

Appendix 1

Portal tomb sites and farmland.

This appendix illustrates those sites which indicate possible location at the boundaries between fertile, cultivated land and areas of less agricultural potential. This possible selection is, in many cases, visible in current landuse. As modern farming methods have altered the landscape considerably in recent years the possible locational choice is more visible in some cases in historic maps.

Current landuse is illustrated in satellite imagery. Previous conditions are shown in historic maps from the Ordnance Survey of Ireland, 1st edition (1829 – 1840) and revised versions from later in the 19th century.

Many of the images are directly from the website of the National Monuments Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (<http://www.archaeology.ie>) Those from the Ordnance Survey Ireland can be viewed at <http://maps.osi.ie/publicviewer/> . Abbreviations used in images in this appendix are NMS and OSI respectively. Illustrations of soil types are from the National Soil Survey, Teagasc, Department of Agriculture, (http://www.agresearch.teagasc.ie/johnstown/soil_maps.asp) and are abbreviated to Teagasc.

All photographs of portal tombs and sites are the author's own, except where otherwise indicated.

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National Monuments Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

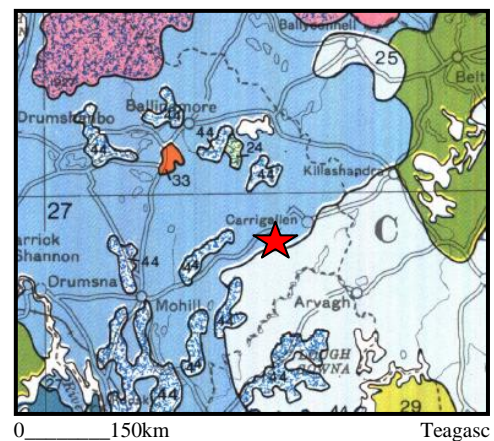
Teagasc, Department of Agriculture.

Satellite images from National Monuments Service website (Esri Ireland) and from Google Earth public viewer, Landset.

Aghavas Co. Leitrim.



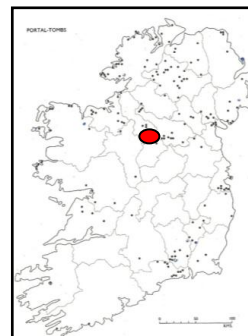
Aghavas portal tomb (very ruined) is situated in the drumlin region of Co. Leitrim. It sits on gently sloping land, with a striking cliff edged outcrop of limestone 125 metres to the south, where the modern church stands. The land around the PT is cultivated in small fields, mainly pasture, but to the south and south west the land becomes boggy and badly drained and has now been planted as forestry. A similar situation exists to the east, so that the PT appears to lie at the edge of farmland. The PT is situated at the junction between 2 different gley soil types.



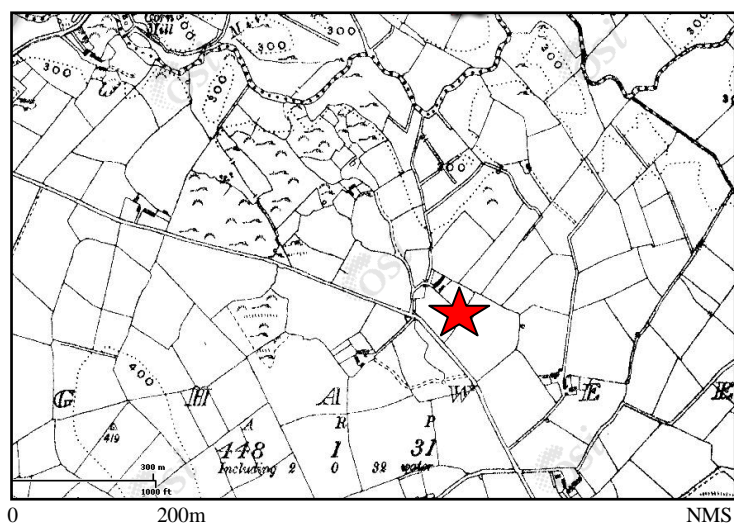
PT is situated at the edge of farmland; elsewhere is forestry. The village immediately to the south of the PT is situated on a ridge of high ground, rising steeply from just south of the monument.

Soil types in surrounding area. PT lies at the junction between 2 different gley types and avoids area of basin peat (44).

Aghawee Co. Cavan.



Aghawee portal tomb is situated in the drumlin country of Co. Cavan, and typically is situated in a discreet position on the 'side' of the drumlin. Historic map below shows areas of marshy, untilld land to the west of the PT, while present-day farming shown in the satellite image indicates that the PT is still on cultivated land in an area with patches of very poor land.



19th century OS map shows PT in farmland; marshy, untilld land to west.



Aghmakane Co. Armagh.

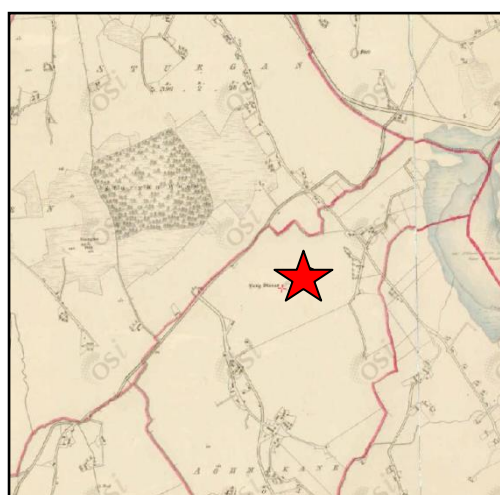


Aghmakane portal tomb forms part of a cashel wall – and was thus associated with a farming community during the Early Historic period. Ó Nualláin (1983, 90) describes the situation ‘*at the edge of terrace of level pasture*’. Satellite imagery below shows the PT in farmland, with an area of scrubland to the north-east, also shown in the 1st edition OS map.



0 _____ 1km

Google Earth

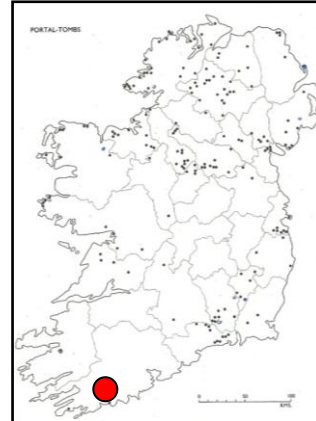


OSi 1st edition

Aghmakane in farmland – with large area of poor quality, scrubland to the north west.

Aghmakane in 1830s.

Ahaglaslin Co. Cork.



Ahaglaslin is situated near the top of a steeply sloping, stony, bracken-covered hillside, clearly unsuited to farming. Borlase (1897, 37) describes it as *‘a wall of rock...half way up the steep and rugged hillside’*. To the west of the PT the terrain is smooth pastureland (Image **b** below) and at the top of the slope, some 10 metres above the PT, the land changes (Image **a**) and *‘the more level ground in the area is under cultivation’*. (de Valera & Ó Nualláin 1982, 55). To-day it provides pasture for cattle.



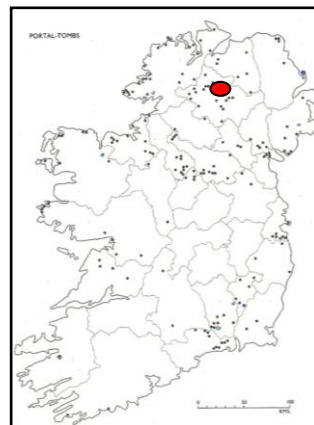
0 300m NMS

The PT is situated near the top of a rocky, steep hillside, above which (to the right in the image) is pasture.

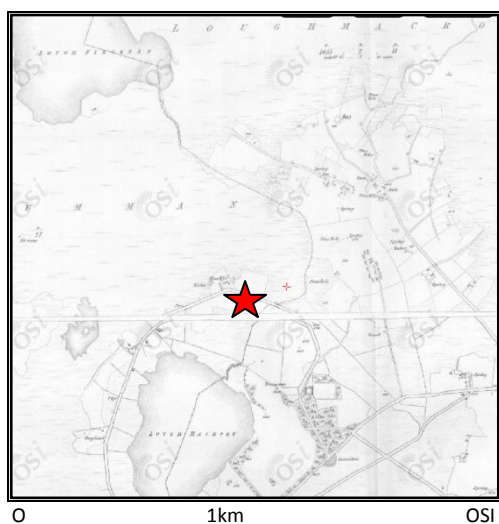


View from PT to the west, showing change in terrain from rough, uncultivated hillside to rich pastureland.

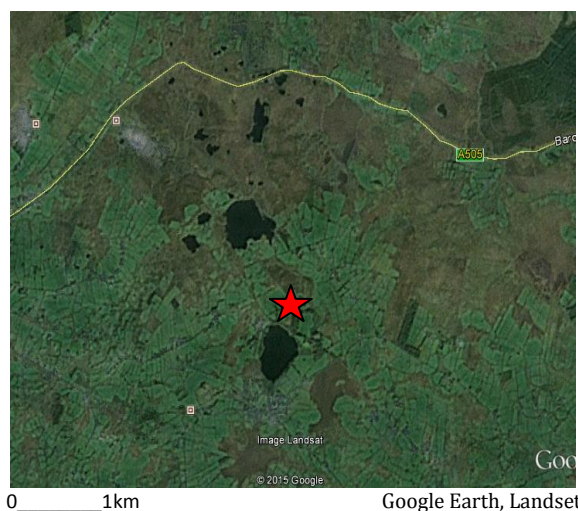
Altdrumman Co. Tyrone.



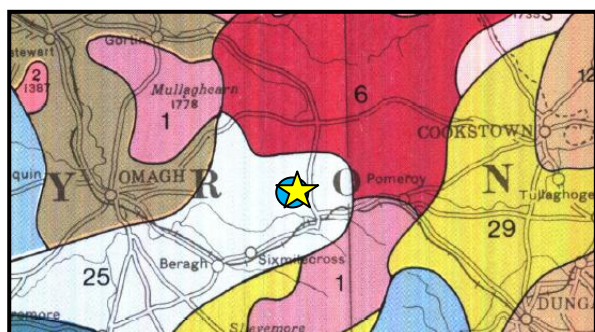
Altdrumman is situated at the edge of an area of smooth, rolling pasture land at present grazed by sheep. Immediately (less than 100m) to the north is a patch of bare uncultivated land, quite an anachronism in this well-farmed area, with further rough land to the north-west and west.



1st ed. OSI map. The PT is situated at the edge of a large area of unfarmed land to the west, with numerous small fields to the east and south.



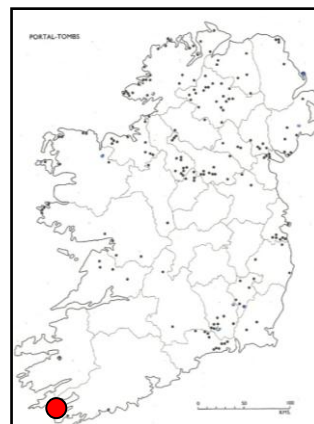
Altdrumman today. In farmland, with wasteland to the north.



©Teagasc

Soil types around Altdrumman. The PT lies near the border between good quality brown podzolics (6) and poor gleys (25).

Arderawinny Co. Cork.



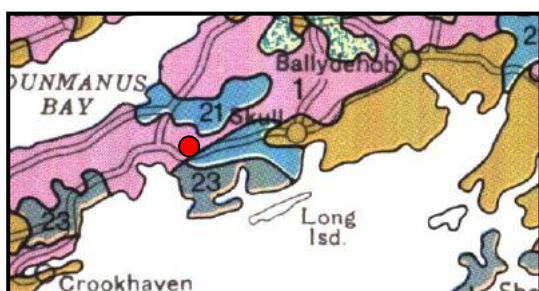
The portal tomb is situated in rocky, marshy ground, unsuited to farming ‘*surrounded by rough undulating ground, broken by numerous rock outcrops*’ (de Valera & Ó Nualláin 1982, 62). The terrain changes considerably some 200k to the south, and small fields with pasture and farmhouses are just visible in image **a** below. The changing landscape is also evident in satellite imagery (Image **c**), and the portal tomb is situated just at the edge of an area of Peaty podzol abutting on more productive gleys soil (Image **b**).



View from PT, looking towards the south.
Cultivated farmland land (pasture) just visible.



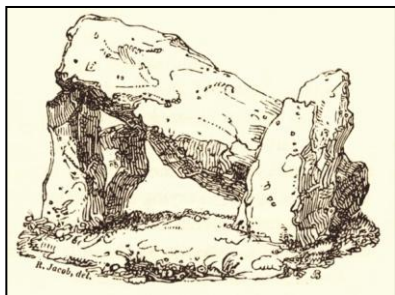
Satellite Image – more evidence of farmland to the south and southeast (bottom of the image) of the PT.



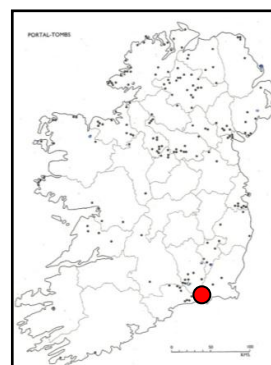
©Teagasc

Soil types in the area. 1 = peaty podsol
21 = gleys.

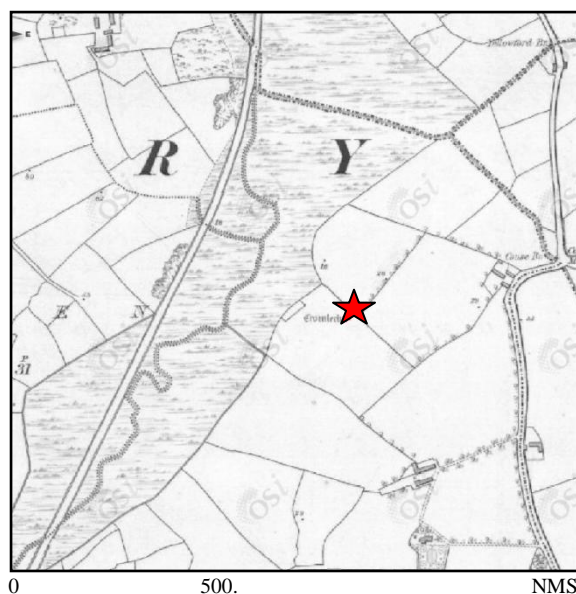
Ballindud Co. Waterford.



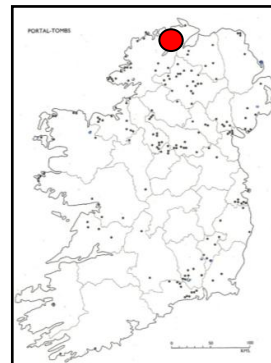
Ballindud c 1824. Image - Waterford City Museum



Ballindud is now almost impossible to approach, as it is caught within the ring of the new motorway surrounding Waterford city. The satellite image shows that it lies between two fields, just to the east of an area of rough untilled land, and the 1st edition OS map shows this area of badland existed in the 1840s.



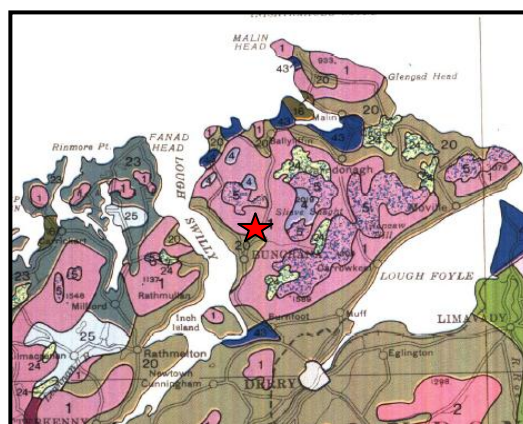
Ballyannan Co. Donegal.



Ballyannan is situated near the top of a steeply sloping hillside, at present shared between forestry and rough grazing for sheep. It overlooks the more fertile coastal plain beneath and an area close by where ‘cultivation is practised today in the valley of the Aghaweel River, c. 500m to the S and E’ (Cody 2002).

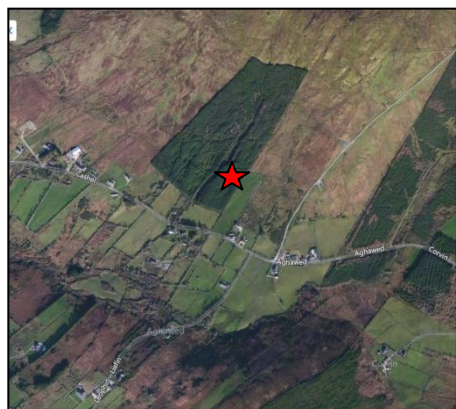


View from the rough hillside at the PT site southwest to fertile farmland.



©Teagasc

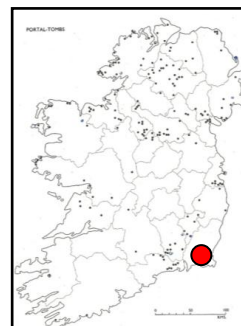
Ballyannan lies on the junction between peaty podzols (1) in the hills, and more fertile brown podzolics (20) along the coast.



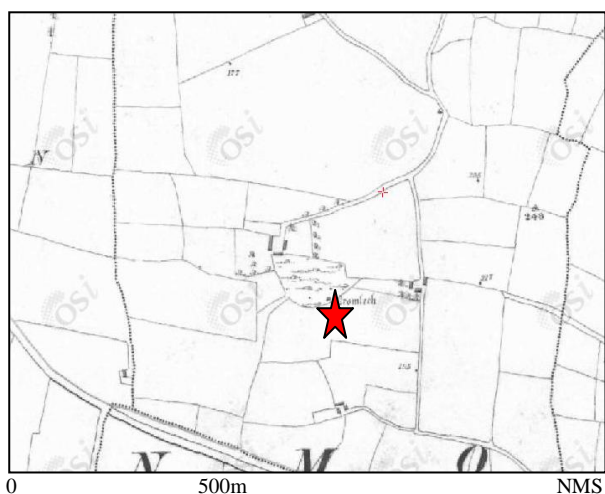
Satellite view shows site on rough hillside with better quality land in the valley beneath.

NMS

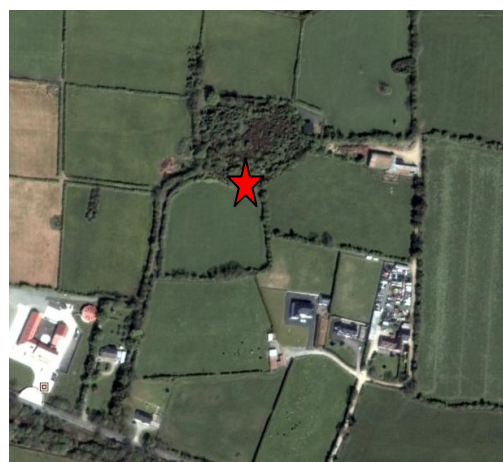
Ballybrittas Co. Wexford.



Ballybrittas (discussed in text 4.8) lies at the junction between an area with poor quality gley soils and more fertile acid brown earths. The PT is hidden in a patch of dense scrubland, which appears never to have been cultivated, in the middle of rich, well-populated farmland. *‘The large furze knoll has never been disturbed by a ploughshare and is evidently deemed sacred ground’* (Flood 1911, 13),



‘Cromlech’ is marked just at the edge of a piece of unfarmed land in the middle of fields.



0 500m Google Earth, Digital Globe

Modern land use is rich pastureland with the PT marking the edge of the same small area of rough uncultivated land.

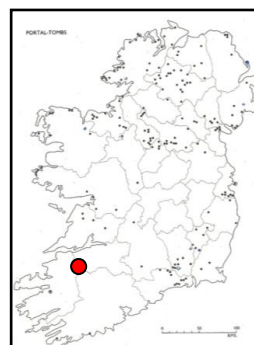


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Site is at the boundary between good quality brown earths and infertile gleys.

Soil types. 40 = gleys.
14 = acid brown earths.

Ballycasheen Co. Clare.



