

Kilcooley Cemetery, Co. Galway: Conservation Management Plan



Prepared for Kilcooley Cemetery and Heritage Group

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Disclaimer

The results, conclusions and recommendations contained within this report are based on information available at the time of its preparation. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that all relevant data have been collated, the authors and Southgate Associates/AMS accept no responsibility for omissions and/or inconsistencies that may result from information becoming available subsequent to the report's completion.

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Southgate Associates is a leading Heritage consultancy offering archaeological engineering and heritage project management since 1990. As well as managing all aspects of technical building conservation to best practice standards, Southgate Associates also provide planning and master planning advice in relation to built heritage to the public and private sector. The Southgate Associates team also are regularly commissioned to write Conservation Management Plans and in recent times have sought to co-operate with AMS in order to widen resources and expertise.

AMS is an independent consultancy that provides a full range of archaeological and cultural heritage services. With offices in both Ireland and the UK, our unique multidisciplinary team of archaeologists, project managers, historians, built heritage specialists, marine and underwater archaeology specialists, GIS and remote sensing specialists bring together many years accumulated experience within the public and private sectors.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The aim of the Conservation Management Plan for Kilcooley¹ Church and graveyard is to identify the significances of Kilcooly Church and Graveyard, identify the threats to those significances and provide guidance for the local community and Galway County Council on how best to conserve the significance and fabric of Kilcooly Church and Graveyard, Co. Galway, into the future. Guidance will be focussed on the built heritage (upstanding remains) of the medieval church and also will address the ongoing use of the cemetery for burials in an extremely archaeologically sensitive context.

Kilcooly Church and Graveyard is a medieval/Early Christian site consisting of a ruined church, medieval graveyard (which is still in use today) within a subcircular enclosure. The setting is particularly visually appealing as the site is located on a low rise in undulating farmland and is surrounded in the immediate vicinity with the remains of a medieval settlement.

This report contains recommendations for phased conservation work at Kilcooley Church; these are broken down into three phases and can be seen in Table 11 and Table 12, Sections 3.5, 3.6 and 5.3:

- Phase 1 recommends deep pointing of the north wall with a rebuild of around 10%. Low pressure grouting is also recommended at this phase as well as 9m of domed mortar capping.
- Phase 2 will add more domed mortar capping and pointing on the inside face of the vault ceiling and a limewash of the remaining wall areas. Minor grouting is also recommended at this phase.
- Phase 3 recommends 92m of deep grouting to remaining areas of the church exterior and the carrying out of the installation of crack ties at specific locations.

Preliminary phasing by Southgate Associates suggests that the oldest part of the church dates to the twelfth or thirteenth century with alterations in the fifteenth century with further repairs or alterations in the eighteenth or nineteenth centuries. It must be understood that all works to any part of the church and graveyard must be carried out in consultation with the Community Archaeologist and under licence from the National Monuments Service.

¹ Please note that the local spelling of Kilcooley differs from the official spelling as “Kilcooly” on logainm.ie. The latter is used in the national archaeological records as well as the folkloric records. For this reason, Kilcooly is the preferred spelling to be consistent with national records; however, we will also use “Kilcooley” when referring to the Kilcooley Cemetery and Heritage Group.

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Abbreviations and Definitions

Abbreviation	Definition
AMS	Archaeological Management Solutions
CMP	Conservation Management Plan
DHLGH	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
GCDP	Galway County Development Plan 2022–2028
ITM	Irish Transverse Mercator
KCHG	Kilcooley Cemetery and Heritage Group
NMS	National Monuments Service
OS	Ordnance Survey
RMP	Record of Monuments and Places
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record
ZoN	Zone of Notification

Coordinate System

All grid coordinates in this report use the Irish Transverse Mercator (ITM) coordinate reference system unless otherwise stated.

1 Introduction

1.1 Project Background

The Kilcooley Cemetery and Heritage Group (KCHG) is made up of local interested parties whose main role is the maintenance and upkeep of the graveyard, holding an annual mass, prayers and facilitating funerals. The current committee and custodians of Kilcooly Cemetery feel a duty of care to ensure that the cemetery is conserved for the benefit of future generations, local community, the wider members of the public with an interest in archaeology, heritage and family ties to Kilcooly Cemetery.

Following the 2021 Annual General Meeting, the new committee took on the task of seeking funding for the conservation of the site and changed the name of the group to incorporate heritage given the significance of the site.

This Conservation Management Plan (CMP) was commissioned by the KCHG. The plan was funded by the Heritage Council using the Community Heritage Grant Scheme with matching funding provided by Galway County Council. The Galway County Council Heritage Section was consulted by KCHG and a site visit was carried out by Community Archaeologist for Galway County Council, Bernie Doherty, in summer 2021.

The following stakeholders were also consulted to ensure all were aware of and supported the proposal for the CMP:

- Bernie Doherty, Community Archaeologist, Galway County Council
- Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer, Galway County Council
- Angela Quinn, Environment Section Officer, Galway County Council
- Christine Grant, National Monuments Service

A second site visit was carried out on 20 January 2022 with members of the KCHG. A third site visit was carried out on 27 January with Bernie Doherty, Community Archaeologist and Christine Grant of the National Monuments Service, who advised of the consent requirements (outlined below).

Stone Masonry Contractor, Joe Costello of Costello Masonry Conservation Ltd, and subsequently Southgate Associates, were appointed by the KCHG to initiate the funding application for the project. Funding was then applied for in spring 2022 to the Heritage Council Community Heritage Grant Scheme to carry out a CMP in order to inform the best practice approach to conserving the significance of Kilcooly Cemetery. The CMP team was as follows:

- Joe Costello, Stone Mad Ltd: Heritage Mason
- Southgate Associates, Conservation Engineers and Heritage consultants

- Ciara O'Flynn and Fergal Donoghue of Archaeological Management Solutions (AMS), archaeological consultancy, were appointed by Southgate Associates to assist with research and the compilation of the CMP

A measured survey and photogrammetry survey was carried out by Hugh Kavanagh and John Channing of AMS on 10 August 2022.

1.2 Location

Kilcooly Cemetery is located on the Loughrea–Portumna section of the N65. It is located c.10km east of Loughrea, Co. Galway, and is positioned almost equidistant between the River Shannon and the coast in Galway Bay. It is in the Barony of Leitrim and Civil Parish of Kilcooly (Figure 11).

1.3 Ownership and Access

The graveyard is in the ownership of Galway County Council and the plot owners of Kilcooly Cemetery. Maintenance is the responsibility of the KCHG which is carried out regularly.

1.4 Why a Conservation Management Plan for Kilcooly?

1.4.1 Purpose of this Document

As a cluster of Recorded Monuments (see Table 1), the site is recognised as being of cultural heritage significance, and for that reason it is necessary to plan for its protection and conservation. The purpose of the CMP is to help inform decision-making on the protection, conservation, management and future use of the site.

This CMP is a working document that provides a framework for caring for and conserving the values of the place based on the principles of collaboration and best practice. The process has been informed by international charters, conventions and policy documents which set out principles and best-practice guidelines for the development and implementation of Conservation Management Plans.²

A CMP describes the special qualities that contribute to the cultural significance of a place and sets out objectives and policies to ensure that such significance is retained for the benefit of present and future generations. The provision of a CMP for places of cultural significance is an integral element of the *Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter, 2013* (hereafter '*Burra Charter*')³ which has been accepted as best international standard for development of Conservation Management Plans.

As set out in the *Burra Charter*, 'Conservation' means '*all the processes of looking after a place so as to retain its cultural significance*'. The *Burra Charter* promotes a cautious approach to conservation '*based on a respect for the existing fabric, use, association and meanings*' of these places⁴ and states that

² See bibliography.

³ *The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance, 2013*.
<https://australia.icomos.org/wp-content/uploads/The-Burra-Charter-2013-Adopted-31.10.2013.pdf>

⁴ Article 3.1 of the *Burra Charter*

'Conservation of a place should identify and take into consideration all aspects of cultural and natural significance without unwarranted emphasis on any one value at the expense of all others'.⁵

The CMP for Kilcooly Cemetery was funded by the Heritage Council Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2022, Galway County Council and the KCHG.

1.4.2 Scope of the Plan

The Conservation Management for Kilcooly Cemetery Plan sets out to:

- Give an understanding of Kilcooly Cemetery in its environmental and temporal contexts
- Enhance understanding of the values attributed to the place
- Assess the cultural significance of Kilcooly Cemetery
- Assess the forensic evidence leading to establish the dates of the standing remains
- Identify issues and vulnerabilities
- Set out conservation and management policies for the site
- Increase awareness of the cemetery's cultural heritage and natural heritage

A ten-year timeframe (2022–2032) has been proposed for this CMP, with a mid-period review to be conducted after five years.

Kilcooly Cemetery is located within the Zone of Notification (ZoN) of Kilcooly Church which is a Recorded Monument (GA106-095001; Figure 1) and forms the primary focus of the CMP. However, while the Plan relates principally to the upstanding remains within Kilcooly Cemetery it is recognised that the site and its immediate environs are best understood in the context of their wider archaeological and landscape setting. This includes nearby sites such as the adjacent deserted medieval settlements (GA106-095003), trackways (GA106-095004), field systems (GA106-095007, GA106-177002), souterrain (GA106-095006) and enclosures (GA106-177001, GA106-180---) all of which lie within a 300m radius of Kilcooly Cemetery and together they potentially form a settlement cemetery (O'Sullivan et. al. 2021, pp 409–415) or a medieval ecclesiastical enclosure. Additionally, churches and graveyards with similar morphology and surrounding settlement features should be considered in the assessment of the parish church in its wider landscape context. Many of these sites may have a historical, as well as a visual, connection with Kilcooly Cemetery forming a wider web of significance.

⁵ Article 5.1 of the *Burra Charter*



Figure 1: Zone of Notification for Kilcooly Graveyard (GA106-095--- circled in yellow) and adjacent deserted medieval settlements (<https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/> Accessed 19 July 2022).

1.4.3 Aims of the Document

The aim of this CMP is to provide a document for the managers of the site with a clear understanding of:

- The significance of the site
- The phasing of the upstanding remains
- How best to conserve the significance of the site
- The phases of works required to conserve the significance of the site

The CMP also aims to provide reassurance to funding bodies that the managers are carrying out the phases of works to best practice standards.

1.5 Methodology

Information from a wide variety of sources was drawn on in compiling the CMP. These range from local, national and international legislation, charters and policy documents to local knowledge and consultation with public and private stakeholders and specialists. Key sources of information on the cultural and natural heritage of Kilcooly Cemetery include but are not limited to:

Data	Source
Background Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Galway County Development Plan 2022–2028</i>.⁶ • Topographical/toponymic data: Lewis 1837;⁷ <i>Logainm.ie</i> (Placenames Database of Ireland); and <i>Townlands.ie</i> (Irish townlands data). • Cartography: first-edition six-inch and 25-inch Ordnance Survey (OS) maps via Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSI's) public viewer.⁸ • Aerial & street views: Google Earth & Digital Globe;⁹ orthophotographs via OSI's public viewer; Bing images (QGIS Web Mapping Service); Google Street View. • Previous Archaeological Investigations: Database of Irish Excavation Reports (DIER) and TII Digital Heritage Collection.¹⁰
Recorded Archaeological Sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) – statutory list of protected places and monuments, with accompanying constraints maps, published for Galway in 1997. • Historic Environment Viewer (HEV) – online database of information on sites and monuments based on the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR).¹¹ The HEV provides information not only on those archaeological monuments included in the statutory RMP, but also in regard to many more which have been identified since the RMP was issued (Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH 2021a). • Lists of National Monuments in State Care: Ownership and Guardianship for County Galway in 2009. • List of Preservation Orders held by the National Monuments Service (NMS), published in 2019.¹²

⁶ Available at: <https://www.galway.ie/en/services/planning/planspolicy/cdp28/> [Accessed 07 September 2022].

⁷ Lewis S. 1837. *A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland*. London: S. Lewis & Co. Available at: <https://www.askaboutireland.ie/reading-room/digital-book-collection/digital-books-by-subject/geography-of-ireland/lewis-a-topographical-dic/> [Accessed 06 September 2022]. <https://www.logainm.ie/en/>, <https://www.townlands.ie/> [Accessed 06 September 2022].

⁸ Available at: <https://webapps.geohive.ie/mapviewer/index.html> [Accessed 06 September 2022]. Note: The online 25-inch OS map (1890–1900).

⁹ Available at: <https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/> [Accessed 06 September 2022].

¹⁰ Available at: www.excavations.ie and <https://repository.dri.ie/catalog/v6936m966> [Accessed 06 September 2022].

¹¹ Available at: <https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/> [Accessed 06 September 2022].

¹² <https://www.archaeology.ie/sites/default/files/media/publications/po19v1-all-counties.pdf> [Accessed 06 September 2022].

Data	Source
Recorded Architectural Heritage Sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Galway County Record of Protected Structures (RPS).¹³

Additional details on methodology and sources are contained in Part 1 of the Plan. References to publications and online sources are provided in the footnotes and in the accompanying bibliography.

1.6 Statutory Context

Kilcooly Church and Graveyard contains a cluster of three Recorded Monuments (see Table 1). This enclosure, church and graveyard sits within a wider medieval complex of sites recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR): deserted medieval settlements (GA106-095003), trackways (GA106-095004), field systems (GA106-095007, GA106-177002), souterrain (GA106-095006) and enclosures (GA106-177001, GA106-180---) all of which lie within a 300m radius of Kilcooly Cemetery (Figure 12). Statutory protections for Recorded Monuments are laid out in section 2.1.1 below. GA016-094 is a tower house (Kilcooly Castle) that lies approximately 500m west of the cemetery and it is likely that this site could have historic associations with Kilcooly Cemetery as well. When viewed together, this complex of sites around Kilcooly church and cemetery likely form the focus of a settlement cemetery.

In addition, the Galway County Development Plan has strong policies and objectives for the protection of the archaeology of Galway. These are also laid out in section 2.1.4 and 2.1.5 below. There are no Protected Structures or structures listed on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage present.

Table 1: RMP record for Kilcooly enclosure, church and graveyard.

RMP No	Class	Description
GA106-095001-	Church	Within a possible early ecclesiastical enclosure (GA106-095005-). All that survives of this poorly preserved medieval rectangular church (12m E-W; 5.75m N-S) is the W gable and the N side-wall along with the return of the S side-wall. At the time of the OS Letters (O’Flanagan, 1727, Vol. 2, 4-6), sections of the E gable and the adjoining S side-wall also stood. The only in-situ architectural feature is a flat-headed single-light window situated off-centre in the W gable at first-floor level, directly above it a horizontal offset is visible. This indicates the former presence of a loft at this end of the church. Some worked stone, including the head of a round-headed window and an arch stone of a doorway lie within the interior of the church as well as a number of modern burials. A later structure (5.75m N-S; 3m E-W) has also been built within it, against the W gable wall. Its barrel-vaulted roof is now covered externally with cement. Access is via a

¹³ Available at: <https://consult.galway.ie/en/consultation/draft-galway-county-development-plan-2022-2028/chapter/appendix-6-record-protected-structures> and as a shapefile at <https://opendata-galwaycoco.hub.arcgis.com/maps/record-of-protected-structures> [Accessed 07 September 2022].

		doorway that is off-centre in the E wall and there is a rectangular window in the N and S walls. Internally there is an alcove in N wall. Three graveslabs dating to the 18th and 19th centuries are along the W gable.
GA106-095002-	Graveyard	This roughly subcircular graveyard (c. 65m NW-SE; c. 57m NE-SW) lies within a possible ecclesiastical enclosure (GA106-095005-). The remains of a church (GA106-095001-) stand roughly in its centre. The graveyard is delimited by a modern concrete wall and access is gained via a gateway at S. Almost all of the headstones are modern but three similar rectangular grave-markers were illegible. The graveyard is still in use.
GA106-095005-	Ecclesiastical enclosure	On a locally prominent rise in open undulating pastureland, c. 540m to the E of 'Kilcooly Castle' (106-094----). On the 1838 and 1933 editions of the OS 6-inch map, the graveyard (GA106-095002-) associated with the church (GA106-095001-) is depicted as being roughly subcircular in plan (c. 65m NW-SE; c. 57m NE-SW), suggesting that it may mirror the line of a possible ecclesiastical enclosure. On inspection a low rocky scarp (H 1m max.) was traceable outside the modern graveyard wall, at a distance of 1.2m, from SW through N to SE. At N, this is supplemented by traces of a low stony bank (Wth 1m; int. H 0.4m; ext. H 1m). It is possible that this scarp/bank is the remains of an ecclesiastical enclosure.
Adjacent and related recorded monuments immediately outside the enclosure		
GAI06-095003	Settlement Cluster	
GAI06-095004	Medieval road	

1.7 Structure of the Plan

The Conservation Management Plan is set out in seven main sections:

Part 1 Policy Framework and Methodology – includes the information contained above, which provides background and context for the Plan

Part 2 Understanding Kilcooly Cemetery – provides an overview of the cultural heritage of Kilcooly Cemetery, including the surrounding topography, archaeology and history of the site, as well as current uses.

Part 3 Assessment of Significance – considers the unique values that contribute to the significance of Kilcooly Cemetery and sets out a Statement of Significance

Part 4 Identifying Issues and Vulnerabilities – an assessment of risk that seeks to identify any existing or potential future threats that could undermine significance, as defined by the values set out in Part 3

Part 5 Conservation and Management Policies – develops objectives and proposes policies for the care and protection of the heritage and other values that underpin the significance of Kilcooly Cemetery, and how these might be promoted and further enhanced

Part 6 Management Framework – provides proposals on how sustainable management practices in relation to cultural and natural heritage could be further developed/ clearly defined

Part 7 Conclusion and Next Steps – recommendations for future phases of work in the implementation of the Conservation Management Plan

2 PART 1: POLICY FRAMEWORK AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Existing Policy and Legal Framework

The Conservation Management Plan for Kilcooly Cemetery is informed by existing local, national and international legislation, policy documents, charters and guidelines, outlined below.

2.1.1 *Archaeological Heritage*

Kilcooley Church and Graveyard is a Recorded Monument, GA106-095001. Archaeological monuments and sites in the State are afforded protection under the *National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014*¹⁴. The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) is the statutory list of protected monuments and places (referred to as ‘Recorded Monuments’), some of which are also ‘National Monuments’ as defined by section 2 of the *National Monuments Act 1930*.¹⁵

The *National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014* are the primary legislation that provides legal protection to monuments that are listed in the Record of Monuments and Places. These are known as Recorded Monuments and their protection is provided for in Section 12 (3) of the *National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994*. This provides that where the occupier or owner of a monument or place included in the Record, or any person proposes, to carry out, or to cause or permit the carrying out of, any work at or in relation to such a monument or place, he or she shall give notice in writing to the Minister of the proposal to carry out work and shall not, except in the case of urgent necessity and with the consent of the Minister, commence the work until two months after the giving of notice. A person contravening this requirement shall be guilty of an offence and be liable on summary conviction to a maximum penalty of a €1200 fine and 12 months imprisonment and on conviction on indictment to a maximum penalty of a €75,000 fine and 5 years imprisonment.

