

SM.7 / ANT 5: 11

(5)

Lough na Cranagh: Cranagh

CROSS: CRANNOG
CS 5: IG 9

D1795 4270
410ft OD

Lough na Crannagh is a fresh-water lough situated 700m ENE of Dunmore Fort (5:7) and 1km south of the steep sea-cliffs of Fair Head, which overlook the Atlantic Ocean. 'Cranagh Island' lies in the centre of the lough which is 8.9 hectares in extent and fairly shallow, 1.5m to 2.0m for the most part, but deepens to about 6.0m in the SE corner. The crannog is very much as depicted on the OS map: it is oval in shape measuring 38.0m NW-SE and 25.5m NE-SW. The outer edge of the crannog is vertically faced with a dry-built wall consisting of 4 to 6 courses of dolerite boulders, built with double facing and a rubble core. It stands 1.5m above the lake-bed and is surmounted by a grass-covered stoney, cashel-like bank which is 7.2m wide and stands 0.8m above the interior. The base of the crannog appears to be dolerite bedrock which lies between two promontories on the W and E sides of the lough. A damaged portion of the perimeter wall at NW reveals how the island has been built up with boulders overlain by a layer of laterite some 0.3m thick. The interior of the crannog is fairly level, thickly overgrown with grass and there are a number of trees growing on it. Despite some irregularities on its surface no clear indications of internal structures are visible. There are three possible landing places on the perimeter of the crannog. A distinct indent is built into the perimeter at N, and although rather collapsed, the stone-facing indicates that it is an original feature. It is 2.2m wide and extends 4.6m into the crannog. Below the surface of the water two lines of boulders extend out from the perimeter for 2.6m, forming the arms of a small harbour. At SE a notch built into the perimeter would provide some shelter for a moored boat from SW winds. Boulders extending out from the crannog below the water may be remnants of an associated collapsed jetty. At NW rudimentary steps in the wall lead down to a narrow ridge of bedrock which extends towards the promontory on the nearby shore. Boulders set on the bedrock may have formed part of a landing place or jetty. A broken flint blade was found close to this feature in the course of a systematic swim search around the crannog. Two small islands, 'Illannagairde', 55m NNW of the crannog are thickly overgrown with bushes and no archaeological material is visible. According to O'Lavery the name derives from their use for military purposes. The OS Memoir records that the crannog was built by a McDonnell, one of the Scottish chieftains, and at a subsequent period during penal times was occasionally used as a place of Roman Catholic worship. The site was excavated by McHenry in 1886 who recorded the perimeter wall as measuring from 6 to 8 feet thick. The only objects found were a rounded flint (probably a hammer), a worked flint flake and some decayed fragments of charred bones of ox and sheep.

SMR ANT/ 5:11

33w November 1994

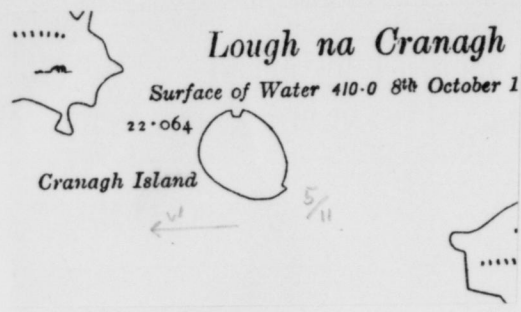
OS Memoirs Parish of Culfeightrin, Boyle 1835, Box 8, 4.2.3 and Fagan 1838-39, Box 8, 4.3, 137-38; Reeves 1860 reprinted 1903, 174; McHenry 1879-88, 462; O'Lavery 1887, 487; Knowles 1904, 53; PSAMNI 1940, 8.2

NO description

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF NORTHERN IRELAND, 66 BALMORAL AVENUE, BELFAST BT9 6NY
CO. ANTRIM, FIELD RECORD

SITE NO 11	Td.	TYPE	ALT.
O.S. 6" 5. I.G.			

