

SM 7 | ACM 30:4

LISAMRY

Ratti and (site of)  
Soutemain

SP BD CS

ARN 30:4

LISAMRY; RATH AND SOUTERRAIN (sect)  
CS 30; IG 280  
Multivallate rath?  
+ possible souterrain

400 ft + OD  
H 886 3/4 1490

On the crest of a long ridge commanding an extensive view of the surrounding countryside, especially over Lough Ross to the N. The ridge is aligned NW-SE but is quite narrow with the ground falling away sharply on either side, particularly to the SW. This has clearly influenced the shape of the monument and the construction of its defences.

Consequently dimensions vary greatly from one part of the site to another and a verbal description is less than usually adequate. The site could not be planned because of the security situation on the border with Co Monaghan.

This well-preserved rath may originally have been bivallate but now a second bank can only be traced on the SE, S and W. The main enclosure is oval, measuring 41m (134ft) NW-SE and by 28.5m (93ft) NE-SW, and is generally defined by a low bank 2.3m (6ft 6ins-10ft) wide. This reaches a maximum height of 1m (3ft 3ins)

57

5/

00

ARM 30:4  
(contd)

ft ins

above the interior on the E. Around the N it is preserved below a curving hedge boundary and there is a steep drop of about 2m (6ft 6ins) from the top of the bank to the external ground level. The perimeter on the S is marked only by a steep scarp which falls 2.5-3m (8-10ft) to the base of a ditch 2.7m (9ft) wide. The ditch curves around to the E and NW where it is 1.8m deep below the crest of the bank and 3-4.5m (10-15ft) wide. A ~~second~~ <sup>counterscarp</sup> bank up to 3m (10ft) wide rises almost 1m (3ft 3ins) above the base of the ditch and stands about 0.6m (2ft) above the external ground level on the W. This continues around the S and SE ~~counterscarp bank~~ and although it appears rather less substantial from within the monument there is a steep scarp which falls almost 2m (6ft 6ins) to the ground level outside. It is possible that the ditch and second bank once continued around the N side of the site but all evidence has been removed by agricultural activity. There is no obvious entrance to the site but a 2.5m (8ft) wide gap

An unusual characteristic of this site is the pronounced

Newford  
under  
36p

ARM 30:4 /-/  
(contd) 57

flat topped ridge which runs across the interior forming an inner platform about 13<sup>#</sup>m (43ft) wide from NE-SW. This merges into the natural contours at the NW and SE but is marked by quite a steep scarp on the NE and SW. Here it is set back about 4.5<sup>#</sup>m (15ft) from the main enclosure and rises about 1.5<sup>#</sup>m (5ft) above the ground level immediately within the bank. It seems to represent an attempt to create a relatively level area upon the sharp ridge of the hill. Field notes of the 1960s record a depression within the W end of the enclosure which might have been a souterrain but this cannot now be identified.

SMR 30:4

~~29 8 83~~

August 1983

- OS 1 'Fort'
- 2 'Lisamry Fort'

- 3 'Lisamry Fort'
- 4 'Lisamry Fort'

MAP SHEET 30  
NO. 4  
GRID REF. H 886149

ARMAQH  
RATH

LISAMRY  
HT. 400' + O.D.

SITE: On hill summit above 400' contour  
TYPE: Oval enclosure of single bank <sup>with</sup> ditch <sup>and</sup> ~~with~~ outer bank  
locally present on S. & W.  
INNER BANK: A slight bank which increases in height to c. 3'6" on the E  
ENTRANCE: Probably a gap in the inner bank on E, leading out to the gently sloping  
neck of the ridge  
DITCH: Bottom is 10' below inner bank on S and 6' below same on W.  
OUTER BANK: 3'-4' above ditch bottom.  
DIAMETERS: ~~120~~' NW-SE, 120'; NE-SW 90'  
CONDITION: On N where cultivation extends right up to the earthwork there  
is no trace of outer ditch or bank, there being instead a scarp c. 10' high.  
SOUTERRAIN: A depression within the enclosure at the W end is possibly a  
souterrain, although no stonework is visible.  
PLANNED: No.

MAPPED: 1909.

