

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES,
HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

BARONY OF Gffa & Gffa East & Upperthird (Waterford)
TOWN OR VILLAGE Kilshellan PARISH Kilshellan COUNTY Tipperary
& Waterford

TOPOGRAPHY

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

This parish comprises the ancient parishes of Kilshellan, Kileash, Kellaloon and Scarpletnay. Kilshellan & Kellaloon extend to Waterford. The greater portion of the modern parish however lies in Tipperary between Slievenamon and the Suir. Kilshellan parish possesses much natural beauty. Looking south from Kileash a magnificent panorama unfolds itself: rich agricultural land falls away to the Suir while beyond the gentle wooded slopes of the Black hills rise to meet the form an enchanting background with the blue haggard peaks of the lousaphs ~~behind~~ behind them. The prospect north from the Black Hill is equally beautiful: the broad sweep of the river; the broad valley with its patchwork of fields and hedgerows, and meandering roads, rising to the wooded base of Slievenamon. Behind the base brown rises to a height of 2363 feet to meet the northern sky.

GEOLOGY

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

none ? ~~Height of Slievenamon~~

MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES
OF IMPOSING CHARACTER

N.B. Rylamore Abbey was built subsequent to this date.

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

Quatzen-le-Poer.

The residence of Count De-la-Poer this magnificent castellated mansion was built in 1826 after the style of Rylamore Abbey. It is situated on the Waterford bank of the Suir and is surrounded by an estate of over 300 acres. It is not open to visitors.

Limer Castle. 3 miles north of Kilshellan

Residence of Hon. Mrs. Mandeville. A castellated mansion built about 100 years; stands in a demesne of 100 acres through which the Limer river flows. Visitors not admitted.

Newtown-Limer (about 1/2 mile west of Kilshellan)

The residence of the Duke of St Albans (Osborne-Beauchamp). The Osbornes who originally lived at Tickenor across the Suir acquired the Newtown-Limer property for the blonnel corporation in 1474 and shortly afterwards went to live. The present considerable mansion is built in the Tudor style. It stands in a demesne of over 500 acres and is pleasantly situated in fine portland dotted with ornamental trees & shrubs. The house is not open to visitors.

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.

Ancient church ruin Kilsheelan.

This ruin consisted of nave and chancel and measured internally $40\frac{1}{2}$ ft by 22 ft. It is built of good sandstone ashlar and its most notable features are: - a Hiberno-Romanesque doorway originally of two orders but now sadly mutilated, a chancel arch of similar style measuring $4\frac{1}{2}$ ft in width and a carved pillar in the south east corner of the nave. It is interesting to note that the founder of Kilsheelan may have been Sillan Abbot of Bangor. After the invasion the church was inappropriate in the bony of St John's Waterford, not preserved. There is a right of way.

Ancient church ruin Kileesh.

Situated beside Kileesh Lake, about 4 miles N.E. of Kilsheelan and 1 mile east of Kileesh, this ruin like Kilsheelan is pre-invasion in character and contains the remains of a Hiberno-Romanesque doorway. Another survival, at present to be seen in the modern Catholic church of Kileesh, is an ancient Holywater stone, on which is sculptured a representation of our Lord's Baptism. This was removed from the ancient ruin according to local tradition. Presumably Kileesh was founded by Cai, but it is also associated with Diarmuid of Kileesh whose death in 846 A.D. is recorded by the Four Masters, and with St Colman MacEire sometime after the Norman invasion it was taken over by Knights Hospitallers. Not preserved. There is a right of way.

Kileesh Castle ruin

A mansion of the Tudor type, which originally had a frontage of about 60 yards by 30 yards wide. All that now remains is the rectangular keep and a portion of the southern wall and western gable, together with the dilapidated walls of the outhouses. It is locked, and Mrs J Morrissey, who lives nearby, has the key. Kileesh Castle was the residence of one of the junior branches of the Butler family, and on that account has important associations with Irish history. We find that when the wars of 1642 started Richard Butler of Kileesh was commander in the 1st Tipperary and seized Blennell for the insurgents on the 1st January of that year. The same Richard was later captured by the Cromwellians but as he was a brother of the Duke of Armond his release was secured for a sum of money. The castle and property were seized by the Cromwellians but again through the influence of Armond were restored in 1660.