PREVIOUS ACCOUNTS	GRID REF.
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40m NW-SE
by 33m NE-SW

THREATS AND/OR CHECKS	FURTHER ACTION
	3 126 3 85 42 28

SITE REPORT
CONDITION

Td.
Co.
P.A.R.
G.R.
O.S. 6"
I.G.

CROSS: CRANNOG
CS 5; IG 9

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410ft OD

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B.B.W. November 1994

OS Memoirs Parish of Culfeightrin, Boyle 1835, Box 8, 4,2,3 and Fagan 1838-39, Box 8, 4,3, 137-38; Reeves 1860 reprinted 1903, 174; McHenry 1879-88, 462; O'Laverty 1887,487; Knowles 1904, 53; PSAMNI 1940, 8.2

CROSS: CRANNOG

400 ft + OD

CS 5; IG 9

D 1795 4270

On Fair Head in a striking location in Lough na Cranagh, just off centre to the W, overlooked by higher ground all around, and quite well concealed. No boat was available and the preliminary report was made from the adjacent W shore of the lough. The crannog appears to be almost oval in shape measuring approximately 40 m NW-SE by 32 m NE-SW (from 1:2500). The outer face of the crannog is drystone revetted with basalt boulders of brick or breeze block size forming part of a perimeter wall. Although no measurements were possible the interior is clearly at a lower level than the top of the wall, which at the time of the visit stood on average 1.5 m above the water surface. The exterior face of the wall comprises 4 to 6 rough courses of stones and has collapsed in places but in general appears to quite well preserved. The interior of the crannog is overgrown with grass and there are a number of trees growing on it. It is possible that the crannog is built on a rock outcrop as two such features are visible protruding through the lough surface. A large stone adjoining the crannog at the WSW could be a jetty. According to the Parish Memoirs the crannog was used as a mass site during penal times until a priest was drowned trying to reach the crannog. The site was excavated by McHenry and is scheduled under the Historic Monuments Act (NI) 1971.

SMR 5:11

June 1993

OS Memoirs Parish of Culfeightrimⁿ Boyle 1835, Box 8, 4, 2, 3 and Fagan 1838-39, Box 8, 4, 3, 137-138; Reeves 1860 reprinted 1903, 174; McHenry 1879-88, 462; O'Laverty 1887, 487; Knowles 1904, 53; PSAMNI 1940, 8.

CROSS: CRANNOG
CS 5; IG 9

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF NORTHERN IRELAND

Historic Monuments and Buildings Branch DOENI

SMR 5:11	Td CROSS	Type CRANNOG	
A No.	Site Name	Parish	Alt 400ft
IG 9	GR D1795 4270	Barony	DC
OS			
NB			
Condition Well Preserved	Threat None Apparent	Check/Action - Plan / ?	Schedule d Yes
Land use Lough	Field boundaries		
Site description In a striking location In lough Na Craneagh, just off centre to the W, overlooked by higher ground all around, and is quite well concealed. No boat was available and the preliminary report was made from the W shore of the lough. The outer face of this Crannog is dry stone revetted with ^{bagart} boulders, brick or breeze block sized. It measures approximately 32m N-E-S-W by 40m N-W-S-E (from 1:2500) and at the time of the visit rises 1 on average 1.5m above the water level. The ^{exterior face of the} wall comprises ^{is} 6 rough courses and has collapsed in places but appears in general to be quite well preserved. The interior of the crannog is overgrown with grass and there are also a number of trees growing on it, however no other surface details are visible from the shore. It appears to be almost oval in shape, and could be built on a rock outcrop, as two small outcrops are visible protruding through the surface of the lough. The revetment appears to be part of a perimeter wall enclosing the crannog, as the interior	Photos? 3 from WSW		
Visited by M. McAuley	Date of visit 3/6/93	SM.2	Input

OVER

Site description

appears lower than the perimeter, however no measurements are possible. A large stone adorning the crannog at the ^{WSW} could be a stone jetty of uncertain age. The crannog is easiest accessed from the W shore! According to the Memoirs the crannog was used as a mass site during penal times until a clergy man drowned trying to reach the crannog.



