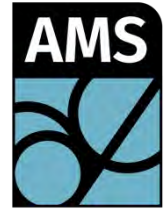


St Mary's Church of Ireland, Clonmethan, Oldtown, County Dublin: Conservation Management Plan



Archaeological
Management Solutions



Prepared for the Friends of Clonmethan

By Dr Kim Rice

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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 author and 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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Finally, the Friends of Clonmethan would like to remember all those who are buried and commemorated in St Mary's graveyard.

Summary

In July 2022, the Friends of Clonmethan were awarded funding through the Community Monuments Fund for the preparation of a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for St Mary's Church of Ireland church and graveyard, which is on the site of the medieval parish church and graveyard of Clonmethan. A key objective of the CMP is to enable the local community to conserve and preserve the archaeological, architectural, cultural and natural heritage of the historic graveyard and church ruin, as well as provide the necessary guidance to appropriately address issues concerning the site's conservation, access and interpretation.

St Mary's church and graveyard are located in the townland of Glebe, which is in the civil parish of Clonmethan and barony of Balrothery West. The upstanding church is a Protected Structure (RPS Ref. 0146), while the site of the medieval parish church of Clonmethan and graveyard are Recorded Monuments (Nos. DU007-006001- and DU007-006002-).

A range of public and private stakeholders were consulted during the planning and preparation of the CMP. The Friends of Clonmethan provided the principal platform for consultation, which included a public consultation strategy to understand the views of the local community. A Heritage Week event was held at the site on 19 August 2022 as part of the consultation process. This event was well attended by the local community who provided invaluable suggestions and feedback on the conservation proposals, as well as local information about the site. A series of site assessments and surveys were also conducted as part of the process, including a topographical survey, an ecological survey, an arboricultural survey and a condition survey of the church and graveyard enclosure wall.

The development of conservation and management policies was undertaken following consideration of national and international policies and frameworks, the current condition of the church and graveyard, as well as the values and significance attributed to the place by locals consulted as part of the process. Proposed policies for conserving and, where possible, enhancing the significance of the site, including the protection of cultural and natural heritage assets, are categorised under the headings Protection, Conservation, Management and Maintenance, and Interpretation, Research and Education.

The policies in the CMP aim to assist the Church of Ireland, the Friends of Clonmethan and Fingal County Council, as well as other relevant heritage and statutory authorities, in the protection and enhancement of the archaeological, architectural, historical and ecological character and setting of the complex, while allowing for wider understanding of the cultural heritage values. The implementation of the policies should take place in compliance with legal requirements under the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014, the Heritage Act 2018, the Wildlife Acts 1976 to 2021, the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and other applicable legislation.

A five-year timeframe for the CMP period (2023–2028) is recommended, with a mid-period review after 30 months. The review structure and responsibility for undertaking same will need to be agreed between the key stakeholders as part of the next steps in due course.

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Abbreviations and Definitions

Abbreviation	Definition
AMS	Archaeological Management Solutions
CDP	County Development Plan
CMF	Community Monuments Fund
CMP	Conservation Management Plan
DAHG	Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
DAHLG	Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands
DCHG	Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
DECC	Department of Environment, Climate and Communications
DEHLG	Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government
DHLGH	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
EU	European Union
FCC	Fingal County Council
FFEC	Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants
ICOMOS	International Council on Monuments and Sites
IFC	Irish Folklore Commission
ITM	Irish Transverse Mercator
LAP	Local Area Plan
LECP	Local Economic and Community Plan
NHA	Natural Heritage Area
NIAH	National Inventory of Architectural Heritage
NMI	National Museum of Ireland
NMS	National Monuments Service
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
OS	Ordnance Survey
OSI	Ordnance Survey Ireland
pNHA	proposed National Heritage Area
PRF	Potential Roosting Features
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record
RMP	Record of Monuments and Places
RPS	Record of Protected Structures
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SPA	Special Protection Area
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

St Mary's Church,¹ which is a Protected Structure (Fingal RPS Ref. 0146) and is recorded in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) Building Survey (Reg. No. 11320004), stands on the site of the medieval parish church of Clonmethan (RMP No. DU007-006001-) and graveyard (RMP No. DU007-006002-). The current structure was erected c.1818 with a grant from the Board of First Fruits (Plate 1Plate 3). The church was closed in 1960 due to the lack of patronage and is now ruinous. However, the graveyard is still in use as a burial ground.

The Friends of Clonmethan comprises a group of local volunteers from Oldtown and the surrounding areas in north County Dublin. The key objective of the Friends of Clonmethan is to preserve the St Mary's Church and graveyard for future generations. A number of the group also have relatives buried in the graveyard. Since their foundation in January 2020, the Friends of Clonmethan have undertaken a number of actions to conserve, enhance and promote the heritage of the church and graveyard, and the local area. These include:

- In may 2020, they launched the Friends of Clonmethan website,² which includes a blog that details group actions and posts content on the history and heritage of the site.
- In the same month (may 2020), floodlights were installed to illuminate the church from the west side.
- The cast iron entrance gates were removed in June 2020 and restored and painted before reinstatement.
- In July 2020, the group erected a new headstone for the Reverend Fredrick Henry Aldhouse, who was the last reverend of St Mary's and is buried in the graveyard. Aldhouse, who also served as a chaplain in France during World War I (1914–18) and was awarded a British War Medal, died in 1949. A verse of his poetry is inscribed on the headstone.
- The Friends of Clonmethan unveiled a Remembrance Day memorial to commemorate parishioners and other locals who died in World War I and World War II (Plate 4).
- Members delivered a tour of the graveyard to children from St Mary's National School in Oldtown village in May 2021.
- The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien, visited the site in June 2021 to see the work being undertaken by the Friends of Clonmethan.
- The grave of the Reverend Aldhouse was blessed by Archbishop Michael Jackson in October 2021. The event was also attended by Rector Neal Phair from Swords Grouped Parishes, Father John Keegan of Rolestown parish, the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and Councillor Brian Dennehy. The Friends of Clonmethan presented Archbishop

¹ ITM: 711120, 754580

² Website: <https://clonmethan.org/> [Accessed: 21.09.22].

Jackson with a YMCA World War I medal, which was posthumously awarded to the Reverend Aldhouse in recognition of his humanitarian work during the Great War.

- A wreath-laying ceremony was carried out at the Remembrance Day memorial on Armistice Day (11 November) 2021, which was attended by the local community and the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- In July 2022, the Friends of Clonmethan were nominated for the Mayor of Fingal Community Groups Award.

In July 2022, the Friends of Clonmethan was awarded funding under the Community Monuments Fund (CMF) for the preparation of the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for St Mary's Church and graveyard. They subsequently put together a cross-disciplinary team of cultural heritage, natural heritage and conservation specialists to assist in the preparation of the CMP, which included:

- Archaeological Management Solutions (AMS)³
- Sheridan Woods Nolan, Architects & Urban Planners⁴
- Eamon Doyle Associates Consulting Engineers⁵
- Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants (FFEC)⁶
- Goodwin-Arborist⁷

A key objective of this CMP is to provide a framework that enables the Friends of Clonmethan and the local community to conserve and preserve the archaeological, architectural, cultural, and natural heritage of the historic graveyard and church ruin. This CMP also provides the necessary guidance to appropriately address issues around the site's conservation, access and interpretation.

1.2 Location

St Mary's Church is situated in the townland of Glebe, which is in the civil parish of Clonmethan and barony of Balrothery West, in north County Dublin (Figure 1 and Figure 2). The Irish form of Clonmethan, *Gleann Meáin*, means the Glen of Meáin (Table 1).⁸ The graveyard is set in rolling pasture to the east of the R122 regional road that leads from Oldtown to Naul (Figure 3). No upstanding archaeological features are evident in the graveyard; however, there is a bank and ditch within the northern part of the site that are suggestive of a possible earlier enclosure (FCC 2008, 80). The church

³ Website: <https://www.ams-consultancy.com/> [Accessed: 16.09.22].

⁴ Website: <http://www.sheridanwoods.ie/> [Accessed: 05.11.22].

⁵ Website: <https://www.edassoc.ie/> [Accessed: 21.09.22].

⁶ Website: <https://flynnfurney.com/> [Accessed: 11.11.22].

⁷ Website: <https://www.goodwin-arborist.com/> [Accessed: 16.09.22].

⁸ Available at: <https://www.logainm.ie/en/838> [Accessed: 05.11.22].

and graveyard lie c.580m to the north-northwest of the village of Oldtown, which is situated c.10km north of Swords and c.6km east of Ashbourne, County Meath.

For the purposes of the CMP a study area extending for a 1km radius from St Mary's Church and graveyard was assessed. The study area includes the townlands of Browns cross, Clonmethan, Glebe, Jordanstown, Leastown, Oldtown and Wyanstwn (Table 1 and Figure 1).

Table 1: Townlands in the study area.

Townland (English) ⁹	Gaelic Name	Suggested Meaning	Civil Parish	Barony
Browns cross	<i>Crois an Bhrúnaigh</i>	Brown's Crossroads/Cross	Clonmethan	Balrothery West
Clonmethan	<i>Gleann Meáin</i>	The Glen of Meáin	Clonmethan	Balrothery West
Glebe	<i>An Ghléib</i>	N/A	Clonmethan	Balrothery West
Jordanstown	<i>Baile Shiurdáin</i>	The Townland/Homestead of Shiurdáin	Clonmethan; Palmerstown	Balrothery West
Leastown	<i>Baile an Ligh</i>	The Townland/Homestead of Ligh	Westpalstown	Balrothery West
Oldtown	<i>An Seanbhaile</i>	The Old Town	Clonmethan	Balrothery West
Wyanstown	<i>Baile Bhuín</i>	The Townland/Homestead of Bhuín	Clonmethan	Balrothery West

1.3 Ownership and Access

St Mary's Church and graveyard are privately owned by the Church of Ireland, forms part of the grouped parishes of Swords, Clonmethan and Kilsallaghan, with Donabate and Lusk, and is managed by the Select Vestry committee. The site is publicly accessible.

1.4 Preparation of the Conservation Management Plan

The St Mary's Church of Ireland CMP is a working document that provides a framework to care for and conserve 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 CMPs.¹⁰

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

⁹ Townland data from: <https://www.logainm.ie/en/> [Accessed: 08.11.22].

¹⁰ See bibliography subsection: Charters, Conventions and Guides.

The Burra Charter: the Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance, 2013 (hereafter 'Burra Charter'),¹¹ which is accepted as best international standard for the development of CMPs.

The Burra Charter defines conservation as: "all the processes of looking after a *place* so as to retain its *cultural significance*' (Article 1.4). Article 3.1 of the Burra Charter promotes a cautious approach to conservation: "based on a respect for the existing *fabric, use, associations* and *meanings*. It requires a cautious approach of changing as much as necessary but as little as possible." Furthermore, Article 5.1 states that "*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 others."

1.5 Scope of the Conservation Management Plan

The St Mary's Church of Ireland CMP sets out to:

- Give an understanding of the church and graveyard in space and time.
- Increase awareness of the site's cultural heritage, landscape and natural heritage.
- Establish a baseline for monitoring the condition of the built heritage, archaeological heritage and the natural heritage of the site.
- Assess the significance of the site.
- Identify issues and vulnerabilities.
- Set out conservation and management policies for the site.

The CMP covers a five-year timeframe (2023–2028). The Representative Church Body, the Friends of Clonmethan and relevant stakeholders will review progress on the plan on an annual basis with a mid-period review after 30 months.

1.6 Gathering Information

Information from a wide variety of sources was drawn on during the compilation of the St Mary's Church of Ireland CMP. These range from local, national and international legislation, charters and policy documents to local knowledge and consultation with public and private stakeholders, specialists and the wider public. Key sources of information on the cultural and natural heritage of St Mary's Church, the townland of Glebe and the parish of Clonmethan include:

- Published research, surveys and excavation reports.
- Archives and online databases of the National Monuments Service (NMS), National Museum of Ireland (NMI), National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH), The Heritage Council,

¹¹ Available at: <https://australia.icomos.org/wp-content/uploads/The-Burra-Charter-2013-Adopted-31.10.2013.pdf> [Accessed 16.09.22].

the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), the Irish Folklore Commission (IFC), and other relevant heritage bodies.

- Cartographical analysis, including historical maps and Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping, as well as aerial and satellite imagery.
- Site assessments and surveys undertaken as part of the CMP.

References to publications and online sources are provided in the footnotes and the accompanying bibliography.

2 Policy Framework and Methodology

2.1 Existing Policy and Legal Framework

The St Mary's Church of Ireland CMP is informed by existing local, national and international legislation, policy documents, charters and guidelines.

2.1.1 Archaeological Heritage

The *European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage* (Valetta, 16.I.1992),¹² was ratified by Ireland in 1997. It relates to the protection of archaeological heritage and includes the setting and context of archaeological sites. *Frameworks and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage* (DAHGI 1999),¹³ outlines guiding policies for the protection of the archaeological heritage of Ireland. Under the *National Monuments Acts* (1930 to 2014) and the *Heritage Act* (1995), Ireland is party to the *European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage*.

The *National Monuments Acts* (1930 to 2014) are the primary legislation aimed at protecting and preserving archaeological heritage in the Republic of Ireland.¹⁴ The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) is the statutory list of protected monuments and places (referred to as Recorded Monuments), established under Section 12(1) of the *National Monuments (Amendment) Act* (1994). The RMP for the County of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, County of Fingal, County of South Dublin and Dublin County Borough was published in 1998 in paper form with accompanying location maps, which have been scanned and published online.¹⁵

Some Recorded Monuments are also national monuments, as defined by Section 2 of the *National Monuments Act* (1930). A 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..." The current List of National Monuments in State Care (Ownership and Guardianship) for Dublin was published in 2009.¹⁶ There are no national monuments in State Care in proximity to the site. The closest is Swords Castle (National Monument No. 340; RMP

¹² Available at: <https://rm.coe.int/168007bd25> [Accessed: 09.09.22].

¹³ Available at: <https://www.archaeology.ie/sites/default/files/media/publications/framework-and-principles-for-protection-of-archaeological-heritage.pdf> [Accessed: 07.09.22].

¹⁴ Available at: <https://www.archaeology.ie/publications-forms-legislation/legislation> [Accessed: 03.10.22].

¹⁵ Available at: [https://www.archaeology.ie/sites/default/files/media/pdf/Archaeology-RMP-Dublin-Manual-\(1998\)-0013.pdf](https://www.archaeology.ie/sites/default/files/media/pdf/Archaeology-RMP-Dublin-Manual-(1998)-0013.pdf) [Accessed: 07.09.22].

¹⁶ Available at: <https://www.archaeology.ie/sites/default/files/media/pdf/monuments-in-state-care-dublin.pdf> [Accessed: 07.09.22].

No. DU011-034001-), located 10.1km to the southeast. Slightly further afield is Lusk round tower and church tower (National Monument No. 157; RMP No. DU008-010003-), which is located 10.3km to the east.

The NMS of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) maintains a publicly accessible database known as the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), available through the Historic Environment Viewer (HEV).¹⁷ This contains current information on all known archaeological sites and monuments, including whether or not they are scheduled for inclusion in the next issue of the statutory RMP. The SMR sites dataset includes a Zone of Notification (ZoN) for sites and monuments. The zones do not define the exact extent of the monuments, but rather are intended to identify them for the purposes of notification under Section 12(3) of the *National Monuments (Amendment) Act* (1994). One exception that does not require notification is routine farming adjacent to Recorded Monuments, and the NMS has published practical advice for landowners regarding good farming practice and archaeology.¹⁸ The ZoN for the medieval parish church of Clonmethan and graveyard extends beyond the graveyard enclosure and measures 135m in diameter (see Figure 4).

The medieval parish church of Clonmethan (DU007-006001-) and graveyard (DU007-006002-) are Recorded Monuments (see Appendix 1 for further details). Three other Recorded Monuments occur within a 1km radius of the site (Table 2 and Figure 4), which consist of an early medieval ringfort in Browns-cross (RMP No. DU007-005---), an enclosure site of uncertain date in Leastown (RMP No. DU007-007---; RPS Ref. 0148), and a possible earthwork site in Oldtown (DU007-022---). The precise location of the former earthwork is uncertain, it is listed as a 'Burial' in the SMR and will not be included in the next revision of the RMP. Another enclosure, which is listed in the SMR, is located in the townland of Wyanstown (DU007-056---).

Table 2: Recorded/listed archaeological sites in the study area.

SMR/RMP No.	Site Type	Designation	Townland	ITM (centroid)	Distance
DU007-005---	Enclosure	Recorded Monument	Browns-cross	710802, 754855	41m
DU007-006001-	Church	Recorded Monument	Glebe	711120, 754580	N/A
DU007-006002-	Graveyard	Recorded Monument	Glebe	711120, 754580	N/A

¹⁷ Available at: <https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/> [Accessed: 16.09.22].

¹⁸ Available at: <https://www.archaeology.ie/sites/default/files/media/publications/good-farming-practice-and-archaeology.pdf> [Accessed: 16.09.22].

SMR/RMP No.	Site Type	Designation	Townland	ITM (centroid)	Distance
DU007-007---	Ringfort – unclassified	Recorded Monument; Protected Structure	Leastown	711826, 755242	960m
DU007-022---	Earthwork site possible	Recorded Monument	Oldtown	N/A	555m
DU007-056----	Enclosure	Listed in the SMR	Wyanstown	711544, 755501	1km

No archaeological excavations have been carried out in the townland of Glebe (Appendix 2). However, archaeological testing¹⁹ and monitoring²⁰ was carried out at O'Brien's Lane in the village of Oldtown (Licence Nos. 06E0913 and 07E0728), c.565m to the southeast of St Mary's Church (Figure 4). The development site was located in proximity to the possible earthwork site (DU007-022---); no archaeological remains were uncovered (Dennehy 2006; Keith & Kerins 2008).

2.1.2 Architectural Heritage

The *Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe* (Granada, 3.X.1985),²¹ was ratified by Ireland in 1997. In fulfilment of its obligations, Ireland legislated for the increased protection of the architectural heritage with the enactments of the *Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 1999* (later superseded by Part IV of the *Planning and Development Act 2000*), and the *Architectural Inventory (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1999*.²² Under the terms of the *Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1999*, the term 'architectural heritage' means:

"all

- a) structures and buildings together with their settings and attendant grounds, fixtures and fittings;
- b) groups of such structures and buildings; and
- c) sites which are of architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest".

Under the *Planning and Development Act 2000*, as amended, Local Authorities are required to maintain a Record of Protected Structures (RPS) as part of their Development Plan; the RPS for Fingal

¹⁹ DIER Ref. 2006:687. Available at: <http://excavations.ie/report/2006/Dublin/0015431/> [Accessed: 08.11.22].

²⁰ DIER Ref. 2007:533. Available at: <http://excavations.ie/report/2007/Dublin/0017509/> [Accessed: 08.11.22].

²¹ Available at: <https://rm.coe.int/168007a087> [Accessed: 09.09.22].

²² Available at: <https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1999/act/19/enacted/en/print.html> [Accessed: 07.09.22].

is available online.²³ Protected Structures are recognised by the Local Authority as having special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest. The legal protections afforded to Protected Structures are set out in Part IV of the *Planning and Development Act 2000*, as amended.

The RPS provides positive recognition of a structure's importance, and protection from adverse impacts. A Protected Structure, unless otherwise stated in the RPS, includes the interior of the structure, the land lying within its curtilage, any other structures and their interiors lying within that curtilage, plus all of the fixtures and features that form part of the interior or exterior of any of these structures. The *National Monuments Acts (1930 to 2014)* can also protect elements of the architectural heritage or offer dual/parallel protection.

The NIAH is a nationwide survey of post-1700 architectural heritage including buildings, structures and historic landscapes and gardens, carried out under the *Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (1999)*. The NIAH comprises a Building Survey and a Survey of Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes.²⁴ These surveys are used to advise Local Authorities in relation to structures of interest within their functional areas. The purpose of the surveys is to highlight a representative sample of the architectural heritage of each county and to raise awareness of the wealth of architectural heritage in Ireland. Not all buildings and structures listed on the NIAH are legally protected through inclusion on the RPS.

St Mary's Church of Ireland is a Protected Structure (RPS Ref. 0146) (Figure 5), and is also listed on the NIAH Building Survey (Reg No. 11320004) (Figure 6). The church, which was built c.1818 and financed by the Board of First Fruits, comprises a detached single-cell structure with three-stage castellated tower, three-bay side elevation and a single-bay entrance porch to the northeast (Figure 15: Floor plan of St Mary's Church (Nolan 2022)).²⁵ The former Glebe House (also known as Clonmethan Glebe), which is located c.90m to the northeast of the church, is also a Protected Structure (RPS Ref. 0145) and listed on the NIAH (Reg. No. 11320003). It comprises a detached three-bay two-story over basement house that was built in 1817 with a grant of £100 from the Board of First Fruits (Board of

²³ Available at: https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2019-04/2017-2023_dev_plan_record_of_protected_structures.pdf [Accessed: 07.09.22].

²⁴ Available at: <https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/> [Accessed: 07.09.22].

²⁵ See: <https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11320004/saint-marys-church-of-ireland-church-glebe-ba-w-by-clonmethan-ed> [Accessed: 02.11.22].

First Fruits 1815, 4). It includes a courtyard bounded by two outbuildings.²⁶ Clonmethan Glebe is now in private ownership.

Eight further recorded/listed built heritage sites are located within the 1km study area in the townlands of Glebe and Oldtown (Table 3, Figure 5 and Figure 6), which all date from the nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century.²⁷ These include an early twentieth-century post box in Glebe (NIAH Reg. No. 11320005), c.45m to the south-southwest of St Mary's Church. The built heritage sites in Oldtown consist of Oldtown Church (NIAH Reg. No. 11320012), presbytery (NIAH Reg. No. 11320013), and hall (RPS Ref. 0901; NIAH Reg. No. 11320011), in addition to two nineteenth-century houses (NIAH Reg. Nos. 11320008 & 11320009), a nineteenth-century bridge (NIAH Reg. No. 11320007), and a late-nineteenth/early-twentieth century water pump (NIAH Reg. No. 11320010).

Table 3: Recorded/listed built heritage sites in the study area.

RPS Ref.	NIAH Reg.	Site Type	Designation	Townland	ITM (Centroid)	Distance
0145	11320003	Rectory/glebe/vicarage/curate's house	Protected Structure; Listed on the NIAH	Glebe	711235, 754640	132m
0146	11320004	Church/chapel	Protected Structure; Listed on the NIAH	Glebe	711120, 754580	N/A
N/A	11320005	Post box	Listed on the NIAH	Glebe	711103, 754535	40m
N/A	11320007	Bridge	Listed on the NIAH	Oldtown	711691, 753988	822m
N/A	11320008	House	Listed on the NIAH	Oldtown	711623, 754029	744m
N/A	11320009	House	Listed on the NIAH	Oldtown	711674, 754012	798m
N/A	11320010	Water pump	Listed on the NIAH	Oldtown	711698, 753979	818m
0901	11320011	Hall	Protected Structure; Listed on the NIAH	Oldtown	711665, 753979	804m
N/A	11320012	Church/chapel	Listed on the NIAH	Oldtown	711760, 753857	965m
N/A	11320013	Presbytery/parochial/curate's house	Listed on the NIAH	Oldtown	711690, 753930	873m

²⁶ Available at: <https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11320003/clonmethan-glebe-glebe-ba-w-by-clonmethan-ed> [Accessed: 02.11.22].

²⁷ An inventory of recorded/listed built heritage sites within a 1km radius of St Mary's Church is included as Appendix 3.

2.1.3 Natural Heritage

Ireland aims to conserve habitats and species, through designation of conservation areas, as required under European and National legislation. The NPWS of the DHLGH is responsible for the designation of conservation sites in Ireland. The provisions of the European Union (EU) *Habitats Directive*²⁸ and *Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)*,²⁹ as well as the *Wildlife Acts (1976 to 2021)* and the *Heritage Act (2018)* (S.I.No.15/2018), Part 3,³⁰ form the basis for the protection and conservation of natural heritage. Since the initial 1976 Act, two acts in particular have strengthened nature conservation legislation – the *Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000* (S.I.No.38/2000)³¹ and the *European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011* (S.I.No.477/2011), as amended.³²

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are prime wildlife conservation areas in the country, considered to be important on a European as well as Irish level.³³ The legal basis on which SACs are selected and designated is the *EU Habitats Directive*. The Regulations endow each Local Authority with the obligation to ensure compliance with the Directive's requirements. Under the terms of the *EU Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)* Ireland is required to designate Special Protection Areas (SPAs), which are for the protection of listed rare and vulnerable species, regularly occurring migratory species and wetlands, especially those of national importance.³⁴

The basic national designation for wildlife is the National Heritage Area (NHA), which is an area considered important for the habitats present, or which holds species of plants or animals whose habitat needs protection.³⁵ Proposed National Heritage Areas (pNHAs) were published on a non-statutory basis in 1995 but have not since been statutorily proposed or designated. These sites are of significance for wildlife and habitats. Under the *Wildlife Amendment Act (2000)*, NHAs are legally protected from damage from the date they are formally proposed for designation, while pNHAs are subject to limited protection.

²⁸ Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index_en.htm [Accessed: 07.09.22].

²⁹ Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/birdsdirective/index_en.htm [Accessed: 07.09.22].

³⁰ Available at: <https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2018/act/15/enacted/en/html> [Accessed: 07.09.22].

³¹ Available at: <https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2000/act/38/enacted/en/html> [Accessed: 07.09.22].

³² Available at: <https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2011/si/477/made/en/pdf> [Accessed: 07.09.22].

³³ See: <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac> [Accessed: 07.09.22].

³⁴ See: <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/spa> [Accessed: 07.09.22].

³⁵ See: <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/nha> [Accessed: 07.09.22].

The NPWS maintains a publicly accessible database known as the NPWS Designations Viewer, which displays NPWS Designated Areas.³⁶ The closest designated European sites to the study area are the Rogerstown Estuary SPA (Site Code 004015)³⁷ and the Rogerstown Estuary SAC (Site Code 000208),³⁸ which are located c.9.1km to the east-southeast. The closest national sites are Skerries Islands NHA (Site Code 001218) and the Bog of the Ring pNHA (Site Code 001204), lying c.15.4km to the northeast and c.7.9km to the north-northeast respectively.

2.1.4 *Fingal Development Plan 2017–2023*

The *Fingal Development Plan* (CDP) 2017–2023³⁹ sets out the statutory framework for landuse, planning and sustainable development in Fingal, in addition to the aims, policies and objectives of the Local Authority in relation to cultural and natural heritage (FCC 2017). These include a commitment to “the protection and conservation of buildings, areas, structures, sites and features of archaeological, architectural, historical, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest” (FCC 2017, 346). The CDP contains General and Specific Policy Objectives relating to cultural, natural and intangible heritage of relevance to the CMP, which are set out in Appendix 4.

The *DRAFT Fingal Development Plan 2023–2029*⁴⁰ is in the final stages of preparation in advance of adoption in January 2023. The chapters dealing with *Heritage, Culture and the Arts* and *Green Infrastructure and Natural Heritage* contain a comprehensive list of policies and objectives (FCC 2022a). Those of relevance to the CMP are included in Appendix 5.

2.1.5 *Oldtown Local Area Plan 2012–2017 (As Extended)*

The *Oldtown Local Area Plan* (LAP) 2012–2017⁴¹ (as extended) outlines the planning policies and objectives for the development of Oldtown village (FCC 2012, 1). The LAP “aims to promote appropriate sustainable tourism activities within the village and encourage the development of cultural/recreational facilities and services to attract visitors and tourists to the village and the surrounding area” (*ibid.*, 2). Furthermore, the LAP proposes objectives for the protection and

³⁶ <https://dahg.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8f7060450de3485fa1c1085536d477ba>.

³⁷ <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/spa/004015> [Accessed: 27.10.22].

³⁸ <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/000208> [Accessed: 27.10.22].

³⁹ Available at: https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2019-03/Fingal%20Development%20Plan%202017-2023%20-%20Written%20Statement_compressed_compressed.pdf [Accessed: 16.11.22].

⁴⁰ The DRAFT Fingal Development Plan 2023–2029 was on display for submissions and observations from 24 February to 12 May 2022. It is available to view here: <https://consult.fingal.ie/en/consultation/draft-fingal-county-development-plan-2023-2029> [Accessed: 27.10.22].

⁴¹ The duration of the Oldtown LAP was extended by FCC in 2017 to May 2022.

enhancement of green infrastructure under the themes of landscape character, biodiversity, and archaeological and built heritage (*ibid.*, 3). The objectives of relevance to cultural, natural and intangible heritage are detailed in Appendix 6.

2.1.6 Fingal Local Economic and Community Plan 2016–2020

The purpose of the *Fingal Local Economic and Community Plan* (LECP) 2016–2020 is to identify the actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of Fingal (FCC 2016, 19). The LECP, which was prepared by Fingal Local Community Development Committee and complements the policies outlined in the CDP (FCC 2017), is based on an integrated framework of eight guiding principles, six overarching themes, ten high-level goals and 38 supporting objectives (FCC 2016, 7 and 10). A high-level goal of the LECP is to “Protect and enhance the environment and heritage of Fingal” (*ibid.*, Goal G7), while the actions of the LECP are designed to recognise the quality of the natural and built environment of the county (*ibid.*, 91). A summary of LECP Objectives and Actions of relevance to the CMP is provided in Appendix 7.

