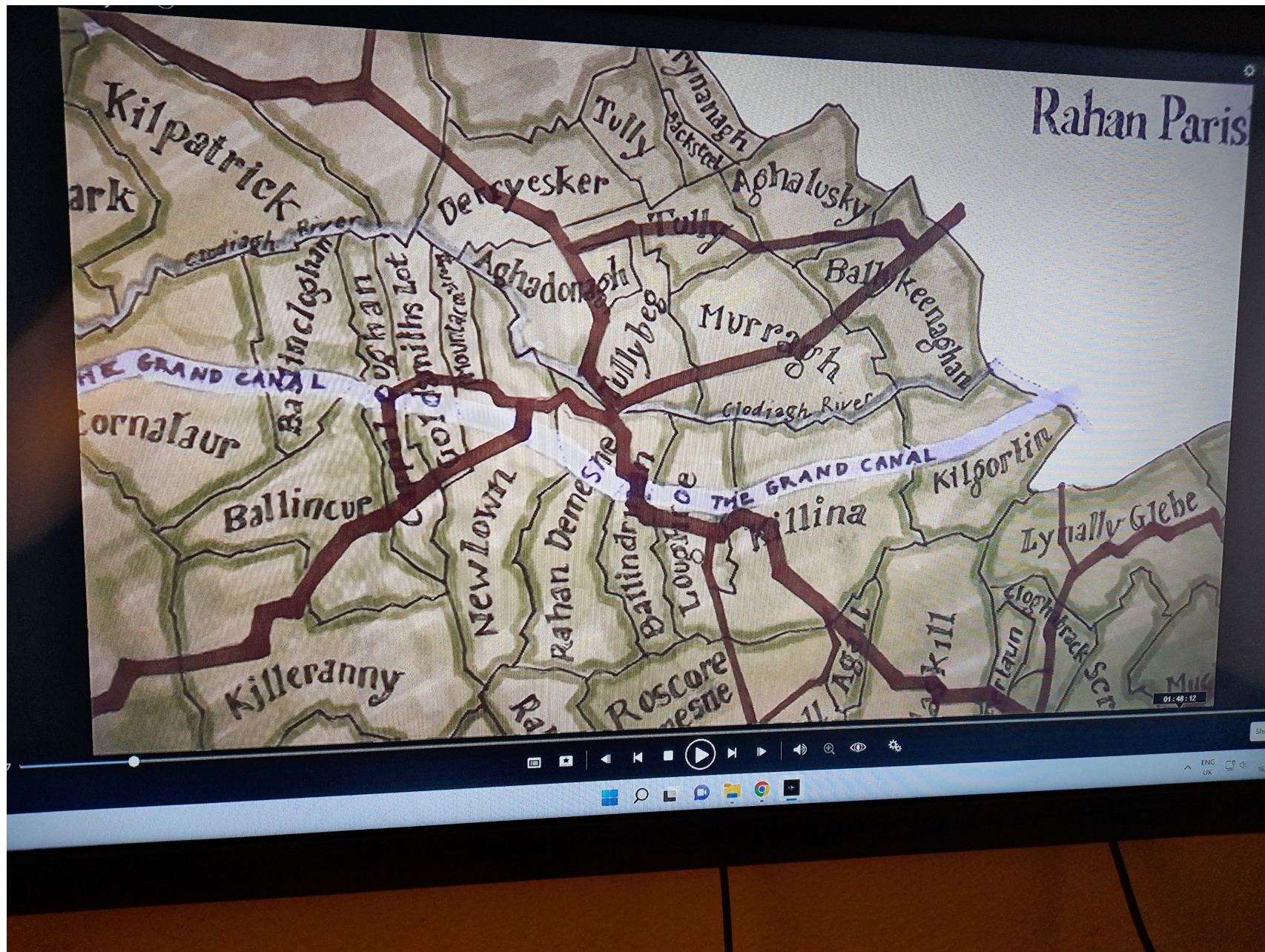




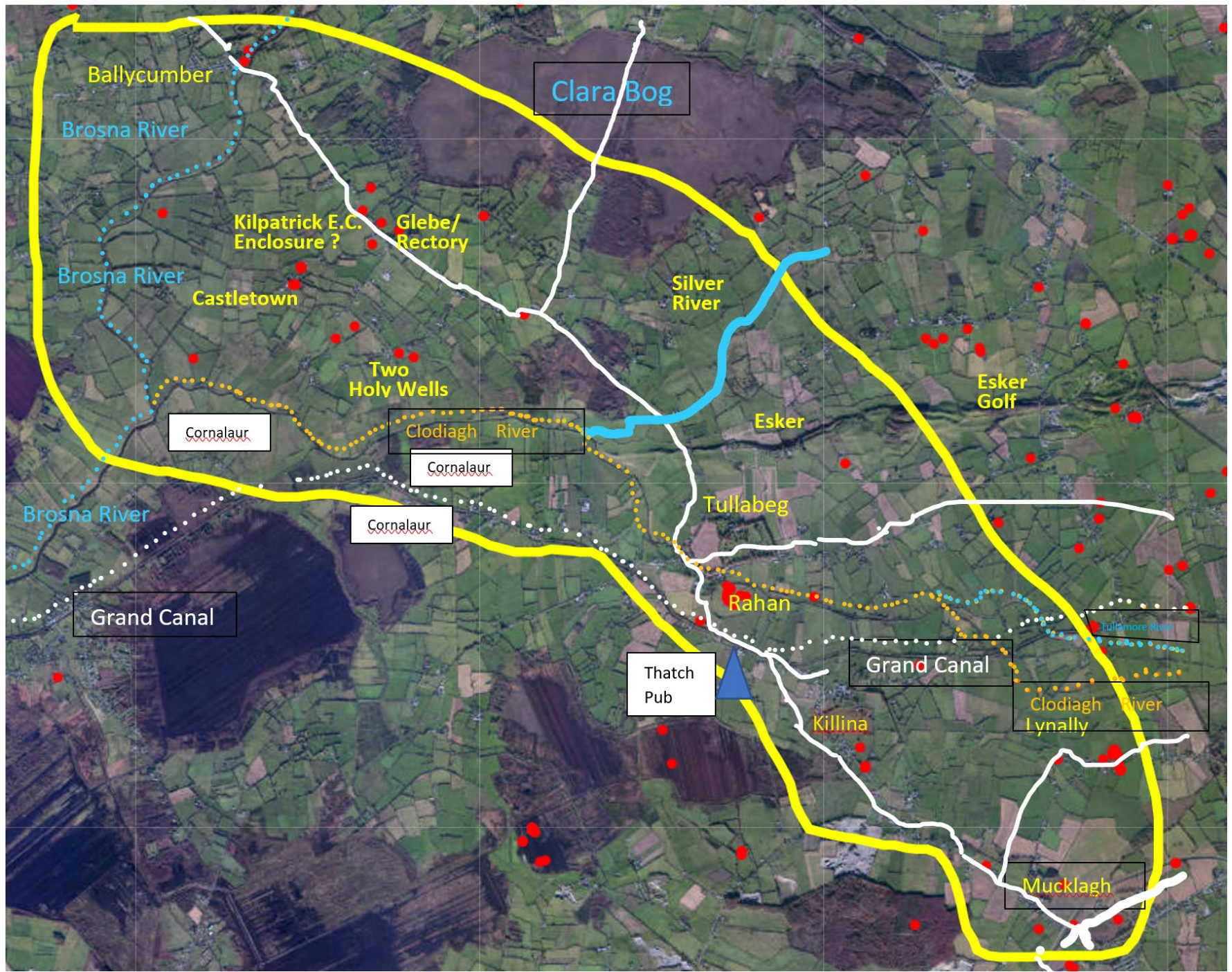
# An Illustrated Talk : "Moving St. Carthage to The Island, Rahan?"

**New Research  
on  
Saint Carthage/Mochuda  
at  
“Churchlands” Rahan Demesne  
and  
“The Island”, Rahan.**

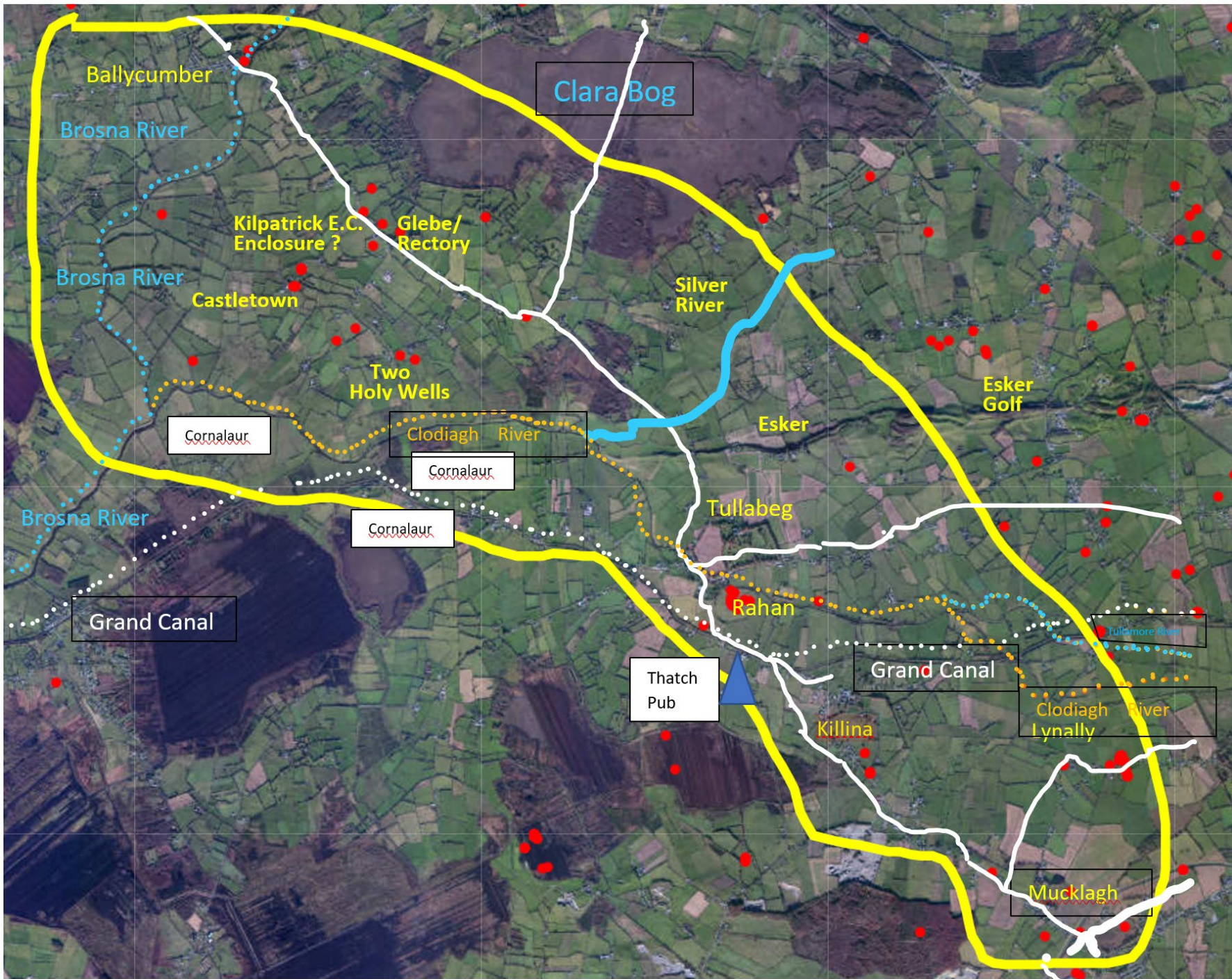




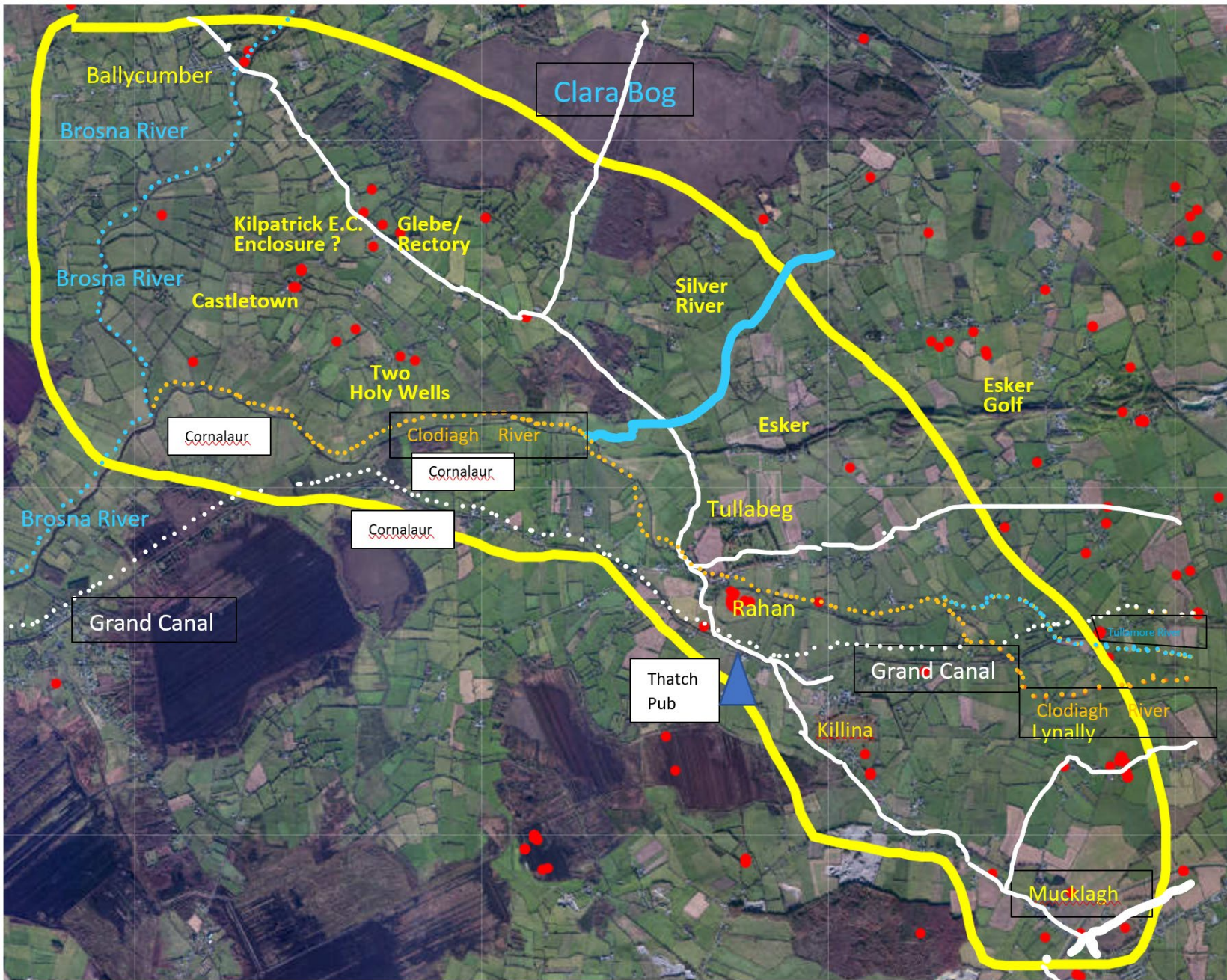
























Oblique aerial photograph taken x Aerial View - Bing Maps x +

bing.com/maps/aerial

☆ ⚙ D ⋮

b

🔍

Directions Traffic My Places More

Aerial

Ireland - Co Offaly

+ -

Aerial photograph of a rural landscape in Co. Offaly, Ireland. The map shows a network of green fields separated by stone walls and hedgerows. A river, the Clodiagh River, flows through the center of the landscape. To the right, the Tullamore River is visible. In the bottom right, a small settlement is labeled Lynally Glebe. The map is displayed in an oblique aerial view, showing the terrain's elevation and shadows. The Bing Maps interface is overlaid on the map, including a search bar, navigation controls, and a scale bar.

Download the new Microsoft Edge to get the best of the web.

Maybe later Download now

Feedback

250 feet 100 m

© 2020 HERE

© 2020 Microsoft

Privacy and Cookies Legal Advertise Help Feedback

Lynally by Leo Sw....jpeg ^

Aerial View - Bing Maps - Goo...

Show all x

Windows taskbar with search bar and icons for various applications (Word, Excel, File Explorer, etc.).