Td CROSS	Co. ANTRIM	Par. Culfeightrin	SM 5:11
Type	Crannog : in lough na Cranagh - Cranagh Island or Fair Head Crannog		I.G. 9
			Grid Ref. D1795 4270
	Oval structure, of basalt boulders, with surrounding wall 8-10 ft. thick. 'Extensive excavations' produced only flint and animal bones (Knowles, 1904) based on MacHenry (1886): Reeves (1860/1903) only notes it. crannog with dry built reverment, date unknown (Lawlor, PSANI, 1940)		Alt. 400'±
			O.S.
			1. undesignated
			2-4. 'Cranagh Island'
'Investigated': Alexander MacHenry			P.T.O.
Visits	Photos ✓	Sched. ✓ 14.5.85	
		Listed	
Files SM.7: B5/85: SM8	Plans	Owner National Trust Rowallane Co Down	

Dmd. 8702765 10/82 1M TPC 5821 Gp. 173

McHenry, P.R.I.A. 2c (1879-88) 462
 Reeves (1860) reprint U.J.A. 9 (1903) 174
 O'Haverty (1887) vol IV, 487
 Knowles U.J.A. 10 (1904) 53
P.S.A.M.N.I. (1940) 8

CS Memoirs Culfeightrin Boyle 1835, Box 8, IV, 2, 3.
 " " " Fagan 1838-39, Box 8, IV, 3, 137-138.

C

5:8 ✓ An ancient graveyard named Killylecanan, enclosed by an old stone and clay fence, occupied about two roods of ground in a secluded dell surrounded by rocky hills. In the east corner are the ruins of the church, measuring in the inside 16½ by 10 feet, filled with graves of unbaptized children. The walls are of stone and clay, about 3 feet broad and from 1 to 4 feet high, but now mostly overgrown with heath. The door which was in the western gable was 3 feet wide. One of the jamb-stones still standing is 2½ feet high 1 broad, and 6 inches thick; the other, which has fallen, is 3½ feet long, 1½ feet broad, and 5 inches thick. A few perches to the north-east of it was a cashiol, in which was a cave usual to such military structures, but both have been reduced to a heap of ruins in order to obtain the stones used in their construction.)

5:36

At the distance of 100 perches to the north-east of Killylecanan church are the foundations of a church called Killowen, measuring in the inside 34 feet by 16. The site of the graveyard is a kitchen garden; near it is the site of a cross,

5:9

face of the precipice present themselves. One of them is named Fr. Leith (perhaps Cassan-Fhir-Leith)—"Grey Man's Path"—said to have been so named from some holy man who came here each day from some of the neighbouring churches to pass his time in prayer and meditation—and where on the whole earth could the Grey Men find a place fitter for meditation? The entrance to the pass at the top is narrow, and a massive pillar fallen across it, and supported at a considerable height by the rocks on either side, gives to it the appearance of a natural gateway. Through this the path conducts by a gradually expanding passage, and "the scene," says one of the Guide Books, "becomes much more interesting. A beautiful arrangement of pillars in various degrees of elevation is now apparent; the solid walls of wide and threatening columns increasing in height, regularity, and magnificence, until, at the foot of the precipice, they attain to a perpendicular elevation of 220 feet. The mighty mass upon which the promontory itself is based, and which is peculiarly characterized by savage wildness, being rendered the more imposing from the violence with which the ocean rages around it."

from which, probably, the townland was named. About 28 feet south of the foundations is an extensive cave, constructed in the usual manner. There are several similar caves in the same farm, but they are all closed. On a rocky eminence, about 150 yards east of the church, was a cist 7½ feet long, 2½ broad, and 1½ deep, enclosed by flat stones; but what its contents were is not known. See Ord. MS. Lough-na-Cranagh, in the vicinity of Killowen, is named from a circular crannoge or artificial island in the centre of it. This lough is entered on Speed's Map of Ulster (engraved in 1610), under the name of Lough Dunmore, so called from the Cashiol fort mentioned above. Another small island in the lough is named Illannagards because it had been used for military purposes.