2.1.7 Fingal Heritage Plan 2018–2023

A key remit of the *Fingal Heritage Plan 2018–2023* is to “guide renewed efforts to protect, manage and promote Fingal’s rich and diverse heritage” (FCC 2018, 14). It also recognises that “cultural heritage enriches our lives and adds to a sense of wellbeing and belonging [...and that] it is part of each local area’s distinct identity and adds to our sense of place” (*ibid.*, 6). The Heritage Plan, which sits within the policy framework of the CDP, outlines 41 actions that are set out under four themes relating to communications, caring for our heritage, increasing community involvement in heritage and supporting the local economy. A summary of heritage actions of relevance to the CMP is provided in Appendix 8.

2.1.8 Fingal Biodiversity Action Plan 2010–2015

The *Fingal Biodiversity Action Plan 2010–2015*⁴² developed a programme of actions to protect the habitats, plants and animals of Fingal (FCC 2010). The primary purpose of the Fingal Biodiversity Action Plan is to “focus the efforts and resources of Fingal County Council and other nature conservation groups to protect and enhance biodiversity within Fingal in the most efficient manner” (FCC 2010, 6). The *Biodiversity Action Plan* sets out six objectives and 100 actions that are centred around three topics: delivering of the ecological network across Fingal, research and monitoring, and raising

⁴² Available at: <https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2019-03/Fingal%20Biodiversity%20Plan.pdf> [Accessed: 16.11.22].

awareness (*ibid.*, 47). A summary of the objectives and actions of relevance to the CMP are detailed in Appendix 9.

The *DRAFT Fingal Biodiversity Action Plan 2022–2030*⁴³ is in the final stages of preparation in advance of adoption in January 2023. It sets out a hundred actions to halt the loss of biodiversity in Fingal by 2030, 32 of which comprise priority actions for implementation in the 2022–2030 period (FCC 2022b, 6). Action 50 is to: “prepare river restoration project for the Ballyboghil River and implement on FCC lands and acquire lands where necessary”, with an objective to “restore river habitat and improve water status and capture carbon” (*ibid.*, 79). As part of this, ecological studies will be undertaken of the river to identify the current habitat quality, the corridor quality and water quality (*ibid.*, Action 85). The Oldtown Branch of the Ballyboghil River is located c.60m to the north of St Mary’s Church (see alluvium deposits on Figure 8). Therefore, the proposed restoration has the potential to improve the local habitat and increase populations of species such as otter, kingfisher, dipper and bats.

2.1.9 DRAFT Fingal Community Archaeology Strategy 2019–2023

Community archaeology projects have the potential to foster social and cultural inclusion, engage new communities and built awareness of local archaeological sites and monuments, heritage and traditions (Baker 2019, 3). The key aims of the *DRAFT Fingal Community Archaeology Strategy 2019–2023*⁴⁴ are:

- To foster collaboration between communities, agencies, networks and individuals through the medium of heritage, to build strong and cohesive communities in Fingal.
- To raise awareness and contribute to the understanding of the archaeological heritage of Fingal through community participation.
- To engage new communities and expand participation in community archaeology by providing improved access and information of the archaeological resource in Fingal.

The strategy demonstrates there is a demand for community archaeology projects in Fingal, which can include non-invasive archaeological techniques such as the *Fingal Geophysical Survey Project* (Baker 2019, 12). The objectives of the Community Archaeology Strategy are detailed in Appendix 10.

⁴³ The DRAFT Fingal Biodiversity Action Plan 2022–2030 was made available for public consultations/submissions from the 24 May to 5 July 2022. It is available to view here: <https://consult.fingal.ie/en/system/files/materials/30041/Draft%20Fingal%20Biodiversity%20Plan%202022-2030.pdf>.

⁴⁴ Available at: <https://consult.fingal.ie/en/consultation/draft-fingal-community-archaeology-strategy-2019-2023> [Accessed: 17.11.22].

2.2 Consultation

A range of public and private stakeholders were consulted during the planning and preparation of St Mary's Church of Ireland CMP. The Friends of Clonmethan acted as the principal platform for consultation, which included a public consultation strategy to understand the views of the local community. A list of stakeholders is provided in Appendix 12.

A Heritage Week event was held at St Mary's on 19 August 2022, as part of the consultation process.⁴⁵ The event, which was facilitated by AMS, comprised an information and consultation session on the CMP process and its application to St Mary's church and graveyard. A topographic survey of the site was also carried out (Figure 7), during which the archaeological team demonstrated the survey process.⁴⁶ The event was well attended by the local community who provided invaluable suggestions and feedback on the conservation proposals, as well as local information about the site.

2.3 Site Assessment and Surveys

A series of site assessments and surveys were conducted as part of the CMP process. These included:

- Initial site visits and 'clean-ups' carried out by the Friends of Clonmethan in 2020, 2021 and 2022 to manage vegetation and refuse.⁴⁷
- The conservation architect (Sheridan Woods Nolan, Architects and Urban Planners) carried out a preliminary Condition Survey of the church and grounds in October 2020 and produced an Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment that included a series of recommendations for future conservation works (Nolan 2020).
- A walkover survey of the site undertaken by the conservation architect and consultant archaeologist (AMS) on 24 June 2022 to assess the condition and preservation of the archaeological and built heritage elements onsite.
- A topographic survey of the nineteenth-century church, graveyard and enclosure wall by AMS on 19 August 2022, as part of a Heritage Week event (Figure 7 and Plate 5).
- An Arboricultural Survey of a mature beech tree on the site was by the arborist (Goodwin-Arborist) on 18 October 2022 (Goodwin 2022).
- A Condition Survey of the church, graveyard and enclosure wall by the structural engineer (Eamon Doyle Associates Consulting Engineers) and conservation architect on 20 October 2022 (Doyle 2022). A photographic survey was also carried out by a professional photographer, which included rectified imagery taken with a telephoto lens.
- An Ecological Field Survey and a Preliminary Ground-Level Bat Roost Assessment by the project ecologists (FFEC) on 24 October 2022 (FFEC 2022a & 2022b).

⁴⁵ See: <https://www.heritageweek.ie/event-listings/topographic-survey-of-clonmethan-graveyard> [Accessed: 01.11.22].

⁴⁶ See also: <https://clonmethan.org/2022/08/19/digital-survey-for-heritage-week/> [Accessed: 08.11.22].

⁴⁷ See: <https://clonmethan.org/2021/01/15/a-summary-of-achievements-for-2020/> [Accessed: 08.11.22].

2.4 Developing Policies

The development of conservation and management policies was undertaken following consideration of the policy, framework and methodology information detailed above, and in consideration of the current condition of the church and graveyard, as well as the values and significance attributed to the place by locals consulted as part of the process.

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 Section 6, but in summary can be categorised under three headings – ‘Protection’, ‘Conservation Management and Maintenance’, and ‘Interpretation, Research and Education’.

These policies aim to assist the Representative Church Body, the Friends of Clonmethan, and Fingal County Council, as well as other relevant heritage and statutory authorities in the protection and enhancement of the archaeological, architectural, historical and ecological character and setting of the site, while allowing for wider understanding of the cultural heritage values. With the collaborative agreement of these policies by the relevant specialists, the process of developing the CMP is completed for this phase. The implementation of the policies will be undertaken over the next five years (2023–28), in consultation with the NMS, FCC Heritage Officer, FCC Biodiversity Officer, FCC Architectural Officer and the relevant statutory and non-statutory agencies.

3 Understanding St Mary's and the Parish of Clonmethan

3.1 Location, Topography and Landscape Setting

St Mary's church and graveyard are located in the townland of Glebe, c.500m to the northwest of Oldtown village, in north County Dublin. Glebe townland is in the parish of Clonmethan, which is in the barony of Balrothery West (Table 1 and Figure 1). Clonmethan formed part of the barony of Nethercross until 1842, when the configuration of the Dublin baronies was simplified and the parish was transferred to the barony of Balrothery West.

The local hinterland comprises low-lying well-drained mineral soils with a high level of fertile cultivation (Figure 8). The Oldtown Branch of the Ballyboghil River is located c.60m to the north of the church, while the Daws River, also a tributary of the Ballyboghil River, flows in a west to northeast direction through Oldtown, c.700m to the south. The Landscape Character Assessment in the CDP classifies the Glebe/Oldtown area as 'Low Lying Character Type' with a mix of pasture and arable farming, large open fields and low roadside hedges (FCC 2017, 32). The lands surrounding Oldtown are zoned 'RU' (Rural) in the LAP, with the objective to "protect and promote in a balanced way, the development of agriculture and rural related enterprise, biodiversity, the rural landscape and the built and cultural heritage" (FCC 2012, 5).

3.2 Historical Background

3.2.1 Prehistoric Period (8000 BC-AD 400)

The Irish Mesolithic is subdivided into two phases on the basis of stone tool technologies and cultural traditions – the Early Mesolithic (8000–7000/6500 BC) and Late Mesolithic (7000/6500–4000 BC) (Chapple *et al.* 2022; Woodman 2011; Bayliss & Woodman 2009). Evidence for the Irish Mesolithic tends to be concentrated around or in close proximity to coastal areas, along river and lake shores, and elevated river valley positions. Mesolithic society was characterised by small kin groups of nomadic hunter-fisher-gatherers that exploited seasonally available food resources such as fruit, nuts, berries, fish and wild fowl. The archaeological record of this period presents as the remains of temporary settlements, fishing technology, chipped stone implements and production waste (debitage). Evidence for Early and Late Mesolithic has been uncovered from middens along the north Dublin coastline. For example, a possible microlith was uncovered from midden material (DU008-013003-), that was sealed by a passage tomb. The site was located on a small headland to the south of Loughshinny in Rush, c.15.7km to the east-northeast.

The Neolithic period (4000–2400 BC) witnessed the introduction of agriculture to Ireland and the change from a highly mobile hunter-gatherer lifestyle to one of a more sedentary nature based on

livestock husbandry and cereal cultivation. This brought corresponding changes in settlement form, food production, burial practices and material culture (e.g. Cooney 2000). The time between 3750 and 3600 BC saw a period of rapid expansion across the country, which included the construction of timber-built rectangular houses and monumental hilltop enclosures, as well as monumental court tombs and portal tombs (e.g. Lynch 2014; Schulting *et al.* 2012; Whittle *et al.* 2011). There is no direct evidence for Neolithic settlement is located within the study area. However, there is a portal tomb c.21.7km to the southeast in Howth (DU015-032----), as well as a passage tomb complex to the c.14.2km to the northeast in Bremore (DU002-001001- to DU002-001005-).

The Bronze Age (2400–500 BC) is typically associated with the introduction and development of metal technology, the production of a diverse range of copper, bronze and gold objects, as well as the emergence of a distinct warrior elite class defined by high-status weaponry towards the end of the period (Waddell 2000). The material culture included not only weapons and tools, but also high-status items of personal adornment. This technological innovation went hand-in-hand with an intensification of agriculture that was largely facilitated by the availability of more efficient tools.

Possible evidence for Bronze Age activity is suggested by an entry in the Wakeman Collection (No. 30) that details how fragments of a mortuary vessel were recorded from a rath (DU007-022----), in Oldtown. The low earthwork, which was levelled, was formerly located at 'Dun Hill', possibly near the present Post Office. The description of the archaeological object as a 'mortuary vessel' suggests it may have been a Bronze Age cinerary urn.

Barrows and ring ditches are burial monuments that date from the Bronze Age through to the Iron Age. They consist of a circular domed area enclosed by a ditch and occasionally also by an external bank. A circular ring ditch is located in the townland of Jordanstown (DU007-064----), c.1.45km to the southwest of the study area, with another (DU007-058----) in Westpalstown, c.2.3km to the southeast.

3.2.2 Early Medieval Period (AD400–1100)

The early medieval period saw significant social, cultural, political and technological changes in Ireland. The beginning of the period saw the arrival of Christianity, the gradual conversion of the population, the flourishing of Irish monasteries, the development of church sites and the spread of literacy. However, there is no evidence that Clonmethan Church was founded at this time. The period, which spanned 700 years, also comprised a time of economic and environmental change. Surviving law tracts provide valuable insights into the nature of Irish society at the time, which suggest Ireland was roughly divided into small kingdoms (*tuatha*) that largely operated as pastoral communities bounded by ties of kinship (Edwards 1996, 8).

The area north of the River Tolka formed part of the Kingdom of Brega, which may have been occupied by the Gailenga and the Saitne tribes during the early medieval period (Stout & Stout 1992, 20). Brega comprised five Gaelic *triocha-cheds* (equivalent to cantreds, or the later baronies), and was ruled by the King of Tara (O'Donovan 1856). These Gaelic chieftains held sway over the area until the first phase of Scandinavian settlement, which lasted from AD 841 to 902 and consisted of a central *longphort* and a series of dependant forts from which territory was governed (Bradley 2009, 55). Scandinavian control ceased in these areas in AD 902 when Dublin was captured by a Leinster and Brega military coalition and the foreigners were expelled (Murphy & Potterton 2010, 61). However, Dublin was subsequently refounded in AD 917 and the Hiberno-Norse town and its hinterland developed through the tenth century (Bradley 2009, 49).

The area of *Crích Gall*, 'The Territory/Land of the Foreigners', is referred to in tenth century written sources (Murphy & Potterton 2010, 61). By the eleventh century the territory, which was known as *Fine Gall* to the Gaelic-Irish and *Dyflinarskiri* to the Scandinavians, was the agricultural hinterland of Dublin and stretched from the Hiberno-Norse town of *Dyflin*, north to Skerries and west to Leixlip (*ibid.*). It was from this region that Viking Dublin acquired some of the raw materials for manufacturing goods for international trade, and agricultural produce, both for their own consumption and for sale abroad. While Viking settlement spread outwards from the Liffey Basin during the eleventh and twelfth centuries, there is no indication that the native Irish were displaced in the *Fine Gall* region (e.g. Simms & Fagan 1992, 89).

3.2.3 Medieval Period (1100–1600)

The eleventh and twelfth centuries in Dublin were characterised by the dynastic struggles and social upheaval that followed the death of Brian Borumha in 1014. In 1169, the deposed King of Leinster, Diarmait MacMurchada, sought support from mercenaries from England, Wales and Flanders to assist him in his challenge for kingship (Stout & Stout 1992). Richard de Clare and his followers subsequently landed in Wexford to support MacMurchada, and in the aftermath of the Anglo-Norman conquest of the Dublin from 1170–71, the lands of the defeated Irish and Hiberno-Norse were divided and granted to the Anglo-Norman nobles and other allies of King Henry II.

Wealthy ecclesiastical institutions continued to exist following the conquest of the city and their extensive properties and holdings were ratified under the new Anglo-Norman regime. In 1179, Pope Alexander III confirmed the churches and villas of the see of Dublin, which included *Rath Chillín*,⁴⁸

⁴⁸ The name *Rath Chillín*, meaning the 'Defended/Enclosed Little Church,' suggests the church may have had pre-Norman origins (e.g. Smyth 1992, 150; Murphy & Potterton 2010, 210).

(Clonmethan) to Laurence O'Toole (Ronan 1930, 71), who had been consecrated as archbishop of Dublin in 1162. In the twelfth century the archbishopric of Dublin owned c.53,000 acres of land (Jackson 1975, 83; Simpson 1997, 20), which included lands previously held by the monastic houses of Swords, Finglas, Lusk, Clondalkin, Tallaght and east Wicklow (McNeill 1950, 3).

John Comyn was elected archbishop of Dublin in 1181, following the death of Laurence O'Toole. In 1190, Pope Clement III confirmed to Comyn the manorial centres of St Sepulchre, Swords, Rathcoole, Tallaght, Clondalkin, Shankhill, Ballymore Eustace, Castlekevin and Finglas (McNeill 1950, 17; D'Alton 1838a, 69). The principal manor was St Sepulchre, which comprised over 3,070 acres of lands that extended beyond the limits of the medieval city (Jackson 1975, 83). In the city, the manor was outside the city walls and to the southeast of the collegiate church of St Patrick and included the archiepiscopal palace and gardens (McNeill 1950, 38–39; Simpson 2009). To the north of the Liffey the archiepiscopal lands included Clonmethan, Swords, Lusk, Finglas, Portraine and Swords (Murphy & Potterton 2010, 76; Mills 1890, 54). The largest of these was Swords, which contained c.9,000 acres (Otway-Ruthven 1961, 57).

Comyn's charter of 1191/92, which elevated St Patrick's to a collegiate church, allowed for a chapter of thirteen canons, whose prebendaries were provided with archiepiscopal lands. Clonmethan was one of the thirteen original prebends of St Patrick's (Ronan 1941a, 7; Mason 1820, 53), the number thirteen was selected to reflect Christ and the twelve Apostles. A prebend was a form of benefice held by a prebendary (a canon of a cathedral or collegiate church). The stipend attached to the prebend was drawn from the church, tithes, and obventions of the altar and cemetery of the parish (Nicholls 1973, 103). The canons and prebendaries of St Patrick's administered their churches and managed their own affairs (*ibid.*).

In 1216, Pope Innocent III confirmed the houses and buildings of St Sepulchre's with burgages appurtenances, including 'Glinmethan' (Clonmethan), to Henry de Loundres, archbishop of Dublin (Ronan 1930, 72). De Loundres was also granted the episcopal manor at Swords and made his cathedral see at St Patrick's Cathedral (D'Alton 1838a, 85). In the Papal Taxation of 1302–06 the prebend was valued at twenty marks and was taxed at two marks (Archivium Hibernicum 1913, 10; Stokes 1897, 410). The Calendar the Justiciary Rolls record that in 1308, the goods of Eustace of Glenmethan (Clonmethan) consisted of five acres of wheat and hastivell,⁴⁹ as well as nine acres of beans and peas (Murphy & Potterton 2010, 304).

⁴⁹ Hastivell was an early ripening variety of barley (Murphy & Potterton 2010, 304).

A detailed account survives of commodities that were purchased by Nicholas Goldyng and Hugh de Castleknock, royal purveyors of victuals in Dublin, during the years 1314–15 (Murphy & Potterton 2010, 475). The goods, which included wheat, oats and wine, were destined for the king's army in Cumberland; however, some supplies were diverted to castles in Leinster and Carrickfergus Castle, County Antrim (*ibid.*, 475–76). One of their largest purchases was during the period May to October 1314, when 45 crannocks of wheat were obtained from the procurator of the rector of Clonmethan (*ibid.*, 476). It is possible that the rector was selling some of his parishioners' tithes (*ibid.*).

In 1317, the archbishop of Dublin was seised in right of his see; his lands included 125 acres of land in Clonmethan, while in 1321, Thomas de Montpellier is recorded as the prebendary of Clonmethan (Jackson Lawlor 1912, 339). In 1414, The prebendary of Clonmethan, Thomas Cranley, was sued in 1414 for two-thirds parts of the issues and profits of the prebend for two years. The claim, which attested he was an absentee prebendary, was subsequently dropped when the king issued a patent that licensed his absence (D'Alton 1838b, 403–04).

Papal letters from 1428 indicate that in April 1421 Thomas Russell, the perpetual vicar of St Peter's, Drogheda and a papal abbreviator who was held in favour at the Roman Court, was granted the prebend of Clonmethan. Russell also held the prebend of Swords, the archdeaconry of Kells and a canonry in Lincoln, England (Archivium Hibernicum 1913, 6). His appointment was contested by John Whythede, but Russell won the suit in February 1422 (*ibid.*). Pope Callixtus III appointed Nicholas Hackett as the dean of Ossory and a prebendary of Lismore, to Clonmethan in 1429. This resulted in a dispute between Hackett and Russell, after which both resigned (*ibid.*). William Haddessors was subsequently provided by the pope to Clonmethan, but Walter Hill secured the prebend from Pope Eugene IV and the archbishop of Dublin in 1431 and held it until his death in 1462 (Archivium Hibernicum 1913, 14 & 20).

The prebend of Clonmethan was valued at £28 6s 9d in 1538 (D'Alton 1838b, 403–04), and £21 5s 4d in 1547 (Murray 1991–92, 146; Ronan 1941a, 7). Nicholas Lyn was Prebendary of Clonmethan during the dissolution of the monasteries under Henry VIII. An inquisition detailed the possessions of the prebend as one manse and eight acres of land, value 8s. The tithes of the hamlets of Clonmethan, Oldtown, Killeene, Cabragh, Morton, Jordanstown, Cotterelstown, Newinnings, Wyanstown, and the fifty acres near Morton, had a worth per annum (exclusive of the altarages and demesne assigned for the curate at Clonmethan and repair of the chancel) of £17 5s. together with the tithes of Fieldstown – exclusive of the altarages and stipend assigned to the curate (D'Alton 1838, 404). The rectory of Clonmethan was leased to John Talbot of Malahide in 1547. Talbot in turn assigned the rectory to

Patrick Barnewall of Gracedieu for a lease of twenty-one years at an annual rent of £21 5s. 4d (Archivium Hibernicum 1913, 6).

In 1560, Alexander Craike was prebendary of Clonmethan and dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, while Walter Hill was prebendary in 1561. Hill was also vicar of Lusk, and he contributed largely towards the repair of that church. In 1564, Robert Daly, prebendary of Clonmethan, was also consecrated as bishop of Kildare, and held this prebend with the vicarage of Swords in *commendam*. A letter of Queen Elizabeth I from 1564 mentions that Daly "is well commended to her for his good name and honest living, and the rather because he was well able to preach in the Irish tongue" (D'Alton 1838, 404).

3.2.4 Post-Medieval Period (c.1600–1800)

The regal visitation book of 1615 states that Clonmethan prebend had an annual value of £55 and that Thomas Richmond was the curate (Ronan 1941a, 7); the church was in good repair (Refaussé & Clark 2000, 89). In 1630, Archbishop Bulkeley's Report of the diocese of Dublin recorded that the church and chancel of Clonmethan were "upp, but not decent within" (Ronan 1941b, 69). It also noted the tithes belonged to the Richard Powell, prebend of St Patrick's Cathedral, while there were only ten to twelve parishioners and William Tedder was the vicar (*ibid.*).

In 1644, the deposition of George Cashell recorded how in September 1642 Henry Mawdesley was captured by rebels near his home in Newtown (Ní Mhurchadha 2015, 171). Mawdesley, who was clerk of the peace in Dublin and Louth, was first brought to the "Church of Clanmeddan (where there were many other Rebels...)"⁵⁰ He was subsequently taken to Moortown where he was hanged. The previous month, August 1642, two Protestant ministers had also been hanged at the 'English Green', Moortown, parish of Clonmethan, following their capture (*ibid.*, 176).

The Civil Survey of 1654, noted that the parish of Clonmethan was bounded with the barony of Balrothery to the east, the barony of Coolock and part of Balrothery to the south, and the barony of Balrothery to the west (Simington 1945, 152). The church was described as "out of reparaire", while in 1640, and the tithes belonged to the Colledge (*ibid.*). Irish Catholics recorded in the survey included Lord Barnewall of Turvey who held 100 acres in Worganstowne and 20 acres in Oldtown (*ibid.*). The records for the subsequent Census of 1659 for the parish of 'Clonmedane', indicates there were twelve people in 'Clonmeathan', of which five were English and seven Irish (Pender 1939, 382). Twenty-eight people were recorded in Oldtown, comprising two English and 26 Irish (*ibid.*, 383).

⁵⁰ Available at: <https://1641.tcd.ie/index.php/deposition/?deplD=810025r039> [Accessed: 10.11.22].

The estate map: *The Plot of Clonmeathan, Jordans Towne, Mooretowne, Oldtowne, Kileene and the Glebeland in the Parish of Clonmeathan, in ye Barony of Nrthercross, County Dublin made by John Turmor in 1656*, shows the holdings of the archbishop of Dublin in the parish of Clonmethan (Refaussé & Clark 2000, 49). The colour coded map shows a house on the glebe land and a cluster of small houses in Oldtown; Clonmethan Church is marked with a cross (*ibid.*). Turmor also depicted Killeen Castle and houses in Mooretown, Cabragh, Jordanstown and 'Begg's land', while Westpalstown, Wyanstown, Fieldtown and Balrothery are also shown (*ibid.*).

In 1667, the archbishop of Dublin had a grant of fifty acres plantation in Clonmethan, with various other lands in augmentation of his see. In 1675, the parishes of Clonmethan, Balmadun, Falmerstown, Grenogue, Westpalstown, and Ballyboghil were united as the prebend of Clonmethan in St Patrick's Cathedral by act of council (Lewis 1837b, 371–72). The bishop of Killaloe, Henry Rider was buried at Clonmethan Church in 1695, while the Reverend Edmund Murphy was returned as a Catholic pastor for the parish in 1697 (D'Alton 1838b, 406).

In 1716 archbishop King, by virtue of a power vested in him by an act of parliament, granted to the Prebendary of Clonmethan and his successors the following lands as a glebe: "the five-acre park with garden and cabin adjoining; the two-acre park, and four acres and a half adjoining to the five-acre park, and the rest of Begge's land, being eight acres and a half, all lying near the Church of Clonmethan, for an annual rate to the archbishop of £1 10s" (D'Alton 1838b, 406). John Grattan was installed into the prebend in 1720. In the same year Dr Harrison built a glebe house here for £800, for which he obtained a certificate from the archbishop.

3.2.5 Modern Era (1800–1950)

The construction of the present St Mary's Church, which was erected c.1818, was funded by £250 parish cess and a loan of £500 from the Board of First Fruits (Walsh 1888, 244–45). The building of churches of various denominations was a marked feature in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The Board of First Fruits (1711–1830), which flourished in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century, financed the construction of many of the Church of Ireland churches in Fingal.⁵¹ These were typically simple Gothic Revival structures often with a tower at the west-end, as is evident in St Mary's Church. Furthermore, the churches were often built on much older church sites and many incorporated medieval fabric (FCC 2008, Vol. 1, 14).

⁵¹ <https://www.dia.ie/architects/view/4371/FIRSTFRUITS-BOARDOF> [Accessed: 10.11.22].

The village of Oldtown is an example of a 'Chapel Village', which stemmed from the widespread investment in church building following the re-emergence of institutional Catholicism in the late eighteenth century (FCC 2012, 5). Oldtown Church, which was built in 1827 at a cost of £300 (Lewis 1837, 372), became the focal point for the village and attracted other local services such as a national school, dispensary, forge and Oldtown Hall (RPS Ref. 0901; NAIH Reg. No. 11320011) built c.1880.⁵² A new Catholic church was built in the village in the 1962 (NAIH Reg. No. 11320012);⁵³ and the former chapel was demolished in the 1990s and replaced with houses.

In 1837, Lewis noted there was a limestone quarry in the parish of Clonmethan and that a great quantity of corn was grown here (Lewis 1837, 371). He also recorded that T. Radcliff was the reverend in residence at the Glebe house, which was erected in 1817 with the aid of a gift of £100 and a loan of £1,350 from the Board of the First Fruits (*ibid.*, 371–72). At this time the glebe lands consisted of 35 acres, while the gross revenue of the prebend of Clonmethan was £638, with tithes of £270 (*ibid.*, 372). Lewis described St Mary's as "a neat church erected in 1818, by £230 parish cess and a loan of £500 from the Board of the First Fruits". He also noted that the Ecclesiastical Commissioners had recently granted £175 towards the repair of the church (*ibid.*).

In the twentieth century, Oldtown was the first town to benefit from the Rural Electrification Scheme run by the Electricity Supply Board from 1946–79. The first electricity pole was erected at Kilsallaghan in November 1946 and the first switch-on was in Oldtown in January 1947 (FCC 2012, 6). On 25 June 2022, a monument to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Rural Electrification Scheme was unveiled in Oldtown village (Plate 18).

3.3 Cartographical Analysis

3.3.1 'The Countie of Leinster with the Citie Dublin Described', John Speed (1610)

John Speed's map of 'The Countie of Leinster...',⁵⁴ published in 1610, is one of five known sets of proof maps prepared as part of 'The Theatre of the Empire of Great Britaine' which was published in 1611–1612. The map shows 'Fyngall' and includes key topographic features such as the offshore islands of Lambay, 'Irlandes ey', 'Skires' and 'Rock Abill', as well as the Bracken River, the Ballyboghil River, the Broadmeadow and the River Ward (Figure 9). Speed also annotated the Fingal settlements of 'Sword',

⁵² <https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11320011/oldtown-hall-oldtown-ba-w-by-oldtown> [Accessed: 07.11.22].

⁵³ <https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11320012/oldtown-roman-catholic-church-oldtown-ba-w-by-oldtown> [Accessed: 07.11.22].

⁵⁴ Available at: <https://cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/view/PR-ATLAS-00002-00061-00001/38> [Accessed: 01.11.22].

'B. Baghill' (Ballyboghil), 'Gralough' (Grallagh), 'Nayle' (Naul) and Lusk, in addition to some buildings, likely castles and churches. Clonmethan is not named; however, churches are depicted to the east of Ballyboghil that may represent the medieval parish churches at Westpalstown (RMP No. DU007-008001-), Grallagh (RMP No. DU007-001001-), and Clonmethan (RMP No. DU007-006001-).