Type here to search

W X File Explorer Mail Calendar D Bing Edge

22:06 30/06/2020 ENG





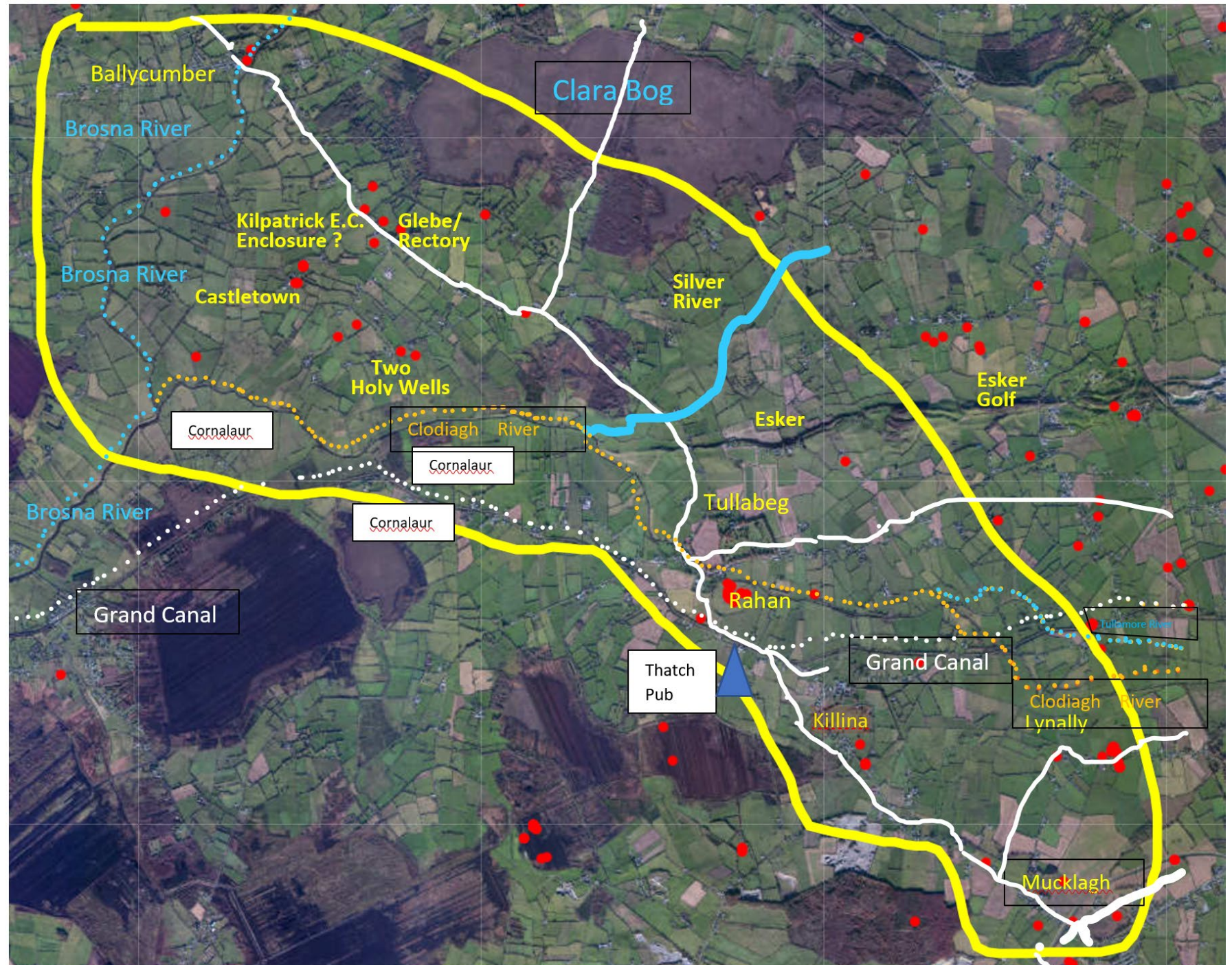








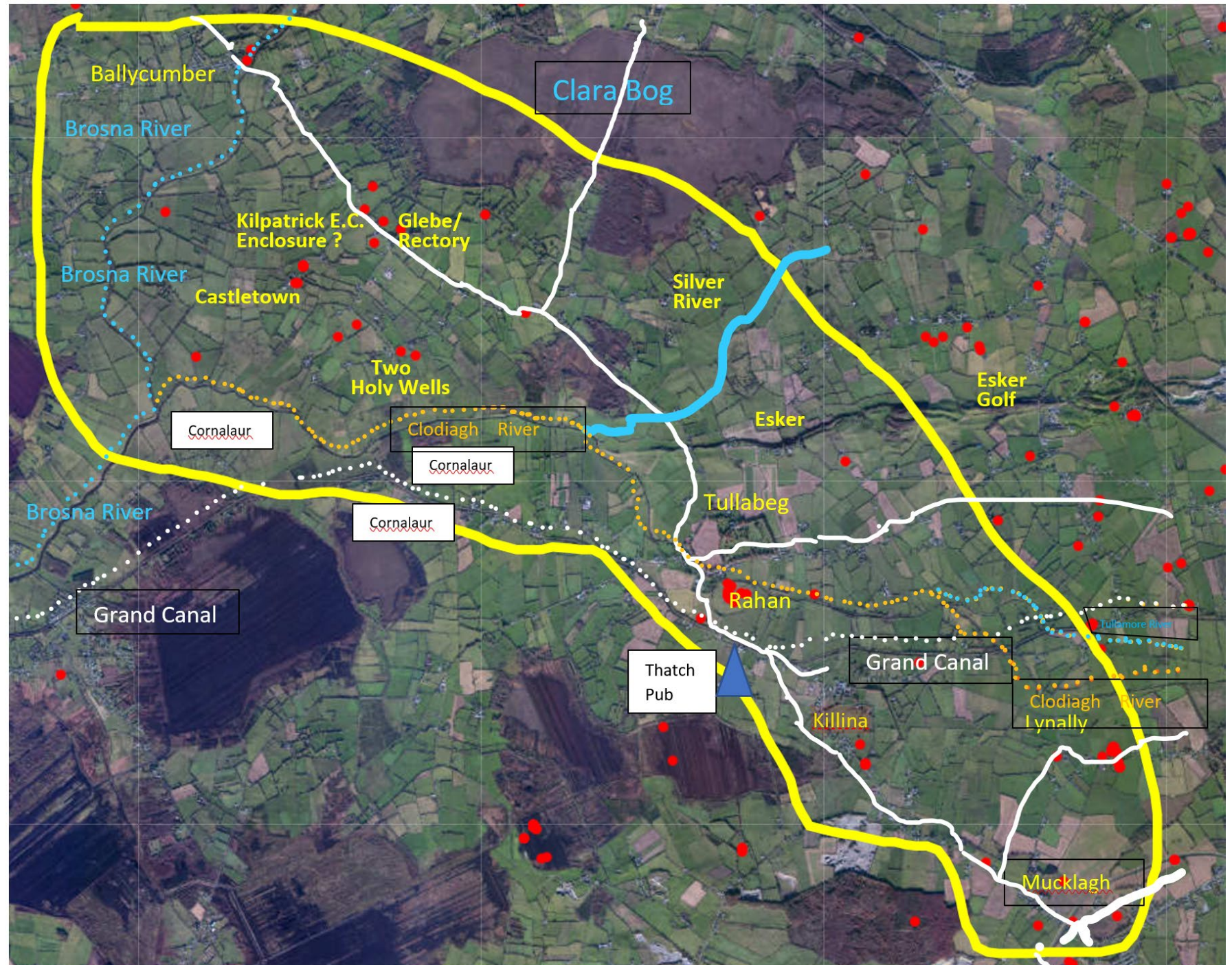






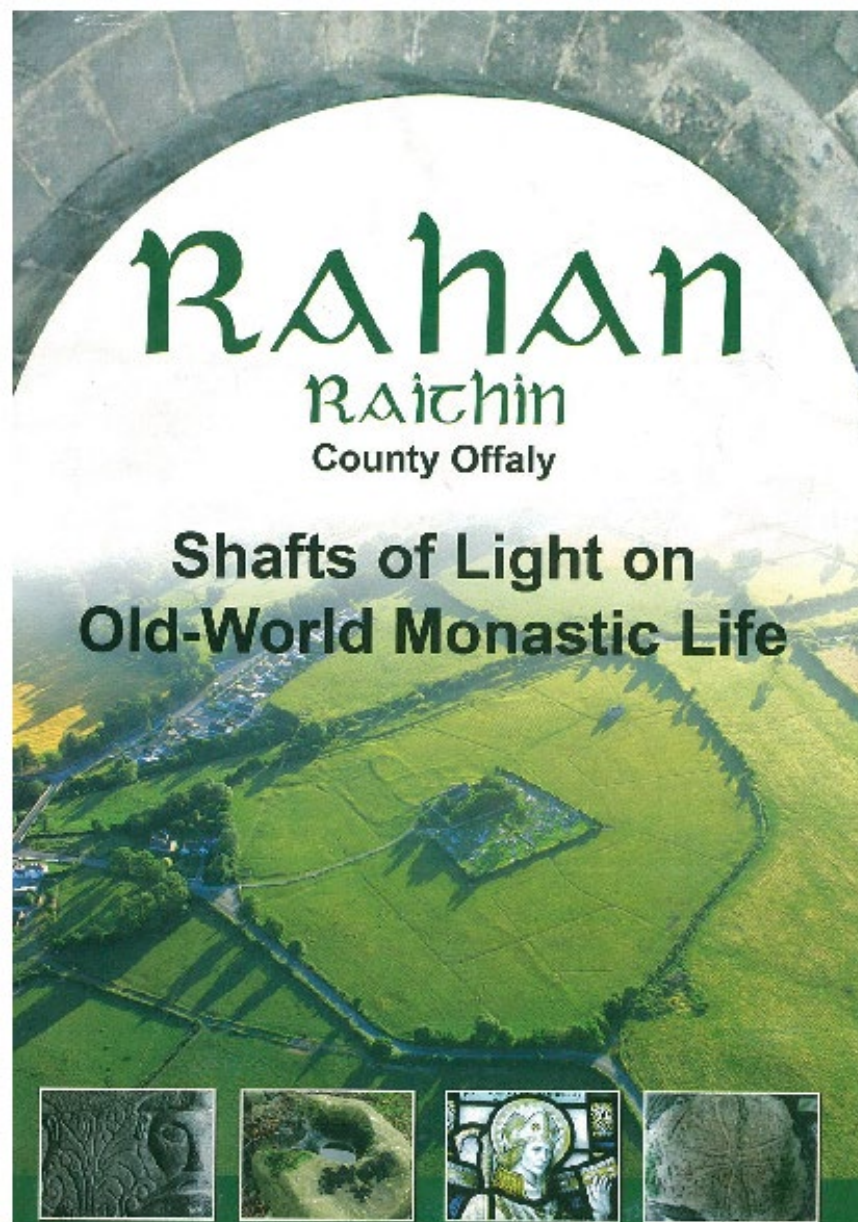








# Shafts of Light - 2007



by Aengus the Ceile De, referring to Rahan and to Mo Choda. Who knows but we are here in fulfillment of that prophecy? Here it is :-

\*Corona agus victor  
Cona cluir cen maithim,  
For oen lith leir suthain,  
Tall chain Cathaig Raithin.\*

\*Crowning and victory,  
With their train, and without abatement,  
On one pious perennial festival,  
Follow the fair feast of Carthach of Rahan.



## Sponsors

N. I. S. Computers, Rahan.  
G. Plant, The Derris, Rahan.  
Island Rahan Development Association.  
Finnerty Machine Tool Services.

Aidan Shortall, The Thatch, Rahan.  
Mick Cantwell, Turf Cutting, 087 2343299.  
Presentation Sisters, Killina.  
Offaly Historical & Archaeological Society.

Lecture delivered by Mr. Seamus Fenich in the grounds of Presentation Convent, Killina, May 14th 1937, on the occasion of the revival of the old "pattern" which for centuries had been allowed to lapse.

(Text from *Midland Tribune* 22nd May 1937 and edited May 2007 by Rahan History and Heritage Group.)

## Further information:

[www.monasticway.com](http://www.monasticway.com)

*Stories from a Sacred Landscape, Croghan Hill to Clonmacnoise* - Caimin O'Brien

Printed by Lifford, 057 8541925









## RAHAN MONASTIC SITE



A Conservation Plan prepared by  
Howley Hayes Architects

2007





**PLATE 1.** Aerial photograph of Rahan monastery showing monastic boundary with church and graveyard in centre. Small church can be seen at top right-hand corner of photograph with the Clodiagh River forming the northern boundary. Low grass-covered earthworks can be seen immediately north of Rahan Church. The linear features visible inside the enclosure are associated with land drainage of the 19th century. ( Image from hot air balloon 6:00 am by Loughnan Hooper)



**PLATE 1.** Aerial photograph of Rahan monastery showing monastic boundary with church and graveyard in centre. Small church can be seen at top right-hand corner of photograph with the Clodiagh River forming the northern boundary. Low grass-covered earthworks can be seen immediately north of Rahan Church. The linear features visible inside the enclosure are associated with land drainage of the 19th century. ( Image from hot air balloon 6:00 am by Loughnan Hooper)



# A Conservation Plan prepared by Howley Hayes Architects

(A copy of this plan can be downloaded for free at

[https://www.offaly.ie/eng/Services/Heritage/Documents/Rahan\\_Conservation\\_Plan.pdf](https://www.offaly.ie/eng/Services/Heritage/Documents/Rahan_Conservation_Plan.pdf))

A couple of relevant quotations from the Conservation Plan (2007), together with our comments :-

1. “According to the hagiographer Tirechan, writing around 688-693, Camelacus was appointed by Patrick to establish a monastery at Rahan in the fifth century. In this account we are told that - *he sent Camelacus of the Comienses to Mag Cumi and with his finger pointed out to him the place from the hill of Granard, that is the church of Raithen*”. (page 26).

**My Comment** : If Camelacus set up the first church in “Rahan Demesne” in the 5<sup>th</sup> century and Carthage re-established his monastery on the same site in 594 AD, why is there a townland named Kilpatrick (church of Patrick) on “The Island Rahan” ?

2. “Most of the published material on Rahan is now out of date and is not in keeping with the current research (2007) that has been carried out by various Art History Departments of Universities in Ireland and abroad”. (page 69)

**My Comment** : It would appear therefore that 2023 might be a good time to review Rahan’s past.



## A Conservation Plan prepared by Howley Hayes Architects

Quotations together with our comments (continued) :-

3. “The setting of the Church of St. Carthage is of considerable cultural significance, being the site of the original enclosure to the Monastery of Rahan founded in the fifth century”. (page 11).

**My Comment**: The cultural significance of Rahan is not in question. But “the original enclosure” is certainly under review in 2023.

4. “The Book of Rahan - According to Petrie”, in his book the *Ecclesiastical Architecture of Ireland* written in 1845” etc. etc. (page 50).

**My Comment**: A copy of this book is in the library of Offaly Historical and Archaeological Society (O.H.A.S. “Offaly History”). Excellent index that provides much of interest on Rahan.

5. An important source of information on Rahan and other monastic sites in Offaly is Offaly County Council’s publication (2006) “Stories *from a Sacred Landscape - Croghan Hill to Clonmacnoise*” by Caimin O’Brien.



## Draft of Preliminary Phase

**My opinions formed, after many years of research, are the following : -**

- 1. Saint Patrick , when standing on the Hill of Granard in County Longford, sent Camelacus, to Rahan to establish a church. Date would have been between 432 and 500. (Say 450). Camelacus was a disciple of Patrick and/or a Bishop.**
- 2. When Carthage visited Saint Colman of Lynally in 595, nearly 150 years later. Colman told him that his destiny was to establish a monastery in Rahan, and that he would find a bundle of timber rods and on that spot he should set up his monastery. But there is no exact location in Rahan mentioned by Colman and Rahan is a large area, about the same size as Barory of Ballycowan is today.**
- 3. The current proposition is that Carthage went to “The Island, Rahan”, to the townland now known as Kilpatrick i.e the Church of Patrick. And there Carthage continued to build on the work of Camelacus until, 636, when he was expelled, and went to Lismore in County Waterford.**
- 4. Finally, I am here this evening, because I believe Saint Carthage’s Monastic Site was probably never established at Rahan.**







# **The Book of Rahan**







## The Book of Rahan

Internet access- <https://digital.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/>

The Book of Rahan (Laud Misc 610 Bodleian Library Oxford). This book is of greater significance to the local community than previously thought.

In the early 1980s “The Book of Rahan” was practically unknown in the local community. By good luck a snippet was overheard, on Radio Eireann about Callan, County Kilkenny, which included the magic words “Book of Rahan”. After many years of intermittent research the story of our early history can now be illuminated.

In the 15th century, The Butlers owned a castle in Pottlerath, a townland not far from Callan in County Killkenny. The Butlers organised their scribes to copy various Manuscripts and combine them together into one bound Manuscript.

The original manuscripts are missing.

It appears that the new combined manuscripts was called “The Book of Pottlerath” after the location of the Butlers. The book’s ownership changed as follows .

Sir George Carew

Sir Thomas Wentworth

Archbishop William Laud of Canterbury who bequeathed it to the Bodleian Library Oxford in 1636 on the condition that it did not leave the library.



## The Book of Rahan

Internet access- <https://digital.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/>

The Book of Rahan (Laud Misc 610 Bodleian Library Oxford). This book is of greater significance to the local community than previously thought.

In the early 1980s “The Book of Rahan” was practically unknown in the local community. By good luck a snippet was overheard, on Radio Eireann about Callan, County Kilkenny, which included the magic words “Book of Rahan”. After many years of intermittent research the story of our early history can now be illuminated.

In the 15th century, The Butlers owned a castle in Pottlerath, a townland not far from Callan in County Kilkenny. The Butlers organised their scribes to copy various Manuscripts and combine them together into one bound Manuscript.

The original manuscripts are missing.

