic Environment Viewer as the person who reported the monument. Yes No

Setting of monument: (i.e., situation and land use in and around monument, etc.)

In pasture, approx.. 50m N of a farmstead and alongside a small roadway. c. 140m OD

Condition of monument: (i.e., whether obscured by trees, scrub, bushes, etc.)

Only marked on the 1st edition six-inch O.S. map (1836) where it appears a sub-circular or D-shaped roofed structure, no surface trace remains.

Local information: (i.e., local name, field name, past history, etc.)

References (where relevant): (i.e. publications, web address, etc.)

Other notes: For example, if the monument has been found as the result of a licensed archaeological investigation then the **licence number** should be given and if the monument has been completely excavated (i.e. there is **NO** surviving archaeology above or below ground surface) this should be noted here. If the monument has been discovered as the result of geophysical investigations then this should be stated. If there is a planning application associated with it, the planning reference number should be given.

Identified during the Leitrim Sweathouse Project and inspected by Mr A. Goodison

Summary description of monument: (additional details may be supplied on a separate page(s))

Sweathouse. In pasture, c. 50m N of a farmstead and alongside a small roadway. Only marked on the 1st edition six-inch O.S. map (1836). No visible surface trace remains.

Report accompanied by a sketch plan and/or section, elevation drawings? Yes

Report accompanied by a photograph(s): Yes

Where possible the date the photo was taken should be written on the back if not already imprinted on it.

Report accompanied by a copy of OS map Yes **and/or aerial photo:** Yes

It is important that the report be accompanied by either a map or aerial photograph (web-derived aerial photos are acceptable) with the location and extent of the 'monument' clearly marked on it. The aerial photo or map must be at a scale where field boundaries are clearly visible to enable it be referenced to Ordnance Survey Ireland mapping.

Checked against National Monuments Service website, Yes X
www.archaeology.ie:

Signed: Aidan Harte **Date:** 25th October 2021

On completion of this form please send it, together with any supporting documentation, to:

nationalmonuments@chq.gov.ie

Archaeological Survey of Ireland

National Monuments Service

Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

The Custom House (Room G50)

Dublin 1

Dublin D01 W6XO

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1836 six-inch O.S. extract showing Sweathouse marked at centre



An Roinn Cultúir,
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Department of Culture,
Heritage and the Gaeltacht

NATIONAL MONUMENTS SERVICE

Monument Report Form

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County: Leitrim

Townland(s): Brackary More

Classification: (e.g., ringfort, standing stone, cairn, mound) Sweathouse

Irish Transverse Mercator co-ordinates:

E:

5	8	9	8	6	7
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N:

8	4	4	6	5	5
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Irish Grid co-ordinates:

E:

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N:

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Source of co-ordinates (please fill one): GPS Website

Date of inspection of monument (dd/mm/yyyy): 11 / 09 /2022

Name of person compiling report (Block Capitals): AIDAN HARTE

Address:	Baile na mBrabhach	Phone no.:	087 2963795
	Indreabhán		
	Co. na Gaillimhe	Email address:	harte.aidan@gmail.com

Are you content to be identified by name on the Historic Environment Viewer as the person who reported the monument. Yes No

Setting of monument: (i.e., situation and land use in and around monument, etc.)

Situated about 3-4m from the right bank of the Ballagh River, 80m N of a derelict farmstead, 33m N of a farmstead only on the 1st edition six-inch O.S. map. Within pasture with views to E, c. 313m OD

Condition of monument: (i.e., whether obscured by trees, scrub, bushes, etc.)

The sweathouse is in a ruined state without a roof and little remaining evidence of walls above ground level. It presently forms a low grassy U-shaped mound with a roughly rectangular hollow in the centre.

Local information: (i.e., local name, field name, past history, etc.)

References (where relevant): (i.e. publications, web address, etc.)

Other notes: *For example, if the monument has been found as the result of a licensed archaeological investigation then the **licence number** should be given and if the monument has been completely excavated (i.e. there is **NO** surviving archaeology above or below ground surface) this should be noted here. If the monument has been discovered as the result of geophysical investigations then this should be stated. If there is a planning application associated with it, the planning reference number should be given.*

Identified during the Leitrim Sweathouse Project and surveyed by Mr F. Kelly

Summary description of monument: (additional details may be supplied on a separate page(s))

Sweathouse. c. 3-4m from the right bank of and NW-SE river, a heavily collapsed grass-covered U-shaped mound (Ext. Dims: 3.4m NE-SW by 2.20m; Max. H: 0.8m) with opening to SE. Interior is sub-rectangular or possibly oval in plan (Dims.: 1.5m NE-SW by 1.20m). Marked only on the 1836 O.S. map as 'Sweat Ho.' C. 33m N of a farmstead.

Report accompanied by a sketch plan and/or section, elevation drawings?

Yes

Report accompanied by a photograph(s):

Yes X

Where possible the date the photo was taken should be written on the back if not already imprinted on it.

