

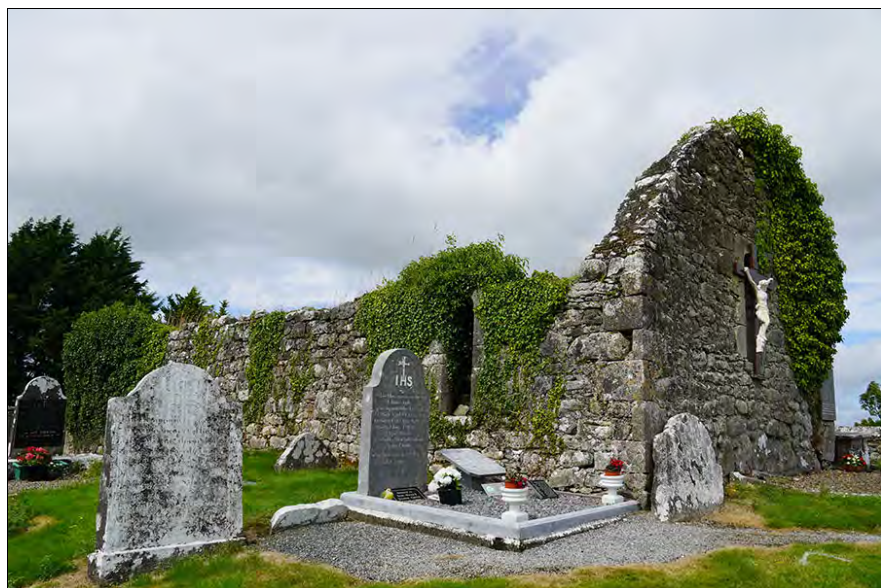
CMF Reference Code: CMF24-2-GA001

ITM: 553024/715922

SMR Nos: Church (GA074-058----) and Graveyard (GA074-058001-).

ÆGIS Ref.: 64-20

## Conservation Management Plan for St Grellan's Church and Graveyard, Kilcloony townland, Co. Galway.



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**Report Status:** Draft

**Date:** 18 October 2024

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**This report has been presented by ÆGIS to:** Client— Galway County Council

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**Please note...** That the archaeological and other recommendations, mitigation proposals and methodology followed in this report are similar to those used on previous similar projects. The report follows most recent best practice in the compilation of Conservation and Management Plans and references are listed in section 8.

Any possible future intrusive works to the monument may require licences and other permissions.

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Christy Cunniffe-advice on graves and architectural fragments, phasing etc.

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**Cover Image** View of church, from SE.

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# I. Executive Summary

This report is a conservation management plan and statement of heritage significance for St Grellan's Church and Graveyard, an example of a medieval parish church, with several important elements adding to its regional significance. A record of the upstanding remains and a condition survey was carried out as part of this report, and a detailed inventory of the features and issues compiled. It was found that the east gable is in very poor condition. This report sets out a plan of action to prevent further deterioration of the structure.



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### III. Abbreviations and Terms Used

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| ASI                         | Archaeological Survey of Ireland, a division of the DHLGH.   |
| Barony, Parish,<br>Townland | These terms refer to land divisions in Ireland. The barony is the largest land division in a county, which is formed from a number of parishes. These parishes are in turn made up of several townlands, which are the smallest land division in the country. The origins of these divisions are believed to be in the Early Medieval/Christian period (AD500-AD1000), or may date earlier in the Iron Age (500BC-AD500).  |
| CMP                         | Conservation and Management Plan.  |
| DHLGH                       | Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.  |
| E                           | East.  |
| F                           | Feature.   |
| First Edition               | This relates to editions of the OS 6-inch maps for each county. The first edition map completed for the area dates to the early 1840s and this is referred to in the text as the 'First Edition'.  |
| HEV                         | Historic Environment Viewer available at <a href="https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/">https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/</a> or through links on <a href="https://archaeology.ie/">https://archaeology.ie/</a> .   |
| KCC                         | Galway County Council.   |
| Km                          | Kilometre(s).  |
| M                           | Metres, all dimensions are given in metres or part of a metre, unless otherwise stated.  |
| Monitoring                  | Archaeological Monitoring refers to the requirement to have an archaeologist(s) on site during the earth moving/construction works to undertake a watching brief in case archaeological material is revealed.  |
| N                           | North.   |
| NGR                         | National Grid Reference.   |
| NIAH                        | National Inventory of Architectural Heritage, see <a href="http://www.buildingsofireland.ie">www.buildingsofireland.ie</a> .   |
| NMI                         | National Museum of Ireland.  |
| NMS                         | National Monuments Service. Regulatory body with responsibility for archaeological heritage. A division of the DHLGH.  |
| NPM                         | Natural parent material (subsoil).   |
| OD                          | Ordnance Datum (height above sea level).   |
| OS                          | Ordnance Survey.   |
| OSI                         | Ordnance Survey of Ireland.  |
| Pers. Comm.                 | Personal Communication.  |
| Plinth                      | The projecting base of a wall.   |
| PO                          | Preservation Order.  |
| PS                          | Protected Structure.   |
| Quoin                       | The dressed stone at the corner of a building.   |
| Recessed                    | Architectural term for a section of a wall or side of a building that is set back from the front.  |
| Refs                        | References.  |
| RMP                         | Record of Monuments and Places. A paper record on which all known archaeological sites at the time of the record are marked and listed in an accompanying list. The sites marked are afforded legal protection under the National Monuments Acts 1930–2014. The record is based on the 6-inch map series for the country and is recorded on a county basis. Each archaeological monument on the RMP has a unique code known as the RMP number prefixed by GA for Galway. |
| RMP Number                  | This code is the number of the site on the RMP constraint map. It begins with the county code, for example, KE, the 6-inch sheet number, followed by the number of the archaeological monument on that sheet.  |
| RPS                         | Record of Protected Structures.  |
| S                           | South.   |
| Sheet                       | This relates to the 6-inch map for each county, which is divided into sheets.  |
| SMR                         | Sites and Monuments Record. It relates to the archive files and on-line database relating to all currently known archaeological monuments, maintained by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI). It is regularly updated. It can be viewed at <a href="http://webgis.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/">http://webgis.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/</a> .  |
| TB                          | Townland Boundary.   |
| W                           | West. Width; where used with dimensions.   |

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Aims and Structure

The aims of this report are three-fold: first, a baseline description and record of the Church and Graveyard at Kilcloony, which can support potential future funding applications; second, a statement of heritage significance; and third, a conservation and management plan with policies for the church and graveyard. In addition to these main aims, an appraisal of options for the sustainable enhancement of the church and graveyard is also outlined.

The structure of this conservation and management plan report (CMP) is as follows: this section provides an introduction to the project including its genesis, scope, and purpose. An overview of the current statutory protections of the complex is provided, and guiding philosophical approaches are outlined. Methodologies used in the gathering of the data and the compilation of the report is provided. Section 2 provides background to the church in order to understand it and place it in its broader archaeological context. A brief cartographic review, which traces the place over time is included. The church as a monument and associated feature types represented, and chronology, are discussed. A summary of heritage assets of the location is provided. A description of the current remains is given. Section 3 includes an assessment of key heritage values leading to a statement of significance. Section 4 lists and defines the current management issues and vulnerabilities of the complex. Risks and opportunities for the ecclesiastical complex are outlined; while section 5 outlines future management policy aims that will assist in mitigating these vulnerabilities and includes an appraisal of options for future re-use. Section 6 is an action plan for the policies outlined in section 5. Section 7 provides a brief summary and concluding remarks. Section 8 is the bibliography, section 9 a signing-off statement, and section 10 includes supporting information set out in a series of appendices.

## 1.2 Statutory Protection and Policy

There is a range of existing statutory and regulatory policies upon which this report is based. Archaeological heritage is protected under the National Monuments (amendment) Act 1930–2014. Further protection is provided by the following legislation: Heritage Act, 1985; Architectural Heritage (national inventory) and Historic Monuments (miscellaneous provisions) Act, 1999; Planning and Development Act, 2000 (plus amendments); and Planning and Development Regulations, 2001. This legislation is endorsed by Galway County Council in its county development plan (Galway County Council 2022-2028). A summary of protections afforded to the church at Kilcloony is provided in Table 1.1. A list of pertinent international charters that apply to this study is in Table 1.2.

**Table 1.1. Heritage asset information.**

| Common name   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Townland</b>                                     | Kilcloony  |
| <b>Civil Parish</b>                                 | Kilcloony  |
| <b>Barony</b>                                       | Clonmacnowen                                       |
| <b>County</b>                                       | Galway   |
| <b>Six-inch map sheet</b>                           | GA 074   |
| <b>Protected Structure</b>                          | N/a  |
| <b>National Inventory of Architectural Heritage</b> | N/a  |
| <b>Structural elements</b>                          | Church and Graveyard                               |
| <b>RMP/SMR Nos</b>                                  | GA074-058---- (Church); GA074-058001- (Graveyard); |
| <b>Archaeological Classification</b>                | Church and Graveyard                               |
| <b>Development &amp; Other Plans</b>                | Outside of Ballinasloe Local Area Plan 2022-2028   |
| <b>Ownership</b>                                    | Galway County Council                              |
| <b>Other designations</b>                           | N/a  |

**Table 1.2. List of pertinent international charters consulted in this study.**

| Common name     | Date                                   | Charter Title   |
|-----------------|--|---|
| -               | 1972                                   | UNESCO Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage  |
| Venice Charter  | 1964                                   | International charter for the conservation and restoration of monuments and sites       |
| -               | 1975                                   | The Congress on European Architectural Heritage   |
| Burra Charter   | 1979 (revised 1981, 1988, 1999 & 2013) | The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance                        |
| Granada         | 1985                                   | Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe |
| Valetta Charter | 1992                                   | Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage                             |

The philosophical approach underlying the understanding of conservation management plans is that an understanding of the monument and its significance is first established, followed by an assessment of how this significance might be threatened or impaired in the future. Once these issues have been clearly outlined a set of measures and policies can be adopted to avoid or mitigate these potential impairments and safeguard and enhance significance for future generations (e.g. Aygen, 2012; CPRE, 2004; Forsyth, 2007; Historic Scotland, 2000; Semple Kerr, 1996).

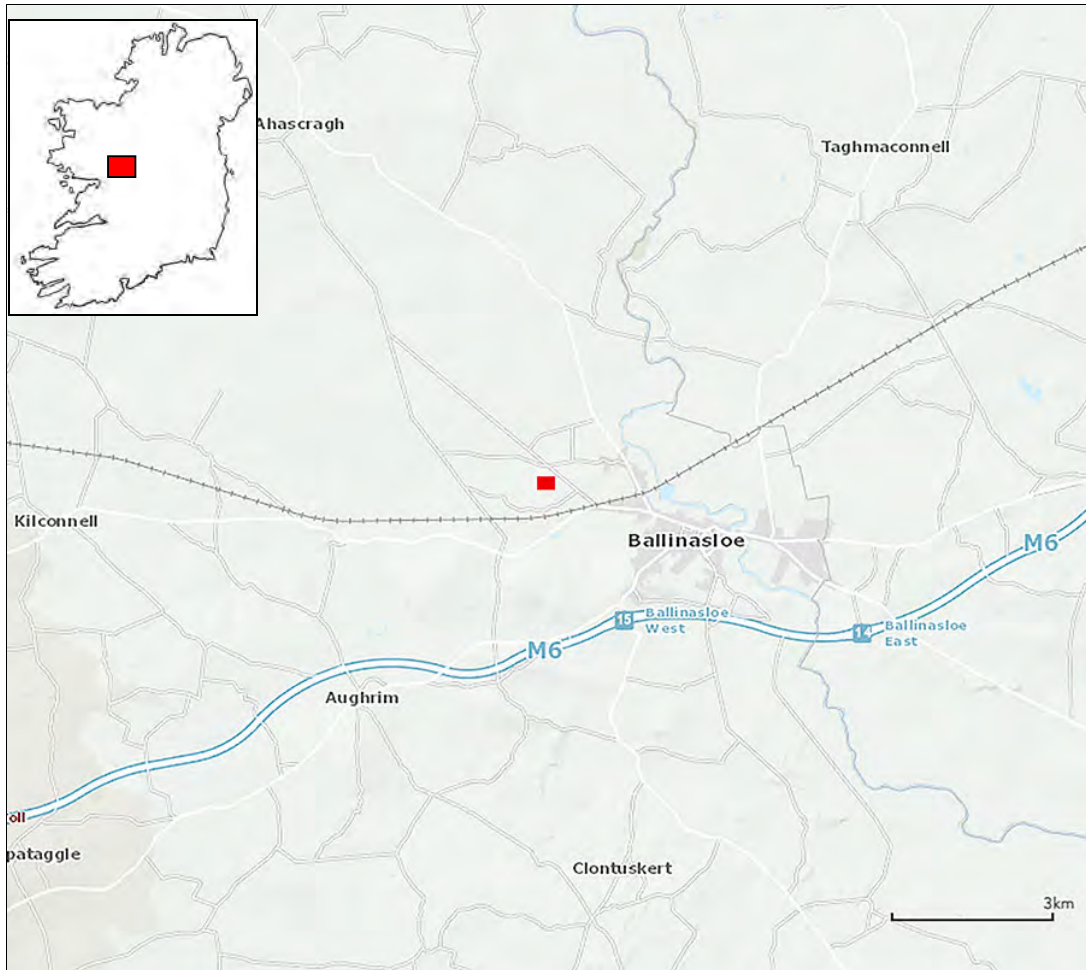


Figure 1.1. Location map, subject site indicated in red ([www.osi.ie](http://www.osi.ie)). North to top.

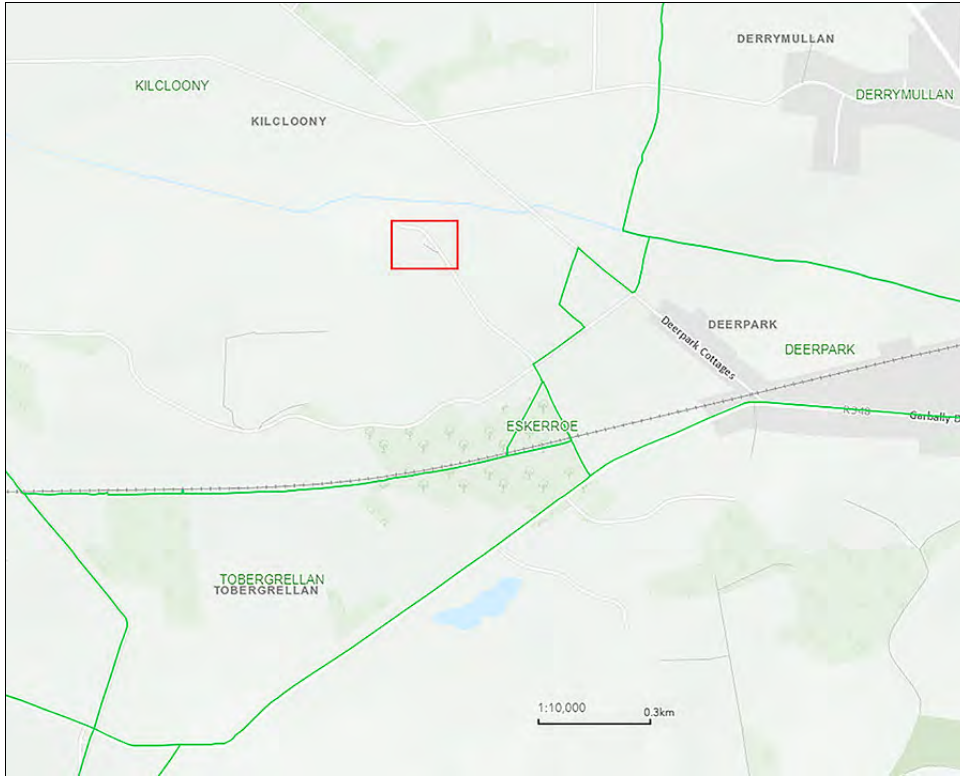


Figure 1.2. General location map, subject site indicated in red ([www.osi.ie](http://www.osi.ie)). North to top.