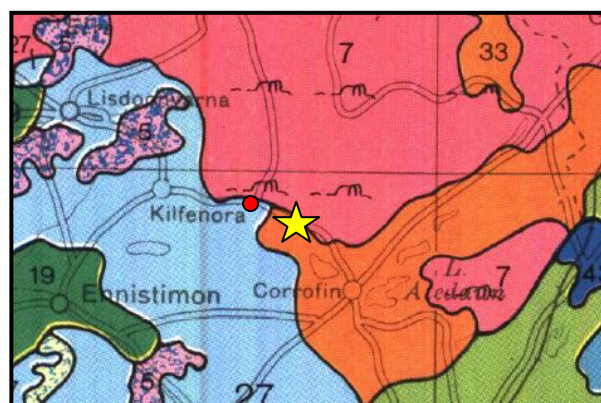
Ballycasheen, a very ruinous tomb, lies just south of Parknabinnia ridge, on a 'grassy crag, surrounded on all sides except the north-east, by drift soil producing summer pasture' (de Valera & Ó Nualláin 1961, 52). Images show the cluster of fields to the immediate west of the monument, with ringforts also indicating farming, while the land immediately surrounding the PT is apparently unfarmed land. Modern land use is fairly similar but the PT is now at the very edge of farmed land. The site lies at the boundary between good quality shallow brown earths and infertile rendzinas and gleys.



0 500m

NMS

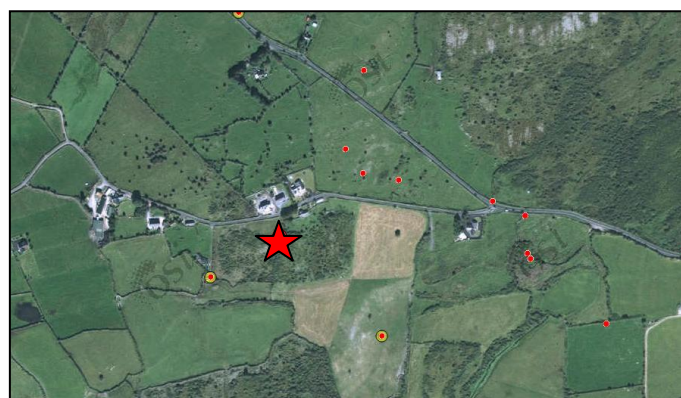
1st edition OS map. Small fields to the west (left) contrast with the empty space around the PT



0 10 km

©Teagasc

Soil profile: 7 = rendzinas with outcropping rock
27 = gleys 33= shallow brown earth



0 500m

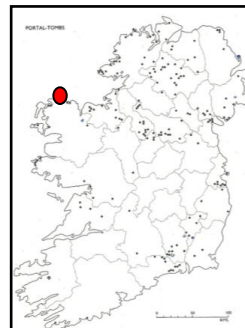
NMS

Modern day land use shows the same patterning, with the PT now on the extreme edge of unfarmed land.

Ballyknock A and B, Co. Mayo.



Ballyknock B

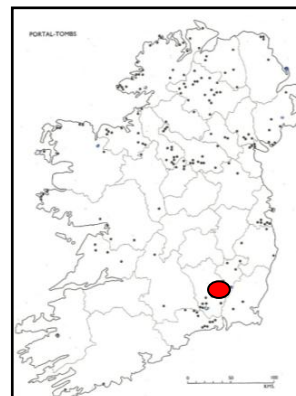


Ballyknock A and B stand on the eastern and western sides of a south-facing valley, some 300 metres apart. Each is situated at the border between farmland and rough, uncultivated hillside, a situation which has been noted by previous archaeologists. *‘the tomb stands near the western edge of the cultivated land of the valley. Immediately beyond the tomb the sharp slope of the mountain begins. The lower slopes provide rough pasture but further up this gives way to gorse grown bog.’* (de Valera & Ó Nualláin 1964, 11. *‘steeper slopes of hill commence immediately to the west’* (Ó Nualláin 1983, 99). The difference in natural vegetation as well as agricultural use is very evident today. Both tombs are very ruinous.

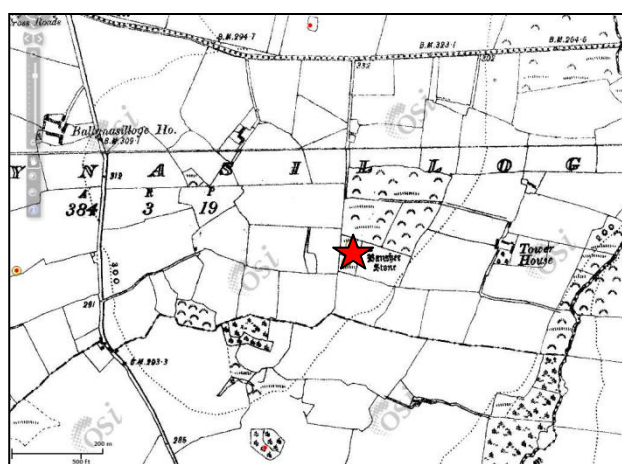


Ballyknock A.

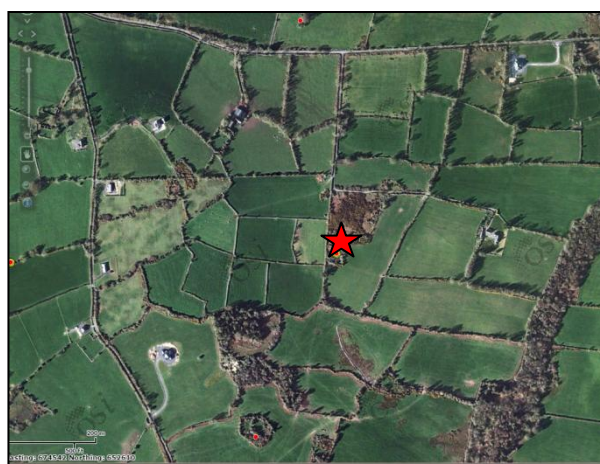
Ballynasilloge Co. Carlow.



Ballynasilloge is a rather ruinous portal tomb in farmland in Co. Carlow. It is concealed within an impenetrable area of thick shrubbery and weed. The landscape has changed little since the 1st edition OS map was drawn in the 1830s, showing the same patches of unusable land.



Ballynasilloge (Banshee Stone) 1838.

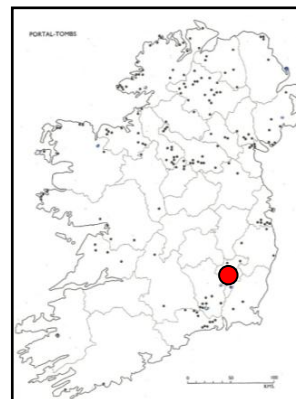


Ballynasilloge at present.

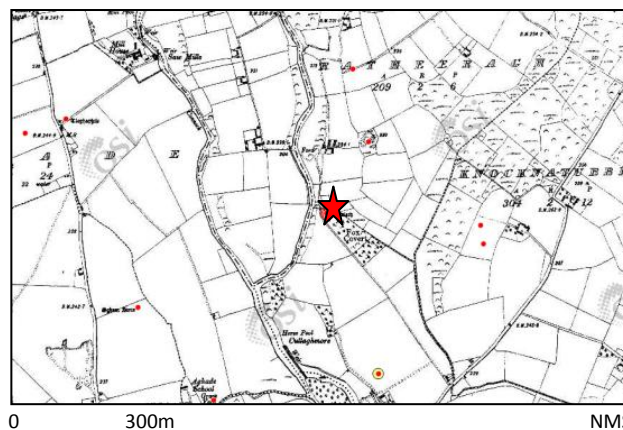
Ballynoe (Newtown) Co. Carlow.



a.



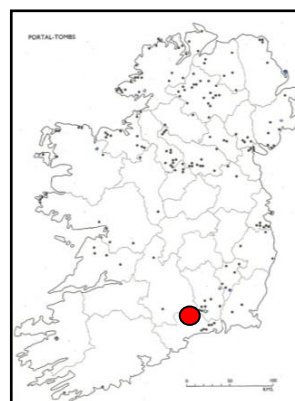
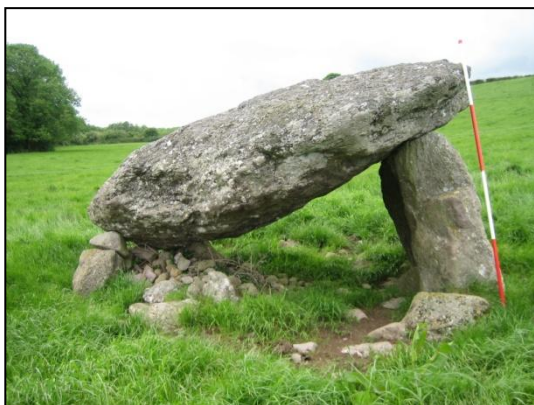
Ballynoe PT stands in gently sloping farmland close to the Dereen River, a tributary of the R. Slaney. The surrounding farmland is exceptionally fertile but the early OS map marks that the PT stands within a small area of unfarmed land (fox covert).



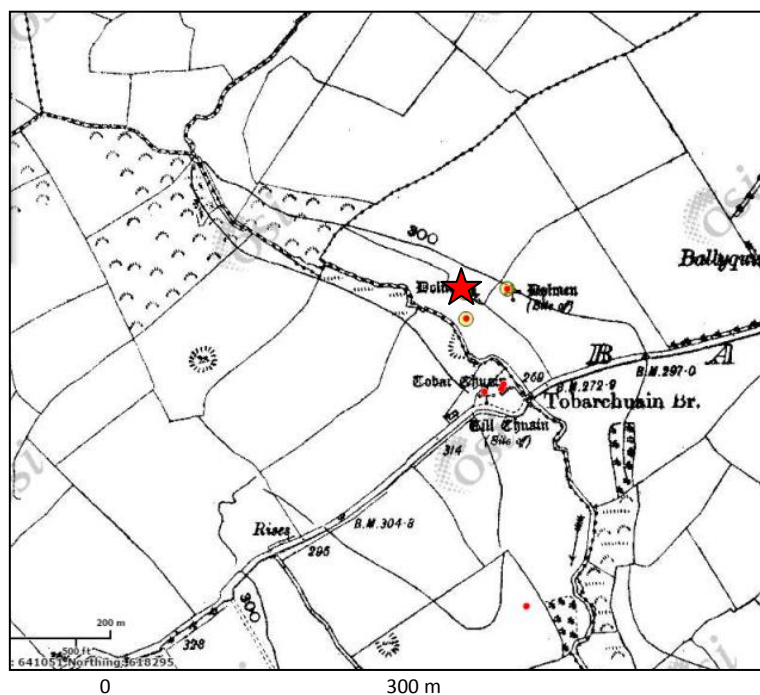
Lush farmland surrounds the PT site today.

The 19th century OS map shows the PT at the tip of an area of rough ground, with fertile fields around.

Ballyquin Co. Waterford.

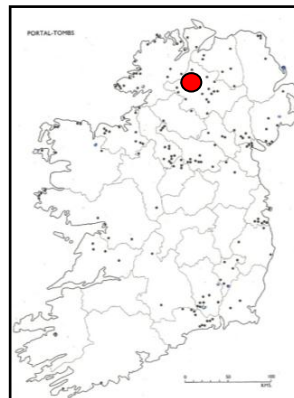


Ballyquin PT is situated on a gentle slope ‘*in rolling pasture*’ (Ó Nualláin 1983, 102) surrounded by lush farmland. The 1926 OS map below shows however, that the PT is situated very close to what was then an area of untilled land to the north west.

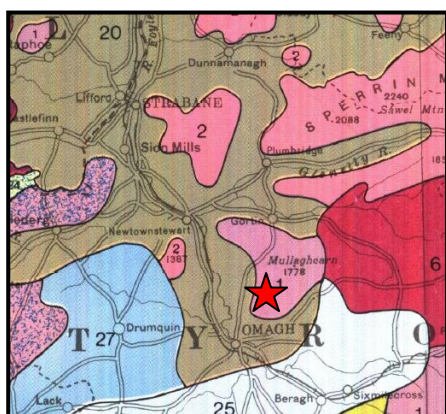


NMS

Ballyrenan Co. Tyrone.

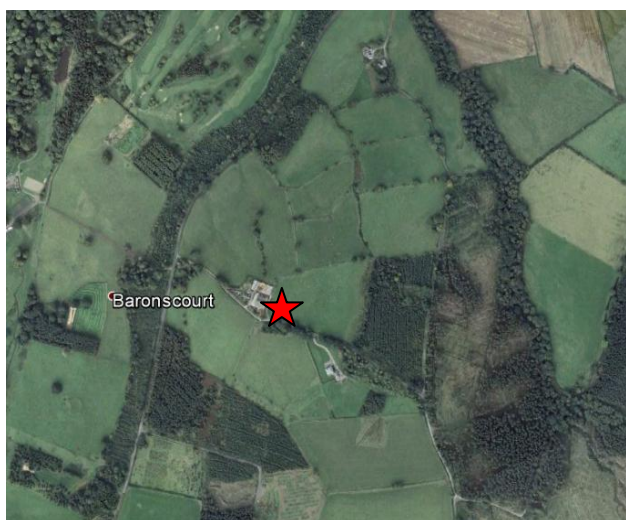


Ballyrenan is a double chambered PT situated on rough, stony land of poor agricultural potential. At present it is waste ground not in agricultural use, but Ó Nualláin (1983, 101) described it as '*on pasture terrace*'. The soil map below situates the PT just on the boundary between fertile brown podzolics and peaty gleys unsuitable for farming, and satellite imagery suggests that it is on the margin between agricultural land and unfarmed areas.



©Teagasc

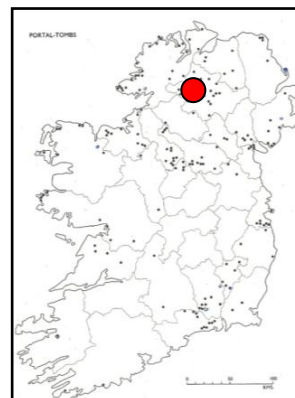
Soil types.
2 = peaty gleys.
20 = brown podzolics.



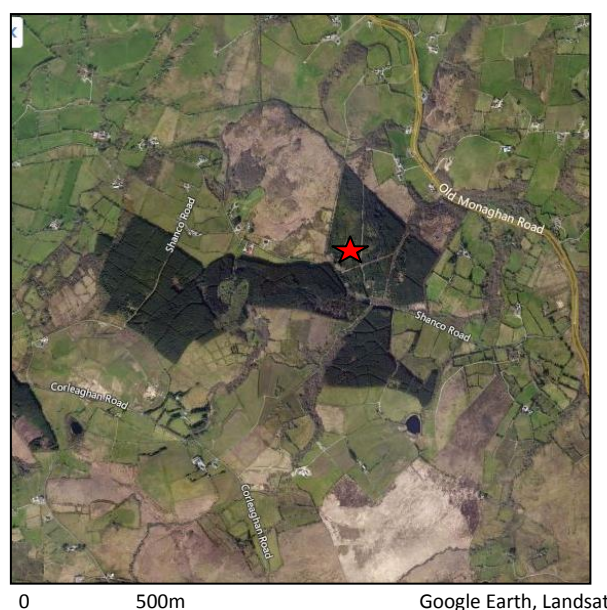
Google Earth, Landset

Satellite image. PT is situated within agricultural land, but just west of an area of unfarmed land and forestry.

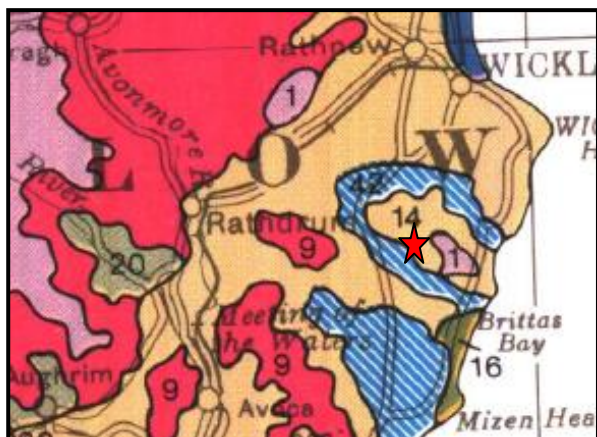
Ballywholan Co. Tyrone.



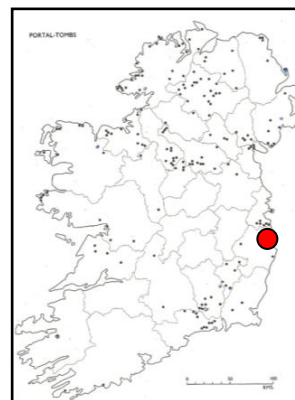
Ballywholan is a strange monument, but probably contains a portal tomb within a long cairn. Its situation is described by Wulff (1923, 190) ‘*it is situated on the side of a hill which forms one side of a gloomy secluded valley...the ground around is wet and marshy*’ – which does not sound like ideal farmland. Notes of the Archaeological Survey of Northern Ireland, handwritten by K. Neill and dated 1984 describe the site as ‘*overgrown with small trees, bushes .. the vegetation generally obscures the cairn.*’ Ó Nualláin (1983, 102) mentions ‘*sloping rough pasture*’. Today the monument is totally obscured within planted forestry, confirming that the land is agriculturally poor. The satellite image shows, however, that Ballywholan is very close to well-farmed land with small fields and many houses visible.



Brittas Co. Wicklow.

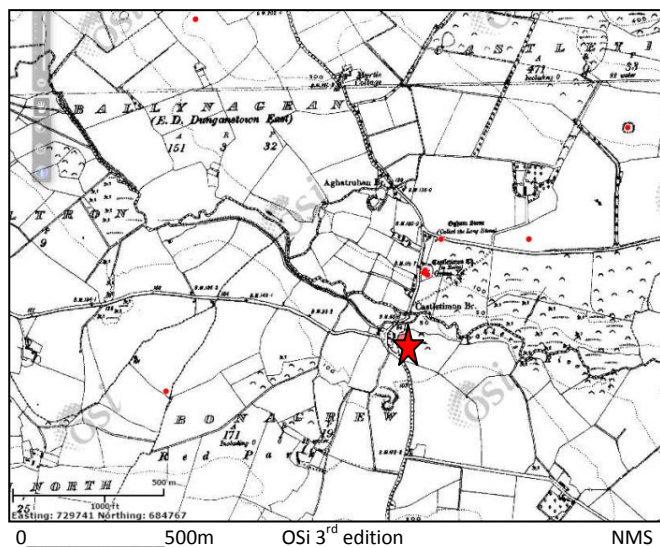


©Teagasc

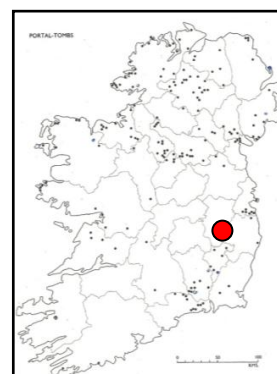


14 = acid brown earth. 42 = gleys.

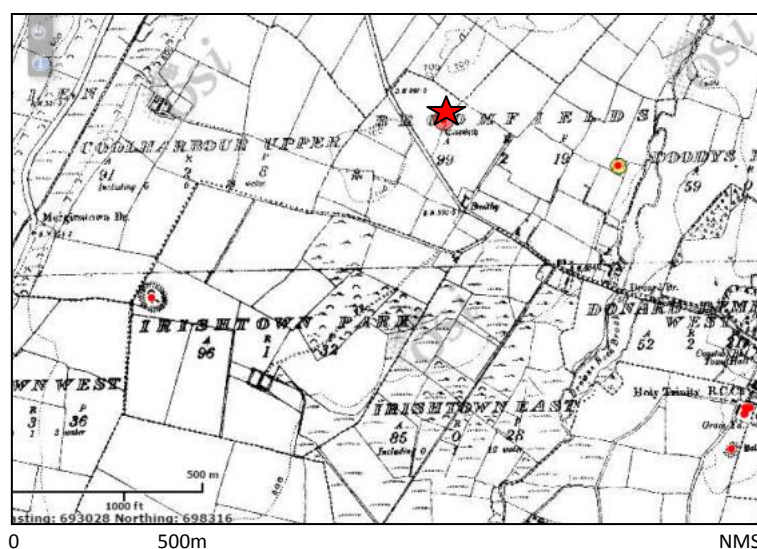
Brittas is a ruinous PT close to the sea, but not visible from it. It is situated within a region of good farmland, a situation which is demonstrated in the early map by field boundaries and scattered houses. Both the modern satellite image and the historic map show that it is immediately at the edge of a marshy area which seems not to have been farmed. On the soil map above the PT is sited within an area of fertile brown earth, very close to less suitable gleys.