Report accompanied by a copy of OS map

Yes X

and/or aerial photo:

Yes

It is important that the report be accompanied by either a map or aerial photograph (web-derived aerial photos are acceptable) with the location and extent of the 'monument' clearly marked on it. The aerial photo or map must be at a scale where field boundaries are clearly visible to enable it be referenced to Ordnance Survey Ireland mapping.

Checked against National Monuments Service website, Yes X
www.archaeology.ie:

Signed: 

Date: 25th October 2021

On completion of this form please send it, together with any supporting documentation, to:

nationalmonuments@chg.gov.ie

Archaeological Survey of Ireland

National Monuments Service

Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

The Custom House (Room G50)

Dublin 1

Dublin D01 W6XO

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1836 six-inch O.S. extract showing Sweathouse marked at centre



View of Sweathouse from SE, 11th Sept 2022 (F. Kelly)



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Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta
Department of Culture,
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NATIONAL MONUMENTS SERVICE

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County: Leitrim

Townland(s): Cattan

Classification: (e.g., ringfort, standing stone, cairn, mound) Sweathouse

Irish Transverse Mercator co-ordinates: E:

6	1	6	0	8	2
---	---	---	---	---	---

 N:

7	9	3	6	7	9
---	---	---	---	---	---

Irish Grid co-ordinates: E:

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 N:

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Source of co-ordinates (please fill one): GPS Website

Date of inspection of monument (dd/mm/yyyy): / /

Name of person compiling report AIDAN HARTE
(Block Capitals):

Address: Baile na mBrabhach

Phone no.:

087 2963795

Indreabhán

Co. na Gaillimhe

Email address: harte.aidan@gmail.com

Are you content to be identified by name on the Historic Environment Viewer as the person who reported the monument. Yes No

Setting of monument: (i.e., situation and land use in and around monument, etc.)

In pasture, adjacent to field boundary

Condition of monument: (i.e., whether obscured by trees, scrub, bushes, etc.)

No surface trace

Local information: (i.e., local name, field name, past history, etc.)

Local memory of a Sweathouse being in this field but at at this location

References (where relevant): (i.e. publications, web address, etc.)

Other notes: *For example, if the monument has been found as the result of a licensed archaeological investigation then the **licence number** should be given and if the monument has been completely excavated (i.e. there is **NO** surviving archaeology above or below ground surface) this should be noted here. If the monument has been discovered as the result of geophysical investigations then this should be stated. If there is a planning application associated with it, the planning reference number should be given.*

Found during the Leitrim Sweathouse Project

Summary description of monument: (additional details may be supplied on a separate page(s))

Marked 'Sweat Ho.' On the 1835 O.S. map.

Report accompanied by a sketch plan and/or section, elevation drawings? Yes

Report accompanied by a photograph(s): Yes

Where possible the date the photo was taken should be written on the back if not already imprinted on it.

Report accompanied by a copy of OS map Yes **and/or aerial photo:** Yes

It is important that the report be accompanied by either a map or aerial photograph (web-derived aerial photos are acceptable) with the location and extent of the 'monument' clearly marked on it. The aerial photo or map must be at a scale where field boundaries are clearly visible to enable it be referenced to Ordnance Survey Ireland mapping.

Checked against National Monuments Service website, Yes
www.archaeology.ie:

Signed: Aidan Harte

Date: 23rd October 2022

On completion of this form please send it, together with any supporting documentation, to:

nationalmonuments@chg.gov.ie

Archaeological Survey of Ireland
National Monuments Service
Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
The Custom House (Room G50)
Dublin 1
Dublin D01 W6XO

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1st ed. O.S. extract



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Department of Culture,
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NATIONAL MONUMENTS SERVICE

Monument Report Form

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is primarily to record monuments dating from the pre-AD 1700 period. Please check the records of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland on the National Monuments Service website www.archaeology.ie before sending in a report to ensure that the monument has not already been recorded. This Monument Report Form will form part of the Sites and Monuments Record.

County: Leitrim

Townland(s): Fearglass North

Classification: (e.g., ringfort, standing stone, cairn, mound) Sweathouse

Irish Transverse Mercator co-ordinates: E:

6	1	7	1	1	3
---	---	---	---	---	---

 N:

7	9	2	6	0	1
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Irish Grid co-ordinates: E:

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 N:

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Source of co-ordinates (please fill one): GPS Website

Date of inspection of monument (dd/mm/yyyy): 11 / 09 /2022

Name of person compiling report AIDAN HARTE
(Block Capitals):

Address: Baile na mBrabhach

 Indreabhán

 Co. na Gaillimhe

Phone no.: 087 2963795

 Email address: harte.aidan@gmail.com

Are you content to be identified by name on the **Historic Environment Viewer** as the person who reported the monument. Yes No

Setting of monument: (i.e., situation and land use in and around monument, etc.)