Antiquities. Killeash Castle.

At Killeash Castle Lord Castlemaine wrote his famous Memoirs in the 14th century.
And to Killeash Castle came in the year 1696, Lady Margaret Burke daughter of the Earl of Clanrickard. Lady Meagh as she was and is still called in East Munster was widow of Bryan Maguire's, Viscount Gueagh, and was therefore Viscountess Meagh. Maguire's was attainted for his loyalty to James II. and died in the service of Leopold of Austria. Lady Meagh married again in 1696, her 2nd husband was Col. Tho. Butler of Killeash. She was renowned for her hospitality, charity and piety, and during her time the old castle harboured many a hunted bishop and priest. Her name still lives in popular story and she is commemorated in that beautiful Irish poem *Lill-láir* in the following lines.

"Is as leabhar na marb do teagair

ar n'Easbog 's Lady Meagh"

She died in July 1744 and was buried in the nearby churchyard. In the same grove lie the remains of her kinsman by marriage Archbishop Christopher Butler who was interned there in 1754. The tomb which can still be seen was decorated with a leader's mitre which according to local tradition was removed and converted into bullets during the 1848 rebellion.

The poem *Lill-láir* was written by Rev John Lane P.P. Carrick-on-Suir from 1746 to 1746. Local tradition recounts that Lane as a poor boy, living in the neighbourhood of Killeash, evinced a strong desire towards the priesthood. His parents, not having the necessary means to help the boy to realize his ambition, brought the matter to the notice of Lady Meagh who, in her goodness, had him sent abroad and educated. Finally he was ordained a priest and sometime afterwards returned to ~~the~~ Ireland. His first visit was of course to Killeash to his gracious patroness. And witness his dismay and sorrow when he beholds the changed scene. Lady Meagh is dead. The life is gone from Killeash. The gaiety and splendour he had gazed upon in his youth had disappeared forever, and all that remained to remind him of the former glory was the great mansion gaunt and empty and quickly becoming a ruin. No wonder he expressed himself so eloquently in the now famous 'Lament'.
Incidentally the Lane was considered to be the finest Gaelic preacher in Munster in his day.

The Mote Kilsheclane

This is the usual circular mound of earth and at present stands about 20 ft high in the centre of Kilsheclane village.

Kilsheelan was a Manor in the territory granted to William Fitz Adam adelm de Burgh and later held by Richard de Burgh, justiciary, William's son. On the death of Richard his lands passed to the King during the minority of his children. His son Richard de Burgh just died in 1250 and the property, his brother Walter who exchanged his lands, including the Manor of Kilsheelan for land in Ulster. The Manor of Kilsheelan now passed into the hands of Otto de Grandison High Sheriff of Lifford 1267-69, and in 1338 was sold by his successors to Maurice Fitz Thomas Earl of Desmond for 1100 marks. It continued in the Desmond family until the beginning of the 16th Century when Joan, daughter of the eleventh Earl of Desmond ~~and~~ her ~~pass~~ married to James heir to the Earl of Ormond ~~and~~ her dowry being the Manors of Blonmel, Kilsheelan and Kilpeade. This the Manor of Kilsheelan passed to the Butler family and was thenceforward included in the Palatinate of Lifford. The Mote, it is said, was the site of the original wooden Castle of the Manor. It is not preserved, and at present seems to be a public playground.

Derrinlaur Castle.

Situated about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Kilsheelan, this castle stands on a narrow tract of land by the southern bank of the Lifford. It was a Butler stronghold and was built in the fifteenth Century in a position of great strategic importance, commanding an ancient ford across the Lifford. In the wars of the historic feud between the Desmonds & Butlers it figured prominently and was in 1544 captured by Rory Melroth of Kilmannahan, a supporter of the Desmonds. In August of the same year Elizabeth ordered the deputy Fitzwilliam to proceed against Desmond. Fitzwilliam set out from Blonmel and besieged Derrinlaur. The walls were mined and the garrison rallying forth in a desperate attempt to escape were massacred to a man, underneath the walls. All that now remains of this once important fortress is the rectangular ivy clad keep, and three of the four original flanking towers. The keep measures 48 ft x 30 ft internally with 8 ft thick walls. The diameter of the tower is 18 ft the walls are eleven feet thick and very well grouted. The ruin is not preserved and there is no right of way but visitors may inspect it.

