

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1981

THE REGISTERED BUILDINGS (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1982

TO: The Vicar and Wardens of Lonan,
"Begra",
Clayhead Road,
Baldrine,
Isle of Man.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at a meeting held on the 15th day of July, 1983, the **PLANNING COMMITTEE** of the Isle of Man Local Government Board in pursuance of its powers under the Above Act and Regulations **REGISTERED** the former Parish Church known as Old Kirk Lonan, or St. Adamnan's, situate off the Ballamenagh Road in the Parish of Lonan, in the **PROTECTED BUILDINGS REGISTER**, by reason of its architectural or historic interest.

THE EFFECT OF THIS REGISTRATION IS IMMEDIATE and prohibits the alteration or demolition of the structure or appearance of any part of the building(s) except in compliance with an obligation imposed by or under any statutory provision or with the prior written consent of the Planning Committee.

Public Notice of this Registration will be published on the 29th July, 1983.

This twenty-first day of July, 1983.

By Order of the Committee

J. F. Kissack, Secretary.

Government Offices,
Bucks Road,
Douglas, Isle of Man.

NOTE

Rights of Review and Appeal against this Registration are provided under the Regulations and summarised overleaf.

A copy of Schedule 2 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1981 is appended hereto.

Registry Entry Summary – St Adamnan’s, Old Kirk Lonan

Details

Name: St Adamnan’s, Old Kirk Lonan

Address: Ballamenagh Road, Baldrine, Garff (Lonan)

Register Entry Number: 13

Date of Registration: 21.7.1983

History

The site of Old Kirk Lonan is an ancient place of worship; the first keeill was built in the middle of the 5th century AD and the nearby Holy Well is thought to have been a centre of pagan worship since pre-historic times. The chapel was originally known as ‘Keeill-ny-Traie’, translating as the chapel by the shore. In addition to the well providing running water, the site benefitted from being on the main pack horse road up the island’s east coast and being close to two good landing beaches.

The site is the subject of the island’s earliest recorded law suit in 1188. Reginald King of Mann confirmed a grant of land called ‘Escadalla’, which included Keeill-ny-Traie, to the Prior of St Bees in Cumberland. It is thought that the western portion of the current building was rebuilt by the monks of St Bees following this ruling.

Once the parish system was implemented in the late 13th century, Keeill-ny-Traie was dedicated to St Adamnan and became Lonan Parish Church. In 1733 parishioners petitioned Bishop Wilson requesting a new Parish Church in a more central location. The Act of Tynwald permitting the erection of the new church (All Saints’, Lonan) also ordered the destruction of St Adamnan’s. This order was not carried out, and the church fell in to disrepair.

In 1895 the newly appointed Vicar of Lonan, Reverend John Quine, set about restoring the old church. Canon Quine is also credited with discovering the remains of the nearby well and cross. Much of the internal fabric in the eastern portion of the church (the roofed portion) dates from 1895-1897.

The church is still used for occasional services, and the grounds are the home of a small cross-house containing a collection of ancient crosses.

Form and Materials

The building has two distinct sections. The western and eastern sections are two separate buildings, with no bond between the walls until about 1m above ground. Both portions have a simple rectangular plan form, with no internal subdivision.

The unroofed western section is thought to have elements dating from the 12th century. Walls are constructed of irregularly laid field and beach stone, with one section where cut stone has been used and laid in an alternating broad and narrow arrangement. The sandstone lintels are likely to have been sourced from the west of the island, or from St Bees. The blocked up doorway in the North wall may have been the entrance when the building’s floor was at a lower level. There is a small hole in the South wall adjacent to the arched opening known as the ‘Lepper Slant’, apparently used by beggars to see the Mass and have such alms as were given pushed through.

The eastern portion of the building was restored by Canon John Quine between 1895 and 1897. The North window was re-opened during this restoration, and the method of construction is unusual as the arch has no keystone, being entirely composed of small stones on edge. The stained glass in this window was designed by the Canon and dates from the time of restoration. The stained glass chancel window also dates from this period, having been donated by Thomas and Anne Clague of Ballavarance Farm nearby.

The restored eastern portion has a rendered western gable, including bellcote – otherwise the external walls are exposed stone. The roof is constructed of timber, trusses exposed internally, and finished in Cambrian slate. The entrance door is a painted timber double door.