3.3.2 The Down Survey Maps (1656–58)

The Down Survey maps (c.1656–58) were drawn up to measure Catholic Irish lands to be forfeited in the aftermath of the 1641 Rebellion and the subsequent Confederate Wars. The map of 'The Barony of Nethercross in the County of Dublin', which was drafted by Thomas West and Henry Wilson, includes the 'Parish of Clomedon'.⁵⁵ Clonmethan church and graveyard are depicted on the map with 'Oldtonne Colledg Land' to the south and 'Moortonne Colledg Land' to the southwest (Figure 10).

The accompanying map for 'The Parishes of Finglasse, Clonmedon, part of Lusk Parrish in Several parcells',⁵⁶ which was also by Thomas West and Henry Wilson, depicts Clonmethan in more detail (Figure 11). The map shows Clonmethan church and graveyard with the River Daws to the north and 'Oldtowne' to the southeast.

3.3.3 'An Actual Survey of the County of Dublin', John Rocque (1760)

Roque's survey of County Dublin from 1760 shows the parish of 'Clonmedon' within a network of fields under pasture and tillage (Figure 12), with the Oldtown Branch of the Ballyboghil River to the north and the Daws River to the south.⁵⁷ Clonmethan church is depicted as a sub-rectangular building that occurs in association with a number of buildings and formal gardens to the east and south, and is bounded by the road to Naul to the west. The village of 'Old Town' comprises a scattered layout of buildings that are arranged around a chapel and the meeting of four roads.

3.3.4 Ordnance Survey First-Edition Six-Inch Map (1836)

The first-edition OS six-inch map that includes Glebe, Clonmethan and Oldtown, as well as the other townlands in the study area (Table 1), was surveyed in 1836 and published in 1843.⁵⁸ St Mary's Church is shown within a subrectangular enclosure to the east of the present R122 road (Figure 13). A gate

⁵⁵ Available at: <http://downsurvey.tcd.ie/down-survey-maps.php#bm=Nethercross&c=Dublin> [Accessed: 01.11.22].

⁵⁶ Available at: <http://downsurvey.tcd.ie/down-survey-maps.php#bm=Nethercross&c=Dublin&p=Finglasse+Lusk+and+Clonmedon> [Accessed: 03.11.22].

⁵⁷ Available at: <https://digitalcollections.tcd.ie/concern/works/mg74qp03f?locale=en> [Accessed: 03.11.22].

⁵⁸ Sheet DN007. Available at: <https://osi.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=bc56a1cf08844a2aa2609aa92e89497e> [Accessed: 03.11.22].

lodge, which is no longer extant, is sited at the eastern end of an avenue that leads northeast to the glebe house and also connects to the church and graveyard to the northwest. Three linear outbuildings are located to the west and west-northwest of the glebe house and the structures are screened to the north, east and south by a mix of broadleaved and coniferous trees. A road also leads southeast to east from the present R122 to the rear of the glebe.

Browncross House (NAIH Reg. No. 11320002) is shown c.940m to the northwest of St Mary's Church, while the former gate lodge associated with Wyanstown House (NAIH Reg. No. 11320001), is located c.750m to the north-northeast (Figure 6 and Figure 13). The ringfort in Leastown (RMP No. DU007-007----; RPS Ref. 0148), c.925m to the northeast of the church, is labelled 'Fort' and is shown as a circular enclosure with a number of broadleaved trees.

To the southeast, the village of Oldtown comprises a nucleus of dwellings grouped around the Roman Catholic chapel, which was built in 1827, as well as a dispensary and two roads, which all lie to the north and west of the Daws River. A series of quarries are also shown to the east of the village.

3.3.5 Ordnance Survey First-Edition 25-Inch Map (1906)

The first-edition OS 25-inch map for Glebe and the surrounding townlands was surveyed in 1906 and published in 1908.⁵⁹ St Mary's Church and the graveyard are both annotated, while the Oldtown Branch of the Ballyboghil River is shown c.60m to the north of the church (Figure 14). Glebe House is also named and the outbuildings shown on the OS six-inch map are still extant. The formal grounds now include a walled garden to the south of the house and southeast of the church. There is a lodge on the southwestern perimeter of the walled garden, to the south of the avenue to the glebe and the gate lodge depicted on the OS six-inch map is no longer extant. A well is shown c.100m to the south of the lodge and west of the present R122 road.

To the northwest, Browncross House is still in evidence, and is now sited c.180m to the south of the formal Cottrelstown House (NIAH Reg. No. 11320002). The lodge leading to Wyanstown House is also extant, while ringfort DU007-007---- in Leastown is shown as a raised circular platform. The OS 25-inch map shows the Roman Catholic church and dispensary in Oldtown; however, the quarries are no longer in use (Figure 14). A smithy is indicated in the eastern part of the village, while a ford and stepping stones are indicated across the Daws River to the southwest.

⁵⁹ Sheet DN007-005. Available at: <https://osi.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=bc56a1cf08844a2aa2609aa92e89497e> [Accessed: 03.11.22].

3.4 Archaeological Heritage of the Site

The nineteenth-century St Mary's Church (RPS Ref. 0146; NIAH Reg. No. 11320004), occupies the site of the medieval parish church of Clonmethan (Healy 1975, 19), there is no visible evidence of the medieval church (DU007-006001-). It is depicted as a sub-rectangular building within a square graveyard on Rocque's map of 1760 (Figure 12). Roque also indicates two buildings and a formal garden to the east, with a third building to the south. The associated graveyard (DU007-006002-), which is still in use and is enclosed by a nineteenth-century wall, measures 46m (NNE–SSW) by 60m (NNW–SSE). The earliest grave marker in the cemetery dates to 1754 (Egan 1992).

3.5 Built Heritage of the Site

The description of the built heritage elements onsite is informed by the preliminary Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment (Nolan 2020), the plans and elevations of the church (see Figure 15 Figure 19), the Condition Survey, as well as the resulting Inspection Report (Doyle 2022), which were undertaken by the conservation architect (Sheridan Woods Nolan) and structural engineer (Eamon Doyle Consulting Engineers). These specialist reports and associated photographs are included as annexes with the CMP.

The early nineteenth-century St Mary's Church (RPS Ref. 0146; NIAH Reg. No. 11320004) is sited towards the western end of the graveyard (Figure 5 and Figure 6). The graveyard, which covers an area of c.2700m², is bounded by a limestone wall, except to the north where the boundary is composed of trees and hedgerow (e.g. Plate 4). The church and graveyard are set in elevated ground that is c.2m higher than the level of the R122 regional road to the west (Figure 7). The main entrance at the southwestern corner of the site is neatly formed, defined by iron gates and piers and is approached by a ramped entrance, splayed from the road (Nolan 2022, 4). There is a pedestrian pathway that leads from the church and graveyard to the Glebe House (RPS Ref. 0145; NIAH Reg. 11320003), via a cast-iron pedestrian gate in the east wall (Plate 16).

The church consists of a vestry, three-bay nave and a two-stage crenelated bell tower to the west end (Figure 15). The detached single-storey unroofed church building, which includes blocked pointed arched openings to the south elevation, is composed of snecked limestone with evidence in places for roughcast render (Nolan 2020, 4). The internal walls are lined with irregularly bonded brick with numerous headers in evidence (Plate 6 and Plate 7). The windows and external doors have pointed brick-formed arches, while the internal opening between the vestry and nave is supported by a flat timber lintel (Plate 8). The lower external opes are blocked-up (e.g. Plate 14), opes at the upper levels of the tower are extant; window sills are of stone. There is projected stone coping at the eaves that is

carried around the tower as a string course; the tower is topped with a crenelated parapet that has tapering stone pinnacles in each corner (*ibid.*, 4–5).

The structure was externally rendered with a harling-type material, except for the projecting quoins of the tower, which were of a more regularly dressed stone. These elements have since been repointed with a cement-rich mortar; however, much of the external render is no longer extant. The interior of the church was lime-rendered (e.g. Plate 10), apart from the upper unrendered levels of the tower and the lower sections of walling in the church body (Plate 7 and Plate 11), which were panelled with timber wainscot (Nolan 2020, 5).

3.6 Intangible Heritage

Cultural heritage includes archaeology, architectural heritage, folklore and history.⁶⁰ Archaeology and architectural heritage together comprise ‘tangible heritage’, while folklore and history as well as mythology, placenames, language, literature, poetry, musical traditions, traditional crafts and skills are considered ‘intangible heritage’. These forms of cultural heritage can be broadly characterised as “non-moveable, non-material and largely non-environmental although by their associations with certain sites and places, add to the character of an area” (EPA 2015).

The Fingal Heritage Plan 2018–2023 highlights the coastline, islands, rural landscapes, villages, townscapes, monuments, historic houses, local history, folklore, language, music and traditions as key aspects of the cultural heritage of the county (FCC 2018, 7 and 9).

There is no local folklore relating to the St Mary’s Church, the former parish church, or Glebe House included in the IFC Schools’ Collection. However, local folklore relating to the townlands of Clonmethan and Glebe, as well as the village of Oldtown is detailed in Appendix 11. For example, the entries include a description of field names⁶¹ and the former smithy in Oldtown,⁶² as well as ringfort DU007-007--- in Leastown.⁶³

⁶⁰ Under Annex IV(4) of amended EIA Directive 2014/52/EU, as interpreted in EPA 2022 (Section 3, 32).

⁶¹ The Schools’ Collection, Vol. 0787, pp.33. Available at: <https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4428183/4384508/4434556> [Accessed: 11.11.22].

⁶² The Schools’ Collection, Vol. 0787, pp.61–62. Available at: <https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4428183/4384608> [Accessed: 11.11.22].

⁶³ The Schools’ Collection, Vol. 0787, pp.42–43. Available at: <https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4428183/4384587/4434572> [Accessed: 11.11.22].

3.7 Natural Heritage of the Site

The natural heritage within the church and graveyard enclosure comprises a number of flora and fauna species. Understanding of the natural heritage of the site is informed by the Habitat Survey and Preliminary Ecological Appraisal for Bats that was carried out by FFEC in October 2022 (2022a & 2022b). These reports are included as annexes with the CMP.

The northern and eastern boundaries of the site are delineated by hedgerow and treelines (FFEC 2022a, 4). The hedgerow that marks the eastern boundary includes bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* sp), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), as well as sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). There is ivy (*Hedera helix*) on the base of the trees, although it has been cut. The northern boundary predominantly consists of mature ivy-covered sycamore and ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), which support a significant rookery (*Corvus frugilegus*). Dead wood that has been left to decompose at the base of the trees support a rich variety of fungi and invertebrates (*ibid.*).

The habitat within the graveyard consists of grassy verge in the north and east sectors, and recolonising bare ground in the south, west and parts of the east (e.g. Plate 2)– the bare ground is a consequence of the application of herbicide (FFEC 2022a, 4). Species in the grassy area include yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), daisy (*Bellis perennis*) and dandelion (*Taraxacum* spp), while there is occasional evidence for nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and dandelion (*Taraxacum vulgaria*). There is a mature beech tree (*Fagus sylvatica*) and cypress (*Cupressus* spp) within the graveyard (Plate 3), in addition to a diverse range of mosses and lichens on the gravestones (*ibid.*). The interior of the church is colonised by cleaver (*Gallium aparine*), while the inner floors of the belfry provide a suitable roost for bats, as evidenced by the presence of possible bat droppings (*ibid.*).

The local area is classed as moderate suitability in the All-Ireland Bat Landscape classification index (FFEC 2022b, 4). However, there are limited National Biodiversity Data Centre records for the presence of bats in the surrounding area, with some records of common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), lesser noctule bat (*Nyctalus leisleri*) and brown long-eared bat (*Plecotus auratus*) (*ibid.*).

Tree features, crevices and holes in the church and the belfry were examined for evidence of bats in the Preliminary Roost Survey, the findings of which are detailed in the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal for Bats (FFEC 2022b, 4). Small mammal droppings were identified underneath the belfry that were likely to be bat droppings and as such the belfry was assessed as being of high suitability for bats. No trees showed evidence of bat activity; however, many contain Potential Roosting Features (PRF) for bats, such as ivy cover, crevices and cracks. Furthermore, the mature beech tree and the northern treeline include several PRF and are also located in proximity to hedgerows and water (*ibid.*).

A Level 2 Visual Inspection was carried out on 18 October 2022 of the mature beech tree to the east of the church (Goodwin 2022). The tree is c.26m in height, has a crown spread radius of c.10m by 13m, and a stem circumference of 5.86m (*ibid.*, 4). The crown health is excellent, with no significant disease or deadwood present, while there are nine intact buttresses at the base of the diameter stem. There is an old basal wound cavity on the lower southwestern stem, which is decayed and includes several atrophying fungal fruit bodies of the basidiomycete bracket fungus *Cerioporus squamosus* (dryad's saddle) (Plate 17).

The Arboricultural Assessment compared the stem girth of the tree to current Tree Register records, which demonstrated the specimen is the third largest girthed beech tree in County Dublin (Goodwin 2022, 11). Furthermore, there is a 90% probability that the tree is between 190–300 years old (*ibid.*, 12). There is no evidence that the tree is damaging the church building; it has reached full maturity so will not increase in height and should withstand future extreme storms and weather events (*ibid.*, 12–13).

4 Assessment of Significance

4.1 Basis of Assessment

Places of cultural significance have been described as those which “enrich people’s lives, often providing a deep and inspirational sense of connection to the community and landscape, to the past and lived experiences” (ICOMOS Charter 2013, 1). The cultural significance of St Mary’s Church of Ireland is multi-layered and encompasses all of the values set out in the Burra Charter – aesthetic, historic, scientific, social and spiritual (ICOMOS 2013, Article 1.2). The present assessment concerns the cultural significance of St Mary’s church and graveyard, as well as considering the key elements and values of the site.

The criteria used in assessing degrees of significance include rarity, quality, integrity, cultural/historical associations and the ability to demonstrate important social or cultural phenomena.

4.2 Statement of Significance

4.2.1 Aesthetic Value

St Mary’s church and graveyard are nested within a sub-rectangular stone enclosure in rolling agricultural land. The site has not been developed, meaning the church, graveyard and their setting has remained largely unchanged over the last two-hundred years. The mature beech tree to the east of the church, which is between 190–300 years old, is the third largest girthed beech tree in County Dublin (Goodwin 2022, 11). The fine form, impressively large size and defining prominence of this beech make this a tree of exceptional heritage and aesthetic value (*ibid.*, 13). Furthermore, if the biodiversity actions in the CMP are implemented it has the potential to form an important habitat oasis for native flora and fauna, including mammals, raptors, songbirds, invertebrates and bats.

4.2.2 Historic Value

The church at *Rath Chillín* was confirmed to Laurence O’Toole by Pope Alexander III in 1179, it formed part of the Manor of Swords and was one of the thirteen original prebends of St Patrick’s Cathedral. The medieval parish church of Clonmethan is mentioned in the documentary sources and continued in use through the post-medieval period. The church, which was in a ruinous condition was demolished in the early nineteenth century and St Mary’s Church, financed with a grant from the Board of First Fruits, was erected at the same location c.1818. The church continued in use until it was deconsecrated in the mid-twentieth century.

The historic value of St Mary’s church and graveyard through the stewardship of the Friends of Clonmethan and the statutory and non-statutory agencies, will be conserved for future generations. The location, heritage and setting, the role of the church, the interactions of people both in the past

and the present with the site are all important attributes which add to a sense of identify and place on a local and regional level.

4.2.3 Spiritual Value

Clonmethan church and graveyard, and latterly St Mary's, have been a centre of local religious worship and burial for over a millennium. It is a place of spiritual value, of solace and of remembrance. The site forms an important aspect of local identity and belief systems; there is an annual laying of the wreath ceremony on Armistice Day and the graves are blessed on an annual basis. The graveyard remains in occasional use by the local community, while the church was deconsecrated in the 1960s.

4.2.4 Scientific and Educational Value

To date, no archaeological investigations have been undertaken in Glebe or the neighbouring townland of Clonmethan. Consequently, there is still a great deal to be discovered about the church and graveyard, as well as potential subsurface archaeological remains in the surrounding landscape. Furthermore, Action 85 in the *DRAFT Fingal Biodiversity Plan 2022–2030* is to carry out an ecological study and habitat assessment of the Ballyboghil River (FCC 2022b, 84). The Oldtown Branch of the river lies c.60m to the north of the site, meaning these assessments will identify the current habitat quality and conservation status of the river.

Thus, the church and graveyard, the respective ecological habitats, and probable undiscovered elements offers a valuable scientific and educational resource, with demonstrable potential for new discoveries, knowledge and community engagement that will benefit historians, ecologists, archaeologists, genealogists and the local community.

4.2.5 Social and Economic Value

The local community have a deep attachment to St Mary's church and graveyard, as evidenced by the formation of the Friends of Clonmethan, whose initiative and concern for the monument, with support from the Church of Ireland, FCC and the DHLGH has motivated the compilation of this CMP. The site has the potential to become a local tourist attraction, with the potential for community archaeology projects, a heritage trail and heritage related events.

5 Identifying Issues and Vulnerabilities

This section outlines the key issues and vulnerabilities of the site that have been identified through the CMP process. These are common to many places of cultural significance. Both the archaeological and historic environment are the product of thousands of years of human intervention. This landscape has been altered over time as field systems, houses, farm buildings and land use developed and changed. Due to a combination of the local farming practices and the attachment of the local community to the place, coupled with the national planning, development and heritage legislation, the landscape setting of the church and graveyard has largely survived.

However, there are concerns regarding the structural stability of the upstanding church remains, with evidence for cracking, building subsidence and the loss of masonry, as well as the inappropriate removal of external render. Furthermore, sections of the enclosure wall of the graveyard are bowing outwards and in danger of collapse, while the spraying of vegetation with herbicide has resulted in the loss of valuable habitat and contributed to soil erosion in the graveyard. The soil erosion is of key concern, as there is the potential that human remains may be exposed following a storm event or prolonged period of rainfall. These concerns have in part prompted the preparation of the CMP.

5.1 Technical Condition Analysis

The structure of the church is in a ruinous condition and sections of the enclosure wall are in danger of collapse. The full results of the 'Inspection Report', by the structural engineer (Doyle 2022) and the 'Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment' (Nolan 2022) are included as annexes with the CMP. The 'Inspection Report', which was informed by a Condition Survey by the Structural Engineer and Conservation Architect, includes an assessment of the stability of the church and includes measures to address structural defects over the lifespan of the CMP (e.g. Figure 20)

5.1.1 St Mary's Church

In summary, in the north internal elevation there is full height vertical cracking at the northwest corner of the church, hairline cracking above the top western corner of the door to the vestry and vertical cracking above the door opening (Doyle 2022, 3). This cracking is possibly derived from weaknesses in the original timber lintels above the door; the masonry here is currently propped (Plate 8). There is a full height crack above the western side of the vestry fireplace (Plate 9), while a vertical crack above the door to the nave is also evident. The timber lintel above the window on the west wall of the vestry is also badly degraded (*ibid.*).

In the south elevation, there is significant cracking above the right-hand side window opening that is adjacent to the southeast corner. Considerable movement has occurred at this location and it is

possible that settlement in the southeast corner of the nave is the source of the cracking (Doyle 2022, 3). There is also cracking at the left-hand side window that is beside the southeast corner. This cracking is likely associated with settlement at the southeast rear corner of the nave (*ibid.*, 4).

The end gable wall in the east elevation is in relatively good condition (Figure 17); however, the brickworks at the top section of the wall needs to be raked out and repointed. The nave walls are capped with an *in situ* concrete capping that has prevented ingress of water into the wall fabric (Doyle 2022, 4).

In the west elevation, there is hairline vertical cracking at the top of the access door to the bell tower, while the brickwork at the upper section of the bell tower and the nave wall will need to be repointed (Doyle 2022, 4). There is also vertical cracking above the window opening in the western elevation of the bell tower that will need to be stitched. The first level floor of the tower consists of timber boarding on timber floor joists, which are in very poor condition (Plate 11). The roof of the tower is missing slates and in need of immediate repair (*ibid.*, 4–5).

Externally, the cracking at the window on the south elevation of the church is evident, while a gap between the window reveal and infill blockwork suggests that movement is ongoing in the southwest corner of the nave. The wall may need to be underpinned at this corner to stabilise the structure (Doyle 2022, 5). With respect to the south external elevation of the bell tower, the top stonework needs to be repointed and the infill panel in the door should be propped, as it has shifted outwards (*ibid.*). The north and west elevations are reasonably intact. However, the stone, cappings and pinnacles in the upper sections of the bell tower are in a poor condition and can be moved by slight hand pressure (*ibid.*, 5–6).

5.1.2 Enclosure Wall

The western gate pillar at the main entrance gate has moved and there is associated cracking in the enclosure wall. The ground level to the east of the entrance c.1m higher than the ground level to the south of the enclosure wall (see Figure 7), and there is a noticeable bulge in one section of the wall (Doyle 2022, 6). The southwestern section of the enclosure wall, to the east of the R122 road, is retaining c.2.25m of ground and there is evidence for a sizable crack in the structure (*ibid.*).

The northeastern, eastern and southeastern sections of the enclosure wall are retaining ground on the graveyard side. In the northeastern corner, this is a consequence of the recent deposition of spoil from graves and grave maintenance works (Doyle 2022, 6–7). There is also evidence for significant cracking in the enclosure wall and in its capping (*ibid.*).

5.2 Knowledge and Information

Despite the historical references to the former Clonmethan Church from the medieval and post-medieval periods, as well as important surveys of the graveyard (Egan 1992; FCC 2008), there are significant gaps in our understanding of the historical and archaeological development of the site.

5.3 Maintenance

The Friends of Clonmethan undertake regular clean-ups of the site and are actively engaged in raising its profile at a local and regional level. The vegetation in the graveyard is sprayed on an annual basis with herbicides by FCC. However, this has resulted in the dominance of species such as cleavers/goosegrass (*Galium aparine*), which colonise areas following herbicide control, as well as contributing to the loss of habitat in the graveyard and soil erosion (FFEC 2022a, 4). Furthermore, ivy has been removed from the structural remains and trees onsite, thereby resulting in further habitat loss and valuable early sustenance for birds and pollinators, as well as resulting in the loss of masonry, mortar and render from the church.

5.4 Current and Future Use

St Mary's offers a sense of tranquillity and has recreational and educational value for leisurely strolls and exploration of the grounds, which could be enhanced through the appropriate care and conservation of its attributes. While the church and graveyard are privately owned by the Church of Ireland the site is publicly accessible. The site is still in occasional use as a burial ground, and is regularly visited by members of the local community. However, there is limited access for people with restricted mobility and disabilities, while pedestrians and cyclists can only access the site via the R122; a very dangerous and busy road. Furthermore, there is a lack of suitable car parking spaces and the site is unsuitable for additional car parking spaces, as it is a graveyard and Recorded Monument.

5.5 Climate Change and Sustainability

The standing remains of St Mary's Church, as well as architectural fragments and burials, and the post-medieval and modern graveslabs, are vulnerable to climate change related events such as storm damage, heavy and intense rainfall, flooding, wildfires and windthrow. For instance, extreme precipitation may result in surface erosion and weathering, microbiological growth, subsidence, masonry collapse and altered preservation conditions. Hotter summers with prolonged drought conditions may cause increased thermal weathering and risk of fires, changing burial-preservation conditions, as well as accelerated deterioration and desiccation of organics.

Studies of the climate record in Ireland clearly show that the long-term prevailing weather conditions (i.e. the climate) are changing (Dwyer 2012). The late twentieth century was characterised by an

upward trend in temperatures, resulting in warmer and wetter winters, and hotter, drier summers, accompanied by an increase in extreme weather events. This pattern is likely to continue (DCHG 2013, 18; Nolan 2015). In 2019, in response to the climate change crisis, the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DCHG, now DHLGH), developed a *Built and Archaeological Heritage Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan*.⁶⁴ The key objectives of the adaptation strategy and accompanying action plan are to build adaptive capacity within the sector and reduce the vulnerability of built and archaeological heritage to climate change.

The direct effects of climate change on built and archaeological heritage may be immediate or cumulative – damage from catastrophic events such as storms and floods are likely to increase at the same time as slow-onset environmental mechanisms (DCHG 2013, 20). For example, Storm Gert brought extreme rainfall to County Donegal in 2017, which resulted in flash flooding and landslides that caused severe damage to buildings, including Buncrana Castle Bridge, a Protected Structure.⁶⁵

In 2021, FCC published the *Fingal Cultural Heritage & Climate Change Risk Assessment*,⁶⁶ which was undertaken to support Action F25 of the *Climate Action Plan 2019–2024* (FCC 2019, 81).⁶⁷ The baseline risk assessment considers the risk to heritage assets from six climate change hazards: fluvial flooding, pluvial flooding, groundwater flooding, coastal flooding, coastal erosion and slope instability (FCC 2021a, 2). Each heritage asset was assigned a risk and impact score for each natural hazard; the scores were assigned on a scale from 0–5, where 0 represents no potential risk and 5 is the highest risk⁶⁸ (*ibid.*, 28). A GIS based web map⁶⁹ was also prepared that shows each asset and their respective score bands.

St Mary's Church is assigned a score of 17 in the risk assessment (FCC 2021a, Appendix E), with likely hazards from fluvial flooding (score = 8), pluvial flooding (score = 4) and slope instability (score = 5).

⁶⁴ Available at: <https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/75639/a0ad0e1d-339c-4e11-bc48-07b4f082b58f.pdf#page=null> [Accessed: 01.09.22].

⁶⁵ <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/over-300-parts-of-donegal-road-network-damaged-by-floods-1.3201492> [Accessed: 01.09.22].

⁶⁶ Available at: https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2021-07/fingal-cultural-heritage-risk-assessment-report_1.pdf [Accessed: 16.11.22].

⁶⁷ Available at: https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2019-08/20190812_fcc_climate_change_action_plan_final_0.pdf [Accessed: 16.11.22].

⁶⁸ Each heritage assessed was therefore assigned twelve scores, one risk and one impact score for each of the six natural hazards. The highest possible score was 150 (FCC 2021a, 28).

⁶⁹ Available at: <https://luc.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=d3ab54100756429e803104c490f8131e> [Accessed: 16.11.22].

The hazard impact scores for the graveyard has a score of 14, with risks from fluvial flooding (score = 6), pluvial flooding (score = 3) and slope instability (score = 5). Thus, while the church and graveyard do not score highly, it is notable and commendable that their climate risk has been assessed. Furthermore, these assets are being monitored by FCC Climate Action Team (Christine Baker *pers. comm.*, 14.11.22).

6 Conservation Policies and Actions

6.1 Conservation Philosophy

An overarching framework for identifying, conserving and managing the significance and setting of heritage sites and landscapes is essential. 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” (ICOMOS 2013, 1).

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.

6.2 Management of the Site

St Mary’s church and graveyard are the property of the Church of Ireland, the Select Vestry of the Parishes of Swords, Clonmethan, Kilsallaghan, Donabate and Lusk manage the site. The site is under the stewardship of the Friends of Clonmethan. However, there is presently no dedicated framework or plan for the management of the site. This CMP sets out to provide the necessary guidance to allow for the appropriate conservation management of the site for the future. The Friends of Clonmethan are a voluntary organisation, who in collaboration with the Church of Ireland and the Select Vestry, may become active managers of the site in the future.

6.3 General Conservation Policies

Conservation policies are derived from the significance appraisal and identification of key vulnerabilities, as well as from consultation and collaboration during the preparation of the CMP. These policies are not intended to cast judgement on the maintenance and management of the site to date, but rather are intended to represent a vision for how the church and graveyard can be preserved long-term and enhanced into the future. Some policies will necessitate the express cooperation between the Church of Ireland, the NMS of the DHLGH and Fingal County Council.

The following overarching policies have been identified for the church and graveyard:

1. **Protection** – to ensure that conservation is paramount in the preservation of all aspects of the archaeological, architectural, natural and intangible cultural heritage of St Mary's church and graveyard.
2. **Conservation Management and Maintenance** – to ensure the archaeological, architectural, natural and intangible cultural significance of St Mary's church and graveyard is retained and protected in accordance with international best practice, with regard to any intervention, conservation and/or stabilisation works at the site.
3. **Interpretation, Research and Education** – to engender appreciation and promote the significance of the church and graveyard. To promote research that will add to and enhance existing knowledge about the archaeology, history and folklore of St Mary's church and graveyard and the surrounding landscape.

6.4 Overarching Policies

6.4.1 Policy 1: Protection

To ensure that conservation is paramount in the preservation of all aspects of the archaeological, architectural, natural and intangible cultural heritage of St Mary's church and graveyard.

Recommended actions to be implemented for Policy 1:

- Action 1. Encourage continued collaboration between key stakeholders to ensure the protection and preservation of the site.
- Action 2. Ensure that information on the impact of climate change on the structural remains, burials, subsurface archaeological remains and natural heritage is as widely understood, communicated and appreciated as far as possible. Ensure that suitable mitigation is devised in collaboration with key stakeholders, as appropriate.
- Action 3. Continue to provide the Church of Ireland, the Select Vestry of the Parishes of Swords, Clonmethan, Kilsallaghan, Donabate and Lusk, Fingal County Council and the Friends of Clonmethan with best-practice advice and practical guidance in relation to the protection of the church, graveyard and subsurface archaeological remains.