Kilkenor Castle.

about a $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to the west of Derrinlaur on the same side of the river stands this ruin. It was (originally) a mansion of the Tudor type and originally all its square windows were divided by stone mullions into many small compartments. It was built by Alexander Ross in the reign of James the First and at the time of the Cromwellian redistribution, passed to Major Thomas Stanley, fanatical puritan and priesthunter, and successor

Continuation 2.
Antiquities Tickenor Castle

to Col Jerome Stanley, a Governor of Blommel. Stanley presented his sword to the corporation of Blommel in 1656. This weapon is now included in the corporation Regalia and may be seen in the Town Hall Blommel (see description in my survey of Blommel.) Despite his fanatical adherence to the Puritan cause in its early days he switched his allegiance at the restoration in 1660 and marched on back to secure it for the King. After Stanley's death the house passed to the Osborne family of whom the first was Nicholas. The fourth in descent of this family was Sir Wm Osborne, friend and consistent supporter of Grotius in the High Parliament. During his lifetime the family vacated Tickenor and went to live at Newtown Anner across the river. (see note on Newtown Anner). Incidentally the bridge over the river at Tickenor was built by Sir Thos Osborne in 1690, and is since known as Sir Thos's bridge.

Boulakerry Castle.

Boulakerry Castle stands on a level stretch of lawn on the northern bank of the river about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile east of Kilsheelan. Nothing remains but the (original) rectangular keep standing at a height of about 40ft and measuring $14\frac{1}{2}$ ft by 20ft internally. Its walls at the base are $8\frac{1}{2}$ ft thick. It is in a fairly good state of preservation, and contains ^{two} vaulted floors, and the usual zig-zag stairway. There is no right of way but visitors may inspect. It is not officially preserved as a monument, but Boulakerry was a Butter fortress commanding the river and its traffic to Blommel. From the present ruin we easily recognize it as a typical Anglo-Norman castle of the sixteenth century type. During the 16th century we hear echoes of the lawlessness of the period in protests made by the people of Blommel against the plundering of their boats on the river by Walter Butler of Boulakerry; and about 1580 the Lord of the castle was James Butler. During the Cromwellian confiscations the property passed to one James Ruthorne, whose family was latter attainted by the Parliament held ^{by} James II in 1689. After subsequent history we are unable to discover anything.

Ballyglashan Castle.

Situated about one mile from Kilsheelan on the Yelland road the ~~square~~ rectangular keep measuring 10ft x 30ft internally is all that remains. The walls are $5\frac{1}{2}$ ft thick at the base. There are no remains of the vaulted chamber usually associated with this type of building. It is still roofed though not with its original one and ~~is used~~ is used as a barn. In it is said to have lived Benjamin Vaughan, a very extensive wanderer about the beginning of the 18th century. I could gather no other information about it. There is no right of way, but visitors may inspect it. It is not preserved.

Antiquities. Ancient church Killumney about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Kilsheelan off Lethard road

All that remains of this church is a fragment of a gable, in the grounds of Mrs St John. The wall is of sandstone and is about 3 ft 9" thick. There is no right of way but visitors may inspect it. It is not preserved.

Templetony

Situated about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Kilsheelan on Lethard road and about a $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to the west from Killumney all that remains is a featureless fragment of the north side wall about 12 ft long and 4 ft high. It is reputed to be the "Valuing glia's Templetony" of the Visitation Books. There is a right of way. It is not preserved.

Burnthurch

Situated about 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of Kilsheelan near Ballydine Cross road. All that remains are foundations and stumps of walls. The dimensions are 56 ft by 23 ft. There is a right of way. It is not preserved.

Killaloe

This ruin lies about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Kilsheelan and one field to the south of the Kilsheelan - Gloumel road. It is situated in a graveyard in which is also a Protestant church. The east gable, in which there is a lancet window, still stands; also portions of the north & south walls. The dimensions are 50 ft by 18 ft.