Figure 1.3. Detailed location map, subject site indicated in red ([www.osi.ie](http://www.osi.ie)). North to top.

## 1.3 Methodologies

The following resources and methods of establishing the status of the church monument at Kilcloony were used:

- The church was inspected, photographed, recorded and a condition assessment was made during several visits;
- The church and graveyard was surveyed (appendix);
- A baseline natural heritage survey was undertaken (section 2.5.1);
- Web-based assessment: Historic mapping and photographs (section 2); placename and folklore records (section 2.4.5);
- Desk-based assessment: A wide range of historical records relevant to the church monument its type and zone of influence; The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) constraint maps and list (section 2); The topographical files housed in the National Museum of Ireland ;
- Stakeholder consultation represented by Joe Murphy.

## 1.4 Limitations

No limitations to the study were encountered.

## 2. Understanding the Monument

### 2.1 Description of Place, Topography, and Setting

Kilcloony is an example of a medieval parish church, located in the south-Galway lowlands, approximately two kilometers to the north east of the town of Ballinasloe (Figure 2.1). It is situated in the townland of Kilcloony, the civil parish of Kilcloony and the barony of Clonmacnawen. The underlying geology dark limestone and shale (<https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/SEA>).

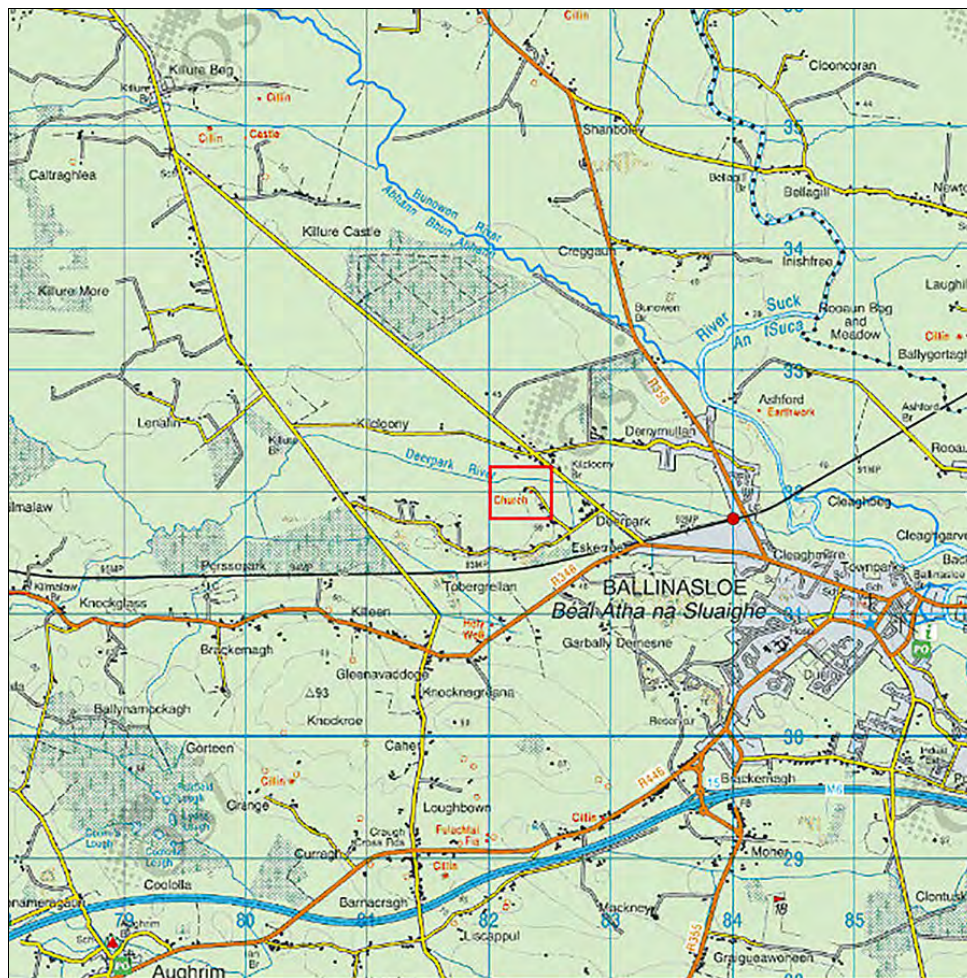


Figure 2.1. Discovery Series map (1 box = 1km). North to top. Sie indicated by red box.

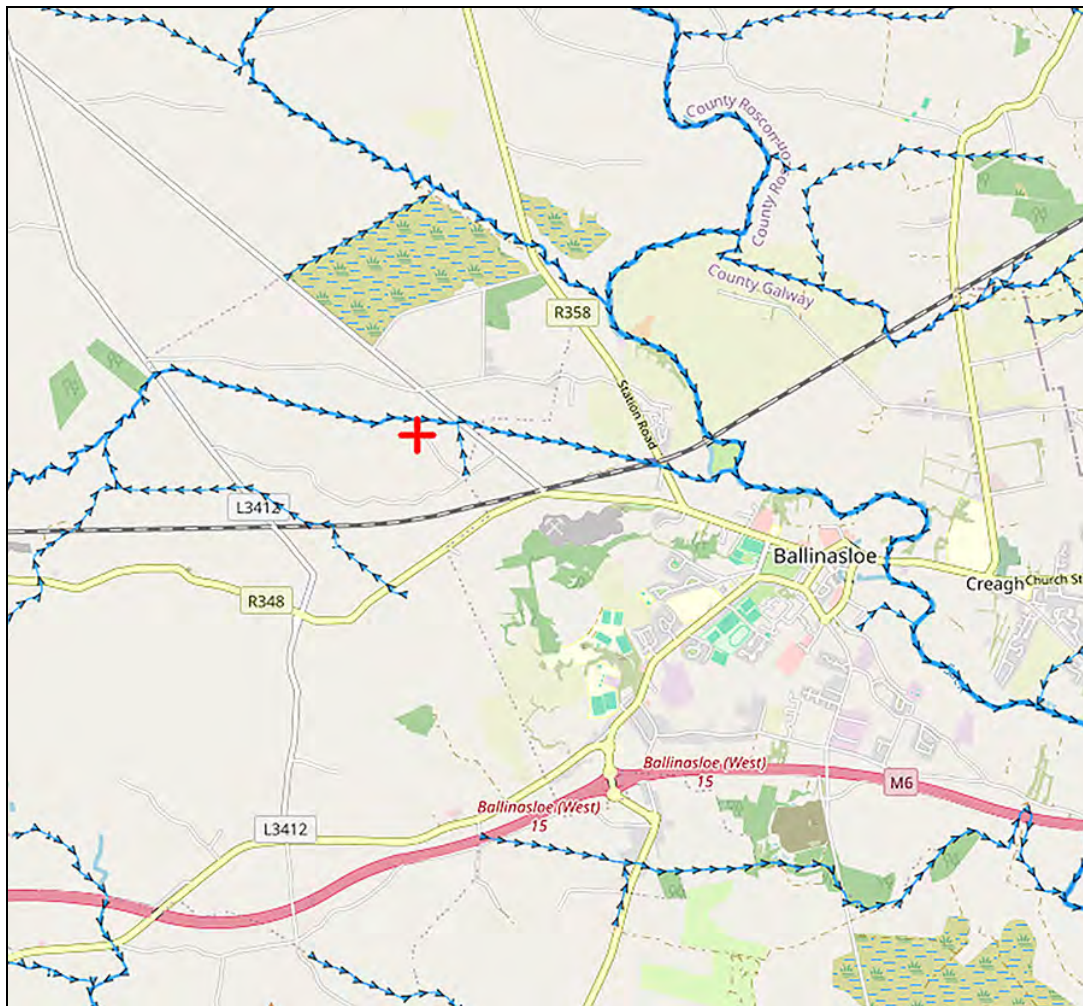


Figure 2.2. EPA map showing location of the subject site in relation to the nearby water courses. (<https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/SEA>). North to top. Site indicated by red cross.

Kilcloony Church and Graveyard itself (ITM 582299/732006) is situated in a ridge of high ground, approximately 60m above sea level, with extensive areas of bog to the north. The Deerpark River, flows in an easterly direction immediately north of the site, before eventually emptying into the River Suck, approximately 2 kilometres to the east. On the Ordnance Survey map of c 1893 this area is annotated as 'liable to floods'. There are excellent views from the site in all directions.

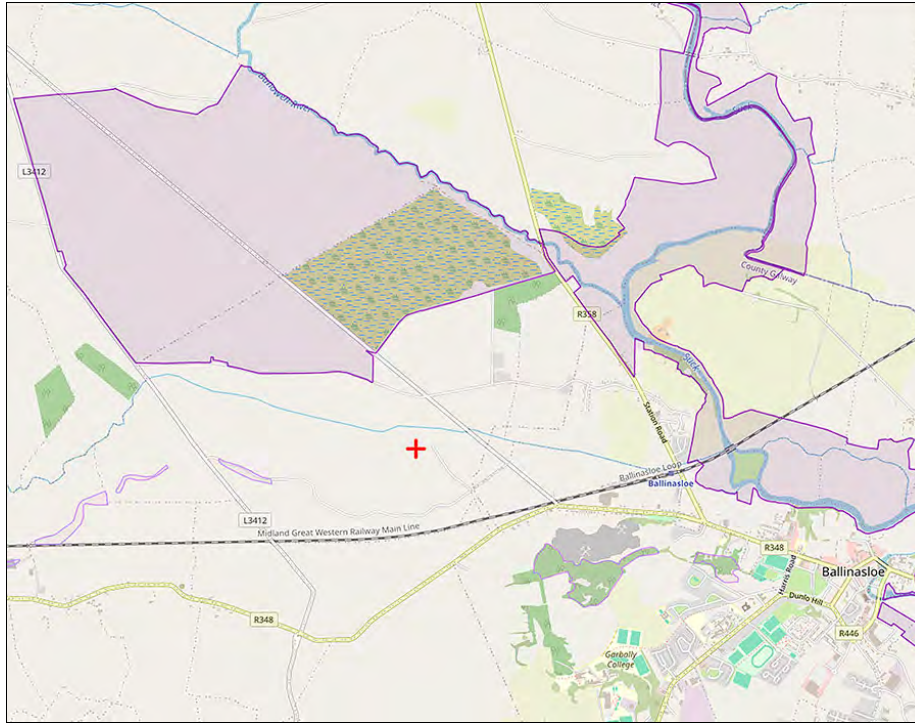


Figure 2.3. EPA map showing location of the subject site in relation Killure Bog Natural Heritage Area 001283 and river Suck Callows natural Heritage Area 000222. (<https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/SEA>). North to top. Site indicated by red cross.

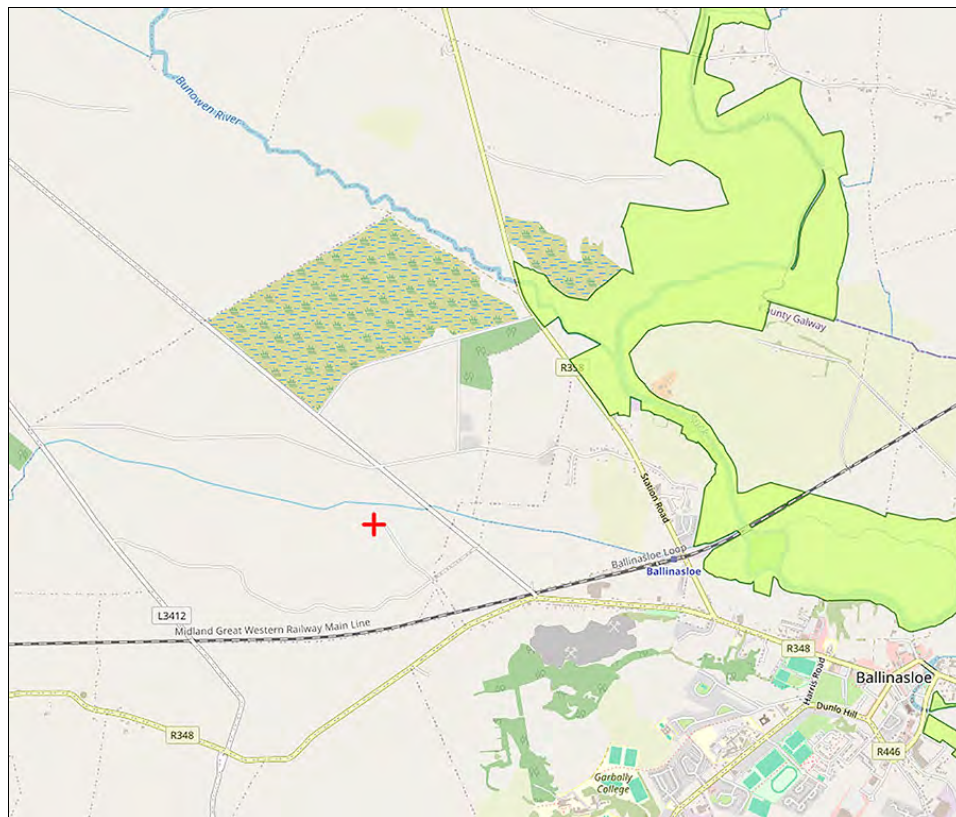


Figure 2.4. EPA map showing location of the subject site in relation the River Suck Callows SPA. (<https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/SEA>). North to top. Site indicated by red cross.



Figure 2.5. Aerial view of site looking northeast (F. Coyne).



Figure 2.6. Aerial view of Deerpark River, from W (F. Coyne).

The site is located top of a gravel ridge, part of the Esker Riada. The Esker Riada is a natural system of mounds consisting of gravel and rocks which are believed to have been deposited approximately 10,000 years ago, when an ice-age glacier melted as a result of local climatic warming. The word esker seems to be an Anglicised version of the Celtic word *eiscir* (meaning ridge), and it appears in slightly different forms in several Irish placenames. For example, the village name of Ahascragh (in East Galway) is a corruption of the Celtic words *Áth Eascrach*: and the name suggests a place where there is a river crossing in the vicinity of a number of ridges (<https://www.galway-ireland.ie/esker-riada.htm>). The Esker Riada was known in times past as 'An Slí Mór' which means the Great Highway. People travelled from north to south along the Shannon. They travelled from east to west along the Slí Mór. The Shannon and An Slí Mór intersect at the place now known as Clonmacnoise ([www.askaboutireland.ie](http://www.askaboutireland.ie)).



Figure 2.7. Aerial view of gravel ridge on which Kilcloony is situated, looking NW (F. Coyne).

The significance of the Esker Riada as a route across Ireland is evident from the siting of the monastic settlement at Clonmacnoise, located where the east-west running Esker Riada crosses the north-south flowing River Shannon. At this junction, two of the most significant routes across early Medieval Ireland intersected, the monastery of St Ciara was founded in AD 545. In AD 520 a monastery was founded by St Finian at the eastern end of the Esker Riada (Hennessy et al 2010, 31).

Kilcloony church is located at the southeastern end of the Kilgerril esker. This esker was deposited on a subsurface foundation of dark coloured carboniferous limestones and shales. The bedrock (Lucan Formation) is 340 million years old and belongs to a group of rocks that can be found throughout the central plains of Ireland. Kilgerril Esker is a natural corridor aligned northwest/southeast with an expanse of bog on either side (Hennessy et al 2010, 91).



Figure 2.8. Aerial view of site from NW (F. Coyne).