5:9

5:26

5:28

5:11

The foundations of the church of Kilmoloe, in the townland of Bighouse, stand on the south-west side of a range of rocks named Drumnakill, which rise to a great height along Murlogh Bay. The church measured in the inside 28 feet by 11; the walls are from 2½ to 3 feet broad, and from 1 to 3 feet high, built of stones cemented with grouted mortar.

5:19

7 yards to the north, from the east end, is an ancient cross of mountain sandstone. 45 yards to the north-west is an oval font or basin, 1½ feet by 1 foot in breadth and 4½ inches in depth, hollowed out of a large stone situated among the rocks. At the west end is the grave of St. Mologe, out of which clay is taken as a preservative against various evils; "but the clay should only be lifted by the person entitled to lift it, who must belong to an old family named McCormick, residing in the neighbourhood of the church; the practice of lifting the clay is partially relinquished of late years."—Ord. Surv. MS. Among the rocks close to the ruin is lying a cone-shaped lump of flint, about 9 inches in

O'LAVERY 1887 Vol. 4

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FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE BALLYCASTLE DISTRICT

29

there any exposure of stonework. It was here, in the shallow water, that I picked up the sherd, together with several pieces of slag. The finely preserved crannog on Fair Head deserves mention in passing: I have searched its margins but have found nothing.

Some years ago a short dug-out boat, square-ended, was recovered from a small bog at Loughlynch, Liscolman, but it decayed before it could be removed. Various finds have been made by the farmer, Mr. Chestnut, including a thin bronze basin which is now in the Belfast Municipal Museum. Mr. H. A. Boyd, who secured this for the Museum, also gave the writer some sherds from the site, which is undoubtedly a crannog. Some of the pottery has a bronze age appearance, but other fragments seem to be wheel-made. I illustrate (Fig. 6, No. 7) two rims of hand-made ware, gritless and rather soft, with reddish surface.

No aspect of field archaeology in Ireland offers more scope than the investigation of habitation sites, particularly of those upland dwelling places (booleys) and associated cattle enclosures which illustrate the practice of transhumance or seasonal migration. In the Ballycastle district they occur in almost every stretch of country above the 500 ft. contour, and may be best seen on the schist ledge around Knock-layd at about 900 ft., along the Glenmakeeran River above the 500 ft. line, and among the chalk downs above Murlough Bay, between 700 and 800 ft. Here and elsewhere they are called "Danes' Houses," but Mr. James Stewart of Binvane tells me that he heard they were built by cattle herders who used to come in the summer from the Low Country, i.e., west of Knocklayd. This is confirmed by the O.S. writers in the 1830's: "It is traditionally believed that these houses were a rendezvous for cattle and that they were driven here every evening to be milked." Some of the Memoirs refer explicitly to "bolie houses," but the phrases most commonly used are "Danish houses and enclosures," and "Danes' Fences." They are described as "commonly oblong but exhibiting a great variety of shapes; . . . generally disposed with their longest axis down the slope."³⁵

At the head of Glenshesk I found that the "booley houses" were still remembered by name, though my informants had never seen them. I was told of a place at the head of a valley in Ténaghs Td. called "Alt-na-voolie" (booley): "I heard my grandmother say she used to help to milk four cows there. After milking they would feed the calves and carry what was left home. It was a long journey, and I remember how she said they used to feed the most of the milk to the calves to have less to carry home. The cattle would be there from the first of May till the first of November."

Low spreading mounds of grass, with an occasional boulder showing through, are all that is left of the booleys, and from their nature they are difficult to measure and still more difficult to plan. The circular sites may be only two yards across, larger ones are about six yards, and others could not easily have been roofed and must be considered cattle enclosures. The oblong foundations generally consist of

35. J. Stokes, *Parish of Skerry*.

5:11

7:11

BOOLEYS
9:63-71

9:167

9:168

8:

14:36

[Insert marginal comments by R.K. Dawson: This is rather confused.
Refer to Mr. Ligar to simplify it. And repetitious ^p1 .
Repetitious ^p2].

