

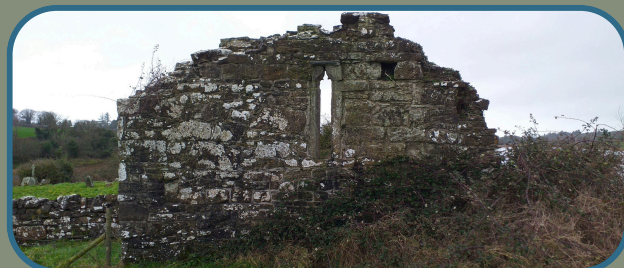
# Keenaghan Abbey, Tievealough Church and Graveyard

## Fact Sheet



### Background

Little is known about the site here on the shore of Keenaghan Lough at Tievealough. It is sited in a little valley, close to the shore south of the lough. Keenaghan sits in the wider landscape of north-west Fermanagh along with Boa Island's Caldragh graveyard and its renowned stone figures.



### Site Designation

The site is designated as an "Abbey in ruins" on the 1st and 2nd OS maps. Lowry-Corry notes that the building was out of use by the 1609-10 Baronial maps. It is recorded in the 1835 Memoir as "an old abbey or chapel." Tradition has it that there was formerly a road or a pass called the "Friar's Walk" from the abbey to the River Erne. It has been described as Franciscan in foundation, but without much evidence. As Rogers suggests there is an alternative view that this medieval church did not belong to the Austin friars but was a small house of Augustinian Canons subject to Ballyshannon's great monastery at Assaroe.



### Discoveries

A medieval grotesque stone head found on the shore at Keenaghan, near Tievealough church is on display on Lakelands Gallery 2. The stone head has round bulbous eyes, a wide open mouth and a beard of closely spaced incised lines. At the back of the head is an annular 'collar', half of it shown as a rope moulding, the other half plain, perhaps defaced. After the water level of Keenaghan Lough had been lowered in 1971 this head was found in the lake close to the south-east shore. This is immediately north of the ruined medieval church of Tievealough. It is likely that the stone was a medieval mask stop or part of the corbel from the church.





St Patrick's  
Purgatory,  
Lough Derg

# LOUGH ERNE — PILGRIM WAY —



Kenagh

Caldrough

White Island

Davy's Island

Killadeas



Inishmaean

Devenish Island

Old Rossory

Cleenish

Derryvullan

Balleisk

Aghalurcher

Galloon

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.