The National Monuments Service (NMS) of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) maintains a publicly accessible database known as the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) which contains current information on all known sites and monuments in the State. Recorded sites and monuments are numbered individually in the RMP/SMR and are shown on mapping¹⁶ within a wider Zone of Notification (ZoN). These ZoNs are intended to identify sites and monuments for the purposes of notification of intended works or other activity at or near the site/monument under section 12 (3) of the *National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994*. Routine farming adjacent to

¹⁴ <https://www.archaeology.ie/publications-forms-legislation/legislation>

¹⁵ ‘National Monument’ means a monument ‘the preservation of which is a matter of national importance by reason of the historical, architectural, traditional, artistic or archaeological interest attaching thereto....’

¹⁶ <https://webgis.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/> [accessed 06 September 2022].

Recorded Monuments does not require notification, and the NMS has published practical advice for landowners regarding good farming practice and archaeology.¹⁷ In the case of Kilcooly Cemetery, the ZoN is an area of c.70m radius from the centre of the site which encompasses the enclosure, the graveyard and the church (see Figure 1 and Table 1). The continued use of Kilcooly as a graveyard for burials should be carried out bearing in mind the archaeological sensitivity of the site and in consultation with the Galway County Community Archaeologist and the NMS.

The National Monuments legislation with its requirements for two months' notice and the involvement of a licensed archaeologist is not practicable with the requirements for burial, and equally the length of time for archaeological excavation cannot be accommodated prior to a burial taking place. There is no official mechanism to accommodate burials in archaeologically sensitive graveyards and burials in such graveyards nationally are effectively unregulated. Guidance should be sought from the National Monuments Service with regard to continued use of traditional family plots. With regard to the opening of new plots, this is not recommended due to the disturbance it would cause to important archaeological stratigraphy. There are precedents for new grave areas being prepared where an area for new grave plots is identified and fully archaeologically excavated. This area would then be made available for new graves as required. This process would require consultation between the County Community Archaeologist, the NMS and the local community and would involve the expense of a full archaeological excavation. It is recommended that the community consult with the National Monuments Service and the Community Archaeologist with regards to burials generally.

The continued use of Kilcooly as a graveyard for burials should be carried out bearing in mind the archaeological sensitivity of the site and in consultation with the Galway County Community Archaeologist and the NMS.

2.1.2 Intangible Cultural Heritage

Ireland ratified the UNESCO 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in December 2015. Intangible cultural heritage refers to the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills as well as the instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognise as part of their cultural heritage. This intangible cultural heritage, transmitted from generation to generation, is constantly recreated by communities and groups in response to their environment, their interaction with nature and their history, and

¹⁷ Available at <https://www.archaeology.ie/sites/default/files/media/publications/good-farming-practice-and-archaeology.pdf> [accessed 06 September 2022].

provides them with a sense of identity and continuity, thus promoting respect for cultural diversity and human creativity (GCDP, 12.7.4).

2.1.3 *Natural Heritage*

Kilcooly Church and graveyard is not listed as a Special Area of Conservation, A Special Protection Area, Natural Heritage Area or a Proposed Natural Heritage Area. Notwithstanding this it is recommended that an ecology survey be carried out to ascertain the presence of any rare or protected species or relicts present on the site that would be worthy of protection. Please also see the Heritage Councils ‘Guidance for the Care, Conservation and Recording of Historic Graveyards which has a section titled ‘Nature in your graveyard’ (section 3.7)

2.1.4 *Galway County Development Plan*

The Galway County Development Plan²⁰ (GCDP) covers the period 2022–2028 and sets out the aims, policies and objectives of the local authority with regard to cultural heritage. These include protection for sites of archaeological significance, architectural heritage, intangible heritage etc.

It is the stated aim of Galway County Council to:

Conserve, enhance, manage and protect the architectural, archaeological and cultural heritage as key social, economic and cultural assets which are an integral part of the county and safeguard these valuable resources through proper management, sensitive enhancement and appropriate development. Recognise the important role that the arts and cultural can play in making a place as attractive area to live, work and enjoy. (12.1)

The policy objectives for archaeological heritage within the GCDP relevant to Kilcooly Cemetery are as follows:

Table 2: Galway County Development Plan policy objectives for archaeology

Policy reference	
ARC 1 Legislative Context	Support and promote the preservation, conservation and appropriate management and enhancement of the County’s archaeological sites and monuments, together with the settings of these monuments, having regard to the legislative, statutory and policy provisions relevant to the conservation of the archaeological heritage.
ARC 2 Archaeological Sites	Seek to encourage and promote awareness of and access to archaeological heritage of the County for all, through the provision of information to landowners and the community generally, in co-operation with statutory and other partners.

²⁰ Available at: <https://consult.galway.ie/en/consultation/adopted-galway-county-development-plan-2022-2028> [accessed 06 September 2022].

ARC 4 Protection of Archaeological Sites	Protect archaeological sites and monuments their settings and visual amenity and archaeological objects and underwater archaeological sites that are listed in the Record of Monuments and Places, in the ownership/guardianship of the State, or that are subject of Preservation Orders or have been registered in the Register of Historic Monuments, or that are newly discovered and seek to protect important archaeological landscapes.
ARC 6 Burial Grounds	Protect the burial grounds, identified in the Record of Monuments and Places, in cooperation with the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Encourage the local community to manage burial grounds in accordance with best conservation and heritage principles.
ARC 10 Zones of Archaeological Potential	To protect the Zones of Archaeological Potential located within both urban and rural areas and around archaeological monuments generally as identified in the Record of Monuments and Places. Any development within the ZAPs will need to take cognisance of the potential for subsurface archaeology and if archaeology is demonstrated to be present appropriate mitigation (such as preservation in situ/buffer zones) will be required.

Cultural heritage includes tangible culture such as buildings, monuments, books, works of art and artefacts as well as intangible cultural heritage such as folklore, traditions, language, and knowledge.

The GCDP recognises the importance of the folklore and oral heritage to the people of the County of Galway and has stated aims to work with groups in gathering, recording, preserving and promoting folklore and oral cultural heritage in the county (GCDP, 12.6). Given the age and type of monuments at Kilcooly, and their ongoing importance for the local community, the identification and collection of intangible cultural heritage may be an important part of the conservation and enhancement of the significance of the site.

The GCDP also recognises that investment in culture and heritage can play a very important role in improving amenities and the attractiveness of different areas, including rural areas. Plans for investment in culture and heritage recognise that high quality infrastructure is critical for a vibrant heritage and culture sector.

Table 3: Galway County Council Policy Objectives for Cultural Heritage

Policy Objectives for Cultural Heritage	
CUH 1 Cultural heritage	Protect and promote the cultural heritage assets and the intangible cultural heritage assets of County Galway as important social and economic assets.

Kilcooly Cemetery is also identified as a scenic area in the Galway County Development Plan (see Figure 2).



Figure 2: Kilcooly Cemetery Scenic Area designation in the Galway County Development Plan

2.1.5 County Galway Heritage Plan 2018–2023

It is the aim of Galway County Council to place heritage at the heart of public life in the county. It recognises that this will be achieved through increasing awareness, participation, enjoyment, knowledge and understanding of the shared heritage of Galway County to lead to its property conservation, management and protection and safeguarding it for future generations.²¹

Table 4: Vision, objectives and themes of Galway County Council Heritage Plan

The stated vision, objectives and themes of the County Council with regard to heritage are:	
Vision	The rich heritage and biodiversity of County Galway will be cherished, valued, conserved and enhanced in a manner that is respectful of our past, mindful of our present needs and sustainable for future generations.
Objectives	Three overarching objectives have been identified that will underpin the delivery of actions under five key themes (see below). These objectives are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to increase awareness, appreciation and participation 2. to gather and share knowledge 3. to manage and conserve our heritage, including biodiversity.
Themes	Actions will be specified under the following five themes:

²¹ <https://galway.ie/en/services/more/heritage/heritageplanheritageforum/> [accessed 25/07/22]

1. community engagement
2. education and training
3. research and information
4. Galway County Council: people, property and works
5. stakeholder engagement and pursuing opportunities with other partners.

This document fulfils the following Cultural Heritage Objectives of the Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Plan:

Table 5: Cultural Heritage Objectives of the Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Plan

Cultural Heritage Objectives	
CH 1.1	Support the invaluable role of local communities in conserving and promoting cultural heritage throughout the county.
CH 1.2	Facilitate and develop partnerships, foster and increase links with all levels of the community including local groups, individuals, schools, academic institutions, statutory and non- statutory agencies.
CH 1.5	Encourage and support individuals, groups, NGOs and the education sector in applying for heritage funding and resources.
CH 1.7	Work with local communities in developing models of best cultural heritage practice.
CH 3.2	Work with academic institutions, local communities, schools, other agencies with regards to cultural heritage research.
CH 3.3	Seek to assist local communities in researching their cultural heritage to best practice standards.

It is also an objective of the Galway Local Economic and Community Plan to maintain and implement the annual heritage programme of Galway County Council (Galway County Local Economic and Community Plan, Objective 36.3).

2.2 Consultation

The following public and private stakeholders were consulted during the planning and preparation of the Conservation Management Plan.

- Marie Mannion, Galway County Council Heritage Officer
- Bernie Doherty, Galway County Council Community Archaeologist
- Christine Grant, National Monuments Service
- Declan Kelly, Archaeologist (Formerly Parish Priest and Clonfert Diocesan Archivist)
- Gavin Treacy and Jackie Flannery, Secretary and Chairperson of the Kilcooley Cemetery and Heritage Group.

It will be recommended below that a wide community engagement be carried out as part of the next phases of works. This should include the wider community and specifically with the Flannery Family and the Burke Family who use traditional burial plots on the site. It is also recommended to consult with Kilcooly National School teachers and Board of Management.

2.3 Site Assessment and Survey

A number of on-site assessments and surveys were conducted as part of the Conservation Management Plan process. Initial site visits were undertaken by Chris Southgate and Joe Costello in May 2022 to assess the condition of the masonry of the church ruin. This was followed by a measured survey and photogrammetry survey in August 2022 by AMS.

Tangible cultural heritage assets present on site consist of archaeological sites and monuments listed on the SMR and the RMP. There are no Protected Structures or structures listed on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage present.

2.4 Developing Policies

The development of conservation and management policies was undertaken following consideration of all of the policy framework and methodology information above, and in consideration of the current use of the cemetery.

Proposed policies for conserving and, where possible, enhancing the significance of the church and graveyard including the protection of cultural and natural heritage assets, are set out in detail in Part 5, but in summary can be categorised under a number of headings – Protection, Conservation, Information, Enhancement and Access.

These policies aim to assist Galway County Council as owners, authorities, managers and the KCHG in the protection and enhancement of the archaeological and historical character and setting of the cemetery. With the collaborative agreement of these policies, the process of developing the Conservation Management Plan is completed for the current recommended three-phase work plan, and the implementation of these policies is a matter for future stages of the Plan going forward.

3 PART 2: UNDERSTANDING KILCOOLY CEMETERY

3.1 Location, Topography and Landscape Setting

Kilcooly Cemetery is located in the townland of Kilcooly on the Loughrea–Portumna section of the N65 in east Co. Galway. It is located c.10km east of Loughrea, Co. Galway and is positioned almost equidistant between the River Shannon and the coast in Galway Bay.



Plate 1: Kilcooly Graveyard aerial image showing part of the surrounding deserted medieval settlement. (Fergal Nannery, 2021 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UgjCLYIm5KI>).

Kilcooly medieval parish church and associated enclosure is located on a prominent rise on a low rocky scarp (c.1m average) in open undulating pastureland. A drone survey, showing the church and its surrounds by Fergal Nannery, is available online to view at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UgjCLYIm5KI>.

The church stands as a ruin and comprises a single chamber church with a vaulted chamber in its west end with priest's accommodation above. The doorway, which no longer survives, was in the south wall. The east gable and the south wall are missing. The north wall and west gable survive. A window in the upper level of the west gable provided light to the priest's quarters. The church appears to be multi-period with one dressed stone built into the fabric of the north wall providing an initial building of late twelfth or early thirteenth-century origin. However, the priest's quarters and vaulted room are late medieval, probably fifteenth-century additions.

3.2 History

Kilcooly cemetery is located in the barony of Leitrim and Civil Parish of Kilcooly. The placename Kilcooly has a couple of possible translations including *Cill Chúile*, meaning ‘church of the angle or corner’. Whether it is a coincidence or not, the site is in the corner of the field in which it is situated, with a road bordering it on the east and a field boundary on the south. The placename element Cill is derived from the Latin *Cella* meaning church and is one of the more common placename elements in Ireland and also occurs close to Kilcooly in the names Kilmeen, Kilbride and Kilbocht (see Figure 14; Joyce 1875, pp. 313, 509). Alternatively, the ‘cooly’ element of the name may be derived from the Irish word *cúl* meaning the “back (of something)” or “out of the way” (Dinneen 1996, p. 290). In toponymic terms, *cúl* generally refers to a ridge so in this instance the name would mean ‘church of the ridge’. *Cúl dín/cúl dídin* is also a term meaning “refuge” (*ibid.*) which could be plausible given its defensible position located on a rise or indeed an origin as a site of a dysert/hermitage.

While it is undoubtedly an early form of placename, there are no recorded documentary references to the site until the early fourteenth century where it is referred to as *Kilcouly* in 1302 in relation to ecclesiastical taxation suggesting that there may have been a religious foundation here at this period, with the caveat that there is another Kilcouly in Cork (<https://www.logainm.ie/en/20025>, accessed 30 August 2022; Sweetman 1886, p. 308). Despite the fact the church appears to be of medieval origin, there are no references to the church as a monastic foundation in Gwynn and Hadcock’s *Medieval Religious Houses, Ireland*, which suggests that the site did not belong to a monastic order. Neither is it referenced in Ó Carragáins’ (2010) work on pre-Romanesque churches, *Churches in early medieval Ireland* nor is it referenced pre AD700 (see the distribution map in Stout 2017, p.25). Furthermore, there is no known association with a patron saint or the immediate presence of a holy well such as for the townland of the same name in Roscommon.

The lack of documentary references is not entirely unexpected given that the estimated number of pre-Norman churches stands at 5,534 (O’Sullivan et. al. 2021, p.332). The preliminary building analysis by Chris Southgate supports this and indicates that the earliest phase of the structure dates to the twelfth or thirteenth century. Given the presence of the church and the undoubted ecclesiastical nature of the site, many of the later medieval references come from diocesan visitation records, papal letters or inquisitions. These records do not contain references to patrons or religious orders so there is little information on when precisely the church was built or who founded it.

It has been suggested that to understand Kilcooly Church fully that the nearby churches of Kilmeen and Kilbocht should also be considered.

Tradition holds that there were once so many monks between Kilmeen, Kilcooley (sic) and Kilbocht that were they to stand hand-to-hand, there would be a sufficient number to encompass the distances between all three locations.²²

The remains of a basal layer of a round tower are believed to be present at Kilmeen (Kelly 2014, p. 104).²³ This in addition to the anecdotal finding of a piece of chevron masonry²⁴ suggests that Kilmeen was a high-status religious settlement and perhaps the focus of attention locally. This may tie in with the name Kilcooly being derived from “back” or “behind”, suggesting it was a lesser sister church to Kilmeen, or this similar meaning may refer to its location as potentially being behind the castle. Further research into the connection between the churches and their foundations is recommended.

In terms of later medieval references to the site, there is one sixteenth-century reference to the ‘Vicar of Kilenly’ in a list contained in the Carew Manuscripts that is thought to date to 1574 (Nolan 1901, p. 111). There are further references of a religious nature to the site with alternate spellings from 1448 through to the mid seventeenth century where it is recorded in the *Books of Survey and Distribution* as Killcooley Parish and Killcolly (Mac Giolla Choille 1962, p. 212). The documented proprietor of the land is Richard Bourke ffitzWilliam (sic.) with one quarter of land referred to as ‘Arrable and pasture’ with 156 acres recorded as profitable. A quarter of land was typically 30 acres, so the nature of the remaining land is unclear. Unfortunately, the Down Survey maps for the Barony of Leitrim were destroyed in 1711 so there is no accompanying cartographic evidence that shows the church at this period.

It is from the nineteenth century onwards that there is a more extensive documentary record with the first detailed written account of the site in the *Ordnance Survey Letters*.

Within a graveyard in the townland of Kilcooly, stand the ruins of an old church, which cannot be looked upon as an erection of a remote period. A breach is visible on the East gable. The South East corner now reduced to the original height of the side walls, remains still, but in bad preservation – Between this corner and West gable stands a portion of the South side wall, which is detached and 3 feet 8 inches in length. A portion of the East gable remains attached to the North side wall. This wall retains its original length and height and extends, 46 feet to a wall, that separates a western apartment from the church. This wall is 8 feet high and runs 20 feet across; being of the same breadth with the church. There is a quadrangular door (or entrance) on it, within 2½ feet of the S. sidewall, which is 3 feet, 10 inches high, and 2 feet 8 inches broad at the ground. A rude flag stone is placed over it. This apartment appended to the west is 8 feet high, 10 feet long, and of the same breadth with the Church. It has a stone roof, and two quadrangular openings, on the side walls – one on each. The opening on the South side wall, is within 2 feet of the ground inside, is 2 feet broad, narrowing outwardly to

²² Kelly, D. 2014. *Loughrea: A History*. Dublin: The History Press Ireland. p. 104.

²³ *ibid*

²⁴ Declan Kelly pers comm

no more than one foot in breadth; and is 3 feet 8 inches high. The one on North side wall is 3 feet from the ground 3 feet broad, and about 3 feet 8 inches high. On the West gable, over the western apartment, and near S West Corner, is a quadrangular window made of rudely cut stones, which is about 2½ feet high and 3? Inches broad (O'Donovan, 1938, Ordnance Survey Letters, Galway, Vol ii, pp 3–6).

The Ordnance Survey (OS) Letters coincide with the publication of the first-edition OS six-inch map for Galway (surveyed 1837, published 1841). This map indicates the church as 'in ruins' while the graveyard is enclosed by this period and the church depicted as a rectangular structure with no other visible ruins or remains nearby. The nineteenth century also saw a number of written surveys of parishes and towns. For example, Lewis' *Topographical Dictionary* published in 1837 indicates that the parish had 610 inhabitants and that there were 'still some remains, in good preservation, of the ancient castle which appears to have been a place of formidable strength' and that the lands were in a 'tolerable state of cultivation' (Lewis, vol. ii, p. 17). There are, however, no references to the church or cemetery. The *Parliamentary Gazetteer* (1846) has slightly more detail on the parish but once more there is no reference to the church or cemetery. The *Gazetteer* shows that there were 576 inhabitants in the parish in 1841 with 99 houses. The land is described in this source as 'good arable and pasture land' albeit 'interspersed with a considerable amount of rocky ground'. The townland seems to have been almost exclusively used for agricultural purposes by the time of Griffith's Valuation as £399 15s of the total valuation of £400 18s for Kilcooly was for the land, or at least this indicates that the housing stock was of poor quality. Documentary references to Kilcooly for the remainder of the nineteenth and into the twentieth centuries tend to be from the records of central government, census returns, valuation records etc.