6.4.2 Policy 2: Conservation Management and Maintenance

To ensure the archaeological, architectural, natural and intangible cultural significance of St Mary's church and graveyard is retained and protected in accordance with international best practice, with regard to any intervention, conservation and/or stabilisation works at the site.

Recommended actions to be implemented for Policy 2:

- Action 1. Establish a five-year programme for the effective maintenance and conservation of the site, with appropriate review by the Church of Ireland, the Select Vestry, the NMS, Fingal County Council, the Friends of Clonmethan and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate.

- Action 2. Support the Church of Ireland, the Select Vestry, the Friends of Clonmethan, the NMS and Fingal County Council in the preparation and development of a maintenance plan for the church and graveyard. This should ensure that conservation, stabilisation and maintenance works, as well as any associated impacts, are controlled and minimised in accordance with best practice.
- Action 3. Devise a strategy for the conservation and maintenance works with key stakeholders. This should be informed by the recommendations set out in the CMP and the appendices.
- Action 4. Ensure that all intervention, conservation, and stabilisation works are in accordance with best international practice.
- Action 5. Ensure that any physical conservation, stabilisation, and maintenance works are undertaken with the requisite licences, assessments, reports, approvals, and recommendations in place, and in consultation with the relevant stakeholders.
- Action 6. Ensure that all cultural heritage statutory obligations in relation to conservation and maintenance works are observed and understood.⁷⁰
- Action 7. Maintain a log of conservation works, as well as any maintenance and repairs.
- Action 8. Manage the site to enhance and improve its biodiversity value.
- Action 9. Only cut back vegetation growth and hedgerows outside of the nesting season, under the supervision of a specialist and ensure that any impacts to local fauna are minimised.
- Action 10. Ensure the health and survival of the mature beech tree on the site through ongoing monitoring.
- Action 11. Ensure that appropriate care and protection is afforded to the vulnerability of the local habitat.
- Action 12. Conserve and protect the native flora and fauna species that were identified in the Habitat Survey (FFEC 2022a) and Preliminary Roost Survey, as described in the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal for Bats (FFEC 2022b).
- Action 13. Support, encourage and protect the biodiversity within the graveyard enclosure and when planting use pollinator friendly species.
- Action 14. Ensure that appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures are incorporated into any proposals for conservation and/or maintenance works to ensure that activities do not have adverse impacts on the local flora and fauna.
- Action 15. Explore all available funding opportunities to enable conservation, repair, stabilisation and/or maintenance works to be carried out, as appropriate.
- Action 16. Promote a Leave No Trace principle at the site.

⁷⁰ See Appendix 13 for statutory requirements with respect to Recorded Monuments and Protected Structures.

6.4.3 Policy 3: Interpretation, Research and Education

To foster appreciation and promote the significance of the church, graveyard and subsurface archaeological remains. To promote research that will add to existing knowledge about the archaeology, history and folklore of St Mary's church and graveyard and the surrounding landscape.

Recommended actions to be implemented for Policy 3:

- Action 1. Obtain funding for a 3D laser scan, or comparable reality capture technology such as photogrammetry survey, to produce a 3D model of St Mary's Church. This should be made available online to enable virtual interaction with and appreciation of the site, particularly for people with disabilities and people who might not ordinarily be able to visit the site.
- Action 2. Promote and support the use of non-invasive archaeological techniques to identify possible medieval and post-medieval remains. These may include LiDAR survey, geophysical survey, topographical survey, drone survey, systematic fieldwalking in suitable adjacent lands (with landowners' permission) and palaeoenvironmental surveys in the alluvial deposits associated with the Oldtown Branch of the Ballyboghil River (the alluvium deposits are shown on Figure 8). Pursue these research methods as a means to enhance our understanding of the story and significance of St Mary's church and graveyard.
- Action 3. Engage a suitably qualified professional to carry out mortar analysis of samples from the church wall to inform the development of mortars for conservation works, as well as investigate the potential for medieval fabric and/or mortar to have been incorporated into the nineteenth-century building.
- Action 4. Ensure that archaeological surveys and/or conservation works are undertaken by suitably qualified practitioners with the requisite skills, experience, and consent, as appropriate, to conduct such works.
- Action 5. Foster local awareness of the archaeological and heritage value of the site through the development of a community archaeology project. This should be informed by the Community Archaeology Strategy for Fingal (Baker 2019), and be undertaken in consultation with the FCC Heritage Officer.
- Action 6. Ensure funding for a detailed historical analysis of the site's development by a suitably qualified medieval and early modern researcher, with reference to church records, estate maps, deeds and other primary and secondary sources.
- Action 7. Investigate the evidence for prehistoric archaeology in the local area.
- Action 8. Develop an oral history project that records local history, folklore and traditions concerning the church, graveyard, the Glebe House, Glebe and Clonmethan townlands and the village of Oldtown.
- Action 9. Develop a strategy and obtain funding for an updated survey of the graveyard, with the results being made available online to enable genealogical and historical research. The survey should also include a grave marker/graveslab assessment to assess their condition and devise a conservation strategy going forward.

- Action 10. Carry out an interpretation plan for the site. In advance of this, a heritage audit should be undertaken to explore the best interpretation options for the site and local area. For example, a series of QR codes could link to information about the cultural and natural heritage of Clonmethan/Glebe. FCC⁷¹ and the Heritage Council have produced guidance on heritage signage, the preparation of interpretation plans and heritage trails.
- Action 11. Explore the feasibility of developing a virtual tour of the site and local area. This should be informed by the interpretation plan and be undertaken in consultation with the Select Vestry, the local community and FCC Heritage Officer. For example, the Friends of Clonmethan could make or commission a video that could be accessed via QR codes or viewed online (e.g. FCC 2021b, 8). A virtual tour would have a wide reach and encourage a wide audience to visit the site.
- Action 12. Ensure that findings from all studies, surveys and works are disseminated as widely as possible and in a format that respects the target audience.

⁷¹ Available at: <https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2021-06/a4-fcc-heriage-signage-booklet-eng-web.pdf> [Accessed: 17.11.22].

7 Management and Implementation Framework

7.1 Management Structure

The current management structure for St Mary's church and graveyard is based on the proactive ownership of the Church of Ireland, the management of the Select Vestry of the Parishes of Swords, Clonmethan, Kilsallaghan, Donabate and Lusk, as well as the stewardship provided by Friends of Clonmethan, the NMS and FCC. In order to steer the implementation of the policies set out in the CMP going forward and facilitate the stewardship of the site, the continued collaboration between these groups is essential.

7.2 Management Guidance

7.2.1 Funding

There are a number of funding avenues that should be considered to assist with the future conservation, maintenance, interpretation and management of St Mary's church and graveyard.⁷² These include the 'Historic Structures Fund',⁷³ which is provided by the DHLGH and administered through Local Authorities.

The primary focus of the Historic Structures Fund is:

- The conservation and enhancement of heritage structures which are deemed to be significant and in need of urgent support.
- To encourage the regeneration and reuse of heritage properties and to help to secure the preservation of protected structures and/or historic-culturally significant assets.
- To conserve historic structures in public and private ownership for community use and to build resilience in heritage properties to enable them to withstand the effects of climate change.

It is a requirement of the Historic Structures Fund that the applicant engages an appropriately qualified conservation professional to oversee the work and for a comprehensive methodology to be submitted with the application.

The Heritage Council's 'Community Heritage Grant Scheme' funds projects by community groups and not for profit organisations that improve the management and maintenance of heritage collections,

⁷² FCC have produced a 'Funding Fingal' brochure that outlines funding opportunities for community groups in Fingal. Available at: https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2021-04/funding-fingal-brochure_ver8_links.pdf [Accessed: 06.11.22].

⁷³ See link for details on the 2022 Historic Structures Fund, details on the 2023 fund have not yet been announced. <https://www.fingal.ie/council/service/historic-structures-fund-hsf#:~:text=The%20primary%20focus%20of%20this,Architectural%20Conservation%20Areas%20are%20eligibl e> [Accessed: 06.11.22].

objects, buildings and sites.⁷⁴ Grant schemes are typically announced in January or February of each year and applications should be made via the Heritage Council's Online Grants System.⁷⁵

The key objective of the 'Adopt a Monument Scheme', which is funded by the Heritage Council and managed by Abartha Heritage, is to assist communities to become actively involved in the conservation and interpretation of their local archaeological and cultural heritage sites.⁷⁶ The Heritage Council and Abartha Heritage provide specialist expertise, mentoring and support through the scheme to ensure ongoing maintenance and greater protection of the 'adopted' monument. The Adopt a Monument Scheme for 2023 has not yet been announced.

The 'Stitch in Time Grant' is offered by FCC for minor repair/maintenance of Protected Structures.⁷⁷ The scheme is targeted at small-scale works where the cost of works is under €5,000. The types of eligible works include repairs to the original or historic physical fabric of the building where these follow best conservation practice of repair, or works that help protect or extend the lifespan of the historic material.

The 'Built Heritage Investment Scheme', which is granted by DHLGH and administered by FCC, is for the repair and conservation of Protected Structures.⁷⁸ A key aim of the scheme is to invest in small-scale conservation projects and support the employment of conservation professionals, tradespersons and craftspeople in the repair of the historic built environment. Applications are assessed under the significance of the structure, the efficacy of the works, employment benefits and quality of works proposed. In 2022, the minimum funding awarded was €2,500 up to a maximum of €15,000.

The 'Community Environmental Action Fund' is granted by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) and in Fingal is joint funded by FCC and DECC.⁷⁹ The fund encourages the involvement of local communities/voluntary groups in local action and decision making, while working towards the goal of sustainable development. Projects funded in Fingal in 2019–20 included 'Putting

⁷⁴ Available at: <https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/news/news-features/1-5-million-available-to-support-irelands-heritage-through-community-heritage-grant-scheme> The Heritage Council's funding page can be viewed here: <https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/funding> [Accessed: 06.11.22].

⁷⁵ Available at: <https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/funding/on-line-grants-system> [Accessed: 06.11.22].

⁷⁶ <https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/A-Guide-to-the-Adopt-A-Monument-Scheme.pdf> [Accessed: 06.11.22].

⁷⁷ <https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2021-11/stitch-in-time-grant-info.pdf> [Accessed: 06.11.22].

⁷⁸ <https://www.fingal.ie/council/service/built-heritage-investment-scheme-bhis-grant> [Accessed: 06.11.22].

⁷⁹ Available at: <https://www.fingal.ie/council/service/community-environmental-action-fund-formerly-local-agenda-21> [Accessed: 06.11.22].

the Bee Back in Baldoyle' by Baldoyle Tidy Towns, a Biodiversity Action Plan carried out by Castleknock Tidy Towns, and the 'Portmarnock Woodland Project' through Portmarnock Community Association.

The FCC administered 'Community Activities Funding Scheme' is aimed at community and volunteer groups to develop initiatives that support environmental enhancement and community group development, as well as other outcomes.⁸⁰ From January 2022, a group may apply for 100% of the total eligible project costs to a maximum of €3,000. Eligible funding costs for environment category include the planning of trees, shrubs, flowers and bulbs, as well as gardening tools.

7.2.2 Conservation and Repair

As noted in the structural engineer's Inspection Report (Doyle 2022), and the Architectural Impact Assessment Report by the conservation architect (Nolan 2020), the church is in a ruinous condition. There is no roof in the nave or vestry, while the roof of the belfry is in poor condition and the first floor of the tower has largely collapsed. There is significant movement in the structure of the nave and vestry, with evidence for cracking throughout. The external render is mostly lost and only fragments of the internal render are extant. Furthermore, sections of the enclosure wall of the graveyard are bowing outwards and in danger of collapse.

The repair specifications and conservation recommendations that should be undertaken include the following (see also Figure 20):

- Control ivy growth on upstanding masonry in the nave, vestry and bell tower. The ivy should be cut back and allowed to die off and dry off fully before removal takes place. Ivy removal should only proceed when the conservation works programme in conjunction with removal has been removed and is ready to start. Ivy should never be pulled off while alive, as this can cause structural instability or collapse of masonry (see DEHLG 2010, 49). Works should be only be undertaken in consultation with and under the supervision of the structural engineer and conservation architect.
- Cracks in nave, bell tower and vestry to be stitched with a proprietary crack stitching product such as Helibar. Brickwork raked out and repointed.
- Masonry in the northwest corner of the nave to be strapped or tied.
- Underpin wall in southwest corner of nave wall.
- Prop masonry arch in southeast corner of nave.
- Seal concrete capping layer in nave with a layer of torch-on felt membrane to extend protection of walls for medium term.
- Rake-out and repoint upper courses of brickwork in nave, vestry and bell tower.

⁸⁰ Available at: <https://www.fingal.ie/council/service/community-activities-funding-scheme> [Accessed: 06.11.22].

- Samples of the raked-out mortar should be analysed by a suitably qualified and competent professional to clarify the constituent elements of the structure and assess if medieval structural components were reused during construction. The mortar analysis should also inform the development of mortars for possible repointing and/or structural repair. The existing mortar should be referred to in establishing the new mixes.
- Install new timber lintels above door opening to vestry and window on west wall of vestry.
- Reset cappings and pinnacles in bell tower; loose masonry to be bedded and reset.
- Prop/rebuild Infill panel in the bell tower door.
- Conservation of first floor timber boards in bell tower. Extant sections should be left *in situ* and the details recorded.
- Repair and reinstatement of bell tower roof.
- Tree stumps in nave to be ground and vegetation chipped. The chippings should be retained onsite to cover any areas of exposed/eroded ground in graveyard. Trees and roots should not be grubbed-out, as this process can cause serious damage to archaeological remains and the site is a Recorded Monument.
- Inspect ground conditions at base of eastern and western sections of graveyard enclosure wall, as the structure will need to be propped and/or underpinned.
- Arboriculturist to inspect trees adjacent to western section of graveyard enclosure wall to assess if they are impacting structure.
- The inappropriate removal and loss of render from the exterior of the church has resulted in significant loss of historic material and has the potential to impact the integrity of the structure due to water penetration. A sample of the extant external render should be analysed by a suitably qualified and competent professional to identify the constituent elements and ensure a like-for-like formulation is developed for the re-rendering and repair of the church exterior.
- Conservation of graveslabs/grave markers, as identified in graveyard survey and grave marker assessment. Lichens should not be removed from graveslabs/grave markers, as their removal can damage the surface of the stonework, particularly in the case of lettered stone (e.g. DEHLG 2010, 58). In addition, headstones can often harbour important lichen species, which may be obliterated by indiscriminate cleaning (*ibid.*, 66).
- Building works, including repair and restoration, can detrimentally harm bats, bat roosts, and nesting birds, all of which are protected by law.⁸¹ All repairs, conservation and ancillary works should respect the biodiversity of the church building, in addition to the wider environment and ecology of the site.
- Certain works will have to be carried out under the supervision of an archaeologist, so that subsurface archaeology is not disturbed.

Any repairs and/or prevention measures should be conservation-led and be planned and agreed with the necessary stakeholders, with permissions and professional advice obtained in advance where necessary. All works should adhere to DHLGH published guidance, specifically *The Conservation and*

⁸¹ See: https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/bats_birds_buildings_you_2009_3mb.pdf [Accessed: 17.11.22].

Repair of Historic Ruins (DEHLG 2010),⁸² *The Conservation of Places of Worship* (DAHG 2011),⁸³ and *A Guide to the Repair of Historic Brickwork* (DEHLG 2009).⁸⁴ The Inspection Report and Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment, which are included as annexes with the CMP, provide a comparative baseline that can be used in conjunction with the conservation measures and systematic monitoring to determine the effectiveness of any mitigation measures, over time.

7.2.3 Archaeological and Historical Research

The archaeological and historical research undertaken to date, in addition to the information collected for the CMP, demonstrate the heritage significance of the former medieval parish church and graveyard, as well as the nineteenth-century St Mary's Church. It is a policy of the CMP to support further research on the church, graveyard and surrounding landscape through historical research, non-invasive archaeological techniques, and community-led archaeology initiatives as part of an agreed research agenda. These works may include:

- Further historical and documentary research to link the archaeological evidence with the historical development of the local area, particularly as Clonmethan exhibits strong elements of continuity through the medieval and post-medieval periods.
- No archaeological records are recorded from Glebe or Clonmethan in the NMI Topographical Files,⁸⁵ Finds Database, or online Finds Database.⁸⁶ With the permission of landowners, fieldwalking surveys should be carried out in ploughed fields in the local area. The key objective of such surveys will be to record artefact scatters that may mark the location of plough-levelled archaeological sites.
- Geophysical survey offers a non-invasive approach to assess the character and extent of subsurface archaeological features. With the permission of landowners, future geophysical surveys could focus on the fields to the north, west and southwest of the church and graveyard to look for evidence of the buildings depicted on Rocque's map of 1760 (Figure 12), as well as for possible subsurface archaeological sites. For example, a gradiometer survey was undertaken of five fields in Oldtown, c.900m to the south-southeast of the site.⁸⁷

⁸² Available at: <https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2019/10/Ruins-The-Conservation-and-Repair-of-Masonry-Ruins-2010.pdf> [Accessed: 17.11.22].

⁸³ Available at: <https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2019/10/Places-of-Worship-The-Conservation-of-Places-of-Worship-2011.pdf> [Accessed: 17.11.22].

⁸⁴ Available at: <https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2019/10/Bricks-A-Guide-to-the-Repair-of-Historic-Brickwork-2009.pdf> [Accessed: 17.11.22].

⁸⁵ The NMI Topographical Files and Finds Database in the Antiquities Division, Kildare Street Dublin 2, were viewed by appointment by AMS on the 29.07.22.

⁸⁶ The NMI online Finds Database (2010) was consulted via the 'Museums, Archives and Collections' dataset on the Heritage Council's 'Heritage Map' viewer. Available at: <https://heritagemaps.ie/WebApps/HeritageMaps/index.html> [Accessed: 14.10.22].

⁸⁷ Licence No. 20-R-0094, Geophysical Survey Report available at: https://heritagemaps.ie/documents/Therefore_ArchaeologyReports/GeophysicalReports/20R0094_1.pdf [Accessed: 17.11.22].

A previously unrecorded former field system and rectilinear enclosure were identified, in addition to two areas of burning that were suggestive of prehistoric burnt spreads (Leigh & Curran 2020, 6).

- Palaeoenvironmental assessments should be undertaken to investigate landscape change and the human impact on the local environment and site morphology through space and time. For example, the alluvium deposits associated with the Oldtown Branch of the Ballyboghil River, c.60m to the north of the site, comprise a suitable environment for coring. The alluvium is shown on Figure 8.

The management of any such works should be in collaboration with landowners and key stakeholders, and support for same should be provided. Certain works may need to be undertaken by suitably qualified and experienced personnel working under an appropriate licence from the NMS and/or NMI, as appropriate (see Appendix 13).

7.2.4 Graveyard Survey

It is recommended that the Friends of Clonmethan, in partnership with the Heritage Council and/or FCC, undertake an updated survey of the graveyard. Graveyard surveys are typically funded by Local Development Partnerships through LEADER funds and are supported by Heritage Officers and Local Authorities. The Heritage Council also provides grant assistance to community groups for graveyard projects. This should include digital, written, and photographic records and topographic survey, as well as local oral histories – low impact non-invasive methods of recording should be used, such as those outlined in the Heritage Council's *Guidance for the Care, Conservation and Recording of Historic Graveyards* (2011).

The graveyard survey should be developed as a multimedia archive that can be published online, thereby creating an important genealogical and historical resource. For example, Historic Graves⁸⁸ in partnership with the Heritage Council, is a community focused grassroots heritage project that curates survey records and publishes them online. It also provides training to local community groups in low-cost high-tech field survey of historic graveyards and recording of the associated oral histories.

⁸⁸ See <https://historicgraves.com/> [Accessed: 01.11.22]

Guidance on the care, conservation, recording and maintenance of historic graveyards is available on the Heritage and Conservation section of the FCC website,⁸⁹ as well as from the NMS⁹⁰ and the Heritage Council.⁹¹

7.2.5 Ecological Habitats

The Ecological Survey Report lists some of the species that were identified during the Ecology Survey, which included raptors, flora and rooks (FFEC 2022a). It is a policy of the CMP to ensure the natural heritage and biodiversity of the site is enhanced, preserved and protected. A series of biodiversity recommendations are set out in the Habitat Survey for the duration of the CMP (2023–28), as the diversity of habitats at the site and in the surrounding area have high biodiversity potential (FFEC 2022a, 5–6 & 2002b, 5). These include:

- A follow-up Bat Survey should be carried out during the May to September survey season given the high-quality bat habitat at the site.
- Bat boxes to be placed in trees and other suitable locations to increase available roosting for bats.
- Additional bird boxes to be placed in trees to increase the nesting potential for crevice nesting birds such as the blue tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*) and great tit (*Parus major*).
- Dead wood to be left *in situ* to support habitats for fungi and invertebrates.
- Fill gaps in the northern treeline with native hedgerow species such as hawthorn and blackthorn to create wildlife corridors and increase the foraging and nesting potential for small mammals and birds such as the yellowhammer (*Emberiza citrinella*).
- Convert the grassy margins to flower-rich margins to support insects (including pollinators), which will support mammal and bird populations. For example, the grassy verge outside the entrance can be managed as a wildflower patch, while shade-tolerant flowering species such as foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*) and bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) can be planted near hedgerows and walls.
- Suitable groundcover comprising ivy and native species should be encouraged and maintained in the graveyard to counter the effects of erosion and/or subsidence, provide food for pollinators and habitat for invertebrates. The steep slope to the south of the church should be planted as a priority to counteract slippage and erosion.

⁸⁹ Available at: <https://www.fingal.ie/historic-graveyards> [Accessed: 17.11.22].

⁹⁰ Available at: <https://www.archaeology.ie/sites/default/files/media/publications/care-and-conservation-of-graveyards.pdf> [Accessed: 02.11.22].

⁹¹ Available at: https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/guidance_care_conservation_recording_historic_graveyards_2011_7mb.pdf See also <https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/Top-Tips-for-Caring-for-Historic-Graveyards.pdf> [Accessed: 02.11.22].

- Ivy to be retained on trees and not removed. Ivy forms an integral part of woodland habitats and plays a crucial role in providing pollen, nectar and berries during winter months, while its broad evergreen leaves also supports hibernating bats and invertebrates.
- Protect relict plant species and control the graveyard vegetation with localised strimming at key times of year, as recommended by ecologist.
- The use of total spectrum weed killers, herbicides, biocides and the burning of vegetation has had a detrimental impact on the local habitat. The use of weed killers, herbicides and biocides are not encouraged and should be stopped as a priority.
- Discuss the benefits of the existing floodlighting to St Mary's Church with FCC Heritage Officer, FCC Biodiversity Officer and the NMS.⁹² Floodlighting installations negatively impact archaeological heritage (e.g. underground cabling and electrical poles), and natural heritage by affecting the activity rhythms of plants and animals (DEHLG 2010, 64).
- In principle, lighting should not be used on a structure where a bat colony is roosting (*ibid.*). If the follow up Bat Survey verifies that bats are roosting in the bell tower advice should be sought from the FCC Biodiversity Officer and the NPWS regarding the use of lights.⁹³
- Install educational signage that describes the local habitat and explains the biodiversity actions being undertaken.

A series of recommendations are also set out in the Arboricultural Report regarding how the mature beech, a tree of exceptional heritage value, should be protected, managed and monitored over the five-year timeframe of the CMP (Goodwin 2022). These include:

- No priority works are currently advised for the tree. However, during any conservation and/or restoration works root-soil disturbance around the tree should be avoided.
- The beech is a potential habitat for protected species such as bats and nesting birds. Any pruning works to this, or any of the other trees onsite, should be preceded by a competent assessment as to the presence of protected wildlife. Appropriate precautions should be taken to avoid any damage or disturbance to resident wildlife and/or their habitats during any works.
- Any works to the beech tree should be undertaken in accordance with current best practice and health and safety legislation, by suitably trained operatives of an approved and reputable tree contractor.
- The condition of the beech tree should be regularly monitored by the owners/managers of the site, including after severe storms.
- The tree should be reassessed by an arboriculturist within two years.

⁹² The NMS should be consulted regarding the floodlighting as the site is a Recorded Monument. Furthermore, the church is a Protected Structure and planning permission is likely to be required for the lights. Alternatives to floodlight up-lighting include cross-lighting and back-lighting, which help to avoid light pollution. Similarly, lights should be kept to a minimum and lighting should only be left on from dusk to midnight.

⁹³ Bat Conservation Ireland have produced guidance notes on *Bats & Lighting* (2010). Available at: https://www.batconservationireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/BCIrelandGuidelines_Lighting.pdf [Accessed: 17.11.22].

- Public access to the site should be restricted during any status red or orange wind warnings, or other extreme weather events.
- Given the heritage, historic and aesthetic value of the tree and its genetic quality, propagation of new trees from the beech should be considered.
- The sycamore stumps in the church may be removed by stump grinding. The excavation of the stumps may necessitate a notification to the Minister of the DHLGH under Section 12(3) of the *National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994*, as well as a Section 26 archaeological licence.

7.2.6 *Climate Change*

St Mary's church and graveyard have been assessed as part of the *Fingal Cultural Heritage & Climate Change Risk Assessment* (FCC 2021a), and is being monitored by the FCC Climate Action Team. However, proactive actions should be considered and discussed to protect Clonmethan/St Mary's church and graveyard (including the structural remains, subsurface burials, archaeological remains, flora and fauna) from the adverse effects of climate change. Possible actions may include:

- A risk and vulnerability assessment of the potential effects from hazards of the standing church remains, graveslabs and cross-inscribed stones. These should comprise nature hazards that were not considered in the 2021 Risk Assessment (FCC 2021a), such as storm damage, wildfires and windthrow.
- Stabilisation and conservation works should be carried out on the extant portions of the church.
- The standing church remains and vulnerable graveslabs should be digitally recorded, with the extant structures monitored on an ongoing basis. Training should be provided to those volunteers who will be undertaking such work.
- Liaise with the NMS and the NMI to enable a rapid and efficient response should human remains be exposed as a result of erosion and/or subsidence.
- Suitable groundcover comprising ivy and native species should be encouraged and maintained in the graveyard to counter the effects of erosion and/or subsidence, as well as providing early food for pollinators. In particular, the steep slope to the south of the church should be planted to counteract slippage and erosion. The use of total spectrum weed killers, herbicides, or the burning of vegetation is not encouraged. The management of these should be undertaken in collaboration with FCC, FCC Heritage Officer, FCC Biodiversity Officer and the FCC Operations Department.

8 Conclusion and Next Steps

8.1 Conservation Recommendations

The priority for the future use of St Mary's is to consolidate, maintain and protect the site. Foremost in the implementation of any policies of the CMP should be the consideration of St Mary's church and graveyard as a former place of worship, a past and present burial ground, a genealogical resource, a significant archaeological site and an important habitat for protected species. Continued liaison and consultation are recommended over the duration of the plan between:

- The Select Vestry Committee of the Church of Ireland
- The Friends of Clonmethan
- The local community
- Fingal County Council
- Fingal County Council Heritage Officer
- Fingal County Council Architectural Conservation Officer
- Fingal County Council Biodiversity Officer
- Fingal County Council Operations Department
- The National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
- The National Museum of Ireland
- The Heritage Council
- Archaeological Management Solutions
- Sheridan Woods Nolan, Architects and Urban Planners
- Goodwin-Arborist
- Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants
- Eamon Doyle Associates Consulting Engineers

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 *Heritage Act 2018*, the *Wildlife Acts 1976 to 2021*, the *Planning and Development Act 2000* and other applicable legislation.

8.2 Duration of Plan

It is recommended that a five-year timeframe for the CMP period (2023–2028) should be considered, with a mid-period review after 30 months. The review structure and responsibility for undertaking same will need to be agreed between the key stakeholders as part of the next steps in due course.

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Figure 1: Location map.