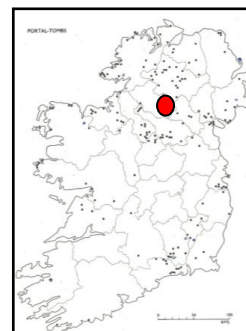
Broomfields Co. Wicklow.



Broomfields is another PT in Wicklow situated in the centre of modern-day farmland with fields and farmhouses dispersed in the landscape. This cultural landscape is very similar to that depicted in the 19th century map. In both cases an area of uncultivated, rough land is visible to the south of the PT – the townland of Irishtown East, the name may indicate that, in historic times, native Irish were pushed into this area of poor farmland by later settlers. The PT appears to be right at the edge of this element of the landscape.



Burren B Co. Cavan.



Burren B, the Calf House Dolmen, is located on the limestone plateau of the Burren Co. Cavan. (not to be confused with the better-known Burren in Co. Clare). Soil cover is thin and the whole area is now forested. There was at least one farm in the area in historic times as shown by the remains of a stone farmhouse only 100 metres from the portal tomb. No other evidence of farming is visible; it is possible that the PT marks the margin of the only area of farmland in the Burren.

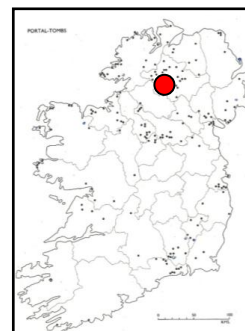


Ruined stone farmhouse c. 100 metres from the PY



The Calf House Dolmen was once used as an agricultural shed; beyond it the land is completely efforested.

Carncorran Glebe Co. Tyrone.

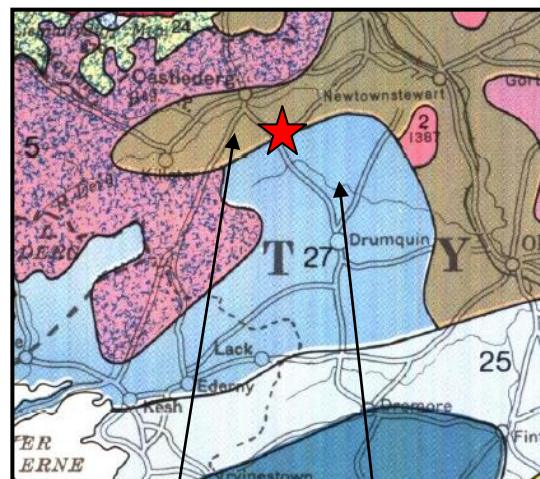


‘...near top of pasture terrace’ (Ó Nualláin 1983, 102) is a simple description of the location of the remains of this large portal tomb. The land appears to be good agricultural land, but to the southwest of the PT is an area of rough, unfarmed land, (named Rocks) evident today and to farmers in the 19th century and perhaps much earlier. Further to the southwest the nature of the land changes and becomes less attractive for farming as shown in the early map where fewer fields are recorded. The soil profiles show that the PT is on the boundary between poor gley soil and more fertile brown podzolics.



OSI

OSI 19th century. PT marked as standing stones.

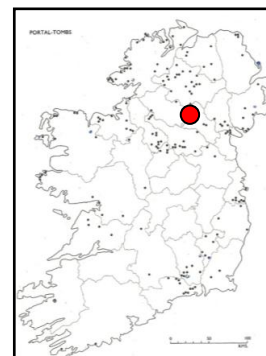


©Teagasc

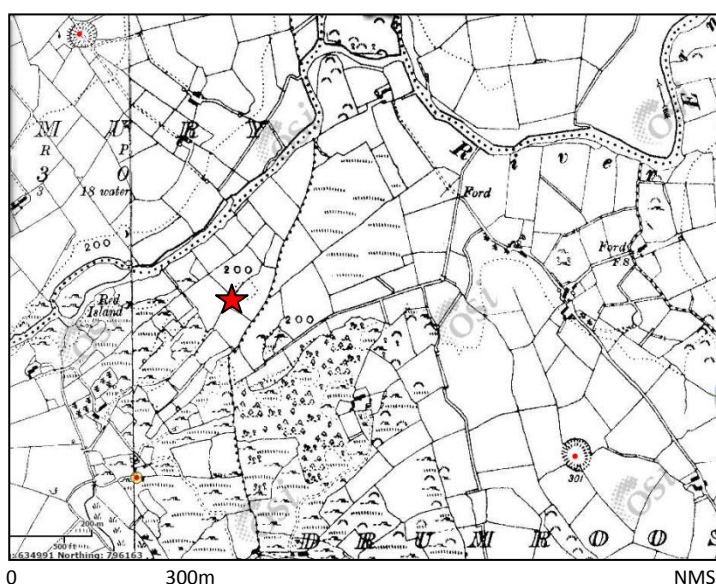
20 = brown podzolics

27 = gleys

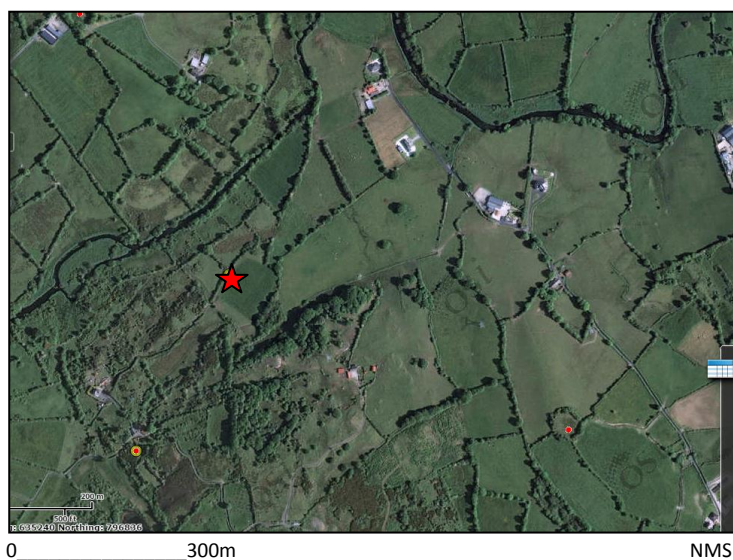
Carricklevan Co. Cavan.



There is a great contrast in landscapes and landuse between the east and west of this landscape. As shown in both the present-day satellite image and the historic map the land to the east is smooth and cultivated, divided into fields and displaying dwellings. To the west there are marshy areas, stony ground and a lack of visible farming or residences. Carricklevan portal tomb stands just on the boundary between these two areas.

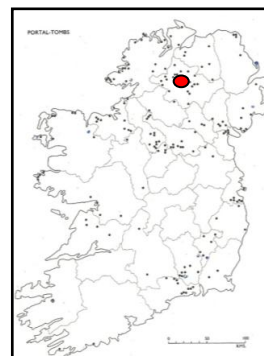


Carricklevan area in 1928. A ringfort (early medieval dwelling) and enclosed fields display a good farming area to the east (right) of the image, and there are some dispersed small buildings. In the west the land becomes boggy, stony, rough and cultivated.



Carricklevan at present. The same pattern of farming persists to the east of the PT; many of the fields have retained the exact boundaries as in the image above. To the west it is obvious that the land is too rough for farming, and there is a lack of farmhouses.

Cashel Co. Tyrone.



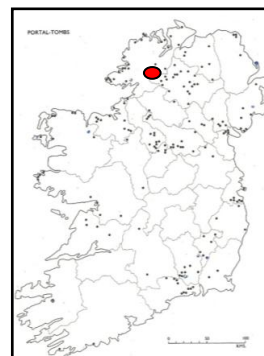
Cashel PT is ruinous and partly covered with peat bog. It lies in a small stream valley with steeply sloping valley sides. The PT is sited in rough, boggy, stony terrain with no real land use. The valley sides are used as pasture and cultivation ridges on the western slope indicate previous tillage.



The boggy, rocky site contrasts with adjacent pasture visible to the rear.

The PT is situated at the edge of rocky wasteland to the east, with small areas of cultivated ground elsewhere.

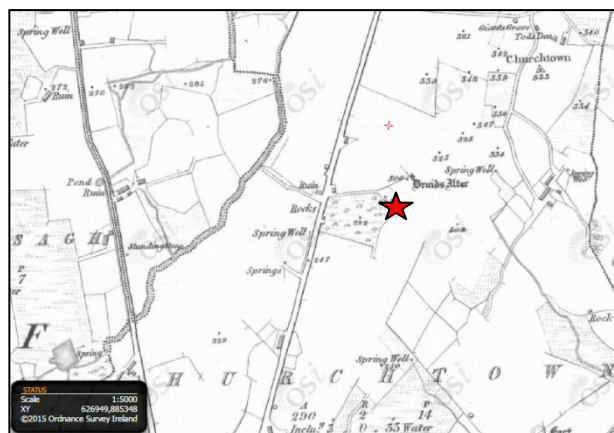
Churchtown Co. Tyrone.



Churchtown is now part of a field wall, and is located just on the outskirts of Castlederg. Ó Nualláin (1983, 101) describes the site ‘*at the edge of a terrace on sloping pasture*’, but there is, however, a clearly visible patch of very marshy ground to the west of the monument (visible in the left in the photograph below), and this is not cultivated. This same patch of unfarmed, marshland is shown on the 19th century map, adjacent to the PT, marked *Druids altar*.



View from PT to the west – patch of marshy ground clearly visible.



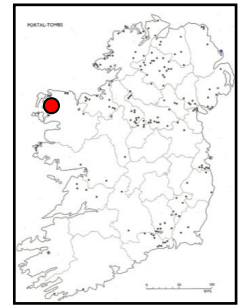
OSi 1st edition

Druids altar = PT, marshland immediately to the southwest.

Claggan Co. Mayo.



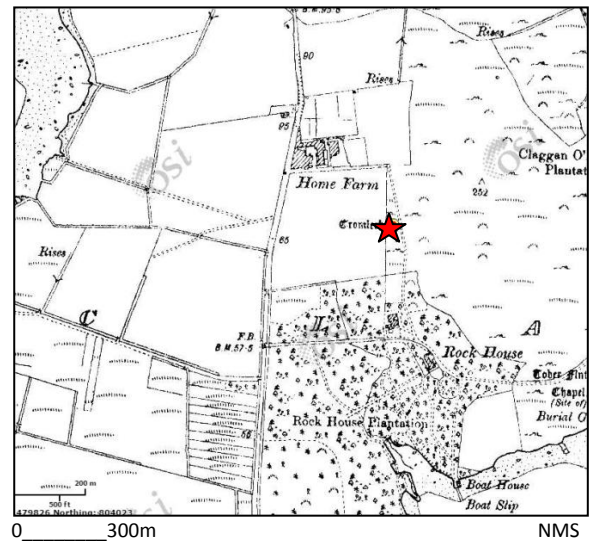
PT is completely concealed within a weedy thicket



Claggan PT is situated within a thicket just at the edge of reasonable pasture. De Valera and Ó Nualláin, writing in 1964, describe the site: *'a sheltered position near the western base of Claggan Hill ... the land in the vicinity is now used mainly for pasture ..the grounds around Rock House, a short distance to the south are heavily wooded'*. The same features are visible today. The substantial buildings of nearby Home Farm, a model farm from the early 20th century, are falling into disuse but indicate that at that time the land was considered sufficiently fertile for a local philanthropist to invest in a large farm which would act as an example to the surrounding peasantry. Meanwhile, the landlords of Rock House chose to blanket some of their marginal areas with woodland, still visible. The PT appears to mark the boundary between two disparate areas.

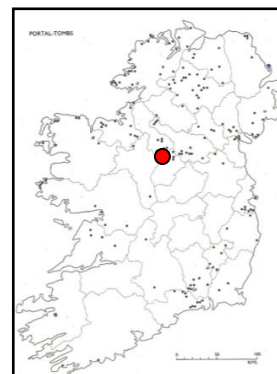


Claggan PT now invisible within thicket.

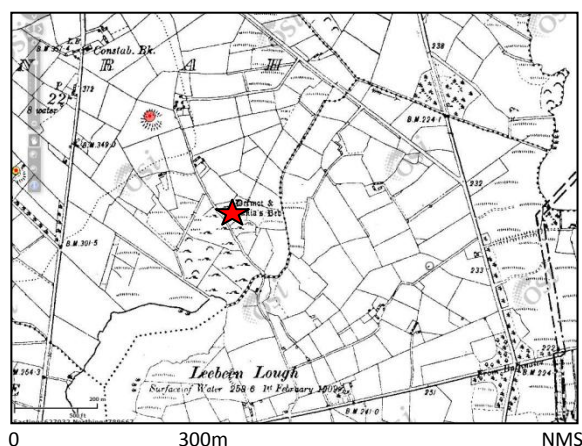


Claggan PT (marked Cromlech) in OSI 3rd Ed.. Home Farm (150m to north west) demonstrates good farmland, Claggan Hill to the east is not cultivated and lands of Rock House are heavily planted, not laid out as a formal garden.

Cleenrah Co. Longford.



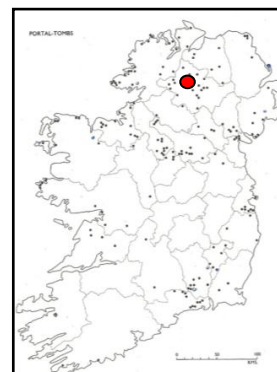
Cleenrah is situated in drumlin country, ‘on the side of a low rocky ridge ... in an area of gently rolling country devoted largely to pasture’ (de Valera & Ó Nualláin 1972, 88). The PT is sited on a small area of rough land, but around it is better land, with fields and widely scattered rural houses.



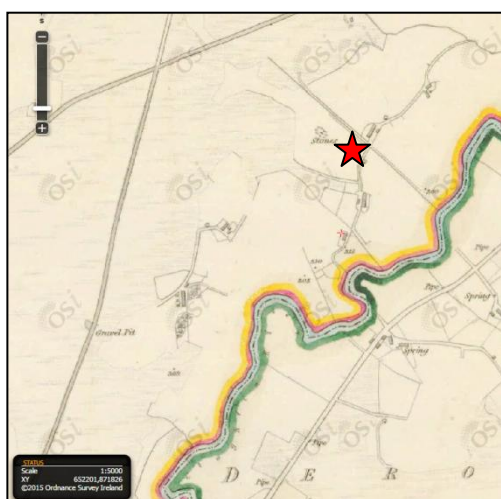
View from PT towards north. Rough, uncultivated land leads to more productive pasture.

Historic map -PT (Dermot & Grania's Bed) is sited at the edge of rough unfarmed land, cultivated fields surround this area.

Cloghfin Co. Tyrone.



Cloghfin is an extremely ruinous portal tomb, ‘on top of ridge in rolling pasture’ (Ó Nualláin 1983, 102). In fact the topography is very varied with differing landuse. The PT site is in a small group of trees on a ridge with generally good pasture, but lower down the hill, to the west is an area of unused, boggy land; this is noted in the 19th century map. The PT also lies on the junction between two soil types.



OSi 1st edition

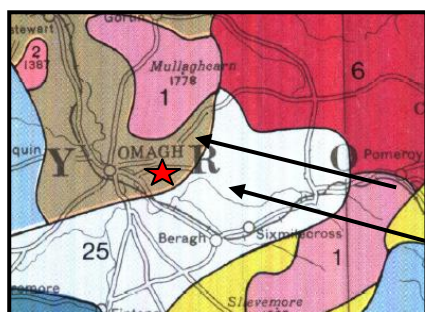


0 500m

Google Earth, Landsat

OSI 1st Ed. PT (Stones above) lie just on the boundary between farmland with fields and rough uncultivated hillside to the west and north west.

Portal tomb site is close to alteration in terrain, from reasonable pasture to marshy, unfarmed land.



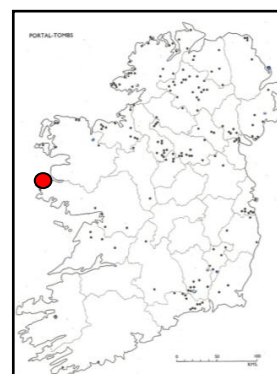
Soil type – Cloghfin.

20 = brown podzolics.

25 = gleys

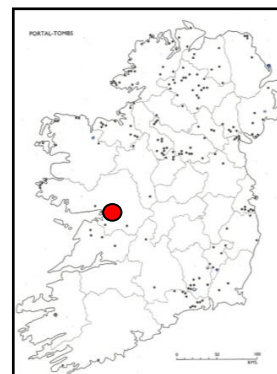
©Teagasc

Cloonlooaun Co. Galway.

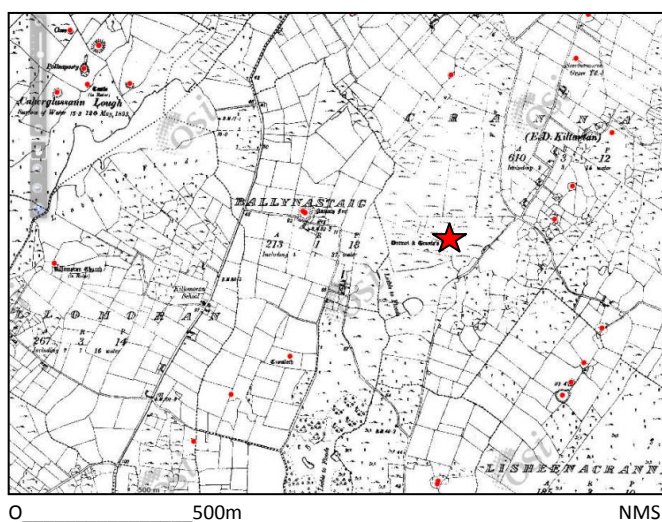


Cloonlooaun portal tomb is situated at the extreme south eastern tip of the arable land of a valley on the Rinvyle peninsula in Connemara. The funnel-shaped valley stretches for some 3 kilometres from south east to the Atlantic at the north western, widest tip where small-scale, intensive farming takes place.. To the south east of the portal tomb the land continues in an uncultivated stony valley between Tully Mountain and Cloonlooaun Hill; it then descends to the flatter, agricultural landscape around Tully Cross. It is suggested that the PT thus demarked the eastern limits of farming on this peninsula. There is other Neolithic evidence at the western end of the valley.

Crannagh Co. Galway.



Crannagh is sited on a bare limestone crag, with intermittent patches of thorn, bramble and hazel. It is surrounded by a turlough, a seasonal lake, which provides good grazing during dry summer months, and small fields providing grazing for cattle.



Crannagh (Dermot and Grania's Bed) is sited on a bare limestone crag, with no signs of farming, in an area with a multitude of small fields and many ringforts. It is possible that it marked the limits of farming both east and west.

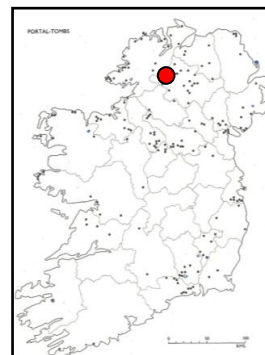
Glenknock and Crosh Co. Tyrone (500m apart).



Glenknock.



Crosh



Glenknock and Crosh are situated on the west and east sides respectively of a fertile valley in Co. Tyrone. The lush valley sides provide rich pasture for cattle, and a large ringfort 100m southwest of Crosh indicates that the area was successfully farmed during the Early Historic period. The two PTs appear to be situated right at the border between fertile brown podzolic soils and infertile peaty gleys.



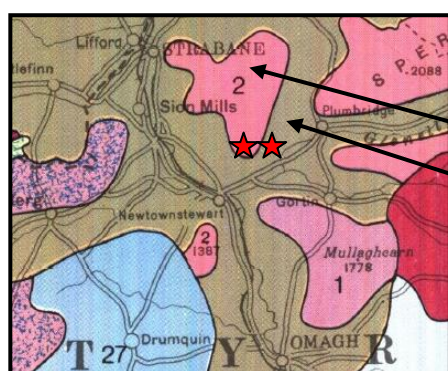
0 1 km OSI 1st ed.