Reasons for Registration

St Adamnan's, Lonan Old Church, is included in the Protected Buildings Register for the following reasons:

ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST:

- Former Parish Church; western portion dating from 12th century and eastern portion restored in 1890s, with architectural fabric and detailing dating from both periods.

HISTORIC INTEREST:

- Former Parish Church with portions dating from 12th century, illustrating important aspects of the nation's religious history, and the social and cultural history of Lonan Parish (now part of Garff).

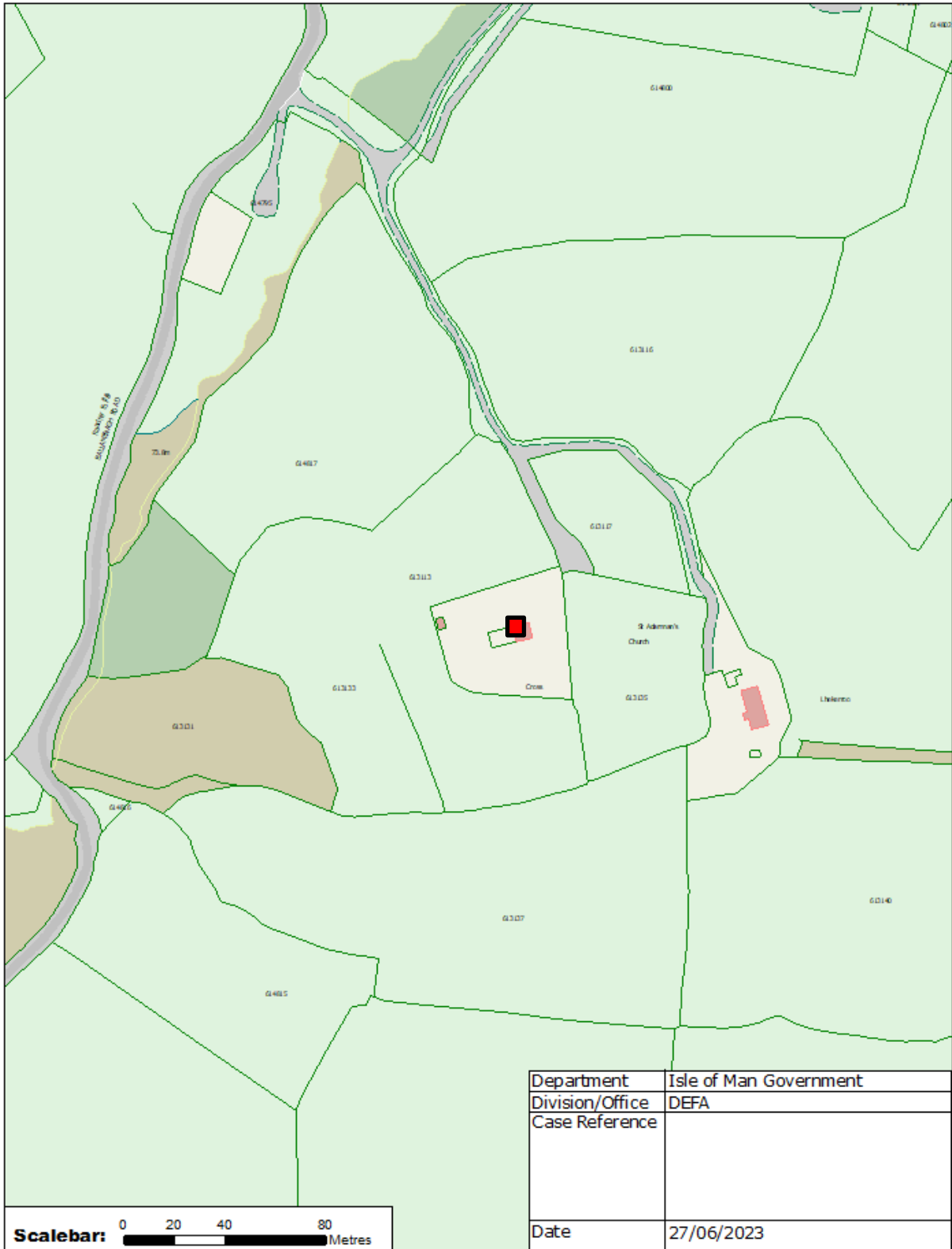
Photographs circa date of registration



Photographs taken June 2021







Scalebar: 0 20 40 80 Metres

Scale: 1:2,000

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