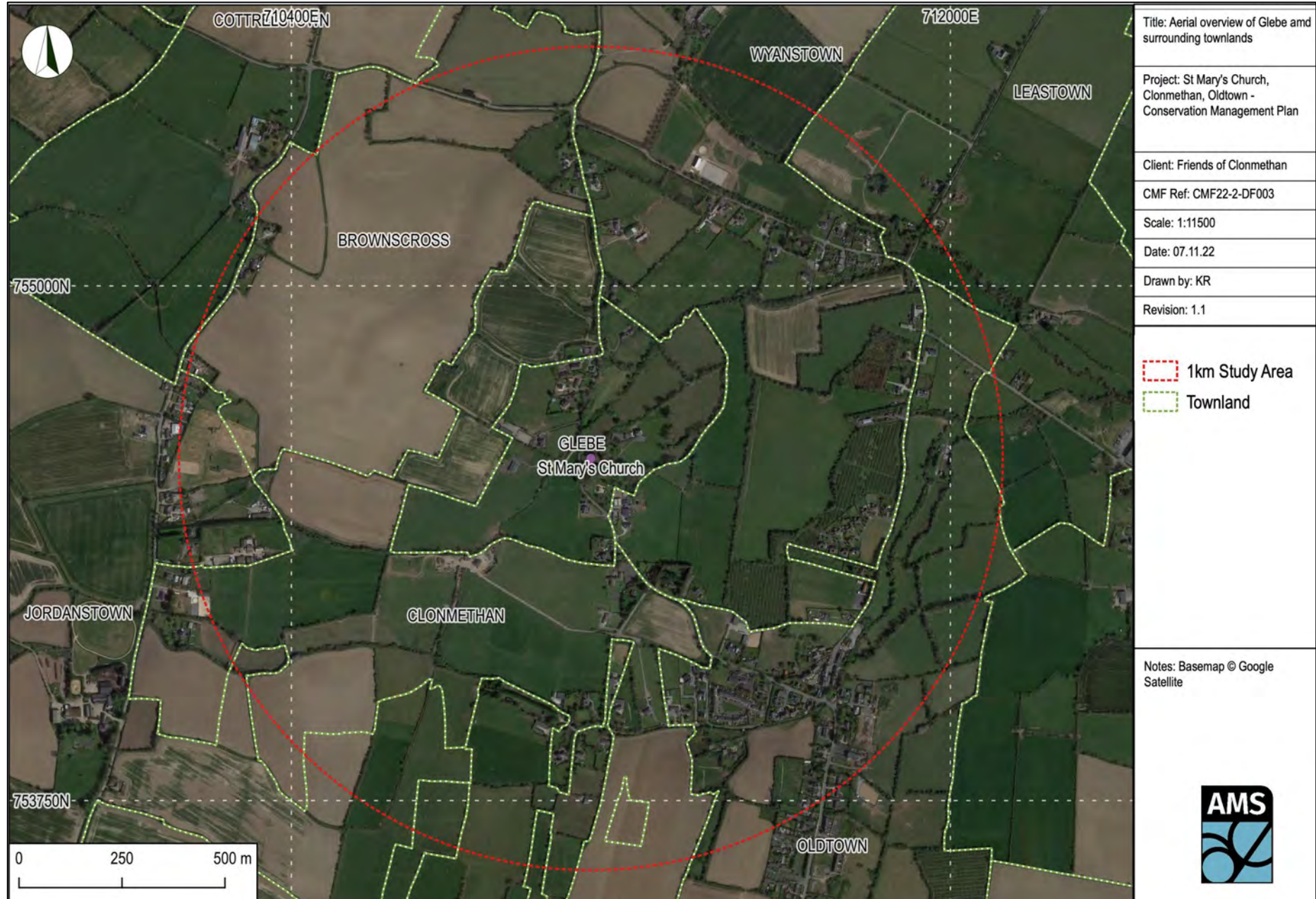


Figure 2: Aerial overview of Glebe and surrounding townlands.



Figure 3: Aerial overview of St Mary's Church and graveyard.

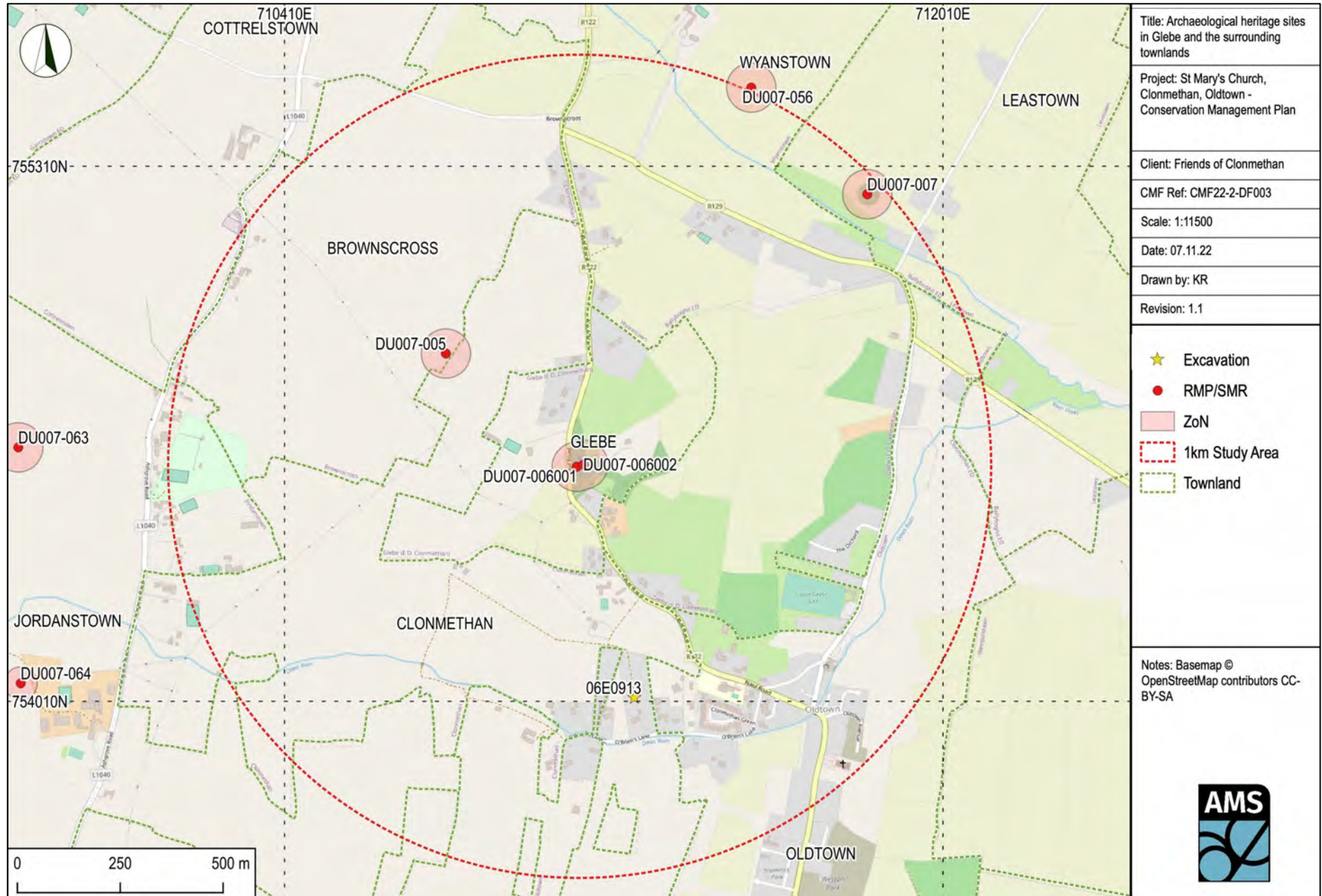


Figure 4: Archaeological heritage sites in Glebe and the surrounding townlands.

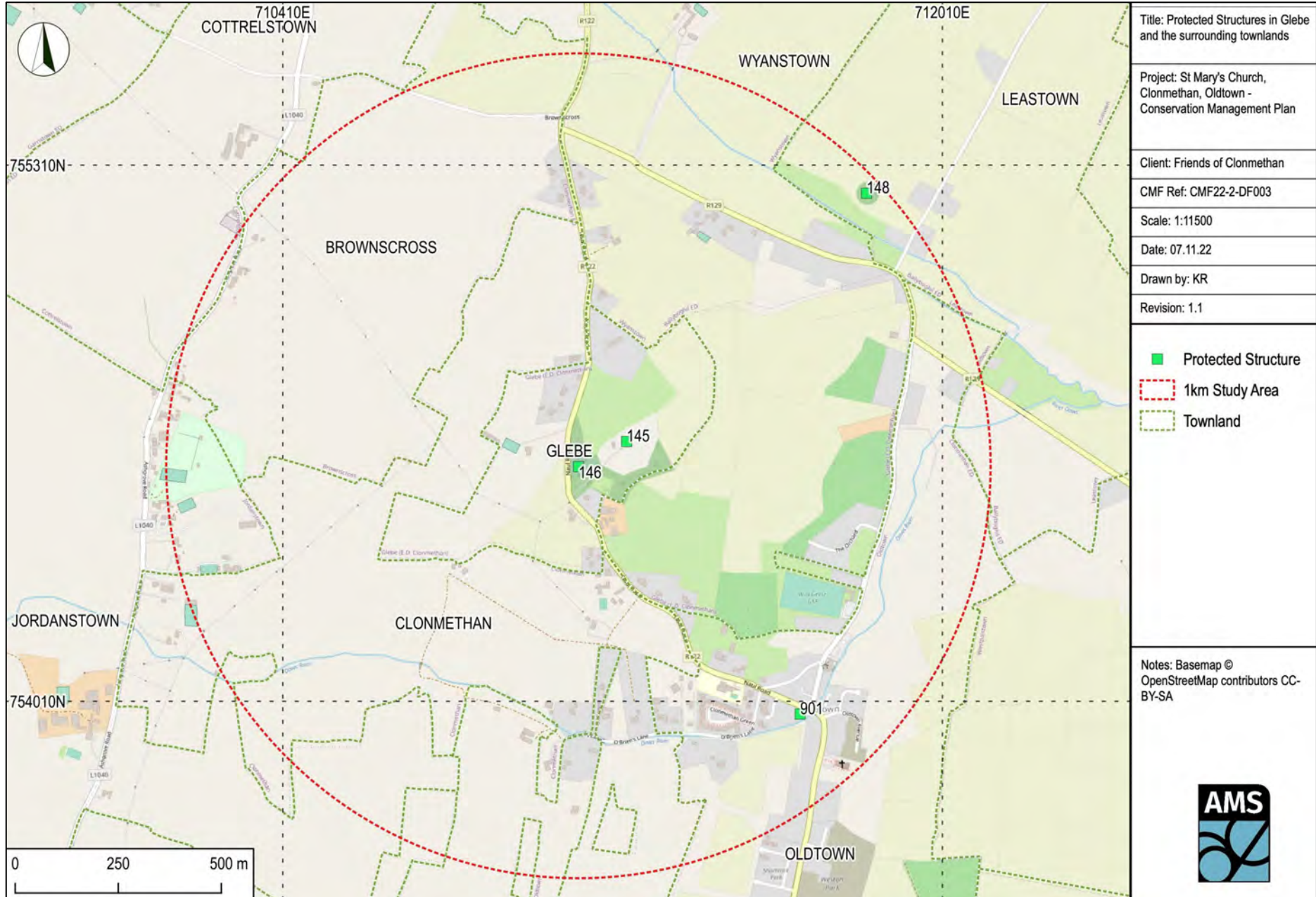


Figure 5: Protected Structures in Glebe and the surrounding townlands.

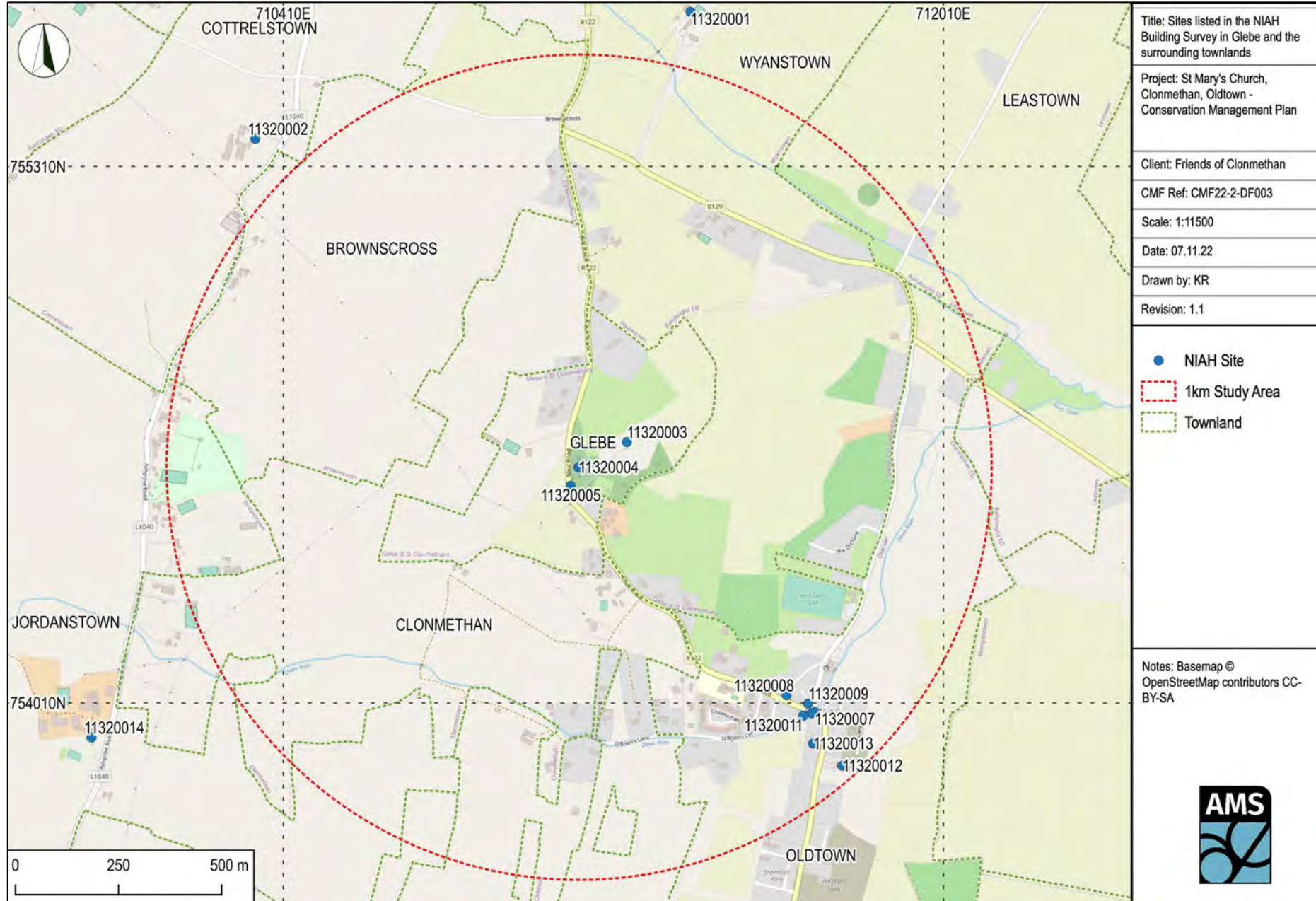


Figure 6: Sites listed in the NIAH Building Survey in Glebe and the surrounding townlands.

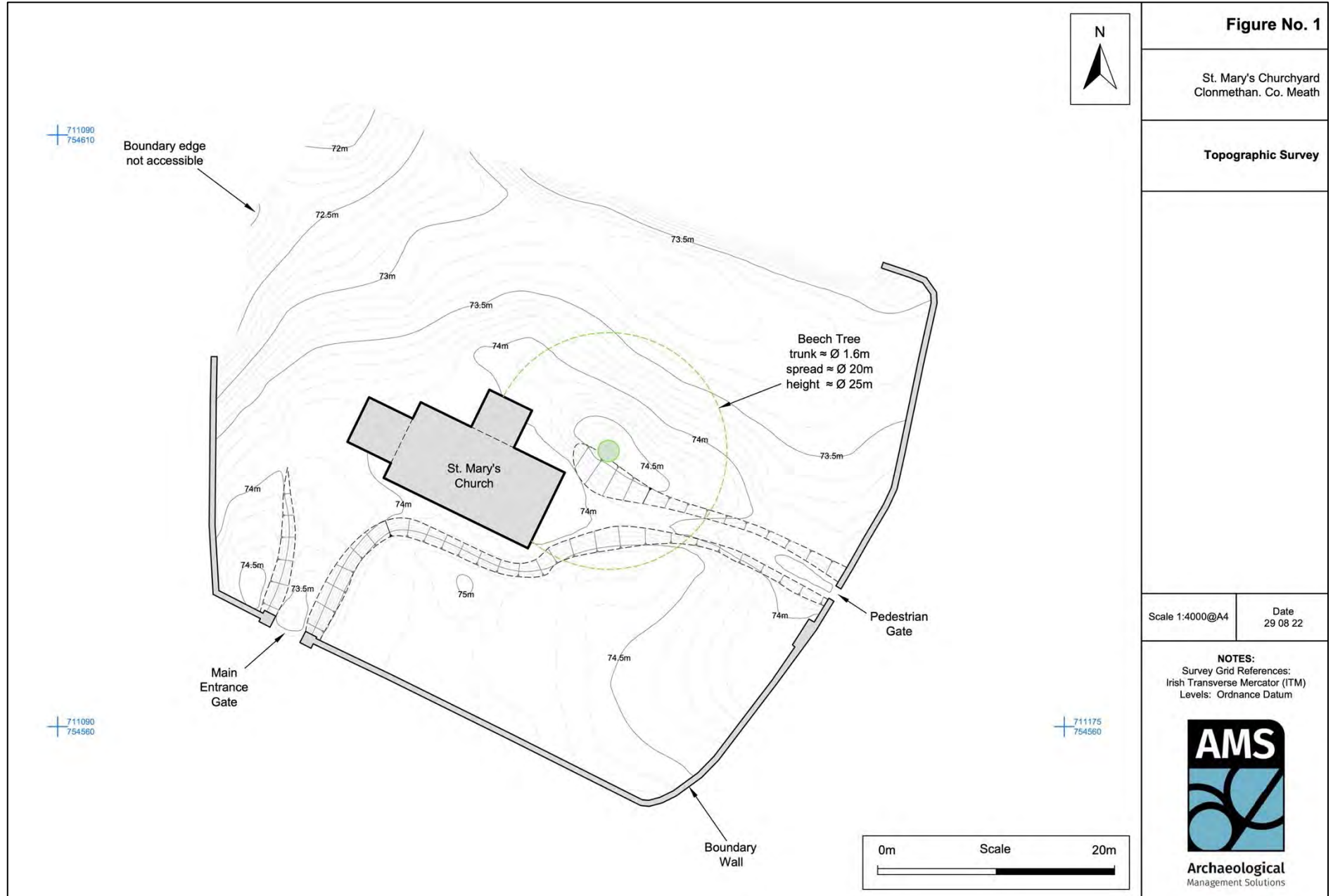


Figure 7: Topographic survey of St Mary's Church and graveyard.

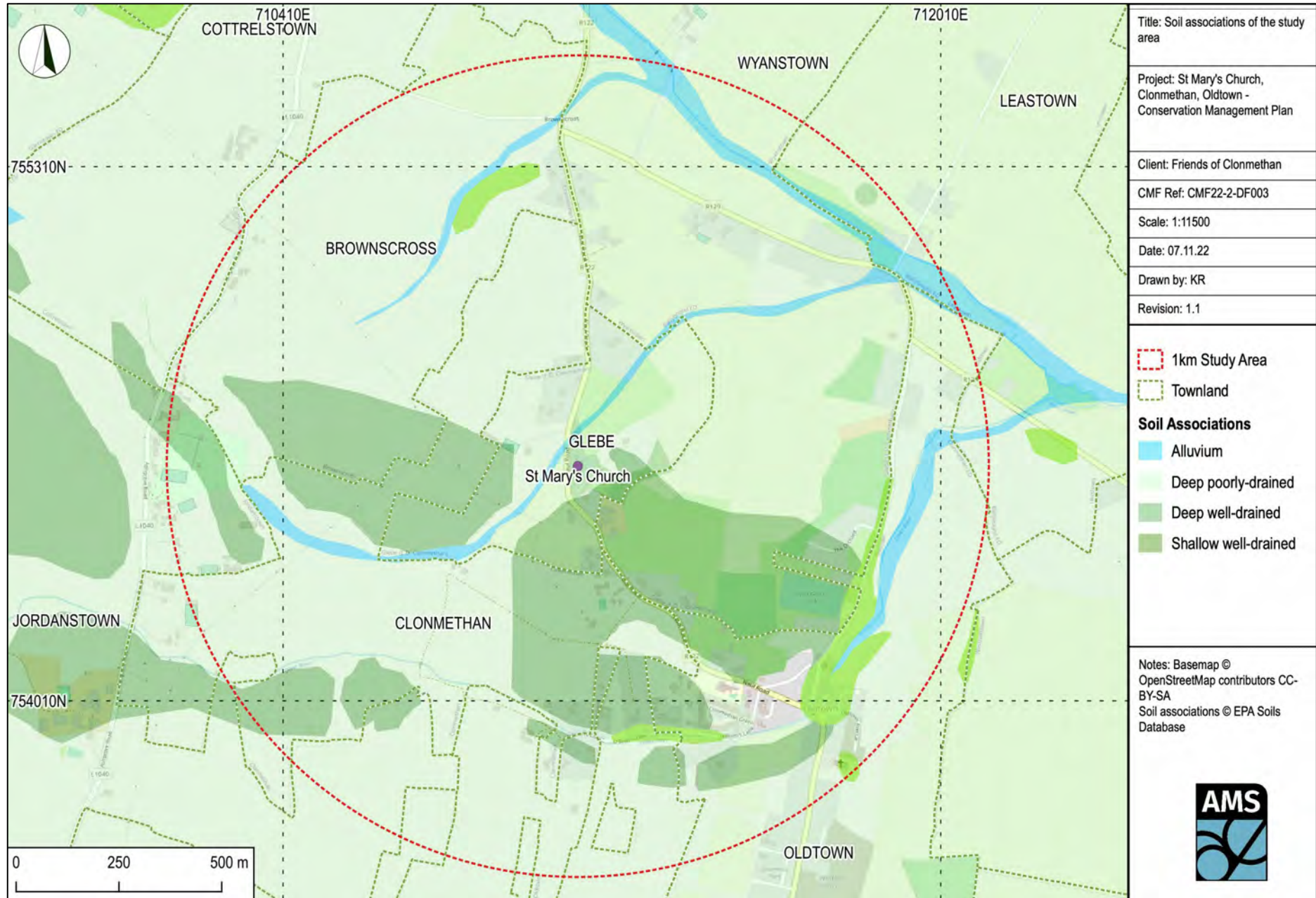


Figure 8: Soil associations of the study area.

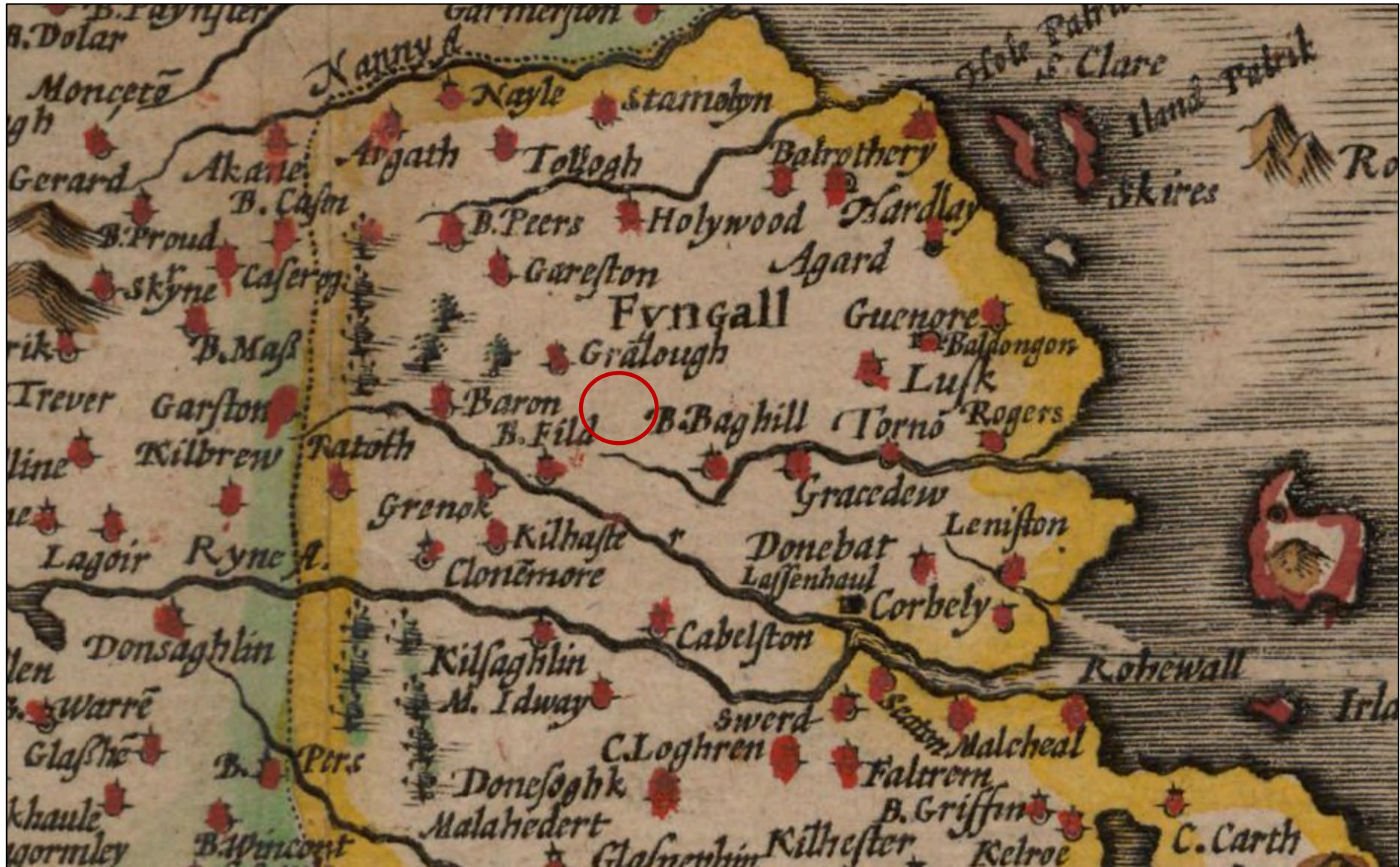


Figure 9: Extract from 'The Countie of Leinster...', by John Speed (1610).⁹⁴ The general area of the site is encircled in red.

⁹⁴ Available at: <https://cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/view/PR-ATLAS-00002-00061-00001/38> [Accessed: 08.11.22].

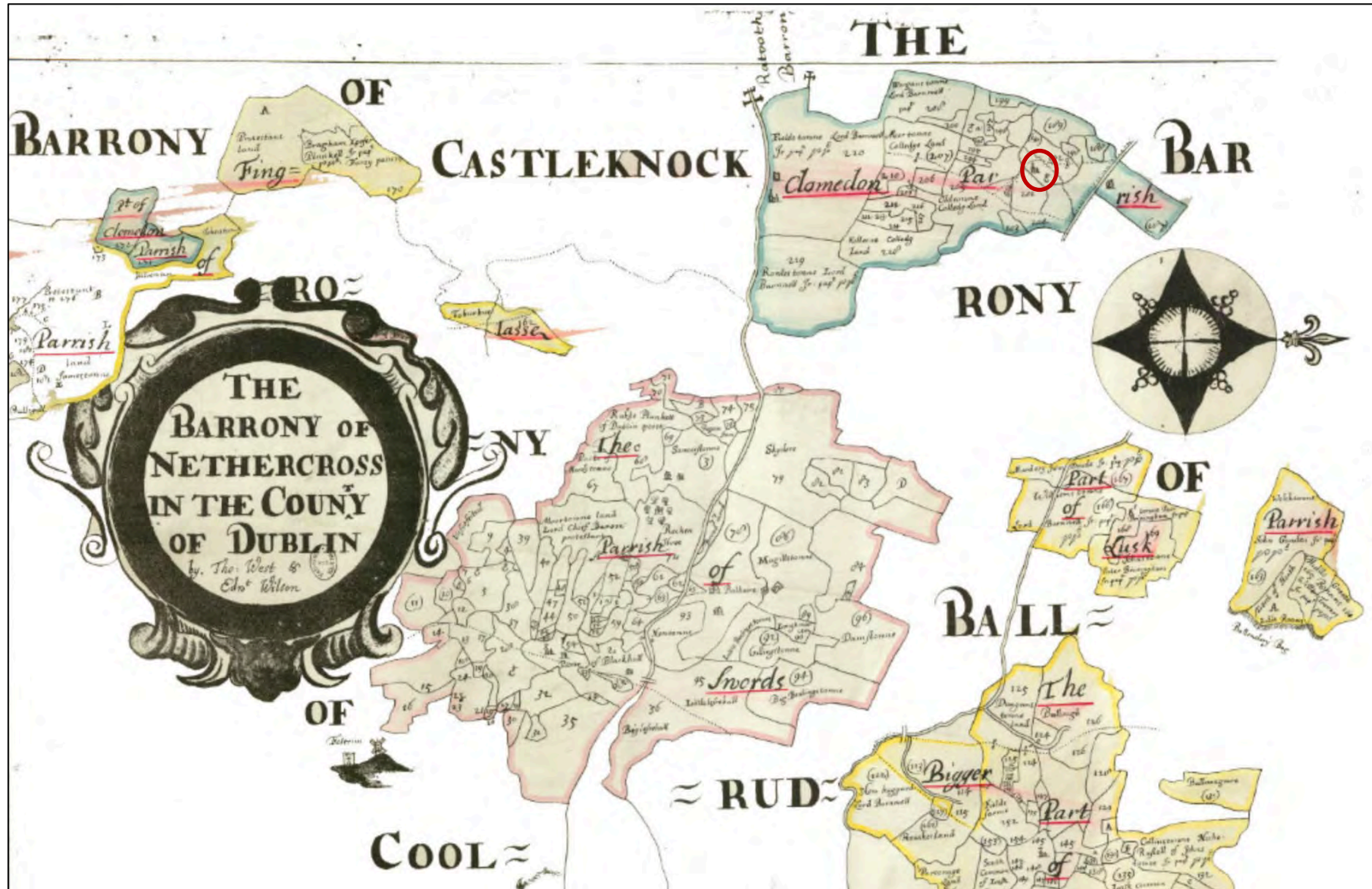


Figure 10: The Down Survey map for the 'Barony of Nethercross...' (1656–58);⁹⁵ the parish of 'Clonmedon' is shown at the top right of map.