## 2.2 Cartographic Review

A review of all available map material was undertaken for Kilcloony, the earliest of which is the Down Survey dating to the seventeenth century (Fig 2.5). The Down Survey was a national land survey, managed by Sir William Petty, then surgeon-general of the English army. Its purpose was to measure the land that was to be forfeited by Irish Catholics, so that it could be redistributed by the Crown as payment to adventurers and soldiers of the Protestant faith for services rendered. The survey was undertaken from 1656–1658. The Down Survey generated an all-island map, and more detailed maps on a county, barony, and civil parish basis. The Barony map for this area was destroyed in 1711. The church, annotated 'Kilcloony' is marked on the county map.



Figure 2.9. Extract from the Down Survey map of 'The County of Galway' (<https://downsurvey.tchpc.tcd.ie/down-survey-maps.php#c=Galway>).

Kilcloony is marked on various subsequent county maps of Galway, but no additional detail is depicted. Kilcloony is depicted on the Grand Jury map for Galway, dated from 1760-1820 , (Fig.



The first detailed map of Kilcloony Church is the Ordnance Survey first edition six-inch map which dates to c. 1840 (Fig. 2.8). It depicts the site, and is annotated 'Kilcloony Church-in ruins' and also 'Grave Yard'.



Figure 2.12. Extract of the first edition Ordnance Survey six-inch map surveyed 1838, published 1840 (Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland).

The One inch map dated to 1863 (figure 2.9) shows the enclosed graveyard, which is similar to that on the 1895 twenty-five inch map (Fig. 2.11) The church is described as 'in ruins', and the current graveyard boundary is shown. Therefore, the graveyard was enclosed sometime between 1840 and 1863.

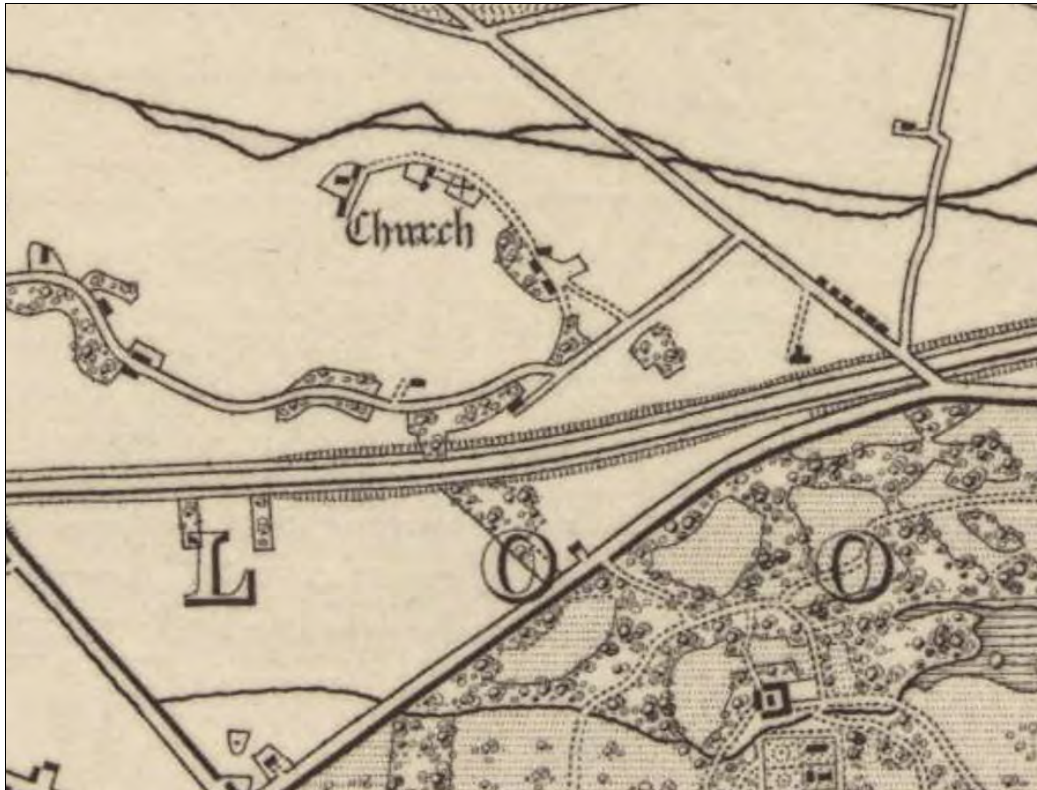


Figure 2.13. Sheet 107 One inch map, surveyed 1837-39, printed 1863, (<https://maps.nls.uk/view/247943373>).  
Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland.



Figure 2.14. Sheet 107 -Ballinasloe- 1st Edition (Hills Edition), surveyed 1837-39, published 1872, (<https://maps.nls.uk/view/247943376>). Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland

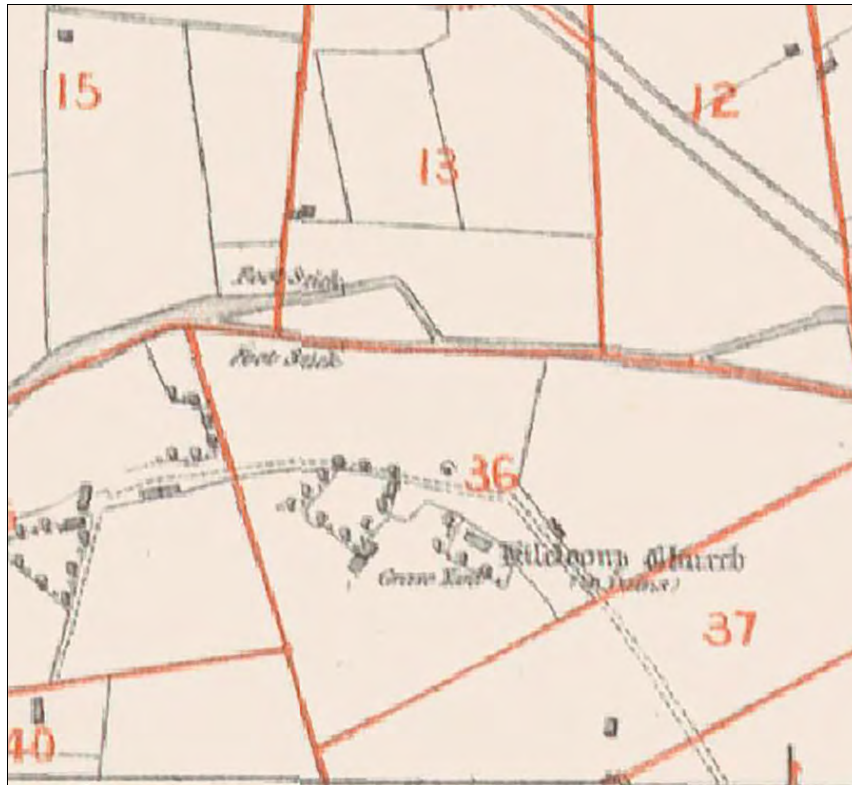


Figure 2.15. Griffith's Valuation mapping showing the land holdings in the general area (<https://griffiths.askaboutireland.ie>).

The landowner of the time of the Griffith's Valuation in the mid-1800s (figure 2.14) is listed as the Earl of Clancarty, who is renting the land around the graveyard to Martin McNeill (Plot 36). The graveyard is exempted.



Figure 2.16. Extract of the twenty-five-inch Ordnance Survey map surveyed 1891, published 1893 (after [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)).



Figure 2.17. Extract of the first edition Ordnance Survey six-inch map re-surveyed 1891, published 1894 (Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland).

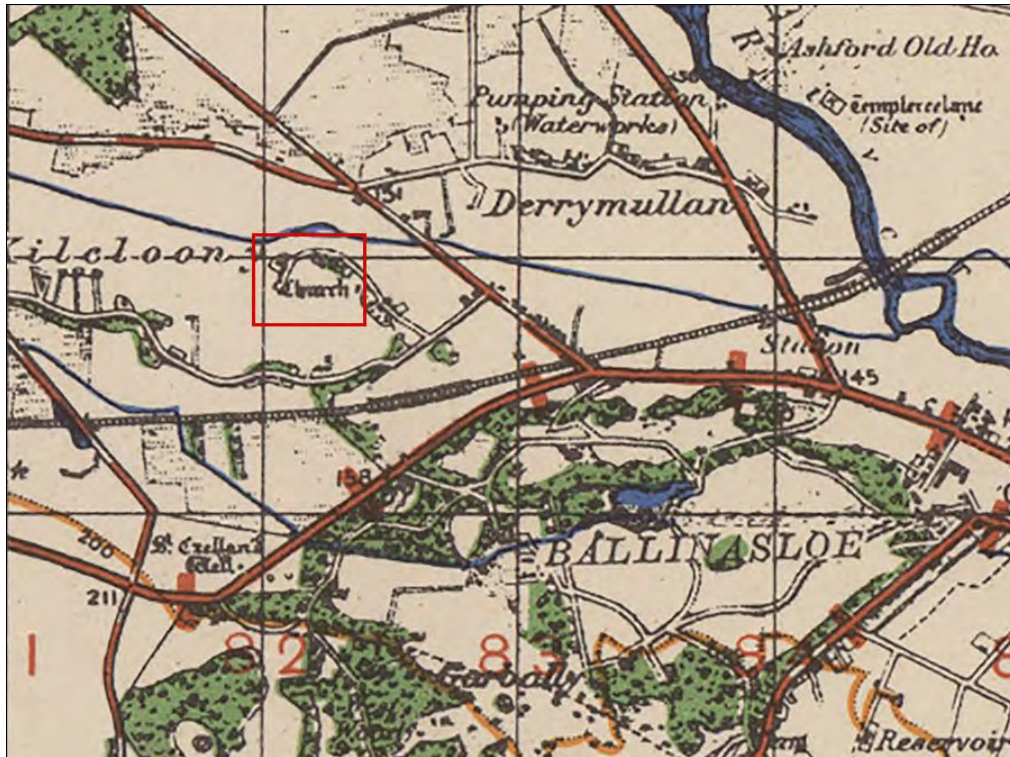


Figure 2.18. Extract Sheet from War Office map 342, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition – surveyed 1942 published (Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland).



Figure 2.19. Extract Sheet from Ordnance Survey sheet 74, revised 1948, published 1961 (Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland).

## 2.3 Monument Type, Elements, and Chronology

Kilcloony church and graveyard is a ruinous example of a twelfth/thirteenth century parish church. This church was then remodelled in the fifteenth/sixteenth century. The ogee headed East window is of fifteenth/sixteenth century date. The door is located in the south wall, consisting of a pointed arch, with two carved heads externally as stops on either side of the door. Internally, a drawbar socket is visible. This is an elaborate door of fifteenth/sixteenth century date.

The graveyard also contains many fine examples of graveslabs, headstones, and a box tomb.

Table 2.1. List of element types comprising the church and graveyard at Kilcloony.

| Section | Element type  |
|---------|---------------|
| 2.3.1   | GA074-058---- |
| 2.3.2   | GA074-058001- |
| 2.3.3   | N/a           |
| 2.3.4   | N/a           |
| 2.3.5   | N/a           |
| 2.3.6   | N/a           |
| 2.3.7   | N/a           |

The church is annotated St Grellan's church on the 1948 Ordnance survey map, and mention is made of St Grellan founding a church here in the School's Collection. Prior to this the church is annotated 'church in ruins' on the Ordnance survey mapping.

Although St Grellan (Greallán) is patron of the important tribal grouping of the *Uí Mhaine*, later most prominently represented by the O'Kellys of east Galway, his pedigree is nowhere to be found in the corpus of saints' pedigrees. In common with other east Connacht saints, Grellan was made the subject of a vernacular life, possibly composed as late as the second half of the fifteenth or early sixteenth century. St Patrick is said to have foretold his birth, who took him to Dublin, and later to Connacht. The remainder of his life is concerned with the saint's interventions on behalf of the *Uí Mhaine*, and the tribute owed to his church at Kilcloony. *Greallán* is said to have left his crozier to the *Uí Mhaine* (O'Kellys), which, if carried into battle would always ensure victory. This survived locally until the nineteenth century in the care of its hereditary custodians, the Cronnellys. A possible association with Westmeath is evinced by the tradition that a priest named *Greallán* is said to have taught Fiontan of Taghmon. His feast day fell on the 10<sup>th</sup> November, but he was also honoured on the 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> September (O'Rian 2011, 370).



Figure 2.20. RMP map extract, sheet GA 74, SMR detail 1997 on 1948 map for St. Grellan's Church indicated by No. 58 (Archaeological Survey of Ireland 1997). It is described in the accompanying manual as 'Church and Graveyard' (annotated by writer).



twelfth century Ireland. The term *túatha* means 'people', 'community' or 'laity'. The local-*túatha* was a unit of society comprising a number of taxable estates (*bailte*), with a leader (*taíseach*) or steward (*maor*), and represents the earliest example of the local community and may be the remote ancestor of the secular elements of the modern rural parish. In areas where the Anglo-Normans did not settle, the *túath* system partially survived for centuries after the invasion (McCotter 2019, 58).

The reform period in the twelfth century had its origin in the efforts of the Uí Brian dynasty in the later eleventh century to forge links with the English Church, and indirectly with the Roman Church. By 1111 there are efforts at regulating the existing territorial episcopal structures, and it is unlikely that these reforms were enacted without a pre-existing system of pastoral care. Opponents of this view that parish-like structures were already in existence in Ireland in the pre-reform period is the absence of a compulsory tithe payment system. However, it appears that there was a system on non-compulsory tithe payment in Ireland from at least the eighth century, which continued into the twelfth century (McCotter 2019, 45-49). At the Council of Cashel in 1172 the Irish bishops agreed to apply the customs of the English church to Ireland. At this time, various ecclesiastical hierarchies had been in existence in neighbouring regions of Europe, many of these three layered, consisting of chapels under mother churches under episcopal seats. This conformity with England took the form of the creation of a parish system along English lines. Most English parishes conformed to lay estates. The parish priest was known as the rector (one who has rights) or parson. Lay ownership of churches was phased out in England was opposed by Rome and phased out after 1100. This was the system that was imported into Ireland after 1170. Many of the colonists may have come from a background where lords and landowners had influence over church income, with appointment of family members to rectories, and so a large number of clerics were among the settlers who came to Ireland after the Anglo-Norman invasion. A problem for the English church arose in the early twelfth century, which saw many vicars become absentee, substituting vicars or chaplains, often with no formal education and paid a pittance and no security of tenure, which led to general neglect. In order to counteract this, the office of perpetual vicar was created, who could only be appointed or removed by a bishop. This system was then exported to Ireland, and was adopted by the Irish bishops, who erected perpetual vicarages in places where there were absentee vicars.

Therefore, by the early twelfth century the development of the *túatha* church structure had become part of the reform agenda, as well as territorial reforms and enforcement of the tithe payment. The process of the Gregorian reform was a complex one, with assumed ownership of church benefices by the new landowners, who erected rectories on their new landholdings, and whose estates were

erected on pre-invasion territorial units. A new relationship was also created by the erections on manors on the bounds of bailte, accounting for the relationship between parish and baile. The difficulties in the deliverance of pastoral care led to the creation of perpetual vicarages, resulting in a new wave of parish formation based on demographics and not land ownership. In many cases it was the vicarage which became the geographical template for the parish, and not the rectory (McCotter 2019 57-67).

There is a growing consensus about the evolution of pastoral care, understanding the significance of churches and their accompanying territories. To understand the parish, three strands must be recognised;

- The historic parish which emerged from the middle ages.
- The Roman Catholic parish.
- The Church of Ireland parish.

These latter two evolved from that older structure. It is the first example which we are concerned with. The common antecedent of the Catholic and Church of Ireland parishes was the late medieval parish. The parish became the earliest convenient administrative unit, and the seventeenth century parish may be taken as a reliable representation of the late medieval parish. Civil parish linkages can be established back to the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries in documents related to Papal taxation lists. There are broad regional contrasts in parish geography, with an evident relationship between the small parishes of the manorial regions in the areas colonised by the Anglo-Normans, and the larger parishes in the Gaelic, predominantly western regions (Duffy 2005, 33-41).