ENDTEXT

END

F5 Lakes

TEXT

There are 4 lakes in this parish, namely: *Lough-na-*Cranach in *Cross townland and near the coast at *Fair *Head. Its elevation above the level of the sea is 401 feet and it extends over an area of 24 acres 2 roods 20 perches. Its extreme depth is 18 feet and it seems to have been formed by the lodgement of water in a rocky hollow. A small stream flows into it, and there is also 1 flowing from it, which tends to preserve an equality of depth in the lake throughout the year. This lake abounds with very fine trout which were originally carried there.

5:11

*Lough *Doo in the same townland is next in size. It is close to the edge of the cliff and is 487 feet above the level of the sea. It extends over 9 acres 1 rood and 24 perches and its extreme depth is about 8 feet. It also is environed with rocks. 3 trifling streams from springs flow into it and 1 which ^p3 falls over the cliffs flows from it.

*Lough *Avoon, in the townland of *Ballyvennaght, is 713 feet above the level of the sea and extends over 9 acres, 0 roods 39 perches. In summer it becomes almost dry, except in 1 hole where it is said to be unfathomable, and from which the water, which flows from the lake into it, makes its exit through the cliffs into the sea, a distance of more than 3 miles. This lake is formed in a hollow by several small streams which flow into it.

*Lough *Faden, which is in the townland of *Knockbrack, is 612 feet above the level of the sea, and extends over 5 acres 3 roods and 16 perches. Its extreme depth is 7 feet. It seems to be formed by springs and the lodgement of water in a rocky hollow from which there is no visible outlet.

ENDTEXT

END

F5 Rivers

TEXT

The principal rivers in this parish are the *Glenshesk which, taking its rise in the eastern side of *Slieve-an-*Orra mountain, flows from south to north for about 8 miles, forming the western boundary of this parish, and discharges itself into the sea at *Ballycastle *Bay. It does not make any injurious or beneficial deposits, and is usefully situated for drainage, irrigation and water power. For a further description of this river see Rivers, parish of *Ramoan.

OS MEMOIRS CULFEIGHTRIN
BOYLE 1835, BOX 8, IV, 2,

descent to their subterraneous mansion was by this dangerous path. Informants %Hugh %McBride and many others ^p136.

ENDTEXT

END

Re Lakes

Re %Hugh %McBride, %Bernard %McCambridge ^p138

TEXT

5:11 In %Crees, near %Fair %Head, stands a lake locally called %Lough-na-%Crees and said to occupy about 14 acres of ground. About the centre of this lake stands an island approaching to circular shape and said to contain about half a rood of ground and composed chiefly of rocky substance, but at some former period enclosed round the edge by a stone wall mixed with clay or other soil. The surface of the rocky substance composing the island is also said to have been strewn over to some depth with clay, which, on the whole, rendered it a handsome pleasure ground as there was an accommodation of small or pleasure boats in ancient times for ascending it from the mainland. The whole erections are said to have been instituted by a %McDonnell, one of the Scotch chieftains who some centuries past was proprietor of a large tract of the grounds along the %Fair %Head, where he also had his place of abode. However, at a subsequent period and during the existence of the penal code, this once island of pleasure was occasionally occupied as a seat of Roman Catholic worship, till at length a boat which was conveying the clergy and congregation from the mainland was upset with a large number who were ^p137 on board and consequently perished in the bowels of the lake. This accident <accidence> put an end to the occupation of the island as a seat of secluded worship. However a cross situated there in the place for religious purposes gave its present name to the lough. A subsequent disaster by burning stripped the whole island of its flowery <fleury> and verdant garb, and also reduced the parapet from its original size and appearance as the fire took away the dry soil intervening between the stones. Yet its ruins, situated in the middle of a large and handsome sheet of water, contribute much to the interesting scenery along the %Fair %Head.

ENDTEXT

END

Re Lakes

TEXT

In the neighbourhood of the %Fair %Head are 2 other lakes which also contribute to the scenery of that neighbourhood. One of these is called %Black %Lough and the other called %Lough %Caolin. Along the surface of the %Fair %Head, towards the east side, will be seen a few chasms which are said to have proved fatal to cattle pasturing on these grounds. These chasms are said to have been caused by the falling down of the rocky top after the taking away of coal found beneath at some former period. Informants %Hugh %McBride, %Bernard %McCambridge and many others ^p138.