3.3 Archaeological Heritage

The church (GA106-095001-) and graveyard (GA106-095002-) (Graveyard) are registered on the Record of Monuments & Places (RMP). Please refer to the RMP manual for Co. Galway: [https://www.archaeology.ie/sites/default/files/media/pdf/Archaeology-RMP-Galway-Manual-\(1997\)-0015.pdf](https://www.archaeology.ie/sites/default/files/media/pdf/Archaeology-RMP-Galway-Manual-(1997)-0015.pdf) and associated RMP map (Sheet ga106):

<https://webservices.archaeology.ie/arcgis/rest/services/NM/RMP/MapServer/0/586/attachments/53>

The ecclesiastic enclosure (GA106-095005-) is listed on the non-statutory SMR but as this element is located within the Zone of Notification for RMP GA106-095---- and forms the enclosing element of the above monuments, it should be considered to have the same protections as afforded to those registered on the RMP (see Figure 12).

While Kilcooly Church and Graveyard are Recorded Monuments and not currently listed as National Monuments, in the context of the archaeological significance of the area and for the purposes of this Conservation Management Plan, any conservation works proposed may require a Section 14 Ministerial Consent application through the National Monuments Service. Such works would be assessed when further details and an application are submitted to licensing. Please note that recorded archaeological monuments in the ownership of a Local Authority are not automatically considered to be National Monuments. Each site/monument is assigned protection based on archaeological significance.

In addition to the church and cemetery there are numerous Recorded Monuments within the immediate surrounds (500m radius) (see Table 6, Figure 12). These are primarily medieval in date and related to settlement and farming, suggesting that the Kilcooly area was populated by a medieval farming population.

Table 6: Recorded Monuments within the immediate area

Description	RMP Ref	SMR
Church	GA106-09501-	
Graveyard	GA106-09502-	
Ecclesiastical enclosure		GA106-095005
Deserted Medieval Settlement	GA106-09503-	
Trackway/ road	GA106-09504-	
Castle/ tower house	GA106-094---	
Ringfort	GA106-057	
Souterrain		GA106-057001
Field System	GA106-05601-	
Enclosure	GA106-05602-	
Ringfort - Bivallate	GA106-040---	
Enclosure	GA106-029---	
Ringfort	GA106-016---	
Ringfort	GA106-017---	
Castle	GA106-020----	
Ringfort	GA106-02201	
Souterrain	GA106-02202	
Field System	GA106-02203	

With the relative scarcity of documentary records, it is the archaeological record that has the potential to provide much of the information on the site and to demonstrate that Kilcooly is a significant example of a church and cemetery and is part of broader range of sites in the immediate vicinity and does not exist as an isolated church and cemetery.

Kilcooly is one of a number of churches in the area, but it appears to be at the centre of a far larger complex of archaeological sites than other churches (see Figure 15). Furthermore, based on the morphology of the raised area on which the church and graveyard there are two suggestions as to the origins of the site.

The first is that it is sited on a ringfort and that there is reuse of the site in the medieval period. Ó'Riordáin comments that 'in stony districts settlement spaces were more likely to be enclosed by a stone built rampart' (O'Sullivan et al. 2021, p. 163 quoting Ó'Riordáin). Field boundary systems and a possible medieval road/roadway linking the church with Kilcooly Castle can be seen in the surrounding fields. These reflect an extensive settlement around the church during the medieval period. It is possible that this reflects an early medieval raised/platform ringfort which eventually became used as a settlement cemetery. Kilcooly, therefore, has seen significant use and reuse since at least the early medieval period. The D-shaped enclosures around the base of the cemetery are also reminiscent of the 'small bounded areas' found at other settlement cemeteries such as at Cahercommaun and Boyerstown (O'Sullivan et al. 2021, pp. 409–415). See Plate 1.

The second suggestion is that the morphology of the site and potentially the masonry of the church suggests the origins of the site as an early medieval dysert or hermitage which intensified in use over time, required an enclosure and became a settlement. Smaller churches or dysarts were also used as contemplative places for prayer by monasteries on established pilgrim routes. In recent studies at Kiltane in County Mayo, the construction quality and material of the church was found to be inconsistent with a church of lesser significance and the hypothesis that the building was on a pilgrimage route to Ballintubber Abbey was proposed. It is possible that an early part of the fabric at Kilcooly Church belongs to a hermitage or dysart. By the seventh century AD, most of Ireland had been Christianised and there was a growing need to organise the ecclesiastical sites to protect their sanctity and prevent violation of graves.²⁵ Not all churches in Ireland were monastic: some were major churches founded by bishops, others were regional churches with clergy administering to a lay

²⁵ Edwards, N. 2000. *The Archaeology of Early Medieval Ireland*. London: Routledge. p.106.

population group. As well as the major monasteries and the daughter houses, there is also the possibility of a small independent foundation attached to family estates.²⁶

In terms of dating or phasing the upstanding remains of the ruined church, suggestions by Chris Southgate are included below as Figure 3 to Figure 5. These are based on analysis of the structure and mortar testing as follows:

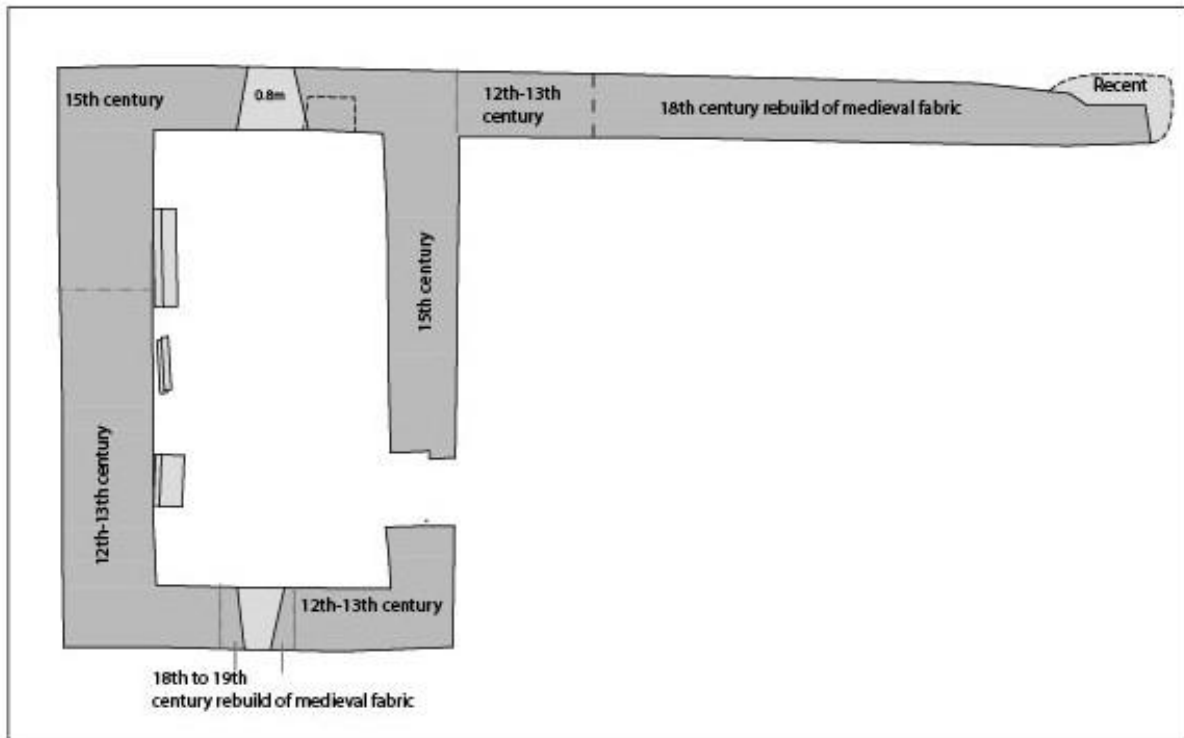


Figure 3: Plan of Kilcooly church with details of phasing as suggested by conservation engineer Chris Southgate.

²⁶ Ibid, p100

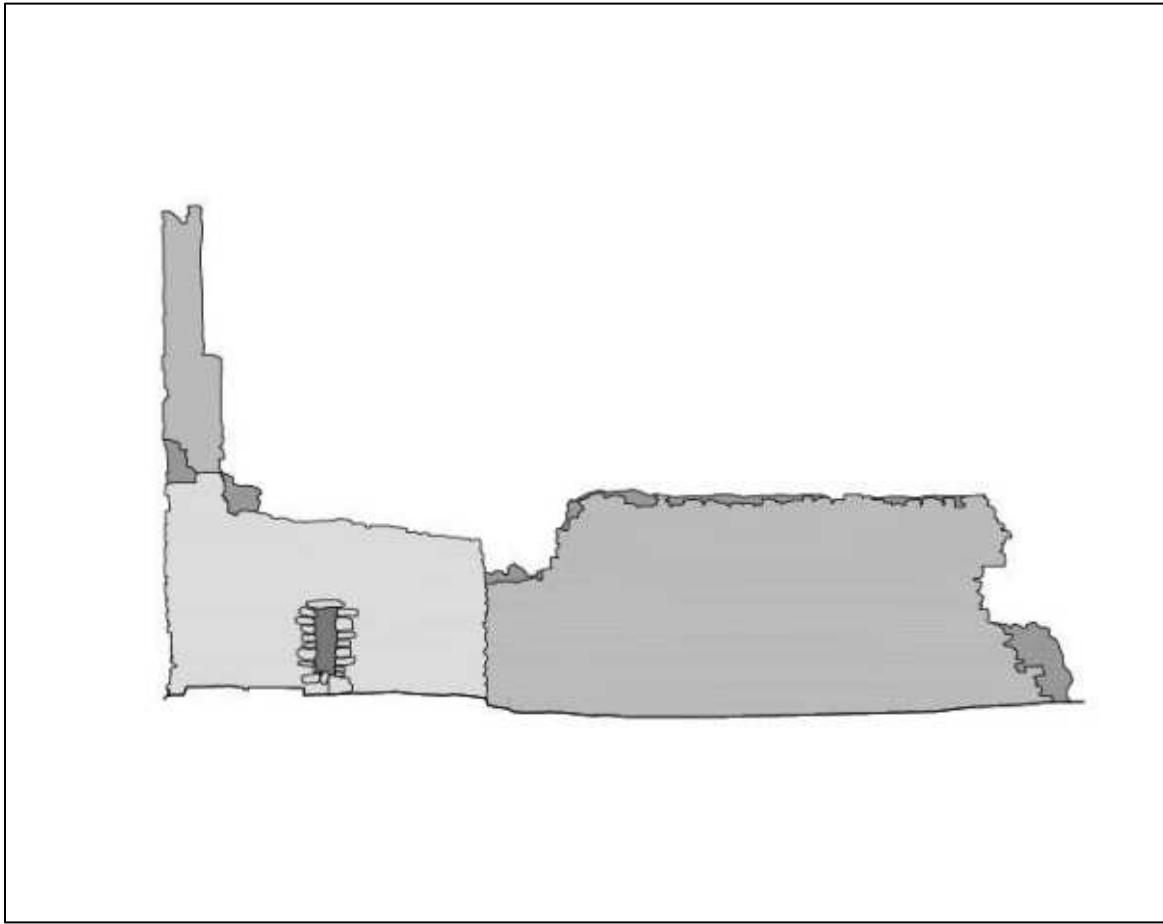


Figure 4: Longitudinal Section

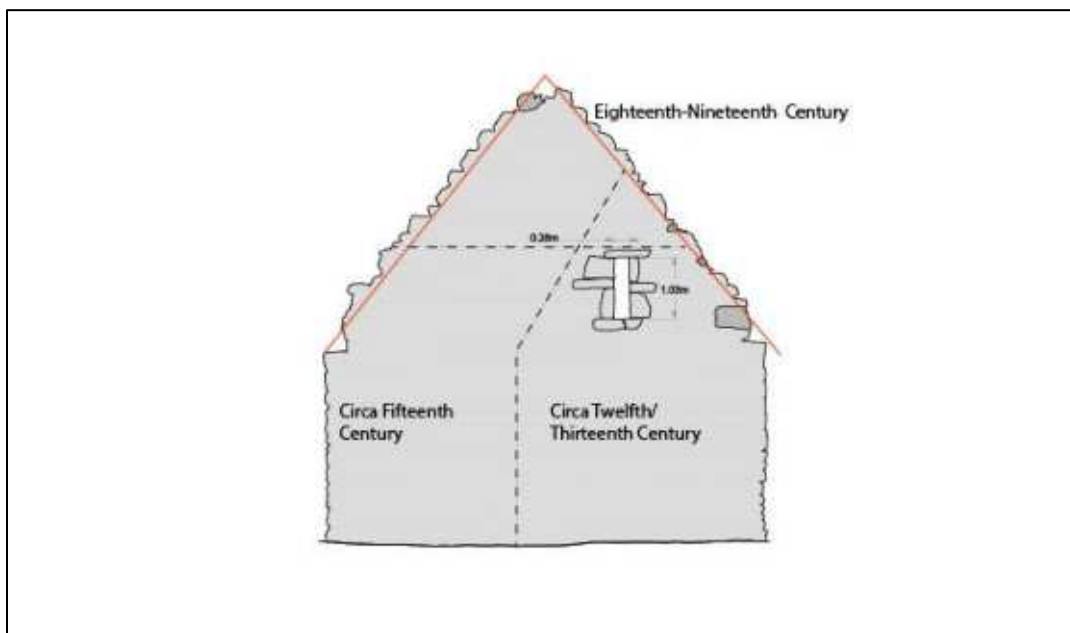


Figure 5: West Gable with suggested phasing by Chris Southgate. Further analysis of the structure is required to confirm this hypothesis.

The preliminary phasing proposal has been based on analysis of the form of the masonry and preliminary mortar testing seen in section 3.5.7 below.

3.3.1 Previous adjacent archaeological excavations and finds

Two excavations took place adjacent to Kilcooly cemetery in 2007 and 2008. These did not produce any useful findings. See Table 7.



Figure 6: Locations of adjacent archaeological excavations.

Table 7: Archaeological excavations in the area.

Site name	Licence No.	Excavations.ie Ref	Author	Description
Kilcooly, Galway	07E0481	2007:639	Fiona Rooney, Arch Consultancy Ltd, Ballydavid South, Athenry, Co. Galway. Site type: No archaeological significance	Pre-development testing was undertaken at the site of a proposed dwelling house in Kilcooly, Loughrea, Co. Galway. The development site is located in the vicinity of a castle (GA106–094). Three trenches excavated revealed no features of archaeological significance. The stratigraphy consisted of sod and topsoil overlying natural layers.
Kilcooly, Co. Galway	08E0913	2008:559	Martin Fitzpatrick, Arch Consultancy Ltd, Ballydavid	Pre-development testing was undertaken at the proposed site of a dwelling house and associated works, at Kilcooly, Co. Galway. The ruined remains

Site name	Licence No.	Excavations.ie Ref	Author	Description
			South, Athenry, Co. Galway.	of Kilcooly Castle (GA106–095) and Kilcooly church (GA106–096) are recorded in the vicinity of the development. The walkover survey of the site led to the discovery of a possible fulacht fiadh, located c. 100m north of the proposed dwelling house. Three test-trenches were mechanically excavated revealing no artefacts or features of archaeological significance.

A circular bronze belt chape was discovered by Dr Christy Cunniffe (former Community Archaeologist for Galway County Council) in Kilcooley graveyard. It was recovered from the surface of a grave within the ruins of the medieval parish church. A small bronze tab joined the chape to the leather belt. The chape is decorated on one face by a series of bands. This artefact was deposited by Dr Cunniffe in the National Museum of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin.



Plate 2: Medieval belt chape found at Kilcooly graveyard²⁷

²⁷ <https://field-monuments.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/archaeology/artefacts/belt-chape>

3.4 Intangible Cultural Heritage

To assess the intangible cultural heritage of Kilcooly, folkloric resources have been consulted; however, full community consultation would offer the forum for further oral history gathering.

An initial search for folkloric association with Kilcooly was carried out consulting www.duchas.ie. These entries are contained in Appendix 4.

3.5 Technical Condition Analysis

3.5.1 Introduction

We inspected the upstanding remains of the mediaeval church Kilcooley, in conjunction with Joe Costello in order to establish a repair strategy for the conservation of the ruin to prevent deterioration. Any conservation works to a mediaeval church must be carried out carefully by experienced crafts people to ensure that any significance of the building is not lost.

3.5.2 Examination of mortars

At first glance, and as described in literature the building appears to be medieval (the majority of literature places the building as fifteenth century); however, close examination of the mortar samples together with detailed examination of the stonework has suggested a different phasing of the building. Care was taken to ensure that mortar samples were taken from the core of the wall. Firstly, the coursing of the stonework on the north wall appeared to be inconsistent with medieval construction, since large blocks of masonry were placed half way up the wall, where in medieval construction it is normal to find large blocks at the base of the wall. This led us to carefully examine mortars in the construction of the building. Mortar analysis is tabulated in section 3.6. The mortar samples from the north wall lower section showed a mud binder which differed from the remaining construction. Furthermore, the top part of the wall appeared to be constructed in coursed masonry suggesting an early nineteenth-century date, and are much softer than the lime mortar found in the remaining medieval construction.

Careful examination of the masonry at the tip of the gable showed an area of coursed rubble masonry dating from the early nineteenth century. A different soft lime mortar found in the top part of the north wall also differed from the harder well-prepared lime mortars of the mediaeval church and is also attributed to early nineteenth-century repairs.

It was not possible to differentiate between the early mediaeval period (twelfth to thirteenth century) and the assumed fifteenth-century work on the basis of mortar analysis. Further information could be sought in the future through carbon dating processes.

3.5.3 *Vegetation and Ivy growth*

Prior to masonry works being carried out, attention should be given to vegetation and ivy growth and careful treatment (ensuring that any chemicals do not stray onto the surrounding graveyard grasslands) should be carried out. Generally, treatment is carried out in the growing season using 'Round-up' or similar glyphosate-based herbicide. In the case of large roots within the wall structure, consideration should be given to drilling the root and inserting a 15mm copper pipe for later treatment. The copper pipe also acts as a herbicide in the absence of introducing chemicals and offers a marker for future treatment allowing the surrounding masonry to be pointed. In some instances, treatment will have to be carried out annually, over three to five years. In the case of this monument, we envisage routine annual maintenance spraying, once the capital works recommended in this CMP are complete.

It should be noted that the north and south windows of the vault area appear to have undergone alterations subsequent to the original construction. At the time of writing, it is not possible to give inaccurate dating for this, but what can be said is that the construction³⁰ suggests early nineteenth century at the earliest.

3.5.4 *The North Wall – Works to be carried out in Phase 1*

The north wall was found to be reasonably plumb and has a thickness of at least 800mm. There is not a risk of immediate collapse due to the structural condition of the wall; however, stones have become dislodged from the surface, giving cause for concern as deterioration may occur very quickly. The mortar binder has dissolved as a result of driving rain, and deep pointing and grouting is needed. This will be the first priority for works at Kilcooley.

The process of pointing a mud mortar wall must be carried out in very soft breathable lime render so as not to lock moisture into the wall, removing any friable lime pointing or hard cementitious sporadic repair material. In this case NHL 2, lime: sand, 1:2 is recommended. The mortar will have to be thoroughly punned into the gap with timber rammers. In addition, a 5–10mm grit should be added to the pointing mix for the final pointing together with pinning stones as appropriate. Mortar pointing of walls in this condition will probably take at least two passes, and in order to ensure the mortar gets deep into the wall it will be wise to omit the grit in the first pointing pass. This will facilitate mortar to enter into gaps between stonework. It is normal to consider 'washing out' the joints prior to normal pointing works, but in the case of a mud binder, this is not always necessary.