For much of the medieval period it is likely that there was more emphasis on property than pastoral duties as a defining factor of the parish. The genesis of the historic parishes has been traced back to the twelfth century reform of the Church in Ireland, especially in the decades after the Anglo-Norman invasion. As elsewhere in Europe, the development of parish territorial structures was closely associated with secular territorial structures. Therefore, the twelfth century reforms in Ireland aimed at introducing mainstream European standards to the Irish church by constructing dioceses which were synchronised with political order, and parish formation in Ireland was most closely associated with Anglo-Norman manors. (Duffy 2005, 43).

The Norman manor was an economic, political and judicial unit, which became the basic unit of the Domesday survey. These were often based on pre-existing Anglo-Saxon estates. The manor was

controlled by a 'lord', which might be the King, a baron, a bishop or religious house. Manors varied in size, ranging from just a couple of farms to vast estates (<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/domesday/world-of-domesday/order.htm>). The Domesday Book (Originally known by the Latin name *Liber de Wintonia*, meaning "Book of Winchester", where it was originally kept in the royal treasury) is a manuscript record of the "Great Survey" of much of England and parts of Wales completed in 1086 at the behest of King William I, known as William the Conqueror.

On what were these Anglo-Norman manors in Ireland based? There was a strong driving force for territorial inertia, and continuity within parochial structures which were meshed in a web of local privilege, entitlement and duties of pastoral care (Duffy 2005, 46). Before the twelfth century reforms, many of the smaller local churches and their pastoral territories had been abandoned and were in ruins (Duffy 2005, 48). It is within the territorial hierarchy of the *túatha* that the parish inserted itself (Duffy 2005, 56).

### 2.3.2 Parish churches

The Archaeological Survey of Ireland has served to highlight the regional identities of groups of parish churches. The ruinous condition of some of the churches and the poor survival of items that may indicate parish status are an obstacle to identification of whether a church was a parish church. The primary indicators of parish church status are a baptismal font and a fenced graveyard. Other items may hint at parish status, such as a defined liturgical space, such as chancel and a nave, evidence for a rood screen, a bell tower, priest's quarters, a piscina, a stoup and an aumbry, although these features may also be found in a chapel (Fitzpatrick 2005, 62-3).

The parish church was the most significant buildings in the medieval community. The parish church, with an enclosed churchyard formed the heart of the parish. Adjacent to the church was the glebe, a small piece of land with grazing and tillage for the priest. Larger parishes might have smaller dependant chapels to serve outlying areas. These differed from parish churches in that neither burial nor baptism could be performed within them.

Little is known for certain about the endowment of the earliest parish churches. By the 13th century the situation is clearer when legislation made the priest responsible for the upkeep of the chancel, while the congregation maintained the nave, belfry and churchyard, and ensured that the church had plate, vestments, mass book and font. The primary role of the church was to provide a space for

communal worship, but also functioned as a space for parishioners to store their precious goods. The psychological scars left by the Black Death in 1348 led to a renewed fixation on morality, and a renewed focus on the parish church. Church naves were expanded, and regular prayers for the souls of the departed were secured in the fifteenth century. Traditionally the main entrance to the church in Ireland was through a door in the west gable, but by the thirteenth century southern doorways had become common, and frequently contain a holy water stoop on the inner eastern jambs to facilitate blessing with the right hand when entering the church. Burials took place within the church and in its surrounding cemetery. The medieval parish churches became the property of the established Protestant church following the Reformation in the sixteenth century, and many churches, particularly in rural areas contracted in size or gradually fell into decay (Moss 2014, 172-175).

### 2.3.3 Local information on Kilcloony

Christianity reached the parish of Ballinasloe as early as the time of Saint Patrick when Saint Grellan was consecrated by him and established his foundation in Kilclooney. Saint Raoilin established his church in Creagh. Kilclooney and Creagh became parishes after the Synod of Kells in 1152 (<http://homepage.eircom.net/~clonfert/ballinasloe.htm>). The end of the sixteenth century had seen the churches of Clonfert still, in spite of the suppression, in Catholic hands, but in the early years of the seventeenth century the old churches of Creagh, Kilclooney and the Teampolin at Poolboy passed into the hands of the Established church. The parish had before the Reformation been served by the Canons Regular of Clontuskert who held the rectory and vicarage. There was no church at the present Ballinasloe. The lack of a sufficient Protestant population meant that the Church at Kilclooney and the Teampolin fell into ruin. The church in Creagh was kept in repair and used by the Protestants. The Catholics had to retire elsewhere. In Creagh it is the tradition that mass was celebrated in Loughil (<https://www.askaboutireland.ie/reading-room/history-heritage/heritage-towns/ballinasloe-town-and-pari/the-church-in-the-sevente/>).

### 2.3.4 Key church elements



Figure 2.22. Aerial view of church (F. Coyne).

The remains of church now comprise the remains of an unroofed structure with both its north and south walls standing to wall plate height, and both gables intact. An ogee-headed window, partially blocked by a modern crucifix is visible in the east gable, while a pointed arch door and round headed window are located in the south wall. The west gable and the western part of the north wall are ivy clad, and there are patches of ivy elsewhere. The quoin stones at the corners appear to be of original 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> century date.



Figure 2.23. View of church, from SE (F. Coyne).

### 2.3.5 Phasing

It is clear that church consists of two separate phases of construction. The ogee-headed window with decorated spandrel, and door are of 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> century date.



Figure 2.24. Modern crucifix over E window, from E (F. Coyne).

A stone re-used in the inner arch of the east window has a chamfer and diagonal tooling of 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> century date.

### 2.3.6 Differentiation of Interior space

There is no obvious evidence of the differentiation of the interior space. The interior is now filled with graves. The ground level appears to have risen substantially over the years, probably as the result of the insertion of burials.



Figure 2.25. Graves in the interior of the E side of church, from W (F. Coyne).



Figure 2.26. Burials in interior of W side of church, from E (F. Coyne).



Figure 2.27. Burials in interior of church, from E (F. Coyne).



Figure 2.28. raised ground level in church interior, from SW (F. Coyne).

### 2.3.6 Burials

A variety of burial markers are visible in the interior of the church and the graveyard.



Figure 2.29. variety of grave markers in S side of the graveyard, from NW (F. Coyne).



Figure 2.30. 20<sup>th</sup> century cast iron and concrete surround for 18/19 hogs back graves, from NW (F. Coyne).

There are also a number of and nineteenth and twentieth century headstones.



Figure 2.31. Nineteenth century box tomb, from W (F. Coyne).



Figure 2.32. Selection of headstones in graveyard, 19<sup>th</sup> century shouldered graveslab in foreground, from E (F. Coyne).



Figure 2.33. Decorated 19<sup>th</sup> century headstone, from E (F. Coyne).



Figure 2.34. Collapsed headstone, from E (F. Coyne).



Figure 2.35. Modern headstone in front of decorated headstone, dated 1804, from SE (F. Coyne).



Figure 2.36. Shouldered headstone, from E (F. Coyne).

## 2.4 Associated archives and collections

At the time of writing there are no known archives associated with the monument at Kilcloony. The National Museum of Ireland Topographical File Collection was consulted for artefact finds in the townland of Kilcloony and the immediate locality. There is one find recorded in the files.

**Table 2.2. Result from database of the Topographical Files ( information supplied by the National Museum of Ireland.**

| NMI Register No | Simple Name | Component | Details      | Find Place     |
|-----------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|----------------|
| SA1925:22       | Shoe        | Leather   | Lucas Type 1 | Kilclooney bog |

## 2.5 Placename evidence and dedication

The Placenames Database of Ireland contains the following information on the place name Kilcloony. Kilcloony is a townland in east Galway, in the barony of Clonmacnwen and the civil parish of Kilcloony (<https://www.logainm.ie/en/17685> accessed 6 October 2024). The townland name is translated from the Irish *Chill Chluaine*, usually taken as meaning *Cill* (church) and *Cluain* (of meadow or pasture). Joyce (1912, 233) states that the exact meaning of the Irish word *Cluain* is a fertile piece of land, or a green arable spot, surrounded, or nearly surrounded by bog or marsh on one side, and water on the other.

**Table 2.3. Historical references to the placename Kilcloony listed by the Placenames Database of Ireland (<https://www.logainm.ie/ga/17685>).**

| Date | Placename             | Abbreviated Reference provided in Placenames Database of Ireland |
|------|-----------------------|--|
| 1500 | Cill Cluaine          | IM 9   |
| 1567 | Kylclone              | F.1053   |
| 1570 | Kylclone              | F.1581   |
| 1617 | Kilclony              | Inq III 104  |
| 1626 | Killclowny            | Inq II 16  |
| 1627 | Killclony             | Inq IV 11  |
|      | Killcluny             | BSD 1,216  |
|      | Killclony             | BSD 1,218  |
|      | Killcloony            | ASE 262.25   |
|      | Killcloony            | ASE 248.25, 278.12   |
|      | Killclouny/Killclonny | ASE HD   |
|      | Killcloony            | Larkin   |
|      | Kilcloony             | AL:BS  |
|      | Cill Cluaine          | AL:PL  |
|      | Cill Chluana          | ALOD   |

The earliest reference to Kilcloony appears in 1500 (see table 2.2).

## 2.6 Folklore

A search was made in [www.Duchas.ie](http://www.Duchas.ie) for any folklore relating to Kilclooney. No entries were returned for Kilclooney. The following entries were returned for Kilclooney.

### Old Roads

*There is also a small road going across the fields from the Kilclooney road. Part of it is only a path. There are five houses on this road and the old people call those houses Baile Teampal. There is a graveyard by the side of this road. The people that live bring their dead across the fields and out on the Killcooney road. They bring them along the Kilclooney road and in by the little road and into the graveyards.*

**Collector: Mary Grady**

**Informant: John Grady**

**The Schools' Collection, Volume 0028, Page 0064.**

### Holy Wells

*In Kilclooney, about two miles from Ballinasloe there is another well. This is "St. Grellan's Well", called after the patron saint of the parish of Kilclooney. There is a big hawthorn bush growing over the well.*

**Informant: John Nugent**

**The Schools' Collection, Volume 0029, Page 0127.**

*There is a well in this district known as Tubber Grellan from which the town land gets its name. It is situated about two miles west of Ballinasloe on the main road to Killconnell. This well is used for a lot of cures. In former times people used to visit it frequently to pray and leave little religious objects on a white thorn tree beside the well. It is said that attempts were made to close this well but each time the water gushed up and kept the well open. There is also another well, known as Tubber na Sul, This well used for sore eyes that is the reason it got its name. It is only a few hundred yards south of St. Grellan's Church at Kilclooney, and it holds constant running water during the dry summer.*

**Informant: Eily Ahern**

**The Schools' Collection, Volume 0029, Page 0131.**

*There is a well out in Kilclooney, called St. Grellan's Well. It is situated on the Railway Road about two miles from Ballinasloe. It is seldom people go there and there are no special times for visiting it.*

**Informant: Mr. S. Kelly**

**The Schools' Collection, Volume 0029, Page 0124**

## Our Local Patron Saint

*Our Local Patron Saint Saint Grellan is the patron saint of our parish. He built a church in Kilclooney. A mile from this church there is a well called Saint Grellan's well. Sometimes people go to visit this well. The people drink this water for a cure. People are buried in this church now. The ruins of this church are still to be seen. Some people are called Grellan after St. Grellan.*

**The Schools' Collection, Volume 0028, Page 0088.**

## Hedge School

*Once there was a hedge school held beside St Grellan's graveyard in Kilclooney. There were no seats nor desks at that time and the children and teacher used to have to sit on the ditch. The children used on slates with pencils. Their teacher's, name was Tom Scott. The parents of the children used to have to pay the teachers. On a wet day the children and teacher used to have to go from bush to bush for shelter.*

**Collector: Rosie Grady**

**Informant: John Grady**

**The Schools' Collection, Volume 0028, Page 0027**

## 2.7 Surviving Remains



Figure 2.37. View of church and graveyard from above, showing new extension to the S (after KGSS).

**Table 2.3. List of recorded features and labelled as part of this study**

| Label    | SMR number    | Element                        |
|----------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>A</b> | GA074-058---- | Church                         |
| <b>B</b> | GA074-058001- | Graveyard                      |
| <b>C</b> | N/a           | East wall and window           |
| <b>D</b> | N/a           | South wall and door and window |
|          |               |                                |
| <b>E</b> | N/a           | West wall                      |
| <b>F</b> | N/a           | North wall                     |
| <b>E</b> | N/a           | Graveyard wall                 |

The site descriptions below first provide those on the Historic Environment Viewer(HEV) available at [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie). This report supplements the earlier descriptions where required with up-to-date written and photographic record of the elements on the site (Fig. 2.X; Table 2.3; Appendix 10.3 for site record sheets).

## 2.7.1 Description

Kilcloony church and graveyard site are located on an Esker ridge in the in the east Galway lowlands, surrounded by lower ground on all sides. It is situated in an area of grassland, devoted to pasture.



Figure 2.38. Plan of church and graveyard. A = church, B= graveyard as per descriptions below (after KGSS survey).

## Element A: Church

GA074-058----

HEV

At the base of a ridge, c. 150m S of Deerpark River, near W limits of Ballinasloe town; it stands within a rectangular graveyard. According to OS Letters (O'Flanagan 1927, Vol. 1 512-14), this was traditionally regarded as the site of the E. Chr. church of St Grellan. Present remains consist of a medieval parish church (E-W; L 15m, Wth 5m) in fair condition. Architectural features include a pointed arch doorway and round-headed window in S wall, and an ogee-headed window in E gable. The OS Letters (ibid.) also refer to a very small window in W gable, no trace of which survives. (Egan 1960, 8, 15, 26).

The above description is derived from the published 'Archaeological Inventory of County Galway Vol. II - North Galway'. Compiled by Olive Alcock, Kathy de hÓra and Paul Gosling (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1999). Date of upload: 05 August 2010.

**Six-Inch First edition:** Kilcloony Church (in ruins)

**Six-Inch Latest edition:** St. Grellan's Church (in Ruins)

### 2024 fieldwork

The western gable of the church is now almost completely overgrown with a heavy covering of ivy. This has been cut at the base before, on the interior face of the wall. The south wall contains a gothic pointed arch door with carved heads, and also a window close to the eastern gable. An ogee-headed window in the E gable is partially obscured on the outside by a crucifix which has been bolted to the wall. The north wall is partially overgrown with ivy, and a structural crack is evident in the NE corner. The south wall contains a pointed arch door with craved heads a label stops. A rounded arch window is also located in this wall. The W wall is partially ivy clad. The interior of the church contains several graves.



Figure 2.39. Kilcloony Church, from SE (F. Coyne).

Element B: Graveyard  
GA104-148005-

HEV

No description on the HEV on [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie).

2024 fieldwork

The graveyard is in good condition. The graves are accessible, although there are no dedicated footpaths around the graveyard. It contains a variety of headstones and tombs, predominantly dating from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It is well maintained.



Figure 2.40. Graveyard, from SE (F. Coyne).

Figur

## Element C: East Gable and Window

### 2024 fieldwork

The e gable consists of random rubble courses bound by cement mortar. The corners consist of dressed ashlar quoins, of probable 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> century date. The northern half of the gable is completely covered in ivy. An later ogee headed window with decorated spandrels is located in the E wall,. Enlargement and modifications to churches is typically a fifteenth-century phenomena in this region(Cunniffe,<https://fieldmonuments.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/archaeology/leitrim-medieval-parish-church-2>). This window is now partially obscured by a modern crucifix, which has been affixed to the external wall. The jamb stones are dressed, with a rebate visible, probably for glass or a shutter. A glazing bar hole is located in the soffit of the ogee headed window arch.