ENDTEXT

The evidence of the dyke swarm, combined with that of the rhyolites and the tridymite, amounts therefore to almost clear proof of the existence in the neighbourhood of Tardree of a concealed granite boss, buried beneath the basalt flows and beneath still earlier rocks. The axial line of the swarm seems to show that the granite boss that caused the tension cracks to converge upon itself is eccentric with regard to the Tardree rhyolite and lies somewhere below the area about Ballyclare. The great spread of the acid lavas at Tardree, however, has led us to suggest that the name Tardree should be retained in the designation of the swarm.

These associations are repeated in connexion with the Hillsborough quartz-porphry, which is likewise related to the second dyke swarm and lies eccentric with regard to it—the controlling granite probably lies at considerable depth beneath the town of Hillsborough. In this case the term "Hillsborough swarm" serves the double purpose of linking the swarm with its acid lavas and with the site of its buried granite boss.

- (1) *Trans. Geol. Soc., Glasgow*, vol. xix, 1932, p. 42.
- (2) Personal communication from Dr. W. J. McCallien.
- (3) J. J. Hartley, *The Underground-Water Resources of Northern Ireland*, Inst. Civil Engineers, Belfast and District Assoc., Belfast, 1935.
- (4) The Templepatrick occurrence is really intrusive as a small laccolite (A. McHenry, *Proc. Geol. Assoc.*, vol. xiv., 1895, p. 141).
- (5) A. Lacroix, *Bull. Soc. Min.*, vol. xxviii, 1905, p. 56; xxxi, 1908, p. 323.
- (6) H. P. T. Rohleder, *Geol. Mag.*, vol. lxx, 1928, p. 355; lxxi, 1929, p. 553; *Proc. Roy. Irish Acad.*, vol. xl, 1932, Sect. B., p. 160.

THE BATHYMETRY OF THE FAIR HEAD LOUGHS, CO. ANTRIM.

By PROFESSOR J. KAYE CHARLESWORTH, D.Sc., Ph.D.

Two loughs lie on the top of the Fair Head moor (see inset map of Fair Head, fig. 1). Lough Dhu (Doo) and Lough na Cranagh, the first with a water-surface just below 500 ft. O.D., the second at 410 ft. O.D. As these lakes are of considerable interest and, like all Irish lakes, with the exception of a few large lakes, such as L. Neagh and L. Erne, have never been sounded, I arranged for a bathymetrical survey of the loughs in the last days of August, 1934, when their levels, according to Dr. Clowes who knows the lakes well, were about 3 inches above the normal.

The soundings, measured to the nearest half foot, were made by the smaller of the instruments used by the late Sir John Murray and the late Mr. Lawrence Pullar on the Scottish lakes. I am indebted to Sir John Murray's trustees for the loan of the apparatus.

The survey, which occupied three days, shows that the half of L. na Cranagh, north of the cranoge, is shallow and extremely regular in its depth; the marginal strip falls to 6 feet and the floor of the central portion is everywhere 6 feet or $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet deep, except in two places where it has a depth of 7 feet.

The cranoge is separated from the mainland on the west by a narrow channel 5 feet deep and from that on the east by one 6 feet deep.

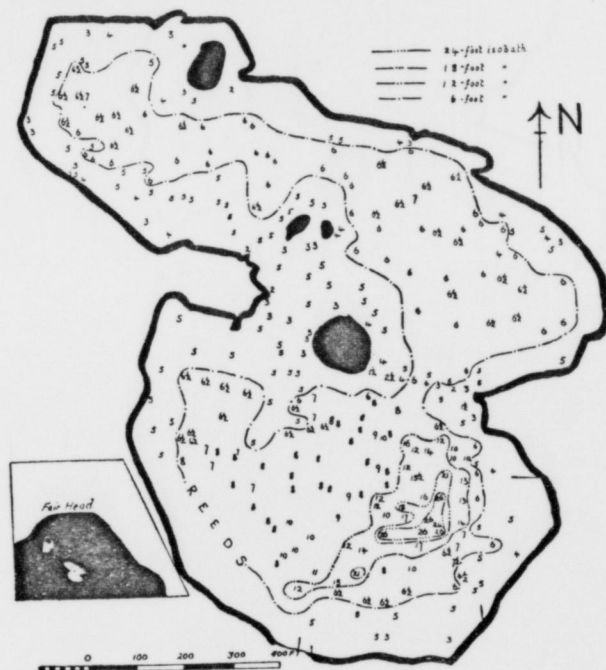


Fig. 1. Lough na Cranagh.