Situated in poor drained pasture on a gentle slope c.100m SSE of farmstead and 85m NW of derelict houses. c. 80m OD

Condition of monument: (i.e., whether obscured by trees, scrub, bushes, etc.)

Indicated on the 1907 25-inch O.S map. No visible surface trace remains only a rough overgrown depression.

Local information: (i.e., local name, field name, past history, etc.)

The landowner, Mr N. Ward, said it was his father who used refer to it as the Sweathouse. Mr Ward and his brother were ask to 'clear it out' (remove the stones) sometime in the 1970s.

References (where relevant): (i.e. publications, web address, etc.)

Other notes: *For example, if the monument has been found as the result of a licensed archaeological investigation then the **licence number** should be given and if the monument has been completely excavated (i.e. there is **NO** surviving archaeology above or below ground surface) this should be noted here. If the monument has been discovered as the result of geophysical investigations then this should be stated. If there is a planning application associated with it, the planning reference number should be given.*

Identified during the Leitrim Sweathouse Project and inspected by Ms J Heslin and A Harte

Summary description of monument: (additional details may be supplied on a separate page(s))

Sweathouse. Located in lowlying pasture and depicted as a circular roofless structure in the 1907 O.S. map but not named. Local information says there was the ruins of a Sweathouse here until the 1970s, c. 100m SSE of a farmstead. An overgrown depression is all that is visible at this location.

Report accompanied by a sketch plan and/or section, elevation drawings?

Yes

Report accompanied by a photograph(s):

Yes

Where possible the date the photo was taken should be written on the back if not already imprinted on it.

Report accompanied by a copy of OS map

Yes

and/or aerial photo:

Yes

It is important that the report be accompanied by either a map or aerial photograph (web-derived aerial photos are acceptable) with the location and extent of the 'monument' clearly marked on it. The aerial photo or map must be at a scale where field boundaries are clearly visible to enable it be referenced to Ordnance Survey Ireland mapping.

Checked against National Monuments Service website, Yes

www.archaeology.ie:

Signed:

Aidan Harte

Date: 25th October 2021

On completion of this form please send it, together with any supporting documentation, to:

nationalmonuments@chg.gov.ie

Archaeological Survey of Ireland

National Monuments Service

Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

The Custom House (Room G50)

Dublin 1

Dublin D01 W6XO

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Extract from the 25-inch O.S. 1907 showing unroofed Sweathouse circled in orange



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Department of Culture,
Heritage and the Gaeltacht

NATIONAL MONUMENTS SERVICE

Monument Report Form

The following report form has been designed to assist persons who may wish to supply information on newly discovered monuments. The current operational policy of the National Monuments Service is primarily to record monuments dating from the pre-AD 1700 period. Please check the records of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland on the National Monuments Service website www.archaeology.ie before sending in a report to ensure that the monument has not already been recorded. This Monument Report Form will form part of the Sites and Monuments Record.

County: Leitrim

Townland(s): Kiltyclogher (South)

Classification: (e.g., ringfort, standing stone, cairn, mound) Sweathouse

Irish Transverse Mercator co-ordinates: E:

5	9	8	5	7	4
---	---	---	---	---	---

 N:

8	4	1	2	7	3
---	---	---	---	---	---

Irish Grid co-ordinates: E:

--	--	--	--	--	--

 N:

--	--	--	--	--	--

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Source of co-ordinates (please fill one): GPS Website

Date of inspection of monument (dd/mm/yyyy): 20 / 08 /2022

Name of person compiling report AIDAN HARTE
(Block Capitals):

Address: Baile na mBrabhach

Indreabhán

Co. na Gaillimhe

Phone no.: 087 2963795

Email address: harte.aidan@gmail.com

Are you content to be identified by name on the Historic Environment Viewer as the person who reported the monument. Yes No

Setting of monument: (i.e., situation and land use in and around monument, etc.)

At 244m OD on a NE facing slope, 20m SW of some ruined buildings. Positioned on a high bank to the south and east of a ravine/stream

Condition of monument: (i.e., whether obscured by trees, scrub, bushes, etc.)

Well-preserved, free-standing Sweathouse with mound. Internally some of the stone-work of the south part of roof is very unstable.

Local information: (i.e., local name, field name, past history, etc.)

References (where relevant): (i.e. publications, web address, etc.)

Other notes: *For example, if the monument has been found as the result of a licensed archaeological investigation then the **licence number** should be given and if the monument has been completely excavated (i.e. there is **NO** surviving archaeology above or below ground surface) this should be noted here. If the monument has been discovered as the result of geophysical investigations then this should be stated. If there is a planning application associated with it, the planning reference number should be given.*

Found during the Leitrim Sweathouse Project by Ms N Pearson

Summary description of monument: (additional details may be supplied on a separate page(s))

Sweathouse. High on the bank above a junction of mountain stream, on a NE facing slope. Indicated as a square building on the 1907 O.S. map, c.20m from ruined buildings. A conical mound (Dims: 5.2m N-S by 4m; H: 2.5m), with entrance (H: 0.55m; W:0.53m) to SSE. A sub-circular chamber (Dims:1.6m N-S by 1.43m; H:1.78m) with vertical sides to 1.43m and a corbelled ceiling. Internal roofing stonework unstable. Some evidence of recent burring activity within.

