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PARTNERSHIP
CHARTERED ENGINEERS

Garrananaspick Ice House, Garrananaspick, Co. Waterford

CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT

June 2022

Job No. 21100

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INTRODUCTION

General:

The construction of underground ice stores is known from France from the 16th century, and there is one known example from England which may date from 1595. Ice Houses became more fashionable during the reign of Charles II in the second half of the 17th century which continued into the 18th century. An Ice House at Tristernagh, County Westmeath, dates from the latter half of the 17th century, and, while many may date from the 18th century, most date from the 19th century

The below ground part of masonry Ice Houses can be in the form of an inverted cone, egg-shaped, plain cylinder or very slightly tapering cylinder. Some of the 18th century houses may have masonry above ground structures, but masonry above ground structures are mostly always associated with the 19th century Ice Houses. Many of the 19th century Ice Houses incorporated insulating material in a double wall form of construction. Most used an earth mound as part of the insulation and a great many of the 19th century Ice Houses were mounted over completely. All had a drain at the bottom which was essential for their functioning. Most were supplied with ice from a specially constructed, very shallow ice lough which froze over on most frosty nights.

The McKenna Ice House – Location and Setting:

Two Ice Houses were recorded in the townland of Garrananaspick in the 19th century and one in the adjoining townland of Kilmaloo West, all in close proximity to Kilmaloo Lough, which was a shallow pond of two hectares in area. They are located on a plateau at an elevation of 80m OD and a little over 1km from the nearest quay in Youghal Harbour (Map 1). The older of the two in Garrananaspick is shown on the 1841/42 Ordnance Survey sheet (Map 2) and in Griffith's Valuation, where it was listed as in the occupation of Thomas Ronayne and leased from David Hurley and had a valuation of £8. The second Ice House, McKenna's, only appears on mapping at the end of the century, because the maps had not been revised. It does, however, appear in the 1853 valuation records and so must have been built between 1842 and 1853, when it was in the occupation of Morris Power and was leased from Declan Tracey with a valuation of £12 (Plate 1). The Kilmaloo West Ice House, which was in the occupation of James Ryan and leased from Charles Devalamare Esq. with a valuation of £10 (Plate 2), on mapping evidence, appears to have pre-dated the 1842 map and continued in use into the early 20th century.

The older of the two Ice Houses in Garrananaspick is not labelled on the 1906 Ordnance Survey map (Map 3) and was almost certainly disused by then, whereas "McKennas" is labelled "Ice House" (Map 4). The 1927 Ordnance Survey map (Map 5) labels "McKennas" as "Icehouse disused" which may indicate that it was still in a functionable condition.

ARCHITECTURAL AND CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

The Ice Houses around Youghal Harbour and the estuary of the Blackwater River and further up the Blackwater River were associated with the salmon fishery, which was one of the most significant on the south coast. That fishery was primarily commercial. The fish, once landed, from each four or six oared licensed salmon yawl, needed to be chilled quickly for preservation so that they would survive the long trip to market in good condition. The opening of the railway at Youghal in 1860 greatly enhanced the process, providing connections to Cork and Dublin.

The group of three Ice Houses around Kilmaloo Lough were, most likely, used in conjunction with the salmon fishery, which was controlled by the Duke of Devonshire's Lismore Estate. They appear to have been used by dealers in fish, as none of the occupiers listed for them held property in the combined parishes surrounding them at the time of the valuation. There were at least six other contemporary Ice Houses on the western side of the harbour and lower estuary, only one of which had a separate valuation which was for less than £6. Most of those have since disappeared. Two have survived in Ballynatray Demesne and are not accessible to the public. The ruin of the second Garrananaspick Ice House is unrecognisable and the Kilmaloo West Ice House, if it survives, is inaccessible. The "McKenna" Ice House is fully visible and recognisable from the public road.

The "McKenna" Ice House at Garrananaspick townland is unusual in that it is almost entirely above ground (Photo 1). Its near neighbour appears to have been mounded up while the other two surviving examples, at Ballynatray, are below ground and, what is known of the others, indicates that they were also below ground structures. It's somewhat later date of construction took advantage of advances in the understanding of insulation and the advantage of twin wall construction. The Ice House was built at a location where the rock is relatively close to the surface and where a quarry already existed. This provided a good foundation for the Ice House, as well as facilitating drainage from the bottom. It is fully cylindrical in shape standing 4m to 4.5m high, above ground, and is approximately 11.5m in diameter. The inner wall, measured at the door, is 800mm thick and the outer wall is 450mm to 500mm thick with an insulation gap of 300mm. The insulation infill is not known at this time, but it may have been compressed bracken, as the more desirable peat was generally unavailable in the locality. There is no evidence that it ever had a masonry dome, which would have been difficult to restrain in a freestanding structure. It is most likely, therefore, that it had a thatched roof.