Internally the round headed arch is collapsing, and in need of repair. It probably contained single-light lancet form typical of the type used in late twelfth and thirteenth-century (Cunniffe,<https://field-monuments.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/archaeology/leitrim-medieval-parish-church-2>). Internally the stones used in the splayed ope are dressed, including one example of a chamfered stone, with diagonal tooling dating to the 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> century, indicating an earlier phase of use of the church.

The top of the gable has been capped with cement. A modern memorial plaque has been fixed to the gable also.



Figure 2.41. East gable of church, from E (F. Coyne).

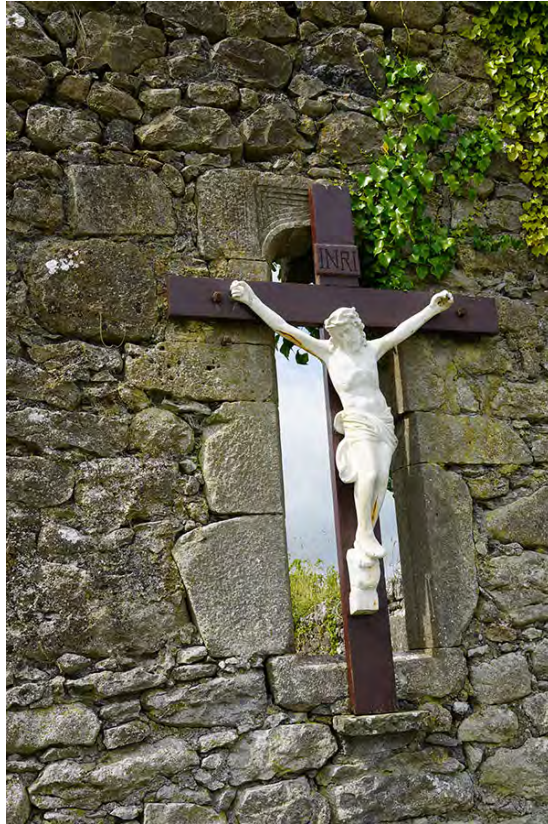


Figure 2.42. Crucifix covering E window, from E(F Coyne).



Figure 2.43. Detail of decorated spandrel on the E window, from E (F Coyne).



Figure 2.44. Detail of modern bolts on the external face E window, from SE. These were inserted into the bedding joints. (F Coyne).



Figure 2.45. Detail of rebate for glazing on the external face E window, from E (F Coyne).



Figure 2.46. Internal view of E window, from W. Note ivy and collapsing arch (F Coyne).



Figure 2.47. Reused chamfered stone internally on E window. This stone contains 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> century diagonal tooling. Note ivy and collapsing arch (F Coyne).



Figure 2.48. Memorial plaque externally on E gable, from NE (F Coyne).

## Element D: South Wall, window and door

### 2024 fieldwork

The south wall has a covering of ivy at W, and also at E, where it is impacting on a window ope. The wall is constructed of random rubble with dressed ashlar quoins at the SE and SW corners. It contains a window and door.

The window is a rounded arch single light, constructed of dressed stone, with a rebate for glazing visible externally, with a glazing bar hole in the soffit of the rounded arch, and a corresponding example in the cill. Ivy is now growing in these sockets.

The door consists of a pointed arched doorway, with dressed jambs and arch, with a carved stone head label stops on either side of the external door. Internally, the door consists of a flat arch, with a void where a lintel (probably timber) was once located. Two drawbar sockets are also visible internally. The floor level appears to have risen substantially internally.



Figure 2.49. S wall of church, from S (F. Coyne).



Figure 2.50. Internal view of south window, from N (F. Coyne).



Figure 2.51. External view of rebate for glazing on south window, from S (F. Coyne).



Figure 2.52. External view of door in S wall, from S (F. Coyne).



Figure 2.53. Stone head label stop on W side of door, from S (F. Coyne).



Figure 2.54. Detail of stone head label stop on W side of door, from S (F. Coyne).



Figure 2.55. Stone head label stop on E side of door, from S (F. Coyne).



Figure 2.56. Detail of stone head label stop on E side of door, from S (F. Coyne).



Figure 2.57. Internal view of door, from S. Note void for timber lintel (F. Coyne).



Figure 2.58. Drawbar socket on internal side of door, from NW (F. Coyne).



Figure 2.59. Drawbar socket on internal side of door, from NE. Note loose stone placed in socket (F. Coyne).

## Element E: Western gable

### 2024 fieldwork

The western gable of the church has been reduced in height to wall plate level. It has dressed quoins at the corners, and elsewhere built of random rubble, bonded with a cement mortar. Some stone has fallen out of the wall face externally. It has a substantial covering of ivy at its NW side, and also on the SE corner.



Figure 2.60. N wall of church, from NW (F. Coyne).



Figure 2.61. Quoins at SW corner, from W (F. Coyne).

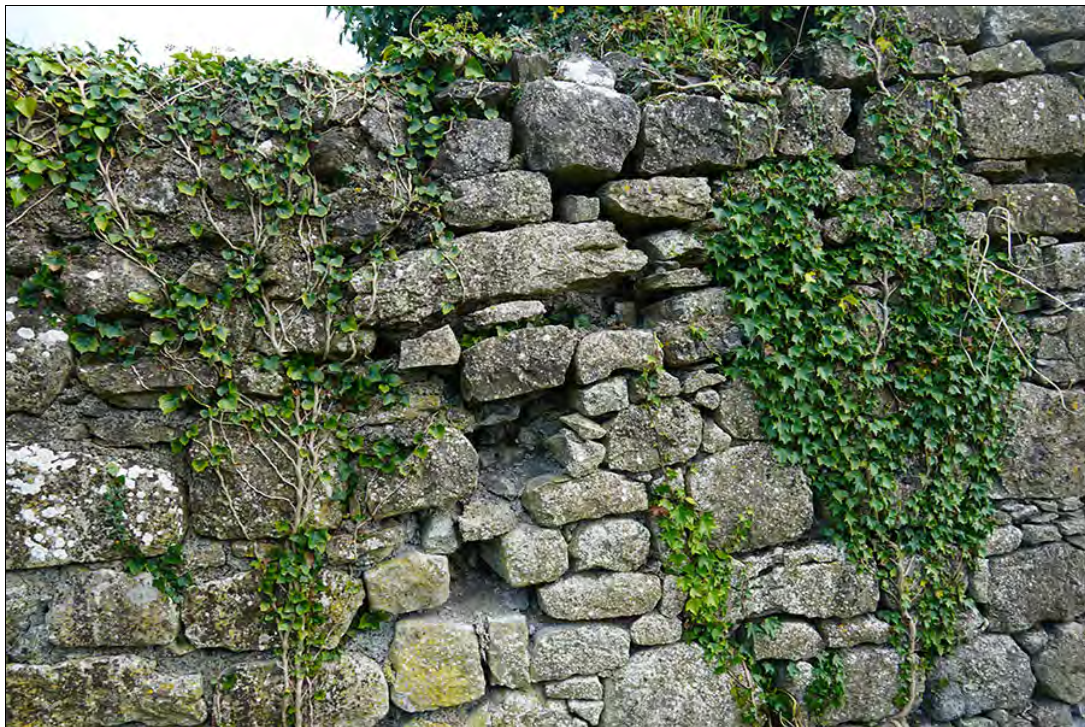


Figure 2.62. Voids where stones have fallen out on the W gable, from W (F. Coyne).

## Element F: North Wall

2024 fieldwork

The north wall survives to wall plate level, with dressed ashlar quoins at the NE and NW corners, and elsewhere built of random rubble, bonded with a cement mortar. A substantial crack is visible in the NE corner, visible both internally and externally. It has a substantial covering of ivy.

It is in poor condition.

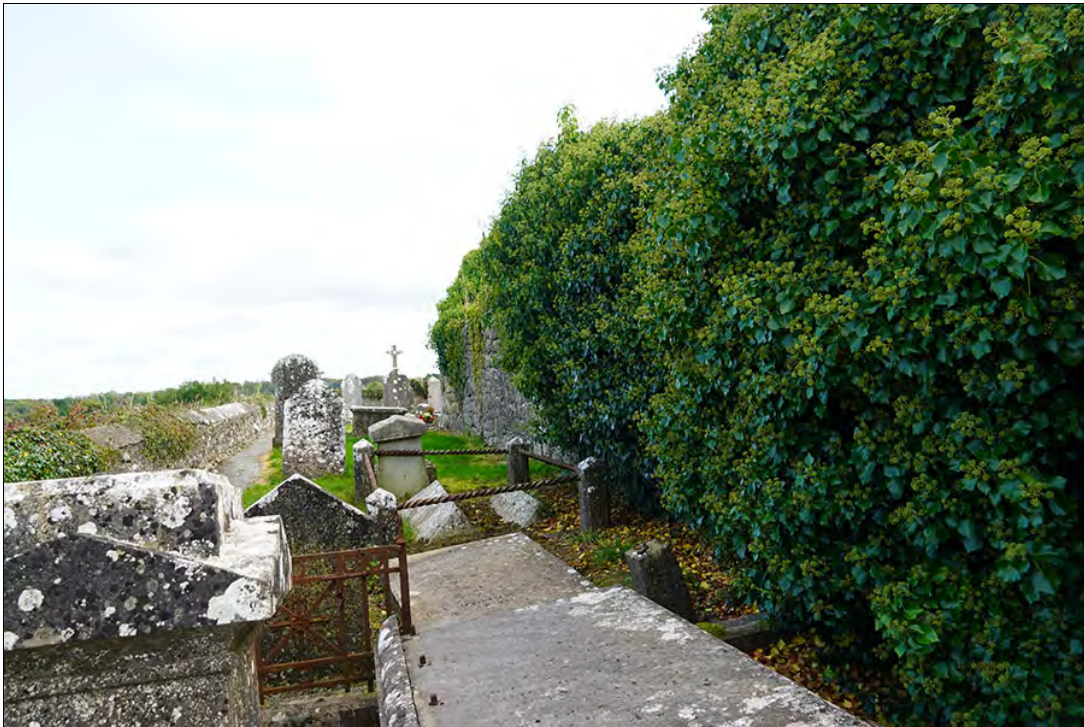


Figure 2.63. N wall, from NW (F. Coyne).



Figure 2.64. Structural crack in N wall externally at NE corner, from N (F. Coyne).



Figure 2.65. Structural crack in N wall internally at NE corner, from SW (F. Coyne).

## Element F: Graveyard Wall

2024 fieldwork

The graveyard is surrounded by a variety of enclosing elements. The only portion of the wall which is built of stone is the E part of the N wall and NE corner. Here it is built of random rubble, bonded with cement mortar with concrete coping. The w wall is of mass concrete, and elsewhere it is a modern rendered block wall with modern railings.



Figure 2.66. Graveyard wall at W, from N (F. Coyne).



Figure 2.67. Graveyard wall at N, from E (F. Coyne).



Figure 2.68. Modern block wall and railings graveyard wall, from S (F. Coyne).

## Element K: Graveyard gate

2024 fieldwork

The graveyard is access through a modern gate.

It is in good condition.



Figure 2.69. Graveyard entrance, from S (F. Coyne).

## 2.8.2 Current management information

The site is in the ownership of Galway County Council.

## 2.8.3 Condition survey

During the recording of the site a detailed condition survey was undertaken on various dates between August and October 2024. The church is in reasonable condition. However, there is an issue where the northwest angle of the church at the east gable is separating from the north wall, The other issue with the site is the growth of ivy, which has resulted in stone falling from the outer face of the west gable, and has also impacted on the east window and also to the window in the south wall.

Another issue which was identified is the use of cement in repointing the stone, as well as a concrete cap on the east gable.

The boundary wall of the graveyard is in very good condition. It is predominantly constructed of mass concrete at west and northwest, apart from a stretch of wall at north and northeast, which is of random rubble stone with cement coping. Elsewhere the boundary is demarcated by a new rendered block wall and modern cast iron railings. The gate is a moder cast iron gate.

The graveyard itself is in excellent condition, with a variety of grave markers being utilised.

The information sign identifying the graves is very useful. A general information sign, with historical and archaeological information would be very beneficial also, and add to the visitor experience.

## 2.9 Zone of Influence

Kilcloony is located in the parish of Kilcloony. Kilcloony has an area of 29.5 km<sup>2</sup> / 7,290.8 acres / 11.4 square miles (<https://www.townlands.ie/galway/kilcloony/>). While the focus of this report is the church and graveyard at Kilcloony, based on the fact that it is the parish church of Kilcloony, it's zone of influence can be said to extend to all the townlands in the parish. There are 30 townlands in the parish of Kilcloony. There is one other upstanding medieval church listed in the SMR for the parish of Kilcloony This is in the townland of Pollboy (GA088-020001-).

**Table 2.4. List of townlands in the parish of Kilcloony.**

| Townland name English           | Irish translation            |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Back                            | <i>An Bac</i>                |
| Ballynamockagh                  | <i>Baile na mBacach</i>      |
| Barnacragh                      | <i>Bearna Chreach</i>        |
| Brackernagh Clancarty           | <i>Breacarnach</i>           |
| Brackernagh Persse              | <i>Breacarnach</i>           |
| Caher                           | <i>An Chathair</i>           |
| Cleaghmore                      | <i>Cliathach Mhór</i>        |
| Curragh                         | <i>An Currach</i>            |
| Deerpark                        | <i>Pháirc an Fhíaidh</i>     |
| Derradda                        | <i>Doire Fhada</i>           |
| Derrymullan                     | <i>Dhoire an Mhaoláin</i>    |
| Dunlo                           | <i>Dún Leo</i>               |
| Eskerroe                        | <i>An Eiscir Rua</i>         |
| Garbally Demesne                | <i>Dhiméin Gharbhaile</i>    |
| Glennavaddoge                   | <i>Gleann na bhFeadóig</i>   |
| Gorteen                         | <i>An Goirtín</i>            |
| Grange                          | <i>An Ghráinseach</i>        |
| Kilcloony                       | <i>Chill Chluaine</i>        |
| Killeen                         | <i>An Coillín</i>            |
| Knockglass                      | <i>An Cnoc Glas</i>          |
| Knocknagreana aka Knocknagrana) | <i>Cnoc na Gréine</i>        |
| Knockroe                        | <i>An Cnoc Rua</i>           |
| Liscappul                       | <i>Lios an Chapail</i>       |
| Loughbown                       | <i>Loch Buan</i>             |
| Mackney                         | <i>Mheacnaí -</i>            |
| Moher                           | <i>An Mothar</i>             |
| Perssepark                      | <i>Páirc an Phiarsaigh</i>   |
| Pollboy                         | <i>An Poll Buí</i>           |
| Tobergrellan                    | <i>Tobar Grealláin</i>       |
| Townparks                       | <i>Pháirceanna an Bhaile</i> |

Of the 72 discrete monuments in the parish, 22 are either crannogs or ringforts, with 1 isolated souterrain and 12 enclosures recorded. Assuming that these may date to the Early Medieval period, a total of 36 monuments may date to this period, so the overwhelming character of the parish is Early Medieval. The prehistoric period is represented by five fulachta fiadh, generally dating to the Bronze Age. There are 8 monuments which may be assumed to be medieval in date, including 3 unclassified castles and 3 churches and graveyards. Also, four children's burial grounds are recorded, which may date from the medieval or post medieval period. The remainder of the monuments are of post medieval date, including houses of 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century date, a country house, and various features including an ice house and tunnel.

