

## Archaeological Landscapes

The County has a richness of archaeological heritage with a number of very significant archaeological landscapes around the County. These landscapes are of Kerry, Regional, National and in some cases International significance (**KS, RS, NS & IS**) and every effort should be made to ensure their protection and preservation. The nineteen landscapes identified are described in detail in below. These important landscapes are listed for special protection with special emphasis on objectives that protect the monuments and their landscape settings but also their visual aspect and monument inter-visibility.

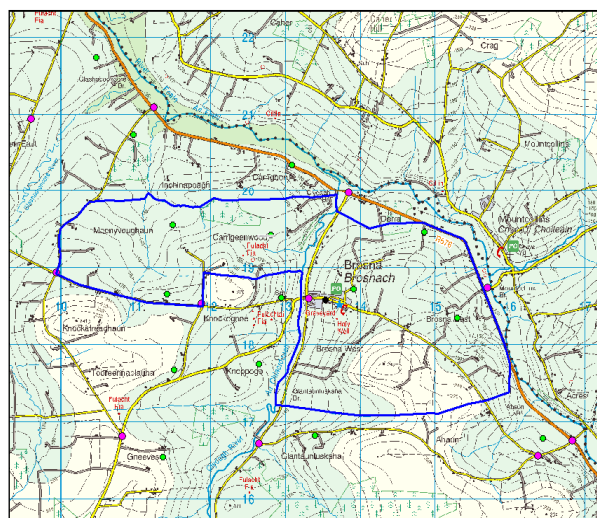
### 1. Tiduff/Glenderry (Kerry Head) (RS)

Promontory Forts, Hillfort/Hilltop Enclosure, Linear Earthwork (Red Ditch). The monuments located in this area are all indicative of a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age landscape at a time when tribal kingdoms and hierarchical societies were taking hold. The presence of a large linear earthwork and fortified enclosures suggests this area may have been at a boundary between two such territories.



### 2. Brosna West/Carrigeenwood/Meenyvoughaun (RS)

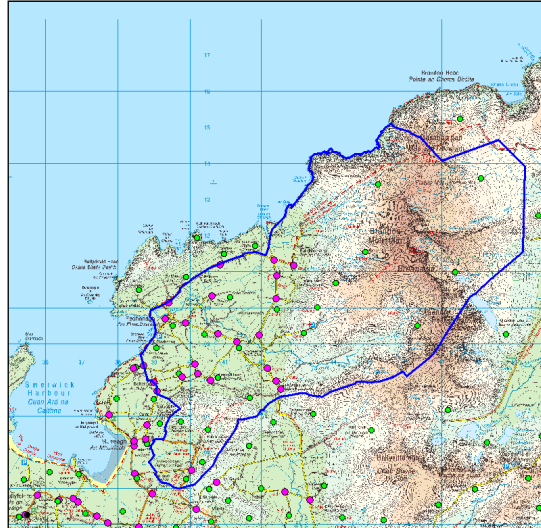
Largest ecclesiastical enclosure in the county, hengiform earthwork, large hilltop enclosure overlooking the Feale, fulachtaí fiadh, enclosures. Evidence suggest that this was an important landscape from prehistoric times into the medieval period, located as it is on the natural territorial boundary formed by the Feale. Evidence suggests activity from the Early Bronze Age to the Medieval period.





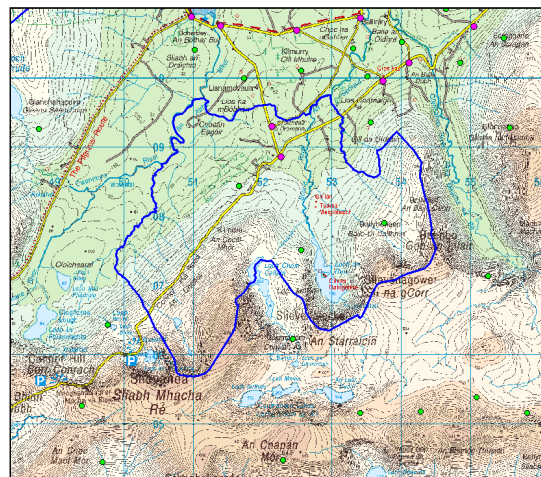
### 3. Mount Brandon & Area (IS)