³⁰ The evidence shows that the windows were so badly bonded into surrounding masonry that it would have been easy to break into the building

Once pointing is completed, grout the wall as follows:-

Table 8: Grouting details

Grouting details
<p>Once the wall has been pointed it will be necessary to consider a grouting regime to fill voids in masonry as follows:</p> <p>Grouting should be carried out using an NHL 3.5 hydraulic lime. For larger voids an Oolitic stone dust could be added and dust can be sieved to the required level.</p> <p>With low quality rubblework, the amount of grout-fill and pressure of application is kept low as too much wet-fill administered with an excess head of pressure can easily push the masonry apart.</p> <p>Once pointing and resetting of stones is complete, carefully grout the affected area from ground up.</p> <p>This can be carried out by a skilled operative with a hand pump or using gravity with 300mm to 600mm head through a 22mm diameter pipe, depending on the size of voids.</p> <p>Once all the holes are drilled, they can be tested to see which ones will take grout.</p> <p>Mixing should ideally be done using a mechanical, slow turning plasterers' whisk. The consistency required will vary, in simple terms, thicker than good quality emulsion paint and thinner than porridge.</p> <p>Continually check where the grout is going. As the nozzle is removed from each hole it can be temporarily filled with clay. When grouting walling i.e. (B) then it is preferable to work horizontally along the structure from the bottom up.</p>

Records should be kept during the grouting process, which from previous experience could involve up to 20 litres per square metre. If small amounts of grout only can be introduced, grouting may be found to be unnecessary. In the case of the north wall, it is likely that the bottom section of wall will accept quite a large quantity of grout, whilst the top section of the wall may need very little grouting.

Moving to the upper section of the wall, this requires deep pointing but it is unlikely that grouting will be needed in this area since it has been rebuilt using a soft lime mortar. Pointing should be carried out as described above in NHL 2 1:2 lime: mortar using a similar mix.

In order to differentiate between the nineteenth-century construction of the north wall and the rest of the mediaeval stonework, it is suggested that a sandstone aggregate (510mm) is used in the mix in order to provide a subtle variation in texture to the medieval work.

Lastly the end section of this wall is of dried stone construction and in our opinion is of recent construction. No work therefore is proposed for this section of the wall.

Once pointing and stabilisation works are complete, a domed capping is required on the top of the wall constructed from flat stone and NHL 3.5, 1:2, lime: sand mortar.

Works to the north wall are urgent and therefore have been planned for Phase I.

3.5.5 The remaining wall capping and the vault roof – works to be carried out in Phase 2

A major risk to medieval ruins of this type and age is deterioration at the tops of the walls, since horizontal surfaces attract significant weathering. In the case of Kilcooley church, the top of the vault is exposed with a concrete screed above. In our opinion this should be left in place since removal may damage historic stonework and the existing concrete screed should be exposed and repaired. Conservation philosophy often involves removal of concrete since it is not breathable, and its expansion characteristics are very different from surrounding lime masonry. In this case it is useful to have a non-breathable material to protect against water ingress and consideration may be given to providing a movement joint centre using an angle grinder.

Once repaired, the concrete screed should be protected with a waterproof tanking, above which turf could be laid. This type of roof structure³¹ prevents other species such as ivy taking root, and the turf capping is also impermeable helping to protect the structure beneath.

The tops of walls will have deteriorated and some stones may require re-bedding particularly at the top of the gable during this phase of works. Stone should be set in NHL 3.5 1:2 lime sand mortar after which a domed mortar capping, as described above, should be provided.

Works will then be required to the inside of the vault structure, including deep pointing of the voussoirs on the curved ceiling, together with patch pointing of the walls. All of this work is to be done in NHL 3.5 mortar. Once the works to the walls are complete, it is suggested that three coats of lime wash are applied using pure putty lime (three parts) and one part plaster of Paris or Metastar or similar pozzolanic additive.

3.5.6 Pointing remaining areas – Works to be carried out in Phase 1

The original pointing has substantially deteriorated so that the raking out of the areas to be pointed is likely to be minor. However there have been some inappropriate cementitious repairs in recent years which should all be removed prior to pointing.

The pointing process will be similar to that described above for the north wall, but grouting is not envisaged in general. Furthermore, the pointing will be carried out in NHL 3.5 (1:2) lime: sand,

³¹ Similar to green roofs in modern construction.

compatible with the medieval mortar, also with a similar grit but using sharp limestone for medieval work. Large gaps should be filled with pinning stones which must be available at the time of pointing.

All works will be subject to an approved sample panel to the satisfaction of Southgate Associates and the conservation authorities.

Great care should be taken to protect lime during works, with hessian sheets to dampen down the work to ensure a suitable microclimate. The pointing itself should be slightly recessed and 'whacked' with a bristle brush to compact the mix and expose the aggregate.

3.5.7 Mortar Analysis

Samples of the bedding mortar of the structures were taken to provide more information on the construction materials and also to help identify different construction phases of the structure which can be picked up in the materials used and composition of the mortar.

Table 9: Mortar tests.³²

	Location	Description of sample	Date range
1	Southwest corner (1m height). Bedding mortar deep into wall core	A hard ancient lime mortar. The mortar sample exhibited strong resistance to disaggregation, indicative of a mortar possessing a distinct hydraulic nature. The reaction during the acid dissolution was typical of a mortar which typically contained strong hydraulic compounds. Residue remains were high in clay/silica slurry suggesting the mortar was prepared with added clay during the binder calcification or added during the mortar mixing process. The aggregates found were a blend of well graded quartz sands and limestone, plus partly converted material from the binder manufacturing operation.	Consistent with 15 th century Q L
2	Northeast corner (1.2m height). Bedding mortar deep into the wall core	A hard ancient lime mortar. The mortar exhibited a strong effervescent effect during the acid dissolution, which is typical of a carbonate binder (lime). The aggregates found within the mortar blend were primarily limestone, containing limestone aggregates plus partly converted material from the binder manufacturing process. No indicators of added materials were found.	Consistent with 15 th century or earlier L

³² Mortar tests were taken by Chris Southgate in May 2022 and examined in the laboratory by Kevin Holbrook. Q = Quartz, SS = Silica Sand, L = Limestone, M = Mud.

Location	Description of sample	Date range
<p>3 Lower section of north wall outside the vaulted area. Bedding mortar.</p>	<p>Poorly executed and deteriorated mud mortar with voids in masonry between stones. The mortar sample sent for analysis was presented as a loose and disaggregated collection of binder, fines, and selected aggregates. The sample exhibited a strong fast effervescent reaction to the acid dissolution typical of a high binder content mortar. The sample residue contained a clay slurry and traces of burnt clay pieces which may have resulted in giving the mortar an enhanced hydraulic nature.</p>	<p>Assume 19th century; not consistent with earlier medieval construction</p> <p>M</p>
<p>4 Plaster sample on south wall of vaulted area</p>	<p>Soft lime mortar. The sample sent for analysis was a well-blended and compact plaster. Disaggregation was achieved prior to acid dissolution suggesting that the binder had a weaker hydraulic nature than the previous samples. The sample during the acid dissolution exhibited a strong effervescent effect typical of a purer lime binder. The aggregates found within the sample were a blend of silica grits and limestone sands, plus non-binding calcium oxide.</p>	<p>Possibly a later plaster dating from early 18th or early 19th century</p> <p>L SS</p>
<p>5 Central area of inside face of west gable above the vault</p>	<p>A hard ancient mortar. The sample sent for analysis offered strong resistance to the disaggregation process indicative of a mortar which contained hydraulic qualities plus a full carbonation process. A strong effervescent reaction during the binder dissolution suggesting a lime binder was used within the mortar blend. The aggregates used in the composition was primarily based on limestone aggregates and material from the binder calcification process plus a small amount of quartz grits. Residue from the acid dissolution showed a high clay/silt content typical of a hydraulic lime produced by adding clay either during the binder calcification, or during the mixing process.</p>	<p>Possibly 15th century or earlier</p> <p>L</p>

6	Location	Description of sample	Date range
	Inside face of west wall within vault	A soft lime mortar not consistent with other samples, possibly arising from period of 18/19 th century alteration. The sample exhibited a strong effervescent reaction during the acid dissolution suggesting a high carbonate binder content, the speed of the binder dissolution suggesting that the binder was primarily a purer non-hydraulic type of binder, but within the sample there were high strength elements which is indicative of a flair or batch kiln producing the binder, which due to differing temperatures within the kiln during calcification, hydraulic elements could be formed. The aggregates used in the sample were primarily limestone, plus a high percentage of silica fines.	Medieval L SS
	A sample taken from the north wall at higher level in coursed limestone masonry	A soft lime mortar in obviously 19 th century uncoursed rubble masonry which may have been a 19 th century repair. The sample sent for analysis was a typically produced lime mortar common in style to material being used in the 19 th century. The reaction during the binder dissolution suggested a binder which contained a weaker hydraulic nature. On closer inspection of the binder distribution the evidence would suggest that the calcium oxide had been slaked to a crude powder before blending with the quartz/silica blended aggregates.	19 th century Q SS
	Central vault voussoirs	A hard lime mortar containing a high percentage of larger aggregates typical of a structural forming character to this mortar, as opposed to a general masonry or plastering material. The sample exhibited a strong effervescent reaction during the binder dissolution test, typical of a carbonate type binder (lime) with a hydraulic nature. The aggregates used were a blend of quartz and limestone. The sample exhibited only minor areas of secondary binder dissolution indicative of staple hydraulic compounds.	Possibly 15 th century Q L

Note: It is not possible to distinguish between early medieval and mid to late mediaeval mortars which are found to be well prepared from a batch kiln and possibly or hydraulic properties. Very differing mud mortar and soft lime mortars are likely to date from the eighteenth to nineteenth centuries and although the stone material appears to be medieval, the coursing and methodology of placing stones is inconsistent with other medieval construction of this church and similar medieval churches. In general, the larger stones are placed at the base of the wall for strength and in this case, they are found in the middle of the wall. Further analysis is recommended.

3.6 Gaps in Knowledge

In terms of assessing the significance of Kilcooly cemetery it is recommended in the light of recent research³³ on ecology and in particular relics³⁴ associated with medieval settlements, it would be worthwhile carrying out an ecological survey with special emphasis on botanical species present in and around the cemetery.

It is possible that carbon dating of mortar samples could illuminate the possibility of establishing the origins of the structure. In addition, further investigations into the relationship of this site to other sites such as Kilmeen and Kilbocht in the region could lead to a greater understanding of the origins and significance of this site.

Archaeological excavation (invasive or non-invasive) at the site would provide more information on the origins, phasing and use of the site. This should only be carried out by a qualified archaeologist under licence from the NMS.

3.7 Tourism and Visitor Infrastructure

Currently there is no tourist infrastructure at the cemetery. The KCHG would welcome its inclusion in the future. The KCHG are, at the time of writing, in the process of applying to Galway County Council for road signage.

Associated with an emerging and greater understanding of the place, a policy of heritage interpretation could be adopted involving well designed signage and events to disseminate information on the site. It must be borne in mind, however, that current guidance from the National Monuments Service is that the installation of signage is preferably informed by and monitored by a licensed archaeologist.

The conservation work proposed also offers the opportunity for greater understanding of medieval masonry skills and a recent medieval training course at Ballintubber, Co. Roscommon, grant aided by the Heritage Council, can be viewed on the Southgate Associates website³⁵. Community heritage

³³ <http://castlestudiustrust.org/blog/2020/05/05/sowing-seeds-of-interdisciplinary-work-relict-plants-at-medieval-castles/#:~:text=%27Sowing%20the%20Seeds%20of%20Interdisciplinary,lived%20experiences%20in%20the%20garden> [accessed 25/07/22]

³⁴ plants that are the descendants of those introduced by the people who built and lived in historic structures/ areas. They may be associated with aspects of medieval life such as diet, medicine, fashion and belief.

³⁵ <https://southgateassociates.ie/>

practical events can be of great value not only to the surrounding community but also to serve as best practice advice for other projects in the county.

4 PART 3: ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Basis of Assessment

Places of cultural significance have been described as ‘those which help an understanding of the past or enrich the present, and will be of value to future generations’.³⁶ The cultural significance of Kilcooly Cemetery is multi-layered and encompasses all of the values set out in the *Burra Charter* – aesthetic, historic, scientific, social and spiritual.³⁷ The present assessment concerns the cultural significance of the Kilcooly Cemetery complex as a whole, as well as considering the key elements and values of the site individually. Criteria used in assessing degrees of significance include:

1. rarity
2. quality
3. integrity
4. cultural/historical associations
5. ability to demonstrate important social or cultural phenomena.

4.1 Statement of Significance

4.1.1 Aesthetic Value

The site is located in rolling agricultural land and is positioned on a raised rock outcrop. The site and surrounding lands have not been developed and as a result the site and setting are relatively unchanged over centuries. The surrounding fields contain the remnants of extensive medieval field systems, and potentially an early medieval ecclesiastical site or a medieval settlement cemetery, making the site and setting extremely interesting and adds considerably to the aesthetic value of the site. Kilcooly Cemetery is considered to be of **regional aesthetic significance**. This is further supported by its designation as a scenic area in the Galway County Development Plan.

4.1.2 Historic Value

Kilcooly Church and graveyard, and indeed the wider medieval landscape with adjacent medieval settlement and surrounding ringforts and castles, shows that Kilcooly parish church has been a significant site for the surrounding community since at least the twelfth century and possibly earlier. While initial research has had difficulty in identifying the foundation date of the site, it is clear that its continued use as a focus of spiritual activity within the community renders Kilcooly as **regionally historically significant**.

³⁶ *Burra Charter*, 1999, 12.

³⁷ *Burra Charter*, 2013.

4.1.3 Spiritual Value

Kilcooly is still referred to as the parish church of the area and the cemetery is still in active use by the community with burials still occurring on traditional family plots. Mass is celebrated annually at the start of summer (there is no fixed date, nor is it attached to a pattern day). This perpetuates the spiritual value of a monument which has been used for spiritual worship since the early medieval period. This would place Kilcooly Cemetery to be of **regional spiritual significance** as being a place of Christian worship for over a millennium. There is also a possibility of attachment to an early pilgrim route and the possibility that the parish church, dating from the thirteenth century, incorporates an early medieval dyart or hermitage.

4.1.4 Scientific and Educational Value

Kilcooly Cemetery offers a valuable scientific (archaeology and natural heritage are included here as scientific) and educational resource, with significant survival of archaeological heritage with clear potential for new discoveries and knowledge. For this reason, Kilcooly Cemetery would be considered to be of **regional scientific and educational significance**.

4.1.4.1 Archaeology

Although some archaeological work has been carried out in the area (see Table 7), none has been focussed on the church, graveyard or medieval settlement. There remains a great deal to be discovered about the history of the site and its monuments and adjacent subsurface features. The remains of the church and graveyard represent but a fraction of the monuments and structures that once existed at Kilcooly. Extensive settlement sites adjacent to the cemetery have been identified but have not been investigated. Other unidentified features and sites almost certainly await discovery.

The intensity of archaeological monuments and features at Kilcooly Cemetery and immediate surrounds helps to foster an appreciation of Ireland's deep and rich history and could be used by schools and other educational institutions.

4.1.4.2 Natural Heritage Value

An assessment of the natural heritage at Kilcooly Cemetery was not part of the scope of works for this document; however, it is suggested, given the type and size of monument, that it would be of benefit to carry out an ecological survey with special attention focused on botanicals to establish the presence of relicts.

4.1.5 Social and Economic Value

The site of Kilcooly Cemetery is held in high regard by the local community as evidenced by an active heritage group – Kilcooly Cemetery and Heritage Group – whose initiative and concern for the

monument has motivated the compilation of this CMP. As noted above, the site is used by the community for spiritual practice and is an important social site.

The site is also used by the local primary school for educational purposes.

There is potential to develop sustainable heritage-based tourism as well as research and educational opportunities at Kilcooly Cemetery which could bring social and economic benefits to the local community.

Kilcooly is therefore of **regional social significance**.

5 PART 4: IDENTIFYING ISSUES AND VULNERABILITIES

5.1 Introduction

Both the archaeological and historic environment are the product of thousands of years of human intervention. This landscape has been altered over time as ownership, populations and use developed and changed as evidenced by the adjacent deserted medieval villages. Due to a combination of both the local community's practices on and around the site, coupled with the national planning and development and heritage legislation, the landscape setting is in relatively good condition for a structure of this type and age. However, there are concerns regarding the loss of masonry on upstanding remains which has prompted this management plan.

This section of the plan describes the current uses of the cemetery and outlines the main issues and vulnerabilities that have been identified throughout the CMP process. These are common to many places of cultural significance.

5.2 Current Use

The cemetery is still actively used for burials and spiritual worship. Mass is celebrated annually at the start of summer. The date varies and is not linked to any pattern day.

5.3 Technical Condition Analysis and Recommendations

A site inspection for the purposes of Condition Assessment was carried out by Conservation Engineer Chris Southgate, over two days (August 2022). The inspection involved:

- Visual inspection
- Photographic recording
- Establishment of mortar type and possible dating as indicated in Section 3.6

The full results of the Condition Assessment are presented in Section 3.5. These include assessment of structural stability of the church, in particular the freestanding north wall, constructed of mud mortar and includes measures identified to address any defects. The results of the survey suggest a phased approach to repair is required as follows in order to prevent deterioration.

Table 11: Phasing, vulnerability and action

Phase	Vulnerability	Action
1	North wall is constructed with mud mortar with significant voids which if unaddressed would lead to collapse	Extensive deep pointing and grouting regime required to north wall including domed mortar capping
2	Horizontal surfaces and wall cappings are in need of deep mortar pointing and maintenance	Provide turf capping to roof of vault and deep pointing to voussoirs in inside face of vault. Carry out domed mortar capping to gable and side wall tops
3	Remaining walls require repointing and some minor crack repairs	Carry out deep pointing in lime to best practice standards

In order to preserve the significance of the place, the choice of aggregate should reflect the known and researched phasing of the building in order to provide a subtle but discernible visual record of the various elements.

In general, Kilcooly Cemetery survives in fair condition with the exception of the north section of wall built in mud mortar which is extremely poor. The reasons for this are concerned with poor quality alterations in the nineteenth century which represent vulnerabilities to the significance of the place. Once essential repairs are carried out, further issues and vulnerabilities can also be broadly categorised under the following headings:

- knowledge and information
- regular maintenance, current and future use.
- current and future use
- climate change

These factors are discussed in more detail in Sections 5.4 to 5.8 below.

5.4 Knowledge and Information

5.4.1 Gaps in Knowledge

The site of Kilcooly Cemetery is complex and potentially stretches over millennia. There are still many gaps in existing knowledge for archaeologists and historians. Further research and investigations would assist in filling gaps in knowledge and providing a clearer understanding of the origins, functions, age and significance of the site. Full public engagement should be included as part of this process.

5.4.2 Historic Archaeological Investigations

To date, no archaeological excavations have been carried out at Kilcooly Graveyard or surrounding medieval settlement.

5.5 Regular Maintenance, Current and Future Use

As stated above, the site is still used as a place for community spiritual worship and as a place for burial. No changes in use are predicted. The graveyard is maintained by the KGHG and the Galway County Council.