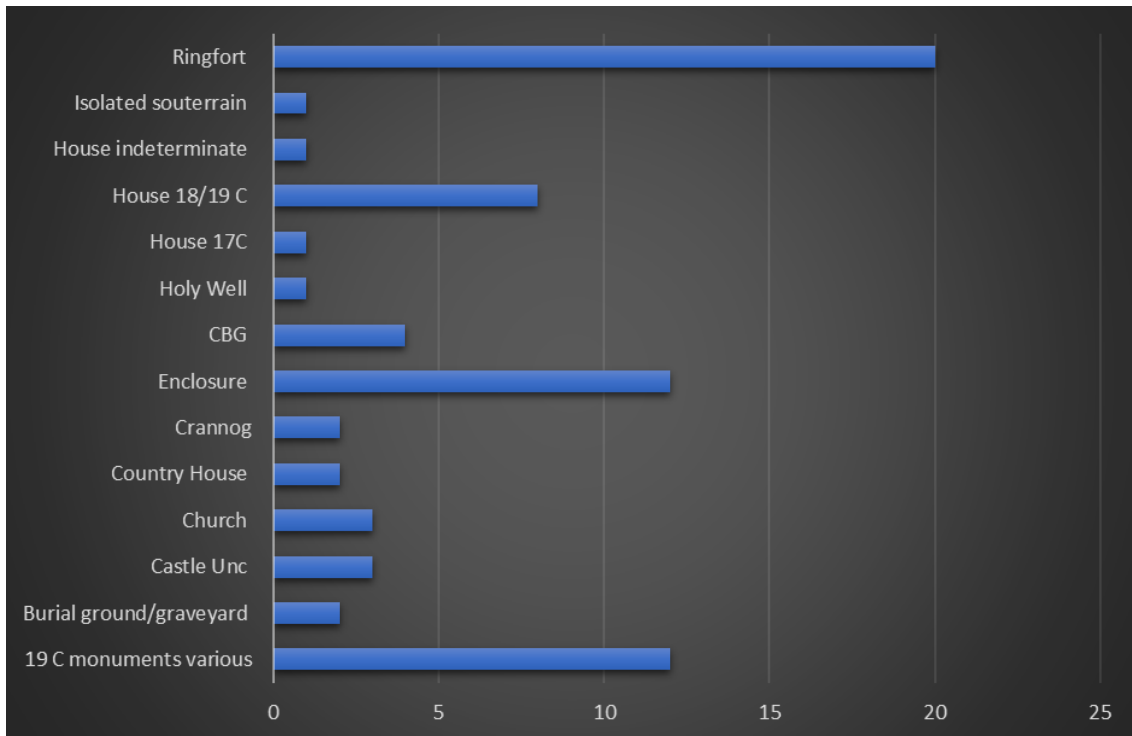


Figure 2.70. Pie chart showing numbers of monuments by type in Kilcloony parish

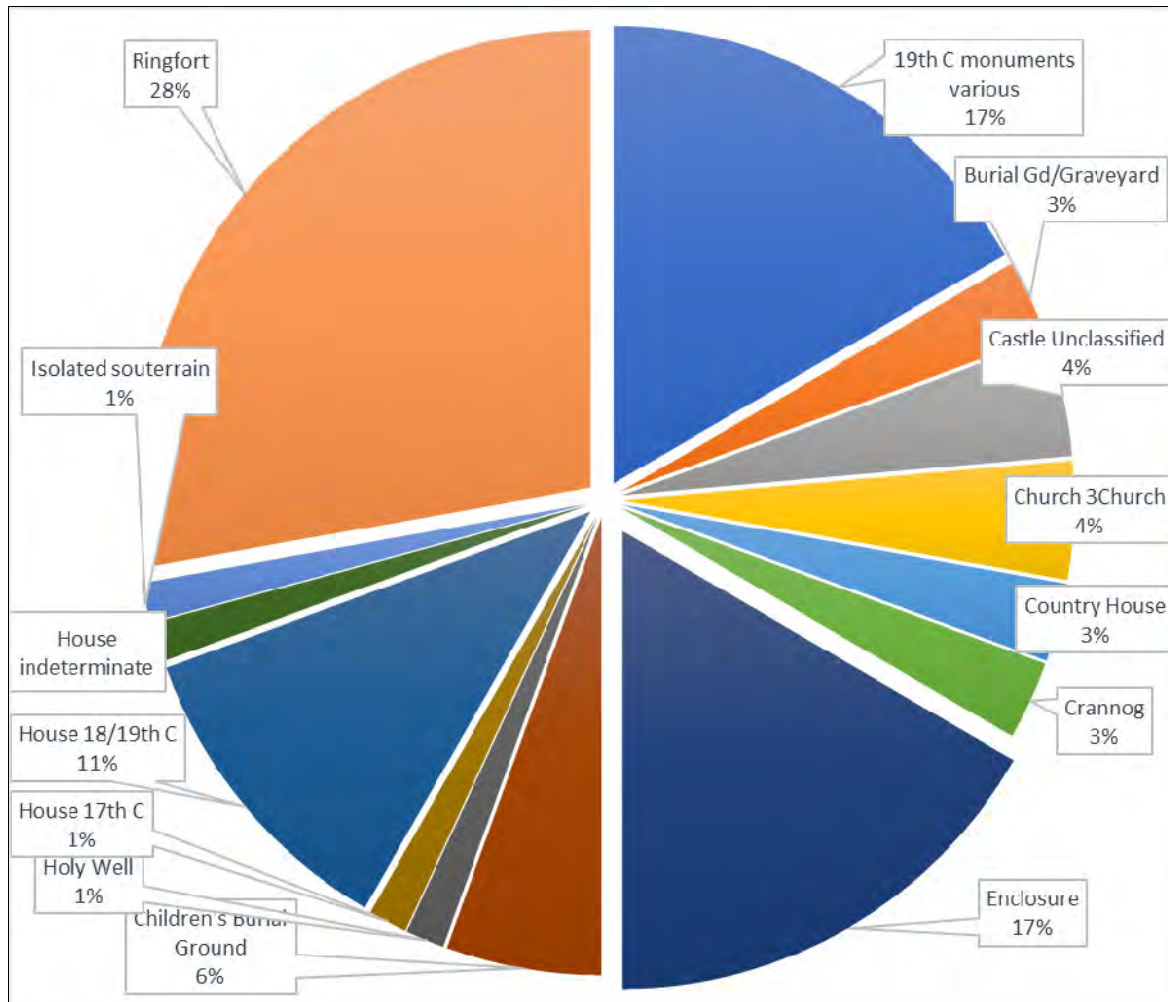


Figure 2.71. Pie chart showing types of monuments by percentage in Kilcloony parish.

Two other medieval churches are known from the parish. One site contains upstanding remains. This is the medieval church in Pollboy townland, is situated approximately 5km to the southeast. Known locally as *Teampoilin*, and said to have been a cell of Clontuskert Abbey, dispured by Gwynn and Hadcock. There is a single-light flat-headed window, two aumbries and a possible sedilia in the south wall, and a twin-light ogee-headed window flanked by two aumbries in east gable ([www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)). The other site is in Garbally demesne townland, and relies on historical evidence only. ccording to Egan (1960, 15), 'there is some evidence of a church in Dunlo in Kilcloony parish in the tenth century, the high church yard, or infants' burial ground was the seventeenth century name. Its position is shown on 'Petty's Atlas'. In 1955, during the construction of the housing estate, 'large quantities of adult human remains were unearthed' along with 'associated finds, a bronze harp-peg and pin and a bone spindle whorl' ([www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)).

## 2.10 Associated Heritage Assets.

### 2.10.1 Natural heritage by *Ruth Minogue and Associates*

#### 2.10.1.6 Ecology recommendations

Any vegetation trimming should be undertaken outside the bird nesting season (1st March to 31st August). Some species were recorded during the site visit in August and these included scarlet pimpernel (*Anagallis arvensis*), white clover and yarrow spp. A mowing regime that benefits such species would enhance overall ecological value of the site. This could be around managing the mowing regime like a hay meadow with minimal cuts and taking away of grass. The All Ireland Pollinator Plan has excellent guidance in this regard: Faith-Communities-Pollinator-Guidelines-2022-WEB.pdf ([pollinators.ie](http://pollinators.ie)).

### 3. Statement of Significance

This section shows the assessment and statement of heritage significance which is an essential aspect of the plan. It sets out why Kilcloony Church and Graveyard is important, which encompasses a variety of reasons of equal merit.

#### 3.1 Key Values: Assessment of Significance

A variety of guidance informs this assessment (Bond and Worthing, 2016; Clark, 2001; CPRE, 2004; DAHG, 2011; DCHG, 2017; English Heritage, 2000; 2008; Historic England, 2019; Lithgow and Thackray, 2009: 17; Semple Kerr, 2013). Kilcloony was assessed using a number of stated criteria 'a family of heritage values' (Fig. 3.1; see English Heritage, 2000 for context; English Heritage, 2008: 23; Historic England, 2019: 16).

'Value' and 'significance' are loaded terms, embodying different things to different groups. In this report it is defined as 'an aspect of worth or importance, ascribed by people to qualities of places or monuments'. Value is categorised: aesthetic, communal, evidential or historical. These valuations are subjective, and are thus defined as an assessment

that reflects the values of the person or group making that assessment. Significance is defined as the *sum* of the cultural and natural heritage values (English Heritage 2008, 24, 60). This assessment has

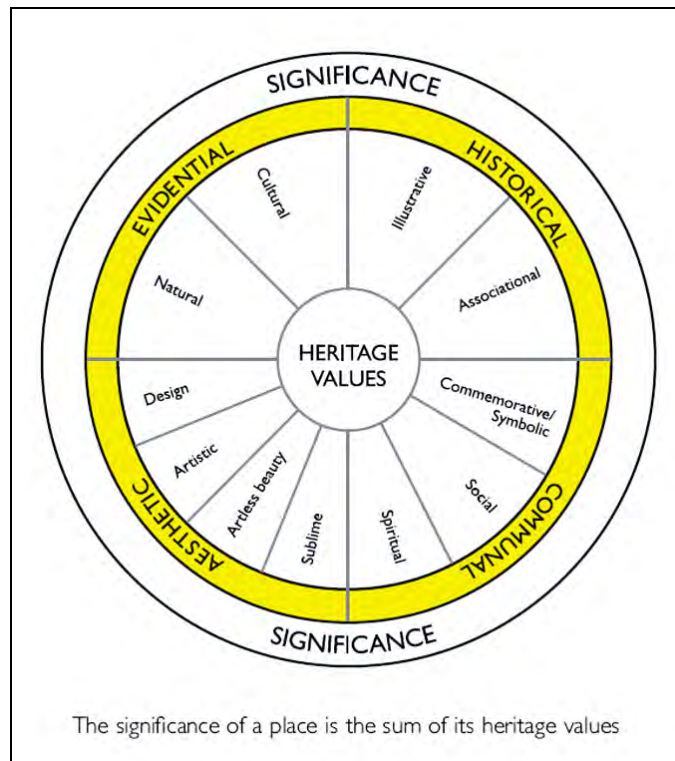


Figure 3.1. Chart illustrating values in an assessment of significance (after English Heritage 2007).

been compiled with consultation and is tabularised in Table 3.1. It has used English Heritage's heritage values (2008) and more recent heritage interest guidance (Historic England 2019, 16).

**Table 3.1. Assessment of significance of Kilcloony Church and Graveyard.**

| Value Category    | Heritage Value (interest)                   | Assessment   |
|-------------------|---|--|
| <b>Evidential</b> | Archaeological and Cultural                 | Kilcloony Church and Graveyard has a high evidential value as it is an excellent example of a late parish medieval church, with carved heads as label stops in the elaborate doorway, as well as decorated ogee headed window..  |
|                   | Natural                                     | Kilcloony Church and Graveyard has some potential for supporting research in disciplines such as wildlife species (bats) and their habitats. It has the potential to become a site for increased biodiversity in a landscape increasingly dominated by grazing.  |
|                   | Architectural (architectural)               | Kilcloony Church has an architectural value as it contains It has evidence of two phases of construction. The first phase is evidenced by 12 <sup>th</sup> /13 <sup>th</sup> century reused stonework, most notable in the east window.. A second phase of construction is marked by 15 <sup>th</sup> /16 <sup>th</sup> century stonework, particularly the ogee headed window and pointed arch doorway in the south wall. The graveyard also contains a variety of headstones, graveslabs and tomb types.                                     |
| <b>Historical</b> | Illustrative (historic)                     | Kilcloony Church and Graveyard is considered to be of some historical value as it is an excellent example of a parish church.  |
|                   | Associational (historic)                    | The church is associated with a local saint (Saint Grellan).   |
| <b>Communal</b>   | Commemorative/Symbolic                      | The site is well known in the locality due to its long use as a burial ground and its association with Saint Grellan.  |
|                   | Social                                      | It currently has a relatively low social value but has the potential to raise its social value, significantly, through increased awareness such as the dissemination of information and improvements in access.  |
|                   | Spiritual                                   | The monument has a significant spiritual value having several elements associated with late medieval parish church, for example, the assorted graves, dating from the late medieval period to fine stone carved headstones and grave slab of the nineteenth century.   |
|                   | Landscape and amenity                       | The landscape and amenity value of the Kilcloony Church and Graveyard is high. It is set in a beautiful flat countryside of east Galway. The church is situated at the end of an Esker ridge, which indicates that this church was located along an ancient routeway going back to at least the Early Medieval period. It has potential for amenity in the form of a destination point for visitors interested in the architecture of late medieval Ireland. The site is easy to access, and there is a large car park (sections 4; 5; and 6). |
| <b>Aesthetic</b>  | Sublime (artistic)                          | Kilcloony church and graveyard is considered as being of 'sublime' aesthetic value, as its architectural design and surrounding graveyard are fine examples of late medieval ecclesiastical archaeology.   |
|                   | Artless Beauty, Artistic and Art Historical | Kilcloony Church and Graveyard is not considered as having an 'artless beauty', in itself but in its local setting is regionally important.  |
|                   | Design (architectural and artistic)         | Kilcloony Church and Graveyard is a pleasing design and a typical example of its type.   |

## 3.2 Statement of Significance

Kilcloony Church and Graveyard is of regional significance as a fine example of its type. It contains numerous elements that one would expect to find in a late medieval church and graveyard, for example, the church which exhibits at least two phases of construction, with decorated ogee headed window and doorway. The church and graveyard also contains fine examples of nineteenth century headstones, graveslabs and tombs. The church is situated at the end of an Esker ridge, which indicates that this church was located along an ancient routeway going back to at least the Early Medieval period.

## 4. Risk: Defining Management Issues and Assessing Vulnerability

There are some factors that are either already risks or are potential risks to Kilcloony Church and Graveyard that make the monument vulnerable (Table 4.1). There are also a number of opportunities that would improve the overall condition and environment of the monument which would protect it for future generations to enjoy (Table 4.2). This section assesses those risks and lists potential opportunities, while the following section 5 makes suggestions to mitigate risks and presents options for stabilisation or re-use of the monument.

**Table 4.1. List of risks and vulnerabilities to Kilcloony Church and Graveyard (relative risks: Low; Medium; High).**

| Risks and vulnerabilities No.                     | Sub-risks  | Commentary   | Relative risk level |
|---|--|--|---------------------|
| <b>1. Fabric Condition</b>                        | Current condition<br>Future deterioration<br>Issues and lessons learned                          | Structurally, the fabric of the church is in a reasonably good state, with the exception of a structural crack in the NE gable.. Limited intervention is suggested, repair of the structural crack, and stabilisation works where masonry is falling from the wall in the W gable. .<br>Conservation without regular maintenance is of limited effectiveness. The main threat to the structures is from the structural instability caused by the cutting/killing of ivy. | M                   |
| <b>2. Use levels: changes and appropriateness</b> | Levels of use over time and changes to use<br>Access<br>Vandalism<br>Antisocial behaviour        | There is no evidence of antisocial behaviour (littering, graffiti) or vandalism. This is publicly accessible graveyard.  | L                   |
| <b>3. Site constraints</b>                        | Resources<br>Statutory controls<br>Boundaries<br>Other legal constraints                         | Funding is intermittent and ad hoc, being available in emergencies. Statutory controls are beneficial and serve to protect monument as an archaeological monument. Local authority policies are supportive. Boundaries are unclear on ground, the complex is in private ownership, though access is freely permitted. There is no formal management plan for maintenance in place  | L                   |
| <b>4 Wider context issues</b>                     | Siting<br>Proper knowledge, understanding and appreciation of monument<br>Other external factors | The siting of the monument is good. While the site is very well known locally and perhaps regionally; few know the detail of its archaeology or architectural features.  | H                   |

## 4.1 Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT)

As part of this assessment, a SWOT analysis was undertaken in an attempt to tease out strengths and opportunities for the monument in order to capitalise on these aspects, while acknowledging the inherent weaknesses and threats to the monument—which fed into the risks considered in Table 4.1. Strengths and weaknesses relate to internal forces, while opportunities and threats are external forces to the monument, some of which, it must be acknowledged may not be easily controlled or mitigated for in the future (see section 5). In some cases, forces might be considered both a strength and also a threat.