LISAMRY O.S. 30

Grid ref. H886149

An oval enclosure on a hilltop above the 400 ft contour. The perimeter consists of a single bank and ditch with an outer bank locally present on S and W. The inner bank is slight, increasing in height to about 3 ft 6 ins on the E. The ditch bottom is 10 ft below the inner bank top on the S and 6 ft below it on the W. The outer bank rises to 3 to 4 ft above the ditch bottom. A gap in the inner bank on the W, leading out to the gently sloping neck of the ridge marks the probable site of the entrance. Diameters of the enclosure are 120 ft NW-SE and 90 ft NE-SW. On the N where cultivation extends right up to the earthwork there is no trace of ditch or outer bank, there being instead a scarp about 10 ft high. A depression within the enclosure at the W end is possibly a souterrain, although no stonework is visible.

# SOUTERRAIN RECORDING SHEET.

ARM 30:4  
"Cave" - B INV. 43

<p><b>WNLAND</b> <u>LISAMRY</u></p> <p><b>PARISH</b> _____</p> <p><b>BARONY</b> _____</p> <p><b>COUNTY</b> <u>ARMAGH</u></p> <p><b>LOCAL NAME</b> _____</p>	<p><b>L A N D O W N E R S</b></p>	<p><b>present</b> <u>Mr Owen Traynor, Lisamry</u></p> <p><b>past</b> <u>his father.</u></p>
<p><b>6" sh. no.</b> _____</p> <p><b>cm. from</b> _____</p> <p><b>cm. from</b> _____</p> <p><u>30</u> <b>sh.</b> _____ <b>pl.</b> _____ <b>tr.</b> _____</p>	<p><b>FIELD NAME</b> _____ ?</p> <p><b>ADJOINING FIELD NAMES</b> _____ ?</p>	
<p><b>I. G. ref.</b> _____</p>	<p><b>DATE OF DISCOVERY</b> _____ ?</p> <p><b>METHOD</b> _____ ?</p>	
<p><b>ASSOC. MONUMENT TYPE</b> <u>bivallate rock</u></p>		
<p><b>DESCRIPTION OF ASSOC. MONUMENT</b> <u>See index card - the gap mentioned in the description is on the E side of West. It is very narrow and deep. It has now been widened by bulldozing</u></p>		
<p><b>DESCRIPTION OF SITING</b> <u>Lisamry fort is situated on the summit of a steep sided drumlin on the southern slopes of Long Ross. It also overlooks a small lake - Lisamry Lough - to the S. There is an extensive view from the rock over the surrounding drumlin countryside in all directions.</u></p>		
<p><b>O. D.</b> <u>400-450 ft.</u></p>		



476 LISAMRY: RATH AND POSSIBLE SOUTERRAIN 400ft + OD  
Lisamry Fort  
CS 30; IG 280 H 8863 1490

This rath is relatively well-preserved and is set on the crest of a long ridge, commanding an extensive view of the surrounding countryside, especially over Lough Ross to the north. The north-west/south-east ridge is quite narrow, with ground falling away sharply on either side, but particularly to the south-west; this has clearly influenced the shape of the monument and dimensions vary greatly from one part of the site to another.

The main enclosure is oval, measuring 28.5m north-east/south-west by 41.0m north-west/south-east, defined around most of its perimeter by a low bank, 2.3m wide, which reaches a maximum height of 1.0m above the interior on the east. It is preserved around the north below a curving hedge boundary and there is a steep drop of about 2.0m from the top of the bank to the external ground level. The perimeter on the south is marked only by a steep scarp, which falls 2.5-3.0m to the base of a 2.7m-wide ditch. This curves around to the east and north-west, where it is 1.8m deep below the crest of the bank and 3.0-4.5m wide. A counterscarp bank, up to 3.0m wide, rises almost 1.0m above the base of the ditch and stands about 60cm above the external ground level on the west. This continues around the south and south-east and although it appears rather less substantial from within the monument, there is a steep scarp which falls almost 2.0m to the ground level outside. It is possible that the ditch and second bank once continued around the northern perimeter of the site but all evidence has been removed by agricultural activity. There is no obvious entrance to the site, but a 2.5m-wide gap in the inner bank on the east may be an original feature.

An unusual feature of this site is the pronounced flat-topped ridge that runs across the interior, forming an inner platform about 13.0m wide north-east/south-

west. This merges into the natural contours on the north-west and south-east but is marked by quite a steep scarp on the north-east and south-west. Here it is set back about 4.5m from the main enclosure and rises about 1.5m above the ground level immediately within the bank. It seems to represent an attempt to create a relatively level area on the sharp ridge of the hill. Field notes of the 1960s record a depression in the western part of the enclosure that might have indicated a souterrain, but this cannot now be identified.

SMR 30:4