5.6 Climate Change

Immediate and cumulative effects from climate change pose a threat to both natural and cultural heritage. The site is vulnerable to climate change, which may introduce increased levels of increased and heavy rainfall and flooding, with longer wetter winters and hotter, drier summers. Damage to mortar is essentially exacerbated by wetting and drying out and a more diligent maintenance regime is likely to be required.

Any such changes have the potential to impact on the medieval structures through potential erosion of masonry and exposure of archaeological features, artefacts and deposits, and a change to the integrity of archaeological deposits (through saturation for example). The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has developed a '*Built and Archaeological Heritage Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan*'³⁸, with 48 specific actions designed to address the overarching goals and objectives of the Plan.

³⁸ Available at <https://www.chg.gov.ie/heritage/climate-change/the-built-and-archaeological-heritage-climate-change-sectoral-adaptation-plan/>

6 PART 5 CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 *Philosophy of Conservation*

An overarching framework for identifying, conserving and managing the significance and setting of heritage sites and landscapes is essential. The International Charters of Monuments and Sites ICOMOS guidance sets out the internationally recognised best practice principles for cultural heritage conservation. The primary aim of such conservation guidance is to support quality decision-making, with the objective of creating a sustainable, clear and transparent management system for all aspects of the historic environment. The Burra Charter advocates ‘a cautious approach to change: do as much as necessary to care for the place and to make it useable, but otherwise change it as little as possible so that its cultural significance is retained’³⁹.

International best practice in heritage conservation promotes collaborative approaches in the management and conservation of heritage sites and landscapes. An agreed framework identifies the baseline conditions of the site, sets out proposed aims and actions, and a plan for future measures to conserve and protect the heritage assets identified. This approach also helps ensure that all stakeholders have the opportunity to input into the process and are informed of the part they may play in the site’s conservation.

6.1.2 *Management of the Site*

Kilcooly Cemetery is owned by Galway County Council. Maintenance is managed by KCHG who are proactive in their stewardship, in regularly managing the site and also in developing this CMP.

6.1.2.1 **Statement of Core Values and Key Principles**

Conservation policies are derived from the significance appraisal and identification of key vulnerabilities, from consultation and collaboration throughout both phases of the Conservation Management Plan process. These policies are not intended to cast judgement on the practices that have taken place to date, but rather are intended to represent a vision for how the long-term protection of this special place can be maintained and enhanced for the future. Some policies will necessitate the express cooperation between the landowners and Galway County Council and National Monuments Service.

The following over-arching policies have been identified for Kilcooly Cemetery:

³⁹ *Burra Charter* 2013, 1

Policy 1: Protection – to ensure that conservation is paramount in the retention and protection of the significance and values attributed to the place.

Policy 2: Conservation Management and Maintenance – to ensure that the archaeological, architectural and intangible cultural significance of Kilcooly Cemetery is retained and protected in accordance with best practice in relation to developments and works at the site. A phased immediate conservation proposal is suggested in the CMP followed by diligent annual maintenance.

Policy 3: Resolving the need for burials in a very archaeologically sensitive place

Policy 4: Access and Interpretation – to ensure continued public access to and appreciation of the core values and significance of Kilcooly Cemetery. Signage and events are recommended⁴⁰, and the immediate conservation proposals offer an opportunity for building skills dissemination in the form of courses to benefit the surrounding Galway community.

Policy 5: Research and Education – to allow for continued research which will add to the existing knowledge base and fill gaps in the development story of the Cemetery, and to promote Kilcooly Cemetery as a resource for learning about Galway and Ireland’s archaeology, history and folklore.

6.2 Vision Statement

At present the community vision for Kilcooly Church and Graveyard is to continue to maintain the site and to conserve the upstanding remains of the church to ensure its survival into the future and prevent further loss of historic fabric.

An immediate programme of phased maintenance is recommended by this management plan and is to be adopted by the KCHG. Interpretative signage at the site would also be welcomed to underpin the regional significance of the site. Further consultation and engagement with the wider community is recommended to deepen the vision statement for Kilcooly Church and Graveyard.

6.3 Over-Arching Policies

6.3.1 Policy 1 – Protection

To ensure that conservation is paramount in the retention and protection of the significance and values attributed to Kilcooly Cemetery.

Use of Kilcooly Cemetery

To protect the archaeological complex and character of Kilcooly Cemetery

- a) Encourage the continued collaboration between key stakeholders based on mutual understanding of all values and agreed approaches to ensure the protection of the site is balanced with all current and future uses.

⁴⁰ Please note that an archaeologist should be consulted in the design of signage to ensure the archaeological requirements for installation are minimised and goes through appropriate licensing procedure with the National Monuments Service.

- b) Ensure that information on the impact of climate change on the structure and particularly archaeology is as widely understood and appreciated as possible and that in collaboration with key stakeholders appropriate mitigation can be devised where relevant.
- c) Continue to provide the landowners and those that manage the site with advice and practical guidance.

6.3.2 Policy 2: Conservation Management and Maintenance

To ensure that the significance of the place is retained and protected in accordance with best practice in relation to developments and works at the site

6.3.2.1 To establish a programme for effective maintenance and conservation with appropriate review

- a) Support the owners and managers of the cemetery (Galway County Council and KCHG) in the development of a phased conservation plan followed by an annual maintenance plan to ensure that all conservation and maintenance works and associated impacts are controlled and minimised in accordance with best practice
- b) Agree with the relevant key stakeholders a review and funding strategy for the undertaking and assessment of conservation and maintenance works where necessary. Seek advice from local fundraising experts.

6.3.2.2 To ensure that all conservation and maintenance are in accordance with best practice

- a) Ensure that physical conservation and maintenance works are undertaken with the requisite assessments, reports, approvals and recommendations in place prior to, during and following their execution, in consultation with the relevant stakeholders
- b) Support the owners in ensuring that all statutory obligations regarding cultural heritage legislation are understood and observed as part of conservation and maintenance works
- c) Liaise with key stakeholders to agree the appropriate process to record and maintain a log of conservation works, maintenance and repairs

6.3.2.3 To ensure that care is afforded to ecological issues and vulnerabilities

- a) To commission an ecological survey and explore the potential to conserve and protect the significant species and habitats identified in an ecological survey. Explore all reasonably practicable measures in this regard in relation to changes related to conservation and use.

6.3.2.4 Assisting landowners/ managers

Explore all funding opportunities available to assist the landowners/ managers in the undertaking of conservation, repair or maintenance works where required. Employ local expertise to assist on fundraising where possible and seek advice from other successful project managers.

6.3.3 Policy 3: Resolving the need for burials in a very archaeologically sensitive place

Burial within medieval graveyards is a sensitive issue (see section 7.2.6). Reconciling archaeological issues with the expectation of local communities is vital going forward and it

is recommended that a mediated consultation take place with the local community, graveyard custodians, the Kilcooley Graveyard and Heritage Group, Local Authority and the National Monuments Service be arranged as part of the next phase of works. The aim of this consultation should be to formulate a policy specific to Kilcooly Church and graveyard on how best to balance the burial needs of local families and the archaeological heritage of the site. This should then be added to this document.

6.3.4 Policy 4: Access and Interpretation

To ensure continued public access to and appreciation of the core values and significance of Kilcooly Cemetery and to allow for the further development of sustainable tourism practices going forward

Note: The installation of signage will require the presence of a licensed archaeologist, even for the digging of minor holes to receive signage poles etc.). It is advised to engage an experienced archaeologist at design stage to minimise impact on the archaeology of the site.

6.3.4.1 To aspire to universal access or reasonably practicable alternatives in order to enhance the potential for appreciation and enjoyment of the cultural and natural heritage of Kilcooly Cemetery

a) Given the difficulties of accessing the site by those who are mobility impaired, support should be given to the owners in creating a 3D model using laser scan/ reality capture technology for viewing of the structure on-line (e.g. [Moone Tower Drone Survey - 3D model by Tír 3D \(@Coastway\) \[8e10648\] \(sketchfab.com\)](#))

6.3.5 Policy 5: Research and Education

To allow for continued research which will add to the existing knowledge base and fill gaps in the development story of the site, and to promote Kilcooly Cemetery as a resource for learning about Galway and Ireland's archaeology, history, folklore and ecology.

To promote non-invasive techniques

- a) Support and encourage the undertaking of non-invasive investigative techniques (such as LiDAR and geophysical survey). Pursue these research methods as a means to enhance our understanding of the story and significance of Kilcooly cemetery.
- b) Ensure that any such survey is undertaken by a suitably qualified practitioner with the requisite skills, experience and consent where required, to conduct any such work.
- c) Ensure that findings from any such works are disseminated as widely as possible and in a format that respects the target audience.

7 PART 6: MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

7.1 Management Structure

The current management structure for Kilcooley Cemetery is based on the proactive work and stewardship of KCHG and Galway County Council.

While the management of the cemetery is by KCHG it must be borne in mind that committee members will change over time. The agreed policies for continued and careful stewardship of the cultural heritage significance and values of the place contained in this CMP can therefore be clearly communicated to newcomers to the management group. A clear written management statement is recommended to facilitate this.

7.2 Management Guidance

7.2.1 Funding

There are a number of funding avenues to assist with the future management of Kilcooly Graveyard. These include the Heritage Council Community Fund, the Community Monuments Fund (information is published on the DHLGH webpage e.g. <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/d21e3-community-monuments-fund-2022-call-for-projects/>) and the Historic Structures Fund (also provided by the DHLGH and administered through the local authorities). It is recommended that KCHG maintain strong connections with the Community Archaeologist and Heritage Officer for Co. Galway who can advise on these funding streams to implement recommended actions defined by this CMP. This CMP can be used in future applications for funding as a way to communicate the requirements of the site and also of the best-practice approach to management of the site already in place.

7.2.2 Visitor Access

Kilcooly Cemetery is open to the public at all times. There are no paths within the site and access may be difficult for the mobility impaired.

7.2.3 Conservation and Repair

As noted in Section 5.3, threats to the significance of Kilcooly Cemetery are generally in the form of natural weathering which if left unmitigated could result eventually in loss of archaeological fabric. Repairs and/or prevention measures to reduce such effects where necessary should be conservation-led and be planned and agreed with the necessary stakeholders, with permissions and professional advice obtained in advance where necessary. The baseline Condition Assessment of Kilcooly Cemetery contained in Section 5.3 will allow monitoring of the effects of weathering, and the effectiveness of any mitigation measures, over time.

Guidance on the care and recording of historic graveyards is available as a free online resource from Galway County Council at:

<https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/topics/care-recording-and-conservation-of-graveyards>

7.2.4 Archaeological and Historical Research

The archaeological and historical research undertaken over preceding decades, along with the information collected for this CMP, attest to Kilcooly Cemetery's unique character and significance. It is a policy of the CMP to support further research on the origins, former use and history of the structures through further historical/folkloric research and non-invasive techniques as part of an agreed research agenda. The aim of such work should be to provide information which would add to our knowledgebase and understanding of the significance of Kilcooly Cemetery.

The management of any such works would be in collaboration with the landowners/managers and key stakeholders, and support for same should be provided. Certain works would need to be undertaken by suitably qualified and experienced personnel working under an appropriate licence from the NMS/National Museum of Ireland where required.

7.2.5 Recording the Graveyard and Graves

As part of the compilation of this CMP, a measured survey (see Appendix 3) and photogrammetry survey (see Appendix 5) were carried out by AMS. This means that the upstanding monument is fully recorded as it currently stands.

In addition, Galway County Council Heritage Office and Mapping are piloting a programme of recording graves with a number of cemetery groups and heritage groups throughout the county with Survey 123 spearheaded by Dr Christy Cunniffe, Marie Mannion (Galway County Council Heritage Officer), Bridin Feeny, Barry Doyle (GCC Mapping) and David Nolan. Groups have previously received funding through LEADER, Galway Rural Development. Kilcooly to date has not been recorded.

7.2.6 Burials

Burial within medieval graveyards is a sensitive issue. Reconciling archaeological issues with the requirements and expectations of local communities is important. It is very important that the community understands the issues involved and is clearly informed of the archaeological significance, and legal protections, of the site. It is important to understand that the safeguarding of the archaeological heritage is also safeguarding the community's heritage.

The recommendations from the National Monuments Service is that no new graves be opened to protect the archaeological heritage present. However, this issue is potentially conflictive and it is

strongly recommended that as part of the next phase of works that a consultation be held between the community stakeholders, the custodians of the graveyard, the Community Archaeologist, Galway County Council Environment section and the National Monuments Service to formulate an appropriate policy that meets the needs of the community and protects the archaeology present.

7.2.7 Ecological Habitats

To date an ecological survey has not been carried out. It is recommended that an ecological survey should be commissioned to establish if any significant flora and fauna etc. are present. Should any rare species or relicts be found it is a policy aim of the CMP to ensure that these are protected, and that conservation works are programmed bearing in mind any ecological sensitivities.

7.2.8 Climate Change

Proactive work to protect Kilcooly Cemetery from the adverse effects of climate change through advance planning should be considered (for example by undertaking a specific climate change risk assessment; the creation of risk registers; and commissioning of a disaster management plan). Further discussion on this topic for Kilcooly Cemetery is recommended, with support for the landowners/managers provided as required. Once the phased conservation plan is complete the major risks would be expected to be mainly archaeological.

8 PART 7: CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

8.1 Community Consultation Recommendations

Foremost in the implementation of any policies of the Conservation Management Plan should be the consideration of Kilcooly Cemetery as a community place of worship, a place for burial, a place for genealogical research and a significant archaeological site.

As mentioned above in 7.2.6 burial within medieval graveyards is a sensitive issue. Reconciling archaeological issues with the requirements and expectations of local communities is important. It is very important that the community understands the issues involved and is clearly informed of the archaeological significance, and legal protections, of the site. It is important to understand that the safeguarding of the archaeological heritage is also safeguarding the community's heritage.

The recommendations from the National Monuments Service is that no new graves be opened to protect the archaeological heritage present. However, this issue is potentially conflictive and it is strongly recommended that as part of the next phase of works that a consultation be held between the community stakeholders, the custodians of the graveyard, the Community Archaeologist, Galway County Council Environment section and the National Monuments Service to formulate an appropriate policy that meets the needs of the community and protects the archaeology present.

For this reason, we recommend that a full community consultation and engagement be carried out as a vital next step and continued liaison with the following stakeholders on the issues of conservation is advocated:

- Kilcooley Cemetery and Heritage Group
- Families with traditional grave plots still in use
- Galway County Council Heritage Officer
- Galway County Council Community Archaeologist
- Galway County Environment Section
- National Monuments Service
- Parish Priest

Ideally, funding should be sought to include this as part of the first phase of conservation works. Guidance on the form of community consultation can be sought from the Galway County Council Heritage Officer.

8.2 Conservation Recommendations

The implementation of the policies put forward in this Plan should take place in compliance with legal requirements under the *National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014*, the *Wildlife Acts 1976 to 2018*, *Planning and Development Act (2000, as amended)* and other applicable legislation.

Bearing this in mind, it was found that structures at Kilcooly Cemetery are in need of three phases of conservation in order of priority, and in our opinion this may need to occur over three years after which an annual maintenance regime will be required. Recommendations for phased conservation work at Kilcooly church are outlined in the table below.

Table 12: recommendations for phased conservation work at Kilcooly church and cemetery

Phase	Work required	Area/ length	Cost
1	Deep point north wall with NHL 2 1:2.5 lime: sand to a depth of 50-100mm with pinnings and 5-10 sandstone grit Rebuild some areas (10%)	35 sq. m each face	€ 15,520
	Low pressure grouting with hand pump at a rate of 30 litres per sq. m. Larger quantities at base reducing in top 1.2m	1050 litres	€ 2,820
	Provide a domed mortar capping in NHL 3,5 with flat stones	9m	€ 1,125
	Scaffolding and preliminaries	Item	€ 12,148
2	Provide domed mortar capping as above to remaining wall tops and provide a turf capping to the vaulted ares	20m	€ 2,500
	Point inside face of vault ceiling with NHL 3.5 1:2.5 lime mortar with 5-7mm limestone grit in two passes to depths of up to 200mm, and limewash remaining wall areas with a pure lime putty limewash (three coats). Deep point some areas around 10%	27 sq m ceiling and 49 sq. m walls	€ 20,815
	Grouting minor, allow 10 sq. m at 20 litres per m	200 litres	€ 536
	Hoist scaffold and preliminaries	Item	€ 11,748
3	Carry out deep pointing in NHL 3,5 lime mortar 1:2.5 with 5-7mm limestone grit and pinning stones to remaining areas of church exterior and allow for subtle variation in mortar colour using different lime samples on east gable as instructed by Southgate Associates to differentiate between earlier phase of construction	92 sq. m	€ 20,984
	Carry out crack ties in 6mm Helibars 900mm long at 450 centres as directed at crack positions	55 No	€4,950
	Allow 20 sq. m at 20 litres per sq. m	400litres	€ 1,072
	Scaffolding and preliminaries		€ 12,934
		Sub total	€ 107,489
		VAT	€ 14,511.02
		Fees	€ 13,436

Phase	Work required	Area/ length	Cost
		VAT	€ 3,090.31
		PSDP	€ 1,100
		VAT	€ 253
		TOTAL	€ 139,879.45

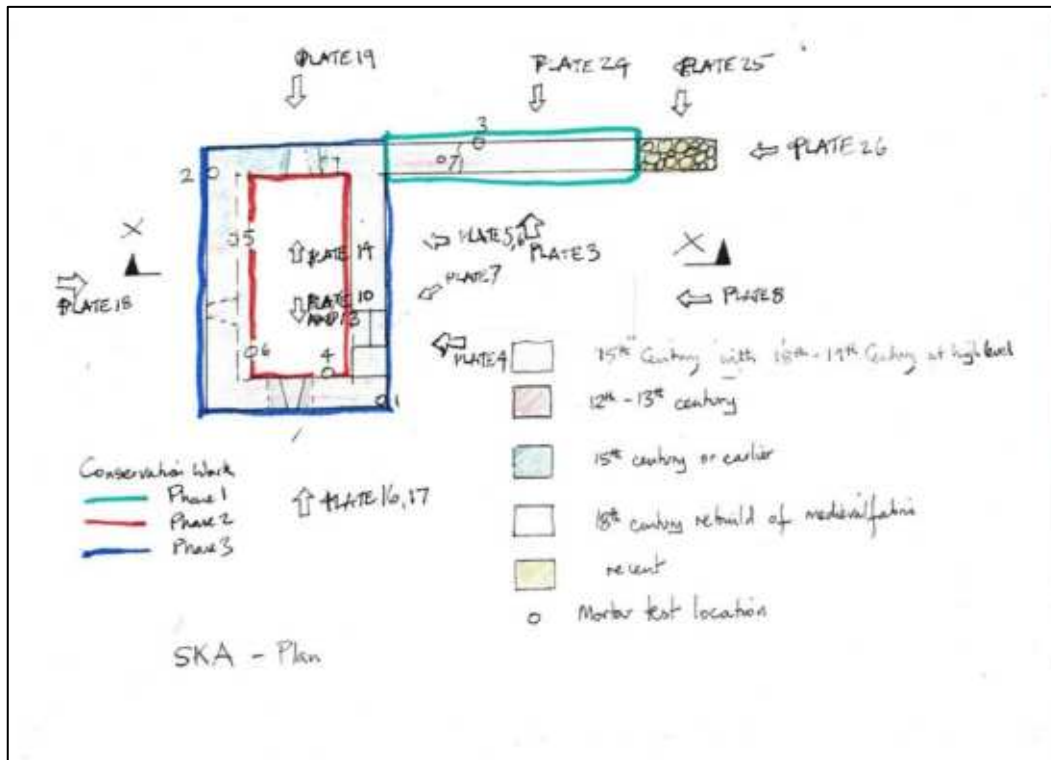


Figure 8: Plan of Kilcooly church with details of phasing and proposed conservation work.