0 1 km Google Earth, Landsat

19th century map showing uncultivated land on the upper slopes of the valley to the west of Glenknock (marked Cloghogle). Large ringfort to the southwest of Crosh.

Glenknock and Crosh are situated at either edge of farmland in the valley. Uncultivated land to the northwest and southeast.



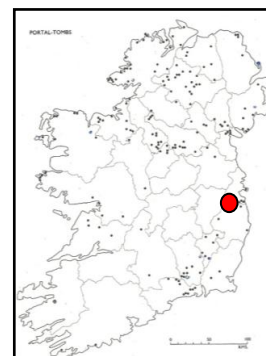
©Teagasc

Soil type in the vicinity.

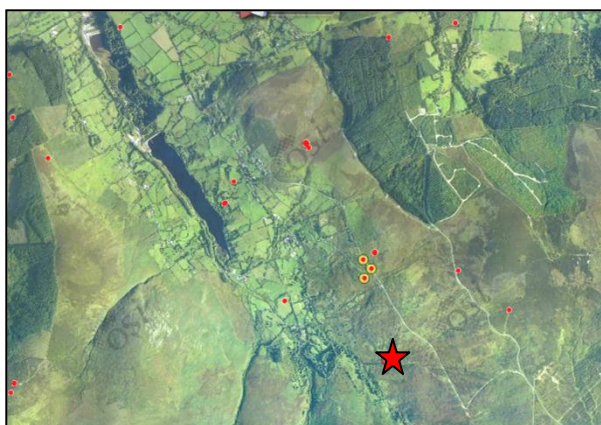
2 = peaty gleys of poor fertility.

20 = brown podzolics

Cunard Co. Dublin.



Cunard portal tomb is situated in the Dublin Mountains. It is at the southeast tip of a well-farmed valley with fields and houses. There is no farmland or habitation evident in the mountainous areas to the south of the PT.



0 _____ 1 km NMS



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Soil types in the vicinity of Cunard.

- 1 = peaty podzolics, marginally fertile.
- 4 = lithosols, typical mountainous soils with rocky intrusions.
- 8 = brown podzolics, fertile farmland.

Doogort West Co. Mayo.

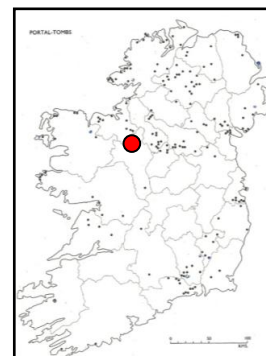
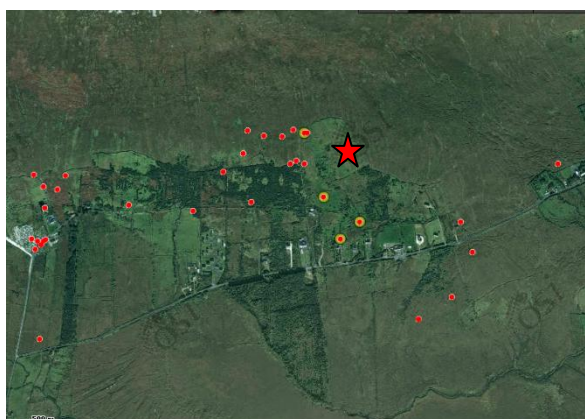


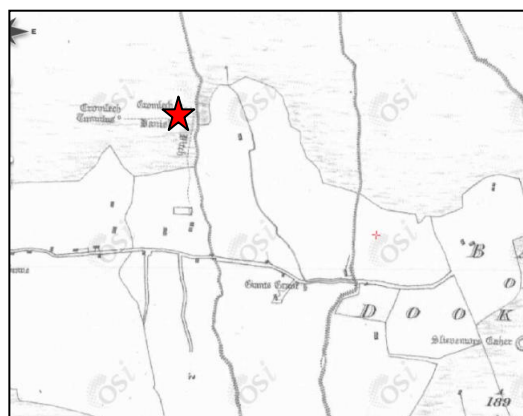
Image: de Valera & Ó Nualláin 1950, 226

In a detailed description of this site de Valera & Ó Nualláin (1950, 211) describe it as situated at the northern edge of a small 'zone' of cultivated land, locally named as the Clay Lands, which provided the only area in the vicinity where cattle were believed to thrive. The site *'lies almost exactly at the junction of the arable land with the summer pasturage (the higher slopes)... it stands at the upper edge of the arable land on the lower slopes of Slievemore. To the north the land gives way to a tract of summer pasture beyond which the steeper slopes of the mountains commence'*. (de Valera & Ó Nualláin 1964, 60). This fertile zone is clearly visible in the 19th century map below, and can still be seen in satellite images from the present.



0 500m

NMS



0 500m

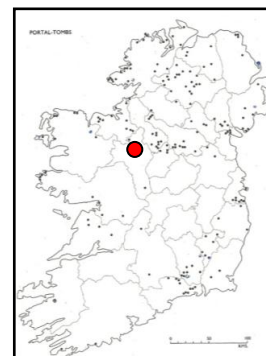
OSI 1st ed.

NMS

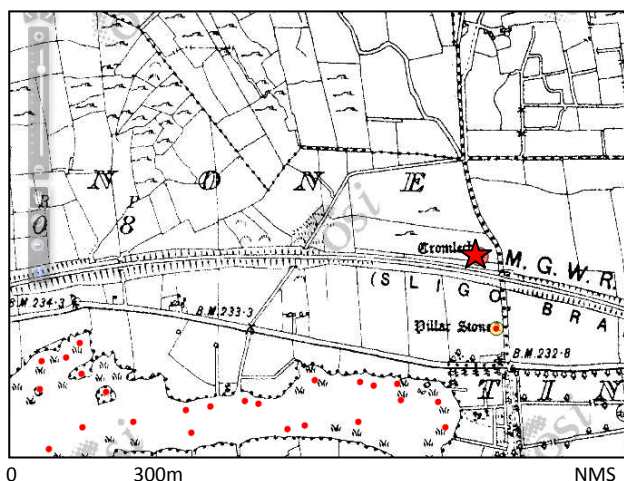
Doogort West is situated at the northern edge of a patch of farmland, just where the steep slopes of Slievemore mountain begin.

In the 19th century map the PT (Giants Grave) is shown at the edge of farmland, with fields and a ringfort. The hillside to the north is marked as uncultivated.

Drumanone Co. Roscommon.



Drumanone portal tomb is situated just west of Lake Gowna, in a level patch of ground just south of the Curlew Mountains. It is in an area of farmland which changes abruptly to the north of the PT as the mountains rise.



OSI 3rd edition map showing PT (Cromlech) in a well-cultivated area with small fields. To the northwest the quality of the land deteriorates and it is marked as uncultivated and rough.

Drumanone in its present-day landscape. Farming is still evident to the south but that in the north is less suitable.



Soil types.

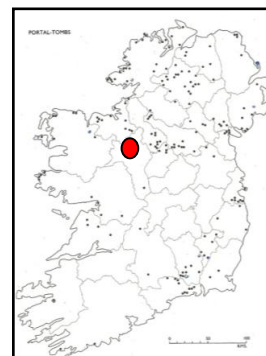
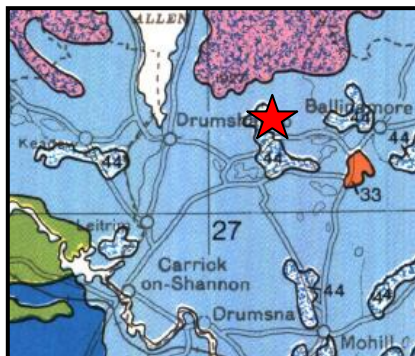
27 – gleys, poor fertility

15 – brown podzollics

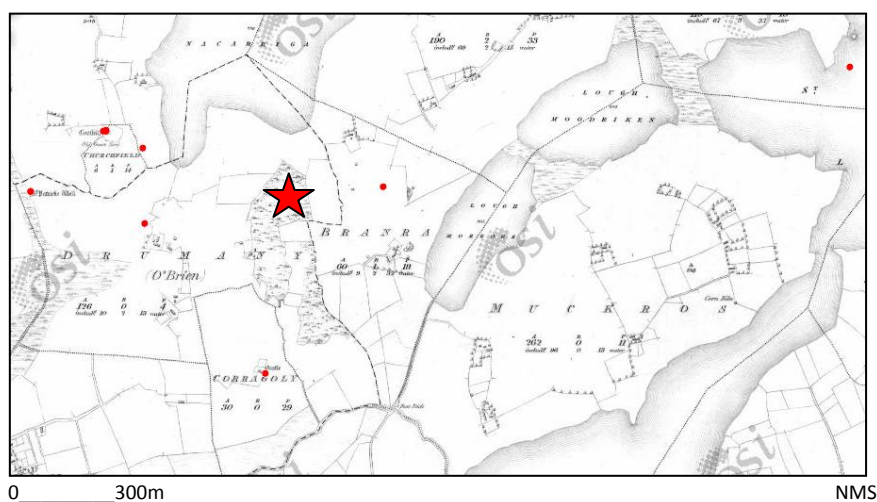
28 – acid brown earth.

Drumanone is sited at the boundary between the above three soil types.

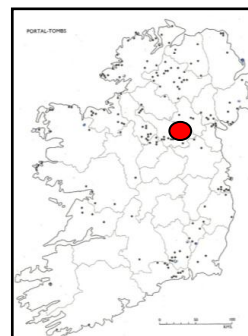
Drumany O'Brien Co. Leitrim.



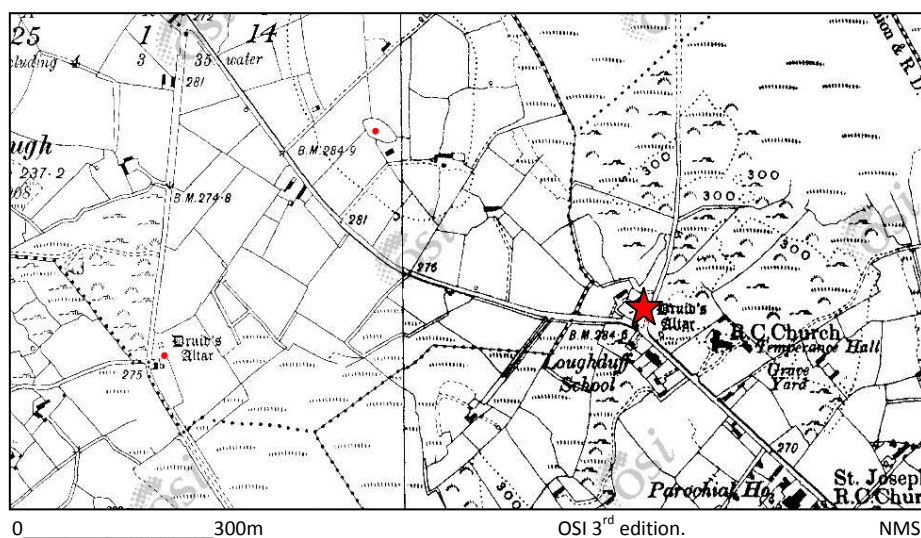
Drumany O'Brien is situated amongst the small drumlins of Co. Leitrim, where the hollows between the drumlins are often waterlogged or contain small lakes. The PT stands near the summit of a small ridge of marshy pasture land, in an area with numerous small, cultivated fields. The PT is situated on gley soils (27), of poor fertility but the best available in Co. Leitrim, and is right on the edge of an area of basin peat (44) which may have been present in the Neolithic.



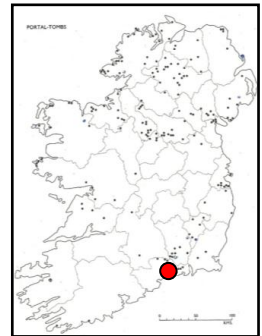
Drumhawnagh Co. Cavan.



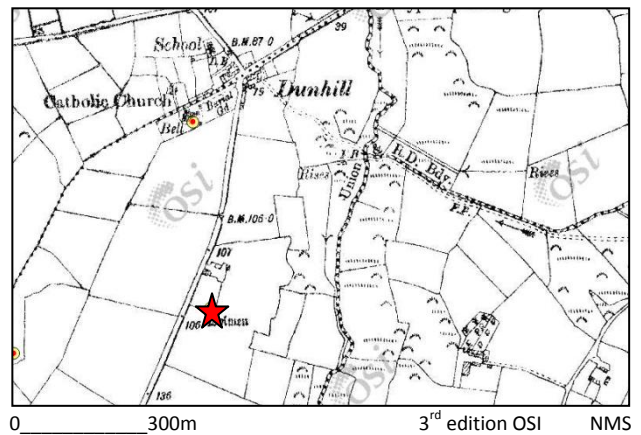
Drumhawnagh is situated amongst the drumlins of Co. Cavan. The site is at the edge of a particularly infertile crescent of land, uncultivated today or in the historic map. Small fields and farmhouse are visible in the surrounding landscape.



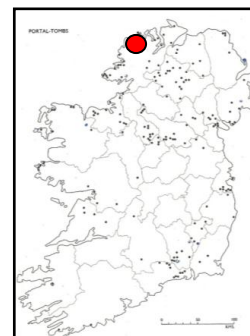
Dunhill Co. Waterford.



Dunhill is situated in very good agricultural land in Co. Waterford, but it avoids rough land along the river to the east.



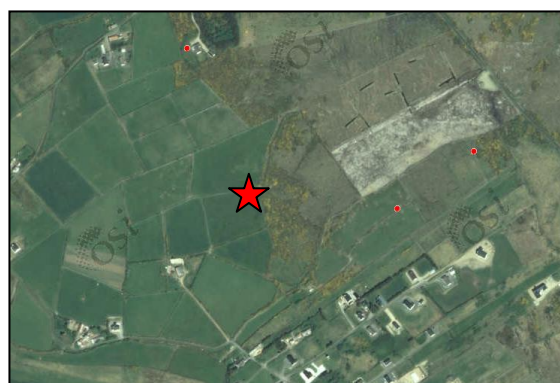
Errarooey Beg Co. Donegal.



Errarooey Beg is a ruinous portal tomb situated ‘...at the end of a ridge ... overlooks an extensive level tract of farmland to the west’ (Cody2002). The ground surrounding the portal tomb is rough, badly drained and stony and it supports only some rough grazing. Well-farmed and highly populated land contrasts in the west and south. This situation was similar in the 19th century,

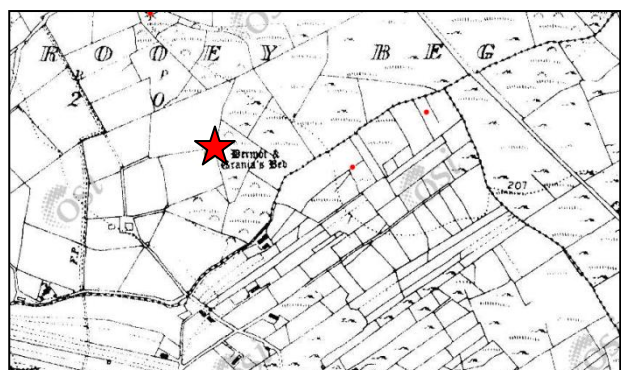


PT in the foreground on rough pasture, overlooking more fertile ground with many farms on lower ground in the rear.

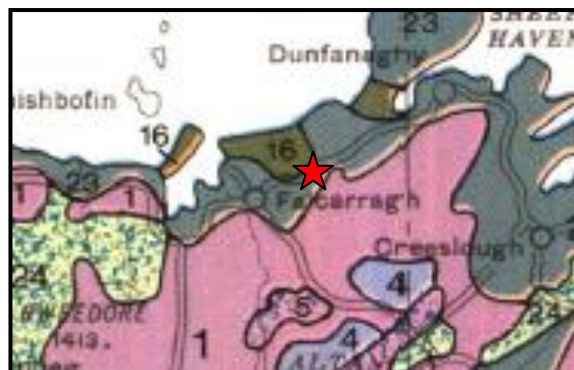


0 300m NMS

PT lies at the very edge of a patch of rough, uncultivated land, beside good farmland to the west and south.



PT (Dermot and Grainne’s Bed. Landuse is very similar to present use, with many small fields to the south and west of the stony, unfarmed ridge at the site.



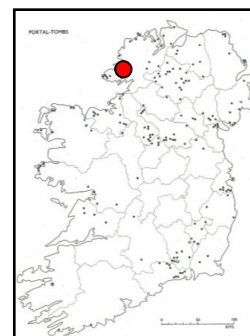
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Soil at the site.

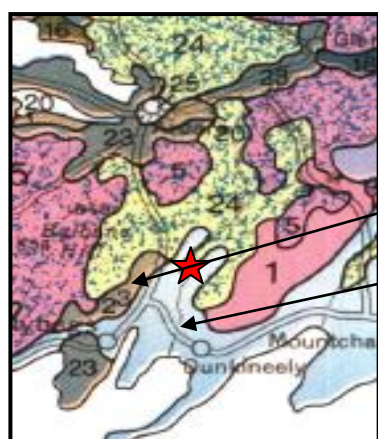
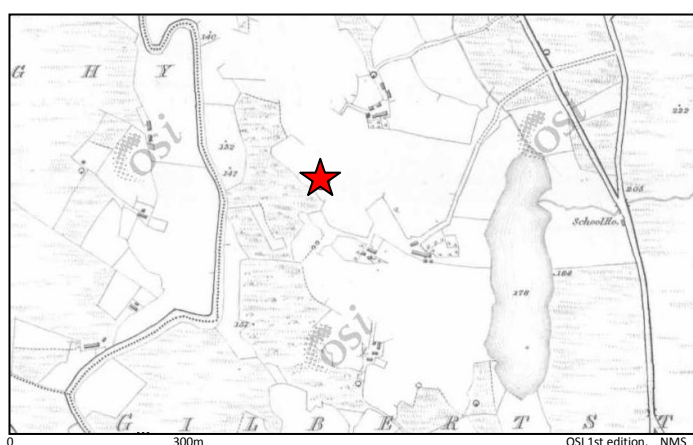
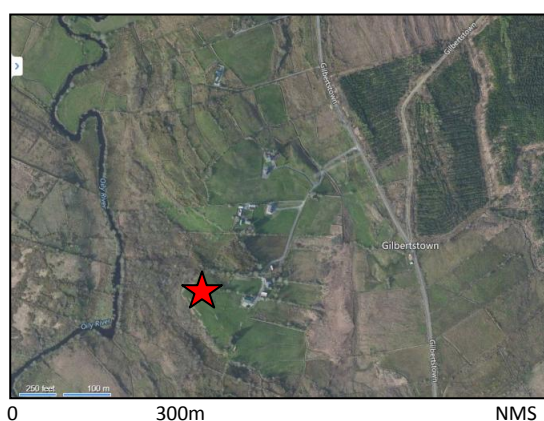
16 – good quality acid brown earths.

23 – lithosols – stony, skeletal infertile soils.

Gilbertstown Co. Donegal.



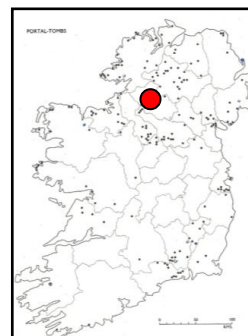
Gilbertstown is a large and very ruinous PT situated above the bed of the Oily River ‘on a patch of level ground ... wet and rush grown .. with rock outcrops’ (Cody 2002). This infertile ground is shown in the 19th century map, with the portal tomb situated just at the edge. On the satellite image it can be seen that the PT stands at the edge of a long narrow patch of cultivated land surrounded by rough, unfarmed land. The soil types in the area show the site at the edge of gley soil, which is not highly fertile but better than the other soil in the vicinity.