The entrance chamber no longer survives but it is shown on the 1906 Ordnance Survey map (Map 4) projecting to the north east with an access ramp extending to the public road. Its survival and conservation would provide a tangible reminder of a way of life that sustained great many families around the harbour and lower estuary, and which now no longer exists.

CONDITION OF THE ICE HOUSE

The "McKenna" Ice House was until recently completely obscured by scrub, briars and saplings growing in and around the base of the Ice House (Photo 2). The clearance of the vegetation not directly connected to the Ice House has permitted a better evaluation of its condition. The north side is almost clear of vegetation, except for the wall top (Photo 1), whereas the south and west sides have ivy and saplings growing (Photo 3) and the east side has trees (Photo 4).

The visible external masonry is all in good condition around the perimeter with the exception of the site of the former entrance tunnel (Photos 5 & 6). A recent drone flight of the interior indicates that the masonry of the interior is generally in good condition.

The most damaged part of the structure is at the location of the former entrance passage or tunnel. It appears that the tunnel may have been mined for building stone in the past, which has resulted in the complete obliteration of all traces of it. The masonry from ground level up to entrance level is in a very loose condition at the entrance location (Photo 7). The external wall is missing on either side of the former entrance from approximately 1.5m above ground level and extending 4m to the north and 5m to the south. On the northern side of the external wall a small area of stone is missing but it is otherwise in good condition (Photo 8). On the southern side there are two cracks which run from the base to the top of the wall but, without loss of masonry (Photos 9 & 10). The condition of the wall tops cannot be determined at this time because of the growth of vegetation. There are trees growing close to, and possibly attached to, the east side at the former entrance ramp and there are saplings growing from the insulating fill between the two walls (Photos 11 & 12).

The drone image of the interior shows that the bottom of the Ice House is well scattered with masonry which has, most probably, fallen from the wall top.

There is no large scatter of masonry around the external perimeter except at the location of the former entrance tunnel and close to the base of the wall on the southern side.

CONSERVATION PHILOSOPHY:

The McKenna Ice House is not a Recorded Monument, nor is it a Protected Structure under the Waterford City and County Development Plan, nor listed in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage. It is, nonetheless, worthy of conservation because of its cultural heritage.

All works to the structure will conform to the conservation guidelines issued by the Government of Ireland, specifically "Ruins - The Conservation and Repair of Masonry Ruins".

The works will be guided by the conservation philosophies of UNESCO and ICOMOS contained in the International Charters promulgated by them following the Venice and Burra Conventions.

Relevant Headline Examples of the Conservation Philosophy are:

(1) Minimum Intervention: The intention is not to rebuild or restore sections of the structure, only to repair what is standing and to secure structurally unstable areas. Works are only to be carried out where necessary. No work ought to be carried out on areas of sound wall.

(2) Later Additions: Later additions should be considered as having validity and a certain level of historical importance. Only elements that are seen to be damaging the original stone structure should be recommended for removal.

(3) Reversibility: All interventions necessary to stabilise the structure or elements of the structure should be fully reversible without causing damage.

(4) Identification of New Work: All significant new work is to be recorded and be visually identifiable as such.

PROPOSED CONSERVATION WORKS:

Vegetation control is by far the most important intervention to be considered for the conservation of this structure.

The thorn trees growing out of the wall at the location of the former entrance structure should be removed to prevent them from collapsing the surviving inner wall leaf.

The heavy canopy of ivy on the wall top likewise presents a danger to the wall top and is probably responsible for the displaced masonry, which is currently littering the bottom of the Ice House. The removal of the ivy should only be undertaken in advance of the programme for the consolidation of the wall tops.

The removal of the thorn trees and ivy should only be undertaken when it is clear that it will not cause disturbance to wildlife.

The roots and stems of the ivy would need to be treated to prevent re-growth as also will the roots of the thorn trees.