Report accompanied by a sketch plan and/or section, elevation drawings? Yes

Report accompanied by a photograph(s): Yes X

Where possible the date the photo was taken should be written on the back if not already imprinted on it.

Report accompanied by a copy of OS map Yes **and/or aerial photo:** Yes

It is important that the report be accompanied by either a map or aerial photograph (web-derived aerial photos are acceptable) with the location and extent of the 'monument' clearly marked on it. The aerial photo or map must be at a scale where field boundaries are clearly visible to enable it be referenced to Ordnance Survey Ireland mapping.

Checked against National Monuments Service website, Yes X
www.archaeology.ie:

Signed: Aidan Harte

Date: 25th October 2021

On completion of this form please send it, together with any supporting documentation, to:

nationalmonuments@chg.gov.ie

Archaeological Survey of Ireland

National Monuments Service

Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

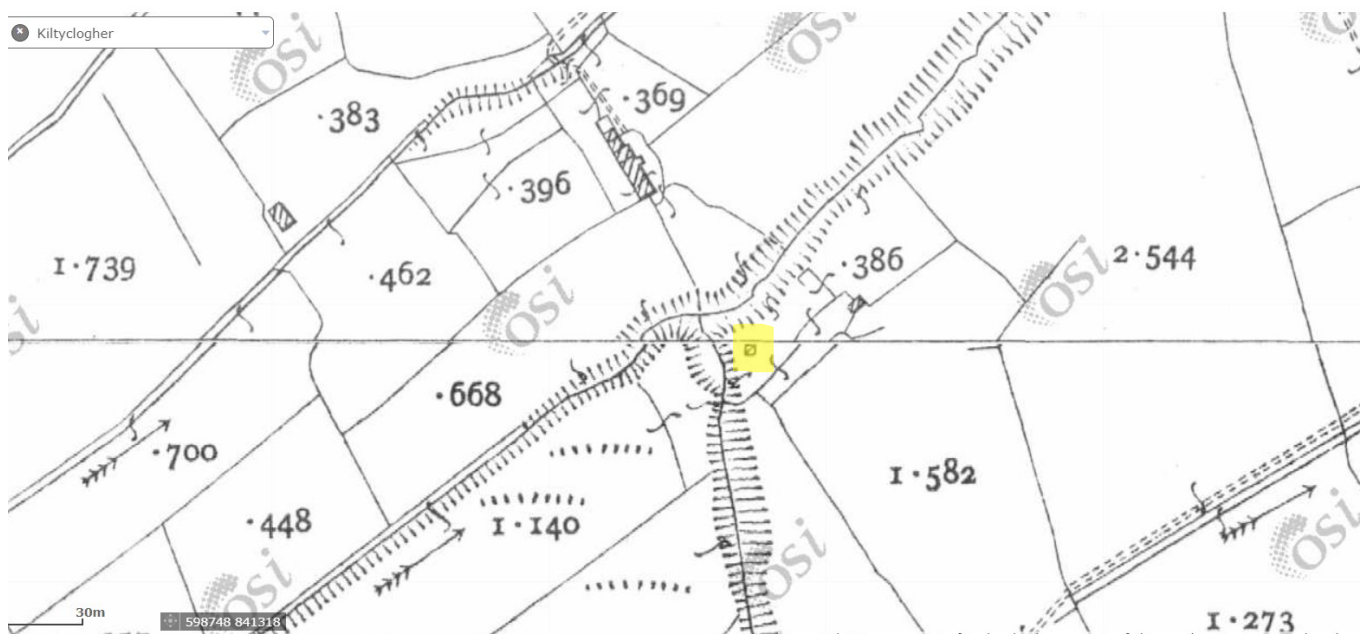
The Custom House (Room G50)