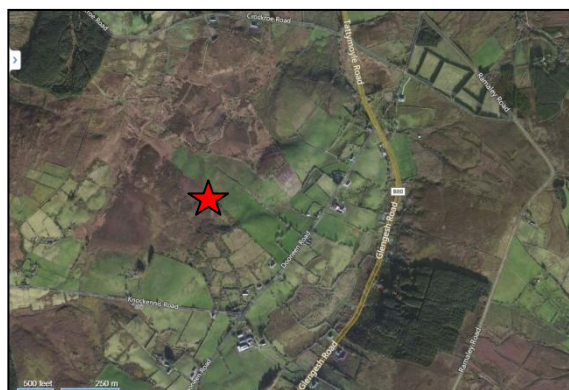
Soil types:

- 23 lithosols – rocky and infertile.
- 27 – gleys – some fertility
- 1 peaty podzols poor soil
- 24 – blanket peat – subsoil unknown

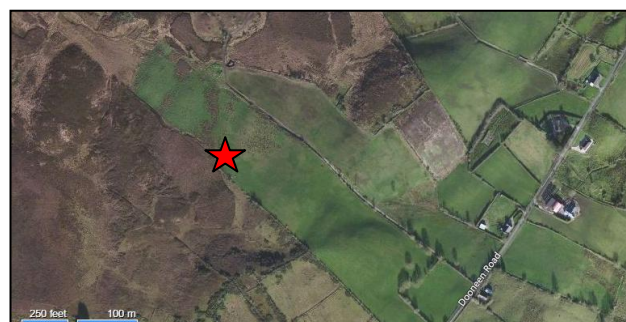
Glengesh Co. Fermanagh.



Glengesh is a very ruined portal tomb situated in a remote part of Co. Fermanagh. It is sited at the edge of a valley in the foothills of Knockennis mountain.



The PT is situated at the edge of one of the valleys leading up to Knockennis mountain in the west (left).

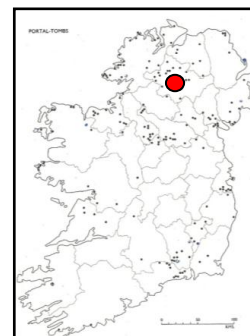


The PT is situated just where the nature of the terrain changes from rough grazing to uncultivated hillside.



The portal tomb is situated on rough grazing land. On the other side of the fence the land becomes much less productive and is not farmed.

Glenroan Co. Tyrone.



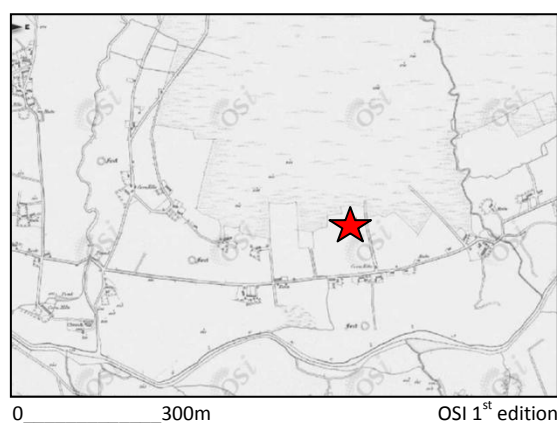
Glenroan is a small portal tomb encased between a hedge and a fence in the southern foothills of the Sperrin Mountains. The site is '*on pasture terrace high on Mullaghgreenan Hill*' (Ó Nualláin 1983, 101). The pasture is very rough and rocky, but land to the south is much more fertile looking.



Glenroan PT is situated beside the fence. Beyond this can be seen a landscape of fertile looking farmland.

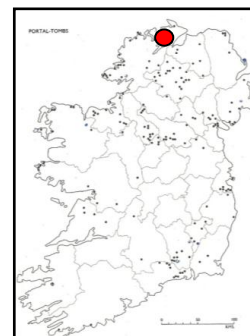


Satellite view of the area shows that the PT is situated where the land changes from farmland to rough hillside.

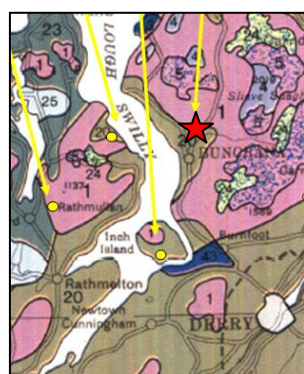
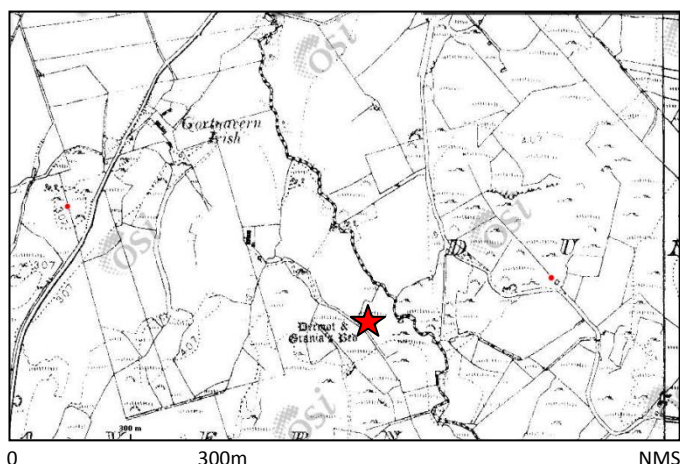
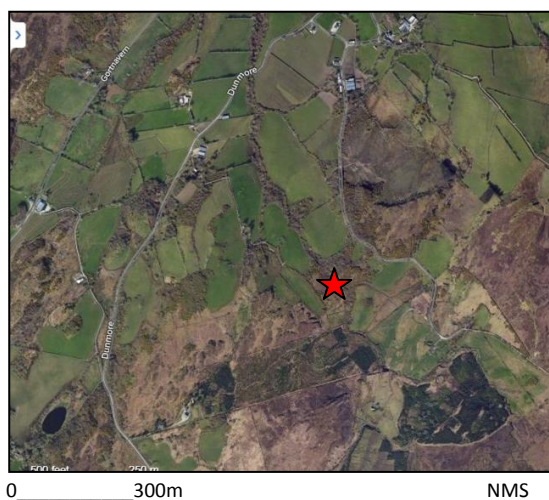


The 19th century map shows the situation much as it is today. Farmland is depicted to the south, while the PT is situated just where the terrain changes to rough, uncultivated hillside.

Gortnavern Co. Donegal.



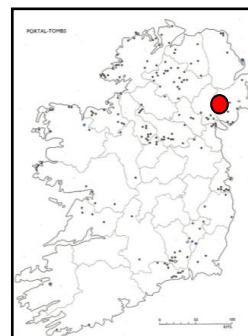
Gortnaveren is a very beautiful complete portal tomb on the Fanad peninsula in north Donegal. It is situated in an area of mixed terrain, with patches of wasteland interspersed with grazing. The PT may mark the boundary between areas of good farmland and poor quality land. The soil map of the area shows the PT lying on the boundary between brown podzolics which are of reasonable quality, and peaty podzolics which are very infertile.



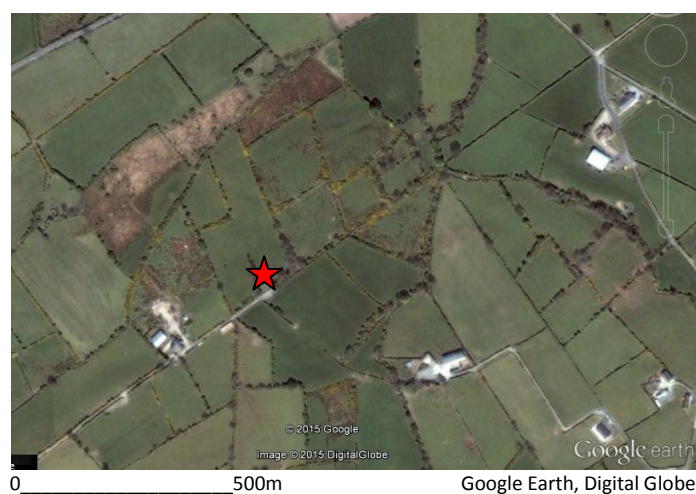
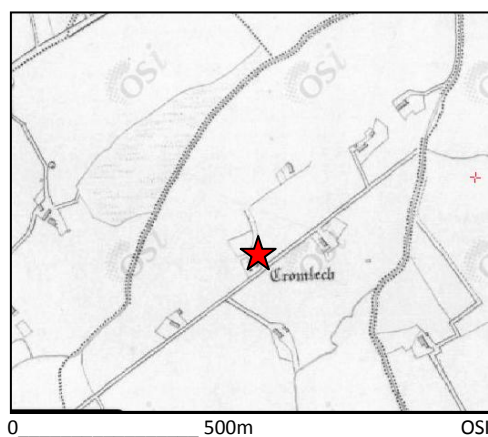
©Teagasc

Soil types. 1 – peaty podzolics. 20 brown podzolics.

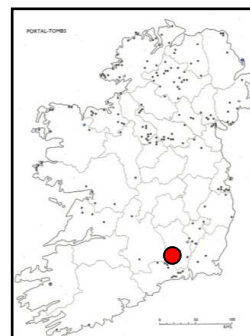
Goward Co. Down.



Goward is an enormous portal tomb in the northwestern foothills of the Mourne Mountains. Ó Nualláin (1983, 95) describes the site ‘*on sloping pasture at foot of ridge*’, and this ridge of unfarmed land can be seen in maps, both current and past. The terrain around the portal tomb is clearly farmed, but the ridge is uncultivated.



Gurteen Lower Co. Waterford.

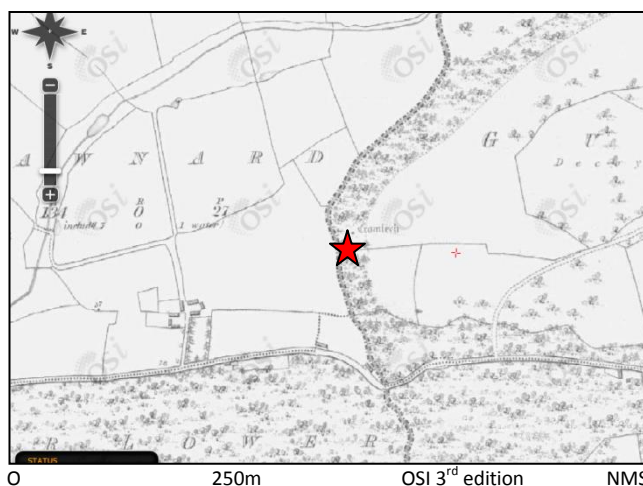


Gurteen portal tomb is now unreachable, in the middle of dense undergrowth. Borlase (1897, 56) describes its situation ‘in low-lying ground’ and Ó Nualláin (1983) agrees ‘..in wood on pasture sloping to R. Suir’. The site is shown within a thin band of woodland, just east of a well-farmed area, and to the west of an area which was laid out as a rough hunting area (the small pond is marked as ‘decoy’). The site is also on the border between acid brown earth soils, of good fertility, and grey-brown podzolics which are less good for farming.



0 250m

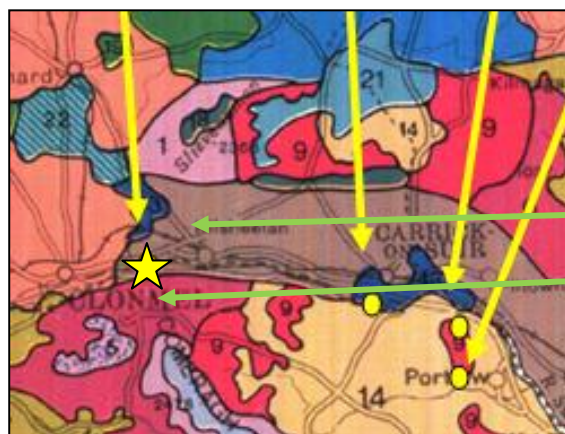
NMS



0 250m

OSI 3rd edition

NMS



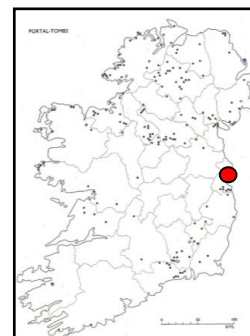
Soil in the area:

13 = acid brown earth

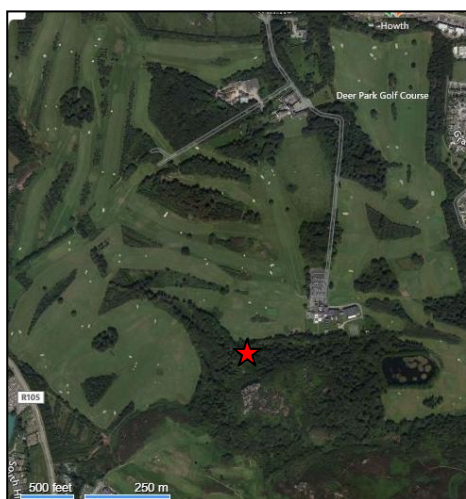
6 = brown podzolics

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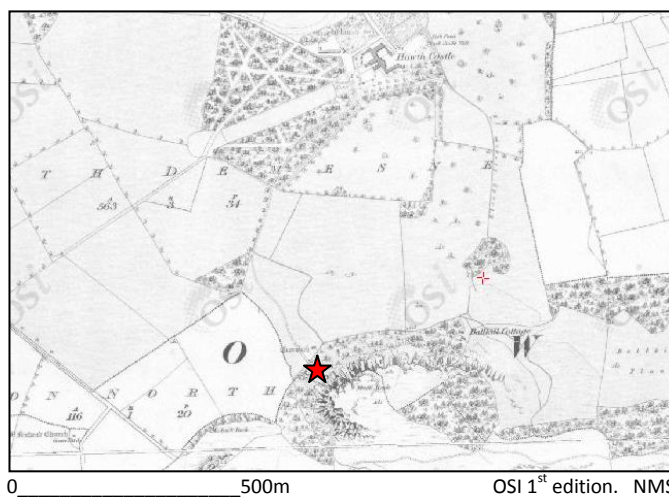
Howth Demense Co. Dublin.



Howth portal tomb is situated in planted woodland at the edge of a golf course. To the south the sheer cliffs of Muck Rock rise sharply within 100 metres of the portal tomb. The grounds of the golf course were originally laid out as parkland for Howth Castle.



NMS

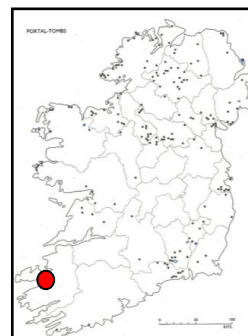


OSI 1st edition. NMS

North of the portal tomb are the smooth grasslands of a golf course, while immediately to the south rise the cliffs of Muck Rock, a large rocky outcrop rising to 100 metres.

Howth portal tomb in the 19th century. The present day golfcourse was then the parkland of Howth Castle demense.

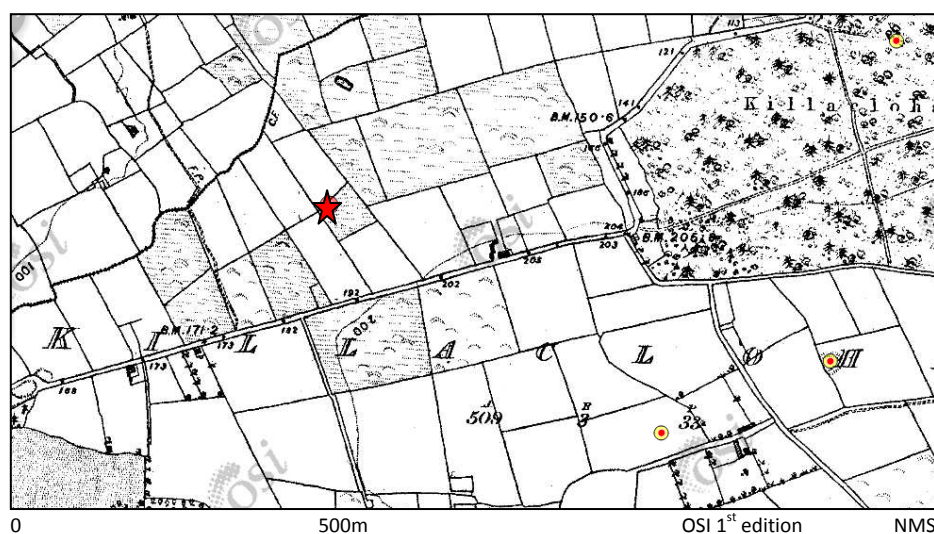
Killacloghane Co. Kerry.



Killacloghane is situated in an area of mixed farming, with some areas under pasture and others not cultivated. There is one such patch of rough, unfarmed land immediately to the east of the PT and others are visible in the vicinity.

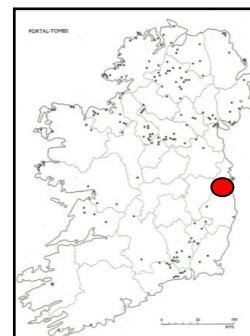


The uneven nature of the farmland is visible.

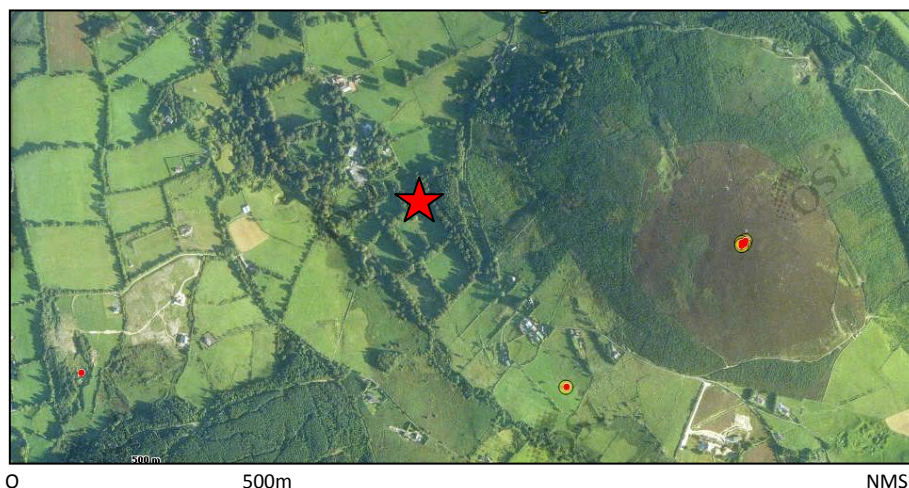


Killacloghane in the 19th century. Patches of infertile land are visible, and the PT may be on the boundary of one.

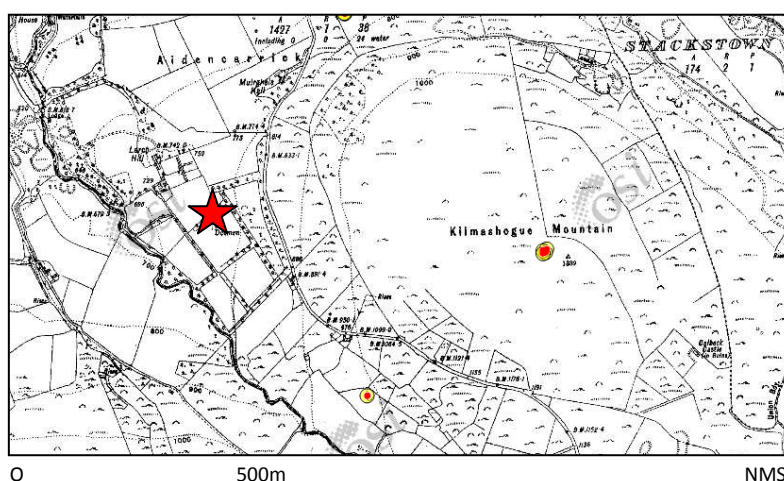
Kilmashogue (Larch Hill) Co. Dublin.



Kilmashogue is situated in a recreation area in the foothills of the Dublin Mountains. Like other tombs in south Dublin (Taylorsgrange, Woodtown, Kiltiernan) it is sited on the slopes of a valley and may have marked the border of the arable land there. Kilmashogue is just to the west of Kilmashogue Mountain which rises steeply above the PT. The rolling pastureland around the PT contrasts sharply with the steep, rocky mountain which provides only rough grazing for sheep.

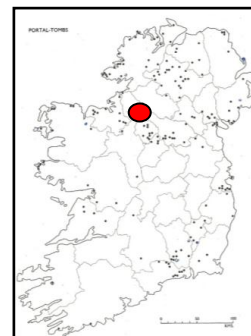


Kilmashogue in a recreation area in the middle of rolling pasture. Steep slope of Kilmashogue mountain rises immediately to the east.