The southern half of the lough is much deeper than the northern half. It exhibits a marginal fringe about 5 feet deep in the west and a centre with depths ranging between $6\frac{1}{2}$ and 8 feet. In the south-east it possesses the deepest part of the lake where, as the chart shows, the bottom falls to an \perp shaped hollow 26 feet deep.

The floor of L. Dhu is much less regular than that of L. na Cranagh. The northern wings of the lake are relatively shallow, but descend steeply into the deeper waters that occupy the centre. Here the bottom has a number of irregularly-placed

"holes" that go down to 20 feet. The greatest depth of 21 feet lies where the north-west wing joins the main body of the lake.

The two loughs lie in depressions in the upper surface of the dolerite sill of Fair Head. This surface was overridden by Scottish ice from the north-east, and is beautifully rounded and glaciated and studded with erratic blocks. The loughs themselves are rock-basins hollowed out by the ice. Ice-scourings, trending roughly from the north-east, are to be seen in numerous places rising out of the water, e.g., on the western side of L. Dhu. The ice also doubtless quarried or plucked out great pieces of the dolerite. This is shown by the outline of L. na Cranagh, as in the east-west trends of certain stretches of its shore and also in the L shaped "hole" in the south-east corner which has without doubt been plucked out along the two joint directions in the dolerite that run smoothly north-south and east-north-east and west-south-west.

L. Dhu similarly betrays the influence of the joints. This is especially well displayed in the steepness and the outline of the southern side of the lake; in the trend of the 6-foot and 12-foot isobaths in the southern part of the lake; in the narrow hollow that runs up into the north-east wing of the lake; and in the centrally-situated deep "hole" which has a zig-zag plan determined by the two joint directions.

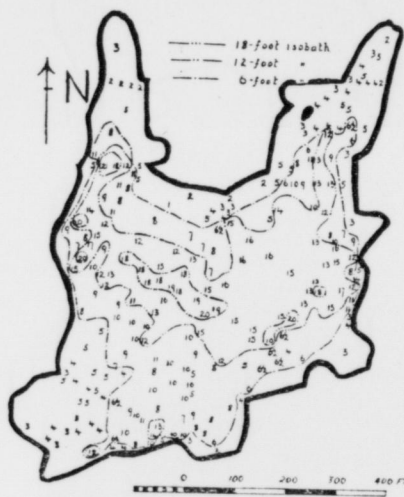


Fig. 2. Lough Dhu.

This little survey owes everything to a number of Ballycastle friends whose names should really appear with my own at the head of this note. I am indebted to Mr. S. McClure for the loan of his boat for L. Dhu and to Mr. J. Nichol for carrying the boat from Ballycastle to the Head; to Mr. A. Hunter for aid in a number of valuable directions; to Dr. E. F. Clowes for rowing his own boat on two days on L. na Cranagh; and to Mr. N. Cox, B.A., for his extremely hard day's rowing on L. Dhu. I am also grateful to Mr. S. J. Gilmore, B.A., Mr. S. J. S. Gilmore and Mr. H. A. Boyd, M.A., for ably assisting in the soundings and for helping Mr. Cox and myself in the very strenuous labour of carrying Mr. McClure's boat for the best part of half a mile over the rough top of Fair Head.