⁹⁵ Available at: <http://downsurvey.tcd.ie/down-survey-maps.php#bm=Nethercross&c=Dublin> [Accessed: 08.11.22].



Figure 11: Down Survey map of 'The Parishes of Finglasse, Clonmedon, part of Lusk Parrish...' (1656–58);⁹⁶ Clonmethan Church is encircled in red.

⁹⁶ Available at: <http://downsurvey.tcd.ie/down-survey-maps.php#bm=Nethercross&c=Dublin&p=Finglasse+Lusk+and+Clonmedon> [Accessed: 08.11.22].

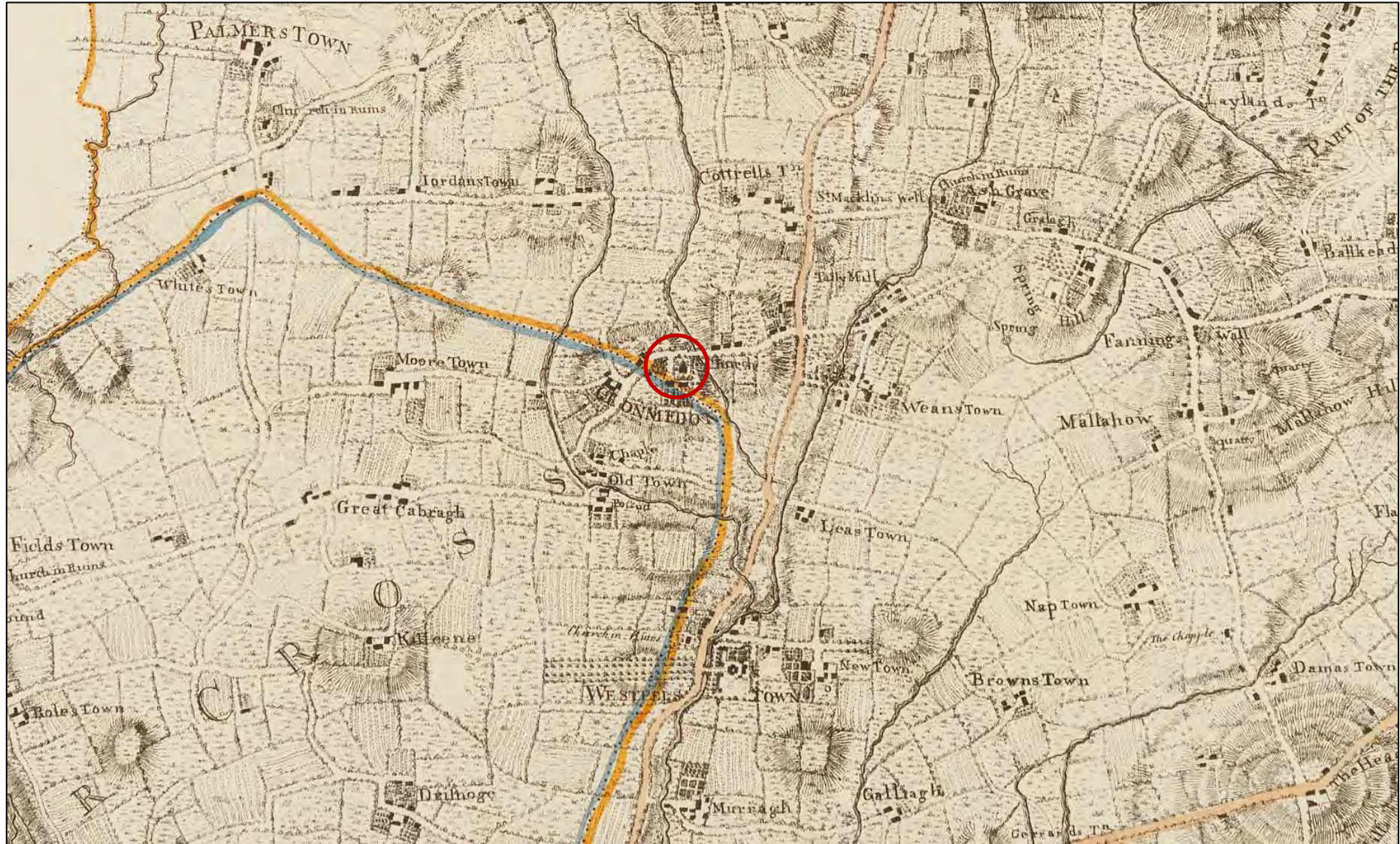


Figure 12: Extract from 'An Actual Survey of the County of Dublin',⁹⁷ by John Rocque (1760).

⁹⁷ Available at: <https://digitalcollections.tcd.ie/concern/works/mg74qp03f?locale=en> [Accessed: 08.11.22].

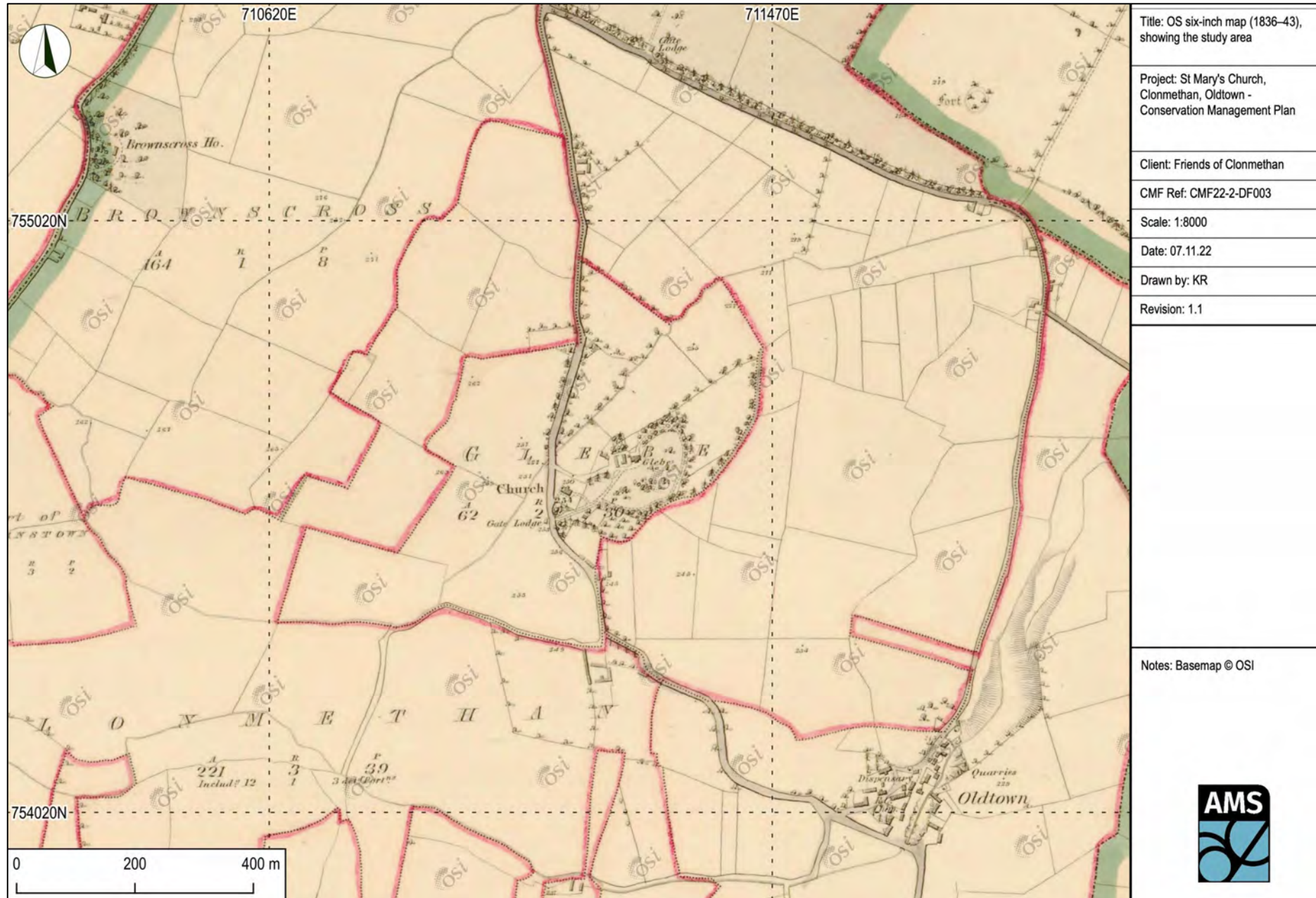


Figure 13: OS first-edition six-inch map (1836), showing the study area.



Figure 14: OS first-edition 25-inch map (1906), showing the study area.

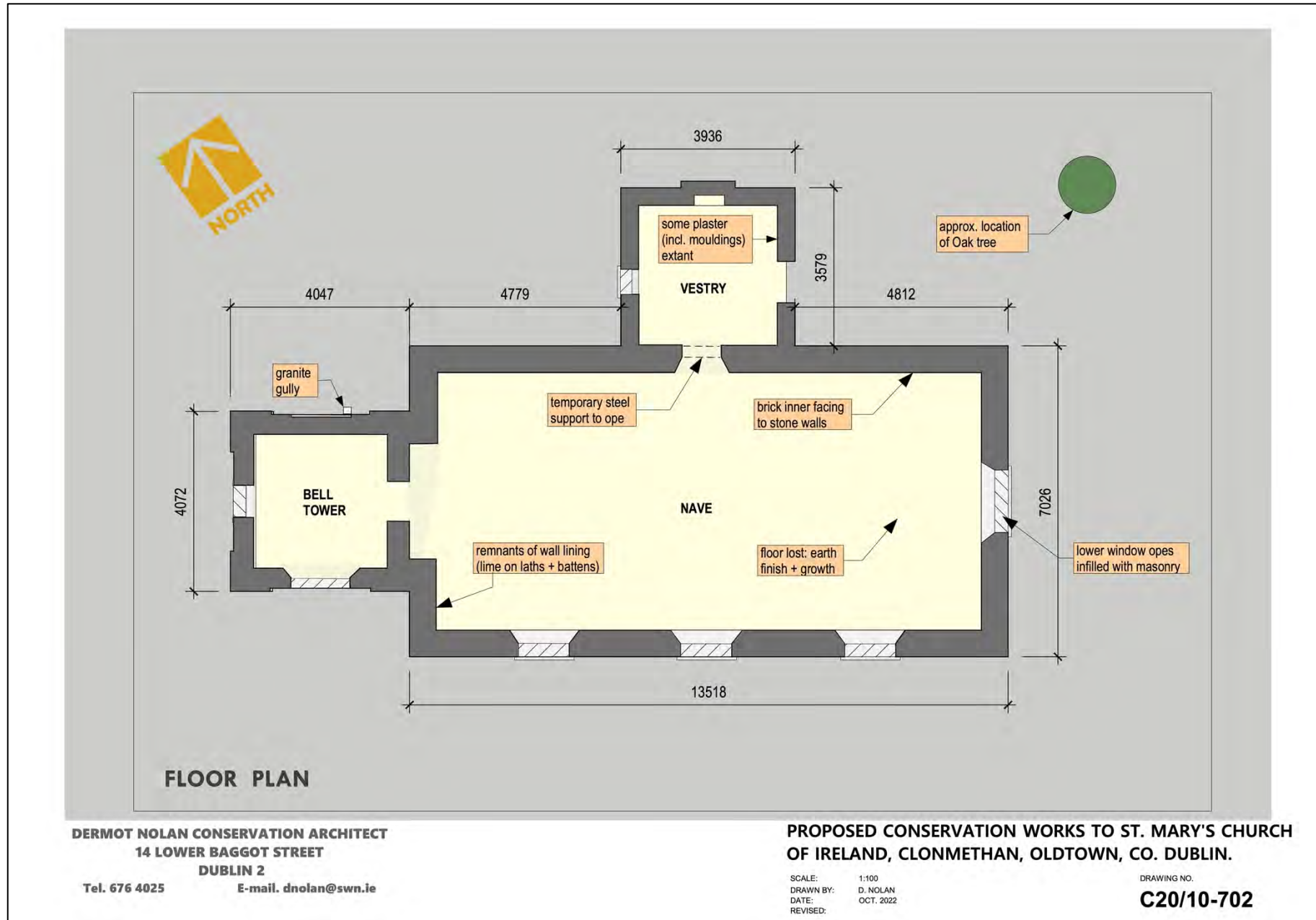


Figure 15: Floor plan of St Mary's Church (Nolan 2022).

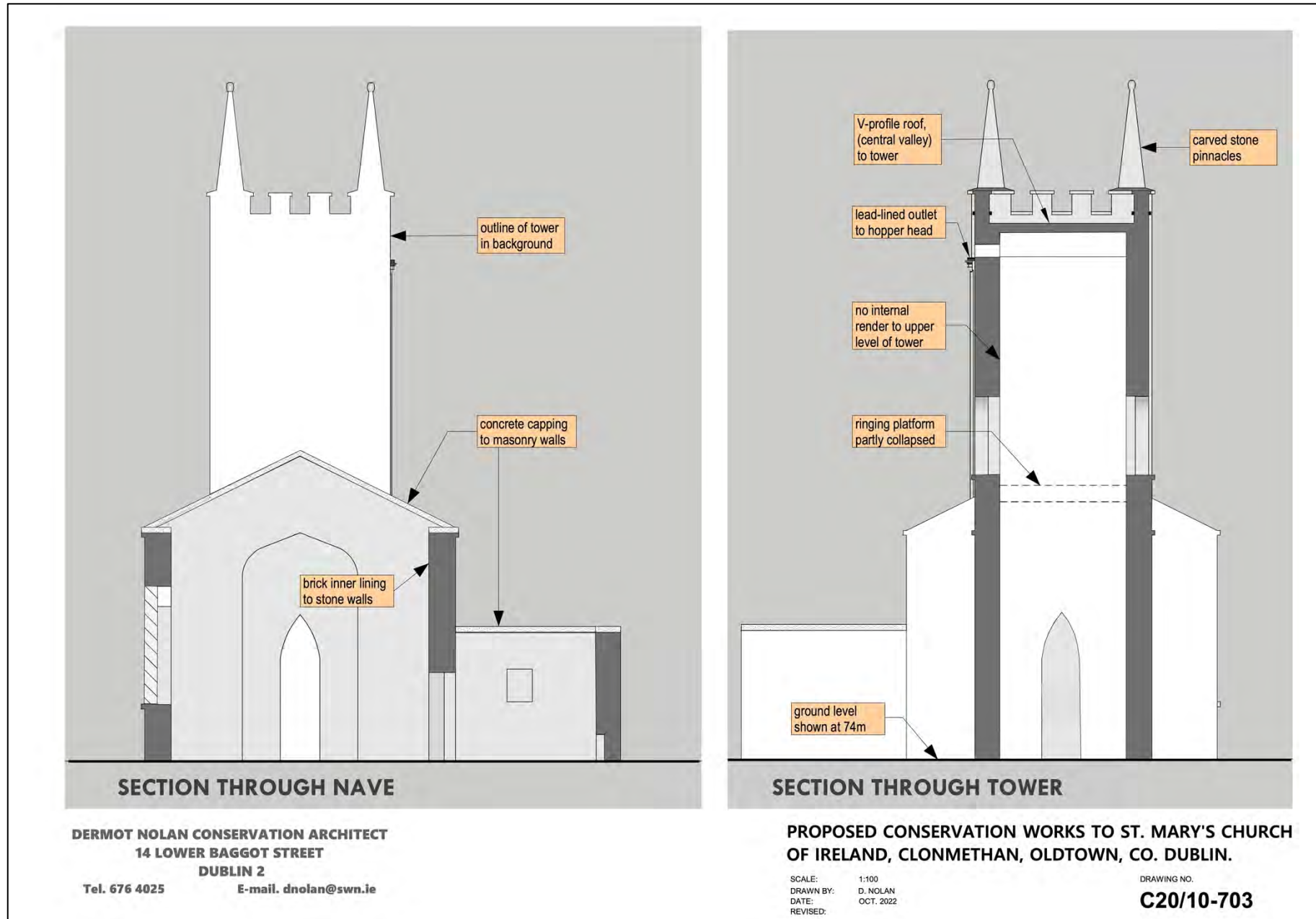


Figure 16: Sections through the nave and bell tower of St Mary's Church (Nolan 2022).

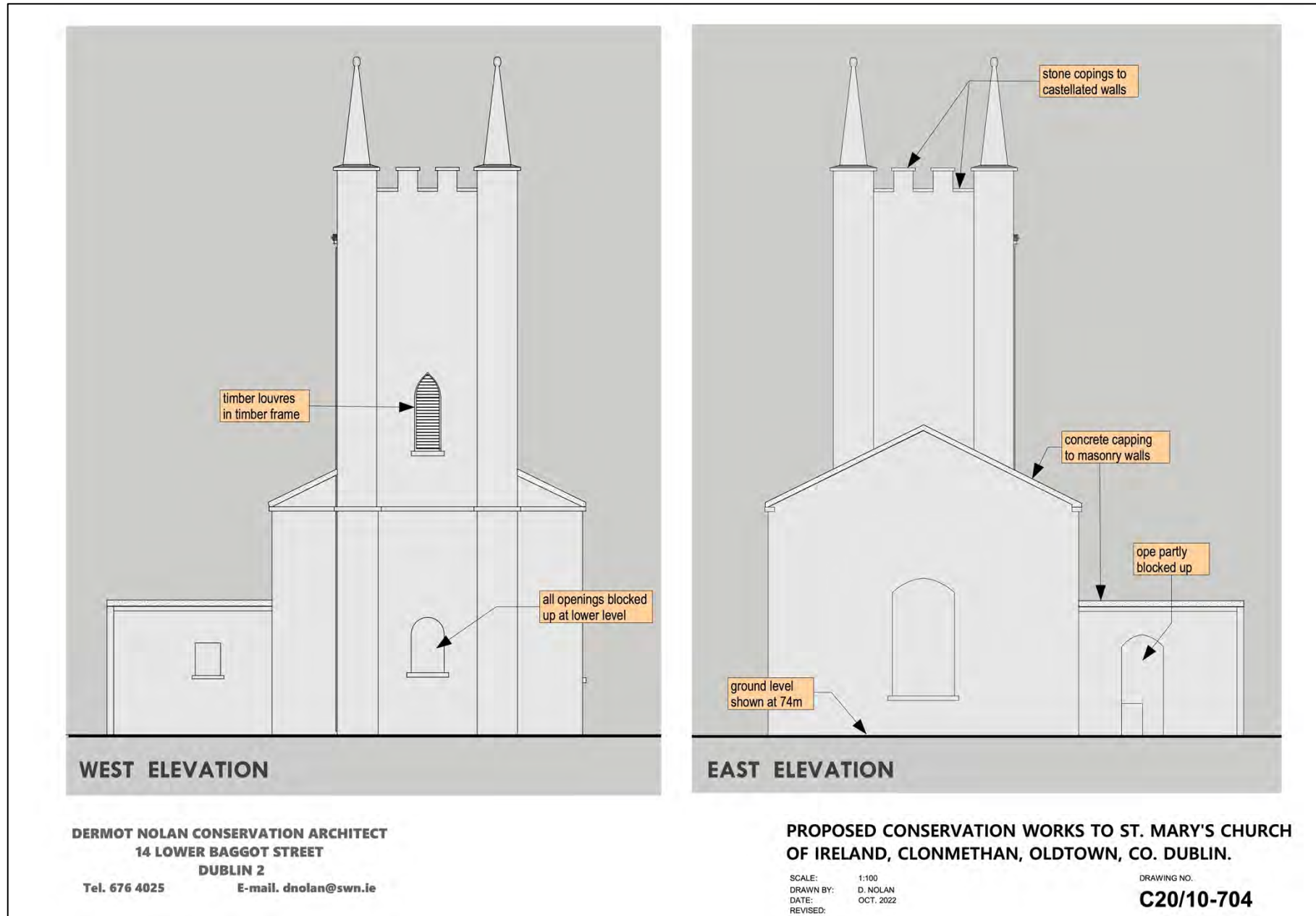


Figure 17: East and west elevations of St Mary's Church (Nolan 2022).

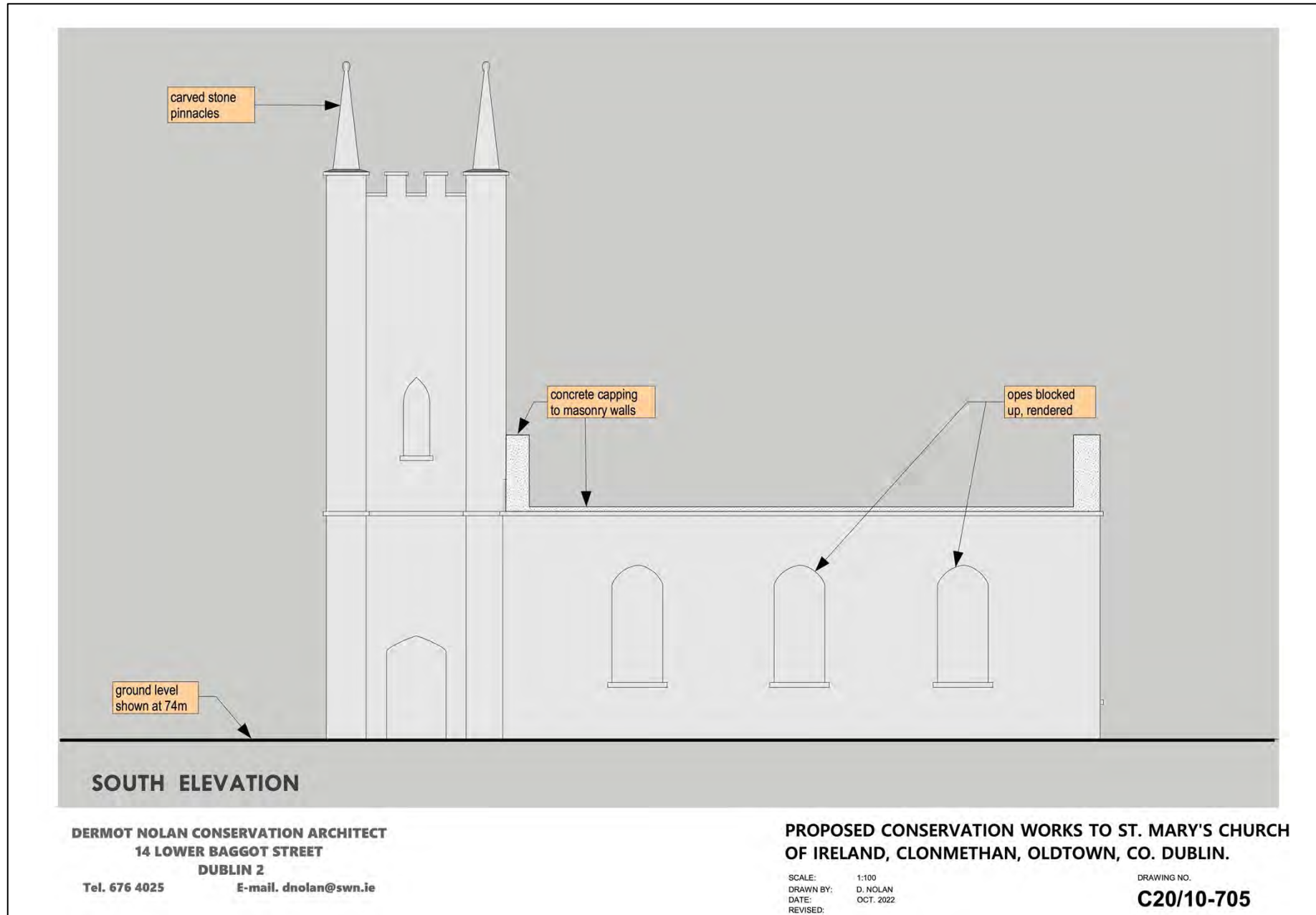


Figure 18: South elevation of St Mary's Church (Nolan 2022).

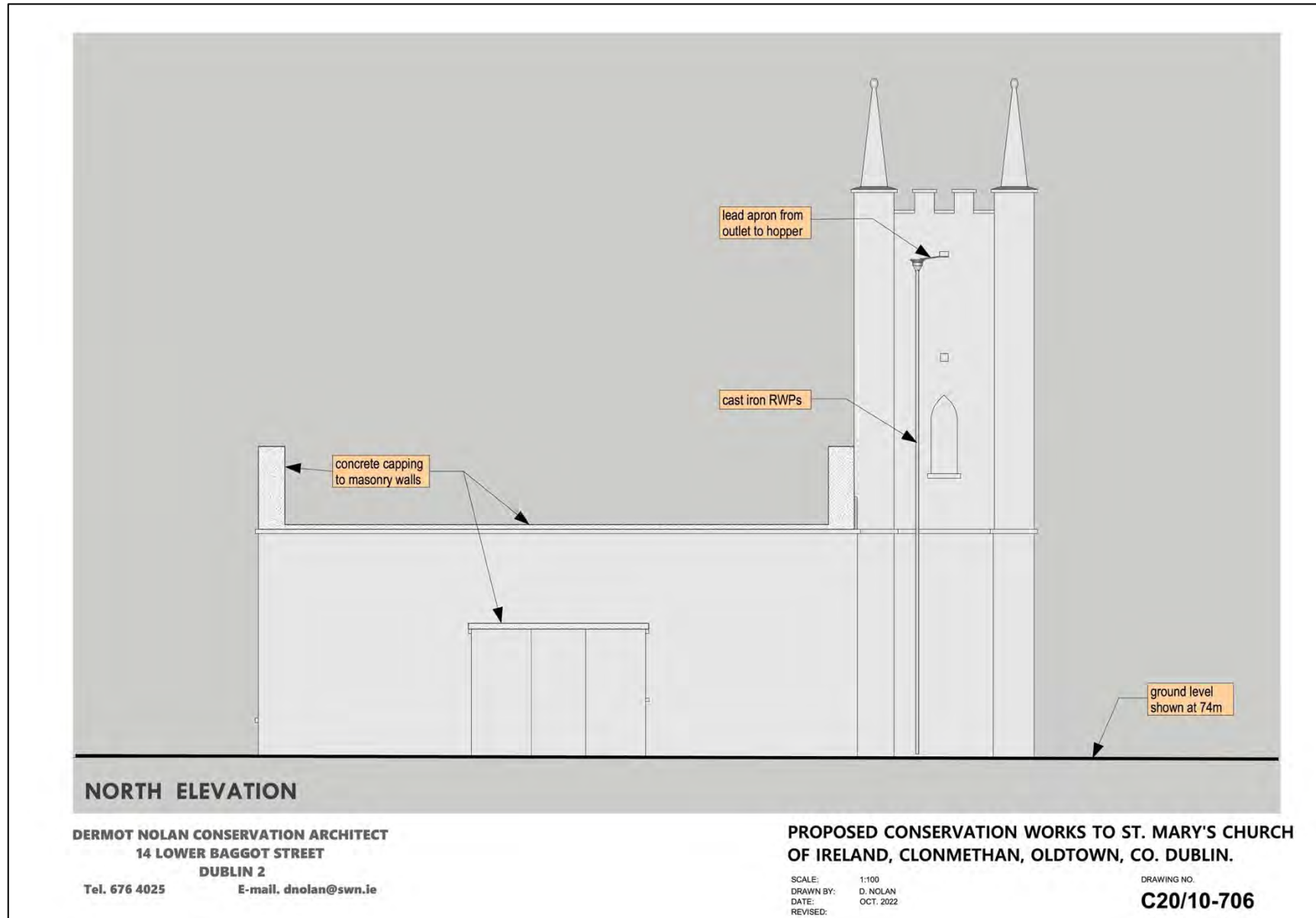


Figure 19: North elevation of St Mary's Church (Nolan 2022).