Consolidation of the wall tops will first involve the clearance of all accumulated humus from the wall top and from underneath any stones that have been disturbed by ivy wedging. The masonry may then be reset and flaunched with approved lime mortar. The broken wall ends will also need to be carefully raked out to remove all humus and dead mortar, followed by well packed mortar filling of the joints and weather pointing. The two cracks on the southern face of the external wall will need to be cleaned out and packed with lime mortar, the final finish of which should be recessed from the face. The small area of missing face work on the northern side will also need to be thoroughly cleaned out, pointed and flaunched.

The control of regrowth of vegetation in the fill between the two walls at wall top level may present some difficulty which cannot be fully assessed at this time. A possible solution may be to cover the cavity fill with horticultural textile, ballasted with clean gravel in at least two layers. Such an intervention can be easily removed in the future.

FUTURE MANAGEMENT, PUBLIC ACCESS AND SAFETY:

It is not proposed that the public will be provided with direct access to the Ice House since it would be fully visible at relatively close quarters from the public road.

It will be necessary to provide a secure gate at the existing entrance to the interior to prevent accidents in the event of trespass

.
Once cleared of vegetation and conserved as described, future maintenance should only require the control of regrowth. This would only be a minor annual task which its owner has undertaken to provide.

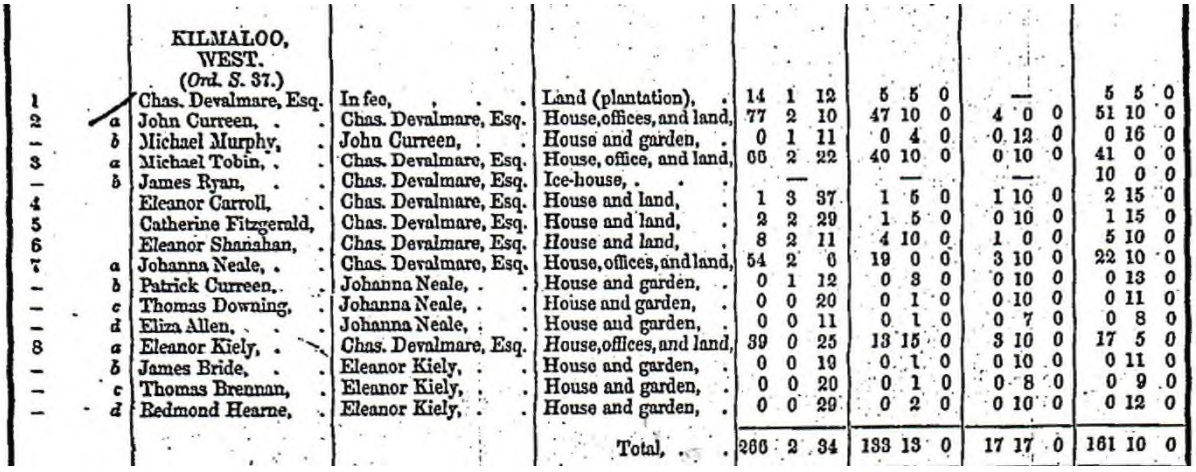
The presentation of the Ice House to the public will require an information board incorporating an artist's impression, showing how it looked when in use.

