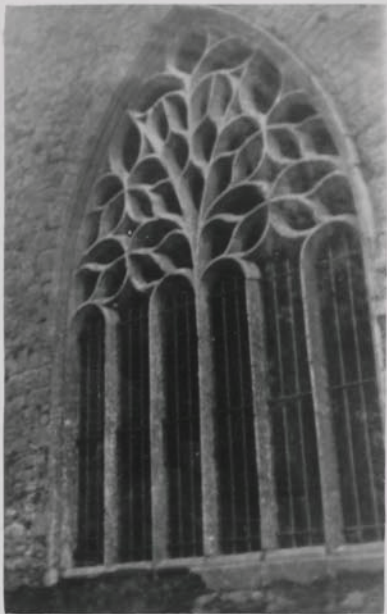




Gortnahoe Parish

East Window

Kilcooley

Ormeau



Gortnashoe Parish

West Window

Kilcooley.

O'Brien



Gortnahoe Parish

Columbarium

(West View) ~~of~~

Willcooley O'Brien

(Lipp South) (20) FORM A.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES, HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

BARONY OF Slieveardagh
TOWN OR VILLAGE Yortnahoe PARISH Yortnahoe COUNTY Liffenny

TOPOGRAPHY

Brief description of outstanding scenic views in the district, natural attractions, or unusual topographical features.

Yortnahoe, the northernmost parish in the barony is composed of the ancient parishes of Kilcooley, ~~Fennor~~ and Bodelick. It is bounded by Ballingarry in the east, Killarney in the south, Moycaskilly & Moyne in the west and in the north and north-east by ~~Wallingford~~ (as Kilkenny). From the hills in the eastern side of the parish there are some good views of the north Liffenny landscape with the Slieve and Devil's Bit Mountains in the distance.

GEOLOGY

Brief notes on unusual geological features, such as caves, eskers, etc.

The geological structures of the district are in the ~~main~~ mill-stone grits with seams of coal. Much of the coal is of the poor grey-black shaley type, but it has been mined and used to some extent in the past.

MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES OF IMPOSING CHARACTER

Location and brief description. Owner. Past associations. Libraries or art collections?
Gardens? Open to visitors? Admission charge?

Kilcooley Abbey. owner, Thos. F. Ponsonby, 1 mile east of Yortnahoe. Victorian mansion in a demesne of 250 acres. Formerly the demesne comprised over 1600 acres, but 200 acres were divided among tenants, and about 1200 acres planted by the Forestry Dept some years ago. There is nothing to mention under the other headings.

ANTIQUITIES

Abbeys, Castles, Fortresses, Round Towers, Early Churches, Sculptured Crosses, Stone Circles, Ogham Stones, Cairns, Souterrams, Pillar Stones, Cromlechs, Forts, Rathes, Moats, Tumuli or ancient monuments of any kind. Exact location of each with short description, noting condition, etc. Relate local legend or tradition associated with building or object. State if in charge of Office of Public Works. Right of way to public? Admission charge (if any). Name and address of caretaker, or where key is kept.

Kilcooley Abbey is situated

~~1 mile~~ 1 mile east of Yotmalise in Kilcooley demesne.

The Key can be got at ^{the} gate lodge.

This ^{the} most important antiquity in the Parish of Kilcooley is one of the best preserved ^{ancient} abbeys in the County. It ^{was} a daughter house of Jerpoint & was founded by Donogh O'Brien in 1200 AD. Thos. Shanks was the first abbot to be mentioned viz 1341 AD. and Thos. Shortall the last at the time of confiscation (1539 AD).

Columbarium

The ruins consist of church, monastery & ~~other ruins~~.

The church.

Of the original 13th century church only the outer walls of the church remain. Towards the end of the 15th century the eastern portion was rebuilt. This consists of a ^{transept} ^{projecting to the east. Rebuilt at this time also were the} eastern chapels, the ~~inner wall~~ and vault of the chancel, the east window and the central tower.

The North transept, by which ^{the visitor} traveller enters, is elaborately vaulted, the ribs with ^{real} ~~ribbed~~ vaults rising from a central pillar. Portion has fallen in.