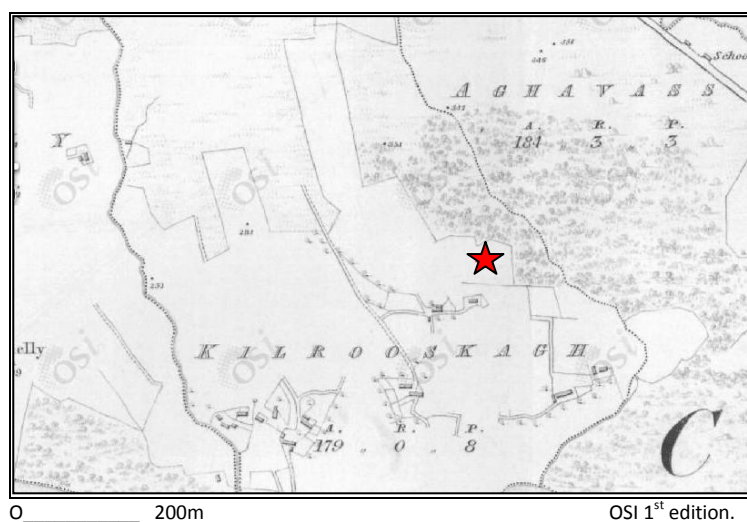


Kilmashogue PT in farmland early in the 20th century. Unfarmed land on the mountain.

Killrooskagh Co. Fermanagh,



Killrooskagh portal tomb is situated on a pasture field close to a hilly area with rough and unfarmed terrain.

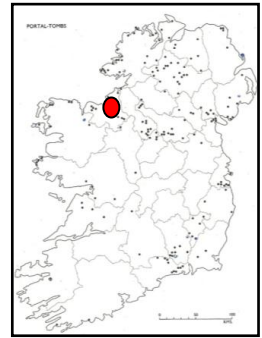


PT site in the 19th century.



View from the field in which the PT stands towards rough hillside in the north.

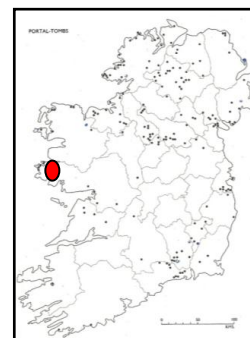
Knockatobair Co. Sligo.



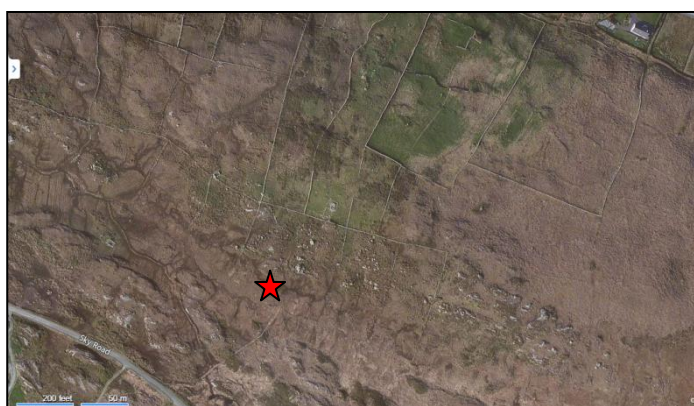
Knockatobair is a very ruinous portal tomb in rough, marshy land. This patch of poor land is visible in the image below, and it is also evident that there is good pastureland around it.



Knockavalley Co. Galway.



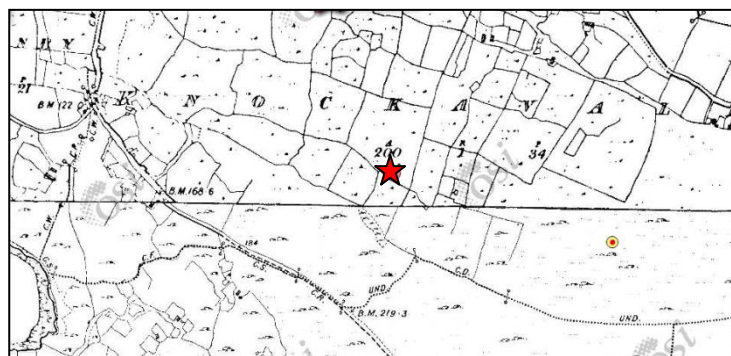
Knockavalley portal tomb is situated a hillside on a narrow peninsula in the west coast of Co. Galway. The terrain is rough – ‘.. on the crown of a low ridge strewn with boulders ... there is much cropping rock ... a maze of small fields ... about 50 yards south of the site the ground drops sharply to a small tract of bog’ (de Valera & Ó Nualláin 1972). The PT may have marked the edge of a patch of cultivated ground; there is a visible difference in land type and use adjacent to the site.



0 500m NMS
PT site on a hillside with some enclosed fields visible.



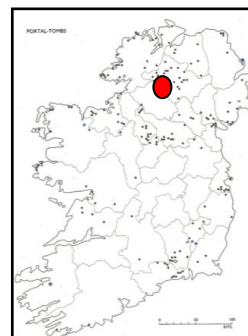
PT site in the foreground; view towards the south with uncultivated rough ground behind the wall in the background.



0 500m OSI 3rd edition NMS

PT site amid a maze of small fields with areas of uncultivated ground to the south.

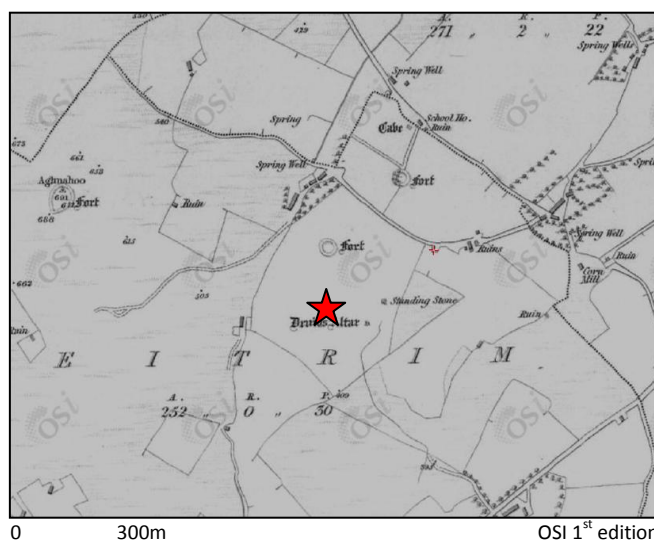
Leitrim Co. Tyrone.



Leitrim is a large well-preserved PT on the western slope of the valley of the Killen Burn. The valley is well-farmed, with small pasture fields, and the PT is just at the edge of the hilly slopes, where little farming is practised. The 19th century map shows a similar picture.

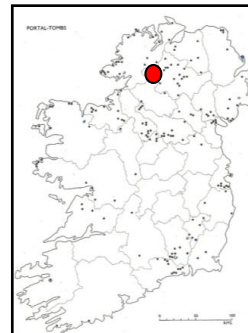


The PT is situated amongst fields; the uncultivated hillside rises to the west.



Leitrim PT (Druids Altar) is shown in fields with the uncultivated hillslope to the west.

Letterbrat Co. Tyrone.

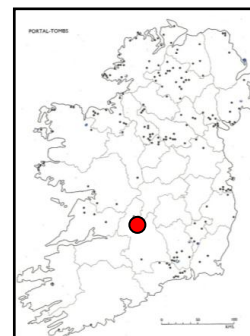


Letterbrat is a very ruinous portal tomb in the southern slopes of the Sperrin Mountains. It is situated at the limit of arable land where the rough hillside begins. It is on the western edge of the small valley of the Letterbrat Burn and may indicate the boundary of cultivated land, as it does today.

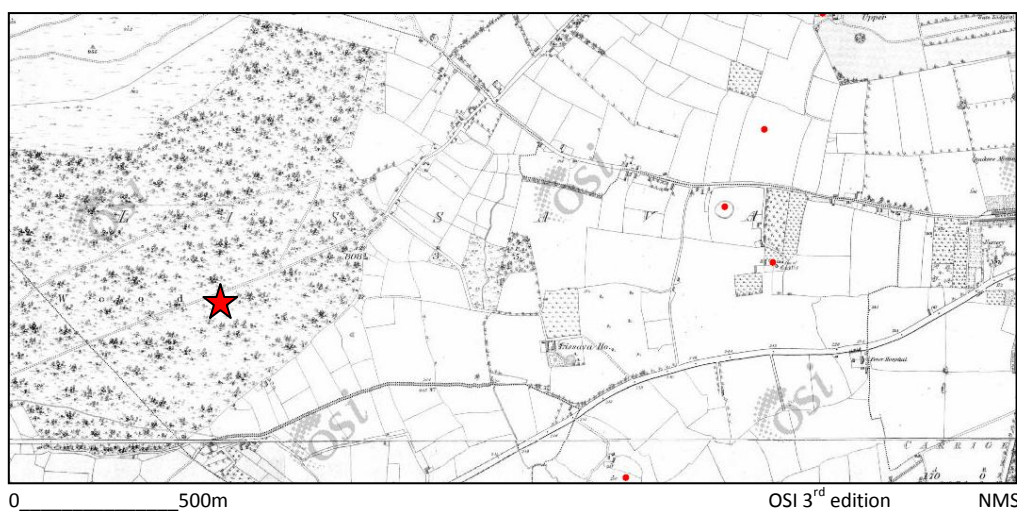


Site in the foothills of the Sperrins to the north (top of image). The PT is also on the western margin of the valley of the Letterbrat Burn which supports good farming.

Lissava Co. Tipperary.



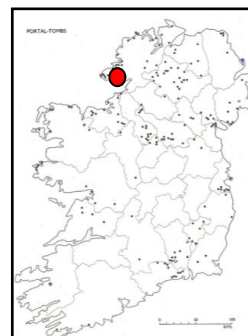
Lissava is now concealed in woodland, to the west of farmland. ‘on the break of a south-facing slope of Slieveanard at the eastern edge of the Cahra mountains (NMS website). Similar conditions are shown in earlier maps, where the woodland seems to be native rather than planted, and may never have been farmed.



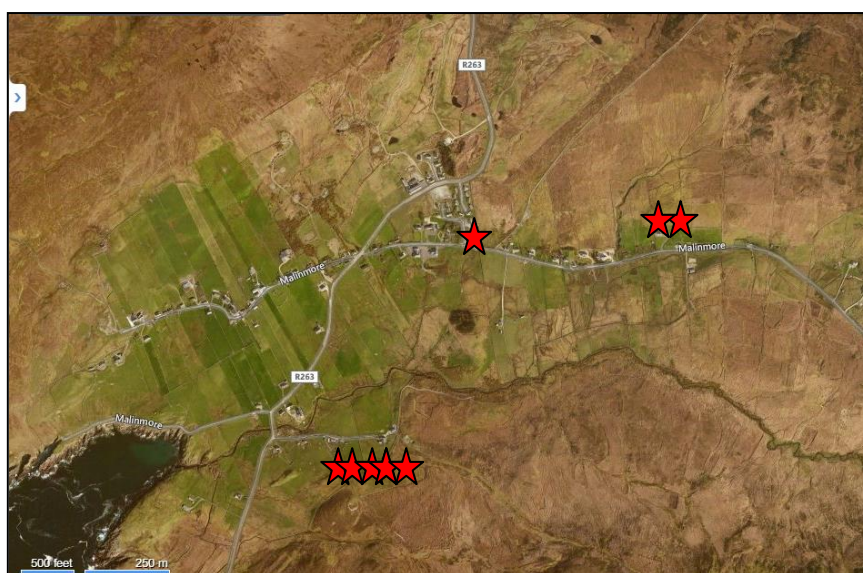
Malin Mór Co. Donegal.



Malin Mór B – western tomb.

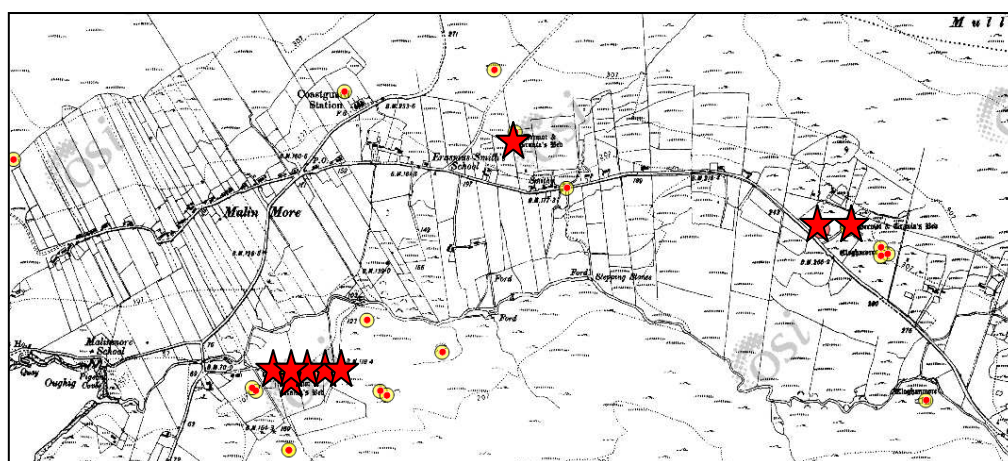


Malin Mór is a valley on the western shore of Donegal. There are 10 portal tombs, 6 of which are together in one line 100 metres long. Each of the portal tombs is situated on the valley sides, three on the northern side and the composite one on the south. They are situated where the slope of the valley becomes sharper as the hillside begins, and there is a clear break in landuse, with small fields, mainly pasture, giving way to rough mountain grazing. A myriad of small fields in the valley are evident both in the satellite view and in the historic map.



0 250m

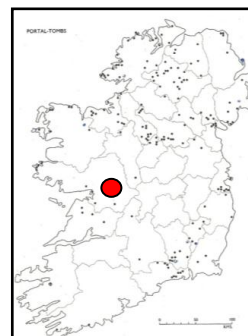
NMS



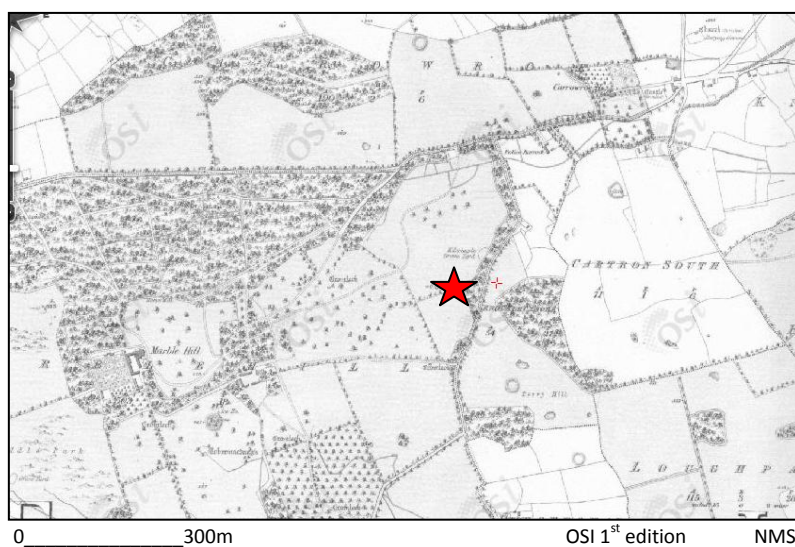
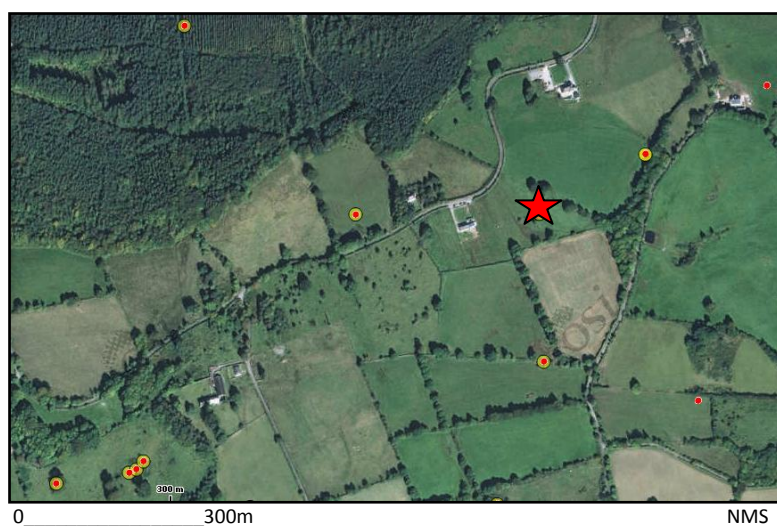
0 500m

OSI 3rd edition NMS

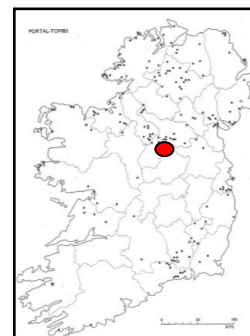
Marblehill Co. Galway.



This very ruined portal tomb is in the centre of an area with much Neolithic evidence. Farmland is interspersed with areas of rough land, some in forestry and some left uncultivated. Very similar conditions are revealed in the historic map.



Mayo Co. Cavan.



Mayo portal tomb is situated in drumlin country in Co. Cavan. ‘..on a ridge ... surrounded by drumlin land .. looking out over rolling country. Rock outcrops are exposed in isolated patches and occur on a ridge ¼ mile to the NE of the site; the land around the site is reputed, locally, to be exceptionally dry and is used for pasture and meadow’ (de Valeera & Ó Nualláin 1972). The ridge mentioned above can be seen in the satellite image and in the historic map and it is noticeably free of farmed land.

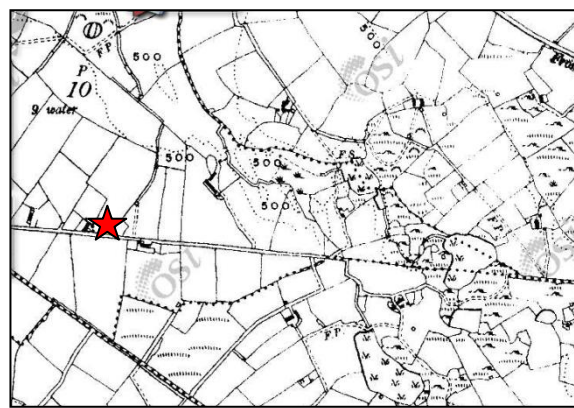


Portal tomb in the foreground. The bare rock outcrop is visible in the background.



0 300m NMS

Portal tomb in pasture land. Unfarmed rocky area visible to the east (right).



0 300m OSI 3rd edition NMS

Historic map. Unfarmed, rough land to the east, fields around portal tomb site.

Mihanboy Co. Roscommon.

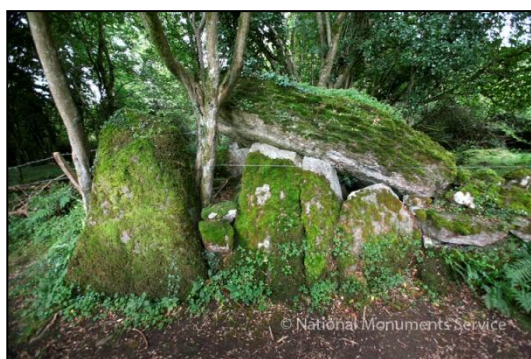
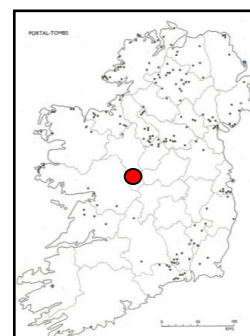
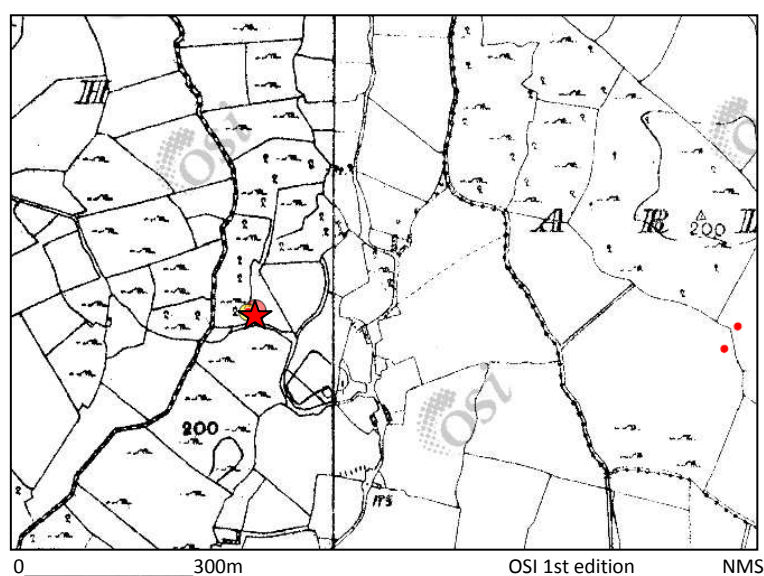


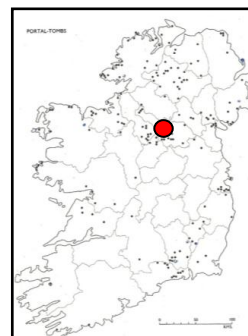
Image: National Monuments Service.