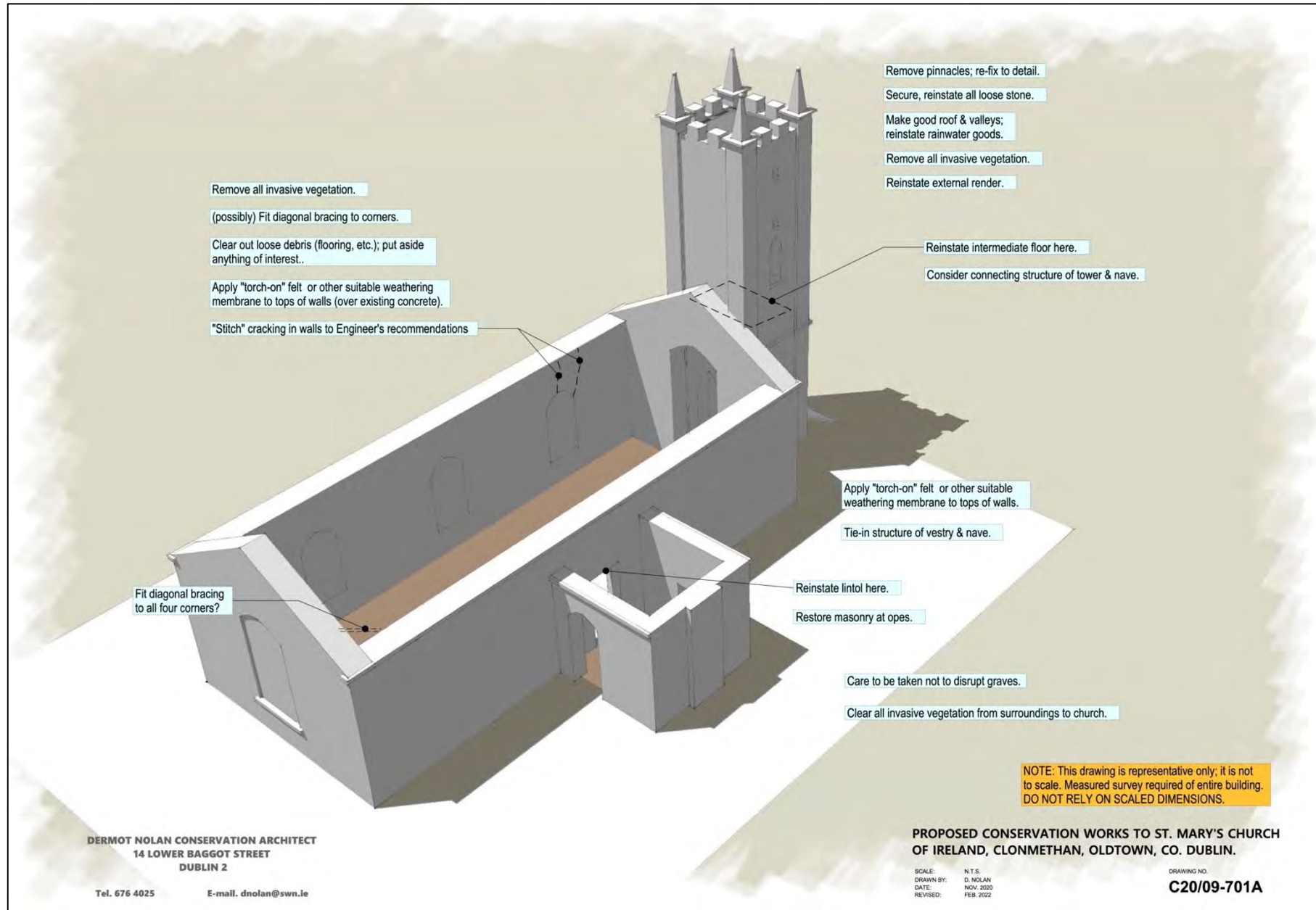


Figure 20: Proposed conservation works to St Mary's Church (Nolan 2020).



Plate 1: View of St Mary's Church, facing east-northeast.



Plate 2: View of eastern part of graveyard showing soil erosion.



Plate 3: View of northeastern part of graveyard and mature beech tree.



Plate 4: Remembrance Day memorial in northern part of graveyard erected by the Friends of Clonmethan.



Plate 5: Topographic survey of church and graveyard, facing north=northeast.



Plate 6: Interior of church with nave and bell tower, facing west-northwest.



Plate 7: View east-southeast from bell tower to nave.



Plate 8: View northeast from nave to vestry, note propping of door.



Plate 9: View of fireplace in vestry, facing northeast.



Plate 10: Timber wainscot panelling and extant render in southwest corner of nave.



Plate 11: First level timber flooring in bell tower.



Plate 12: Blocked-up church entrance via bell tower, facing north-northeast.



Plate 13: Blocked-up church vestry entrance, facing west-northwest.



Plate 14: Blocked-up window in vestry, facing east-southeast.



Plate 15: Grave marker in eastern part of graveyard, facing northwest.



Plate 16: Gateway leading from graveyard to Glebe House, facing east-southeast.



Plate 17: The basidiomycete bracket fungus *Cerioporus squamosus* on the beech tree, facing north.



Plate 18: Memorial in Oldtown commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Rural Electrification Scheme

Appendix 1: Recorded/Listed Archaeological Sites within a 1km Radius

SMR/RMP Ref.	DU007-005---
Legal Status	Recorded Monument
Townland	Browns cross
Civil Parish	Clonmethan
Barony	Balrothery West
Site Type	Enclosure
Coordinates (ITM)	710802, 754855
SMR Description	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP: Yes Located in a flat field of tillage to east of dried-up streambed. An aerial photograph taken in 1972 (FSI 592/1) shows a roughly circular cropmark of an enclosure with a diameter of c.16m. Not visible at ground level.
Source	Historic Environment Viewer [online]. Available at: https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/

SMR/RMP Ref.	DU007-006001-
Legal Status	Recorded Monument
Townland	Glebe
Civil Parish	Clonmethan
Barony	Balrothery West
Site Type	Church
Coordinates (ITM)	711120, 754580
SMR Description	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP: Yes The present St Mary's Church of Ireland Church (1818) occupies the site of the medieval parish church of Clonmethan. It is located to the east of R122 road and northwest of Oldtown village. The Civil Survey of 1654–56 stated the church was “out of repair” (Simington 1945, 152; Healy 1975, 19).
Source	Historic Environment Viewer [online]. Available at: https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/

SMR/RMP Ref.	DU007-006002-
Legal Status	Recorded Monument
Townland	Glebe
Civil Parish	Clonmethan
Barony	Balrothery West
Site Type	Graveyard
Coordinates (ITM)	711136, 754585
SMR Description	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP: Yes

DU007-006002- – Description continued	Large walled graveyard on the western end of a ridge with unobstructed views to the west but restricted elsewhere. The interior is raised to the level of the wall (H 2.60m) and higher, except to north where there is no perimeter wall (H 1.70m). It encloses the nineteenth-century Anglican church of St Mary's, which is on the site of a medieval foundation (DU007-006001). There is a mature tree to the east of the church. Grave markers date from eighteenth century to modern era. The earliest grave marker dates to 1754 (Egan 1992). An access path in the south of graveyard has truncated grave deposits (D 1.7m). Still in use.
Source	Historic Environment Viewer [online]. Available at: https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/

SMR/RMP Ref.	DU007-007---
Legal Status	Recorded Monument; Protected Structure (Fingal RPS Ref. 0148)
Townland	Leastown
Civil Parish	Westpalstown
Barony	Balrothery West
Site Type	Ringfort – unclassified
Coordinates (ITM)	711826, 755242
SMR Description	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP: Yes Site labelled 'fort' on the 1837 OS 6–inch map. It is located on a natural rise, which falls away to Ballyboghil Stream to the southwest. The surrounding field has been cleared, reset and fenced to the southwest, while the site perimeter is planted with beech and sycamore. The site comprises a circular platform with a diameter of 37m, height of 3.2m and possible ramped entrance in the SW. Traces of an outer fosse, which were visible in 1950, have since silted up. Probably the remains of a platform ringfort (Healy 1975, 19).
Source	Historic Environment Viewer [online]. Available at: https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/

SMR Ref.	DU007-022---
Legal Status	Recorded Monument
Townland	Oldtown
Civil Parish	Clonmethan
Barony	Balrothery West
Site Type	Earthwork site possible (recorded as 'Burial' in the SMR)
Coordinates (ITM)	N/A
SMR Description	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP: No The Wakeman Collection Catalogue, No. 30 (NMI) describes fragments of a mortuary vessel which came from a rath at Oldtown. This may have been located in a field known as 'Dun Hill' which is beside the present Post Office. Locals describe a low earthwork at this site which, has since been levelled. The exact location of this monument is unknown.

SMR Ref.	DU007-022---
Source	Historic Environment Viewer [online]. Available at: https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/

SMR Ref.	DU007-056---
Legal Status	Listed in the SMR
Townland	Wyanstown
Civil Parish	Clonmethan
Barony	Balrothery West
Site Type	Enclosure
Coordinates (ITM)	711544, 755501
SMR Description	Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP: Yes A circular enclosure visible as cropmark on an aerial imagery. Located within gently undulating arable landscape. No surface expression.
Source	Historic Environment Viewer [online]. Available at: https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/

Appendix 2: Archaeological Investigations within a 1km Radius

Licence No.	06E0913
Townland	Oldtown
Civil Parish	Clonmethan
Barony	Balrothery West
RMP/SMR Ref.	DU007-022---
Coordinates (ITM)	711260, 754019
DIER Ref.	2006:687
Consultant	Emer Dennehy, Margaret Gowen & Co. Ltd.
Summary of Findings	An impact assessment of the site on O'Briens Lane was undertaken on behalf of Fingal County Council due to its location within the zone of archaeological potential for an earthwork 'site'. According to the RMP files, human remains were identified within a 'rath' in Oldtown. Given the fact that human remains were identified, it is more probable that the site in question is the remains of a prehistoric barrow than a ringfort. Five test-trenches were excavated within the eastern portion of the site. A distinct fall in the land was noted in this location and testing indicated this is the remains of an eroded streambed rather than an archaeological feature. This is confirmed through the heavy occurrence of iron-panned and leached clay. A possible pond was noted upslope within Trench 5 measuring 25.5m in diameter. No features or stratigraphy of an archaeological nature were identified within the test area.
Source	Database of Irish Excavation Reports [online]. Available at: http://excavations.ie/report/2006/Dublin/0015431/

Licence No.	07E0728
Townland	Oldtown
Civil Parish	Clonmethan
Barony	Balrothery West
RMP/SMR Ref.	DU007-022---
Coordinates (ITM)	711260, 754019
DIER Ref.	2007:533
Consultant	Siân Keith, Margaret Gowen & Co. Ltd,
Summary of Findings	Monitoring took place of topsoil-stripping across a site partially within an RMP constraint area. A field ditch was exposed of probable post-medieval date.
Source	Database of Irish Excavation Reports [online]. Available at: http://excavations.ie/report/2007/Dublin/0017509/

Appendix 3: Recorded/Listed Built Heritage Sites within a 1km Radius

RPS Ref.	0145
NIAH Reg.	11320003
Legal Status	Protected Structure
Rating	Regional
Townland	Glebe
Civil Parish	Clonmethan
Barony	Balrothery West
Original Use	Rectory/glebe/vicarage/curate's house
In Use As	House
Date	1815–1820
Coordinates (ITM)	711235, 754640
Description	<p>Detached three-bay two-storey over basement house, built 1817, with projecting three-bay gable-fronted entrance porch. Courtyard bounded by two outbuildings to left-hand side.</p> <p>ROOF: Hipped slate roof with terracotta ridge tiles and overhanging eaves, two nap rendered and shouldered chimney stacks with terracotta pots.</p> <p>WALLS: Lime rendered over rubble stone with a granite plinth course; three-bay single storey lean-to at right hand side of basement.</p> <p>OPENINGS: Square and round headed window openings with rendered reveals, granite sills, original timber sash and margin sash windows; blind windows to all sides; access at each end of porch flanking a round headed window. Granite steps lead to probably original timber panelled two-leaf door.</p>
Source	<p>NIAH Building Survey [online]. Available at: https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11320003/clonmethan-glebe-glebe-ba-w-by-clonmethan-ed </p>

RPS Ref.	0146
NIAH Reg.	11320004
Legal Status	Protected Structure
Rating	Regional
Townland	Glebe
Civil Parish	Clonmethan
Barony	Balrothery West
Original Use	Church/chapel
Date	1780–1820
Coordinates (ITM)	711125, 754583
Description	<p>Detached single-cell Board of First Fruits Church of Ireland church, c.1800, with three-stage castellated tower and three-bay side elevation having single-bay entrance porch to side. Now roofless. Set in graveyard with various cut stone grave markers, c.1800 to present.</p>

RPS Ref. 0146 –	ROOF: No roof.
Description (continued)	<p>WALLS: Coursed rubble; rough cast lime render; cut stone corners to tower; cut stone finials to tower corners.</p> <p>OPENINGS: Blocked-up; pointed arches; brick surrounds and granite sills to church; pointed and arched openings to tower with cut stone openings and stone sill. Blocked up openings to ground floor.</p>
Source	<p>NIAH Building Survey [online]. Available at: https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11320004/saint-marys-church-of-ireland-church-glebe-ba-w-by-clonmethan-ed</p>

NIAH Reg.	11320005
Legal Status	Listed on the NIAH Building Survey
Rating	Regional
Townland	Glebe
Civil Parish	Clonmethan
Barony	Balrothery West
Original Use	Post box
In Use As	Post box
Date	1900–1910
Coordinates (ITM)	711103, 754535
Description	Wall-mounted cast-iron post box, c.1905, with 'ER VII' monogram.
Source	<p>NIAH Building Survey [online]. Available at: https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11320005/glebe-ba-w-by-clonmethan-ed</p>

NIAH Reg.	11320007
Legal Status	Listed on the NIAH Building Survey
Rating	Regional
Townland	Oldtown
Civil Parish	Clonmethan
Barony	Balrothery West
Original Use	Bridge
In Use As	Bridge
Date	1880–1920
Coordinates (ITM)	711691, 753988
Description	Single-span coursed rubble stone road bridge over river, c.1900, with lintel-headed opening and curved concrete capping to parapet. Plaque inscribed 'In remembrance of Mary Adrian and Comrades, late Old I.R.A. Fingal Bridge 1916 – 1921'.

NIAH Reg. 11320007 – Source	NIAH Building Survey [online]. Available at: https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11320007/oldtown-bridge-oldtown-ba-w-by-oldtown
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NIAH Reg.	11320008
Legal Status	Listed on the NIAH Building Survey
Rating	Regional
Townland	Oldtown
Civil Parish	Clonmethan
Barony	Balrothery West
Original Use	House
In Use As	House
Date	1840–1860
Coordinates (ITM)	711623, 754029
Description	<p>Detached three-bay two-storey house, c.1850, with two-storey return to rear, retaining original door.</p> <p>ROOF: Hipped, slate with terracotta ridge tiles. Two rendered and corniced chimney stacks; cast-iron rainwater goods.</p> <p>WALLS: Roughcast lime render; exposed coarsed rubble in sections.</p> <p>OPENINGS: Segmental headed doorcase; foliate console brackets; panelled pilasters; segmental plate glass fanlight; original timber door with arched panels; square headed windows; rendered reveals; granite sills; uPVC replacement frames.</p>
Source	NIAH Building Survey [online]. Available at: https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11320008/oldtown-house-oldtown-ba-w-by-oldtown

NIAH Reg.	11320009
Legal Status	Listed on the NIAH Building Survey
Rating	Regional
Townland	Oldtown
Civil Parish	Clonmethan
Barony	Balrothery West
Original Use	House
In Use As	House
Date	1850–1890
Coordinates (ITM)	711674, 754012
Description	<p>Detached three-bay two-storey rubble limestone house, c.1870, with gable-fronted projecting entrance porch. Timber lean-to conservatory to left-hand side, c.1985. Three-bay two-storey adjoining shop, c.1940, to right-hand side.</p>

NIAH Reg. 11320009 – Description (continued)	<p>ROOF: M-profile; slate; rubble and rendered chimneys; cast-iron rainwater goods; carved timber barge boards to roof, porch and conservatory; timber finial to porch; flat roof to shop - double pitched to rear.</p> <p>WALLS: Un-coursed limestone rubble; nap rendered walls to shop; projecting rendered lettering.</p> <p>OPENINGS: Square headed red brick dressing to window openings; stone sill; 2/2 timber sash windows; convex sash horns; timber top hung casement windows to conservatory with margin panes; round headed doorcase; foliate consoles; reproduction segmental fanlight; glazed timber panelled door; square headed window and door openings; rendered reveals; panelled timber door; uPVC sash windows.</p>
Source	<p>NIAH Building Survey [online]. Available at: https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11320009/p-archer-oldtown-ba-w-by-oldtown</p>

NIAH Reg.	11320010
Legal Status	Listed on the NIAH Building Survey
Rating	Regional
Townland	Oldtown
Civil Parish	Clonmethan
Barony	Balrothery West
Original Use	Water pump
Date	1890–1920
Coordinates (ITM)	711698, 753979
Description	Cast-iron water pump, c.1910, of square profile with a curved handle. Inscription "Balrothery District Council".
Source	<p>NIAH Building Survey [online]. Available at: https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11320010/oldtown-ba-w-by-oldtown</p>

RPS Ref.	0901
NIAH Reg.	11320011
Legal Status	Protected Structure
Rating	Regional
Townland	Oldtown
Civil Parish	Clonmethan
Barony	Balrothery West
Original Use	Hall
In Use As	Hall
Date	1870–1890
Coordinates (ITM)	711665, 753979

RPS Ref. 0901 – Description	<p>Detached gabled-fronted single-bay single-storey corrugated-iron hall, c.1880, with gable-fronted projecting entrance porch and four-bay side elevation. Outdoor toilets to site.</p> <p>ROOF: Double pitched corrugated iron with carved barge boards and finials.</p> <p>WALLS: Corrugated iron.</p> <p>OPENINGS: Square headed windows with timber architraves; sills and timber framed windows. Recessed square-headed door opening with timber architrave, tongue and groove reveals and soffit to porch, two-leaf timber-panelled door; tongue and groove door.</p>
Source	<p>NIAH Building Survey [online]. Available at: https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11320011/oldtown-hall-oldtown-ba-w-by-oldtown</p>

NIAH Reg.	11320012
Legal Status	Listed on the NIAH Building Survey
Rating	Regional
Townland	Oldtown
Civil Parish	Clonmethan
Barony	Balrothery West
Original Use	Church/chapel
In Use As	Church/chapel
Date	1960–1965
Coordinates (ITM)	711760, 753857
Description	<p>Detached gable-fronted Roman Catholic church, built 1962, with seven-bay side elevation and apse to rear. Detached square profile bell tower.</p> <p>ROOF: Double pitched; green tiled overhang; cast-iron rainwater goods; timber barge boards; double pitched green tiled roof to bell tower; semi-circular hipped roof to rear.</p> <p>WALLS: Rock faced granite nap rendered plinth; nap rendered tower and pilasters.</p> <p>OPENINGS: Arched recess framed by engaged columns; round headed door with moulded plaster surround; panelled timber doors; arched windows with patent surrounds; stained glass.</p> <p>INTERIOR: Single cell interior; semi-circular apse; gallery over vestibule; arched stained glass windows; barrel vaulted compartmented ceiling; linoleum and timber floor.</p>
Source	<p>NIAH Building Survey [online]. Available at: https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11320012/oldtown-roman-catholic-church-oldtown-ba-w-by-oldtown</p>

NIAH Reg.	11320013
Legal Status	Listed on the NIAH Building Survey
Rating	Regional
Townland	Oldtown
Civil Parish	Clonmethan
Barony	Balrothery West
Original Use	Presbytery/parochial/curate's house
In Use As	Presbytery/parochial/curate's house
Date	1860–1880
Coordinates (ITM)	711690, 753930
Description	<p>Detached three-bay single-storey presbytery, c.1870, with uPVC gable-fronted projecting entrance porch. Flat-roofed extension to rear, c.1970. Detached three-bay single-storey outbuilding, c.1870 to rear.</p> <p>ROOF: U-shaped slate roof with terracotta tiled, red brick corniced chimney stacks with terracotta pots; double pitched uPVC glazed porch roof with decorative ridging and finial.</p> <p>WALLS: Rough cast rendered wall with nap rendered plinth course; nap rendered walls to porch.</p> <p>OPENINGS: Square headed openings with patent reveals; stone sills and uPVC casements; round headed door openings; uPVC door with patent reveals and probably original timber panelled door within porch.</p>
Source	<p>NIAH Building Survey [online]. Available at: https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/11320013/oldtown-presbytery-oldtown-ba-w-by-oldtown</p>

Appendix 4: Fingal Development Plan 2017–2023: Policy Objectives

Cultural Heritage	
Protection of the Archaeological Resource	
No.	Objective
CH03	Protect all archaeological sites and monuments, underwater archaeology, and archaeological objects, which are listed in the RMP and all sites and features of archaeological and historic interest discovered subsequent to the publication of the RMP, and to seek their preservation <i>in situ</i> (or at a minimum, preservation by record) through the planning process.
CH04	Encourage and promote the appropriate management and maintenance of the County's archaeological heritage, including historical burial grounds, in accordance with conservation principles and best practice guidelines.
Awareness and the Archaeological Resource	
No.	Objective
CH15	Raise public awareness of the cultural heritage and improve legibility by providing appropriate signage or interpretation in areas, sites, villages, and buildings of archaeological and historic significance.
CH16	Develop and implement the findings of the <i>Community Archaeology Strategy for Fingal</i> .
CH17	Support the growth of cultural tourism in the County, including the potential for niche heritage-based tourism products by facilitating the development of heritage events, infrastructure such as heritage trails, walkways and cycleways etc. and activities such as community excavation.
CH18	Manage the archaeological sites and monuments that Fingal County Council owns or is responsible for according to best practice and according to Conservation Plans where they exist.
Protected Structures	
No.	Policy
CH20	Ensure that any development, modification, alteration, or extension affecting a Protected Structure and/or its setting is sensitively sited and designed, is compatible with the special character, and is appropriate in terms of the proposed scale, mass, height, density, layout, materials, impact on architectural or historic features, and junction with the existing Protected Structure.
CH21	Seek that the form and structural integrity of the Protected Structure is retained in any re-development and that the relationship between the Protected Structure and any complex of adjoining buildings, designed landscape features, or designed views or vistas from or to the structure is conserved.
CH22	Encourage the sympathetic and appropriate reuse, rehabilitation and retention of Protected Structures and their grounds including public access seeking that the Protected Structure is conserved to a high standard, and the special interest, character and setting of the building preserved. In certain cases, the relaxation of site zoning restrictions may be considered in order to secure the preservation and conservation of the Protected Structure where the use proposed is compatible with the existing structure and this will only be permitted where the development is consistent with conservation policies and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.
CH27	Demonstrate best practice in relation to the management, care and maintenance of Protected Structures by continuing the programme of commissioning Conservation Plans for the principal heritage properties in the Council's ownership and implementing the policies and actions of these Conservation Plans where they already exist.

CH28	Carry out an audit and assess the condition of all Protected Structures within the Council's ownership and devise a management/maintenance plan for these structures.
CH29	Ensure that measures to up-grade the energy efficiency of Protected Structures and historic buildings are sensitive to traditional construction methods and materials and do not have a detrimental physical, aesthetic or visual impact on the structure. They should follow the principles and direction given in the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht's publication Energy Efficiency in Traditional Buildings.
Awareness of and Access to the Architectural Resource	
No.	Policy
CH49	Promote and enhance the understanding of the archaeological and architectural heritage of Fingal through the development of cultural tourism products, talks, exhibitions and publications.
CH50	Provide universal access to archaeological and architectural heritage sites where appropriate. Ensure the archaeological and architectural heritage significance of the site is taken into account when providing such access.

Natural Heritage

Biodiversity

No. Policy

NH03	Implement the Fingal Biodiversity Action Plan 2015 and any revisions thereof in partnership with all relevant stakeholders.
NH05	Raise awareness in relation to biodiversity across the community.

Ecological Corridors and Stepping Stones including Trees and Hedgerows

No. Policy

NH27	Protect existing woodlands, trees and hedgerows which are of amenity or biodiversity value and/or contribute to landscape character and ensure that proper provision is made for their protection and management.
NH28	Consider the use of Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) to protect important trees, groups of trees or woodlands.

Rural Fingal

Community Infrastructure

No. Policy

RF07	Preserve, protect and enhance the natural, built and cultural heritage features that form the basis of the attraction of Fingal's villages as places to live, work and visit.
RF15	Promote the tourism potential of Fingal's villages, including the coastal villages by facilitating their enhancement and the provision of visitor services and accommodation and encourage collaboration between service providers and co-operate with the relevant bodies in the marketing and promotion of tourism in the area.

Appendix 5: DRAFT Fingal Development Plan 2023–2029: Policies and Objectives

Heritage, Culture and Arts	
Archaeological Heritage	
No.	Policy
HCAP2	Recognise the importance of our archaeological resource and provide appropriate objectives to ensure its appropriate retention and recording.
HCAP3	Safeguard archaeological sites, monuments, objects and their settings listed in the RMP, SMR and any additional newly discovered archaeological remains.
HCAP6	Promote the tourism potential of Fingal's cultural heritage and improve legibility by providing guidance for appropriate interpretation in line with the <i>Fingal Heritage Signage and Trails Guidance</i> (2021).
HCAP7	Support community initiatives and projects regarding preservation, presentation and access to archaeological heritage and underwater cultural heritage, provided such are compatible with appropriate conservation policies and standards, having regard to the guidance and advice of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
No.	Objective
HCAO2	Protect all archaeological sites and monuments, underwater archaeology, and archaeological objects, which are listed in the Record of Monuments and Places and all sites and features of archaeological and historic interest discovered subsequent to the publication of the Record of Monuments and Places, and to seek their preservation in situ (or at a minimum, preservation by record) through the planning process.
HCAO3	Encourage and promote the appropriate management and maintenance of the County's archaeological heritage, including historical burial grounds, in accordance with conservation principles and best practice guidelines.
HCAO5	Support the implementation of the Community Monuments Fund in order to ensure the monitoring and adaptation of archaeological monuments and mitigate against damage caused by climate change.
HCAO6	Cooperate with other agencies in the investigation of climate change on archaeological sites and monuments and to develop suitable adaptation measures to strengthen resilience and reduce the vulnerability of archaeological heritage in line with the <i>National Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Built and Archaeological Heritage</i> (2019).
HCAO16	Manage the archaeological sites and monuments that Fingal County Council owns or is responsible for according to best practice and according to Conservation Plans where they exist.
HCAO17	Ensure the public dissemination of the findings of licenced archaeological activity in Fingal through the Dublin County Archaeological GIS project, publications, public lectures and events to promote awareness of, and access to, Fingal's archaeological inheritance and foster high quality community archaeology.
HCAO18	Raise public awareness of the cultural heritage and improve legibility by providing appropriate interpretation in areas, sites, villages, and buildings of archaeological and historic significance.
HCAO19	Continue to implement the findings of the Community Archaeology Strategy for Fingal.
HCAO20	Support the growth of cultural tourism in the County, including the potential for niche heritage-based tourism products by facilitating the development of heritage events, infrastructure such as heritage trails, walkways and cycleways etc. and activities such as community excavation.

HCAO21	Promote awareness and the appropriate adaptation of Ireland's built and archaeological heritage to deal with the effects of climate change.
Architectural Heritage	
No.	Policy
HCAP8	Ensure the conservation, management, protection and enhancement of the architectural heritage of Fingal through the designation of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas, the safeguarding of designed landscapes and historic gardens, and the recognition of structures and elements with no specific statutory designation that contribute positively to the vernacular, industrial, maritime or 20th century heritage of the County.
HCAP10	Continue to support and encourage the sympathetic and appropriate reuse, rehabilitation and retention of protected structures and historic buildings ensuring the special interest, character and setting of the building or structure is preserved.
HCAP11	Conserve and protect buildings, structures and sites of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest by adding or retaining them on the Record of Protected Structures or by designating groups of structures as Architectural Conservation Areas.
HCAP12	Ensure that direct or indirect interventions to Protected Structures or adjoining development affecting them are guided by architectural conservation principles so that they are sympathetic, sensitive and appropriate to the special interest, appearance, character, and setting of the Protected Structure and are sensitively scaled and designed.
HCAP16	Promote best conservation practice and encourage the use of appropriately qualified and experienced conservation professionals, contractors, and craft persons.
No.	Objective
HCAO28	Demonstrate best practice in relation to the management, care and maintenance of Protected Structures by continuing the programme of commissioning Conservation Plans for the principal heritage properties in the Council's ownership (several of which are also ACAs), implement the policies and actions of these Conservation Plans where they exist, and ensure the Plans are used by all sections of the Council to inform and direct the design of interventions within the heritage properties, both to buildings and landscapes.
HCAO29	Carry out an audit and assess the condition of all Protected Structures within the Council's ownership and pilot a management/maintenance plan as a template for these structures.
Climate Change and Heritage	
No.	Policy
HCAP29	Advance and support mechanisms through which the Council can develop resilience, adapt or mitigate the impact of Climate Change on the archaeological and built heritage of the County.
HCAP30	Co-operate with other agencies in the investigation of climate change on the fabric of historic buildings and traditional construction to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce the vulnerability of the built heritage.
No.	Objective
HCAO50	Utilise the data provided by the <i>Fingal Cultural Heritage and Climate Change Risk Assessment</i> (2021) to address or mitigate, where possible, the potential Climate Change impacts identified. Where managed loss is the most appropriate option to ensure the site or structure is fully recorded and the data retained by the Council.
HCAO51	Develop resilience and adaptation strategies for the built and archaeological heritage in the Council's ownership.