This important archaeological area contains the highest hilltop fort in Ireland at Benagh in Faha townland on Mount Brandon (RMP Ke034 048 - Listed for Inclusion as part of World Heritage Site – Tentative List), approximately 130 recorded monuments (RMP) and 7 National Monuments, including Kilmalkedar Early Ecclesiastical complex. This area is also the location of Cosan na Naoimh the ancient pilgrimage route to the top of Mount Brandon which undoubtedly has prehistoric origins and is popular to the present day. The recently discovered spiral rock art motif (the only example in Ireland) is also located in this area at Currauly. These figures do not include up to 20 monuments found during a KCC/Heritage Council funded uplands study of the area and not shown on the Record of Monuments & Places. The uplands on this side of Mount Brandon are rich in archaeological remains, many of which probably remain to be recorded.



### 4. Lough Adoon/Kilmore/Ballyhoneen (NS)

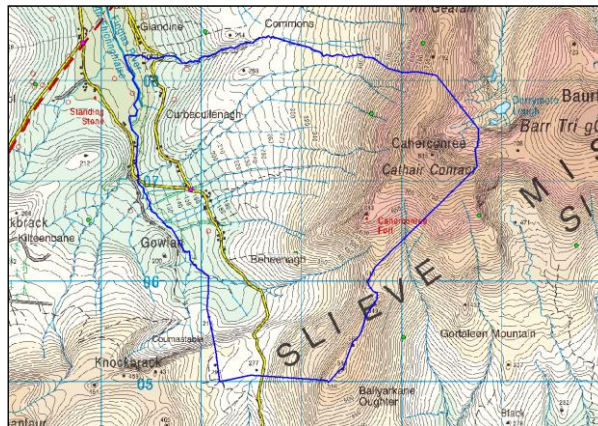
Hutsites, Enclosures, Rock Art, Standing Stones, Megalithic Tomb (Wedge), Field systems, Cairns etc. Extensive landscape indicating Early - Late Bronze Age and later activity. Enclosures, hutsites etc. embedded in extensive field systems survive giving a very complete picture of landscape organisation in prehistory.





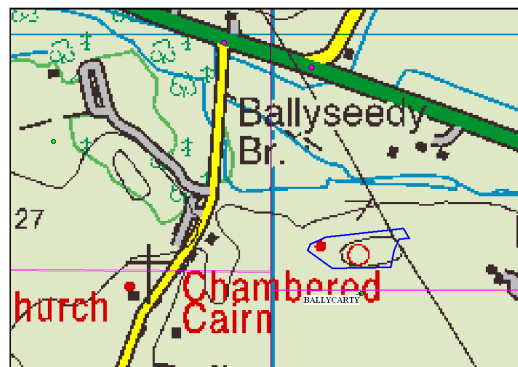
### 5. Caherconree/Beheenagh/Curraclenagh (NS)

The hilltop promontory fort at Caherconree is part of the same national listing for inclusion as a World Heritage site as the fort on Mount Brandon and Staigue. The fort has strong mythological and folklore associations with figures of Irish legend and was probably built in the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age as a citadel.



### 6. Ballycarty (NS)

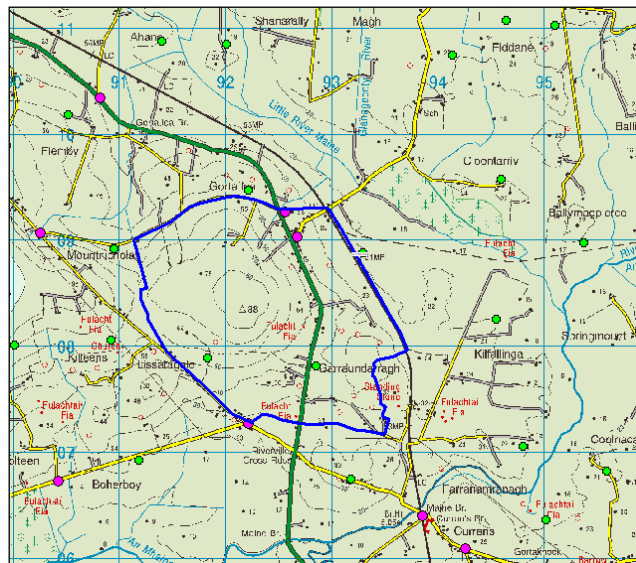
The location of the only recorded passage tomb in Kerry. There are a number of other probable tombs and a large hengiform enclosure located on this limestone reef which forms an important focus in the prehistory of the Lee Valley area.