The manuscripts copied by the scribes were - (“ff. “ Modern equivalent = “page “)

1. Leabhar na Ratha (the Book of Pottlerath) (ff. 1-58 ) written in 1453/4 for Edmund Butler.
  - The pages (“ff”) referring to Rahan seem to be 6r, 6v, 7r, 7v, 8r, 8v, 9r, 9v, 10r, 10v,
  - The “r” after a number signifies a right hand page. e.g sequence above.
  - The “v” after a number signifies the reverse page of the “r” number
2. Book of the White Earl (ff. 59-72) written 1410 x 1452 for James Butler 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Ormond, also known as the White Earl.
3. Leabhar na Ratha (the Book of Pottlerath) (ff. 73-122) written in 1453/4 for Edmund Butler.
4. Book of the White Earl (ff. 123-146) written 1410 x 1452 for James Butler 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Ormond.

It appears that the new combined manuscripts was called “The Book of Pottlerath” after the location of the Butlers. The book’s ownership changed as follows .

Sir George Carew

Sir Thomas Wentworth

Archbishop William Laud of Canterbury who bequeathed it to the Bodleian Library Oxford in 1636 on the condition that it did not leave the library.



## Note inserted inside front cover of Laud Misc. 610 in 1673

Laud  
610

Oxford ye 9<sup>th</sup> of August 1673

This booke is a famous copie of a greater  
part of Salter Cashel, the booke of S  
t Mochuda of Rathin & Lismore, and  
the chronicles of Conga & hermes con

This booke is a famous copie of a greater  
part of Salter Cashel, the booke of S  
t Mochuda of Rathin & Lismore and  
the chronicles of Conga etc.

Suggested Name to use :

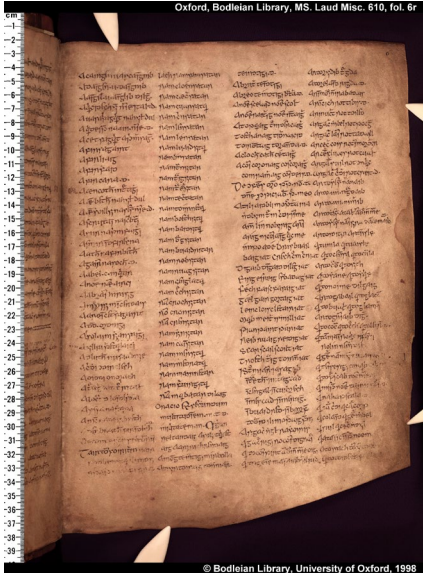
**Laud Misc. 610 (Book of Rahan and Lismore)**



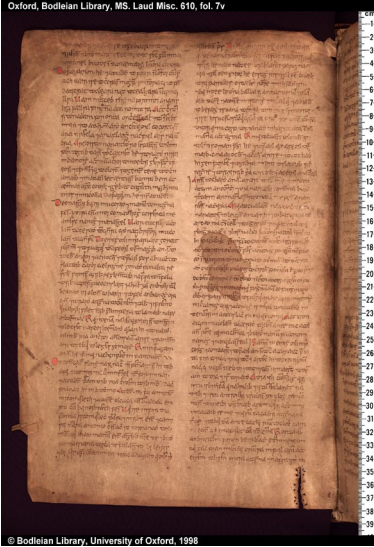




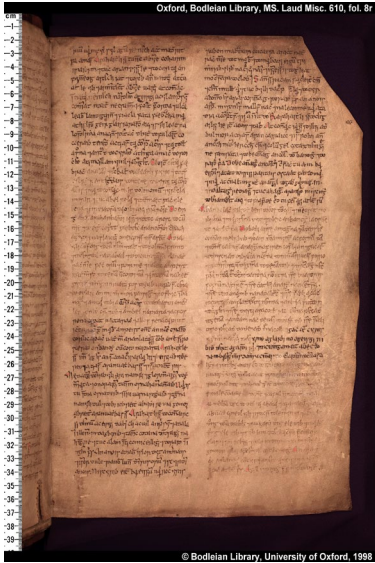
# Images from Book of Rahan - Bodli



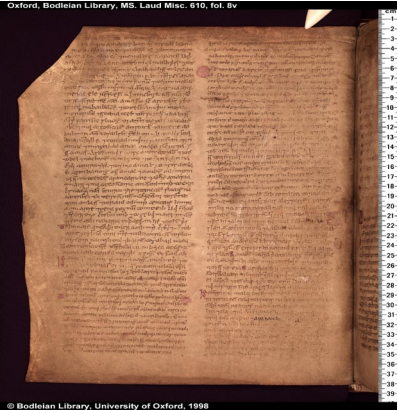
6r



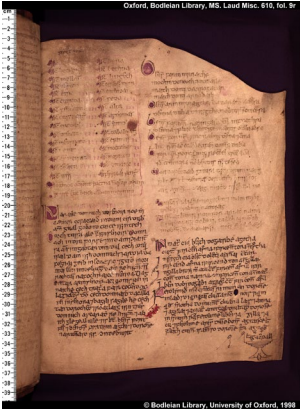
7v



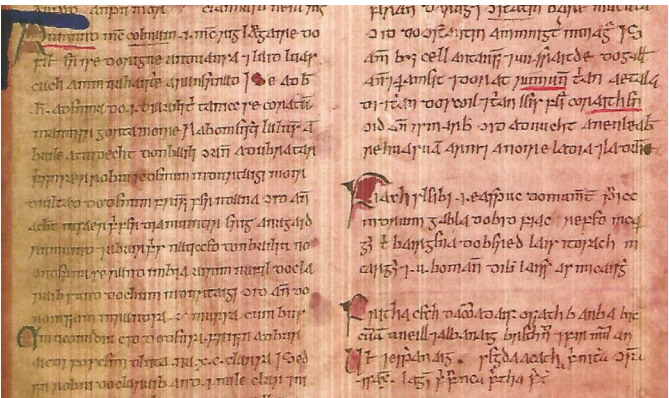
8r



8v



9r



9v

and

10r



**R**umme me cobuim .i. me rus l'gane do  
pit si re doynge amouanra .i. laro ludy  
cuch amn naldyde ayunshinto **I**e do b  
h. do loma do .i. vllayt tamce re conatū  
mammyi gontamone flabomlyq luluay .i.  
baile deurechte toublyh dān doubnatay  
pypayn nobia roolūm monyctlygi moyn  
omlato doolūm pūy pūi malla doo an  
ache mpyay pūi amumay lūy amtyad  
amumay jubay pūi nltqcco toublyh no  
omlūm re pūro mbya amum mpyl voela  
pūb pūro voelūm monyctlygi doo an do  
monyctū mpyroza .i. mpyra cum buy  
**O**m amomdu ero doolūm pūy pūi doobay  
mēn poyclm olma .m. x. c. clanyā **I** Sed  
m nobia voelaymūb an .i. mēle clayn m

flayn doynas **I** dēayn dāne mūmū  
do do dēayn amumyct mūmū **I** S  
am bry cell ancanū .i. mpyayde doynat  
am pūmlyt doynat rummū tūm dēayn  
oi tūm doynat tūm lly pūi conatū  
oid an mpyay do doynat anenleab  
nehmāyū amū anoyne laroia .i. laroia

**R**ach pūly .i. pūly doynat pūly  
monyctū .i. laroia doynat pūly neyfo mēn  
z t banygna dooblyed lūy mpyay m  
caytū .i. u. homān oib lūy ay mēaytū

**R**ucha cūch doynat doynat .i. pūly b anbya bry  
cūa aneill .i. laroia mpyay brychū .i. pūly mēn an  
**U**t pūpān dū .i. pūly doynat pūly mēn dū  
mēn .i. laroia pūly pūly pūly pūly



Image ex Book of Rahan



## Pages relevant to Rahan in Laud Misc 610

It has been difficult to get an exact fix on how many pages of the Laud Misc 610 refer to Rahan. Written in Gaelic (Irish) and Latin.

From research done to date the following pages appear to refer to Rahan.

6r, 7v, 8r, 8v, 9r, 9v, 10r, maybe moreover

**Page 354 George Petrie – Essay on the Round Towers of Ireland etc (1845)**

**“He (Constantine) then carried this wealth with him to Cell Belaigh, in Magh Constantine, for this was one of the churches of Ua Suanaigh, and the whole of Magh Constantine belonged to him.”**

**There is a copy of this Book in Offaly History**



"Co tuccao a bpech féin oo ap rin; conio fi bpech pucum, .i. pingino cech epoch Gaill, 7 oo pinginn cech dé-Gaill, co ná fpuich acu Gaill naé tuc dá pingino oo, áp níp fíu pe Gaill oib epoch Gaill oo pao fpuir féin iap, co n-ebpuar fpuir na Gaill ino fapge oo molao, co finceáir in oán bunu bui auge. Conio ann po mol-pom in fapge, 7 pé ap meirce, co n-ebuir.

"'Anpchine mór ap muig Úir.'

"Co tuc-pom imoppu in eadál rin leir co Cell belaiḡ, ap Muig Confeantein, ap ba oo cellaib Ua Suanaio in cell rin, 7 Magh Confeantein uile. Cae magh oan, 7 ceé fepann dá péigeo Confeantein ba pe Mucutu. Conio oo Confeantein amnigcep in magh. Ír amlao bui cell belaiḡ an eán rin, 7 uir fpuáice oo Gaillab ann, 7 ap a meic oo pao Rumunn epian a eadala oi, 7 epian oo fcoil, 7 epian leir féin co Rathen; conio ann ír mapb, conio anuiche a n-eleabaió pe h-Ua Suanaig, ap méo a anóipe la Dia 7 la oune."—*Laud*. 610, fol. 10, a, col. 1, 2.

"Rumann, son of Colman, i. e. the son of the King of Laegaire, of the race of Niall, royal poet of Ireland, was he that composed this poem, and *Laidh Luascach* is the name of the measure in which he composed it. He came on his pilgrimage to Rathen in a time of great dearth. It was displeasing to the people of the town that he should come thither, and they said to the architect, who was making the great *duir-theach*, to refuse admittance to the man of poetry. Upon which the builder said to one of his people, 'Go meet Rumann, and tell him that he shall not enter the town, until he makes a quatrain, in which there shall be an enumeration of what boards there are here for the building of the *duir-theach*. And then it was that he composed this quatrain :

"'O my Lord ! what shall I do  
About these great materials ?  
When shall be seen in a jointed edifice  
These ten hundred boards ?

"This was the number of boards there, i. e. one thousand boards ; and then he could not be refused [*admittance*], since God had revealed to him, through the poetic inspiration, the number of boards which the builder had.

"He composed a great poem for the Galls of Ath cliach (Dublin) immediately after, but the Galls said that they would not pay him the price of his poem ; upon which he composed the celebrated distich, in which he said :

"'If any one wish to refuse me, let him,  
And on him I will take revenge of daggers.'

"Upon which his own award was given him. And the award he demanded was a *pinginn* from every bad Gall, and two *pinginns* from every good Gall, so that there was not found among them a Gall who did not give him two *pinginns*, because none of them deemed it worth while to be styled a bad Gall [for the price demanded]. And the Galls then told him to praise the sea, that they might know whether his was original poetry. Whereupon he praised the sea, while he was in a state of inebriety, and composed [the poem beginning]

"'A great tempest on the plain of Lear,' [i. e. the sea].

"He then carried this wealth with him to Cell Belaigh, in Magh Constantine, for this was one of the churches of Ua Suanaigh, and the whole of Magh Constantine

"He then carried this wealth with him to Cell Belaigh, in Magh Constantine, for this was one of the churches of Ua Suanaigh, and the whole of Magh Constantine



It appears that the new combined manuscript including the “Book of Rahan” was called “The Book of Pottlerath” after the location of the Butlers.

Pottlerath is in the Electoral Division of Kilmanagh, in Civil Parish of Kilmanagh, in the Barony of Crannagh, in the County of Kilkenny

The Irish name for Pottlerath is Ráth an Photaire

Pottlerath websites that are useful.

<http://www.slieveardagh.com/history/pottlerath-gortfree>

<https://kilkennyarchaeologicalsociety.ie/the-book-of-pottlerath/>

<https://digital.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/objects/cb909a51-5acd-4fee-95ec-51ff09b87676/surfaces/a0197fe5-da5c-4cf5-8db7-5b6de2b7de18/>



**Thomas (“Black Tom”) Butler,  
10<sup>th</sup> Earl of Ormond**



The late (d. 2017) Donnchadh O Corrain Professor of Medieval History, U.C.C. wrote a seven page article on Cell Belaigh, a dependent church of Rahan.

*“The stony Vikings of Cell Belaigh” in “Above and Beyond” Essays in memory of Leo Swan.*

Constantine a king of Raithen.

“He then carried this wealth with him to Cell Belaigh, in Magh Constantine, for this was one of the churches of Ua Suanaigh, and the whole of Magh Constantine

The plain (Magh) of Constantine is described as being “on the bank of the Brosna but its extent is uncertain. What it does seem to have had is “streets” paved with unusually large long stones (laid horizontally ).....they may be found by the archaeologists.

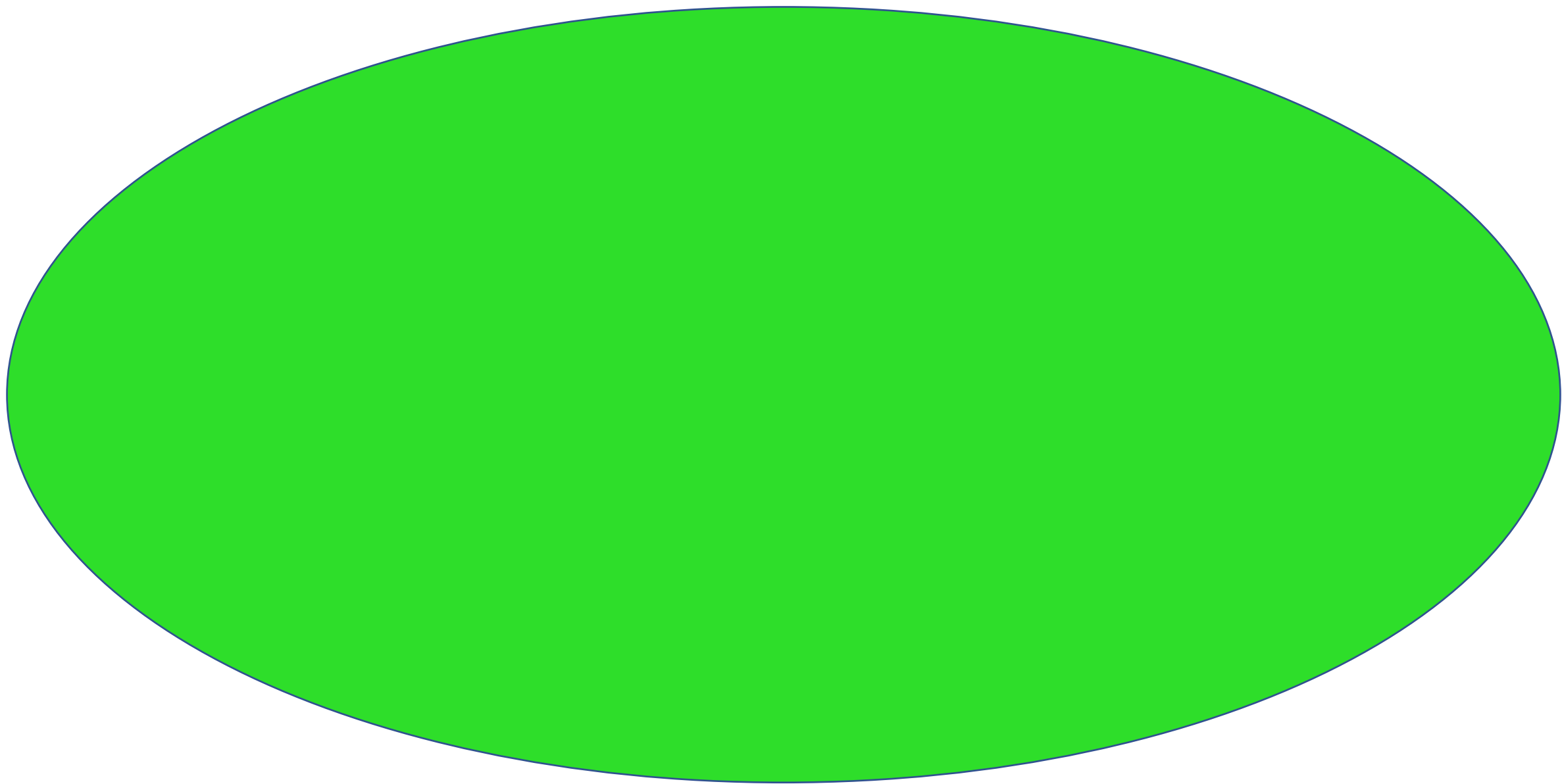
O Corrain writes – As far as I can tell Cell Belaigh, “church of the route”, is unidentified, unless it is Killavally townland in the parish of Newtown, in Co. Westmeath.

It is my opinion that Cell Belaigh could be identified with the “The Island Rahan” or possibly “Rahan Demesne”. Archaeology may locate the “streets” on either locations. This possibility is examined later in this talk.