DAVID KELLY

DK/NH/21100
10/06/2022

		GARRANANASPICK (Ord. S. 37.)										
1	a	David Hurley,	Declan Tracey,	House, offices, and land,	16	1	1	4	5	0	1	0	0	5	5	0
–	b	Thomas Ronayne,	David Hurley,	Ice-house,		—			—			—		8	0	0
2		Patrick Hurley,	David Hurley,	House and land,	1	0	28	0	8	0	0	12	0	1	0	0
3	A	Thomas Connell,	Declan Tracey,	House, office, & land,	21	3	7	8	15	0		—		11	15	0
–	B				6	0	10	2	0	0	1	0	0			
–	A a	Margaret Quinn,	Declan Tracey,	House,		—			—		0	7	0	0	7	0
–	b	Eleanor Kinnane,	Declan Tracey,	House,		—			—		0	6	0	0	6	0
4		John Curtain,	Declan Tracey,	House, office, and land,	5	2	7	2	0	0	0	10	0	2	10	0
5		Michael Curtain,	Declan Tracey,	House, office, and land,	10	2	11	3	10	0	1	0	0	4	10	0
6	A	Mary Quinn,	Declan Tracey,	Land,	14	1	0	4	5	0		—		12	15	0
–	B			House, offices, orchard, and land,	11	1	16	7	10	0	1	0	0			
7	a	Denis Foley,	Declan Tracey,	House and land,	4	1	21	2	0	0	0	15	0	2	15	0
–	b	Maurice Power,	Declan Tracey,	Ice-house,		—			—			—		12	0	0
8		Edmund Foley,	Declan Tracey,	House, office, and land,	17	0	21	7	5	0	1	0	0	8	5	0
9	a	Patrick Quinn,	Declan Tracey,	House, offices, and land,	27	0	17	12	0	0	1	0	0	13	0	0
–	b	William Quinn,	Patrick Quinn,	House, office, & garden,	0	1	7	0	4	0	0	11	0	0	15	0
10	a	Patrick Foley,	Declan Tracey,	House, office, and land,	5	0	35	3	0	0	1	0	0	4	0	0
–	b	Margaret Halloran,	Patrick Foley,	House,		—			—		0	8	0	0	8	0
11		Michael Neil,	Declan Tracey,	Land,	16	3	8	6	15	0		—		6	15	0
–	a	Mary Lynch,	Michael Neil,	House, and garden,	0	0	11	0	1	0	0	9	0	0	10	0
–	b	Michael Quinn,	Michael Neil,	House and garden,	0	0	24	0	1	0	0	14	0	0	15	0
12		Honoria Broderick,	Declan Tracey,	Land,	10	3	33	6	10	0		—		6	10	0
13	A	Patrick Seyward,	Declan Tracey,	House, offices, & land,	2	0	31	1	5	0		—		3	5	0
–	B				1	3	9	1	0	0	1	0	0			
14		Ellen Thornton,	Declan Tracey,	House, offices, and land,	3	2	38	2	0	0	0	15	0	2	15	0
15	a	Mary Barron,	Declan Tracey,	House, offices, and land,	13	3	22	8	10	0	1	5	0	9	15	0
				Pound,		—			—			—		2	0	0
–	b	Thomas Keane,	Mary Barron,	House, office, & garden,	0	0	10	0	1	0	0	9	0	0	10	0
–	c	John Heffernan,	Mary Barron,	House,		—			—		0	8	0	0	8	0
				Total,	184	3	23	83	5	0	15	9	0	120	14	0

Plate 1 Extract from Griffith's Valuation of Tenements 1853 – Garrananasp[ick.