### 7. Glanbane/Garraundarragh (RS)

Location of the largest recorded hillfort in the county as well as numerous other enclosures and fulachtaí fiadh. The hillfort at Glanbane is likely to have been a major tribal centre during the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age.



### 8. Coumeenoole North & South/Fahan/Glanfahan (NS)

This area of the Dingle peninsula has the highest density of monuments anywhere in the county with over 260 recorded monuments of which 6 are National Monuments. The monuments range in date from the probably late prehistoric promontory fort at Dunmore (National Monument) to Early and Late Medieval clochans, forts and enclosures. The area also includes the promontory fort at Dunbeg (National Monument) but it is the Early Medieval palimpsest landscape of clochans, enclosures and stone forts that give the area its importance.





**9. Bray, Valentia (RS)**

Medieval Houses, Corn Drying Kilns, Roads/Tracks, Cross Inscribed stones, Souterrains, Hut sites, Field systems. This area of Valentia Island is the location of an Early Medieval landscape including houses, outbuildings, field systems and track ways many preserved within the peat with more likely covered and as yet unrecorded.



**10. Teeromoyle/Gortnagulla/Caherlehillian/Coulagh (NS)**

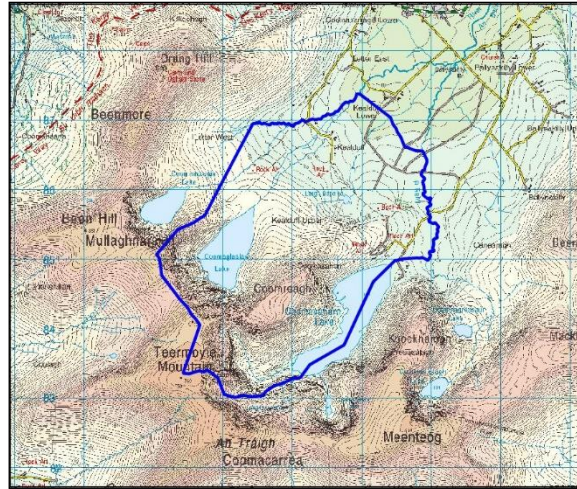
These townlands at the head of the Ferta River valley are in many respects part of the rock art landscape at Kealduff/Letter/Coosaharn adjoining to the north-east (No 12 below) and already protected in the Killorglin FALAP. Rock art, megalithic tombs, standing stones, megalithic structures, enclosures and hutsites, as well as the important, excavated early Christian site at Caherlehillian.





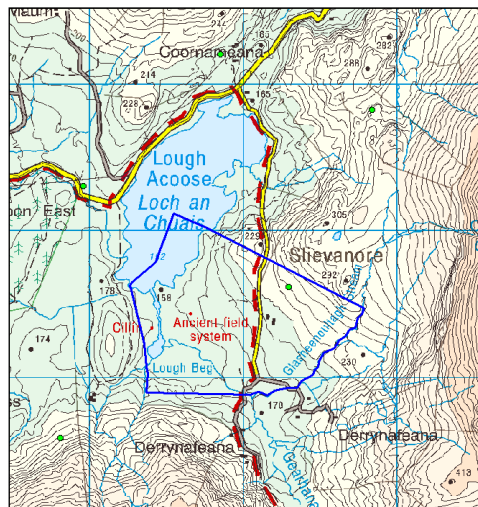
### 11. Kealduff Upper & Lower, Letter West and Coomasaharn (IS)

The largest concentration of rock art decorated stones in Ireland, this extensive and unspoilt Early Bronze Age landscape.



### 12. Derrynafeana (NS)

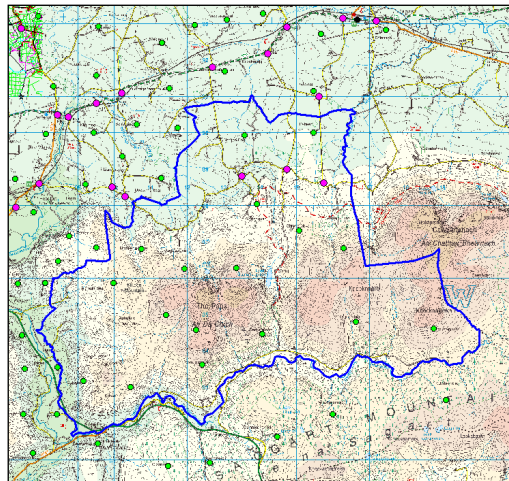
Pre-bog field systems with embedded fulachtaí fiadh, hutsites and enclosures indicative of a Bronze Age landscape buried within and beneath the overlying peat that still covers much of the area.





