

# Derryvullan Church and Graveyard Fact Sheet



## Background

Overlooking Drumcullion Lough, the ruined church on Derryvullan hilltop is on the site of a medieval parish church dedicated to St. Tighearneach (Tierney) of Clones. There is little information regarding the foundation of the church here. By 1603 it is listed as a parish church. The site is designated “Church” on the 1835 OS map. The church was rebuilt in 1776 on the site with remains of the earlier church incorporated in the new building.



## Church Ruins

A carved stone head, with puffy cheeks, a double chin and wavy hair, from the earlier building, was built into the east gable wall of the church built in 1776. Remains of this building still stand in the graveyard. There is a number of interesting grave slabs in the churchyard. A cross-carved red sandstone slab, chipped and in poor condition, has been reset at the head of a modern grave. As noted in the Archaeological Survey, two other finds associated with the site can no longer be located. A finial stone from a 12th century church and a “hollowed” stone, likely a bullaun stone. Wakeman reported the stone as having been found in 1830 during drainage work at the nearby well. At Wakeman’s time the stone was kept in a cottage near the graveyard. It is one of many stones now lost.



## Holy Well

In the townland of Derryvullan, close to the east shore of Tamlaght Bay is St. Patrick’s well, one of the saint’s traditional sites of baptism, and still associated with cures. No trace remains of the holy well at Derryvullan, designated “St. Patrick’s Well” on the 1908 OS map.





# LOUGH ERNE — PILGRIM WAY —



Lough Erne is home to many religious sites, places of gathering, learning, worship, and burial. Today, we can trace these places along the lough as they quietly sit as timely reminders of a once thriving early Christian community.