

F1

FEATURE

Cashel

The boundary wall of this cemetery was once the enclosing drystone wall of a type of early medieval farmstead known as a cashel. The northwestern quadrant of the wall, overlain by a modern field boundary, is shared with the racecourse.

Reference: GA-BABT
GPS: 53° 17' 45.5712" N, 8° 59' 30.6672" W



F2

FEATURE

Childrens Burial Ground

Many children's burial grounds named on the OS maps are based in a ringfort or cashel rather than associated with a formal church site. These medieval farmsteads clearly held social significance in early modern Ireland.

Reference: GA-BABT
GPS: 53° 17' 45.5712" N, 8° 59' 30.6672" W



12

CROSS

Mary King - 1995

This is an interesting example of a modern limestone Celtic cross. The shaft and ring of the cross are decorated with several pieces of interlace set within panels. The IHS monograph is also treated as a piece of interlace.

Reference: GA-BABT-0012
GPS: 53° 17' 45.8916" N, 8° 59' 31.3404" W



23

KERBED GRAVE

Traynor

Five of the memorials in Ballybrit are marked by a concrete or stone kerb delineating the area of the grave plot. The family name Traynor (GA-BAPT-0023) and Coyne (GA-BAPT-0053) are carved on two of the kerbs.

Reference: GA-BAPT-0023
GPS: 53° 17' 45.3696" N, 8° 59' 31.5384" W



54

CROSS

Máirín Ní Doimnallain - 1944

There is only one epitaph written in Gaelic script in Ballybrit cemetery. A limestone Celtic cross commemorates Máirín Ní Doimnallain who died in 1944 at just 20 years old. His mother Rós, and father Tomás, who died in the 1960s, are also commemorated.

Reference: GA-BAPT-0053
GPS: 53° 17' 45.4704" N, 8° 59' 30.8616" W



Ballybrit | Reilig Bhaile an Bhriota

The cemetery in Ballybrit is located on the eastern edge of Galway racecourse. The site is marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (1839) as graveyard located within a circular enclosure. This enclosure was originally a cashel (GA082-011) - an early medieval enclosed farmstead - measuring approximately 35 m in diameter and enclosed by a sturdy drystone wall. Cashel sites can be dated to the second half of the first millennium AD, they are broadly contemporary with ringforts in early medieval Ireland. They typically show evidence for domestic and agricultural activity and some limited craftwork - typically metal/ironworking.

A souterrain (GA-082-011001-) is marked on the 3rd edition of the Ordnance Survey map (1947) in the interior of this cashel. Souterrains are associated with many ringfort and cashel sites. These are underground structures, some simply earthcut and others lined with stone. They can be either simple or complex in form, ranging from a short length of passage leading to a single chamber to a labyrinthine arrangement of passages and chambers. It is likely that the majority of souterrains were built as refuges but would also have served as ad hoc storage facilities for food reserves or goods not in regular use. By the early modern period Ballybrit was being used as a children's burial ground (GA082-011002-). It is annotated as 'Lisheen Graveyard' on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map and 'Infants Burial Ground' on the 25 inch Ordnance Survey map (1888-1913). The word Lisheen became synonymous with ringforts and cashels in early modern Ireland because so many of these sites were associated with children's burial grounds. Lisheen comes from 'lis' meaning fort and 'een' referring to children.

There are 82 early modern grave memorials in Ballybrit commemorating a total of 188 names. The earliest recorded dates are from the first quarter of the 20th century but the majority of them date to the second half of the 20th century. The surnames Burke, Corcoran, Coyne, Grealish, King and Molloy occur most frequently on the memorial stones.

Dr. Jim Higgins, Heritage Officer, Galway City Council.

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Published by Galway City Council



Reilig Bhaile an Bhriota

Ballybrit Cemetery

GALWAY RACECOURSE

GALWAY TECHNOLOGY PARK

GALWAY CITY



Eolas | Information

As part of Galway City Council's policy of making information on heritage freely available, a summary brochure like this one is being prepared for each of Galway City's 28 areas. These are being printed along with a map as a guide for those who visit our graveyards. The monuments on the maps are numbered and are linked to the historicgraves.com and galwaycity.ie websites. This allows anyone anywhere to research their ancestry and kinship in the Galway area without charge. Copies of the following 16 leaflets; Ballybrit, Bushypark, Castlegar, Castelawn, Convent of Mercy Forster St. and Francis St., Franciscan Abbey, Forthill, Menlo, Old Ragoon, Poor Clare Monastery, Roscam, St Mary's Dominican, St Patrick's, Salthill Upper and United Methodist Presbyterian are available from the Heritage Office, City Hall, College Rd, Galway (Tel: 091 536547/536516) and from city library branches free of charge.

Key	Headstone	Kerbed Grave	Cross or Pedestal	Ledger or Chest tomb	Vault or Mausoleum
	29	34	08	56	50