from Reeves (1860) reprinted, UJA 9 (1903) 168-176

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rank meadow, which in winter becomes very moist.¹ This was formerly a lake similar to those above described until it was drained in the latter half of the last century by Hugh Campbell of Ballygarvey, the tenant under Adair. The island stood at the side of the lake, remote from the new road, and near the eastern margin, where the bank rises rather suddenly from the hollow. It is now merely a knoll, resembling a little gravel hill; but it is fresh in the recollection of the neighbours that it was a stockaded island, having an external framing of oak piles, and the interior composed of gravel and clay. It is stated that several articles of curiosity have been found here, but time has dispersed them all. The name of the townland bears no resemblance to that in the Inquisition, but the large townland which joins Loughmagarry on the west, and of which it appears to have been a sub-denomination, is called *the Feenagh*, that is, *Fíonach*, and formerly gave name to the whole. The *Loughinchfeaghny* of the Inquisition is a compound of *loch-míre-fíon-naí*, "lake of the island of Feenagh."

These four Crannogs are interesting in a civil point of view, as being, each, the accompaniment or head-quarters of a small territorial chieftaincy. They were the little primitive capitals of the four Irish tuoghs or districts, which, being combined in pairs about the beginning of the seventeenth century, went to form two English half baronies, exactly preserving their main boundaries; and though the names and sites have for ages been forgotten, and find no place in the Ordnance Map or any other survey or description, yet, with the Inquisition of 1605 as the pioneer, they have been satisfactorily traced out.²

Together with these, it may be well to put on record the names of some other Crannogs which existed in the same and adjacent counties.

V. *Loch Crannagh*.—In the townland of Cross, over Benmore, in the parish of Culfeightrin, is the lake of the above name, covering twenty-four acres and a half. It is called from a small, but beautifully defined island, artificially formed in the centre of it.

VI. *Loughinsholin*.—A small lake, a little north-west of the village of Desertmartin, gives this name to the great barony in the south of the county of Derry. Correctly written it is *loch míre tta Fíoinn*, "Lake of Inis-O'Lynn." It was so called from *Inis Ua Fhloinn*, or "O'Lynn's Island," a small stockaded island situate near its eastern margin. It probably obtained this name while the O'Lynns,

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¹ Ordnance Survey, county of Antrim, sheet 32.

² In identifying Nos. 1 and 3 there was considerable difficulty, and the merit of their discovery is due to William Millar of Ahoghill. No. 2 has been known to the writer for several years, and No. 4 was identified by him about 12 years ago.

from: Knowles USA 10 (1904) 49-56
Crannogs, or Artificial Islands....

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CRANNOGS, OR ARTIFICIAL ISLANDS.

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exactly like an ordinary narrow oar. Colonel Wood-Martin gives a list of the articles found in this crannog from time to time. See *Lake Dwellings of Ireland*, pp. 163-4.

LOUGH CRANNAGH (Benmore).—I have not been able to visit this crannog, but Alexander MacHenry, M.R.I.A., reported on it to the Royal Irish Academy in 1886. He says it is oval in shape, being one hundred and twenty-six feet long and eighty-five wide. Average depth of water, two feet on the west and three feet on the east side. "It is built of large loose blocks of basalt, well fitted together without



Fig. 2.



Fig. 3.

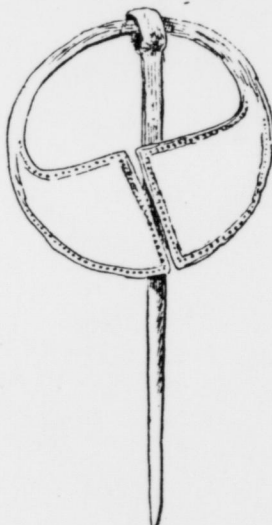


Fig. 4.

cement." The surrounding wall is from six to eight feet thick. He made extensive excavations in all parts, but the only objects found were a rounded flint (probably a hammer), a worked flint flake, and some decayed fragments of charred bones of ox and sheep.

LOUGHINSHOLIN.—I am dependent on a correspondent for information regarding this crannog. Lough Shillin, as it is now named, is still a lough near Desertmartin, and in close proximity to the line of railway running from that town to Draperstown. It covers about a statute rood, and there is the little stockaded island or crannog in the centre, with a pathway leading to it, passable in the dry season of the year, but covered in winter. The oak piles can still be seen, but