End of Book of Rahan





## **Re Imagining Carthage/Mochuda - Rahan**

**When re-imagining Rahan, consideration was given to where and what, might a person require for establishing a new monastery.**

**Carthage's possible requirements for a location : -**

**Safety.**

**A friendly inhabitant that might provide a piece of land.**

**Surrounded by water - but on an elevated site, not liable to flooding in winter.**

**Access to a routeway. Near an esker.**

**The Island may have been Ideal, even in 600.**



## Re Imagining Carthage/Mochuda - Rahan

When re-imagining Rahan, consideration was given to where and what, might a person require for establishing a new monastery.

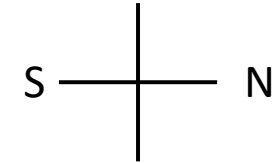
Carthage's possible requirements for a location : -

Safety. A friendly inhabitant that might provide a piece of land. Surrounded by water - but on an elevated site, not liable to flooding in winter. Access to a routeway. Near an esker.

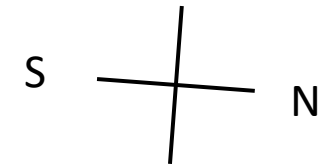


**Granard – Motte Mound  
with statute of St. Patrick.**

**R. C. Church, Granard,  
County Longford, Ireland.**



**Slieve Blooms from Hill of Granard with Rahan intervening in the distance,  
“Saint Patrick appointed Camelacus and with his finger pointed out to him  
the place from the hill of Granard, that is the church of Raithen.”**















Ballycumber :  
North West corner



Kilpatrick



Rahan



Killina : South East Corner



Lynally Off-map



Off-Map  
Colman and Lyna



Matthew Stout is a Cartographer and a Historical Geographer

On page 102/103 in the “The Irish Ringfort” - Stout’s text and Figure 29 Barony of Garrycastle, became significant and “The Irish Ringfort” became essential reading to understand this project.

On page 128 In “The Irish Ringfort” (1997) Matthew Stout quotes Plummer (Bethada Naem nErenn, CELT: Corpus of Electronic Texts.) as follows:-

- Mochuda(i.e. Carthage) described the low-lying landscape of Rahan in the following terms:- “Glorious Rahan, evident its riches. Above the cleared forest of the tribe of Erc:  
*“ This is what I compare Rahan to, to a meadow of the plain of heaven”.*

Question 1 – Maybe not describing “low-lying landscape” of present day Rahan Demesne but “The Island, Rahan” see below answer to question 2.

Question 2 - Could the above quotation describe an area on the Island? Maybe Cluain Cain or Clonkeen , which is a much forgotten area of land alongside the River Brosna towards the north west of The Island.

Also known as the “Island of Clonkeen”.

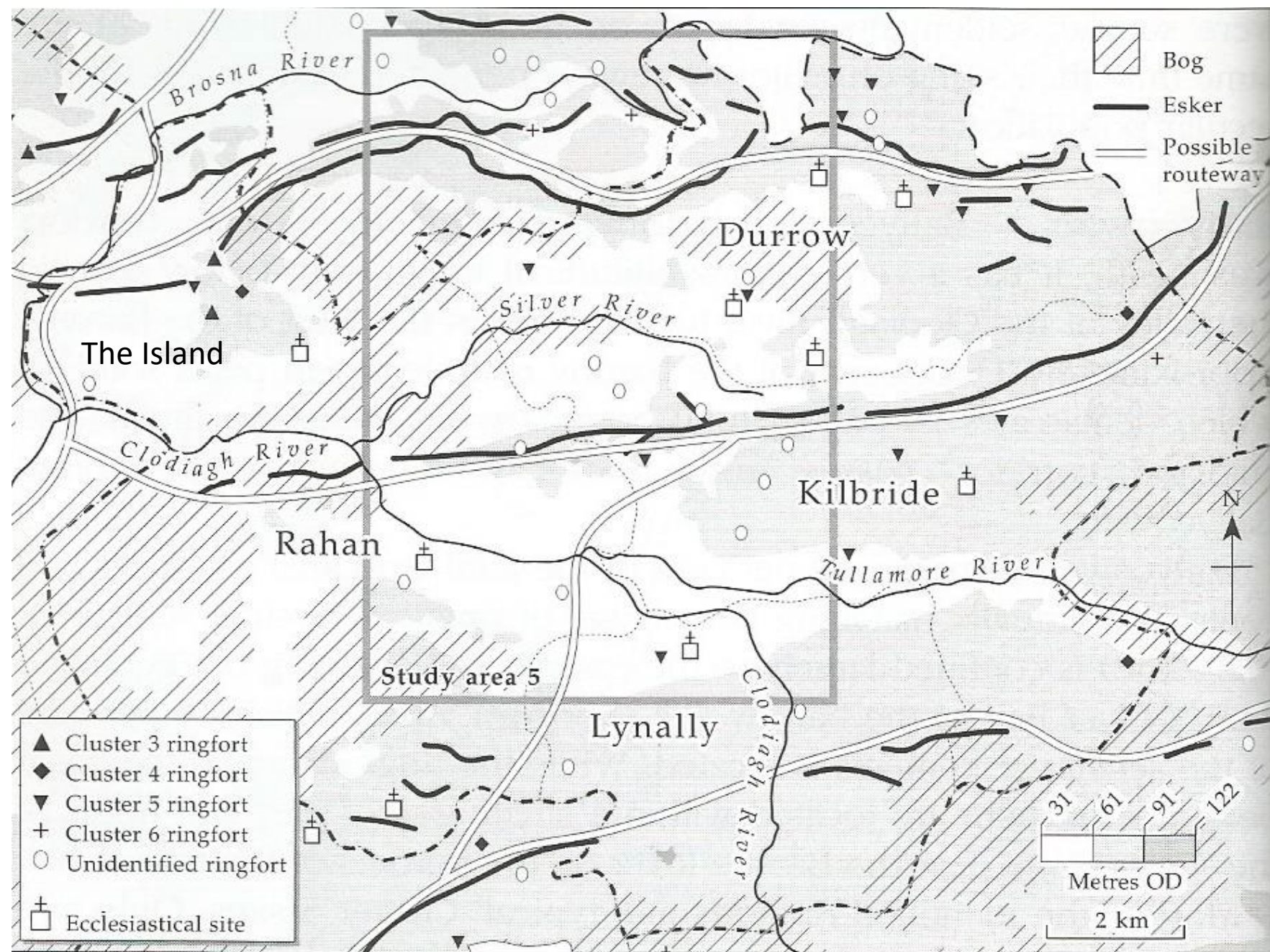
**cluain**<sup>1</sup>, *f.* (*gs.* -ana, *pl.* ~te).1. Meadow. 2. After-grass.

**caoin**<sup>1</sup>, *f.* (*gs.* ~e).1. Smooth surface..

**caoin**<sup>2</sup>, *a*1. Smooth, delicate; gentle, refined.

**Aimsir Chaoin**. clement weather





Matthew Stout's  
 "Offaly History & Society"  
 page 64 Fig 2.16  
 The Barony of Ballycowan,  
 settlement and topography.

## “Offaly History & Society” (1998)

Stout’s Chapter two in “Offaly History & Society” (1998) also became significant, as it majors on Ballycowan Barony. It is a true gem as it inspired an examination of the possibility that “The Island – Rahan” was where Colman sent Carthage to develop his own Monastic Heritage.



Stout – Chapter Two “Offaly History & Society” pages 63/64/65  
Fig. 2.16 and Fig 2.17

Fig. 2.16 shows four ringforts in the north-west described on page 63 - “ Only two high status Cluster 3 ringforts are found in Ballycowan. These are on an *‘island’* of higher ground lying above 61 m in the north-west and are found in association with a ‘typical’ Cluster 5 ringfort and a Cluster 4 site”.

Stout also shows an ecclesiastical site in the north-west but makes no direct comment on it.

### My Comment

This ecclesiastical site is quite probably the site founded on Kilpatrick townland by Camelacus as directed by Patrick - **THE TARGET OF THIS STUDY.**



**The focus then became “The Island – Rahan”.**

**All research to date (August 2023), without exception, has pointed positively to the fact that “The Island Rahan” could be Carthage’s location until he departed to Lismore.**

Point out Rahan, and Lynally

## **Offaly Historical and Archaeological Society (“Offaly History”)**

**At an early stage of the research it was thought advisable to approach Offaly Historical and Archaeological Society (“Offaly History”) for assistance , as and when necessary. Offaly History were agreeable to be associated with the “The Island” project.**

**To date they have only been approached for access to their library in Bury Quay, Tullamore and have been made aware of the outline of our initial research. Their archives could be a significant source of information.**

**Offaly History have kindly provided the projector for tonights talk.**

**Their members, being a focused group, could offer valuable advice and guidance as the project progresses.**





**Image of members of Rahan History and Heritage Group on a visit to the Island in 2008 (?)**

**Having reviewed our research to date, it was now necessary to communicate our findings to the local Community in an ordered manner. There was a convincing argument to set up a sequence to deliver our information and welcome feedback. It is believed that, “Folk Memory” with a targeted plan, could elicit responses which might be impossible to obtain within a few years.**



**Suggested sequence of meetings -**

**1st : Small group that have been aware of initial research. ( Approx numbers : 15)**

**This meeting was held at end of March 2023. Made up of mainly Islanders. I spoke for an hour and 15 minutes and they spoke for an hour and 15 minutes. Perfect**

**2nd : It was agreed to set up a public meeting to spread the Research to date. Tonight's Talk is the outcome.**

**The community in Ballycumber should not be forgotten. It seems to have always been close to The Island e.g Ballycumber Post Office used to deliver letters etc. to part of the Island.**





When our research was first discussed with Seamus Boland and he was told that Carthage's monastery had "streets" in it, Seamus said that the "Cul de Sacs" where he lived on the west side of the road through the Island were always called "Streets". Our first "Proof" that Carthage may have set up on "The Island".

"Cell Belig" above, is mentioned in "The Book of Rahan" and our research could assist in verifying its location. It would significant if our research identifies its location on The Island.

"He then carried this wealth with him to Cell Belaigh, in Magh Constantine, for this was one of the churches of Ua Suanaigh, and the whole of Magh Constantine

## Early medieval monastic 'streets' and pathways

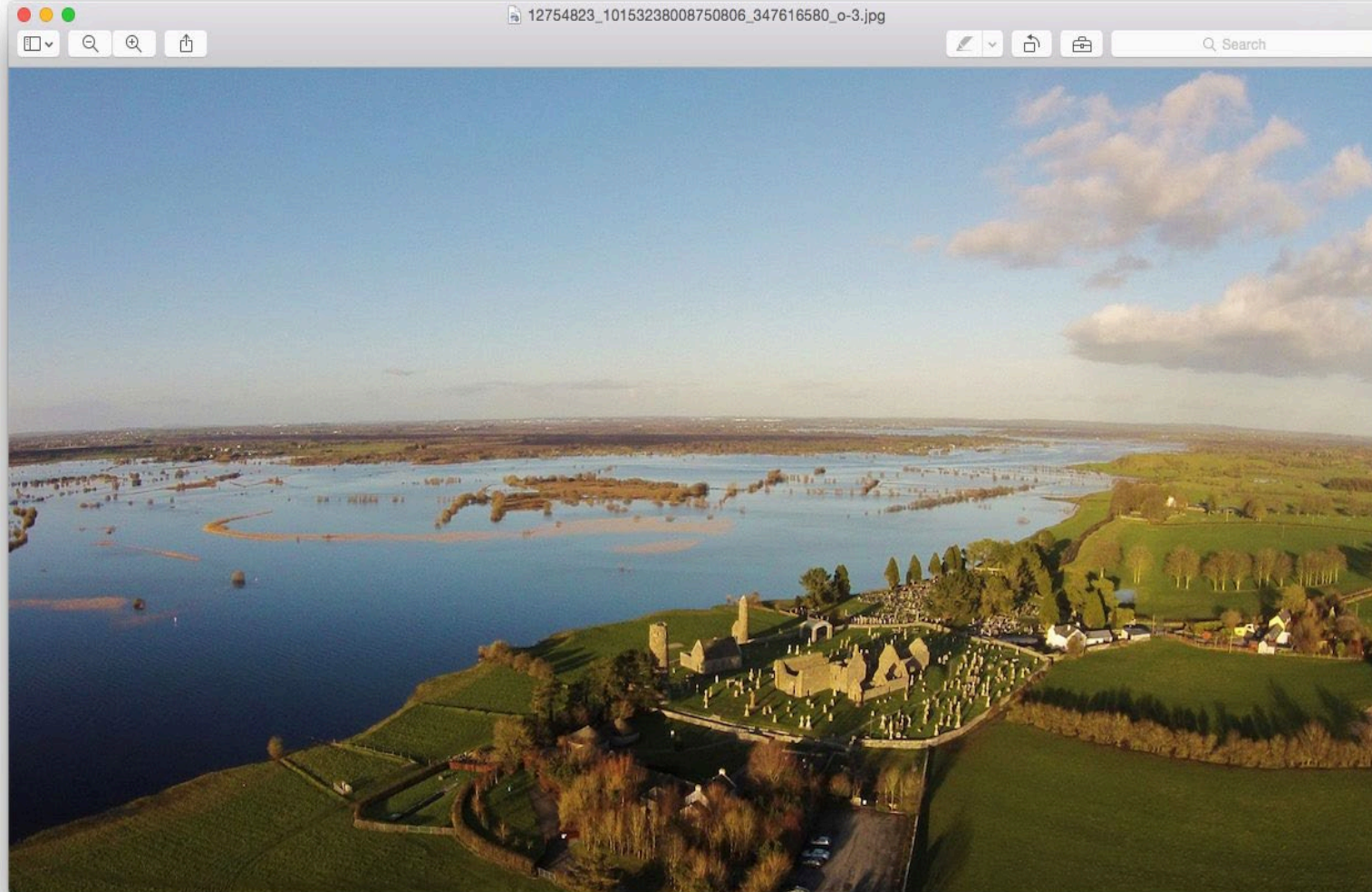
### *Historical Sources*

Annalistic sources often refer to 'streets' within monastic enclosures (Bradley 1998, 46). The term generally used is *clochán* which essentially means 'paved way'. O'Corrain (2005, 346) has recently identified, in a previously mis-understood text, a 11-12<sup>th</sup> century reference to a monastery with seven streets paved with recumbent pillar stones. The location of the monastery, *Cell Belig*, has not been identified. A substantial paved street some 2.4m wide and 70m long survives at Iona, Scotland but is thought to be of Benedictine rather than Early Medieval date (RCAHMS 1982, 142). Excavations between 1930-2004 have uncovered a

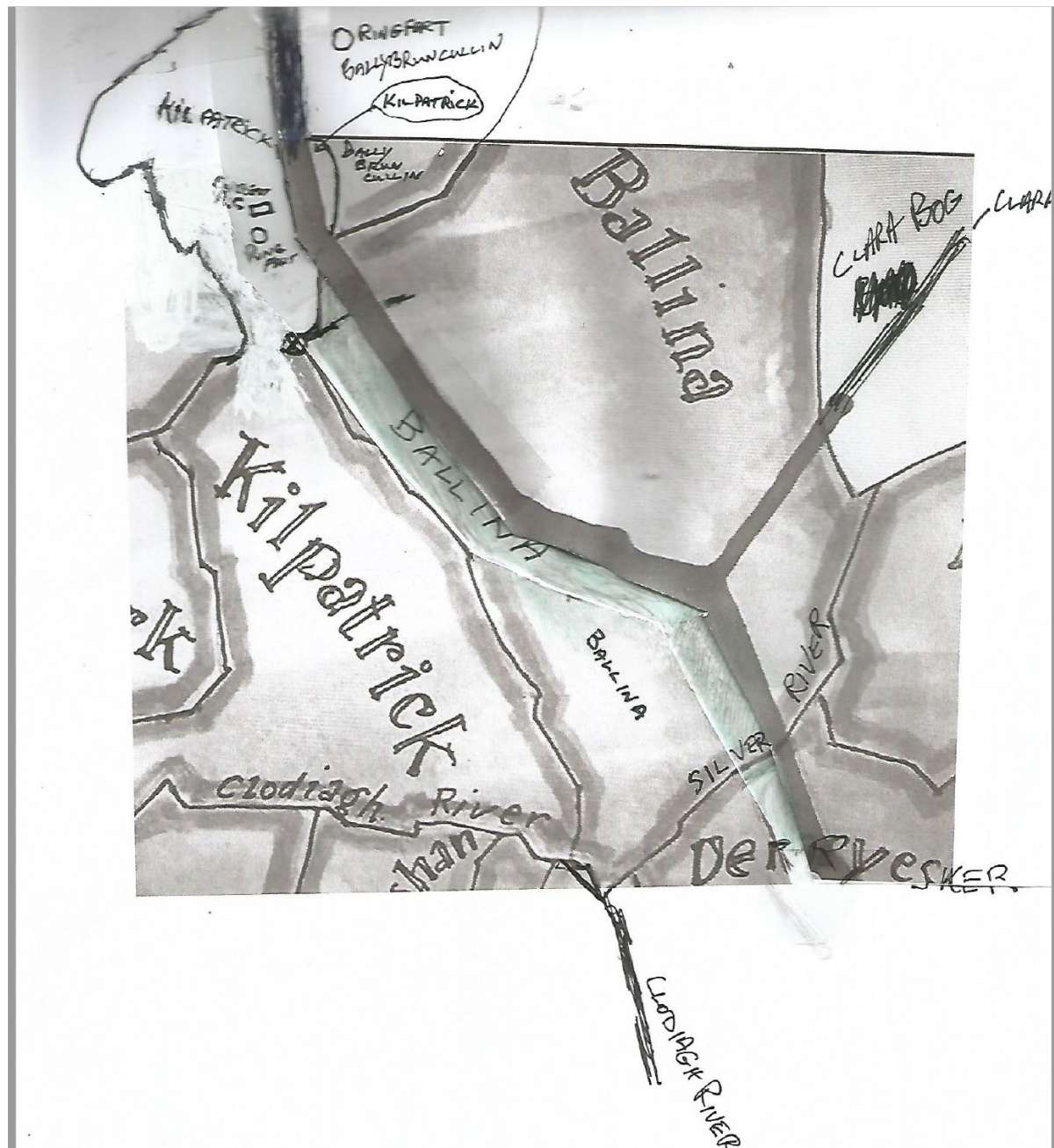


**When members of Rahan History and Heritage Group visited the Island in 2008?? Sheamus Boland told us there was a village in this area.**





**This image of Clonmacnoise shows recent flooding and how it changes the landscape. The Island, Rahan with its three rivers - Brosna, Clodiagh and Silver and also Clara Bog may have had a similar look 1,500 years ago.**





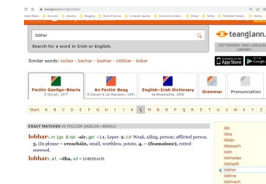




**lobhar**<sup>1</sup>, *m.* (*gs. & npl. -air, gpl. ~*). 1. Leper. 2. *Lit:* Weak, ailing, person; afflicted person. 3. (In phrase ~ **creacháin**, small, worthless, potato. 4. ~ (**feamainne**), rotted seaweed.

lób  
lóba  
lóbán  
lóbasach  
lobh

feature of the departure. The many lepers who were the objects of the Saint's daily care, he took with him from Rahan to Lismore, "where he prepared suitable quarters for them, and there they have been ever since in comfort and honour, according to Mochuda's command." Thus we see the leper settlement was still in existence up to and after the writer's time. The



present entrance to Head View. About three miles north of Lismore and one and a half west of Melleray boundary is Monalour ("The Leper's Bog") another memorial of the same institution—possibly an endowment for the maintenance of the hospital; or a place for the isolation of the extreme cases and their burial.