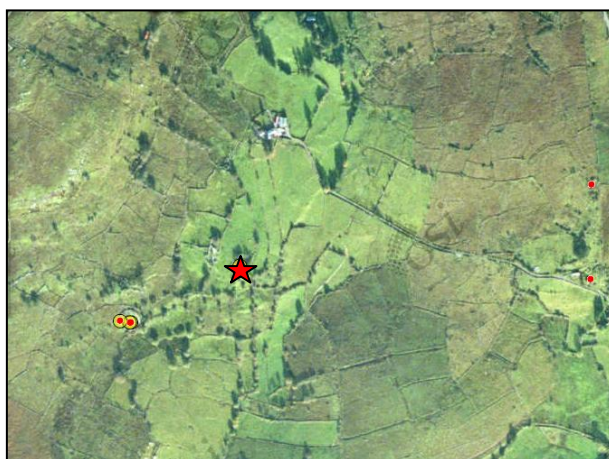
Mihanboy is described by de Valera & Ó Nualláin (1972) ‘*in bushy pasture with occasional outcropping rock*’. To-day the area is thickly wooded. The surrounding landscape is well-farmed, but the site may mark the boundary with infertile land, as illustrated in the historic map.



Moneygashel Co. Cavan.

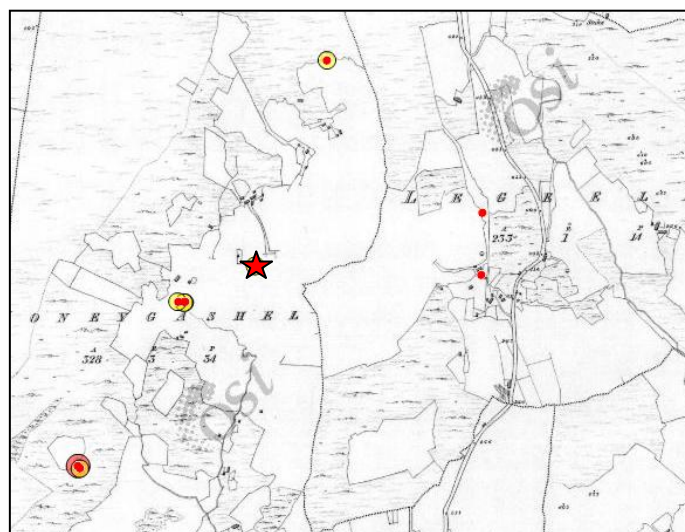


Moneygashel is a disturbed, slab built monument, ‘.. situated at the head of a long shallow valley. The hill bounding the valley at the west is rough mountain land with much outcropping .. the more gradual slope to the east provides good pasture land. The lower land in the valley is covered by a network of small fields’ (de Valera & Ó Nuallain 1972). These features are visible in the two maps below and the PT is situated at the left or west side of the valley.



0 250m

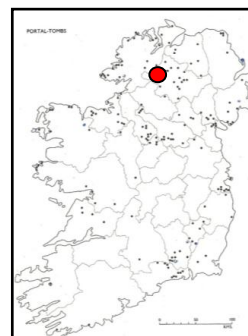
NMS



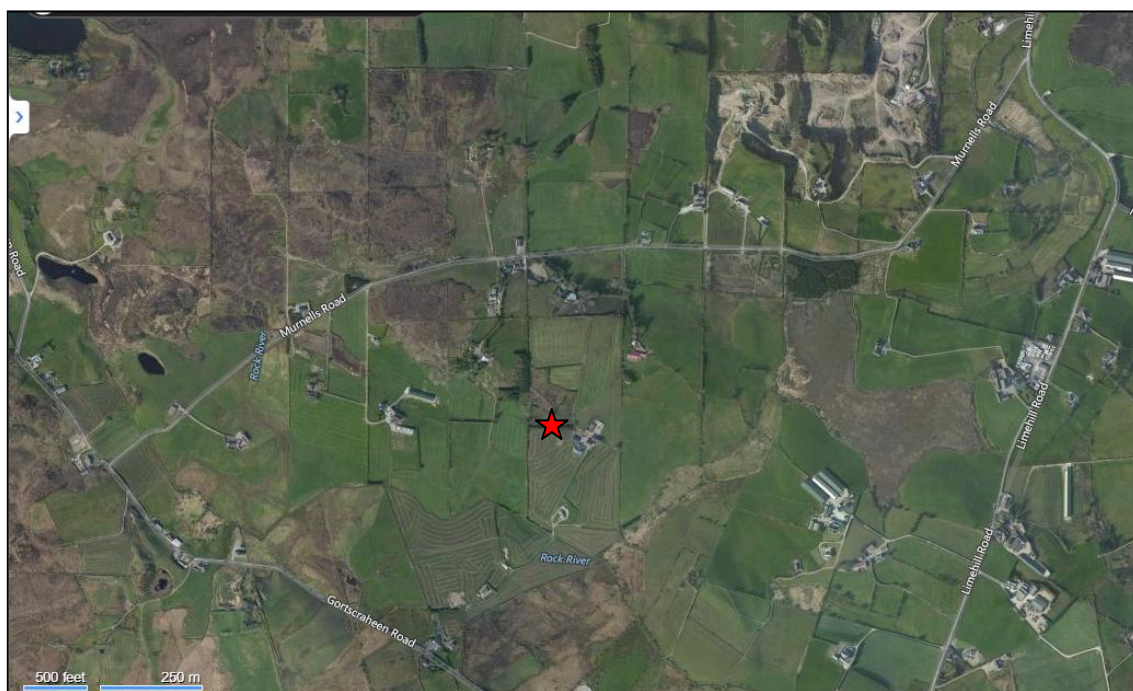
0 300m

OSI 1st edition NMS

Murnells Co. Tyrone.

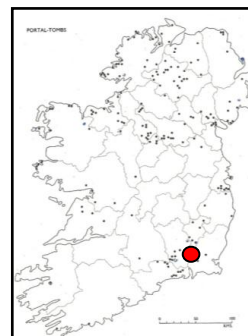


Murnells is situated in the Sperrin mountains at c. 250m OD. It is in an area of good, carefully farmed land, but is surrounded by areas of rough uncultivated land. The small patch of boggy ground on which the PT stands is at present being drained by the landowner in an effort to increase his pasture, but it is basically unfit for cultivation

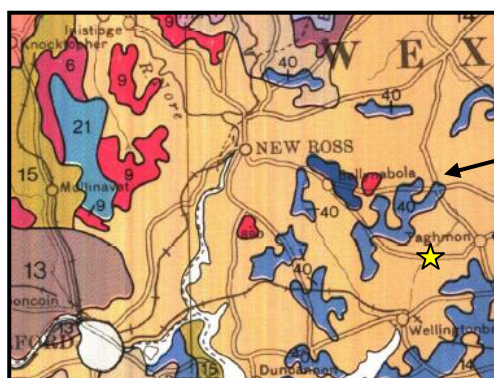


<https://www.bing.com/maps/>

Newbawn Co. Wexford.



Newbawn is an enormous, badly preserved portal tomb in fertile farmland in Co. Wexford. Large areas of uncultivated land are visible in the historic map below, although many have since been brought under cultivation due to modern farming methods. The PT is located at the boundary between farmed land with fields and rough, boggy areas, and between fertile acid brown earths and less fertile gley soils.

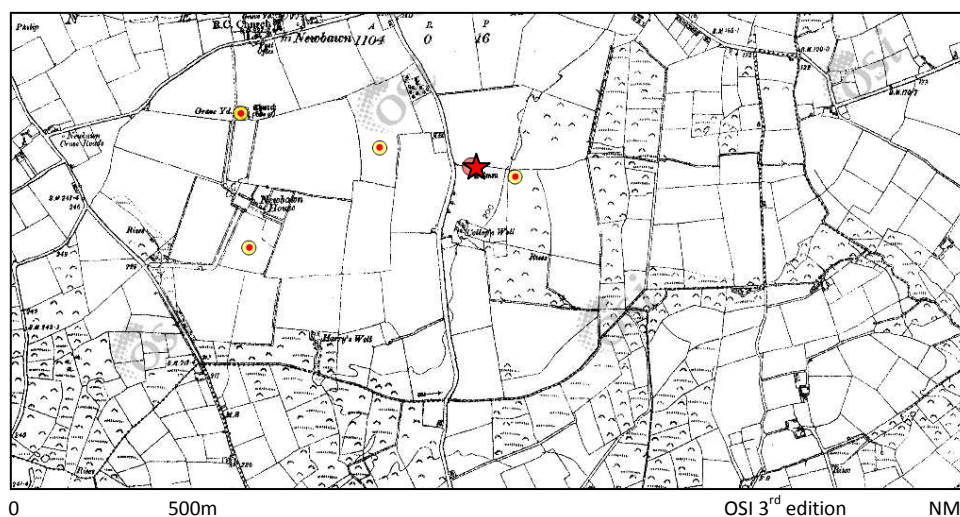


©Teagasc

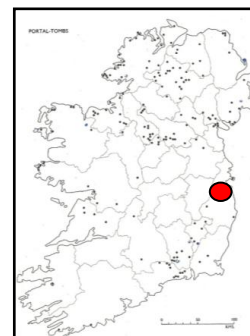
Soil types in the area.

14 – acid brown earths

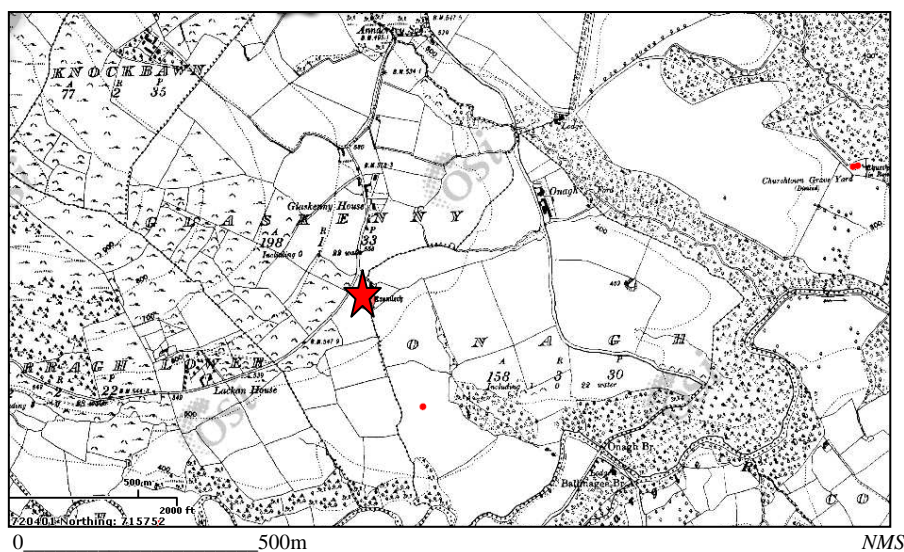
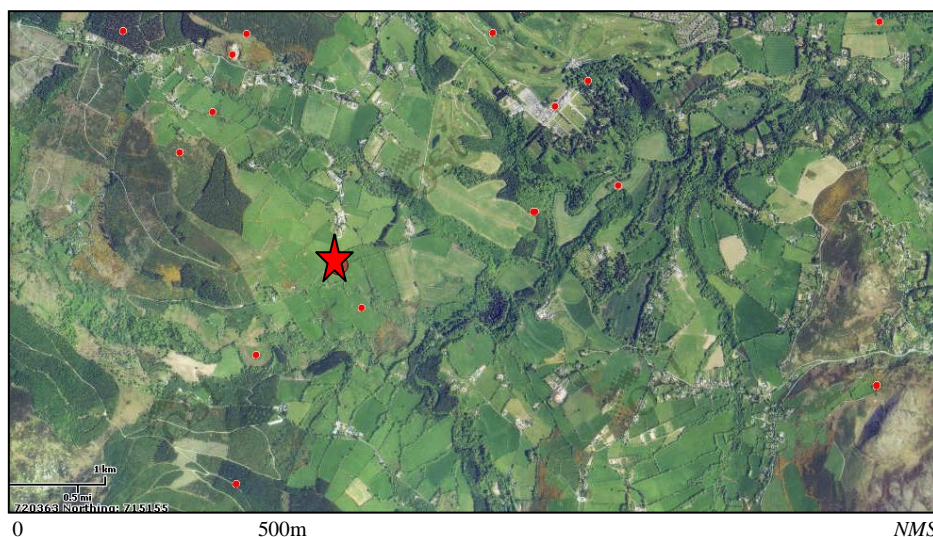
40 - gleys



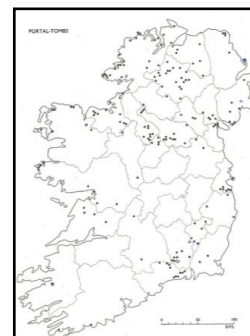
Onagh/Glaskenny Co. Wicklow.



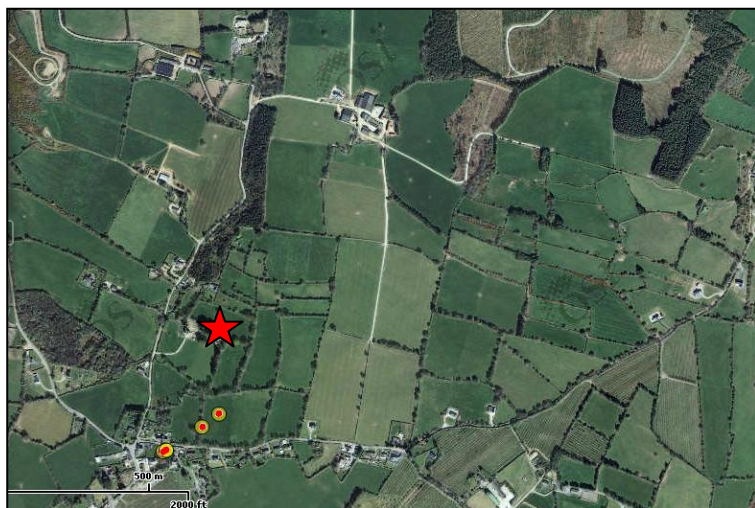
Glaskenny is a ruinous portal tomb in a hilly area of Co. Wicklow. ‘situated on the south east facing slopes of *Knockree Hill*’ (Archaeological Inventory of Co.Wicklow). The site is in farmland but the hillslope to the west is rough and uncultivated. Similar landuse is shown in the historic map.



Owning Co. Kilkenny.

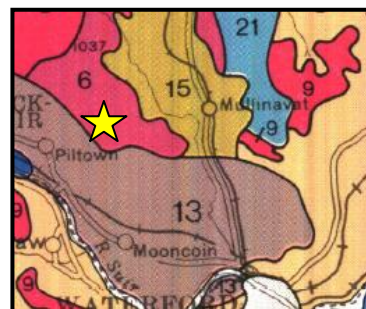


Owning is situated in prime agricultural land in Co. Kilkenny. The portal tomb is close to an area of rough land to the west, and the historic map shows a similar landuse. The soil in the area indicates that the site is on the boundary between fertile brown earths and less good brown podzolics.



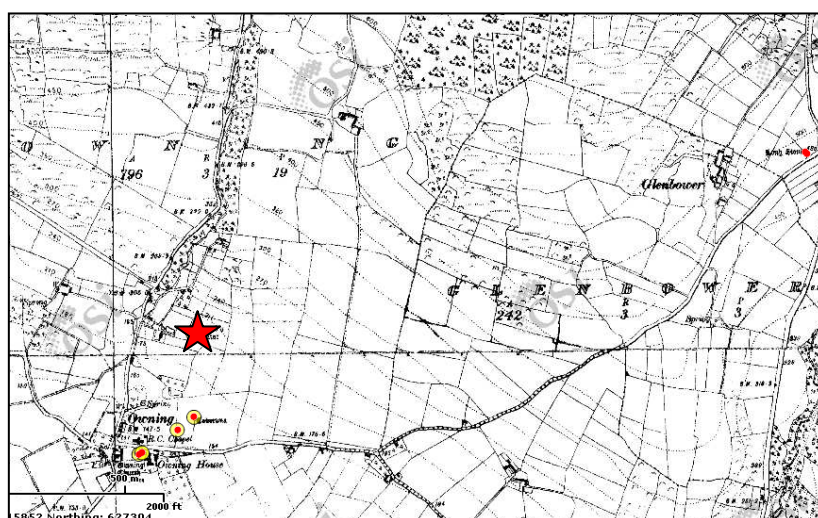
0 500m

NMS



©Teagasc

Soil profile.
6 – brown podzolics
13 brown earths.



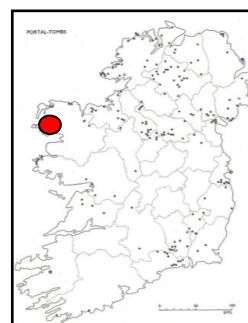
0 500m

National Monuments Service.

Prebaun Co. Mayo.



De Valera & Ó Nualláin 1964

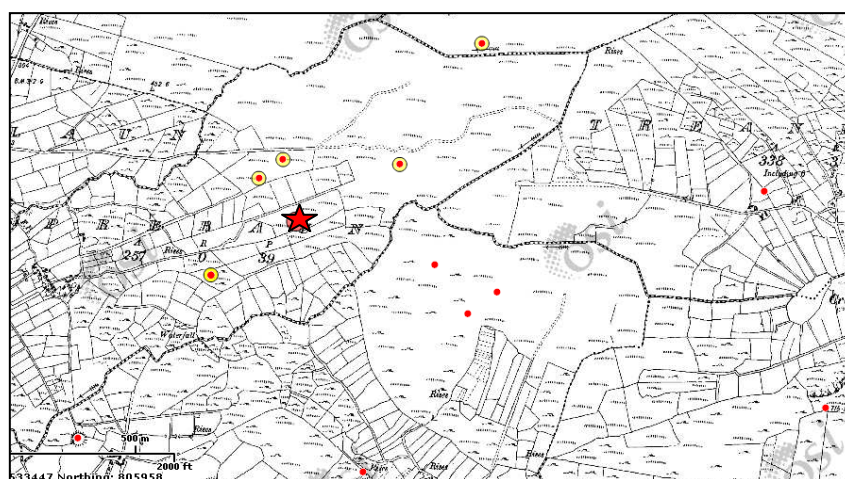


Prebaun is a very ruined portal tomb in a valley in a mountainous area of Co. Mayo. The land is generally of poor quality for farming, but the portal tomb is situated at the northern edge of a relatively fertile valley. The historic map indicates that farming was more widespread, due to historical and demographic factors, with a maze of tiny fields in places which would no longer be considered fit for agriculture, but there is still an indication that the PT is near the edge of cultivated land.