Dublin 1

Dublin D01 W6XO

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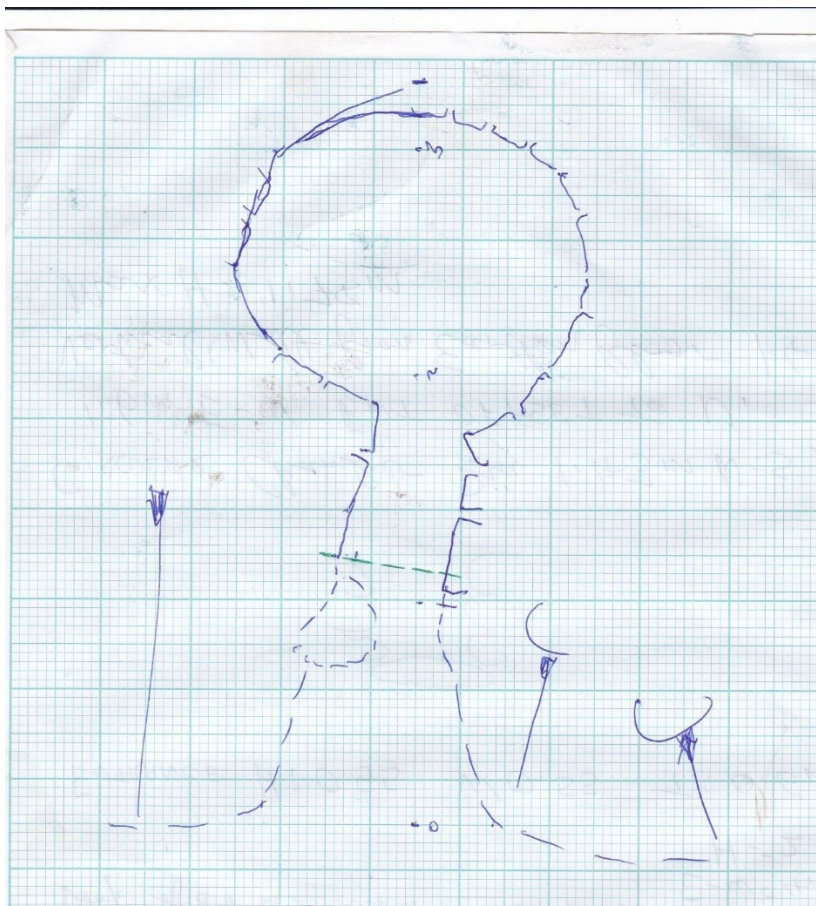


1906 Historic 25-inch O.S. extract

Site highlighted in yellow



View of Sweathouse from S, 25th Aug 2022



Sketch plan (1:20) by A Harte



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NATIONAL MONUMENTS SERVICE

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County: Leitrim

Townland(s): Kiltyclogher (North)

Classification: (e.g., ringfort, standing stone, cairn, mound) Sweathouse

Irish Transverse Mercator co-ordinates: E:

5	9	7	4	7	7
---	---	---	---	---	---

 N:

8	4	2	6	5	4
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Irish Grid co-ordinates: E:

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 N:

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Source of co-ordinates (please fill one): GPS Website

Date of inspection of monument (dd/mm/yyyy): 20 / 08 /2022

Name of person compiling report AIDAN HARTE
(Block Capitals):

Address: Baile na mBrabhach

Indreabhán

Co. na Gaillimhe

Phone no.: 087 2963795

Email address: harte.aidan@gmail.com

Are you content to be identified by name on the Historic Environment Viewer as the person who reported the monument.

Yes

No

Setting of monument: (i.e., situation and land use in and around monument, etc.)

Built into N bank of an E-W stream, 180m SW of some derelict farmstead. Positioned within a semi-circular field (pasture). Views restricted in all directions, c. 180m OD

Condition of monument: (i.e., whether obscured by trees, scrub, bushes, etc.)

Well-preserved, roofed Sweathouse with mound. Internally, the chamber has filled with soil but roof is intact.

Local information: (i.e., local name, field name, past history, etc.)

References (where relevant): (i.e. publications, web address, etc.)

Other notes: *For example, if the monument has been found as the result of a licensed archaeological investigation then the **licence number** should be given and if the monument has been completely excavated (i.e. there is **NO** surviving archaeology above or below ground surface) this should be noted here. If the monument has been discovered as the result of geophysical investigations then this should be stated. If there is a planning application associated with it, the planning reference number should be given.*

Found during the Leitrim Sweathouse Project by Ms N Pearson

Summary description of monument: (additional details may be supplied on a separate page(s))

Sweathouse. Built into the N bank of an E-W stream. Not indicated on any O.S. map, c.180m SW of farmstead. A domed mound (Ext. max. H: 2.2m; Dim: 2.9m N-S by 2.8m) covers a sub-circular chamber (Dia: 1.3m E-W x 1.13m; H:1.06m) with vertical sides to a corbelled ceiling. The interior has filled with soil from the mound. The entrance opens to SE 2m from stream (H: 0.5m; W: 0.48m).

Report accompanied by a sketch plan and/or section, elevation drawings? Yes

Report accompanied by a photograph(s):

Yes X

Where possible the date the photo was taken should be written on the back if not already imprinted on it.

Report accompanied by a copy of OS map

Yes X

and/or aerial photo:

Yes

It is important that the report be accompanied by either a map or aerial photograph (web-derived aerial photos are acceptable) with the location and extent of the 'monument' clearly marked on it. The aerial photo or map must be at a scale where field boundaries are clearly visible to enable it be referenced to Ordnance Survey Ireland mapping.