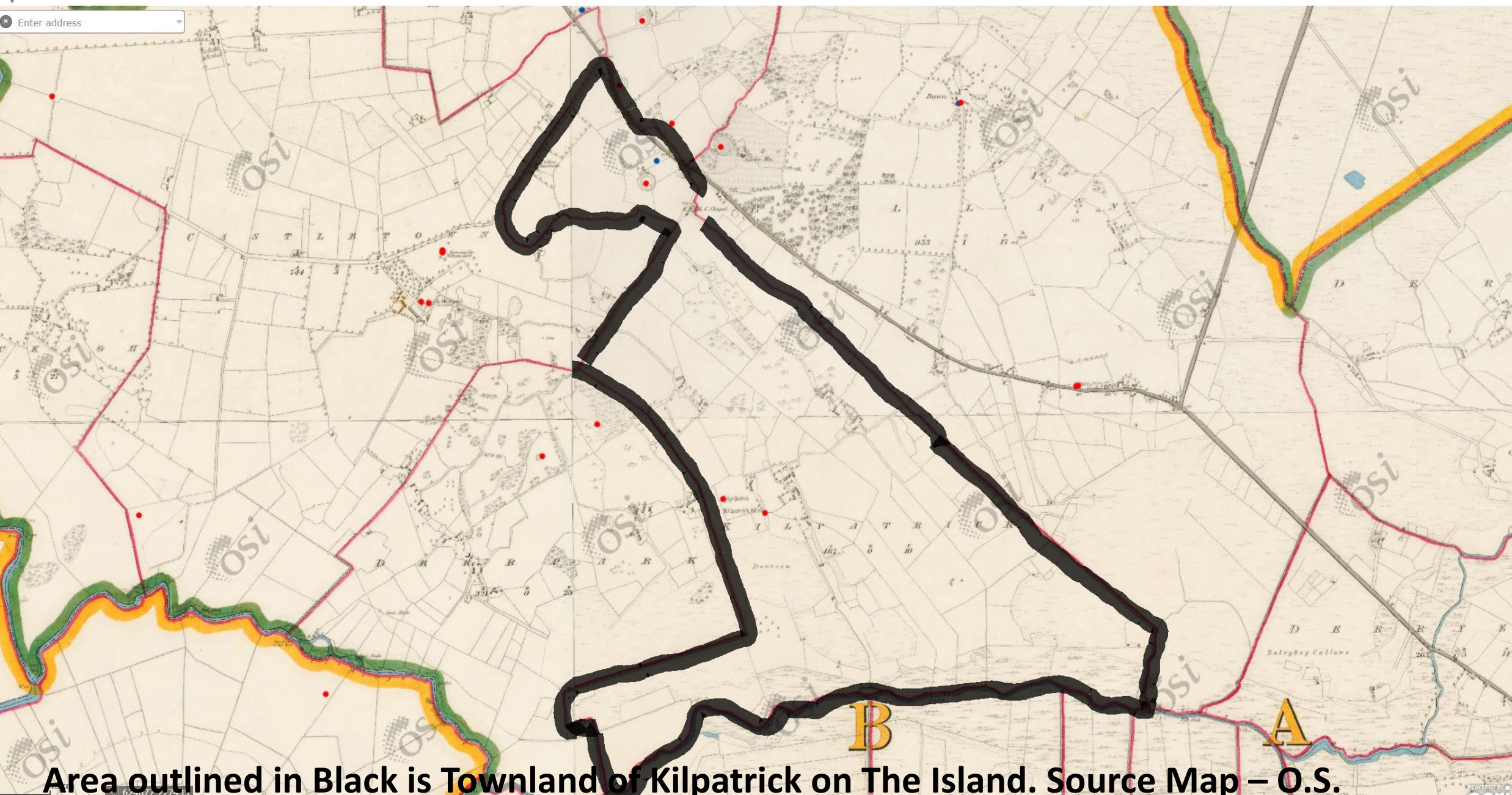
darkest hour of his humiliation, and Mochuda must have gradually realised the full significance of the various visions and prophecies which told of his connection with Slieve gCua and the river Nemh (Blackwater). There is another touching feature of the departure. The many lepers who were the objects of the Saint's daily care, he took with him from Rahan to Lismore, "where he prepared suitable quarters for them, and there they have been ever since in comfort and honour, according to Mochuda's command." Thus we see the leper settlement was still in existence up to and after the writer's time. The traditional site is pointed out even to-day—about one mile east of Lismore. As, a few pages later on, we follow the Saint on the Botharna-Naomh, when we have passed the Round Hill or Lismore proper, the leper settlement is on the north side of the road in the townland of Ballynelligan Glebe and nearly opposite the present entrance to Head View. About three miles north of Lismore and one and a half west of Melleray boundary is Monalour ("The Leper's Bog") another memorial of the same institution—possibly an endowment for the maintenance of the hospital; or a place for the isolation of the extreme cases and their burial.

As to the manner in which Mochuda and his





Enter address



Area outlined in Black is Townland of Kilpatrick on The Island. Source Map – O.S.





OF008-034----

**Class:** Ringfort - rath

[Scope note](#)

**Townland:** KILPATRICK

**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes

**Description:** Situated on a slight rise in undulating countryside with good views in all directions with three nearby ringforts (OF008-031/032/035) to the N. Barely discernible outline of a univallate ringfort (38m N-S; 37m E-W) which had an enclosing bank and external fosse which according to local information was levelled in 1989.

[Zoom to](#)

**Ringfort - rath**

A roughly circular or oval area surrounded by an earthen bank with an external fosse. Some examples have two (bivallate) or three (trivallate) banks and fosses, but these are less common and have been equated with higher status sites belonging to upper grades of society. They functioned as residences and/or farmsteads and broadly date from 500 to 1000 AD. See Ringfort - cashel for stone equivalent.

**Fosse** - a long , narrow trench or excavation, especially in a fortification.







Griffith's Valuation

Modern and Contemporary Map

← → ↺

Not secure | griffiths.askaboutireland.ie/gv4/single\_layer/i8.php?lat=&longt=&dum=0&sheet=16,8,7&mysession=2664679187688&info=&place=&county=Offaly&placename=<b>Kilpatrick</b>&parish=Rahan&country=Ireland&union=&barony=B...

☆ ⌵ ⌵ ⌵

Paused

⋮

Apps

A/C's

UB Login

Invoices

Calendar

Inbox (22) - accoun...

Dotser Limited

Google Drive

Slack

Sage

White Labelling

My work - Dotser

Imported

Show

Password Manager

Other bookmarks

Map

Satellite

Guide to Maps

Modern Map

Historical Map

Map Version

1 of 2

Show Towns

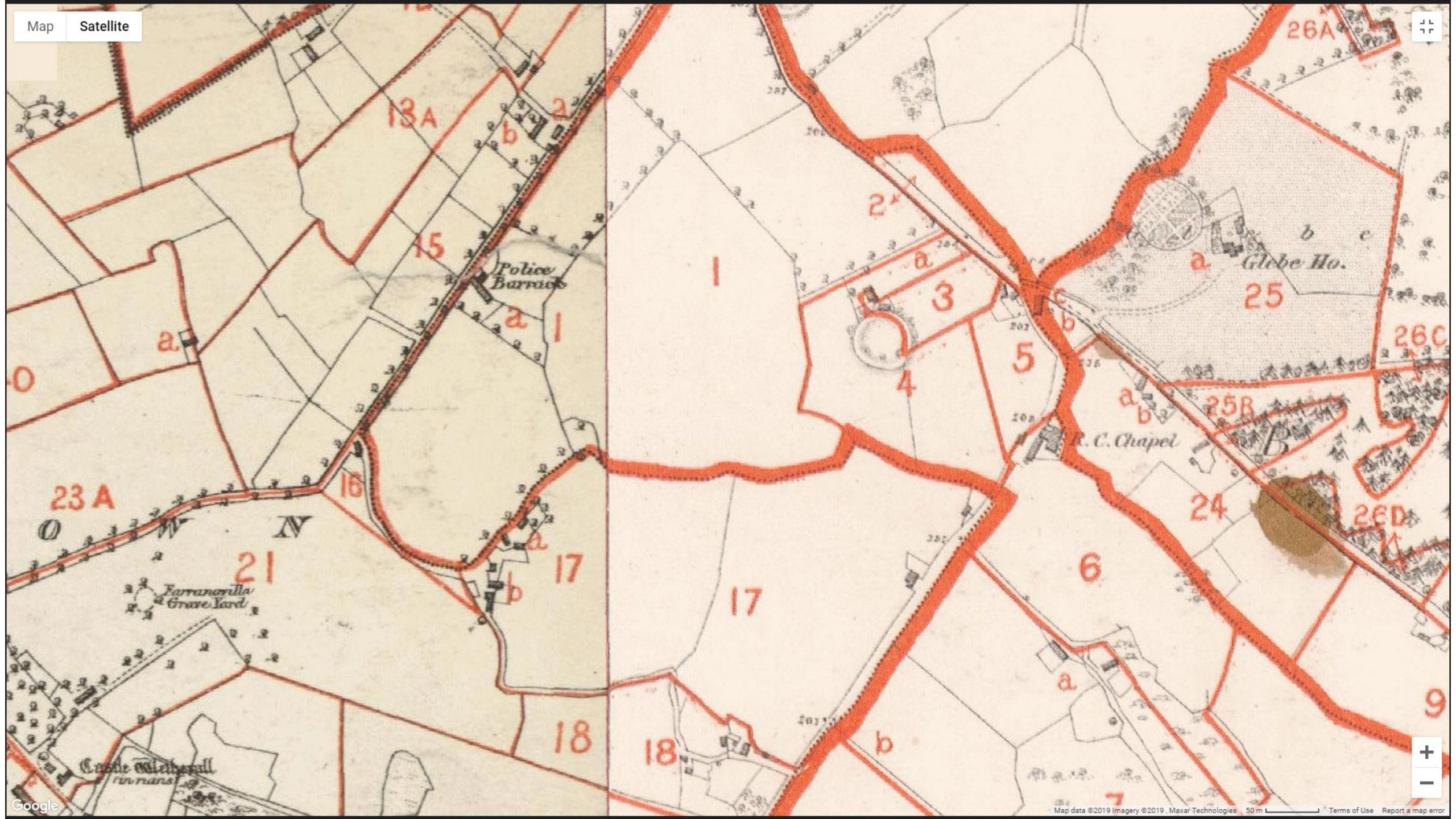
Show Name Books

Google

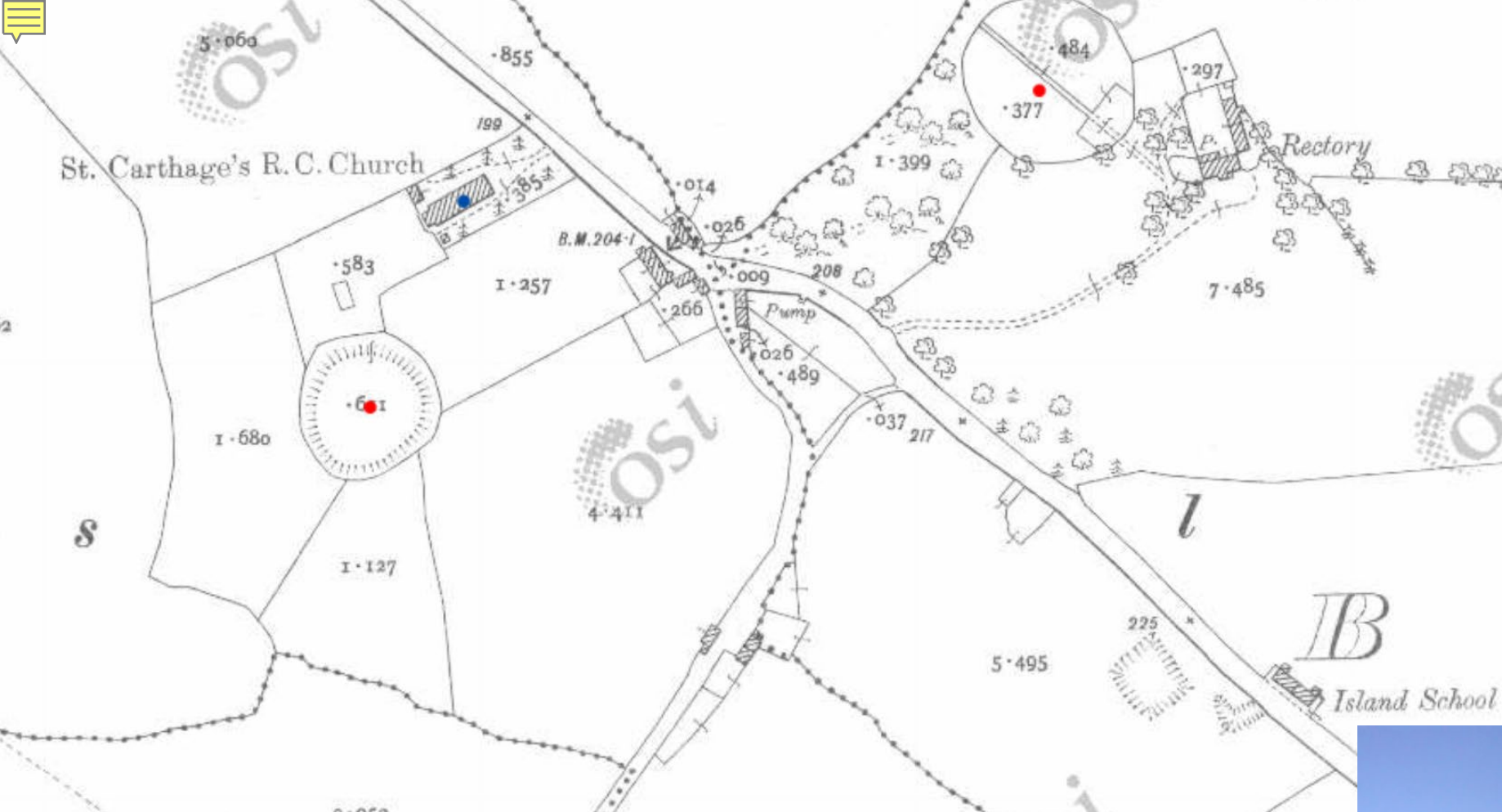
Map data ©2019 Imagery ©2019, Maxar Technologies 100 m