The South ~~transept~~ transept, has a simpler vault, but its south wall is panelled and decorated with carvings in stone. In this wall, above a widely splayed moulded Gothic doorway which leads to the Sacristy, there is a crucifixion carved in low relief with the blessed Virgin & St John on either side of the cross. On the same slab is St Christopher, staff in hand, carrying the divine child over the deep and dangerous river symbolised by fishes. ~~and a fish becoming a serpent. This is one of the few carvings of St Christopher found in Ireland.~~

Over the doorway to the left, two Armorial Shields of the Butlers can be seen.

~~over the whole is a delicate canopy of stone, reminiscent of the sedilia at Holy Cross.~~

To the left of the doorway is a pointed arched recess crowned by an ^{ornamented} ~~vine leaf~~ ^{finial} ~~hemispherical~~, ^{this contains} ~~with a~~ ^{apexina} for the adjacent chapel.

On the right is another higher but shallower niche.

(Plain sheets of foolscap paper to be used, if necessary, for recording additional information).

see sheet 1

Antiquities Heliodary Abbey

ogee-headed, with vine-leaf pinnacles and crockets. Standing the central pinnacle of the niche is a carving of a pelican staining its blood into a chalice (emblematic of the Eucharist). In the arch is an angel swinging a censur and beneath it an effigy of a bishop. Lower down near the floor is a carving of a mermaid holding a mirror. ~~beside two fishes~~

The chancel ^{the space} between the transepts is ~~the chancel~~ covered by a vault rising from walls built inside the original walls. Its east window is of six lights "crowned by a most complicated but useless tracery" ^{and} is perhaps the most elaborate example of the flamboyant to be found in Ireland. The windows of the chapels though small and less elaborate are of the same type.

The nave is plain except for a west window of a later date; but the tower piers which mark its eastern limits are unique in design. Each contains an ogee-headed niche, originally provided with wooden seats doubtless for the accommodation of the chief dignitaries of the abbey. "These sedilia have ogee-headed arches delicately moulded & springing directly from jambs of the same plan" (The mouldings etc. on the left or Gospel side have disappeared). Carved vine-leaves decorate the three pinnacles with which finish the design, and two Butler shields, and another with ^{the} instruments of the passion form part of the decoration above moulded corbels, ^{which} finishing in an acute point, carry the arch rib of the main tower arch. x

Tombs. The Butler Monument

In the chancel are several tombs and monumental slabs. Most important is that of James Oge Butler, 6th son of John, younger son of Edmond, 1st Earl of Carrick. This John lived in nearby ^{CLONAMICKLON} ~~Clonamicklon~~ Castle and died in 1330. The carved effigy of the knight-in-armor may be that of Pierce son of John Butler to whom the large inscription refers and who died in 1526, or of James his son mentioned in a shorter ~~moulded~~ inscription. The front of the tomb shows ten of the apostles with their emblems.

Canwell monument.

In the recess to the south of the altar is a slab

Antiquities Kilcooley abbey.

Bantwell Tomb.

commemorating William Bantwell, Lord of Ballytober & Cloghacordly whose death is not dated, but that of his wife, Margaret Butler, is given as Nov 21st 1528. The lengthy inscription ends with the adjuration in Latin:—"who passes by, stand, read attentively and mourn. I am what thou shalt be. Had been what thou art. Pray for me I entreat thee." This slab and another one on the floor (to John Bantwell who died 1532) are signed by the sculptor Rory O'Funnery.

A much worn floor slab is that of Philip Houorey abbot of Kilcooley who died in 1513.

All slabs bear decorated foliated crosses. The inscriptions are in 15th century Gothic lettering, are difficult to decipher.

In south wall of chancel are two other and of recent date.

It is evident that in addition to those of the cloister, ^{there were} ~~the monks' habit~~ living apartments over the transepts and chancel, and ~~that~~ these rooms were used in post-Dissolution days, by the lay grantees of the abbey (Butlers). "These alterations have so completely confused the plan of the buildings around the cloister to the south and east, &c. to have destroyed most of their original ~~as a chapter house, refectory, dormitory~~." Nothing remains of the cloister arcade & the foundations are traceable.

To the south east stands a plain rectangular building which may have been the infirmary of the abbey.

A little distance off stands a columbarium which apparently belongs to the period of lay occupation, since there is no mention of it in the suppression Inquisitions.

Carved font.