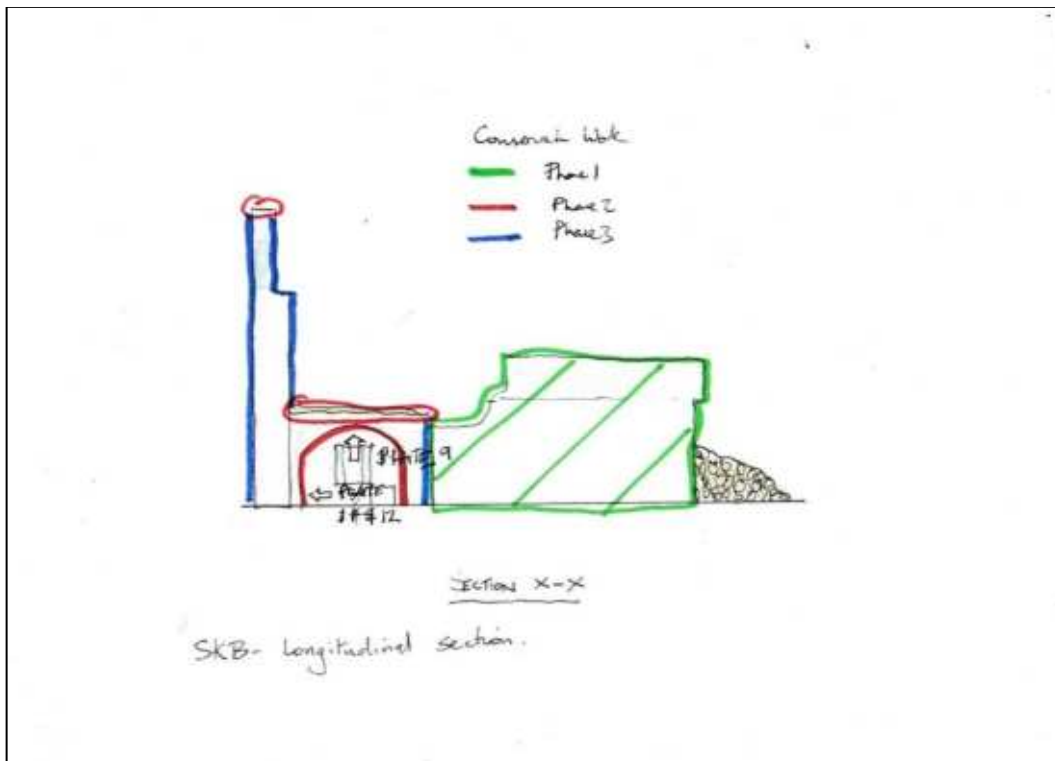


Figure 9: SKB Longitudinal Section

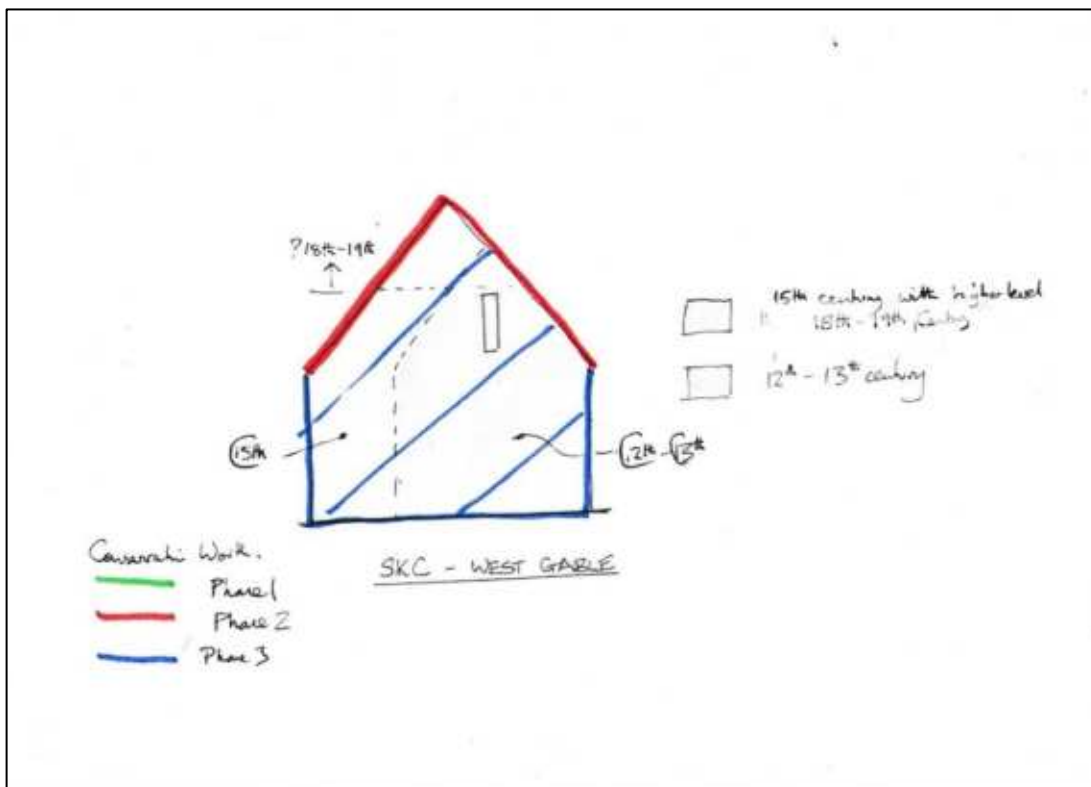


Figure 10: SKC West Gable

8.3 Maintenance Recommendations

Once complete, an annual inspection of the structure is recommended with a treatment regime for ivy growth. Initially this may be required in April and September reducing to annual inspection and treatment in September. Ivy should be carefully treated with a brushwood killer such as 'Round up' but great care is needed to prevent overspill and damage to adjacent vegetation.

8.4 Graveyard Recording Recommendations

The church structure at Kilcooly graveyard has been recorded (measured drawings and photogrammetry) as part of the CMP. It is recommended, however, that the graveyard itself also be surveyed/recorded. As outlined in Section 7.2.5 Galway County Council Heritage Office and Mapping are piloting a programme of recording graves with a number of cemetery groups and heritage groups throughout the county. Survey 123 is spearheaded by Dr Christy Cunniffe, Marie Mannion (Galway County Council Heritage Officer), Bridin Feeny, Barry Doyle (GCC Mapping) and David Nolan. Groups have previously received funding through LEADER, Galway Rural Development. To date Kilcooly has not been recorded. The Heritage Officer for Galway County Council should be consulted on how to proceed with this record. For more information see <https://gccapps.galwaycoco.ie/Graveyards/>

8.5 Duration of Plan

It is suggested that a ten-year timeframe for the CMP period (2022–2032) should be considered with a mid-period review to be undertaken after five years. The review structure and responsibility for undertaking same will need to be agreed between the key stakeholders in due course.

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Figures

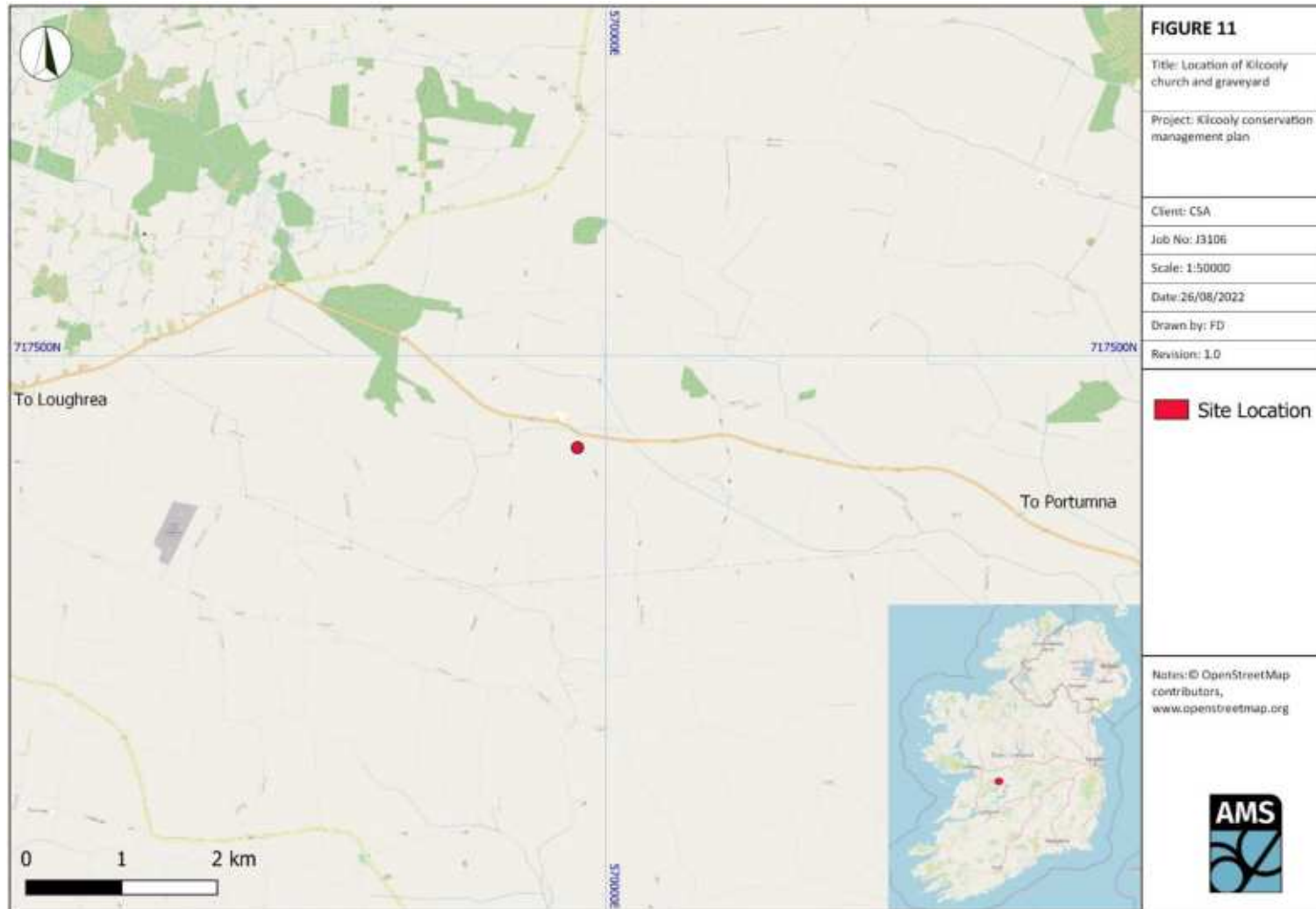


Figure 11: Location of Kilcooly church and cemetery.



Figure 12: Kilcooly church and graveyard, recorded SMR sites and licensed excavations.

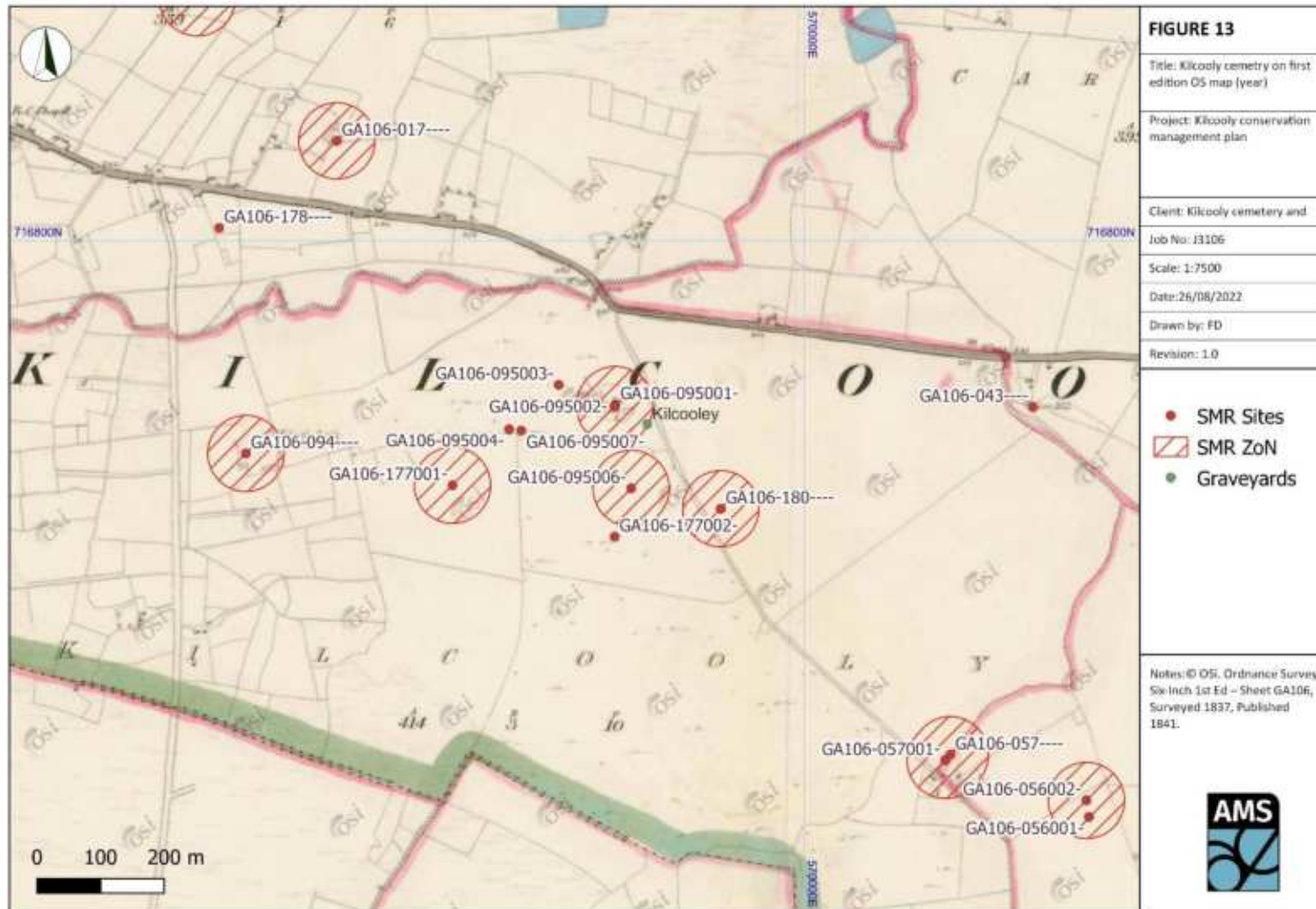


Figure 13: Kilcooly cemetery on first-edition OS 6-inch map (1837).

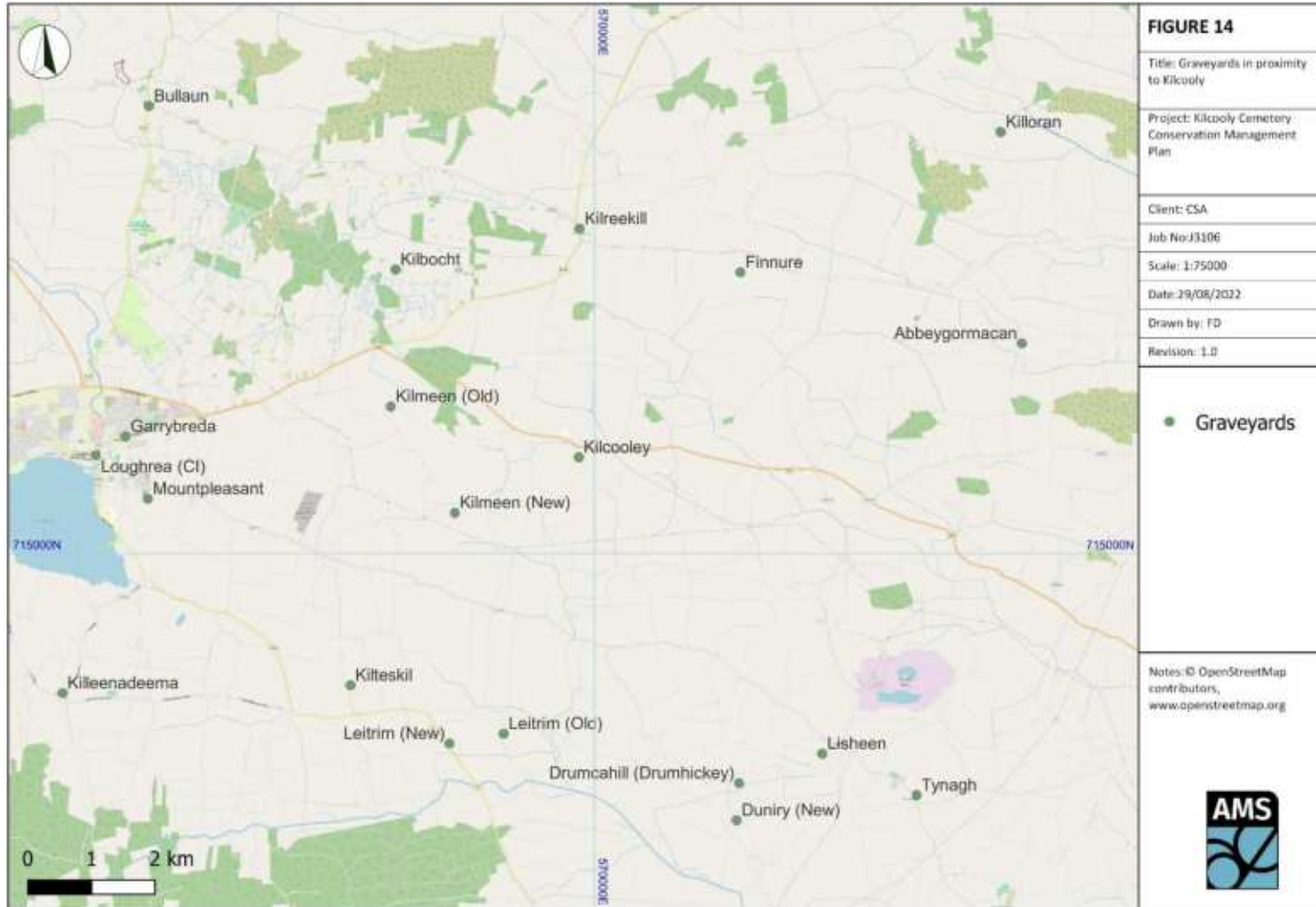


Figure 14: Graveyards in proximity to Kilcooly.