Checked against National Monuments Service website, Yes X

www.archaeology.ie:

Signed:

Aidan Harte

Date: 25th October 2021

On completion of this form please send it, together with any supporting documentation, to:

nationalmonuments@chg.gov.ie

Archaeological Survey of Ireland

National Monuments Service

Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

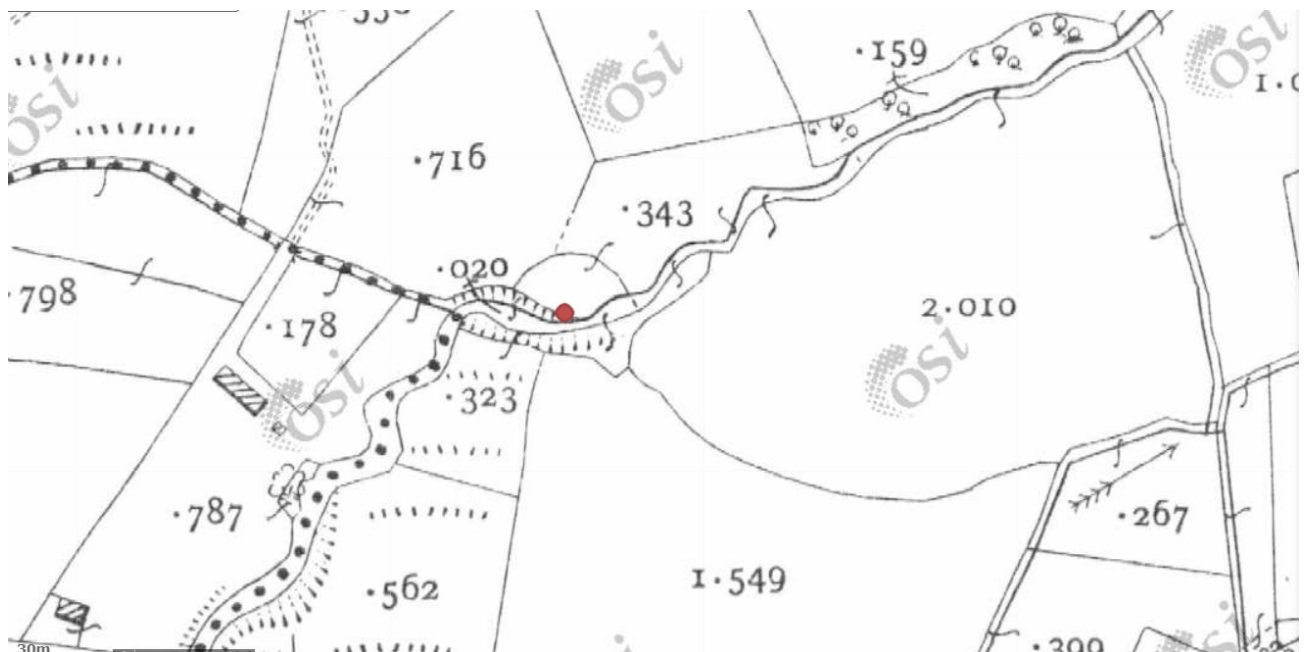
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Dublin 1

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1907 Historic 25-inch O.S. extract

Site highlighted in as red dot – co-ords are not derived from this mapping



View of Sweathouse from SE, 25th Aug 2022



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NATIONAL MONUMENTS SERVICE

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County: Leitrim

Townland(s): Mullanyduffy

Classification: (e.g., ringfort, standing stone, cairn, mound) ringfort

Irish Transverse Mercator co-ordinates: E:

5	8	8	7	4	2
---	---	---	---	---	---

 N:

8	4	2	2	7	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

Irish Grid co-ordinates: E:

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 N:

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Source of co-ordinates (please fill one): GPS Website Date of inspection of monument (dd/mm/yyyy): Not inspected –
from aerial imageryName of person compiling report AIDAN HARTE
(Block Capitals):Address: Baile na mBrabhach Phone no.: 087 2963795
Indreabhán
Co. na Gaillimhe Email address: harte.aidan@gmail.comAre you content to be identified by name on the Historic Environment Viewer as the person who reported the monument. Yes No

Setting of monument: (i.e., situation and land use in and around monument, etc.)

Situated in poorly drained pasture, c. 130m OD

Condition of monument: (i.e., whether obscured by trees, scrub, bushes, etc.)

Not indicated on any map. Visible in all available aerial imagery 1995 – 2013, as grass covered circular enclosure truncated by field boundaries at E and SE. Possible fosse extant from SW → N. Approx Dia. 20m

Local information: (i.e., local name, field name, past history, etc.)

none

References (where relevant): (i.e. publications, web address, etc.)