On the left-hand side of doorway in the north transept is a carved font ~~with~~ decorated with tracery work. Only in recent years was this font restored to its original position.

In some of the cells are ~~left~~ ^{stoned some of the} carved stone belonging to different parts of the ~~abbey~~ building. The greater part of the abbey property passed to the Butlers
See Sect 3

Antiquities. Hilco day at the

The monument is in the
Care of the O. P. W.

~~My photo of the East Window was unfortunately spoiled, but
as it was in the shade it would not have been very
bright. Understand that the Rev. of Works have made drawings
etc of the window.~~

~~The foregoing description has been compiled from
copious notes taken on the site as dictated by Rev
H. Fitzgerald P.P. Louth who accompanied me.~~

Grange Lake is situated about 2 mls S.E. of Fortnash
~~location about 2 mls S.E. of Fortnash.~~ K is

Clonamicklan Castle is situated

~~Situated~~ about 1 1/2 miles South of Gortnahoe, ^L ~~the~~ [^] ~~the~~ stands in
marshy land ~~to~~ ^{from the} 1/4 of a mile ~~off~~ ^{from the} roadway.

~~described~~ There remain now only the north, and portions of the
the east and west walls of what was once a large and
important castle of the Batters. (~~Glesir~~ branch). The original
14th century castle ~~was~~ ~~must~~ have ~~renovated~~ or ~~largely~~
~~rebuilt~~ as some of the windows are square-headed, ~~light~~
twin ~~two~~-lights of 14th century type. Brick is also used in a
small portion at the floor near the junction of the south and
east walls, for what appears to have been a fireplace. ~~Does~~
~~this not indicate a late date?~~ Immediately to the south
of the castle is a courtyard enclosed by a high wall
flanked by two circular towers, one at the east and one

Contin 4.
Antiquities. Blonnicklow Castle

at the left corner. Portion of the north wall at the eastern end
gives away to a rectangular flanking tower ^{which} carried
the ~~main~~ ^{spiral} stairway ^{into the tower in new work (now gone)}. The
last wall has a crack throughout its length and seems
to be on the point of falling in. It is said to have
been dismantled by Cromwell. ~~to right of way. Not~~
~~preserved. Visitors may inspect.~~

Beacons Church ruins. is situated
~~situation~~ 2 1/2 miles north of Gortnahoe.

Description. This structure which is approximately 100 ft long
by 20 ft wide is composed of a church ~~approx. 60 ft long~~ and
a ~~cluster or~~ living apartment. ~~approx. 30 ft long.~~

The church (at the eastern end) is divided into ~~Nave~~ and chancel
by a Gothic chancel arch of limestone. ~~There~~ In its chancel
there are two recesses in each side wall. The east window
is missing. In the interior, at the junction of the east gable
and ~~the~~ south side wall is a ~~two~~ rectangular walled-off space
which, from the evidence now remaining, carries a stone
stairway apparently to the roof. On the opposite side
is a ^{small} rectangular recess at floor level. ~~same is plain.~~
The entrance was through the south wall to nave.

The ~~other~~ ^{lower one} portion of the building consists of two floors. The
~~ground~~ is vaulted. ~~with~~ ^{arched} vaults springing from a wall
running through its length ~~between~~ ^{between} ~~ways~~ ^{ways} and both side
walls, thus forming two ~~cell-like~~ compartments
originally interconnecting (a ~~small~~ ^{small} ~~room~~ ^{room} ~~of a~~ ^{of a} ~~small~~ ^{small} ~~size~~ ^{size} ~~later~~ ^{later}
~~period~~ ^{period} ~~closes the doorway~~). The original entrance of limestone
~~is~~ ^{is} ~~with~~ ^{with} a slit opening ~~of~~ ^{over} it, ~~remains~~ ^{remains} ~~but~~ ^{but}
~~right hand side of the cell.~~ ^{another} ~~2~~ ² ~~independent~~ ^{independent} entrances
to the ~~second~~ ^{second} ~~compartment~~ ^{compartment} was broken through the
gable, ~~as a later period~~ ^{as a later period} ~~probably~~ ^{probably} at the time of the closing of the
interconnecting doorway. There is no evidence of direct
communication between the two floors. Access to the
top floor seems to have been ^{by means} ~~through~~ a stairway
from the outside through the north side wall. Only some
~~fragments of this~~ ^{fragments of this} ~~remain~~ ^{remain}, and I may not be correct
in this conjecture. However, there is definitely no other
~~the visible entrance~~, on the upper portions of the side
(see cont 5)

Contn 5
Antiquities. Sturmer Church.

walls (over the vaulted floor) have one square headed windows (14th century type) which appear to have originally been two-light. The ruin is situated in a graveyard, and there are no remains of other buildings. Locally, it is said to have been a monastery, but its size would hardly justify this title. ~~It~~ although not officially preserved it is in a good state. There is a right of way.