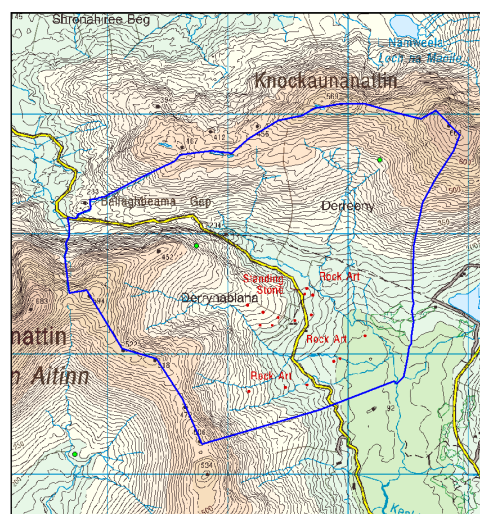
### 13. The Paps – Annaghbeg, Annaghmore, Doocarrig More, Gortacoreen, Gortderrig, Shrone More, Shrone Beg, Gortnagane, Raheen, Awnaskirtaun, Knocknabro, Knockagowan, Derrynafinnia, Derrymaclavode, Killeen, Carrigaveema & Coolcurtoga. (IS)

According to legend The Paps are the earthly manifestation of the breasts (Paps) of the Mother Goddess Anu and would have been venerated as such throughout prehistory. The cairns on the summits of the mountains are likely to contain small passage tombs, while other features on the summit are also likely of similar date. The slopes of the mountains and surrounding area are littered with hutsites, enclosures, megalithic structures, triple banked barrow etc. While the locally important Christian focus at 'The City' in Gortnagane is likely to be of prehistoric origin also given the name *Caher Crov Dearg* and the likely association with the triadic mother goddess in the form *Badb Catha* or Raven of Battle. These sacred mountains and their surrounding archaeological, mythological and historic landscape are still venerated, albeit in Christian guise, to this day.



### 14. Ballaghbeama/Dereeny (IS)

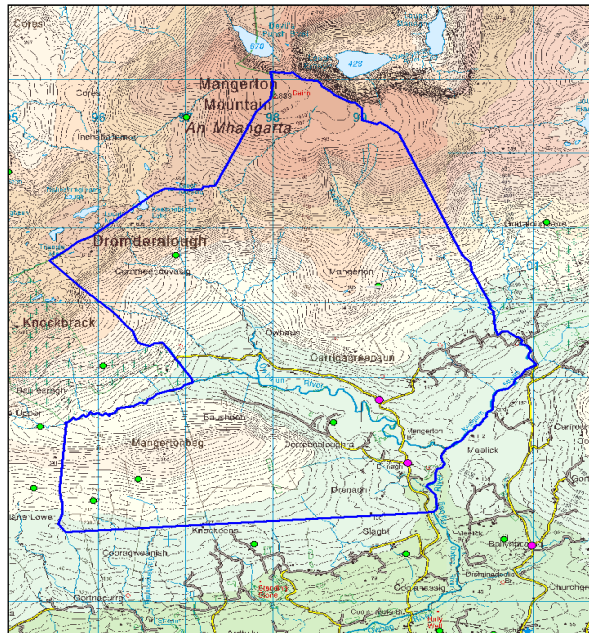
These uplands around Ballaghbeama Pass are the location of the second largest concentration of prehistoric rock art decorated surfaces in Ireland. As with the Coomsharn/Kealduff group this collection of decorated stones and outcrops is indicative of an Early Bronze Age landscape.