(C) Report a map error





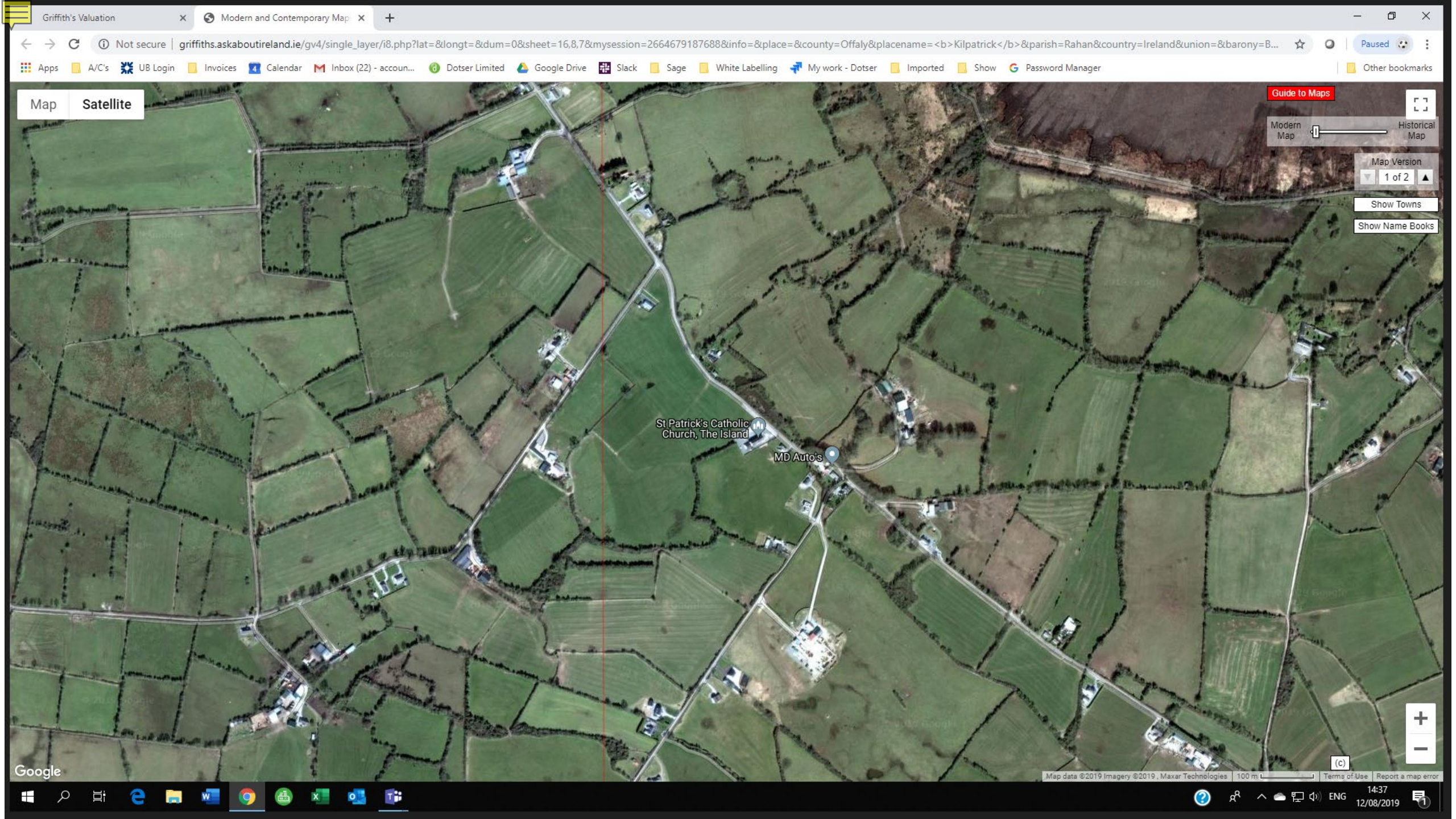




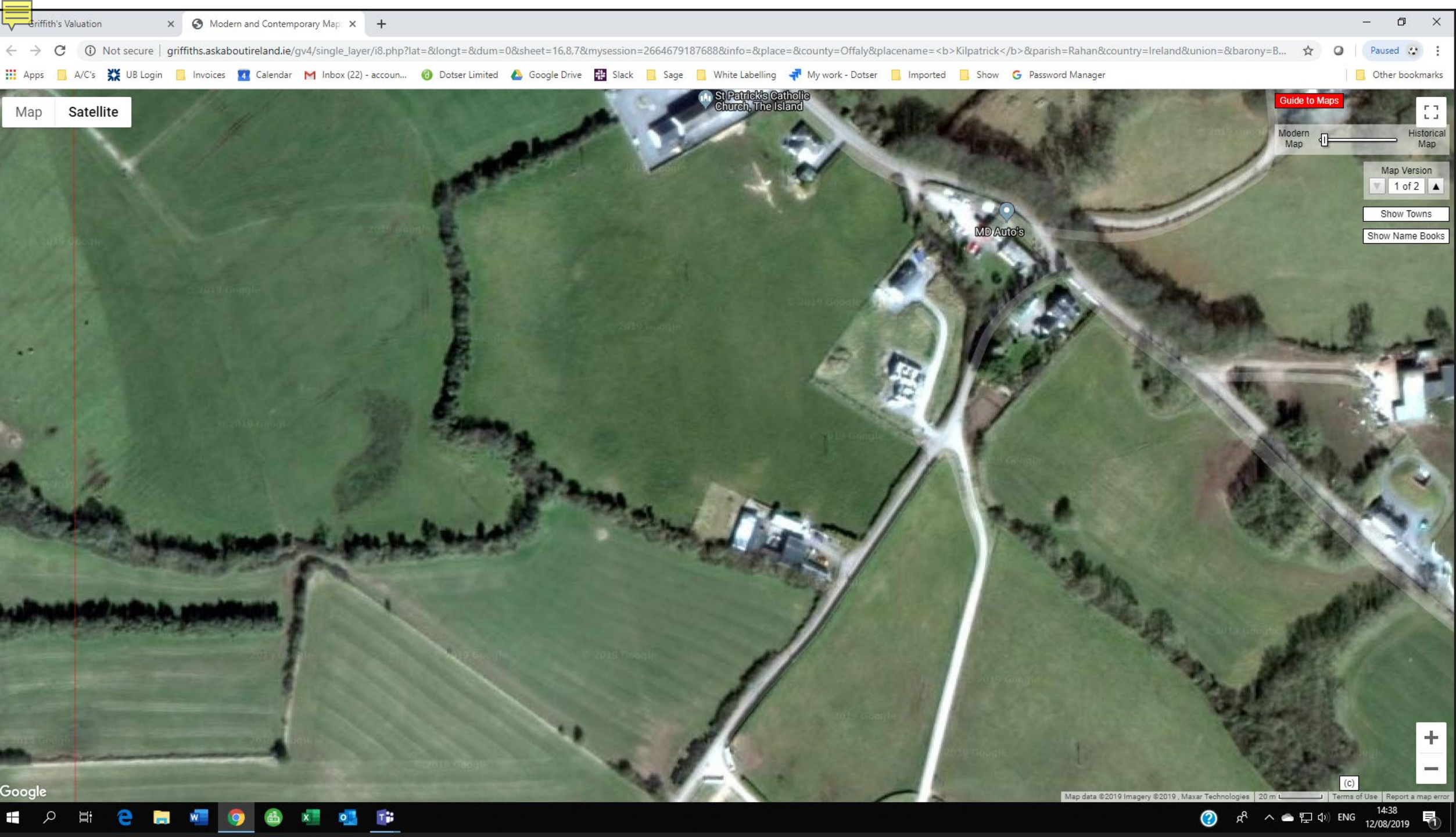
















MapSatellite

Guide to Maps

Modern Map Historical Map

Map Version  
▼ 1 of 2 ▲

Show Towns

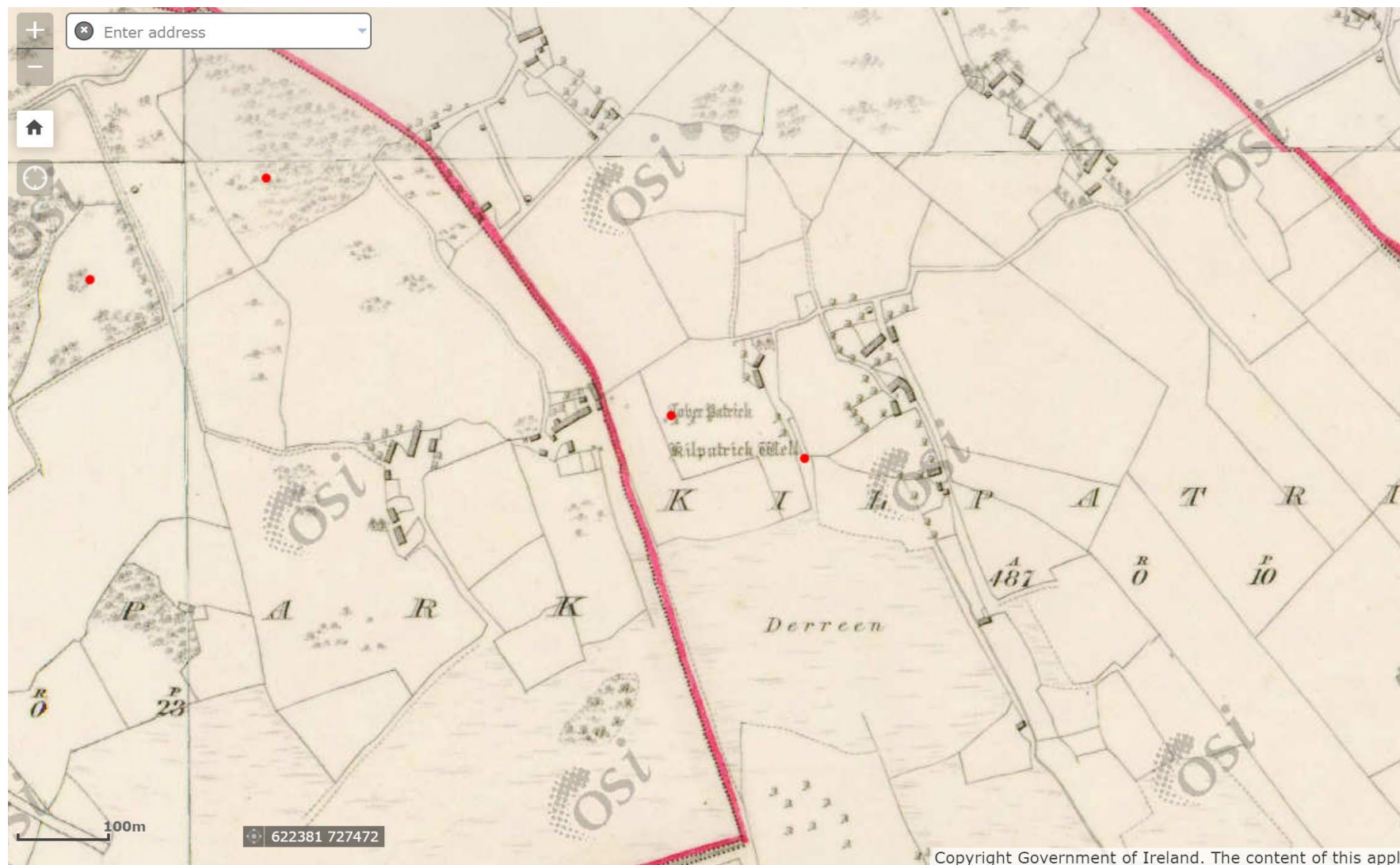
Show Name Books

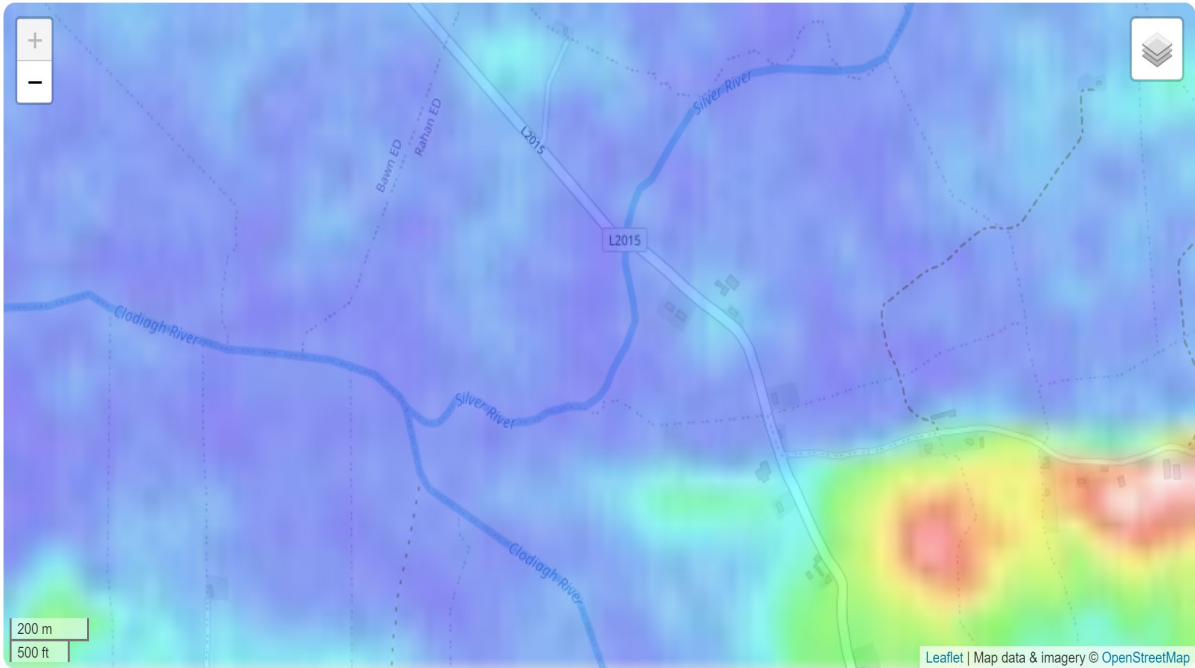
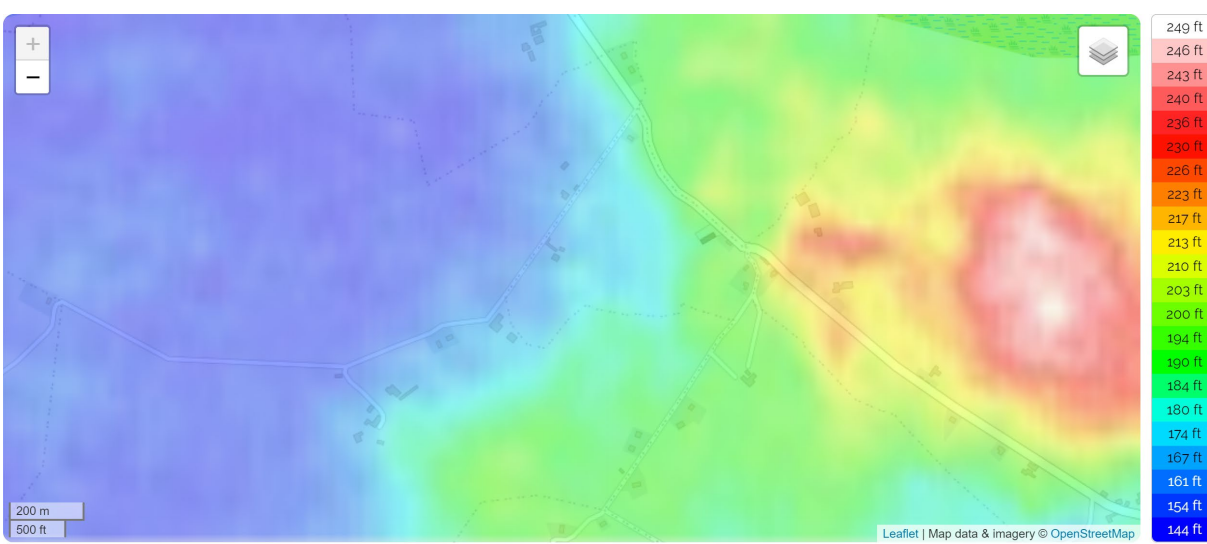
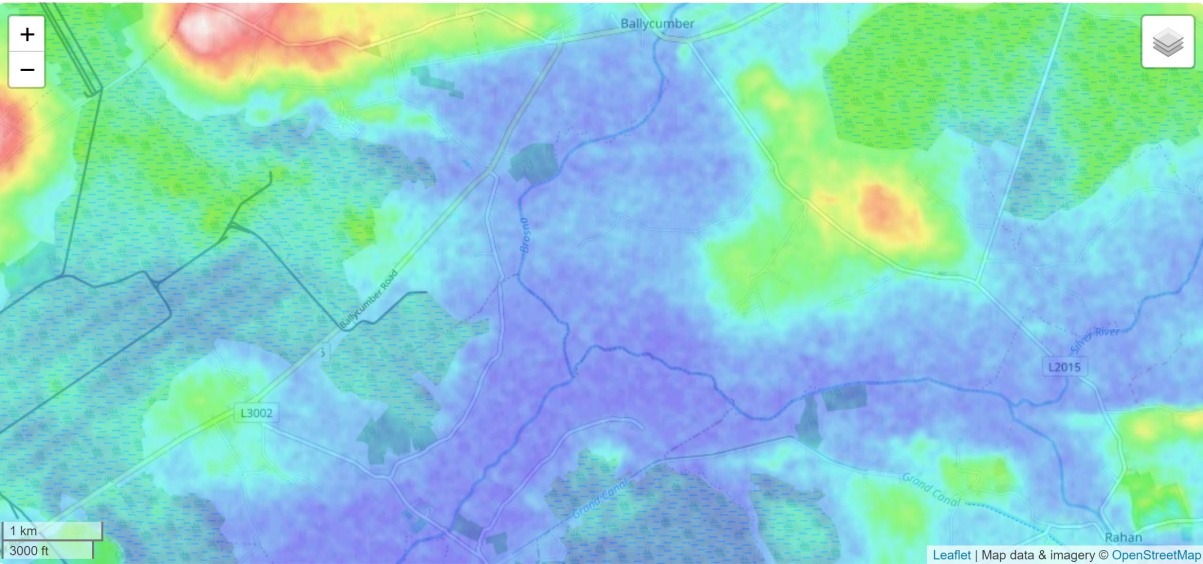
Google