~~Adjacent to the ruin is a 14th century Protestant church in which service was held up to 50 years ago.~~

Sturmer Castle

This ruin can be seen about 200 yards to the east of Sturmer Church. Originally a rectangular keep, it now consists of its portion of north and west wall at original height of about 60 ft, together with foundations of other buildings. There appear to have been 5 floors, with a vaulted roof over the 1st one. No other features are evident. Not preserved. No right of way, but visitors may inspect. Castle belonged to the Butlers. There are no local traditions connected with it.

Black Castle.

~~Situation: in townland of Hoard. about 7 miles north of Gortnahoe and 4 or 5 miles of Gortnahoe - Malinsford road. According to local information another Butler stronghold, this was a rectangular keep. Only portions of north and south walls now stand. But the foundations of other buildings can be seen. There are no features.~~

~~Incorporated in the ~~farm~~ nearby farmyard of Mr. Lange, on whose land the castle stands, ~~is~~ was an old church of pre-reformation type. There are no traces now to be seen, but Mr. Lange mentions that some years ago while excavating for the purpose of building he unearthed numbers of human bones.~~

~~Castle ruins not preserved. No right of way. But Mr. Lange or a member of his family will convey visitors who are anxious to inspect.~~

Antiquities. Bookish ✓

Bookish Church ruin

Situation: 1 1/2 miles south of Gortnahoe off road to New Birmingham

This ruin consists of nave and chancel, the former 45ft by 25ft, the latter 10ft by 8ft. There is a square tower at the west end. The structure is of good limestone and is pre-Reformation Gothic in style.

Nearby is a bawn, on which stood (lost) a Butler castle known as Bawnreagh Castle, long since disappeared church ruin which is in a very dilapidated condition & not preserved. There is a right of way, Mellison Castle.

Situated alongside Gortnahoe - New Birmingham road about 4 miles from the former. This ruin consists of a belt of keeps of 16th century type standing about 50ft high. There is the usual garderobe, mural stairway, and the remains of a bastion over main entrance.

This castle was the residence of the Cantwell family - underlords of the Butlers. It is in a poor state of preservation. Not officially preserved. No right of way. Visitors may inspect. The local tradition is that it was destroyed by Cromwell, and its inhabitants put to the sword. I could find no confirmation of this, but there was a Cantwell transplanted from here during the Cromwellian confiscations.

Derryella (Boine Meille)

Situation: Alongside New Birmingham village, 5 miles south of Gortnahoe. Very scanty remains, featureless, of what must have been a pre-Invasion church. According to O'Donovan, it is said to be the second oldest church yard in Ireland, and one which the Pope is obliged to mention once a year. The patron saint is St Tigernach, a hermit. I was unable to substantiate any of the foregoing locally. Right of way, cut 7

Antiquities.

Dolmen New Beshington

On the hill just over New Beshington village is a dolmen which is knocked down. Nobody in the locality remembers to see it standing.

No right of way but visitors may inspect.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

AMENITIES AND GENERAL INFORMATION.

TOWNS AND VILLAGES (Other than Seaside)

BARONY OF SlieveardaghTOWN OR VILLAGE YortnahoePARISH YortnahoeCOUNTY Liffey

Location and brief description.

Population 25.

The little village of Yortnahoe is situated 2 1/2 miles south of Kilmacphelim on the north-western fringe of the Slieveardagh hills. To the north, west & south it overlooks a varied landscape of trees, hills, grassland and bog, while to the east the Slieveardagh hills rise gently away towards Rathfriland.

Is there a Town Hall? YesLocation Main St.

Parks, Gardens and Recreation Grounds. Brief description:

none.

Brief comments on water supply and sewerage:

none.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Nearest station

Laffans Bridge

Distance

9

Bus?