Scale: 0 300m

National Monument Service

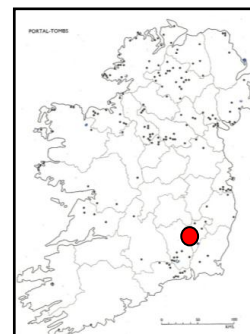


Scale: 0 300m

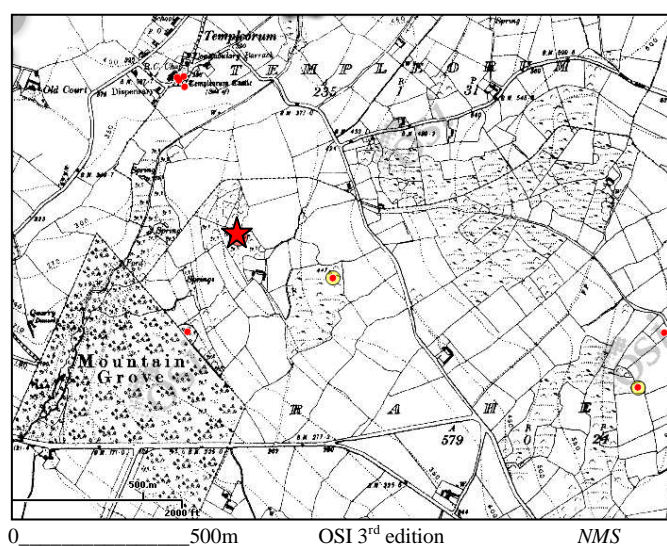
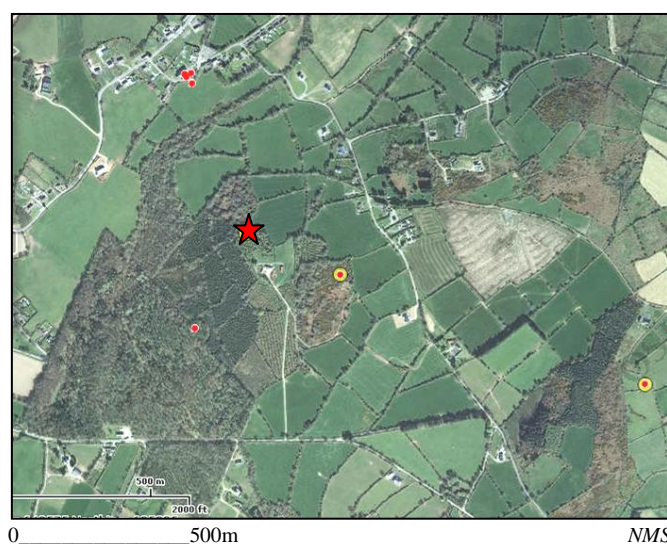
OSI 3rd edition

National Monument Service

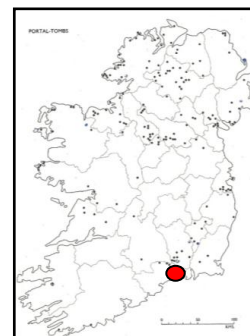
Raheen Co. Kilkenny.



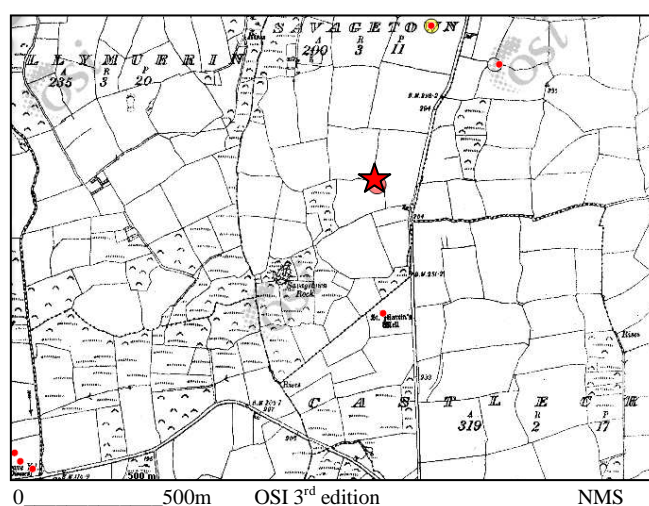
Raheen is situated in native woodland in the midst of good farmland in Co. Kilkenny. The same area is shown as wooded in the historic map, and there is a clear difference in landuse.



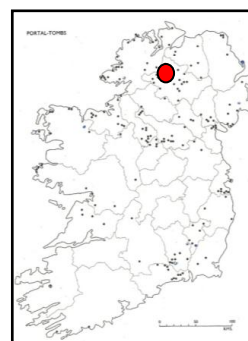
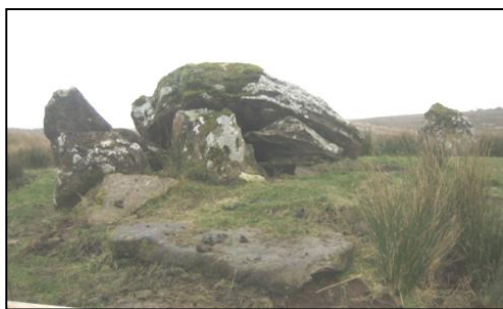
Savagetown Co. Waterford.



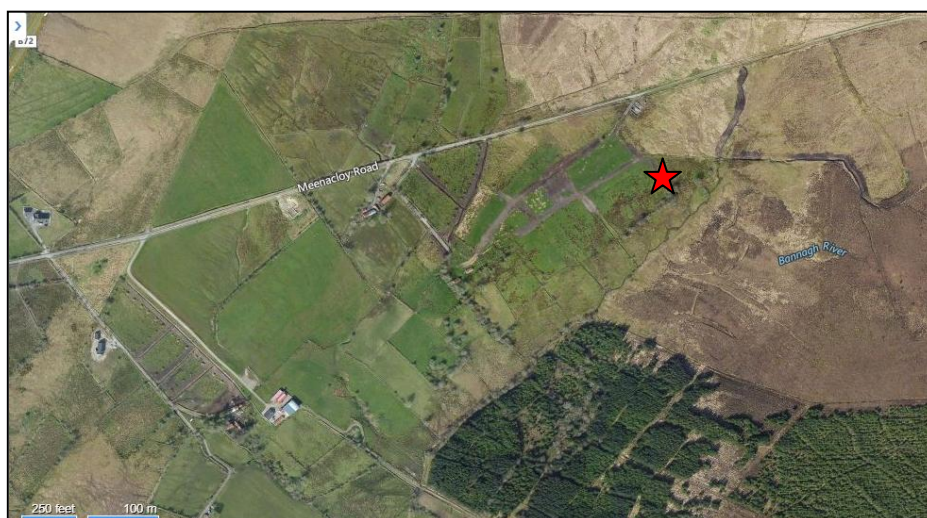
Savagetown is situated in good farmland in Co. Waterford but immediately to the west is an outcrop of rough, hilly land which is not farmed. A similar situation is shown in the historic map.



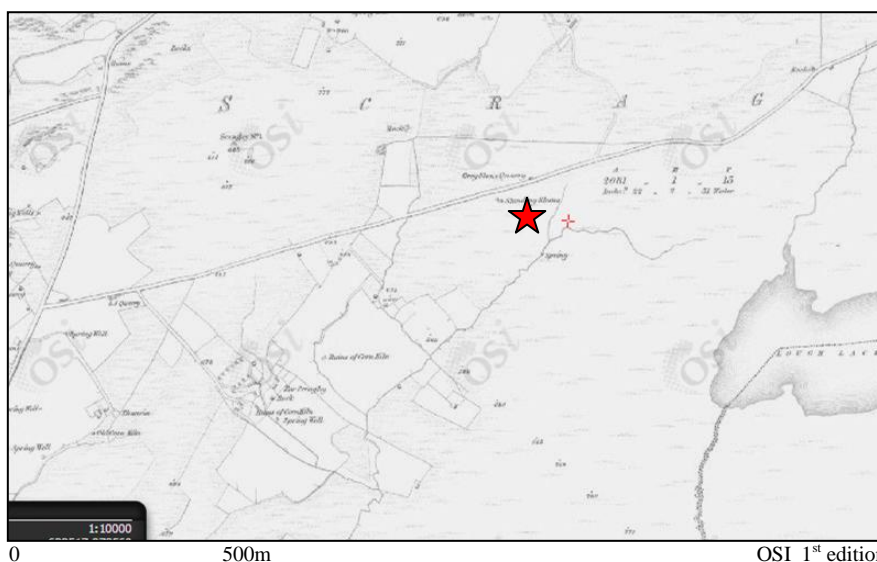
Scraghy Co. Tyrone.



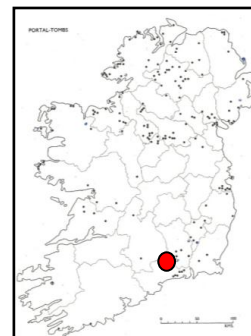
Scraghy is a large portal tomb with a standing stone behind it, situated in rough pasture at the edge of a valley. There is some pasture in the valley, at the edge of which is the PT, and the hillside above is barren and bare. Some fields are evident in the historic map.



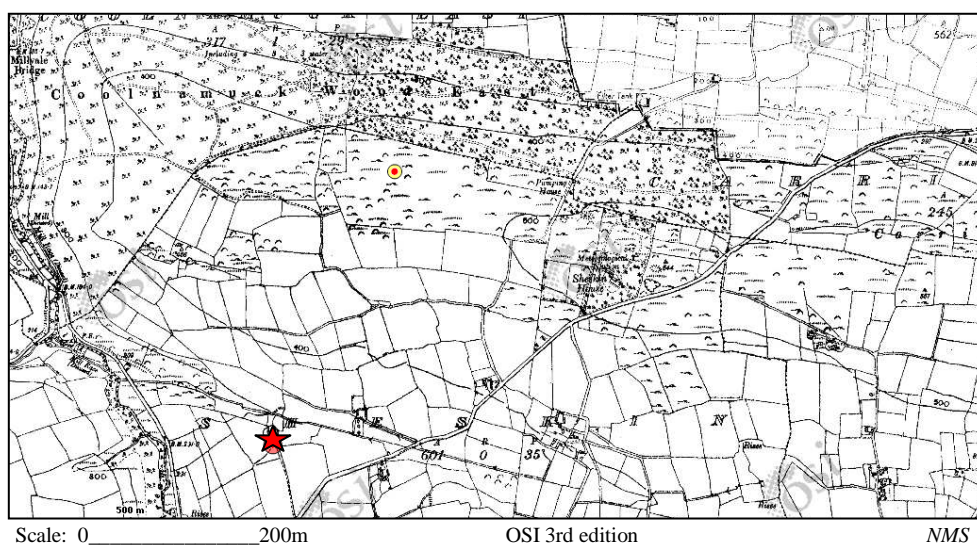
<http://www.worldmapfinder.com/BingMaps/EnEuropeIreland.html>.



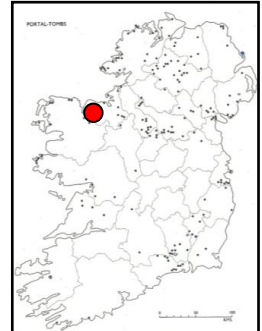
Sheskin Co. Waterford.



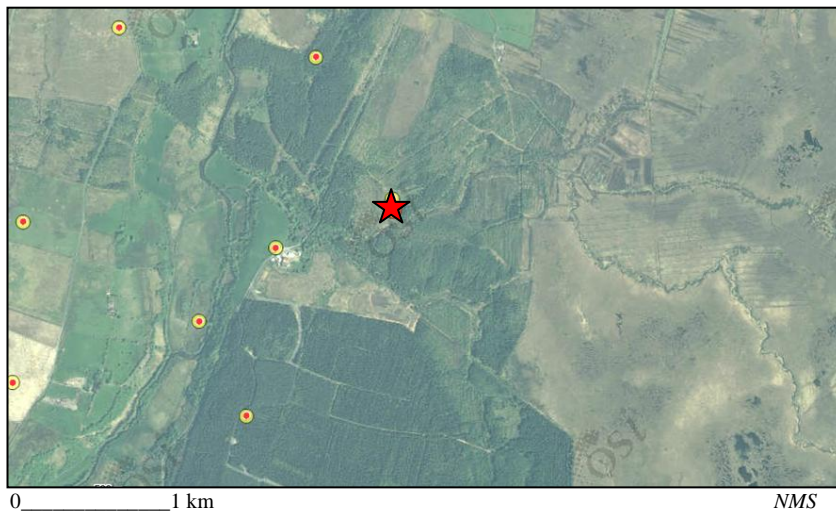
Sheskin is situated in exceptionally good pasture land in a gently sloping valley. To the north the nature of the terrain alters and the land is planted in forest. In the historic map this area is depicted as rough and uncultivated.



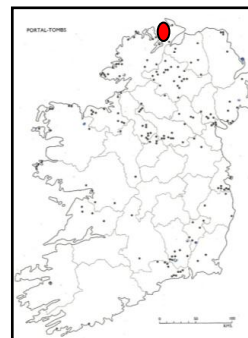
Tawnatruffaun Co. Sligo



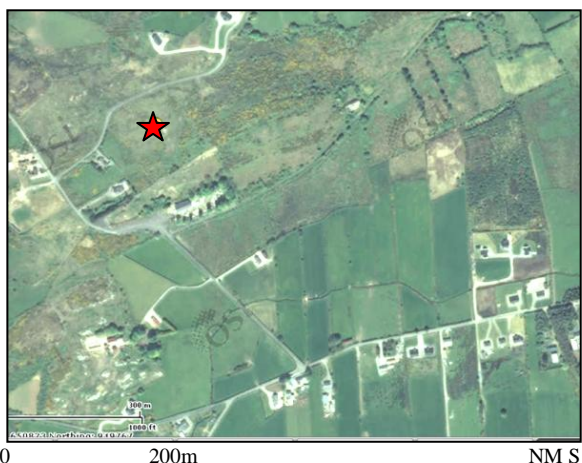
Tawnatruffaun is situated in rough bogland, at present undergoing extensive drainage. It is ‘*near the head of the valley of the Easky River*’ (Ó Nualláin 1989) and avoids the good farmland on the west side of the river. This is clearly illustrated in the historic map.



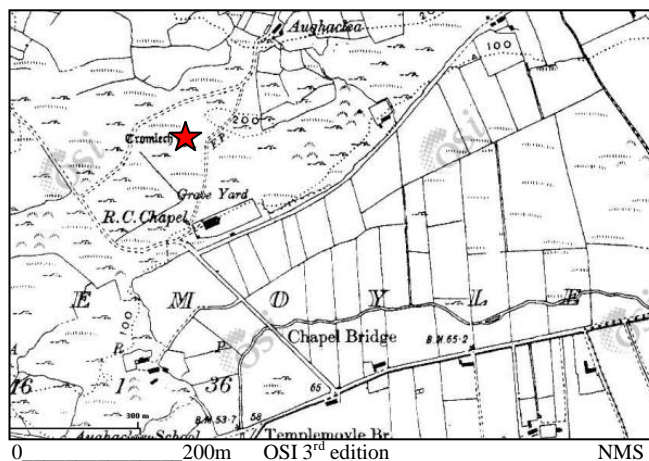
Templemoyle Co. Donegal.



Templemoyle is the most northerly PT in Ireland, in the north of the Malin peninsula. It is situated on a ridge of rough, rocky land 'towards the end of a boggy ridge broken by rocky outcrops ... a fall to lower ground to the south and east mainly devoted to pasture' (Cody 1992). This change in land use is illustrated in the satellite image, and is very evident in the historic map. The view from the site over the cultivated land is striking. The site is on the boundary between reasonably fertile brown podzolic soil and less fertile gleys.



PT on rocky, unfarmed land at the boundary with well-farmed.



PT (Cromlech) on ridge overlooking well-farmed land to the south east



View from the site looking south, towards well-farmed land with farmhouses.

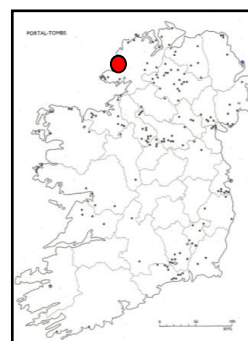


Soil types: 20 = brown podzolics
43 = gleys
(24 = blanket peat).

Tuaim Co. Donegal.



Tuaim – western portal tomb.

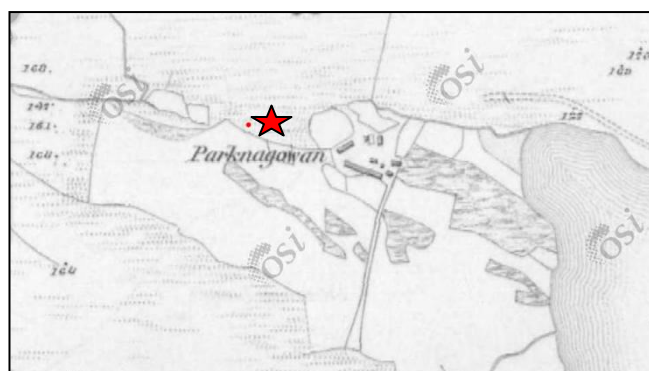


Tuaim is a double portal tomb, in an overgrown, wooded site, on the northern edge of a small well-farmed valley. To the north of the site the steep cliffy edge of a hill rises sharply. ‘... on a low ridge of rough pasture ... beyond which c.100m distant are the lower slopes of Trusklieve Hill, the bare rocky face of which overlooks the monument’ (Cody 2002). The PT appears to delineate the boundary between farmland and uncultivated hillside.



0 300m

NMS



0 100m

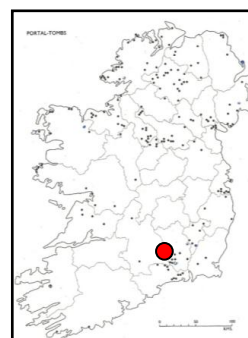
OSI 1st edition

NMS



View from PT northwards, from wooded, vegetated site to bare rocky hillside 100m to the north.

Whitestown East Co. Waterford.

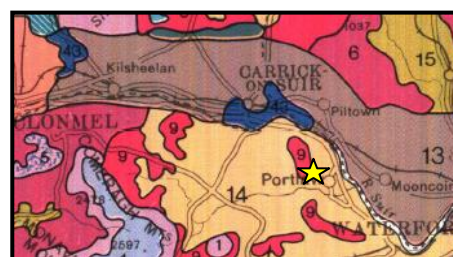


Whitestown East is a sadly neglected portal tomb in a hedge in prime agricultural land. To the east of the site is a large area of rough uncultivated land, much of which is now forested. The site is at the junction between 2 soil types – fertile brown earths and less fertile brown podzolics,



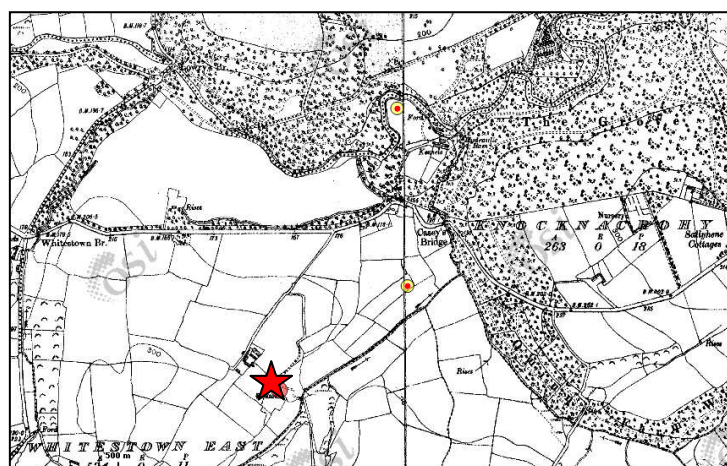
0 500m

NMS



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Soil in area:
14 – brown podzolics
9 – acid brown earths

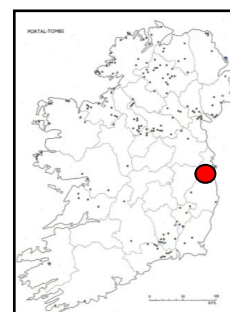


0 500m

OSI 3rd edition

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Woodtown (Mount Venus) Co. Dublin.



Woodtown is the remains of a vast portal tomb now concealed within a thick tangle of vegetation in smooth grassy parkland, recently a small golf course, now a dog and cat home. It must once have been farmland, before the city became so large. It is in the southern foothills of the Dublin Mountains and stands at the eastern edge of a small patch of rough, uncultivated land, clearly visible in the historic map.