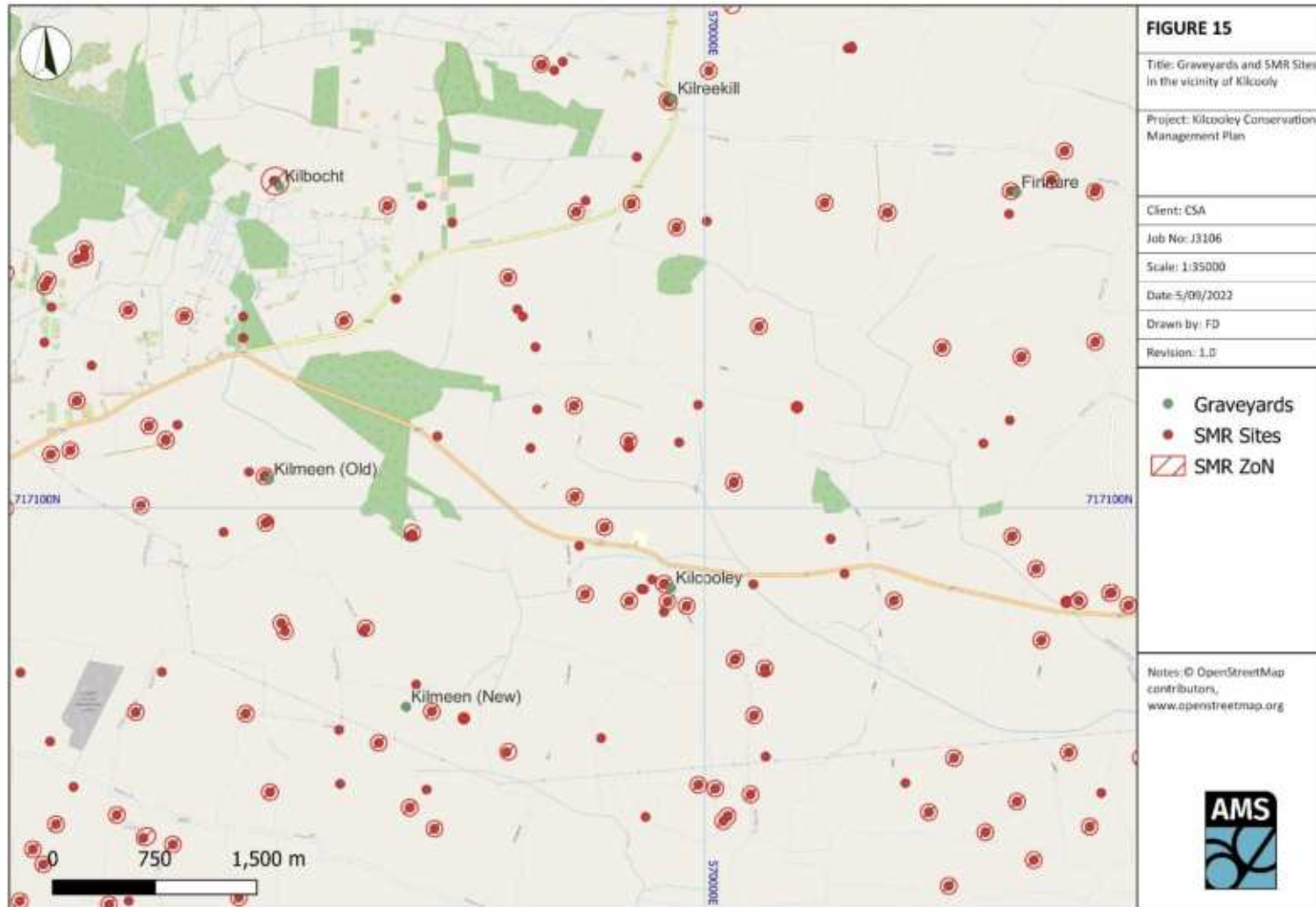


Figure 15: Graveyards and SMR sites in the vicinity of Kilcooly.

Plates



Plate 3: General view of the north wall looking north.

This north wall appears initially as a medieval wall, but on close inspection the arrangement of larger stones, which in medieval construction are usually at the base of the wall, is not consistent. On close examination the bedding mortar has a mud binder and is severely eroded. The construction to the top section of the wall is coursed and appears to be early nineteenth-century in date and is constructed from a soft lime mortar which is completely different from the remaining lime mortars. The conclusion, based on visual examination and mortar examination, is that the wall has probably been rebuilt in the eighteenth century, and the top section deteriorated and was again rebuilt in lime mortar in the mid-nineteenth century. The end section of the wall is of drystone construction and is probably a modern reconstruction. The wall is weak and vulnerable and in possible danger of collapse and significant deterioration and requires pointing, grouting and capping in Phase 1.



Plate 4: View of the junction between the south wall and the wall enclosing the vault.

Note above the vault which has a vertical construction joint. Both areas appear medieval and are constructed of hard, well prepared lime mortar but it is possible that the south wall is earlier (twelfth to thirteenth century) whilst the vault wall is probably fifteenth century.



Plate 5: Junction of the wall enclosing the vault (fifteenth-century) with the north wall (eighteenth-century reconstruction).

Although the pointing is missing due to leaching, there is a strong bedding mortar present in the vault wall but only poor mud mortar in the north wall (to the right).



Plate 6: Detail of the decayed pointing but with bedding mortar present behind, some recent poor-quality cement pointing to be removed.



Plate 7: The lintel over the door to the vault appears to be a more recent replacement. It is proposed to leave this *in situ*.



Plate 8: General overview of the church looking east.



Plate 9: This photograph shows a view of the eroded hard lime mortar pointing to the stone voussoirs in the fifteenth-century vault ceiling.

Water is leaching from above and although covered with a cement screed it is suggested that the screed is repaired and covered with a purpose-designed turf capping to reduce the exposure to moisture and subsequent decay of the mortar joints



Plate 10: Window in south wall.

This photograph shows alterations to the window on the south wall which could possibly be twelfth to thirteenth century, but the alterations appear incompetent in terms of the stone bond and are more likely to be associated (in the authors' opinion) with the poorer quality nineteenth-century work. Care should be taken when carrying out pointing work to the exterior in Phase 3 to ensure a differentiation between the phases and careful samples will have to be approved by Southgate Associates during the works to avoid the danger of the evidence of phasing becoming destroyed. Furthermore, on the inside of the wall, a shelter coat of limewash with deep structural patch pointing only is recommended.



Plate 11: The gravestones appear to relate to the Kelly family vault and date from the early nineteenth century.



Plate 12: As above.



Plate 13: Further view of the south wall (twelfth–thirteenth century) showing soft lime plaster which probably dates from the nineteenth century.



Plate 14: North wall of the vault.

On the north wall of the vault (fifteenth-century), there is again evidence of nineteenth-century alteration and the weakness of masonry at the bottom niche to the window is not consistent with medieval work and is likely to date from the poorer nineteenth-century work. Again, the interior is to be deep patch pointed and limewashed.



Plate 15: Detail of mortar missing on the outside face of the south wall.



Plate 16: Notice the poor-quality bonding of masonry showing window alteration in the nineteenth century on the south wall (twelfth–thirteenth century).



Plate 17: South elevation, overview of the building looking north.



Plate 18: West elevation.

This photograph warrants careful inspection since the stonework shows different phasing. There is evidence to show that the window was originally central to a gable in a smaller church (twelfth–

thirteenth century). Possibly a chapel of contemplation, a hermitage or dysart. The construction to the left and above is later but definitely medieval, and probably dates to the fifteenth century with the top section of the gable possibly rebuilt in the eighteenth–nineteenth century.



Plate 19: Again, the poorer quality alteration to window in the north wall of the vault. To the left of this another vertical line shows the area of reconstruction (suggested eighteenth-century) in mud mortar.



Plate 20: Overview of building looking south.



Plate 21: Some elements of the north wall looking south require minor rebuilding and pinning stones will be required in the pointing exercise.



Plate 22: As above.



Plate 23: As above.



Plate 24: Overview of the north wall looking south.

To the left, the drystone walling is of recent construction. Notice the change in texture of the top 1.2m which is coursed and constructed in soft lime mortar.



Plate 25: The end section of recent drystone walling is to remain.



Plate 26: The wall is about 800mm thick.

Appendix 3: Measured Drawings

Please note the drawings below are not to exact scale because they needed to be inserted into this Word document. These drawings will be sent as a separate document to KGHG as they are only to scale when printed in A4.

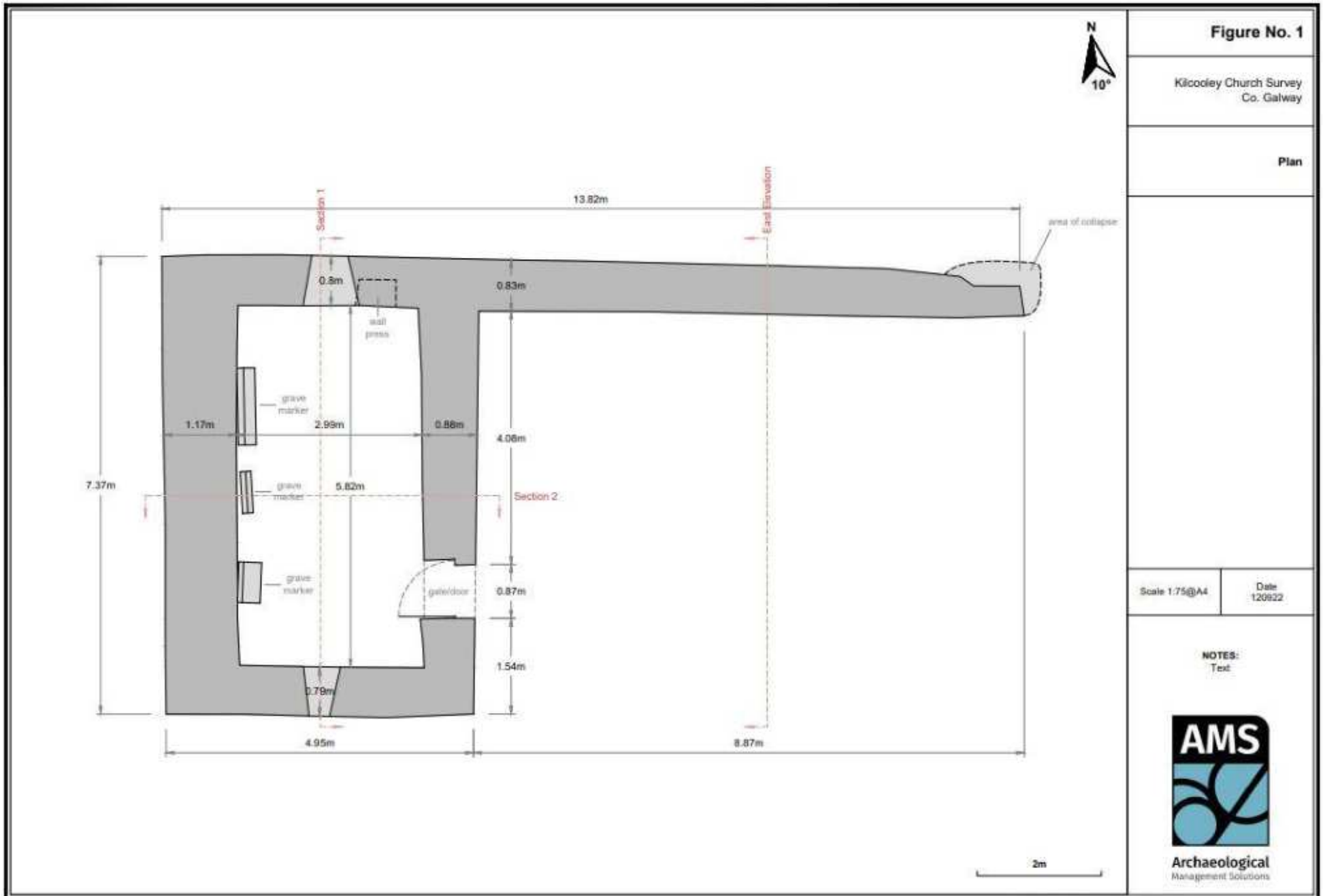


Figure No. 1

Kilcooly Church Survey
Co. Galway

Plan

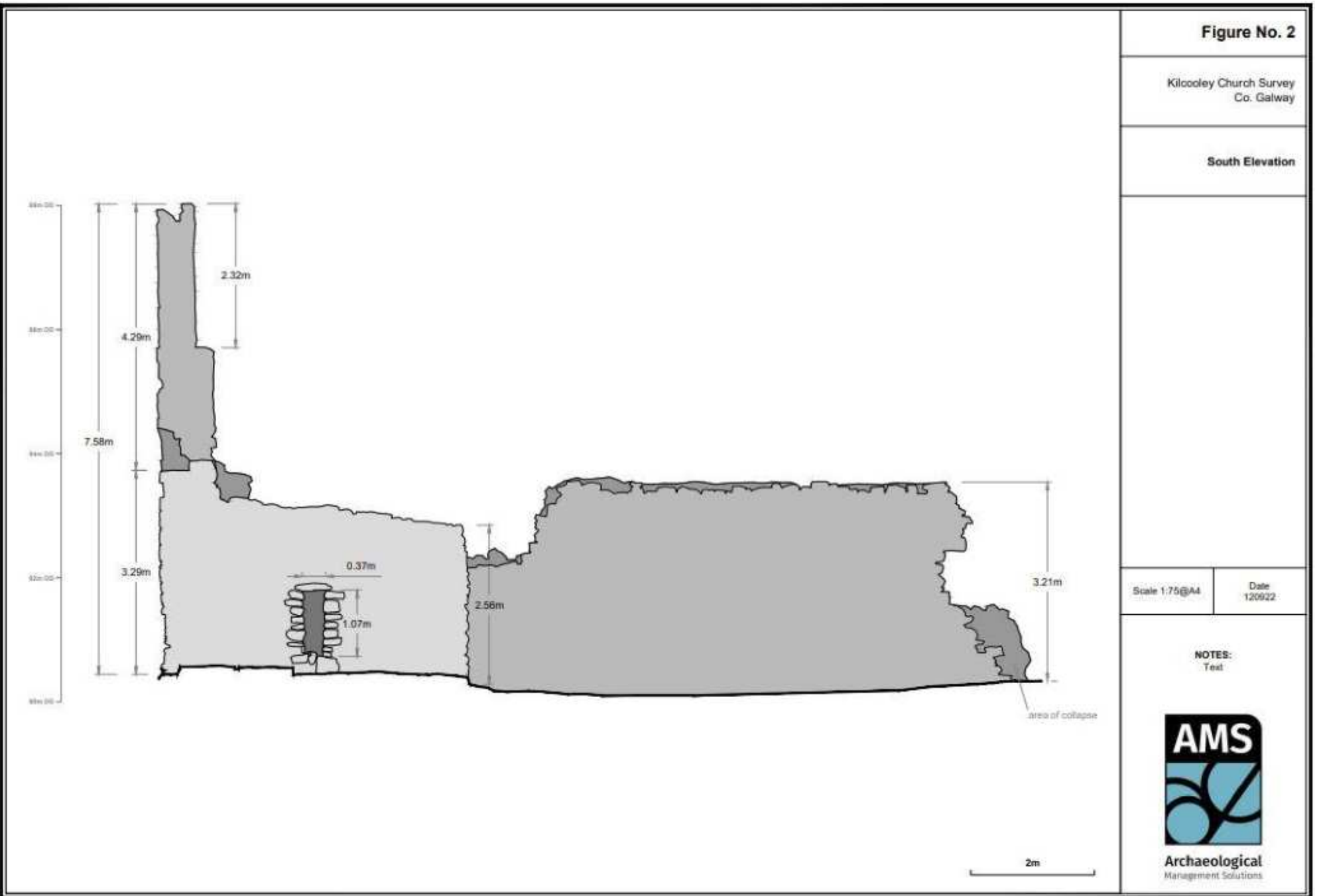
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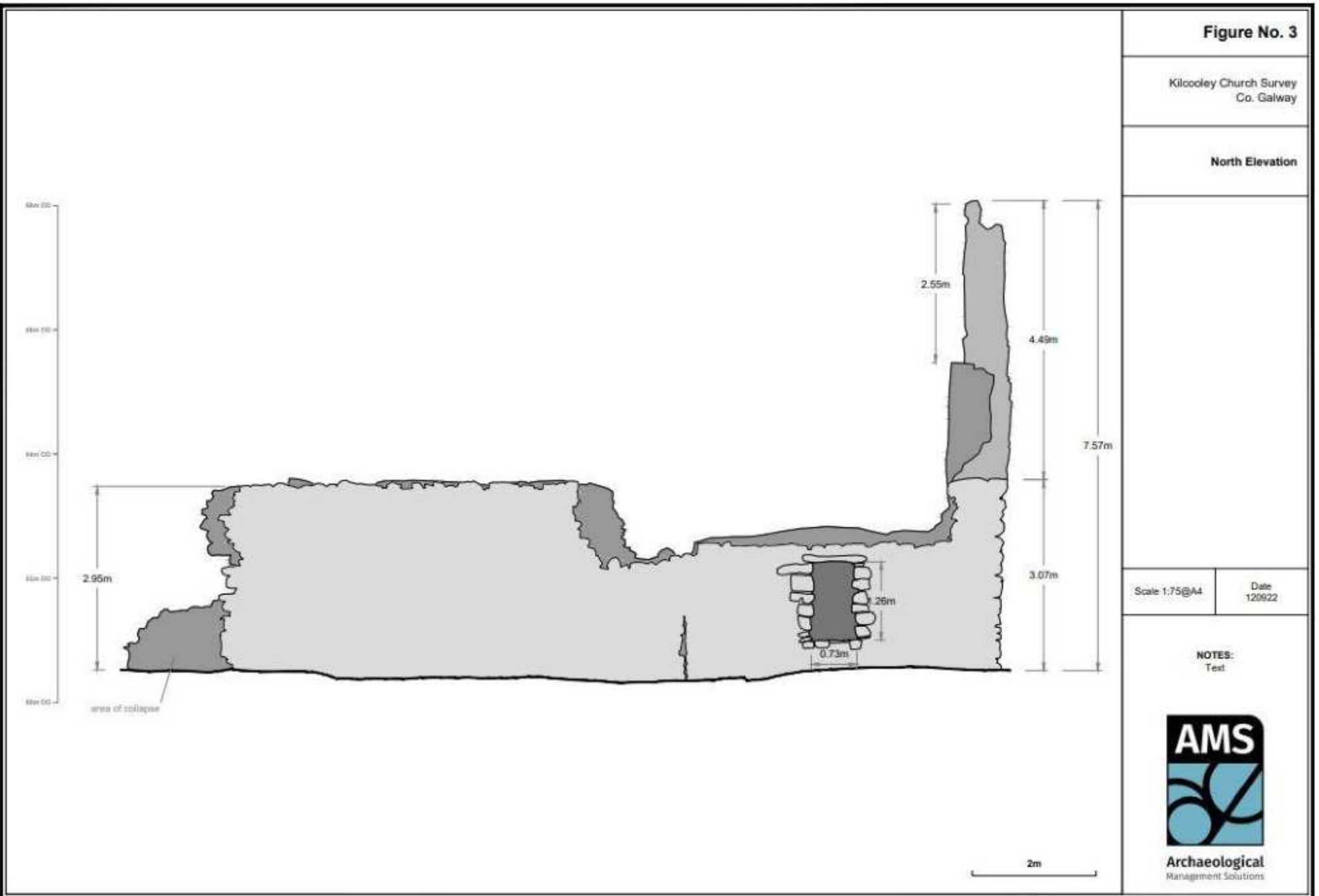
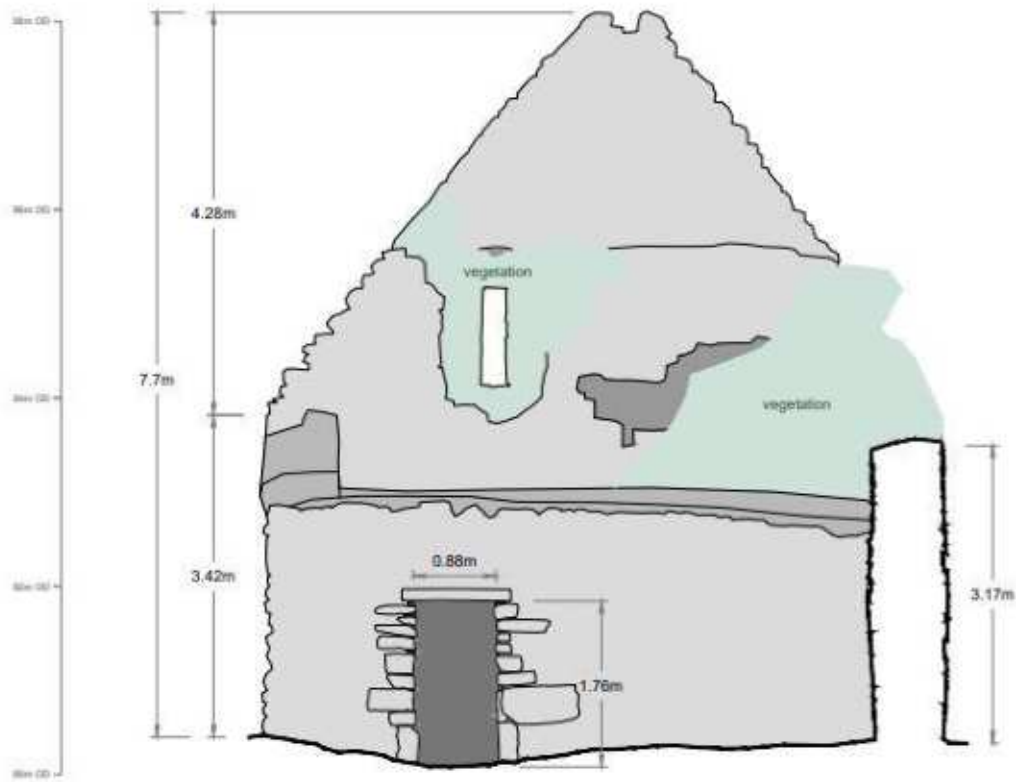