Map data ©2019 Imagery ©2019, DigitalGlobe 100 m Terms of Use Report a map error



## Holy Wells - Island 1908 25 Inch 2020-07-29 232339.jpg







**There has been a self imposed embargo on distributing information, except where it was essential to discuss with others in order to move Preliminary Section to completion.**

**There has been, within the researchers, a sensitiveness to inform the community on the Island, in the first instance, followed by the wider local community, followed by the general community at large.**

**There is a wish to inform all the local community, as soon as possible, in order to present our Preliminary Study as part of 2023 National Heritage Week. – starting on Saturday xxxxxx August 2023.**

**A plan will then be prepared to involve every interested person in the Second part of our Study.**

Par. Rahan

KILPATRICK 7, 8, 15, 16

CILL PHADRAIG

5-2-86

Norm

1655-7 DS Bar. map (BN) Kilpatrick & Cappanmuck

1655-7 DS Bar. map (BN) Killpatrick

c. 1660 BS (RIA) (PRB) Killpatricke, Capponemucke &

c. 1660 BS (RIA) (PRO) Killpatricke

1669 ASE part of Killpatrick & Cappanamucke

1669 ASE Kilpatrick

1685 HD Kilpatrick

DERREEN tlds KILPATRICK and DEERPARK

KILPATRICK WELL tld KILPATRICK

TOBER PATRICK tld KILPATRICK

1655 DS Parish map (Reeves) Capponemuck, Killpatrick &  
c. 1660 BS (RIA) (PRO) Capponemucke & Killpatricke

1669 ASE Cappanamucke

1615 Meath endowments Cankill

1622 CPR (RC) p. 532 Chanchill, Balletulchan alias Balletollohan and

1837 Kilpatrick

AL:BS

Cill Phadrug

AL:OD

Kilpatrick

AL:Inq. temp. Jac. I

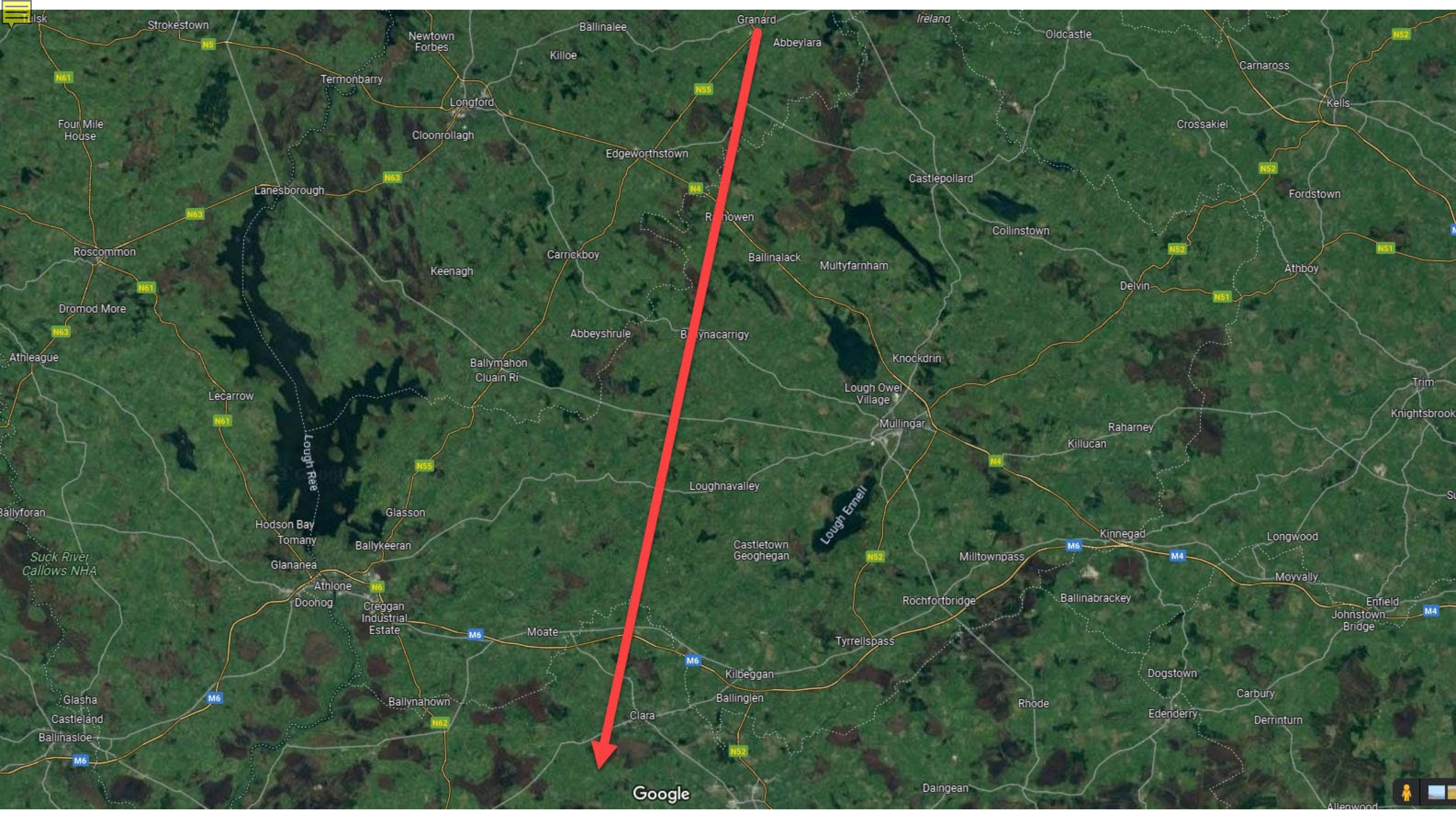
Killpatrick

AL:Inq. temp. Car. I



1. Drone images of Kilpatrick follow. All images taken from Kilpatrick townland,
2. Following the drone images, Extra Images Available as added Images































In the 1930 , The Government requested all Primary Schools to ask their school children to collect from their Parents and Grand Parents all the folklore/history they could and write in down or bring into the Head of the school.

Certain ideas were suggested as suitable subjects.

University College Dublin now holds the complete Schools Collection plus much more.

I had a quick look at Rahan School but found no Gems but that does not mean there are not any.

But I found a few Gems on the Island School that relate to tonight's talk.

References to the "Hand of Patrick" having been carved on stones.



Original

Suggested

Project Name

***The Island, Rahan - A Meadow of the Plain of Heaven***

Based on what Mochuda (Carthage) sang when being expelled from Rahan –

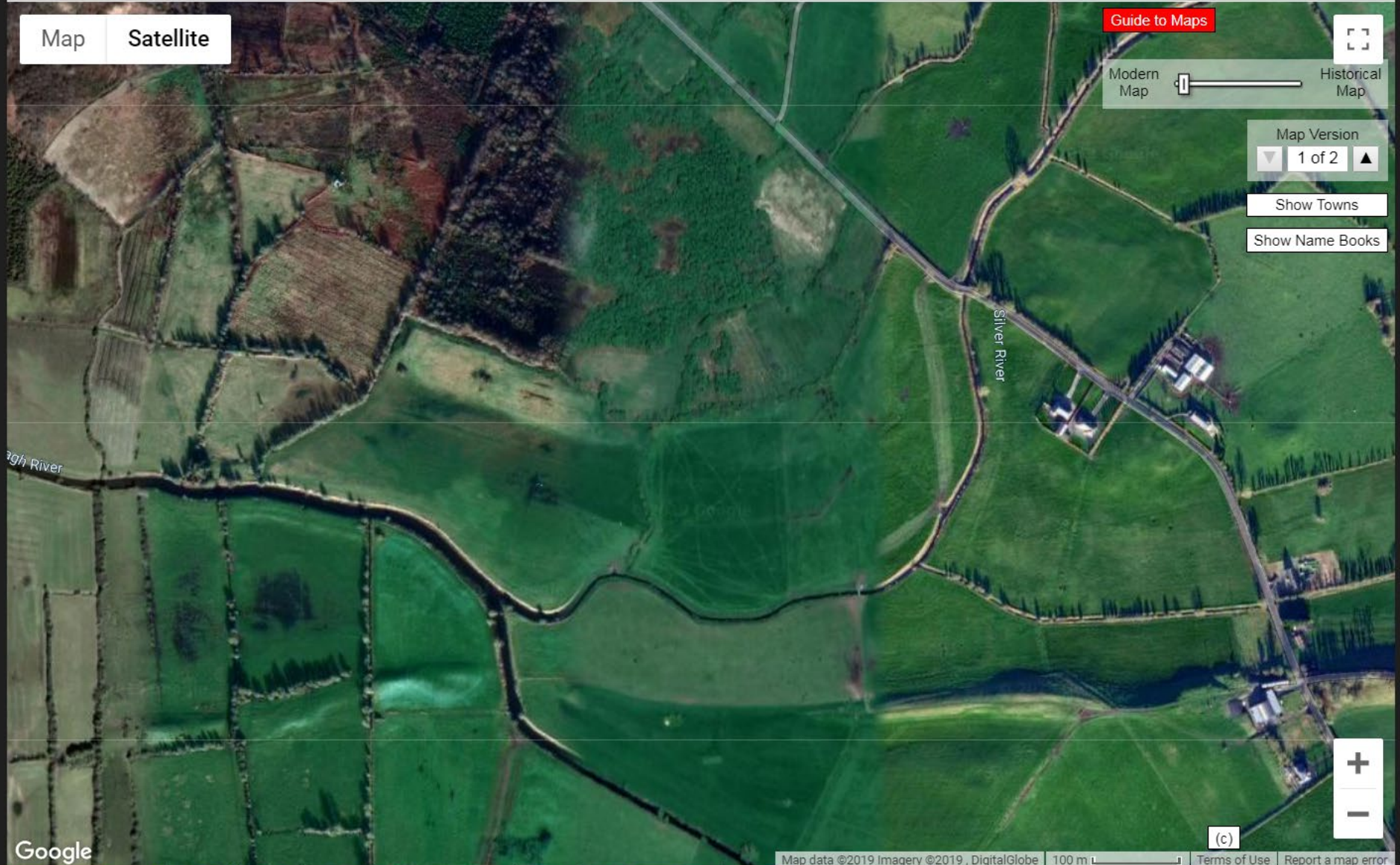
**“This is what I compare Rahan to,  
To a meadow of the plain of heaven”**

Bethada Naem nErenn - Plummer  
(Lives of Irish Saints)

The Images from here to the end are just “Bits and Pieces” that may have some interest.

There are also some duplicates











Griffith's Valuation

Modern and Contemporary Map

← → ↺ ⓘ

Not secure | griffiths.askaboutireland.ie/gv4/single\_layer/i8.php?lat=&longt=&dum=0&sheet=16,8,7&mysession=2664679187688&info=&place=&county=Offaly&placename=<b>Kilpatrick</b>&parish=Rahan&country=Ireland&union=&barony=B...

☆ ⚙ ⋮

Paused

Apps A/C's UB Login Invoices Calendar Inbox (22) - accoun... Dotser Limited Google Drive Slack Sage White Labelling My work - Dotser Imported Show Password Manager

Other bookmarks

Map Satellite


Guide to Maps

Modern Map Historical Map

Map Version 1 of 2

Show Towns

Show Name Books



St Patrick's Catholic Church, The Island

MD Auto's

Google

Map data ©2019 Imagery ©2019, Maxar Technologies 100 m

(C) Report a map error

Windows taskbar icons: File Explorer, Edge, Word, Chrome, etc.

System tray: 14:37, 12/08/2019, ENG



Griffith's Valuation

Modern and Contemporary Map

← → ↺ ⓘ Not secure | griffiths.askaboutireland.ie/gv4/single\_layer/i8.php?lat=&longt=&dum=0&sheet=16,8,7&mysession=2664679187688&info=&place=&county=Offaly&placename=<b>Kilpatrick</b>&parish=Rahan&country=Ireland&union=&barony=B...

Apps A/C's UB Login Invoices Calendar Inbox (22) - account... Dotser Limited Google Drive Slack Sage White Labelling My work - Dotser Imported Show Password Manager Other bookmarks

Map Satellite

Guide to Maps

Modern Map Historical Map

Map Version  
▼ 1 of 2 ▲

Show Towns

Show Name Books

St Patrick's Catholic Church, The Island

MD Auto's

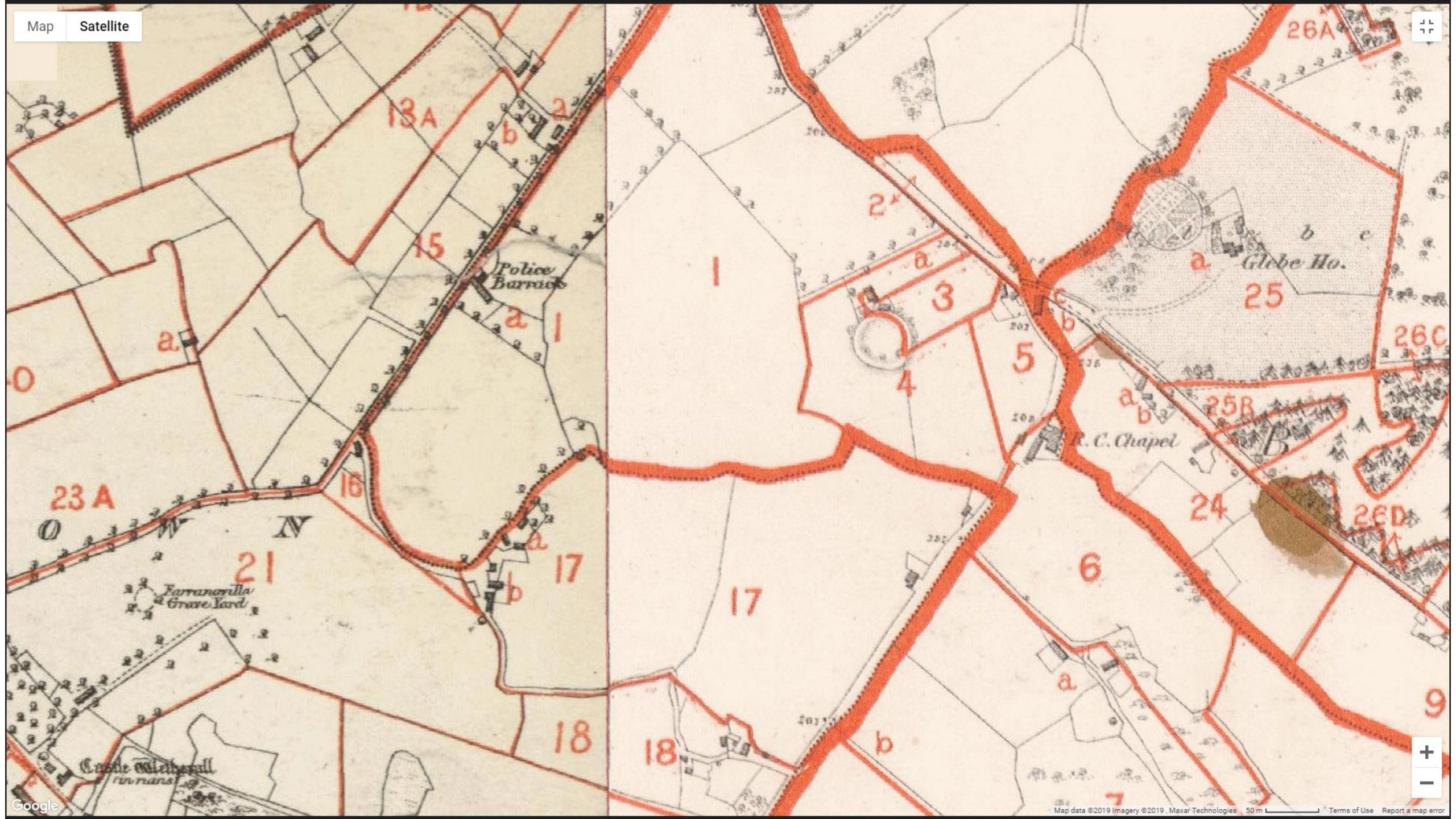
Google

Map data ©2019 Imagery ©2019, Maxar Technologies 20 m (c) Terms of Use Report a map error

Windows Taskbar

12/08/2019 14:38 ENG







Par. Rahan

KILPATRICK 7, 8, 15, 16

CILL PHADRAIG

5-2-86

Norm

1655-7 DS Bar. map (BN) Kilpatrick & Cappanmuck

1655-7 DS Bar. map (BN) Killpatrick

c. 1660 BS (RIA) (PRB) Killpatricke, Capponemucke &

c. 1660 BS (RIA) (PRO) Killpatricke

1669 ASE part of Killpatrick & Cappanamucke

1669 ASE Kilpatrick

1685 HD Kilpatrick

DERREEN tlds KILPATRICK and DEERPARK

KILPATRICK WELL tld KILPATRICK

TOBER PATRICK tld KILPATRICK

1655 DS Parish map (Reeves) Capponemuck, Killpatrick &  
c. 1660 BS (RIA) (PRO) Capponemucke & Killpatricke

1669 ASE Cappanamucke

1615 Meath endowments Cankill

1622 CPR (RC) p. 532 Chanchill, Balletulchan alias Balletollohan and

1837 Kilpatrick

AL:BS

Cill Phadrug

AL:OD



Kilpatrick

AL:Inq. temp. Jac. I

Killpatrick

AL:Inq. temp. Car. I





 