**Table 4.2. Results of SWOT analysis.**

|                        | Strengths (S)   | Weaknesses (W)  |
|------------------------|---|---|
| <i>Internal forces</i> | S1. Fine example of a late medieval parish church, with evidence of 12/13 <sup>th</sup> century original fabric, and later 15 <sup>th</sup> 16 <sup>th</sup> century alterations. | W1. There is no maintenance regime on the church.   |
|                        | S2. Generally, in good condition with repairs required to the NE corner.  | W2. It is not connected to known waymarked walking routes.  |
|                        | S3. Within a short drive from the main roads and the Wild Atlantic Way.   | W3. While there is information available at the site, the signage is relates to the graves only, and there is no overall information board. . |
|                        | S4. Many tourists visit the Wild Atlantic Way, Kilcloony Church and Graveyard site presents an opportunity to visit a medieval parish church,                                     | W4. There is no maintenance regime on the church.   |
|                        | S5. There is ample carparking space.  |   |
|                        | Opportunities (O)   | Threats (T)   |
| <i>External forces</i> | O1. Many local authority policy objectives in both the Development Plan and local authority initiatives encourage the re-use of heritage sites.                                   | T1. Future climate changes may see monument inundated. Strong winds/gales have a detrimental effect on structural fabric.                     |
|                        | O2. There are increasing opportunities for new novel tourism products Galway and its hinterland, such as walking tours and looped walks.  | T2. The structural crack in the NE corner presents a threat to the future structural integrity of the church.. .                              |
|                        | O3. Community Monument Funding or Heritage Council funding for conservation, a plan and maintenance into the future and other funding opportunities.                              | T3. Without maintenance, the ivy will continue to grow and will have a negative effect on the church.   |
|                        | O4. Opportunities for research projects   |   |

## 4.2 Gap Analysis

Kilcloony Church has recently had the ivy which covers the east gable cut back. This has resulted in destabilising the inner face of the gable. The graveyard is accessible and well maintained, although there are no dedicated pathways. . With a substantial amount of conservation work and signage it will become an important destination, where the architecture of a medieval parish church can be appreciated. A number of options as to how this 'vibrant place' might be practically achieved are outlined in section 5.3.

## 5. Conservation Management Policy Aims

### 5.1 Policy Context

Conservation policies for Kilcloony Church and Graveyard are based on the statement of significance assigned in section 3.2, the relative levels of significance in section 3.3, and identified vulnerabilities outlined in section 4. This in turn informs positive strategic aims that can be achieved through the conservation policies below. The implementation of these policies is ideally via a future agreed action plan between all the stakeholders (section 6). The process is informed by a vision statement formulated after the statement of significance. These policies are aligned to the objectives set out in local authority documentation (appendix 8.6).

### 5.2 Vision

Kilcloony church and Graveyard shall be conserved, maintained and introduced to a new generation of visitors. Its ultimate conservation and repair as an archaeological monument shall maintain its integrity, authenticity, and significance for future generations. Its conservation and ongoing maintenance shall be sensitive to its original use as a medieval parish church. Measures shall be taken to ensure the continued protection of character of the monument.

## 5.3 Future Options and Appraisal

Following consultation and research on similar projects as a benchmarking exercise, the following options were suggested. It is important to note that (excepting the “do-nothing” option required for comparison; EPA 2017) only options that respect the statement of significance and embody the vision for the monument were listed (table 5.1). All options are in keeping with local authority objectives and national regulation (appendices 8.6; 8.7). A major advantage is that there is already an electricity supply to the lighthouse cottage and a new fuse board installed. A general heritage impact assessment for capital works has been undertaken as part of this study (appendix 8.5).

**Table 5.1. Options and individual appraisal matrix.**

| Option   | Advantages   | Disadvantages   | Outline of Extent of Works Required  |
|--|--|---|--|
| <b>1. Do Nothing</b>   | No cost implications   | Monument will rapidly become ruinous  | N/a  |
| <b>2. Stabilisation</b>  | Lower cost implications<br>Considerations such as visitor welfare and access do not need addressing. | Monument will in time become more ruinous and unsafe  | Minor repairs.<br>Establish a programme of regular maintenance.                            |
| <b>3. Repair</b>   | Maintaining the church for future generations to enjoy. Improve access for visitors                  | Cost implications;<br>Schedule of future maintenance required to keep building sound;<br>Future cost implications | Major repairs to structure , particularly the east gable and south wall near the door ope. |
| <b>4. Re-purpose for public presentation as part of looped walk or trail.:</b> | In addition to 3. above public access (physical and intellectual) will be promoted.                  | Increased footfall and insertion of information boards etc. may lead to increased erosion on site.                | Information panel to be added.   |

## 5.4 Management Policies

Overarching conservation policies are recommended for the conservation of Kilcloony Church and Graveyard regardless of the preferred option from table 5.1. They are in no particular order. The themes are deliberately broad and there is some overlap where policies straddle a number of topics:

**Table 5.2 Conservation management plan policies.**

| Policy Number | Policy   | Description  |
|---------------|--|--|
| CMPP1         | Protection   | <p>There will be the presumption in favour of retaining and conserving all <i>in situ</i> portions of the monument of all periods whether they are extant or sub-surface as important contributions to the character development of the monument. The levels of significance in this document will be adhered to.</p> <p>Ensure the protection of the monument as an architectural/archaeological resource by allowing architectural/archaeological investigations only where it is deemed necessary, justifiable and appropriate and where such work will contribute to a better understanding of the monument. Any work should be in accordance to an agreed research framework.</p> <p>No interventions for conservation or architectural/archaeological purposes shall be permitted without agreed and approved provision for research, recording, analysis, publication and archiving. Under the current legislation at the time of writing, consents are required for such works.</p>  |
| CMPP2         | Future conservation, prioritisation of repairs, inspection and maintenance | <p>To conserve the monument and to provide an effective and continuous maintenance programme thereafter for conservation and repair through a programme of works (see section 6 below). The following policies are adopted for repair and conservation works:</p> <p>To be done on a phased basis, in a sustainable way;</p> <p>Archival quality photographic record to be undertaken prior to conservation works;</p> <p>To provide a suitable environment in which conservation workers and visitors are accommodated to ensure safety;</p> <p>To save money in the longer term through effective maintenance;</p> <p>No damp proof courses to be inserted in structures that did not have one previously;</p> <p>That lead should be repaired. If possible, all lead should be replaced with a lead alternative. There are several new materials available which, apart from the environmental benefits, would also prevent future vandalism and theft as it would have no re-sale value;</p> <p>During these works, information and interpretation will be provided to explain what is happening and to increase public awareness and understanding.</p> <p>A regular programme of inspection should commence for the monument by a designated person, which could include for safety, structural and conservational issues. It is recommended that this take place on a regular basis for the purposes of monitoring the stability of the monument. Appropriate craftspeople and professionals will be utilised for all work where feasible. Training will be provided for continued maintenance personnel. Advice from regulatory bodies such as the NMS architectural division should be sought in this regard. The Heritage Officer to approve all specialist contractors and conservation specialists.</p> <p>There is a presumption against removal of material from a historic location. Consideration in favour of repair rather than replacement should always be applied in the first instance.</p> <p>Where materials cannot be salvaged from the monument and re-used, new local materials may be sourced, with appropriate regulation followed.</p> |
| CMPP3         | Understanding, Education and Research, Access                              | <p>The known recorded history and archaeology have been recorded in this document. An oral history project was beyond the remit of this plan but there may be a wealth of local oral history and tradition associated with the</p>   |

|       |   |   |
|-------|---|---|
|       |   | <p>monument that has yet to be recorded. An oral history project could collect this information in order to increase public awareness and to provide opportunities for increased awareness.</p> <p>Encourage research and understanding, for all, including 1st and 2nd level curriculum development and through a variety of media. For example, interpretive tools which would include but not be limited to maps, guides, trails, videos, DVD, posters, an information board, an educational pack, which are publicly accessible.</p> <p>Develop ideas to provide for both physical and intellectual access of the monument. This should take into account disability and other pertinent legislation, and might include signage in Braille, or access to support those with limited mobility.</p> <p>The interpretation of the monument will be as holistic as is possible to include histories, natural, cultural, social history and archaeology in the context of the wider landscape of south Galway.</p> |
| CMPP4 | Management  | A graveyard committee should undertake ongoing decision-making and conflict resolution where it may occur. The committee should take responsibility for funding support and ongoing budgeting.  |
| CMPP5 | Archive management (paper archive; collections, contents) | Steering committee to oversee the creation of an ongoing archive of records of conservation work as it proceeds and the ongoing collection of material of relevance.  |
| CMP6  | Environment and wider landscape context                   | <p>Cognisance to be taken of the ecology of the monument and its surroundings. An ecology survey should be considered in advance of any conservation/re-purposing work and undertaken at the correct time of year.</p> <p>Care should be taken to preserve the current landscape setting of the monument in so far as is practicable.</p>   |

## 6. Action Plan: Future Implementation

Table 6.1 outlines a plan of action in order to achieve the management policies and vision for Kilcloony Church and Graveyard while strictly adhering to its statement of heritage significance. It is suggested that a steering committee be formed of stakeholders to take responsibility for the actioning of this plan (CMPP4).

**Table 6.1 Conservation management plan actions (short within 1 year; medium 2-3 years; long 4-5 years).**

| Action No. | Description   | Management policy reference | Action duration (short, medium, long term) |
|------------|---|-----------------------------|--|
| 1          | Trim ivy from remaining upstanding structure. This ivy should take the form of trimming back to within 5cm of the wall. Repairs are necessary to address the structural crack in the wall in the NE corner, and prevent deterioration of the E gable. | 2                           | Short                                      |
| 2          | Repair of E gable   | 2                           | Short                                      |
| 3          | Repair of N, W & S walls  | 2                           | Short                                      |
| 5          | Complete removal of dead ivy and a programme of consolidation and repair of the church. This repair should take the form of removing cement mortar and replace with appropriate lime mortar.  | 2                           | Medium                                     |

## 6.2 Indicative Costs

Table 6.2. Indicative costs.

| Task   | Net (Euro) | Vat 13.5% | Vat 23%  | Total     |
|--|------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Repair of N, S and W walls                             | 46,340.00  | 5,445.90  | 1,380    | 53,165.90 |
| Repair of E Gable                                      | 27,260.00  | 2,060.10  | 2,760.00 | 32,080.10 |
| Contingency 14% of total                               | 10,303.40  | 1,050.77  | 579.60   | 11,934.00 |
| Allow pc sum for heritage specialists to oversee works | 20,000.00  |           | 4,600.00 | 24,600.00 |
| Information board (writing and production)             | 5,000.00   |           | 1,150.00 | 6,150.00  |
| Sub total  |            |           |          |           |
| Total inc. VAT   |            |           |          |           |

6.2 Extract from Conservation Architect's Report *by Karol O'Mahony Accredited Conservation Architect – Grade two (see appendix for full report). Please also refer to Engineer's report in appendix.*

## 6.3 Extract from Conservation Engineer's Report *by Martin English* *ACP – Grade two (see appendix for full report).*

### **6.3.1 Assessment of ruins of St. Grellan's Church.**

#### **6.3.1.1 Northern wall**

The northern wall of the church, in plane, has noted undulations. The wall top has vegetation present, with ivy growth noted to the western end, covering a large section of the wall.

There are noted attempts at remedial works to this wall, externally and internally, with a cementitious mortar noted within the joints with a sharp sand aggregate. The pinning stones are noted to be few and far between.



Figure View of the northern elevation of St. Grellan's Church.



Photograph 1 Eastern section of the northern elevation.



**Photograph 2** Western section of the northern elevation. Note heavy vegetation growth.



**Photograph 3** Detail from the northern elevation demonstrating the mortar used in the remedial works. Note large aggregates of the sharp sand.

Overall, in spite of the undulations, the wall appears structurally stable, with no cracks visible that would be considered worrying in nature. The wall is well bonded with both gable ends where visible.



**Photograph 4** Internal view of the northern wall, western end.

### **6.1.2 Western Wall**

The western elevation of the church also has heavy vegetation present. In particular, the northwest corner, where the masonry is completely covered.

There are notable loose masonry units to the wall top to this elevation.

Where the masonry is visible, it appears structurally sound. The same cementitious mortar used in past remedial works is also noted to the elevation, externally.



**Photograph 5** View of the western wall.



**Photograph 6** Internal view of the western wall. Mostly covered in ivy.

The wall top is uneven with a notable dip in the center. In plane, the wall appears true, though the vegetation makes this assessment difficult.



**Photograph 7** Detail from the western wall. Note cementitious mortar and pinning stone reinstated.

Again, the pinning stones are few and far between, a lot noted to have been lost with the deterioration of the original binders. Where present, the pinning stones are loose and in danger of loss.

### 6.1.3 Southern Wall (Entrance)

The southern wall is noted to be leaning outwards when viewed in plane, otherwise the wall appears structurally sound.



Photograph 8 View from the southeast facing the southern / eastern elevations.



Photograph 9 View of the southern wall in plane.



**Photograph 10** Lancet arched door opening. The masonry units are in good repair.



**Photograph 11** View of the assumed Romanesque arched window opening.

There are notable loose masonry units to the wall top here also, with the vegetation growth minor in comparison to the remaining elevations.

The noted cementitious mortar used in remedial efforts elsewhere is not as prominent on this elevation, either externally or internally.



Photograph 12 Internal view of the southern elevation.

There is one lancet arched door opening in this elevation. The voussoirs of the opening appear sound with all of the masonry units intact. The Romanesque window opening is partially covered in vegetation.

### 3.1.4 Eastern Wall (gable)

The eastern wall, in plane is notably leaning outwards, with the full height of the wall in plane, suggestive of a foundation issue (subsidence over time of the ground beneath, locally). The pressure as a result of this lean can be observed in the masonry units of the gable, in particular to the window jamb stones, see *Photograph 17* below.

The gable wall tops appear secure, with the masonry internally and externally also intact for the most part. The binding material has long washed out with heavy vegetation growth also noted on the northern side of the gable at height.



Photograph 13 Eastern elevation view. Inset, side plane view, note lean of the wall outwards.

However the ogee arched window opening of the gable end, which has a crucifix crudely attached to it externally, has missing and slipped masonry units internally.



Photograph 14 Detail of remedial cementitious binder.

This internal masonry construction is separate to the external finer banked masonry, with the internal arch having formerly been a flat arch with masonry units roughly banked onsite before insertion over the centering formwork.



Photograph 15. Internal view of the eastern gable opening. Note missing voussoirs.



Photograph 16. Bottom-up view of the internal arch soffit. Units dangling dangerously.



**Photograph 17** View of the window jamb stones. Note shear damage to the lower unit from the pressure of the lean of the wall.

It is noted that the keystone appears to be missing along with a number of other masonry units, in particular around the location of the arch springing point.

This masonry is in danger of collapse at any stage.