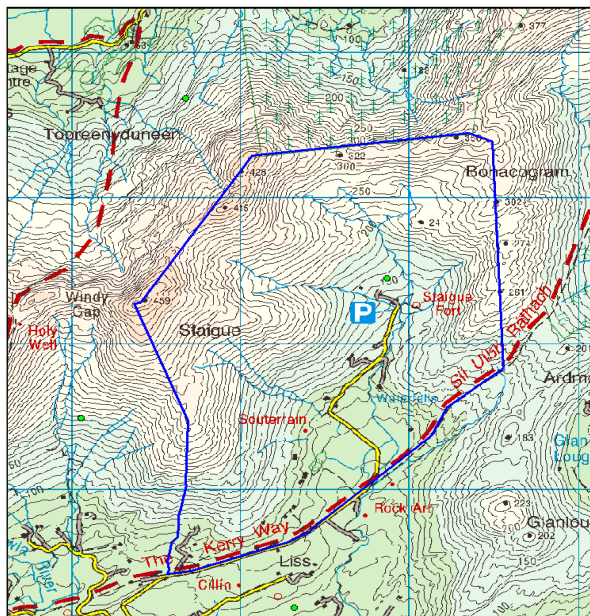
**15. Mangerton/Cumeenduvassig/Bausheen/Slaght/Knockeens (RS)**

Standing stones, hutsites, enclosures, cashels, ogham stone, field systems, fulachtaí fiadh, cairns and a radial stone cairn. Location on the southern facing slopes of Mangerton mountain of an extensive range of Bronze Age monuments with associated field systems and later monuments such as cashels, ringforts and enclosures.



**16. Staigue (NS)**

Location of Staigue fort, listed with Caherconree and Mount Brandon inland promontory forts as part of the Western Stone Forts proposed World Heritage Site.

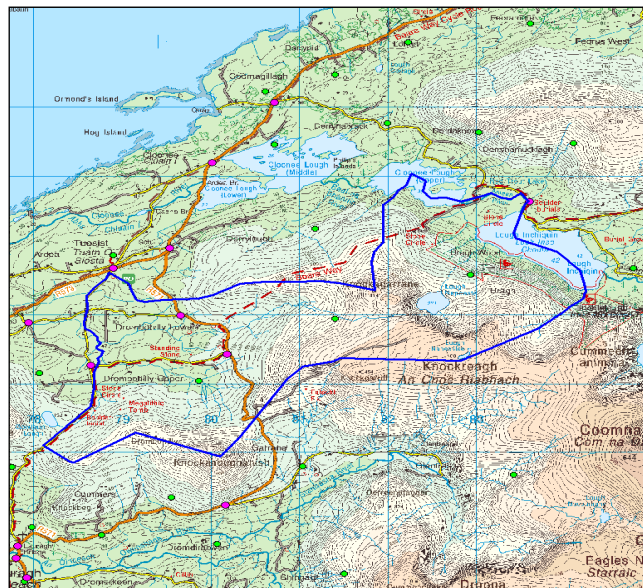






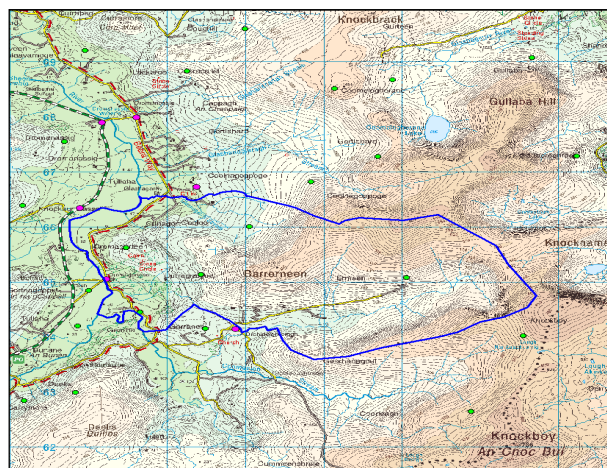
### 17. Drombohilly Upper and Lower/Urugh (NS)

Stone circles, boulder burials, standing stones, hutsites, enclosures, field systems, fulachtaí fiadh, cairns etc. Extensive upland evidence from activity across the Bronze Age from Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age wedge tombs to Late Bronze age stone circles.



### 18. Dromagorteen/Crinagort/Curragraigue/Erneen (NS)

Megalithic tombs, stone circles, boulder burial, standing stones, cairns, fulachtaí fiadh, extensive hut site complexes and field systems. Similar to Drombohilly/Urugh area, extensive evidence for activity from the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age to the Late Bronze Age.





## 19. Killaclohane/Brackhill (NS)

Location of three Early Neolithic portal tombs one of which is the earliest extant structure in the county and was excavated and conserved in 2015. These are the earliest recorded burial monuments in Kerry and date to around 3,800BC at a time when the hunter-gatherer lifestyle of the Mesolithic was being abandoned in favour of a sedentary, agricultural way of life. Excavation has shown the monuments were reused throughout prehistory and remained important landscape and cultural features well into the historic period.