Yes.Shannon

Public lighting by—Electricity?

Gas?

Yes. Sat.Shannon

DANCING

Dance hall

Yortnahoe Hall

Proprietor

Mr. Laffan, Yortnahoe
(Trustee)

CINEMAS AND THEATRES

Cinemas

no

Pictures shown

(nights)

Theatre

no

Kind of shows

(Drama, Comedy &c.)

LIBRARIES

Public Libraries

Barnegat Library Fortunachae

Private Lending Libraries

none

CHURCHES AND SERVICES

Church

Fortunachae. Catholic

Services (Sundays)

9.30 am & 12 noon

New Birmingham Co.

11.30 am

Kilcooly Abbey I. of Ireland.

12 noon

POSTAL FACILITIES

Location of Post Office

Fortunachae

Business (? M.O., Telegraph, Telephone)

yes

BANKING

Banks

none

SPORTS AND PHOTO SUPPLIES

Sports Dealers

none

Photographic Stores

none

SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHS

Swimming Pool?

none

Location

Public Baths?

none

Location

SOCIAL CLUBS, CULTURAL SOCIETIES, &c.

Social Clubs *no*

Cultural Societies *Fortnahee Dramatic Society*

INDUSTRIES AND HANDCRAFTS

Industries *Senior Cooperative Dairy Society*

Handcrafts or Cottage Industries (Give names of craftsmen, employer, &c.):

none

PUBLIC MONUMENTS

(Brief description; inscription to be quoted)

none

IMPORTANT PUBLIC BUILDINGS

(Give brief notes on architectural features)

none

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Fortnahee Boys & Girls U.S.

Ballycastle do

Donnamelon do

Kilgobley do U.S. Protestant

Piquetnaheen do

HOSPITALS

none

FAIRS AND MARKETS ; HALF-HOLIDAY

Monthly fairs and markets *none.*

Weekly market day *none.* Half-holiday *Wednesday*

GARAGES AND PETROL STATIONS

*200 Regent Ballinacree, Portlaoine,
Garage & Petrol Station.*

CONVEYANCES FOR HIRE (Owners) :

Taxis *200 Regent Ballinacree, 1 car.*

Motors (Touring) *none.*

Boats (State type) *none.*

Bicycles *none.*

Caravans *none.*

Horses *none.*

CAMPING SITES

(At principal holiday resorts)

Location *none.* Landowner

Local Improvements Committee *none.*

Secretary

DATE *22/5/43.*

(Signed) *W. Brien*

Surveyor.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

SPORTS AND GAMES

BARONY OF ShiveardaghTOWN OR VILLAGE Portlaoise PARISH Portlaoise COUNTY Dublin

ANGLING (Fresh water)

*If there is only one river or lake in the parish this form (B) will suffice. For additional waters Form Ba to be used.*RIVER OR LAKE none Nearest point to town (distance)

KINDS OF FISH HELD :

AVERAGE WEIGHT OF :

Salmon none Sea trout Brown trout

BEST SEASONS FOR :

Salmon Sea trout Brown trout

SUITABLE FLIES :

Salmon

Sea trout

Brown trout

State if angling is—"entirely free"; "free except on preserved stretches"; etc.

Preserved stretches, with names and addresses of Proprietors :

none

Owners of boats for hire, and charges per day :

Convenient angling centres (where accommodation is available) :

Local Angling Club none Membership Fee

Secretary (and Address)

SEA ANGLING

Brief notes on fishing grounds :

none

Kinds of fish to be caught :

Owners of boats, type of boats, and charges per day :

none

Bait available locally ?..... Fishing tackle ?.....

Representative of B.S.A.S. or other sea angling Assn.....

GOLFING

Name of Club..... none..... No. of holes.....

Situation and brief description of course :

none

Name of Professional.....

Is there a clubhouse on course ?..... Licensed ?.....

Green fees (Visitors) : Per day..... Per week.....

RACING

(Including "Point-to-Point" and "Flapper" meetings)

No. of meetings normally held during the year none

Under which rules?

Situation of course

HUNTING

Hounds which hunt in the district:

Foxhounds none

Harriers none

Beagles none

COURSING

Name of Club none Meeting held annually?