Cromlech Lysteen-le-Roe.

This cromlech has been seen at the western end of the Lysteen-le-Roe estate. The top stone has fallen. Visitors may inspect it.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

ACCOMMODATION AND CATERING.

BARONY OF *Offa & offa East.*

TOWN OR VILLAGE *Kilshelmain* PARISH *Kilshelmain & Kilcass* COUNTY *Dublin*

Hotels	No. of Bedrooms	No. of Bathrooms	Licensed ?
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none.

Guest or Boarding Houses

Miss Anne Ryan Kilshelmain.

Restaurants and Cafés

Miss Anne Ryan Kilshelmain.

DATE

31/10/42.

(Signed)

Alan Brown

Surveyor.

(Plain sheet of foolscap to be used if space here is not adequate)

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

AMENITIES AND GENERAL INFORMATION.
TOWNS AND VILLAGES (Other than Seaside)BARONY OF *Gpha 2 affa East 2 upperthins (Co Waterford)*TOWN OR VILLAGE *Kilsheelan* PARISH *Kilcash* COUNTY *Lifford*

Location and brief description.

Population *150*

Situated on the Blonmel-Waterford road four miles to the east of Blonmel and eight miles west of Carrick-on-Suir, Kilsheelan is picturequely on the ^{northern} banks of the Suir, in the midst of beautiful, wooded country.

Is there a Town Hall? *no* Location

Parks, Gardens and Recreation Grounds. Brief description:

no

Brief comments on water supply and sewerage:

modern water supply, no sewerage.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Nearest station *Kilsheelan* Distance *—* Bus? *Blonmel - Dublin*
Public lighting by—Electricity? *none* Gas? *none*

DANCING

Dance hall *Lickencor* Proprietor *John Ahearn Lickencor,*
Kilsheelan. *Wm Stokes Kilsheelan House*

CINEMAS AND THEATRES

Cinemas *none* Pictures shown (nights)

Theatre *none* Kind of shows (Drama, Comedy &c.)

LIBRARIES

Public Libraries *National Schools Kilsheelan & Kilcash Carnegie*
Private Lending Libraries *none*

CHURCHES AND SERVICES

Church *Kilsheelan* Services (Sundays) *9.30 am & 12 noon*
Kilcash *10.30 am*
Ch. Ireland Kellaluan *3 pm*

POSTAL FACILITIES

Location of Post Office *Kilsheelan & Ballypatrick*
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? *Poala Kerry* Location *1/2 mile east of Kilsheelan*
Public Baths? *none* Location

SOCIAL CLUBS, CULTURAL SOCIETIES, &c.

Social Clubs

Kilshellean Social Club.

Cultural Societies

Countrywomen's Association.

INDUSTRIES AND HANDCRAFTS

Industries

Ballypatrick Cooperative Creamery
(Manufactures of Butter)

Forestry industry under Dept of Forestry in the Black Hills
South of Kilshellean and in Glenannan to the north.

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)

Kilshellean Catholic Church. A handsome building in the
Romanesque style.

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Kilshellean Boys & Girls National School	
Newtown Acker	do.
Kiluney	do
Kilcash	do

HOSPITALS

none.

FAIRS AND MARKETS ; HALF-HOLIDAY

Monthly fairs and markets

none

Weekly market day

none

Half-holiday

Thursday

GARAGES AND PETROL STATIONS

none

CONVEYANCES FOR HIRE (Owners) :

Taxis

none

Motors (Touring)

Boats (State type)

none

Bicycles

none

Caravans

none

Horses

none

CAMPING SITES

(At principal holiday resorts)

Location

no special sites

Landowner

Local Improvements Committee

Parish Council

Secretary

DATE

31/10/42

(Signed)

Mr. J. J. J.

Surveyor.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

SPORTS AND GAMES

BARONY OF

Offa & Offa East.

TOWN OR VILLAGE

Kilshelane

PARISH

Kilshelane & Kileash

COUNTY

Co. Limerick

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

Suir

Nearest point to town (distance)

Alongside.

KINDS OF FISH HELD:

Salmon & Trout.