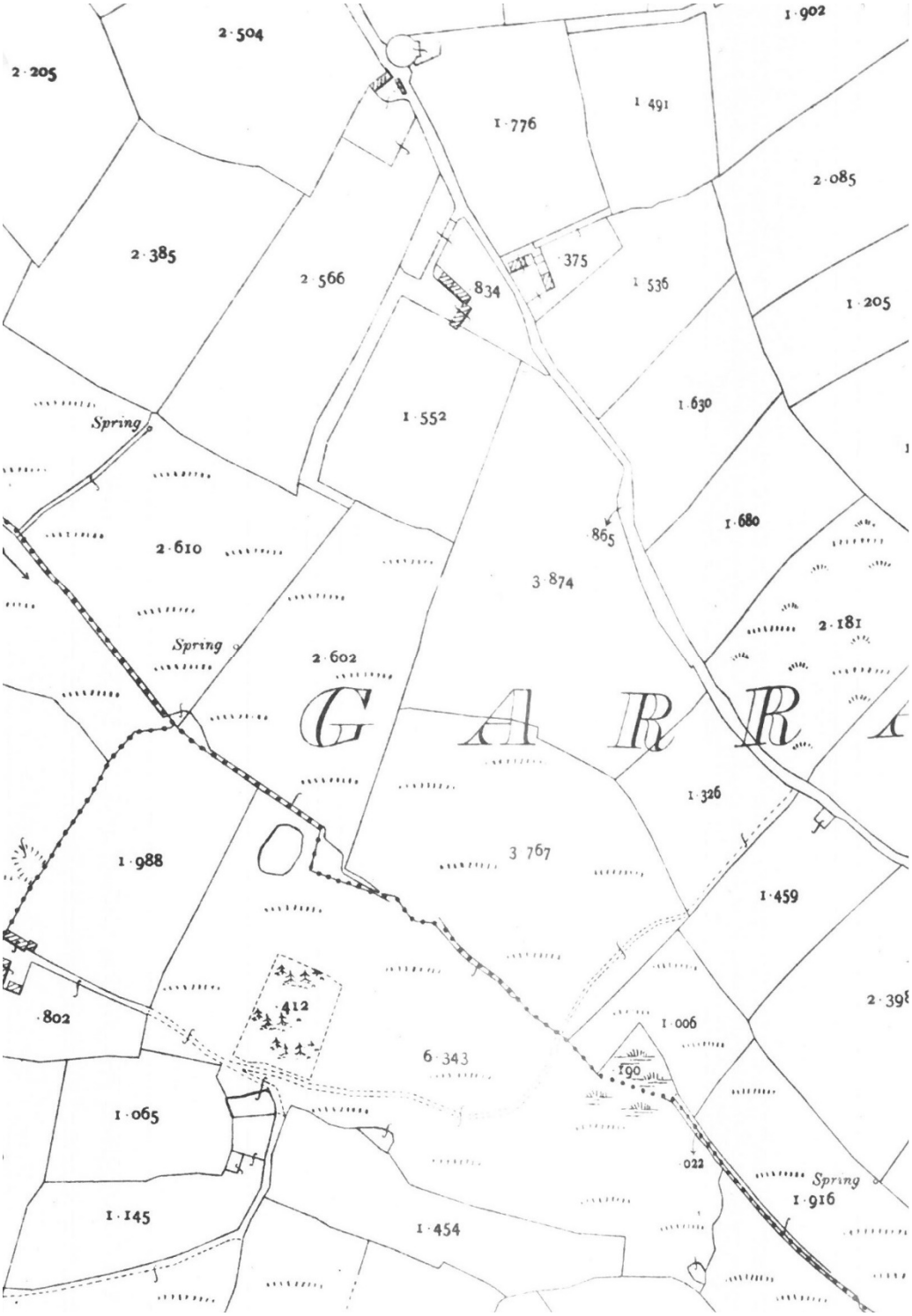


		KILMALOO, WEST. (Ord. S. 37.)										
1		Chas. Devalmare, Esq.	In fee,	Land (plantation),	14	1	12	5	5	0		—		5	5	0
2	a	John Curreen,	Chas. Devalmare, Esq.	House, offices, and land,	77	2	10	47	10	0	4	0	0	51	10	0
–	b	Michael Murphy,	John Curreen,	House and garden,	0	1	11	0	4	0	0	12	0	0	16	0
3	a	Michael Tobin,	Chas. Devalmare, Esq.	House, office, and land,	66	2	22	40	10	0	0	10	0	41	0	0
–	b	James Ryan,	Chas. Devalmare, Esq.	Ice-house,		—			—			—		10	0	0
4		Eleanor Carroll,	Chas. Devalmare, Esq.	House and land,	1	3	37	1	5	0	1	10	0	2	15	0
5		Catherine Fitzgerald,	Chas. Devalmare, Esq.	House and land,	2	2	29	1	5	0	0	10	0	1	15	0
6		Eleanor Shanahan,	Chas. Devalmare, Esq.	House and land,	8	2	11	4	10	0	1	0	0	5	10	0
7	a	Johanna Neale,	Chas. Devalmare, Esq.	House, offices, and land,	54	2	6	19	0	0	3	10	0	22	10	0
–	b	Patrick Curreen,	Johanna Neale,	House and garden,	0	1	12	0	3	0	0	10	0	0	13	0
–	c	Thomas Downing,	Johanna Neale,	House and garden,	0	0	20	0	1	0	0	10	0	0	11	0
–	d	Eliza Allen,	Johanna Neale,	House and garden,	0	0	11	0	1	0	0	7	0	0	8	0
8	a	Eleanor Kiely,	Chas. Devalmare, Esq.	House, offices, and land,	39	0	25	13	15	0	3	10	0	17	5	0
–	b	James Bride,	Eleanor Kiely,	House and garden,	0	0	19	0	1	0	0	10	0	0	11	0
–	c	Thomas Brennan,	Eleanor Kiely,	House and garden,	0	0	20	0	1	0	0	8	0	0	9	0
–	d	Redmond Hearne,	Eleanor Kiely,	House and garden,	0	0	29	0	2	0	0	10	0	0	12	0
				Total,	266	2	34	133	13	0	17	17	0	161	10	0