 623380 728668


## Basemap Gallery


- 

OSi Map
- 

Aerial
- 

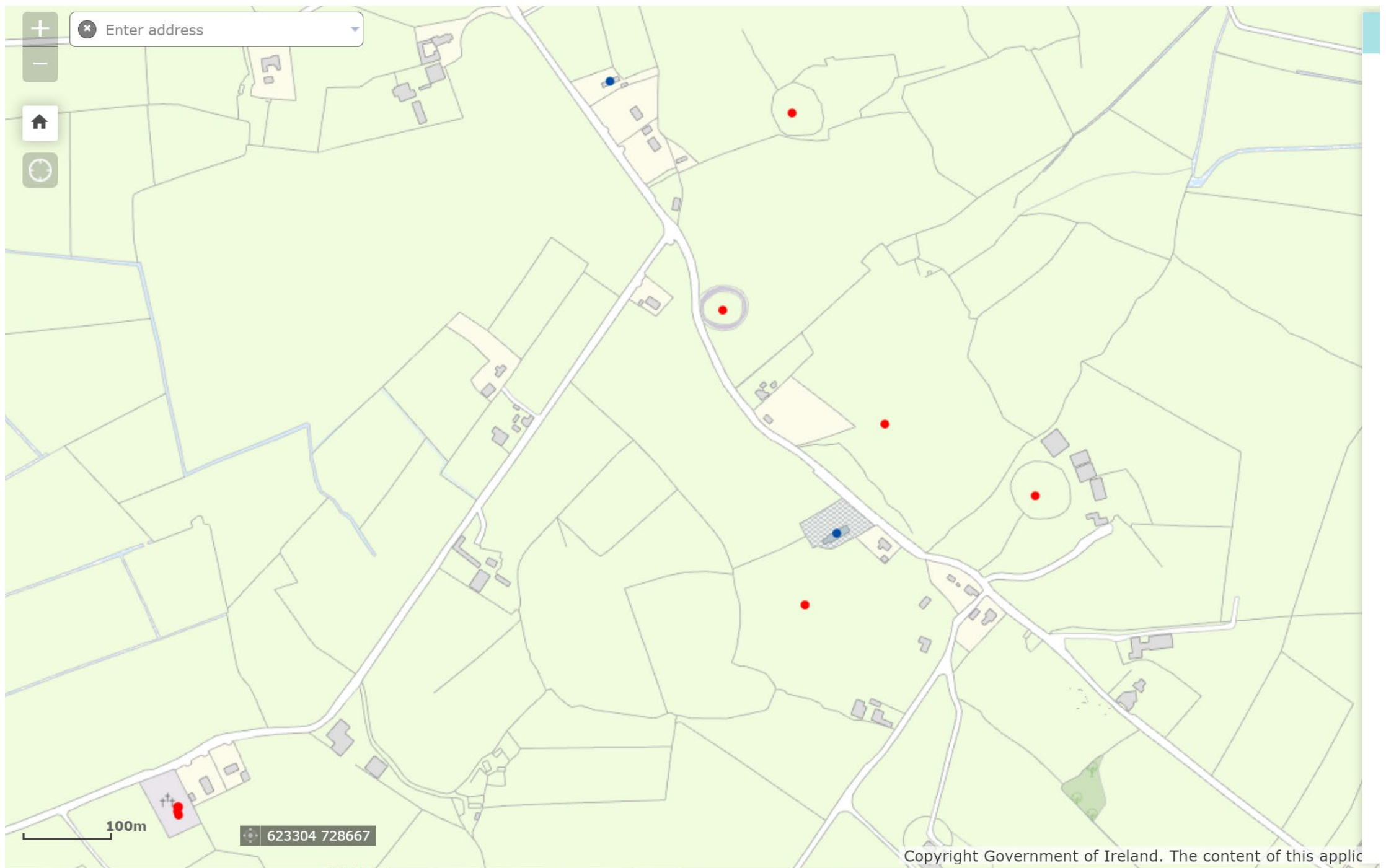
Cassini 6-inch
- 

Historic 25inch
- 

Historic 6inch
- 

Digital Globe

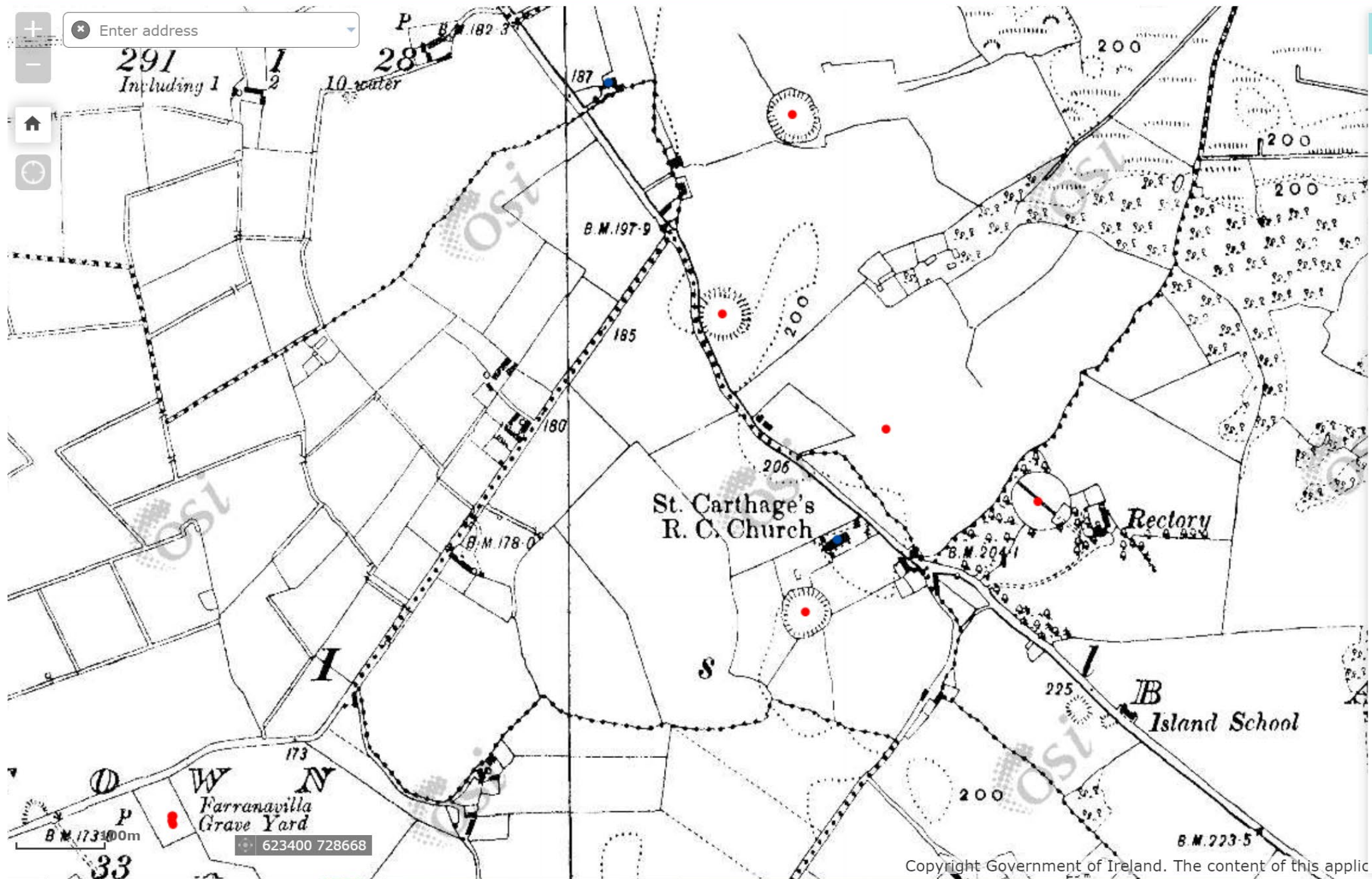








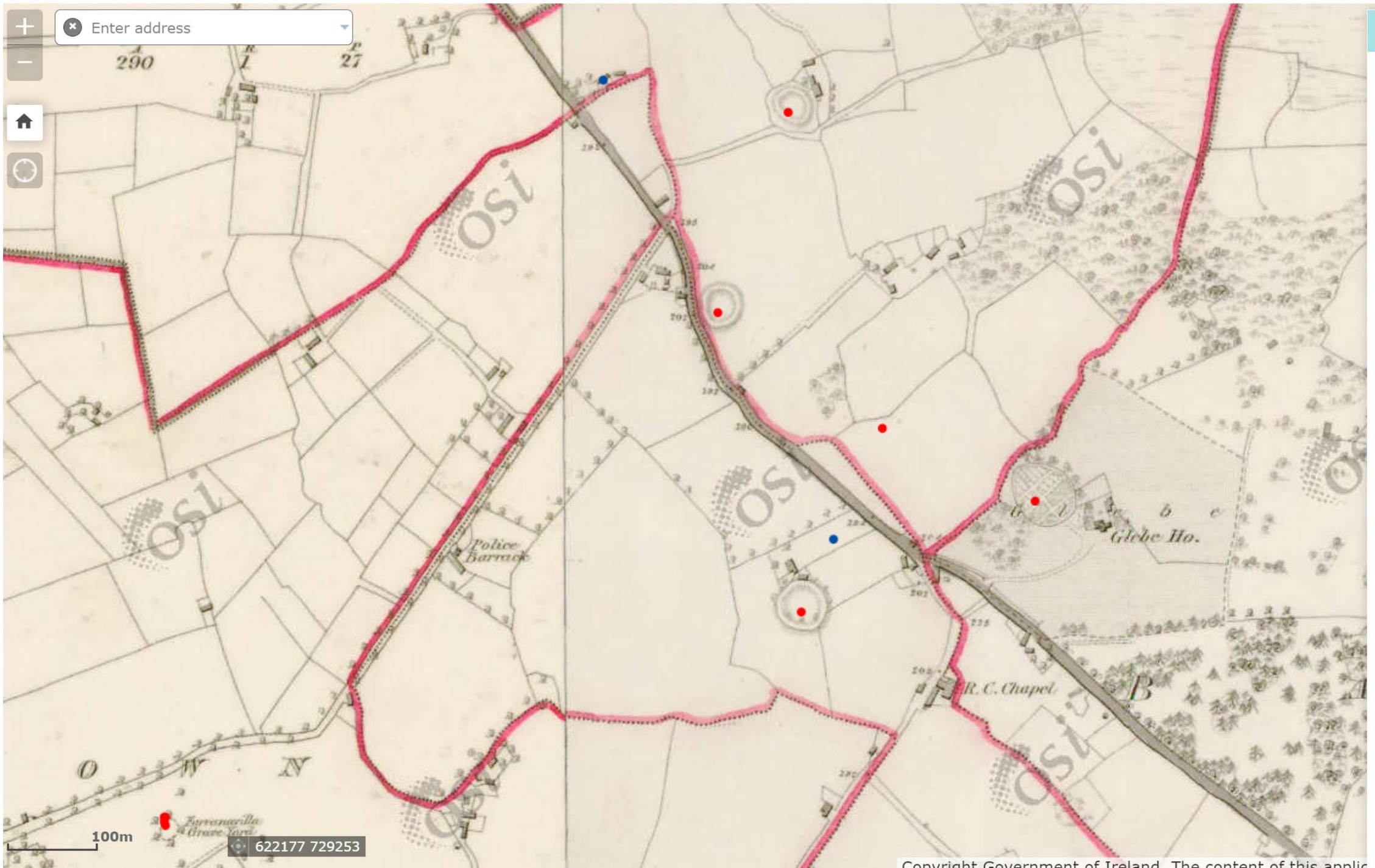


















Suggested

**Project Name**

***The Island, Rahan - A Meadow of the Plain of Heaven***

Based on what Mochuda (Carthage) sang when being expelled from Rahan –

**“This is what I compare Rahan to,  
To a meadow of the plain of heaven”**

Bethada Naem nErenn - Plummer  
(Lives of Irish Saints)



### OF016-003----

**Class:** Ritual site - holy well

[Scope note](#)

**Townland:** KILPATRICK

**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** Yes

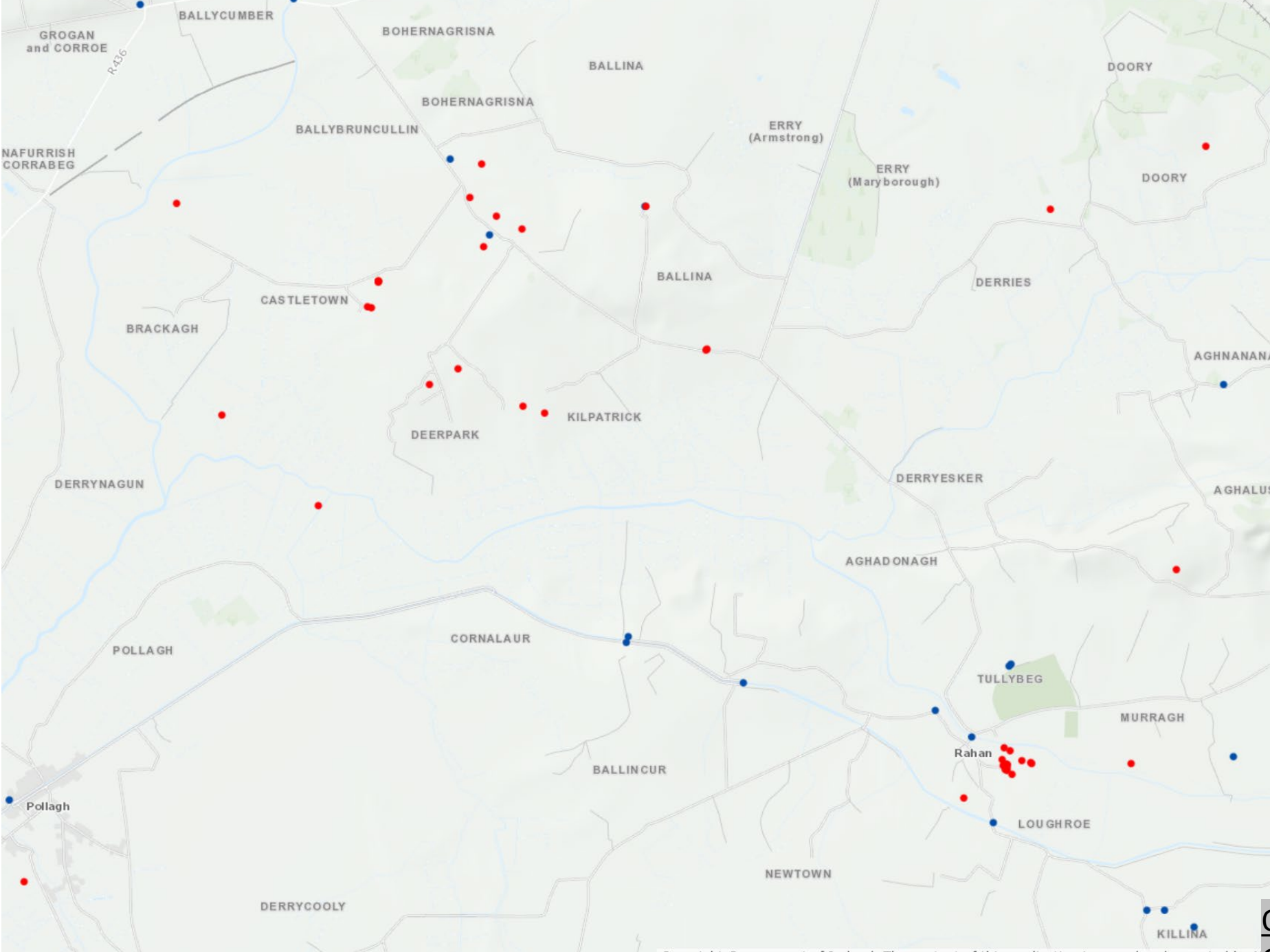
**Description:** Not visible at ground level. No local knowledge of a holy well in the area, marked on all editions of the OS 6-inch map with second holy well immediately to the W (OF016-002----).

The above description is derived from the published 'Archaeological Inventory of County Offaly' (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1997). In certain instances the entries have been revised and updated in the light of recent

[Zoom to](#)







Ballycumber :  
North West corner

Kilpatrick

Rahan

Killina : South East Corner

Lynally Off-map

Off-Map

Colman and Lynally



## Darrell – Comments on Black outline of Kilpatrick Townland - Slide 38

1. RED dots are Archaeological features
2. BLUE dots are Architectural features
3. Clodiagh River – Southern boundary
4. Silver River – Boundary of The Island to South East. It comes down from the north to join the Clodiagh River and continues West as the Clodiagh River to join the significant River Brosna which forms the Western boundary of The Island at Ballycumber
5. More
6. more



**Saint Carthage  
and  
his life spent  
on  
The Island, Rahan, Offaly**