

R J Hunter Bursary 2021

Final report

Name Courtney Mundt

2a. Year awarded: 2021

2b. Title of project: Understanding and recording cillíní locations, folklore and oral history through community engagement in County Fermanagh (Summer 2021)

2c. Summary of project (Minimum 100 words): This project focused on surveying and recording the locations, folklore, and oral history of cillíní (children's burial grounds) across County Fermanagh. From 18 July to 1 August 2021, 26 potential cillíní were surveyed, and local people were spoken to about their local possible cillíní. Of the 26 possible cillíní surveyed, seven were confirmed to be cillíní, and two people agreed to fill out a questionnaire about these particular cillíní. Other locals contributed knowledge but did not agree to complete questionnaires. Fifteen other sites were located and found to be other types of burial grounds or ringforts, and four sites were not located at the time of this fieldwork.

2d. Date report was submitted: Oct 19, 2021

2e. Please provide at least one appropriate images



Above: Cloaghnamarve



Above: Knockmore



Derrylin



Friars graveyard

2f. Please outline the objectives of the project:

The research questions of this study were:

1. Does the local public in County Fermanagh still have a knowledge of cillíní?
2. If so, can they identify their locations and provide any folklore or oral history about them that is not currently recorded?

The aims of this study were:

1. To find unrecorded cillíní in County Fermanagh.
2. To record any local knowledge about these unrecorded cillíní.
3. To help the public learn and understand more about cillíní.

2g. Please describe the methodology used in conducting the research:

Potential sites were identified by analysing the Ordnance Survey (OS) maps, posting information calls in local newspapers and through Archaeology Ireland magazine for questionnaire volunteers, and information passed on by local historical societies. A site list was compiled, and a fieldwork schedule was created based on the locations of 26 sites. The schedule was based upon the locations of the cillíní, and at least two sites were visited per day. During the first week, sites on the western half of Fermanagh were visited and surveyed when possible, and willing locals were spoken to. During the second week, sites on the eastern half of Fermanagh were then visited and surveyed, and locals were spoken to. In total, 22 of the 26 sites were visited across the two weeks. After the fieldwork was completed, all notes were compiled into a report and a database for use in my doctoral thesis.

2h. Please outline the findings of your research and/or milestones achieved. (Please refer to the intended outcomes stated in your application form)

The outcomes of this research were that:

Research Questions

1. Yes, the local public do have knowledge of cillíní, but they are mainly elderly people or people who were informed of the sites by older people who had passed away.
2. Most of those with knowledge of cillíní were able to identify their locations and provide some oral history about them; however some were not able to inform me of where the cillíní as the individuals had never been shown the cillíní.

Research Aims

1. I was able to successfully record the location and information of three previously unrecorded cillíní, as well as confirm that four sites were cillíní but were not properly labelled within the Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record (NI SMR). I was also able to determine that the other 19 sites either were not cillíní, were not known as cillíní anymore, or that further research was needed to find and record the sites as potential cillíní sites.
2. I was able to record additional knowledge about all of the cillíní I was able to identify, as well as about the other sites that I visited that either were not cillíní or were no longer known of as cillíní.
3. By speaking to the Fermanagh locals during my fieldwork as well as corresponding with the historical societies before, during and after my fieldwork, I have been able to education them about cillíní and help them understand them better. It is hoped that these interactions will encourage the local public to come forward with information regarding cillíní locations and history in the future.

3a. Please provide details of the dissemination of the outcomes from this project (Publications, presentations, outreach, media etc) including details of any social media/web platforms used to publicise this project:

As of the time this report was completed, I have not yet disseminated the outcomes of this project in any publications, presentations, outreach, media, or web platforms. As for social media dissemination, the Queen's Archaeology Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/archaeologyatqueensbelfast/posts/2121936717945208>) has a post about the initial outcomes of my research; however, I am hoping to disseminate more of the project's outcomes in the near future via publications, presentations, outreach, media, and/or web platforms.

3b. Number of academic papers/articles published:

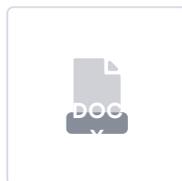
0

3c. Number of lectures given/outreach events involved in:

0

3d. Media coverage (articles in newspapers/ University websites etc.): **4**

3e. Please upload any relevant media coverage



[Mundt_Courtney_Media_Coverage.docx](#)

3f. How will you continue to communicate the results of your project?

I will continue to communicate my project results in presentations (university, historical societies, conferences), within my doctoral thesis (completed by 2023), and in future article publications.

3g. What are your publication plans?

I would like to publish the results of my doctoral research in a journal after it is completed, which would include the results of this project.

4b. Please tell us about any additional funding that you received from other government sources, Trusts, EU funding, or any other sources including the amount of the award:

Queen's University Belfast Jack Kerr Fieldwork Grant – 500 GBP/583.85 Euros

5c. How did the bursary enhance your professional development (e.g. in terms of specific opportunities, opportunities for enhancing skills, collaboration with others etc.)?

With this bursary, I have been able to finance part of my fieldwork project for my doctoral thesis. This has given me the opportunity to do personal fieldwork in County Fermanagh and to make contacts within the historical societies and local communities. This could lead to future research opportunities and collaborations with other researchers or historical societies.

5d. What plans (if any) do you have to further your proposal/project?

In the future, I would like to be able to continue to do similar fieldwork and community engagement in County Fermanagh and other counties across Ireland in order to find, record, and preserve as many cillini as possible before the knowledge of them is lost.