Other notes: *For example, if the monument has been found as the result of a licensed archaeological investigation then the **licence number** should be given and if the monument has been completely excavated (i.e. there is **NO** surviving archaeology above or below ground surface) this should be noted here. If the monument has been discovered as the result of geophysical investigations then this should be stated. If there is a planning application associated with it, the planning reference number should be given.*

Identified during the Leitrim Sweathouse Project

Summary description of monument: (additional details may be supplied on a separate page(s))

Ringfort possible. In rough pasture at the junction modern field boundaries. Not depicted on any O.S. map but visible in aerial imagery from multiple years. Possible ditch/fosse extant from SW-N. Truncated by modern field boundaries at E and SE. Approx. internal dia. 20m

Report accompanied by a sketch plan and/or section, elevation drawings?

Yes

Report accompanied by a photograph(s): Yes

Where possible the date the photo was taken should be written on the back if not already imprinted on it.

Report accompanied by a copy of OS map Yes **and/or aerial photo:** Yes

It is important that the report be accompanied by either a map or aerial photograph (web-derived aerial photos are acceptable) with the location and extent of the 'monument' clearly marked on it. The aerial photo or map must be at a scale where field boundaries are clearly visible to enable it be referenced to Ordnance Survey Ireland mapping.

Checked against National Monuments Service website, Yes www.archaeology.ie:

Signed: Aidan Harte

Date: 25th October 2021

On completion of this form please send it, together with any supporting documentation, to:

nationalmonuments@chq.gov.ie

Archaeological Survey of Ireland

National Monuments Service

Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

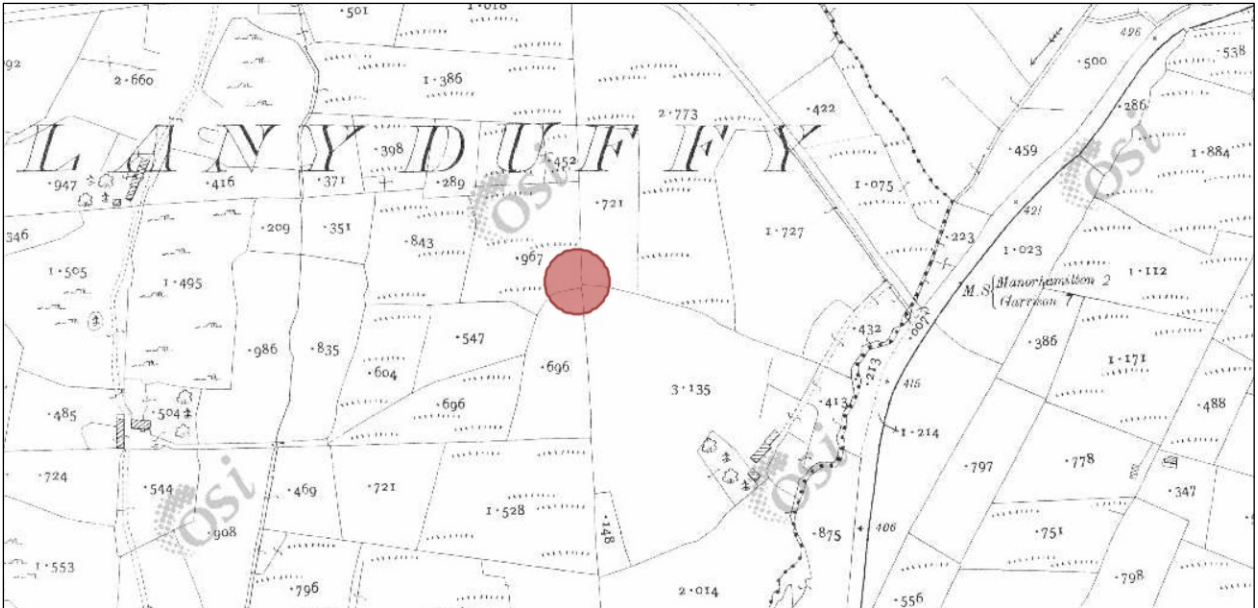
The Custom House (Room G50)

Dublin 1

Dublin D01 W6XO

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Extract from the 25-inch O.S. 1907 showing location in red



Extract from 2013 aerial imagery MapGenie with feature at centre



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County: Leitrim

Townland(s): Brackerymore 2

Classification: (e.g., ringfort, standing stone, cairn, mound) ringfort

Irish Transverse Mercator co-ordinates: E:

5	9	0	0	4	8
---	---	---	---	---	---

 N:

8	4	4	1	9	2
---	---	---	---	---	---

Irish Grid co-ordinates: E:

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 N:

--	--	--	--	--	--

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Source of co-ordinates (please fill one): GPS Website

Date of inspection of monument (dd/mm/yyyy): Not inspected –
from aerial imagery

Name of person compiling report AIDAN HARTE
(Block Capitals):

Address: Baile na mBrabhach

Indreabhán

Co. na Gaillimhe

Phone no.: 087 2963795

Email address: harte.aidan@gmail.com

Are you content to be identified by name on the Historic Environment Viewer as the person who reported the monument.

Yes

No

Setting of monument: (i.e., situation and land use in and around monument, etc.)