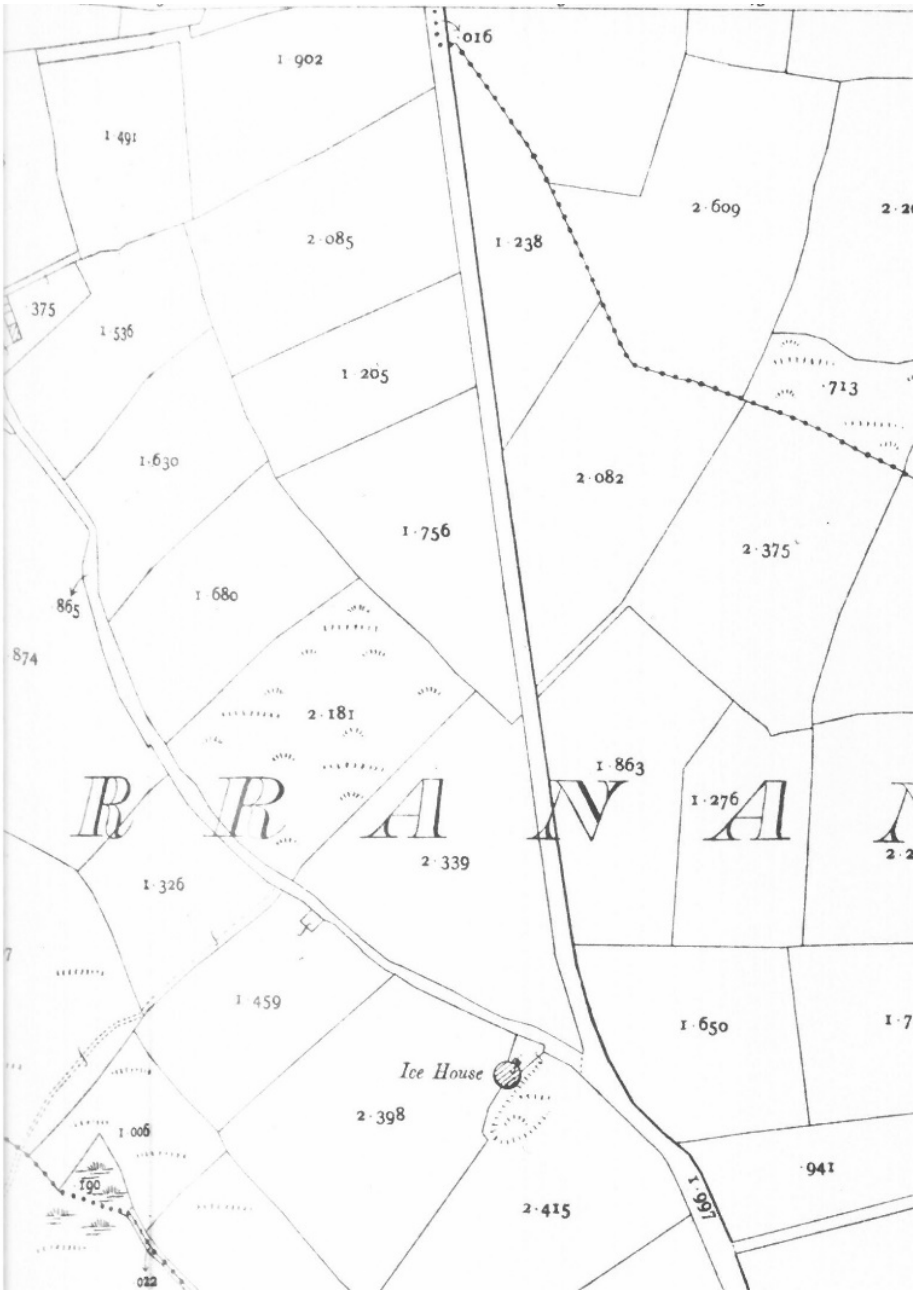
Plate 2 Extract from Griffith's Valuation of Tenements 1853 – Kilmaloo West.

Map 1 Extract from Ordnance Survey "Discovery Series" No's 81 and 82.