GREYHOUND RACING

Name of Company none

Races on (nights)

SHOOTING

Brief notes on shooting areas, stating kinds of wild fowl or game, and if free shooting is available:

Pheasant Partridge & grouse. Pheasant.
and duck. are
There are no preserves except for the
but permission should be sought from the local
landowners.

If preserved, give names of landowners or lessees and addresses:

Hilcooley Abbey Estate 1400 acres.

Mrs B. Ponsonby. Hilcooley Abbey.

Shooting Club none Secy.

CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING

Name of Club none Competitions held?

ROWING AND SAILING

Rowing or yacht clubs, with address of club-house.

none

GAMES AND RECREATIONS

Name of Club or Committee concerned with the following :
(In each case give location of sports ground or recreation hall)

Gaelic Football none.

Hurling Yortnahoe G.A. Club. Yortnahoe.

Handball none. Handball alley? none.

Soccer none.

Rugby none.

Cricket none.

Hockey none.

Bowls none.

Bowling (on public roads) none.

Lawn Tennis none. Kinds of courts

Croquet none.

Billiards none.

Badminton none.

Table Tennis none.

Bridge Club none.

Other games or recreations (inc. "Cross Roads" dancing) none.

ATHLETICS AND CYCLING

Name of Club Yortnahoe Events held under rules of A.A.C.A.

do.

ANNUAL EVENTS

Give list of annual events held in the town or parish, naming promoters (Clubs, etc.)
in each case. Include pilgrimages and patterns.

Athletic Sport 23rd May Promoters Yortnahoe A.A.C.A. Sports Club.

.....

.....

.....

.....

DATE

22/5/43

(Signed)

W. O'Brien

Surveyor.

I.T.A. SURVEY FORM E.
BYRON, *Beavercreek*.....

ACCOMMODATION
COUNTY.....*William*.....

PARTIAL *North*
TOWN OR VILLAGE.....*North*.....

HOTELS

No. Guest Bedrooms	No. of Baths	No. of Lavs.	No. Public Rooms	Licensed
-----------------------	-----------------	-----------------	---------------------	----------

none

Guest or Boarding
Houses

none

REMARKS

Date *22/5/43*.....

(Additional sheets may be used if necessary)

Signed *W. J. Jones*

HISTORIC SITES

Royal Seats, scenes of historic events—battles, mass meetings, historic festivals, &c. Location.
Landowner. Historical or traditional notes.

~~none~~ Longford Pass.

Adjacent to the main Keshel-Dublin road at Longford Pass are some earthworks, which it is said, mark the site of a camp where Ince's army wintered in 1649.

During the recent civil war an important skirmish took place here between the opposing forces.

HISTORIC HOUSES; BURIAL PLACES

(a) Birth places or one-time residences of distinguished Irishmen or other personalities. Location and description. Present owner or occupant. (b) Burial places of distinguished personalities.

Very Rev Dr Lawrence Kenham.

Born at Longford Pass one mile west of Gortnahoe in 1797. Was President of Maynooth College from 1845 to 1854. He made a large collection of records in connection with Irish ecclesiastical history which he bequeathed to Maynooth College.

SPAS OR MINERAL SPRINGS

Spas formerly in use. Location and present condition. Access. Right of way to public?
Mineral content and curative properties so far as known locally.

none.

CURIOSITIES

Curious objects, structures, monuments, landmarks, sights, etc. For example, Wishing stones or "chairs," freaks of nature (i.e. grotesque rock formations)—in fact, any scene or object which may be regarded as queer, quaint or mirth-provoking. Location and description. Any story or legend to be related.

none.

CUSTOMS, PATTERNS, ETC.

Brief account of old customs, traditional cures, etc., still practised in the district. Pilgrimages to Holy Wells, Shrines, etc. Patterns.

St. Patrick's Holy Well, Youghor.

Adjacent to Black Castle (already mentioned) is a well known by the above title. Local tradition has it that St. Patrick passed this way on his way to Lough. The well is now not venerated. There is no pilgrimage, nor has there been one in living memory.

St. Patrick's Well Ballylacken.

This is to be found near the old churchyard of Ballylacken $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of New Beshingham, or $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Youghor. St. Patrick is said to have passed by it on his way to Lough. There has been no pilgrimages within living memory.

(Signed)

W. B. O'Brien

Surveyor.

DATE

23/5/43