Situated in poorly drained gently sloped pasture, c. 190m OD

Condition of monument: (i.e., whether obscured by trees, scrub, bushes, etc.)

Not indicated on any map. Visible in all available aerial imagery 1999 – 2013, as grass covered circular platform enclosed by a ditch or fosse, Approx Dia. 25m. Previous field boundaries have transected the feature.

Local information: (i.e., local name, field name, past history, etc.)

none

References (where relevant): (i.e. publications, web address, etc.)

Other notes: *For example, if the monument has been found as the result of a licensed archaeological investigation then the **licence number** should be given and if the monument has been completely excavated (i.e. there is **NO** surviving archaeology above or below ground surface) this should be noted here. If the monument has been discovered as the result of geophysical investigations then this should be stated. If there is a planning application associated with it, the planning reference number should be given.*

Identified during the Leitrim Sweathouse Project

Summary description of monument: (additional details may be supplied on a separate page(s))

Ringfort possible. In pasture, not depicted on any O.S. map but visible in aerial imagery from multiple years. Possible ditch/fosse extant, defining an area approx. dia. 25m. Modern boundaries transected the feature, now removed. Not visited

Report accompanied by a sketch plan and/or section, elevation drawings? Yes

Report accompanied by a photograph(s): Yes

Where possible the date the photo was taken should be written on the back if not already imprinted on it.

Report accompanied by a copy of OS map Yes **and/or aerial photo:** Yes

It is important that the report be accompanied by either a map or aerial photograph (web-derived aerial photos are acceptable) with the location and extent of the 'monument' clearly marked on it. The aerial photo or map must be at a scale where field boundaries are clearly visible to enable it be referenced to Ordnance Survey Ireland mapping.

Checked against National Monuments Service website, Yes
www.archaeology.ie:

Signed: Aidan Harlte

Date: 25th October 2021

On completion of this form please send it, together with any supporting documentation, to:

nationalmonuments@chg.gov.ie

Archaeological Survey of Ireland

National Monuments Service

Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

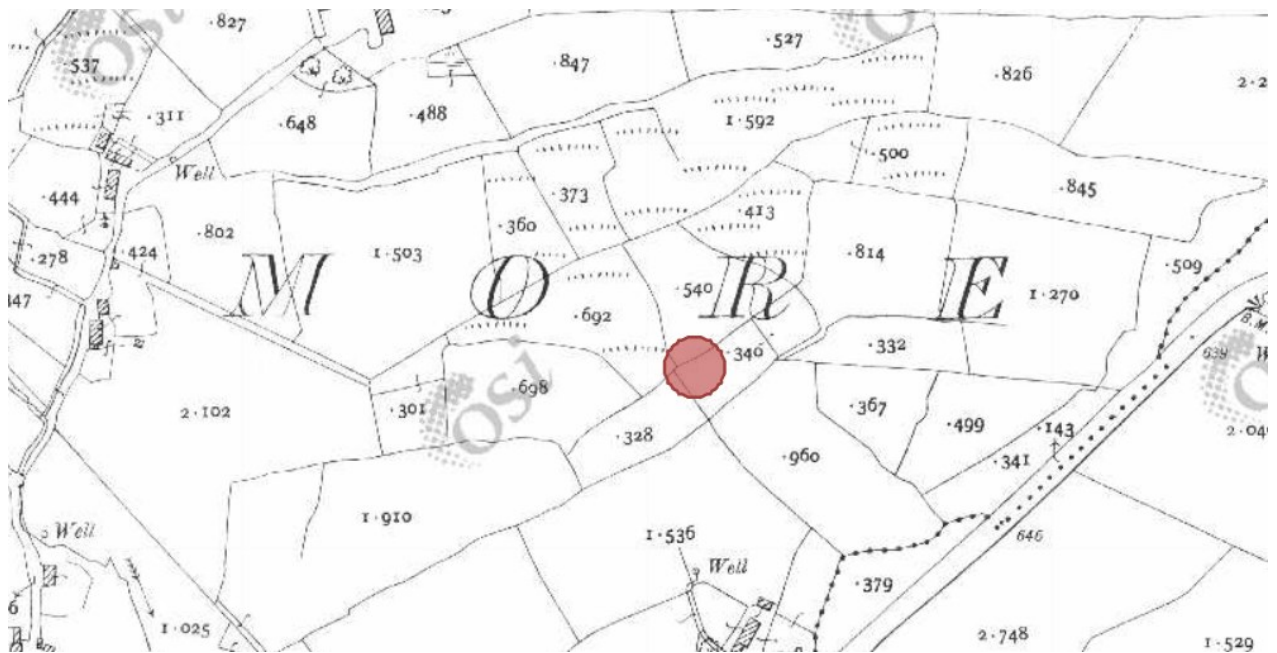
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Extract from the 25-inch O.S. 1907 showing location in red



Extract from aerial image MapGenie 2013 with possible ringfort at centre