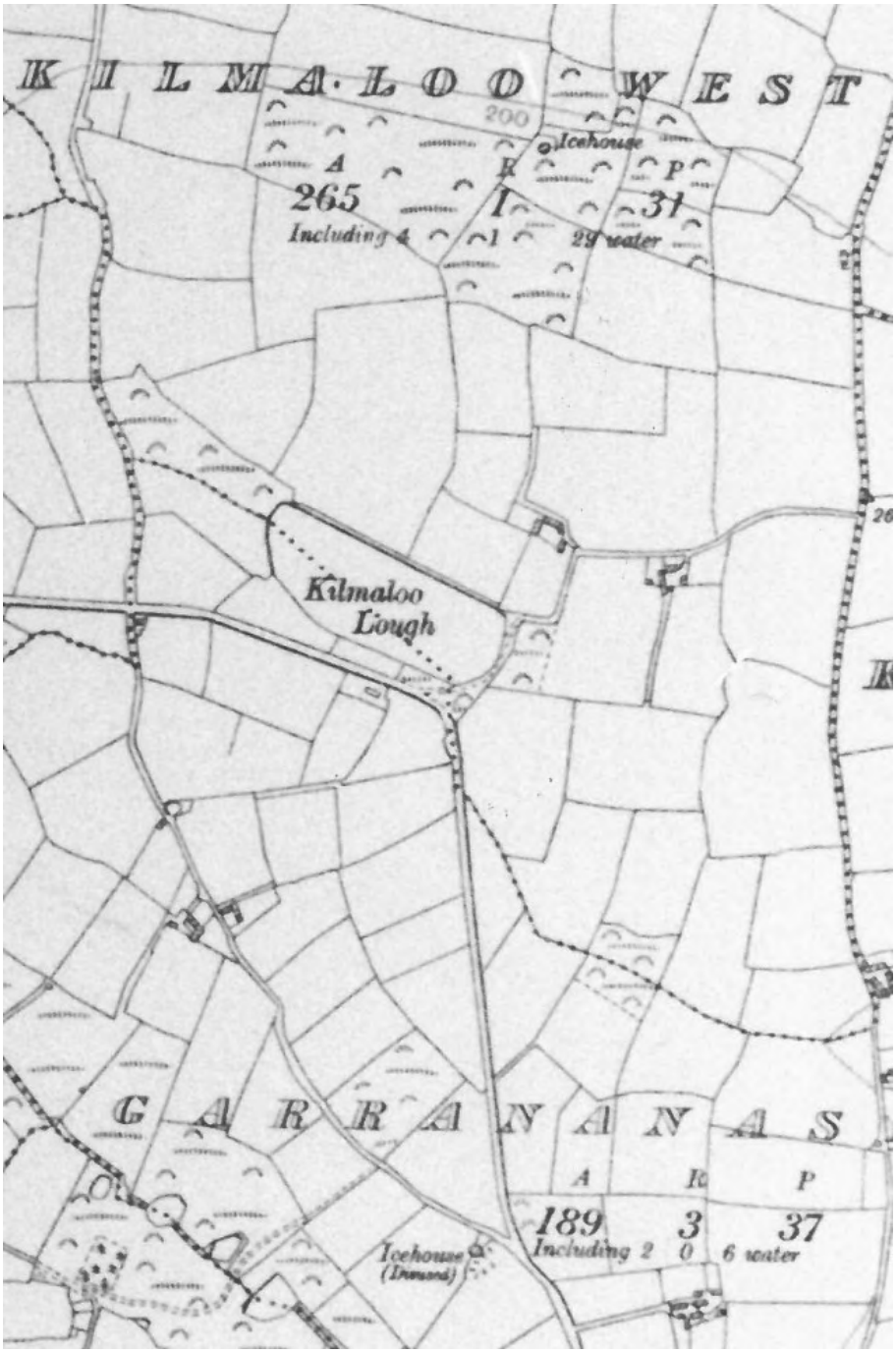
Map 2 Extract from Ordnance Survey Sheet No. 37 Co Waterford 1842.



Map 3 Extract from Ordnance Survey Sheet No. 37. 12. Co Waterford 1906.



Maps 4 Extract from Ordnance Survey Sheet No. 37. 12. Co Waterford 1906.



Map 5 Extract from Ordnance Survey Sheet No. 37. Co Waterford. 1927.

PHOTOGRAPH NO. 1

PHOTOGRAPH NO. 2

PHOTOGRAPH NO. 3

PHOTOGRAPH NO. 4

PHOTOGRAPH NO. 5

PHOTOGRAPH NO. 6

PHOTOGRAPH NO. 7

PHOTOGRAPH NO. 8

PHOTOGRAPH NO. 9

PHOTOGRAPH NO. 10

PHOTOGRAPH NO. 11

PHOTOGRAPH NO. 12