

ARCHAEOLOGICAL Survey B (urban)

Clonakilty: (Parish of Kilgarriff, Barony of East Carbery)

Clonakilty appears to have replaced the nearby, medieval settlement of Kilgarriff as the focus for urban development when the Earl of Cork settled 100 English families here in the 17th century. Established as a market town it was engaged chiefly in the manufacture of linen and cotton. Breweries were developed in the 18th century and corn and potatoes were exported to Cork and Dublin from the quays, formerly situated on the eastern edge of the town. Despite its coastal location its full potential as a port was never realised due to the constant silting of the harbour which impeded the passage of large vessels. The Deasy family, prominent brewers and sea merchants in Clonakilty, began a shipyard here which flourished until the mid-19th century. They also built up a reputation for smuggling chiefly to the French port of Dunkirk.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY;

Clonakilty 1 - Market Town:

1

Map Designation: Not Indicated (1943)
Townland: Kilgarriff and Scaartagh
OS Map No. 135
Plan & Trace: 7:1
Nat Grid: (13853, 04144)
SMR No.: 135:134
Date Visited: 24-21995

Situated on the Feale river at the head of the land-locked harbour of Clonakilty Bay.

The full extent of the 17th century market town is unknown, originally built in the form of a cross (Smith 1750 vol. 1, 251 Bennett 1869, 354) which as trade increased 'sprang out in every direction'. This is likely to correspond to the intersection of streets presently known as Asna As. and referred to a 'The Cross' on Tuipear's map (Tuipear 1988). Asna Sq. is the current location of the 'Kilty Stone' reputed to have originated from Arundel Castle on the eastern side of Clonakilty Harbour (Healy 1988, 221). Sites contemporary with the 17th century town include a market house Clonakilty 1 and Church and graveyard Clonakilty 2. The town was founded by the Earl of Cork who acquired the estate from William de Barry (Tuipear 1988, 3). A petition from the corporation of Clonakilty is recorded in 16105 (Lewis 1837 vol. 1, 347) suggesting the town was already established at that time. It received a charter from James I in 1613.

Clonakilty 2: Church & Graveyard

2

OS Map No: 135
Map Designation: 'Church & Graveyard' (1943)
Townland: Tawnies Upper
Plan & Trace: 7:1
Nat Grid: (13845, 04158)
SMR No: 135: 19/01 & 19/02
Date of Visit: 24/2/1995.

Located on a hill overlooking the town in the northern sector of a graveyard (see below) Presently accessible via avenue running west off Partick Street.

Church:

The present church appears to be 19th century in date though the Earl of Cork first built a church here in the 17th century (Webster 1932, 272-3). It was replaced in 1818 by the present Church of Ireland church (Lewis 1837 vol. 1, 348), a rectangular building with embattled tower at the west end, north and south transepts and vestry at the north east corner (Power et al 1992, 370). The bell in the tower dates to 1826 (Dukess 1994, 142) and a chalice to 1696 (pers. comm. O'Connell)

Graveyard:

Well maintained and still in use, containing many inscribed headstones and chest tombs as well as crude, uninscribed grave makers. The earliest inscribed headstone dates from the 18th century (Power et. al. 1992, 394). A church is located in the northern sector of the site (see above).

Clonakilty 3: Market House

3

OS Map No: 135
Map Designation: Indicated (1943)
Townland: Tawnies Upper
Plan & Trace: 7:1
Nat Grid: (13858, 04141)
SMR No: 135:133
Date of Visit: 24/2/1995.

Fronting onto the west side of McCurtain Hill and easily accessible from the road. A recently refurbished, two-storey, four-bay structure with central breakfront and semi-circular arcading on the ground floor. The hipped and slated roof has a newly inserted cupola. A market house is first mentioned here in 1642 (Tuipear 1988, 33). This was replaced by the present structure in the early 18th century (Poer et. al 1992, 411). The building functioned as a Town Hall until 1953 and is now used as a restaurant.

Unlocated Site: Castle

The name Clonakilty first appears in 1378 as 'Clogh Na Kylte' or Kylte Castle' recorded in a plea roll as being among the lands held by Eilliam de Barry (Tuipear 1988, 3). It is believed locally that the castle may have stood where the Church of Ireland church is now sited (Clonakilty 2).

Archaeological Survey (urban)

Information on:

- 1 MARKET TOWN
- 2 CHURCH & GRAVEYARD
- 3 MARKET HOUSE

UNLOCATED SITE
(CASTLE)

See Sheet No. 4A