#### 4.0 Outline Scope of Works

St Grellan's Church is constructed of natural limestone throughout. There are a small number of openings present, completed with finely dressed masonry units. There are a number of noted minor issues as per the previous section, with the major element of works to make the building safe centered around the eastern gable end of the building which is in need of major remedial and stabilisation interventions.

All masonry remedial works, repointing works and grouting works are to undertaken with natural lime based mortars and grouts. Mixes to be as specified or as approved by the inspecting consultants.

#### **The following is the recommended scope of works required to consolidate St Grellan's Church:**

1. Erection of access towers for works at height.
2. Careful cutting back of the ivy to the face of the stone using hand shears.
  - a. Ivy should not be pulled, due to the uncertainty around the condition of the underlying masonry.
  - b. Any masonry units in imminent danger of collapse, coming loose from the wall should be marked clearly, but not indelibly and recorded in place, before being carefully set aside for later reinstatement.
3. On completion of the above, the previously covered wall sections will be inspected by the appointed Building Conservation Accredited Surveyor and the Licensed Archeologist who will agree a suitable course of action / scope of works to these sections.

Works required to the visible sections of St Grellan's Church (Internal and External):

#### Northern Wall

The northern wall requires removal of vegetation growth, consolidation of the loose masonry units to the wall top and loose units within the wall face, inclusive of works to aid the retention of the extant pinning stones.

The cementitious mortar present in the wall will be left in place where it is intact and stable for now.

Generally the works will proceed as follow:

1. Ahead of works, the subject section of the structures on site will be recorded in full by way of annotated photography.
2. Where a section of the wall will require dismantling:
  - a. The wall will be carefully dismantled and stored onsite to the front of the wall, ready for reinstatement.
  - b. The exposed core of the wall will be visually examined and recorded by the appointed licensed Archeologist as required.
  - c. On completion of the investigations, the works to the wall are proposed to proceed as follows:

- d. Recording of the subject section (s) of wall prior to dismantling under the supervision of a licensed Archeologist.
  - e. Dismantling of the wall, down to the required level (where the wall is deemed stable) for rebuilding.
  - f. Rebuilding of the wall, in a traditional manner using a Natural Hydraulic Lime based mortar. Mortar to be recessed back from the masonry arris in order to minimise the impact of the repairs visually with the surrounding intact walls.
    - i. The sequence and coursing of the rebuilding is to match the existing style of the surrounding wall in this section of the site.
3. Undertake necessary raking and repointing works.
    - a. Raking out of exiting defective mortar as required.
    - b. Application of a Natural Hydraulic Lime based mortar pointing to the bed and perpend joints where defective mortar has been removed or where the original mortar is no longer in place.
    - c. Protection of the works with a hessian covering until carbonation is complete.
  4. The capping of the completed wall using soft capping, to match existing onsite.

**Approximately 48m<sup>2</sup> of Raking and Repointing works required and 20m<sup>2</sup> of dismantling and rebuilding works to be allowed for.**

#### Western Wall

The western wall requires removal of vegetation growth, consolidation of the loose masonry units to the wall top and loose units within the wall face, inclusive of works to aid the retention of the extant pinning stones.

The cementitious mortar present in the wall will be left in place where it is intact and stable for now.

Generally the works will proceed as follow:

1. Ahead of works, the subject section of the structures on site will be recorded in full by way of annotated photography.
2. Where a section of the will require dismantling:
  - a. The wall will be carefully dismantled and stored onsite to the front of the wall, ready for reinstatement.
  - b. The exposed core of the wall will be visually examined and recorded by the appointed licensed Archeologist as required.
  - c. On completion of the investigations, the works to the wall are proposed to proceed as follows:
    - d. Recording of the subject section (s) of wall prior to dismantling under the supervision of a licensed Archeologist.
    - e. Dismantling of the wall, down to the required level (where the wall is deemed stable) for rebuilding.
    - f. Rebuilding of the wall, in a traditional manner using a Natural Hydraulic Lime based mortar. Mortar to be recessed back from the masonry arris in order to minimise the impact of the repairs visually with the surrounding intact walls.
      - i. The sequence and coursing of the rebuilding is to match the existing style of the surrounding wall in this section of the site.
3. Undertake necessary raking and repointing works.
  - a. Raking out of exiting defective mortar as required.

- b. Application of a Natural Hydraulic Lime based mortar pointing to the bed and perpend joints where defective mortar has been removed or where the original mortar is no longer in place.
  - c. Protection of the works with a hessian covering until carbonation is complete.
5. The capping of the completed wall using soft capping, to match existing onsite.

**Approximately 20m<sup>2</sup> of Raking and Repointing works required and 10m<sup>2</sup> of dismantling and rebuilding works to be allowed for.**

#### Southern Wall

The southern wall requires removal of vegetation growth, consolidation of the loose masonry units to the wall top and loose units within the wall face, inclusive of works to aid the retention of the extant pinning stones.

The cementitious mortar present in the wall will be left in place where it is intact and stable for now.

Generally the works will proceed as follow:

1. Ahead of works, the subject section of the structures on site will be recorded in full by way of annotated photography.
2. Where a section of the wall will require dismantling:
  - a. The wall will be carefully dismantled and stored onsite to the front of the wall, ready for reinstatement.
  - b. The exposed core of the wall will be visually examined and recorded by the appointed licensed Archeologist as required.
  - c. On completion of the investigations, the works to the wall are proposed to proceed as follows:
    - d. Recording of the subject section (s) of wall prior to dismantling under the supervision of a licensed Archeologist.
    - e. Dismantling of the wall, down to the required level (where the wall is deemed stable) for rebuilding.
    - f. Rebuilding of the wall, in a traditional manner using a Natural Hydraulic Lime based mortar. Mortar to be recessed back from the masonry arris in order to minimise the impact of the repairs visually with the surrounding intact walls.
      - i. The sequence and coursing of the rebuilding is to match the existing style of the surrounding wall in this section of the site.
3. Undertake necessary raking and repointing works.
  - a. Raking out of exiting defective mortar as required.
  - b. Application of a Natural Hydraulic Lime based mortar pointing to the bed and perpend joints where defective mortar has been removed or where the original mortar is no longer in place.
  - c. Protection of the works with a hessian covering until carbonation is complete.
6. The capping of the completed wall using soft capping, to match existing onsite.

**Approximately 55m<sup>2</sup> of Raking and Repointing works required and 25m<sup>2</sup> of dismantling and rebuilding works to be allowed for.**

#### Eastern Wall

Consideration on the approach to the stabilisation of the gable overall will need to be explored. In the interim, the area immediately around the internal face of this wall should be fenced off to discourage access due to the inherent danger of loose masonry falling clear of the wall.

Options for the works include:

#### **Option One**

- Installation of structural supports to stabilise the wall and mitigate against collapse during works.
  - Structural steel wrap supported by raking shores and Kelly blocks, installed on each elevation with no penetration to the ground.
- Dismantling of the gable down to the cill level.
- Underpinning of the eastern face of the wall to mitigate against further lean.
- Rebuilding of the wall in full from cill level up.

NOTE: The wall will remain out of plumb.

#### **Option Two**

- Installation of structural supports to stabilise the wall and mitigate against collapse during works.
  - Structural steel wrap supported by raking shores and Kelly blocks, installed on each elevation with no penetration to the ground.
- Vegetation removal.
- Insertion of formwork to the opening.
- Reinstatement / replacement of missing masonry units around the opening jambs and arch, in particular the reinstatement of the key stone.
- Masonry consolidation works to the remainder of the wall.
- Necessary raking and repointing works throughout.

NOTE: The wall will remain out of plumb.

**The quantity allowance below is for option two only.**

**Generally, Approximately 22m<sup>2</sup> of Raking and Repointing works required and 15m<sup>2</sup> of dismantling and rebuilding works to be allowed for.**

#### **5.0 Method Statements**

##### **5.1 Method Statement – General**

The Contractor is to prepare a construction management plan and a waste management plan, which is to be agreed with the Building Conservation Accredited Surveyor prior to taking possession of the site.

Any changes or amendments to the agreed schedule are to be notified and agreed with the supervising Building Conservation Accredited Surveyor and appointed licensed Archeologist prior to implementation.

All the works will be carried out within the criteria of the best practice of conservation of historic buildings – Department of Environment guidelines No.'s 1, 2, 4, 7, 8 & 15.

All works to be inspected by a Building Conservation Accredited Surveyor with experience in conservation/restoration of historic buildings and the appointed licensed Archeologist as required during works.

Detailed daily records including photographs are to be kept of the works at all stages by the contractor.

**All contractors/site personnel and their staff will be required to have read this method statement document and associated documents and sign an undertaking stating that they have done so.**

### ***5.2 Method Statement – Dismantling works***

Machine operated equipment is only allowed on the removal of modern material. Hand operated equipment is required when working directly with historic fabric. The use of pneumatic drills and hammers is not permitted in this project. The contractor is to take all necessary precautions to protect the fabric from collapse/damage during the works.

**NOTE:** Where fabric is to be taken down, opened up, altered or demolished, this is to be undertaken under the supervision of the Building Conservation Accredited Surveyor and appointed licensed Archeologist and it is to be phased to allow for recording and compiling necessary samples.

The phasing is to be agreed on site with the contractor and the supervising Building Conservation Accredited Surveyor and appointed licensed Archeologist. The contractor is to ensure that adequate time and attendances are provided to carry out this recording – Retention by Record to ICOMOS standard is to be achieved.

### ***5.3 Method Statement –Scaffolding / access***

All scaffolding is to be erected by a qualified competent person. The scaffolding must support itself. No screws or fixings to be placed/mounted on the historic fabric. Scaffolding is to be carefully assembled, complete with ladders, loading platforms, hoist mounts, safety rails, debris nets and shelter as required.

All required Certification is to be supplied to the contractor on completion of scaffolding for inclusion in the safety file. Scaffolding signs and tags and all other safety notifications as required under Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations 2013 are to be displayed on completion of scaffolding.

Scaffolding is to be sufficient to perform the full scope of works as specified in the contract documents and onsite with the Building Conservation Accredited Surveyor.

The contractor is to ensure that where a scaffold is designed for purpose for nonstandard work that it is sufficient to access and complete the full scope of works. No deviations will be allowed for within the scope of works.

### ***5.4 Method Statement – Removal of vegetation***

Remove all vegetation, including woody plants prior to undertaking repair works. Plants including buddleia, valerian etc. root systems and associated soil/debris should be carefully removed from joints, voids, and face work.

Clean moss growth with biocide treatment for organic growths – SOPP (Sodium Orthophenylpneanate) water soluble approved by the Health and Safety Authority or approved equivalent. Apply to manufacturer's instructions/recommendations.

### **5.5 Method Statement – Masonry remedial works**

Where required, the masonry is to be carefully dismantled in sections, and then rebuilt under supervision with inspections undertaken by the appointed Building Conservation Accredited Surveyor and appointed Licensed Archeologist. The following methodology shall be used:

- An analysis of the existing mortar/binder in place is to be undertaken ahead of any works, with a report produced on same. This report will inform the mortar/binder to be used for the masonry remedial works.
- Prior to commencement of works, the contractor is to carefully record the masonry units. The stone is to be marked clearly, but not indelibly, on face of masonry units or parts of units to be removed. Transcribe markings to drawings/high resolution photographs for reference for future reinstatement of the units.
  - This record will be presented to the supervising consultants for approval prior to continuing with the works.
- The masonry units are to be removed in full (not cut down in any way) from the top down and placed with the masonry course from which they came within the site of the wall, ready for reinstatement.
  - The wall core will be examined by the appointed licensed Archeologist during the process of the dismantling of the wall.
- The dismantled masonry units will be reinstated to their original position in so far as is practical on the outer face of the wall.
  - The masonry units are to re-laid in a Natural Hydraulic Lime based mortar and or mortar based on the results of the mortar sample analysis report.
  - The record of the defective section taken prior to commencement of works shall be used to ensure the accurate rebuilding of the wall.
  - The wall core is to have a Natural Hydraulic lime-based grout applied during the course of the repointing works as required.
  - The repointing is to be recessed on completion in order to match the appearance of the surrounding masonry units.
- The "Soft Capping Method" e.g. *"the use of grass and other plants plus soil to cover largely horizontal masonry surfaces to protect the wall below."*

### **5.6 Method Statement – Raking and repointing works**

The joints of the masonry are to be raked out as required in areas of failure or where vegetation has been removed, to a depth of 25mm or three times the width of the facing joint, whichever is greater, and re pointed using a NHL 3.5 based mortar, mix ratio 2.5:1 or as per the recommendations of the mortar sample analysis (See Appendix for further details) to be agreed with the supervising Building Conservation Accredited Surveyor on site prior to application of mortar.

**Two Number samples of the mortar finishes are to be prepared by the contractor for approval. See appendix for further details.**

NOTE: Where at the requisite raking depth the bedding mortar is found to be unstable, the joint is to be raked back until a stable mortar bed is met within the joint.

## 9.1 Budget Estimate

| Description                                    | Estimated Cost | V.A.T. @13.5%<br>or 23% where<br>indicated. | Total<br>Estimated Cost       | Totals     |
|--|----------------|---|-------------------------------|------------|
| <b>North, South and<br/>Western walls.</b>     |                |   |                               |            |
| Masonry remedial<br>Works                      | €12,100.00     | €1,633.50                                   | €13,733.50                    |            |
| Vegetation works                               | €2,000.00      | €270.00                                     | €2,270.00                     |            |
| Raking and<br>repointing works                 | €22,140.00     | €2,988.90                                   | €25,128.90                    |            |
| Capping works                                  | €4,100.00      | €553.50                                     | €4,653.50                     |            |
| Access and<br>stabilisation works<br>(23% VAT) | €6,000.00      | €1,380.00                                   | €7,380.00                     |            |
|  |                |   |                               | €53,165.90 |
| <b>Eastern Wall<br/>(Gable)</b>                |                |   |                               |            |
| Masonry remedial<br>Works                      | €9,300.00      | €1,255.50                                   | €10,555.50                    |            |
| Vegetation works                               | €800.00        | €108.00                                     | €908.00                       |            |
| Raking and<br>repointing works                 | €3,960.00      | €534.60                                     | €4,494.60                     |            |
| Capping works                                  | €1,200.00      | €162.00                                     | €1,362.00                     |            |
| Access and<br>stabilisation works<br>(23% VAT) | €12,000.00     | €2,760.00                                   | €14,760.00                    |            |
|  |                |   |                               | €32,080.10 |
|  |                |   | <b>Contingency<br/>of 14%</b> | €11,934.44 |
|  |                |   | <b>Total</b>                  | €97,180.44 |

## 7. Conclusion

This is a conservation management plan and statement of heritage significance for Kilcloony Church and Graveyard. This site has been a vital part of the heritage of Kilcloony Parish since its establishment in the twelfth/thirteenth century. A condition survey was carried out as part of this report, and a detailed inventory of the features and issues compiled. It was found that, in general the surviving church remains are in reasonably good condition. However a structural crack in the Ne corner needs to be addressed immediately.

The overarching conclusion is that, with appropriate intervention, Kilcloony Church and Graveyard can become a stop for visitors to east Galway, who have an interest in church archaeology and graveyards.

Kilcloony Church and Graveyard has been part of the landscape east Galway since at least the thirteenth century, and with care and attention will continue well into the twenty-first century and beyond.

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## 9. Signing-Off Statement

**Archaeological Firm:** ÆGIS ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED

**Writer:** Frank Coyne MA MIAI,  
Aegis Archaeology Ltd.

**Client:** Galway County Council

**Signed:**



For ÆGIS ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED

**Report status:** Draft

**Dated:** 18 October 2024

## 10. Appendices

10.1 Ecology Report *by Ruth Minogue*

10.2 Structural Engineers report *by Martin English, ACP*

10.3 Conservation architect's report *by Karol O'Mahony*

10.3 Survey drawings and images *by Kevin Dodd KGSS Surveys*



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