



Ancient Sites & Buildings.

Bagenalstown Area

Vol 2, Site 8

Kilcarrig

This ring fort is located in high pastureland north of the town cemetery off the Fenagh Road, on a ridge of land with steep approach on north side.

The enclosure is surrounded by an earthen bank surrounded by a single dry fosse which is incomplete in places. This ring fort like many other examples locally was not apparently intended for defensive purposes.

Because; *the inner ring does not rest atop a platform, there is no water supply to feed a fosse and the enclosed area is too large.*

The Archaeological Inventory of Co Carlow lists three ringforts for Kilcarrig townland ie Nos 421, 422 and 423. The example we visited corresponds to iSite 421 in the inventory. Kilcarrig also had three other circular enclosures which were located south of the Bagenalstown to Fenagh road. All of these have sadly been obliterated in recent years.

The townland of Kilcruit further to the south has two ring forts listed, indicating that this area was cattle country in ancient times.

✓ 421 KILCARRIG

OS 16:10:2 (372,285) OD 300-400 27222,16183

Ringfort Circular area (Diam 48m) enclosed by large bank (W c. 6.5m, int H at E 1.5m; ext H to fosse base 2.4m) with external fosse (est D c. 1m; W of fosse at base 2-3m). Several gaps through bank; that at SE is probably original and has causeway. Interior uneven.

16:91

14-9-1987

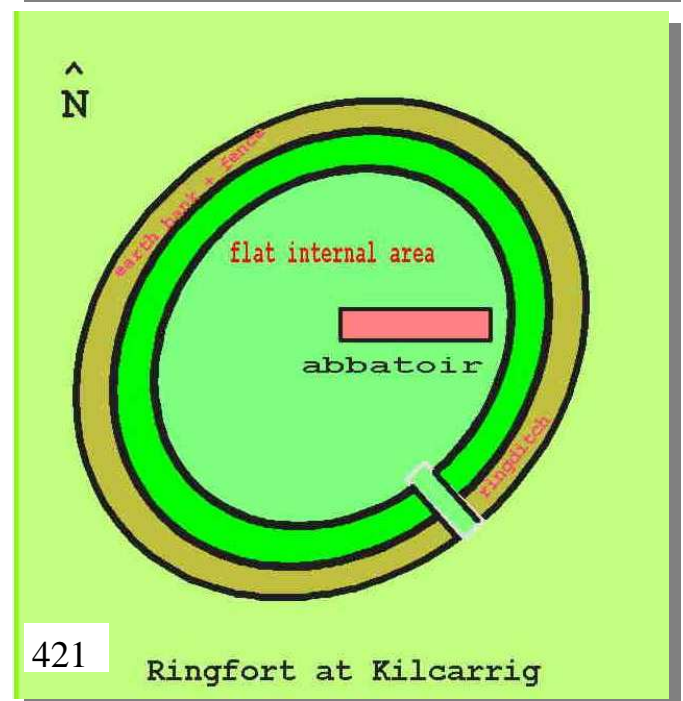
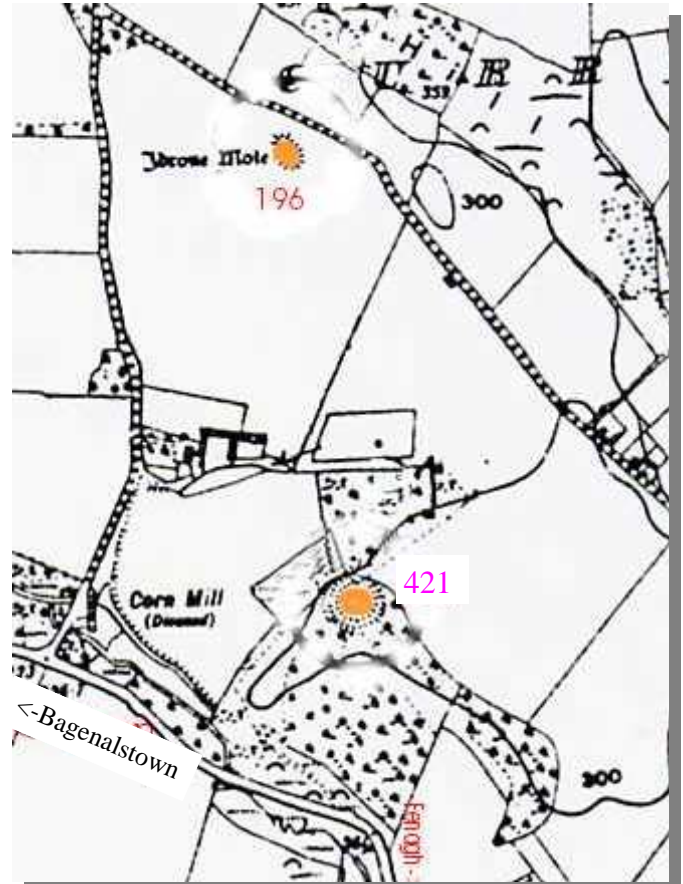
Entry in the Archaeological Inventory of Co Carlow
OPW

The shape of the enclosure and its location would suggest that its purpose was a paddock for livestock. At that time cattle were a valuable source of wealth and rustling was a national pastime, hence the need for so many secure paddocks in the area. When in use the enclosure had a wicker fence or stockade atop the earth bank. This would be built of wattle and be about 2m high.

When searching for buildings within the ringfort we found only one long timber structure measuring;

19' (5.8m) x 10' (3m) with a height to eaves of 8' (2.4m) and to ridge of 18' (5.5m).

Purpose of building; an abbatoir / slaughter-house.



Activity at this site was dated from the 6th to the 12c AD



View of fosse and bank (encircled with trees) at south side of ringfort



View from inside the ringfort. Entrance is to right of picture SE (where human figure is standing). The original location of the abbatoir building is to left of picture

✓ **196 KILCARRIG**
 OS 16:6:5 (367,328) 'Idrone Mote' OD 20
 27216,16229
Mound Approximately oval mound (H c. 5.5m)
 Dims 55m SSE-NNW x c. 28m WSW-NNE
 overgrown.
 16:27 11-

Idrone Mote

Consists of glacial deposits ie rounded boulders of various sizes and clay. This mound is of similar structure to the 'long hill' nearby, a moraine which stretches from Dunleckney Cross to Ballyloughin.

The only object of antiquarian interest found was a grave 2m below surface dated to 3rd c AD.