AVERAGE WEIGHT OF:

Salmon

20

Sea trout

Brown trout

1 lb.

BEST SEASONS FOR:

Salmon

4th to May

Sea trout

Brown trout

March to May.

SUITABLE FLIES:

Salmon

Prawn, Black Doctor, Mahers Lodge, Silver Doctor, Mystery.

Sea trout

Brown trout

Green apple duns, Partridge, Various others & Flies Orange Black.

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

Free except on preserved stretches.

Preserved stretches, with names and addresses of Proprietors:

1 mile Quateen-le-Roe.

bount De la Roe. Quateen-le-Roe.

500 yds Landscape

Mrs B. Reave.

Landscape.

1/2 mile. Roulakerry.

Dr Murphy 'The Cottage' barrick-on-Suir

Owners of boats for hire, and charges per day:

none

Convenient angling centres (where accommodation is available):

Blonnel & barrick-on-Suir.

Local Angling Club

none.

Membership Fee

Secretary (and Address)

SEA ANGLING

Brief notes on fishing grounds :

none

Kinds of fish to be caught :

none

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

none

Bait available locally ? no 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 :

Name of Professional

Is there a clubhouse on course ? yes Licensed ?

Green fees (Visitors) : Per day yes Per week

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

SPORTS AND GAMES

BARONY OF *Offa & Offa East*
TOWN OR VILLAGE *Kilcheelan* PARISH *Kilcheelan* COUNTY *Lifford*

ANGLING (Fresh water)

RIVER OR LAKE *Anner* Nearest point to town (distance) *1 mile west*

KINDS OF FISH HELD:

Trout & Pike.

AVERAGE WEIGHT OF:

Salmon *—* Sea trout *—* Brown trout *4 lb*

BEST SEASONS FOR:

Salmon *—* Sea trout *—* Brown trout *—*

SUITABLE FLIES:

Salmon *—*

Sea trout *—*

Brown trout *Various, plus lastidge, greenwell, glory March Brown*

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

entirely free.

Preserved stretches, with names and addresses of Proprietors:

Owners of boats for hire, and charges per day:

none.

Convenient angling centres (where accommodation is available):

Monnel

Local Angling Club *none.* Membership Fee *—*

Secretary *—*

DATE *31/10/42*

(Signed)

Wm. O'Brien

Surveyor.

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 Kilsheelan Coursing Club. Meeting held annually? 2nd Wed & Thurs November

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 Woodcock, Grouse Wild Gowl.
all very plentiful. As well as the undrained preserves
the whole parish area is preserved by the local
farmers, who, however, will in most cases give
permission to shoot their lands free of charge.

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

Duke of St Albans Newtown Anser, Blonmel.
Count De la Poer Linstead-le-Poer Kilsheelan.
Earl of Ossory Ballynacorney. Estate Agent Kilkenny Castle.

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 Kilsheelan Football club.
 Hurling do Hurling club.
 Handball none. Handball alley? Ballypatrick.
 Soccer none.
 Rugby none.
 Cricket none.
 Hockey Ladies Hockey.
 Bowls none.
 Bowling (on public roads) none.
 Lawn Tennis Kilsheelan Tennis club Kinds of courts 2 courts.
 Croquet none.
 Billiards none.
 Badminton none.
 Table Tennis none.
 Bridge Club none.

Other games or recreations (inc. "Cross Roads" dancing)

Pitch & Foss. on the Mote, Kilsheelan.
Cross roads dancing at Ballyduine Cross.

ATHLETICS AND CYCLING

Name of Club none Events held under rules of _____
 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.

none. Promoters _____

DATE 30/10/42

(Signed) _____

Mr. Brian
 Surveyor.

HISTORIC SITES

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

none

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.*

none

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. Yvonnans Holy Well.

Situated in the townland of Ballynavaha near Bush Church (already mentioned) this well as its name indicates was associated with St. Yvonnans of Donaghmore, for an account of whom see the survey of Powerstown & Donaghmore. The well is not now held in veneration and there are no pilgrimages or patterns.

(Signed)

Wm. J. O'Brien

Surveyor.

DATE

31/10/42