Figure No. 4

Kilcooley Church Survey
Co. Galway

East Elevation



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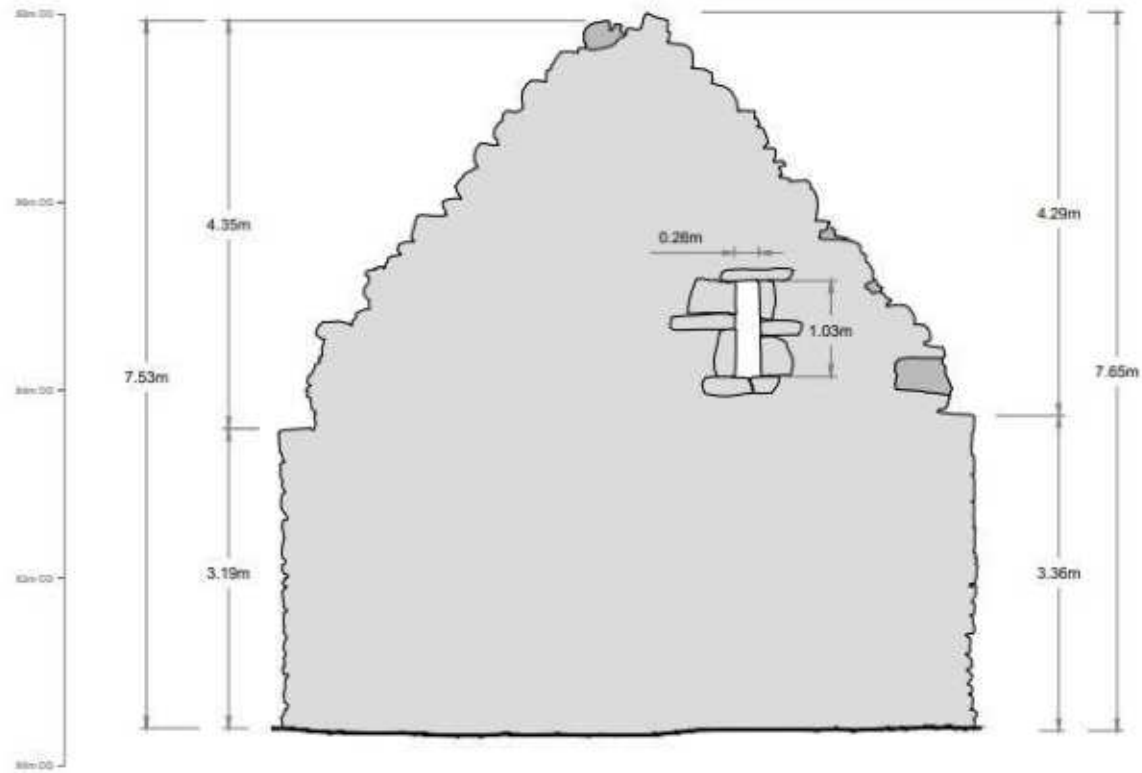
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Figure No. 5

Kilcooley Church Survey
Co. Galway

West Elevation



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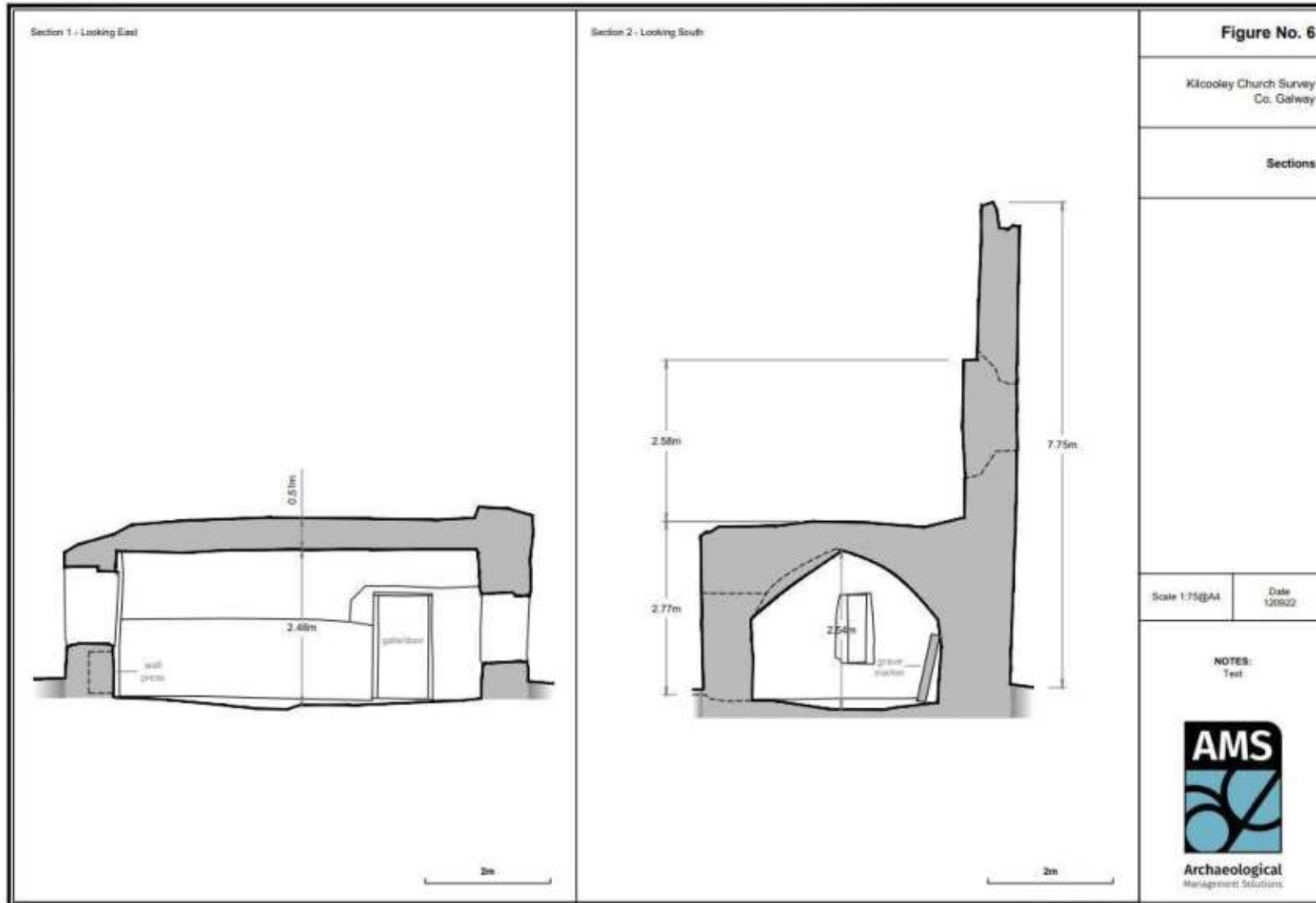
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Appendix 4: Associated Folklore Records

Townland	Collector / Informant	Extract Detail	Dúchas Archive permanent website link
Kilcooly	Matilda Dolan/John Dolan	There was supposed to be an old woman living in Ballyfenton castle. She was Queen of the Danes and had a crock of gold. Some crowd were in search of her for the gold. She used to dress in beggar's clothes to deceive them, but they saw a gold ring on her finger and they knew her. They killed her beside a bush three hundred yard from the castle, but they failed to get the gold. The bush is still growing there and it is said that the gold is still there also. There is supposed to be a hound watching it: He runs along the bank of the river near the castle.	https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4583327/4580055/4591214
Kilcooly	Mary Joe Nolan/John Kelly	In this village-Kilcooley in recent years three men showed themselves very brave heroes. On a windy day when everything was as dry as snuff a fire broke out in a swarth belonging to a man named Rushe. One the ditch separating his land from another farm a fine rick of turf had been almost on fire save for three neighbouring men- Martin Collins (Jnr) Kilcooley, John Tobin, Ballyglass and Martin Egan Ballyglass who fought the flames with the utmost bravery for three long hours. When that time was accomplished the fire was dead and not one sod of the man's turf caught fire. The owner of the turf who is Martin Collins Snr nicknamed Durken was very grateful as the turf is the most necessary thing in the home and is a thing very hard to rear.	https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4613673/4607227/4624205
Kilcooly	Christina Dolan/John Dolan	Kilcooley castle is an old ruin with high walls surrounding it. It is said it was build by a Norman woman, Norah Creena by name. It is not known at what time it became derelect. It is said it was attacked by the Williamite army believing that Sarsfield took refuge on the way to Limerick. The Canricard's were said to be the occupiers of the castle at that time. There are the ruins of an old castle in this district called Kilcooley, which is said that the Clanricard family lived there long ago. Tradition states that any peasant passing by the way had to bare his head, otherwise his life wasent safe. It is also said that a man named Lynch a retainer there at the time shot a man who failed to comply with the rules and it is also said that the Lynches never had any luck from that day to this.	https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4583327/4580098/4591381
Kilcooly	Patricia Clarke	The roads in this district are - The bog road, The New road, Kilboct Road, Lecarrow boreen, Ballybroder Road, and Boreen na nGhadaidhe. The bog road passes the bog. It is made a long time but it is tarred about 20 years now. Kilboct Road leads to Kilboct graveyard and it is made about 100 years now. The New road leads to Kilmeen graveyard. It is made about 24 years. The funerals used to pass the fields before that road was made. Lecarrow boreen leads to Lecarrow bog. Boreen na nGadhaidhe was made in the time of the Danes.	https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4583352/4582252/4591968
Kilcooly	Kitty Griffin/Mrs Griffin	At the crossing of the four roads in lower Ballyglass beneath a tree in the field opposite of the graveyard of Kilcroan lies a hidden treasure, which was supposed to be buried there since the time of St. Croan. Where the	https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4613673/4607230/4624208

Townland	Collector / Informant	Extract Detail	Dúchas Archive permanent website link
		<p>treasure is we are not told, but tradition tell us it is gold - likely gold Altar vessels used in the celebration of Mass and which had been buried there in penal times.</p> <p>St. Croan we are told lived in a field in Kilcooley where he build himself a small church. Later tradition tells us he sailed by boat to Kilcroan where he built a church and in Kilcroan graveyard lies the bones of this holy man.</p> <p>The field in which the treasure lies was in he early days covered with water and that accounts for the Saint coming by boat from Kilcooley to Kilcroan. We are told also that the Saint built himself a house in the field opposite Kilcroan graveyard the tree was planted there on the spot where the St. had buried his hidden treasure.</p> <p>Days have passed away and years have passed away since those far back days-but the traditional</p>	
Kilcooly	Thomas Egan/Martin Egan	<p>The saint of this district was St. Croan. He was a priest in this parish long ago when the penal Laws were in force. Our school and the grave yard are called after him. There was a lake in Michael Heartes's land Ballyglass Ballymoe and there he used to fish in a boat. The lake is dry now but in the winter it rises. He belonged to a family of the Egans that lived in this parish. He used to read Mass every day in the chapel every day. When he used to have mass finished he used to leave the mass book and chalice under Cran n Con in Michael Hearte's field Ballyglass Ballymoe. The chalice was made of silver and lined with gold. He never worked any miracles for the people. After reading Mass he used to go down to another priest that lived in Roscommon. He was killed by soldiers on his way to Roscommon. There were two swans on the lake where he used to fish and they stayed there until they died. Crann Com is still standing but the people are not allowed to cut a branch the old people say it would bleed. There was a large hole in Kilcooley Ballymoe and he used to read mass there also. There is only one person in the district called after him and he is Croan Keegan Ballyglass Ballymoe</p>	https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4613674/4607341
Kilcooly	Alice Dolan/John Dolan	<p>There is supposed to be a hidden treasure about one hundred yards to the south of my dwelling beside the castle of Kilcooley and it is said to be guarded by a fierce black cat. It is supposed a golden vessel containing some very precious jewellery and a magic stone which would get you anything you would desire. Many years ago a man tried his luck to see if he could get the treasure and after crawling through the cave for some distance, he could hear the distant purring of the cat and he saw under his feet human bones which is supposed were killed by the car. The man was forced to turn back and since then no one tried to get the treasure.</p>	https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4583327/4580064/4591255
Kilcooly	Paddy Gillooly	<p>In Ireland long ago there were a period of laws called The Penal Laws. Under those laws Catholics were not allowed to practice their religion and they suffered very much. If a priest was caught saying Mass his head would be cut off and sent to Dublin. All those laws were made by the English. So that in this way priests had to</p>	https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4613674/4607308/4624377

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		say Mass in deep pits. There are of some of those pits still to be found in certain places. For instance in Mark Keavney field Kilcooley Ballymoe Co Galway. This pit is called Poll an Aifrinn. In this pit there is a white thorn tree and under this tree the altar was situated. There is a village near Glennamaddy and the name of it is Gluin. Because the track of St Patrick's knees are on a hill near by.	
Kilcooly	Joseph Ryan/Peter Flanagan	At the present day there are many old places which are noted for certain things in the past. In this district there are many of them such as Poll An Aifreann it is said a priest usto say mass in it in the penal times It is in Mark Keavneys land, Kilcooley, Ballymoe, Co Galway it is also that the chalice and the other sacret vessels are buried under a bush in Michal Hartes land, Ballyglass, Kilsalla, Castlerea, Co Galway. In Patricks Coneaughs land in Turla, Ballymoe Co Galway there is a stone called "Cloe Urnage" long ago people usto pray on this ston e his house is now built in this field. There is a hole in williamstown, Co. Galway it is called Poll An Aostar it is called this because once upon a time a man came to it to give a drink to his horse he was on horse-back and when the horse saw the water he bean to rear and both of then fell in and got drowned	https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4613674/4607315/4624383
Kilcooly	Matilda Dolan/John Dolan	There is supposed to be a cave running underground between Kilcooley castle and Kilcooley graveyard. In the middle of this cave there is a crock of valuable jewels. It is supposed to be guarded by a very large black cat, who is seen very often around the hill. Long ago a man tried to get this treasure, but on hearing the cats loud purring, which he knew was guarding the treasure he returned in fear. Many attempts have been made since to get the threasure but were all failures, and many of those people were never heard of again.	https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4583327/4580055
Kilcooly	Rev. Father Francis O.D.C.	Loughrea is a much becastled district, as indeed is the whole area known as Clanricard. Within a five mile radius of Loch Riach we can see the ruins of a dozen castles: Cloch Baile on Garaidh, Rocboro, Castle Manor, Cill Maeragh. (Leitrim,) Kilcooley (the castle of Nora in gCaislean Burke), New Inn, Rathruddy, Dunsandle, St. Cleran's. On the road to Galway one passes Suidge Finn, Moyode, Doire Donel, Oranmore. Between Oranmore and Galway there are four castles midway on the seacoast is Roscam, where one may see a bullaun, a Holed Stone, and the remains of a round Tower. On the plain of Moyseola there are 36 Norman Castles. In Hymany district castle stood at Aughrim, Garbally, Monivea in County Galway, and at Aughrane (Castle Kelly.) Athleague, Athlone etc. in Co. Roscommon. Turlo O'Connor had built a wooden Castle and bridge at Athlone as well as a wooden bridge at Athorochta, so that he might, on occasion, show his power in Meath and Leinster. King John had built a stone castle at Athlone 1210, to overawe Crobhdearg. Soon after King Henry III made a grant To Connacht (the King's Cantreds being reserved) to Richard de Burgo known as the Kingmaker- he, De Burgo, built the castles of Loch Riach in 1236. He now divided the Connacht feef on the barons of Leinster and Munster who had helped him to make good his assumption in Connacht. These again divided in lesser fiefs. Each principal baron again required from his grantees castles	https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4583354/4582417/4592394

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		<p>commensurate with their lesser positions. The castle and manor of Loch Riach however, was the principal castle and manor of the province and on it depended the stability of the De Burge Lordship of Connacht. It was protected on one side by the Lake, on the other three sides a wall was built which was itself further defended by a trench and Natural river. Portion of the wall may still be seen as well as the clais and river. There were four gates each defended by a strong tower of which towers one still remains. Athenry was also a walled town (1310) its defence being entrusted to Baron Bermingham. Galway was walled in 1270.</p>	
Kilcooly	Johnny Egan	<p>There were many men in this parish who in former times won fame. The most important of these was Dennis Egan Ballyglass, Ballymoe. He was able to jump twenty feet. He was also able to jump six feet high and was able to throw the half hundred twenty six feet. William Burke Cloonee Ballyglass who was the strongest man in the parish. He was able to carry eight hundred. He was also able to mow one Irish acre of meadow each day for a week.</p> <p>Thomas Hurley of Kilcooley, Ballymoe was a very strong man. He was able to lift two hundreds in his mouth. He was also a noted footballer.</p> <p>Pat Egan of Templeougher was the best runner in the parish he was able to run one mile in four minutes. One day he was going along the road and there were seven horse-carts of hay in front of him and leaped up on the last</p>	<p>https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4613674/4607303/4624369</p>

Appendix 5: Photogrammetry