HCAO52	Pilot a disaster risk management plan for a Council owned heritage property to serve as a template for other historic buildings in the Council's ownership.
Access to the Heritage Resource	
No.	Objective
HCAO53	Promote the tourism potential of Fingal's cultural heritage and improve legibility by providing guidance for appropriate interpretation in line with the <i>Fingal Heritage Signage and Trails Guidance (2021)</i> .
HCAO54	Promote and enhance the understanding of the archaeological and architectural heritage of Fingal through the development of cultural tourism products, talks, exhibitions and publications. digital access through interactive maps, videos, virtual exhibitions, and podcasts.
HCAO56	Seek to work with all relevant stakeholders to promote equality of access to and engagement with arts and cultural services.
Cultural Infrastructure	
No.	Policy
HCAP32	Ensure that culture infrastructure is valued and protected as an integral part of the fabric of Fingal, in line with national and regional policy.
HCAP33	Support the growth and expansion of the many cultural resources within Fingal, particularly where proposals increase the opportunity for greater engagement with local communities, the young, the marginalised and people with disabilities.

Green Infrastructure and Natural Heritage

Biodiversity

No. Policy

GINHP5	Develop the Green Infrastructure network to ensure the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity, including the protection of European Sites, the provision of accessible parks, open spaces and recreational facilities (including allotments and community gardens), the sustainable management of water, the maintenance of landscape character including historic landscape character and the protection and enhancement of archaeological and heritage landscapes.
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No. Objective

GINHO5	Continue to support the provisions of the <i>National Pollinator Plan 2021–2025</i> through the management and monitoring of the County's pollinator protection sites and through the promotion of additional pollinator sites during the lifetime of this Development Plan.
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Archaeological and Heritage Landscapes

No. Policy

GINHP8	Protect, conserve and enhance landscape, natural, cultural and built heritage features, and support the implementation of the Fingal Heritage Plan in relation to the provision of Green Infrastructure.
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No. Objective

GINHO17	Protect, conserve and enhance landscape, natural, cultural and built heritage features, and support the objectives and actions of the Fingal Heritage Plan.
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Natural Heritage	
No.	Policy
GINHP11	Support the adoption and implementation of the <i>Fingal Biodiversity Action Plan</i> , implementation of the <i>National Biodiversity Action Plan (2017–2021)</i> and the <i>All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (2021–2025)</i> and any superseding plans.
GINHP13	Support the development of the Fingal Ecological Network in line with the Fingal Biodiversity Action Plan.
GINHP15	Promote the inclusion of swift, swallow, house martin, house sparrow, starling, bat and insect boxes and structure in and on building facades and develop a guidance document on how to incorporate these structures into buildings.
GINHP16	Promote and support rewilding and pollinator initiatives in Fingal.
No.	Objective
GINHO27	Support the National Parks and Wildlife Service, in the maintenance and achievement of favourable conservation status for the habitats and species in Fingal by taking full account of the requirements of the Habitats and Birds Directives, in the performance of its functions.
Ecological Corridors and Stepping Stones	
No.	Policy
GINHP20	Protect the ecological corridor function along rivers by including mammal ledges or tunnels in new bridges over any of the main rivers: Liffey, Tolka, Pinkeen, Mayne, Sluice, Ward, Broadmeadow, Ballyboghil, Corduff, Matt and Delvin. New bridge structures will also cater for Dipper boxes and Bats where possible. Where new road infrastructure crosses significant urban ecological corridors, tunnels shall be installed underneath the road to facilitate movement of small mammals and amphibians.
No.	Objective
GINHO41	Protect rivers, streams and other watercourses and maintain them in an open state capable of providing suitable habitat for fauna and flora, including fish.
Protection of Trees and Hedgerows	
No.	Policy
GINHP21	Protect existing woodlands, trees and hedgerows which are of amenity or biodiversity value and/or contribute to landscape character and ensure that proper provision is made for their protection and management.
GINHP22	Provide for appropriate protection of trees and hedgerows, recognising their value to our natural heritage, biodiversity and climate action and encourage tree planting in appropriate locations.
No.	Objective
GINHO44	Ensure adequate justification for tree removal and require documentation and recording of reason where felling is proposed and avoid removal of trees without adequate justification.
GINHO46	Review Tree Preservation Orders within the County and maintain the conservation value of trees and groups of trees that are the subject of any Tree Preservation Order.
GINHO47	Consider the use of Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) to protect important trees, groups of trees or woodlands.

Appendix 6: Oldtown Local Plan 2012–2017 (as extended): Objectives

Development Strategy for the Village: Objectives

Tourism

- Develop and maximise the tourism potential of Oldtown by facilitating the provision of visitor services and accommodation, the promotion of new environmentally sustainable tourism products and cooperation with the relevant bodies in the marketing and promotion of tourism in the area.

Environment

- Ensure that the natural heritage of the area is protected and enhanced.
- Promote and develop opportunities for biodiversity.
- Retain and protect significant trees, hedgerows, groups of trees and water courses within the LAP.
- To encourage and facilitate environmental improvements to the physical fabric of the village.

Heritage

- Protect the architectural and natural heritage of the village.
- Promote the conservation, enhancement, public access and enjoyment of the archaeological, natural and built heritage as important elements in the long-term economic development of the village.
- Promote the retention and sustainable reuse of existing vernacular buildings within the village.
- Maximise the accessibility of existing and proposed recreational amenities by developing a network of key cycle and pedestrian routes.

Sustainability

- Provide for a high-quality sustainable environment with a high degree of legibility and permeability for cyclists and pedestrians.

Green Infrastructure: Objectives

Landscape Character

- To minimise any visual impact of future development on the setting and visual quality of the local and surrounding landscape, any future developments within the village shall have strict regard to the principles for development regarding development in low lying areas as set out in the Landscape Character Assessment of the Fingal County Development Plan.
- Prohibit proposals necessitating the removal of extensive amounts of trees, hedgerows and stone walls.

Biodiversity

- Conserve, protect and enhance the important landscape features, such as the riverscape, stonewalls, hedgerows, trees/woodlands within the village and surrounding areas which form wildlife corridors and link habitats, providing the 'stepping stones' necessary for wildlife to flourish, while also protecting and enhancing surface water and groundwater resources in the area.
- Prohibit proposals necessitating the removal of extensive amounts of trees, hedgerows and stone walls.

Trees/Woodlands and Hedgerows

- To protect existing woodlands, trees and hedgerows which are of amenity or biodiversity value and/or contribute to landscape character, and ensure that proper provision is made for their protection and management in any future development proposals.
- Discourage the felling of mature trees to facilitate development, encourage tree surgery rather than felling, where possible.
- To ensure that any development, which impacts on a townland boundary, roadside hedgerows or hedgerows which form links with other habitats and form wildlife corridors, should first seek to retain or replace with native species. The overall goal should be to have no net loss of the tree and hedgerow resource.

Open Space and Recreation: Objectives

Open Space and Recreation

- Support cycling and walking groups and the local community in the development of possible way-marked walking and cycling routes in the surrounding area, both for the enjoyment of local people and as a possible attractor for visitors to the area, promoting local economic development.

Architectural Heritage: Objectives

Architectural Heritage

- To protect the archaeological heritage of the village and in particular, Recorded Monuments included in the RMP in accordance with the National Monuments Legislation 1930–2004 and to promote best practice in its conservation and management and to raise awareness and appreciation of this heritage for future generations.
- To protect as yet undiscovered archaeological sites or features that survive subsurface in accordance with the National Monuments Legislation, developers shall make provision to allow for and fund, whatever archaeological work may be needed on site if any remains are noted following topsoil removal. Any and all required additional archaeological investigations including monitoring during removal of topsoil and during construction phase, shall be carried out under licence and in consultation with the DECLG,⁹⁸ by a suitably qualified archaeologist under licence from the DECLG and the NMI, at the developer's expense.
- To review the NIAH as it relates to structures in Oldtown and consider their inclusion on the RPS, as a variation to the CDP.
- Promote the sympathetic maintenance, adaption and re-use of the historic building stock and encourage the retention of the original fabric such as windows, doors, wall renders, roof coverings, shopfronts, pub fronts and other significant features of historic buildings, whether protected or not.
- To preserve and enhance traditional village features such as village pumps and other significant items of street furniture, stonewalling, stone piers, boundary walls, iron/metal gates/railings, agricultural outbuildings and slate roofs.

Heritage Trail

- To promote and facilitate a heritage trail providing for a way marked route around the village and its environs in cooperation with the local community, incorporating the archaeological and historical heritage sites both within and nearby the village at Brownstown, Clonmethan and Leastown and onwards to Ballyboghil.
- To promote and facilitate a tourist information board illustrating the heritage trail and explanatory notes on the built/natural features of the village and surrounding area and to cooperate with tourism bodies in the provision of such signage at an appropriate location in the village.

⁹⁸ Now the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)

Appendix 7: Fingal Local Economic and Community Plan 2016–2020: Objectives and Actions

High-Level Goal G7: To Protect and enhance the environment and heritage of Fingal	
Objective	Actions
O28: To facilitate a coordinated approach to conservation and promotion and to the protection of local heritage and culture.	A84: Facilitate the implementation of the Fingal Heritage Plan.
	A85: Support local communities to audit and evaluate their local heritage and community cultural assets (including festivals and events) to publish the results of this work.
	A86: Develop and implement a Community Archaeology strategy for Fingal building on the Swords Castle: Digging History.
	A87: Support and mentor thematic groups in the area of group development, strategic planning and project management.
O29: To facilitate a coordinated approach to biodiversity conservation and nature education initiatives.	A88: Facilitate the implementation of the Fingal Biodiversity Action Plan
	A89: Develop demonstration sites to showcase how to combine nature conservation with existing land uses such as farmland, quarries, golf courses, reservoirs, parks, housing estates, industrial sites and gardens
High-Level Goal G8: To create distinct visitor attractions by sensitively optimising the natural assets of the county, and building an enterprise and community infrastructure to drive and expand visitor potential	
Objective	Actions
O31: Implement the Fingal Tourism Strategy 2015–2018 and any subsequent relevant plans to 2020, with specific reference to area specific initiatives.	A96: Develop themed trails such as cultural, heritage, food, coastal and wildlife linked to walking and cycling routes.

Appendix 8: Fingal Heritage Plan 2018–2023: Themes and Actions

Theme 1: Communicating our heritage to a wide audience	
No.	Action
2	Integrate a communication element into implementation of the Heritage Plan, which uses a range of traditional, digital and social media and other channels available to the Council such as libraries, community centres, parks and heritage properties, to target a range of audiences and encourage engagement with, and awareness of the value of our heritage.
3	Use the opportunities created by the Council's programme of public events to integrate a heritage element in such events, and to promote awareness and enjoyment of our heritage.
5	Collaborate and consult with existing networks such as the Fingal Heritage Network, Fingal Public Participation Network, Fingal Comhairle na nÓg, the Fingal Senior's Forum and local business, to develop and enhance channels for public engagement with heritage.
6	Explore ways to make all available research and data on Fingal's heritage widely available, through a range of media.
Theme 2: Caring for our heritage	
No.	Action
10	Support the collection of community histories from the people of Fingal, by local groups, as part of wider public engagement activity.
21	Support the care of important heritage sites in Fingal through the provision of best practice guidance to owners and/or managers.
22	Support owners of protected structures and owners of structures in Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) through the implementation of Government funding schemes (e.g. Built Heritage Investment Scheme, Structures at Risk Fund) and Fingal's Architectural Heritage Fund.
Theme 3: Increasing the level of community activity for heritage	
No.	Action
28	Support the work of local historical societies and heritage groups through the Fingal Heritage Network.
29	Have a multidisciplinary approach to supporting local communities, across all social, ethnic and age groups, in engaging with their local heritage. Trial and replicate successful models in consultation with local communities, aimed at achieving the following outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building capacity for local groups in managing local heritage through workshops and training events (e.g. Tidy Towns groups). • Supporting local communities in researching local heritage and publishing the results. • Providing small heritage grants to support local communities in managing heritage. • Providing clear guidance on funding streams for local heritage groups and how to access these. • Identifying a key point of contact/liaison in the Council for groups organising community heritage events. • Recognising the contribution of groups and individuals to heritage awareness and management in Fingal through the development of an awards scheme.
30	Work with a range of stakeholders including schools, youth groups, heritage organisations and heritage sites to support young people engaging with local heritage.
32	Use the calendar of international and national heritage days/weeks/years to promote heritage awareness and engagement in Fingal including Heritage Week, Culture Night, European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018, International Day for Monuments and Sites, Tree Week and Biodiversity Day.
33	Develop a broad and inclusive Commemorations Programme for Fingal.

Theme 4: Supporting the local economy**No. Action**

36	Support the sensitive and sustainable development of a network of walking and cycling routes to enhance access to the County's heritage, as set out in the Fingal Development Plan.
37	Support communities to develop local heritage trails, as part of an integrated county heritage trail programme.

Appendix 9: Fingal Biodiversity Action Plan 2010–2015: Actions and Objectives

Developing the Ecological Network		
No.	Action	Objective
17	Develop Barn Owl Conservation project with local farmers in Fingal.	Establish whereabouts of barn owl in the county and protect existing population by means of nest box scheme
51	Adapt where feasible, the management of graveyards and church grounds in Fingal for biodiversity.	To assess the existing management practices and see where a more wildlife friendly management regime can be implemented.
54	Set up a small-grant support scheme for habitat improvement works in the countryside.	To provide small amounts of funding to private landowners to carry out habitat improvement or creation works for target flora and fauna species on lands located within the ecological network. REPS farmers to be excluded.
Research and Monitoring		
No.	Action	
81	Carry out Countryside Mammal Survey.	To locate the most important sites and potentially important sites for mammals in the countryside.
82	Carry out Countryside Invertebrate Survey.	To locate the most important sites and potentially important sites for invertebrates in the countryside.

Appendix 10: DRAFT Fingal Community Archaeology Strategy 2019–2023: Objectives

Community Archaeology Strategy Objectives	
No.	Objective
1	Plan, programme and support high-quality, accessible community archaeology projects.
2	Identify in discussion with interested groups and in discussion with National Monuments Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, and the Heritage Council, a county-wide series of appropriate community archaeology projects.
3	Create a forum for community archaeology either as independent entity or part of the existing Heritage forum.
4	Promote collaboration between community-based groups through the Fingal Public Participation Network and initiatives with national institutions such as the National Museum of Ireland, Discovery Programme and higher education institutions.
5	Work with Fingal Arts Office to develop art projects in conjunction with archaeological sites, monuments and excavations as a means of engaging new audiences.
6	Support communities in their development of heritage trails and interpretative signage in accordance with best practice.
7	Explore options with landowners for the opening up of opportunities for community archaeology projects in relation to monuments in private ownership or for creating access for heritage trails.
8	Raise awareness of the existing resources for community archaeology, both web-based and research orientated, including the Local Studies Archive, Swords.
9	Develop interpretative resources for community and educational purposes and for heritage-based tourism products.
10	Continue dissemination of knowledge gained from community archaeology initiatives through publication, social media, talks and events for local and international audiences.
11	Raise awareness of lesser known non-invasive archaeological techniques by undertaking community geophysical survey and fieldwalking projects.
12	Develop projects that maximise opportunities to engage young people and new communities.
13	Provide opportunities for community participation in threat related projects such as recording the impact of climate change and erosion and application of appropriate building techniques.
14	Identify sources of funding to support community archaeology projects including opportunities within existing initiatives.
15	Continue to employ a Community Archaeologist in Fingal County Council to ensure the implementation of the objectives of this strategy.

Appendix 11: Extracts from the Irish Folklore Commission Schools' Collection

Townland	Clonmethan
School	Oldtown (Roll No. 7470)
Teacher	M. Ní Ruanaidhe
Extract Detail	<p>Local Place Names</p> <p>There is a field on Mr Baker's land in Malahow with a moate in it. There is a lone bush growing on the moate and under the tree there is a man in a bottle buried who used to torment another man by following him to his bedroom. It is supposed the man he followed played a fiddle under the tree and that night the ghost followed him in the door. It is also said that there is a queen buried under that same moate. There is also a field in Naptown Land called the drain field where a man was gored to death by a bull. He was going across the field when he was chased by the bull and he went into the drain to save himself, but the bull caught him before he got into the drain and killed him. Naul got its name from a cliff. There is a place in the Naul called the Roche and hundreds of tourists come every year to see it.</p> <p>There is a field called the turf field on my grandfather's farm. It is called the turf field because long ago turf was got there. There is a field at Clonmethon [Clonmethan] called the shamrock because a lot of shamrock was got there long ago.</p> <p>There is a field at the back of the Churchyard of the Grallagh called the rabbit field because there are a lot of rabbits in it. There is a field at West Curragh Naul called the quarry field because there is a quarry in it. There is a field beside Malahow called Arnott's field because a man named Arnott shot himself in it long ago.</p> <p>There is a hill near Kllmoon called Money Hill because money was found there long ago. There is a hill at Malahow called the furry hill because a lot of furze grow there.</p> <p>There is a tree near Naul called Brigid O'Neills tree because she was hung and put to death on it long ago. There is a stream at West Curragh called the Ding Dong because it makes noise like a ding dong of a bell. There is a field with very steep hollows at Grallagh called the bottoms.</p> <p>Miss Doyle has a field called the Willie Bush because there was a man killed in it and his name was Willie. She also has a field called the Church because the Church yard is in it. Mrs Shalvey has a field called the Cross Meadow because it is at Browne's Cross.</p> <p>There is a field in Oldtown belonging to Miss Griffin called the dead man's field because a man was killed there long ago.</p>
Reference	The Schools' Collection, Vol. 0787, pp.33.
Source	Dúchas Archive [online]. Available at: https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4428183/4384508/4434556

Townland	Clonmethan
School	Oldtown (Roll No. 7470)
Teacher	M. Ní Ruanaidhe
Extract Detail	My Home District

Townland	Clonmethan
School	Oldtown (Roll No. 7470)
	<p>Clonmethan is the name of my Townland. It is half a mile from Oldtown. There are four villages in the parish, Oldtown, Rolestown, Garristown and Ballamadun. There are about forty-six families in Oldtown and there is about thirty thousand people in the whole parish. Rooney's is the family name in the parish of Oldtown. There are very few thatched houses in the parish they are nearly all slated houses.</p> <p>The oldest person in Oldtown is Mrs Kate Monahan. She is eighty-six, Kit Shalvey is the next oldest he is eighty-one. They do not know any Irish. There are a great many old houses in ruins now. My Grandmother Mrs Ellen O Connor lived in Wespalstown house and she left it to go to live in Clontarf and when she came back it was all in ruins.</p> <p>There are two rivers in this district Fieldstown river and Oldtown river. Fieldstown river is full of fish it runs through Rolestown, the broad meadow river and it comes out to the sea at a place called Seatown near Malahide. Oldtown river runs through Oldtown.</p>
Reference	The Schools' Collection, Vol. 0787, pp.49–50.
Source	Dúchas Archive [online]. Available at: https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4428183/4384594/4434581

Townland	Oldtown
School	Oldtown (Roll No. 7470)
Teacher	M. Ní Ruanaidhe
Extract Detail	<p>The Local Forge</p> <p>There are four forges in this parish. There is one in Garristown, one in Adamstown, one in Baldwinstown, and one in Oldtown. A man of the name of Brown used to work the forge in Oldtown. Then he went to Garristown, and set up a forge there. There used to be a forge at Nag's head, and people called Donnelly's used to work the forge there. Then it was sold and Michael Donnelly who was a native of Nag's Head came to Oldtown and did the work of the here. He is the smith in Oldtown at present.</p> <p>The forge is built beside a river. It has a felt roof with tar put on it and sand thrown over the tar. There are two big half-doors on it. There is one fireplace in the forge. It has a large bellows with a long handle.</p> <p>The implements he used are a hammer, a chisel, a rasp, a pliers, a sledge and an anvil. The smith shoes horses. He is very strong. If there were any farm implements broken he mends them. This work is done in the open air. Forge water is good for curing chilblains.</p> <p>The forge in Garristown owned by Mr Brown, is situated right on the hill going into the village. It is very old. The forge in Baldwinstown is about a half mile from Garristown. It is beside a crossroads. It is owned by Mr Murphy. He always two or three men to help. He also works himself and is a great blacksmith.</p> <p>There used to be an old forge beside the Murragh. the smith's name was Boylan. There they all died out, there are few little hills where the forge was.</p>
Reference	The Schools' Collection, Vol. 0787, pp.61–62.
Source	Dúchas Archive [online]. Available at: https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4428183/4384608

Townland	Leestown
School	Oldtown (Roll No. 7470)
Collector/Informant	M. Ní Ruanaidhe
Extract Detail	<p>Fairy Forts</p> <p>There is a moat in Mr Wards land in Leestown. It is on the top of a hill. It is covered with nettles and trees grow all around it. No one has ever tried to cut down the trees.</p> <p>There is a lone bush growing in the middle of a field near Naul. One day a man cut it down and a Spirit appeared to him and told him that before night he would be dead. That night he was found dead beside the bush.</p> <p>There is another lone bush growing in a field near Swords and fairies are supposed to be seen there every night.</p> <p>There is a moat near Swords and it is covered with trees. A man tried to cut down the trees and he never was heard of any more.</p> <p>There is a fairy fort near the district of this school. It is a moat surrounded by trees and fairies are supposed to be seen there. No one ever goes near it for it is said that something will happen to them if they do. It is said that the fairies will haunt them or that they will die before the month is out.</p> <p>It is also said that if anyone passes by there late at night they are supposed to see a light and that light is supposed to be Will O the Wisp and it is said to put a person astray.</p> <p>There is another fairy fort at Bakers of Mallahow. It is a very small one. The field belongs to Mr Bakers. There is a lot of trees growing on top of it.</p> <p>There is also a big one in Knocksedan. It belongs to Usher, the horse trainer. There is supposed to be a chest of gold buried in it, and it supposed to be minded by the fairies.</p> <p>There are also fairies in Knockbrack. One night, a boy was herding sheep and he heard them kicking football. There is supposed to be a fairy fort at the back of a tree near Naul. The whole place beside the tree is covered with nettles and weeds and big puck mushrooms. It is said that there are fairies to be seen beside the tree every night.</p> <p>There is a lone thorn tree growing on a lane and it was supposed to be unlucky to cut it. One day a man named Coleman cut it. That evening his leg began paining him, and it was paining him so much, that he had to be brought to hospital and he got the leg cut off.</p> <p>A light is often seen at a place called Fieldstown near Rowlestown. There is supposed to be a fairy fort there also.</p>
Reference	The Schools' Collection, Vol. 0787, pp.42–43.
Source	Dúchas Archive [online]. Available at: https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4428183/4384587/4434572

Appendix 12: Stakeholder Group

Surname	Forename	Position	Organisation/Company
Anderson	Andy	Member	Select Vestry Committee
Baker	Christine	Fingal County Council Heritage Officer	Fingal County Council
Bergin	Helena	Architectural Conservation Officer	Fingal County Council
Doyle	Eamon	Structural Engineer	Eamon Doyle Associates
Fitzsimons	Gerald	Chairperson	Friends of Clonmethan
Flynn	Billy	Ecologist	Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants
Goodwin	Roy	Arborist	Goodwin Arborist
Hughes	Joanne	EIA Manager	Archaeological Management Solutions
Kavanagh	Hugh	Surveyor	Archaeological Management Solutions
Nolan	Dermot	Conservation Architect (Grade 2)	Sheridan Woods Nolan, Architects & Urban Planners
Phair	Reverend Neal	Vice Chairperson	Friends of Clonmethan
Quinn	Professor Martin	Treasurer	Friends of Clonmethan
Rice	Kim	Archaeologist	Archaeological Management Solutions
Rooney	Peter	Member	Friends of Clonmethan
Shine	Linda	Archaeologist	National Monuments Service

Appendix 13: Potential Notification, Licence and Consent Requirements

Cultural Heritage Type	Potential Licence and Consent Requirements	Programming Requirements
Works at or in relation to a Recorded Monument or Registered Monument	<p>Notification to the Minister under Section 12(3) of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994 (Recorded Monument) and Section 5(8) of National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1987 (Register of Historic Monuments)</p> <p>Section 26 Archaeological Licence</p> <p>Where relevant Section 3 Underwater Dive/Survey Licence</p> <p>Where relevant Section 2 Detection Device Licence (for Metal Detection or Geophysical Surveys)</p>	<p>Notification form must be completed and submitted to the NMS at least 2 months before any work is carried out at Recorded Monument (listed on RMP) or Registered Monument (listed on RHM)</p> <p>Allow minimum 4 weeks for processing and issue of Section 26 Archaeological Licence, and where relevant for Section 3 Underwater Dive/Survey Licence and Section 2 Detection Device Licence</p>
Works at or in proximity to a National Monument	Section 14 Ministerial Consent	Allow minimum 6 weeks for processing and issue of Consent in advance of development
Site listed in the SMR	<p>Section 26 Archaeological Licence</p> <p>Where relevant Section 3 Underwater Dive/Survey Licence</p> <p>Where relevant Section 2 Detection Device Licence (for Metal Detection or Geophysical Surveys)</p>	Allow minimum 4 weeks for processing and issue of Section 26 Archaeological Licence, and where relevant for Section 3 Underwater Dive/Survey Licence and Section 2 Detection Device Licence
Protected Structure	<p>May be subject to Section 14 Ministerial Consent (where/if also considered a national monument in the ownership/guardianship of the local authority) or Section 26 Archaeological Licence</p> <p>May be subject to Section 5 Exempted Development Declaration, or planning permission</p> <p>May be subject to Section 57 Declaration</p>	<p>Allow minimum 6 weeks for processing and issue of Consent in advance of development; allow minimum 4 weeks for processing and issue of Section 26 Archaeological Licence</p> <p>Allow sufficient time for reporting and preparation of information to support Section 5 and/or Section 57 application detail</p>
Site listed in the NIAH Building Survey	May be subject to Section 14 Ministerial Consent or Section 26 Archaeological Licence (where/if also considered a national monument in the ownership/guardianship of the local authority or where also included/protected on a statutory list)	Allow minimum 6 weeks for processing and issue of Consent in advance of development (if required); allow minimum 4 weeks for processing and issue of Section 26 Archaeological Licence

Cultural Heritage Type	Potential Licence and Consent Requirements	Programming Requirements
Undesignated Cultural Heritage Site	May be subject to Section 26 Archaeological Licence. May be subject to Section 3 Underwater Dive/Survey Licence. May be subject to Section 2 Detection Device Licence (for Metal Detection or Geophysical Surveys)	Allow minimum 4 weeks for processing and issue of Section 26 Archaeological Licence, Section 3 Underwater Dive/Survey Licence and Section 2 Detection Device Licence

REPORT

ST. MARY' SCHURCH OF IRELAND, CLONMETHAN, OLDTOWN, CO. DUBLIN



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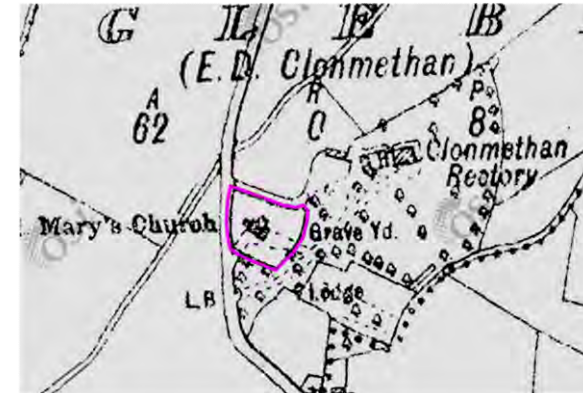
1. INTRODUCTION, BACKGROUND.

- 1.1 I am engaged by a committee of (volunteering) local resident to evaluate the above property, in heritage terms, in the context of certain conservation works which are proposed to be carried out. The report also seeks to investigate whether such works may be grant-aided.
- 1.2 St. Mary's is a detached church building dating from the early nineteenth century, which is typical of the buildings financed by the Board of First Fruits. It is in a ruinous state and has not been in use active since the 1960s, though there have been further burials within the grounds in more recent times.
- 1.3 Clonmethan is a townland, comprising little more than a collection of houses and farm buildings; the nearest town is Oldtown. St. Mary's is thus located in a very rural setting.
- 1.4 Associated with it are (a) a burial ground (which surrounds the building) and (b) a glebe house, located to the north east.

The building is listed in the R.P.S. of F.C.C., no. 0146

It is noted in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (Reg. no. 11320004) as being of Artistic, Architectural and Social interest and is rated of Regional importance.

- 1.5 It is built on the site of an earlier church which feature in the archaeological records (DU007-006001) thus: *"The present St. Mary's Church of Ireland (1818) occupies the site of medieval parish church of Clonmethan. It is located E of road NW of Oldtown village. Described as 'out of repair' in the Civil survey (1654-6) ... "*
- 1.6 The curtilage also features in the archaeological records (DU007-006002), thus; *"This is a relatively large walled graveyard on the W end of a ridge with unobstructed views to the W but is restricted elsewhere. The interior is raised to the level of the wall (H 2.60m) and higher except in the N where there is no perimeter wall (H 1.70m). It encloses St. Mary's Church of Ireland (1818) which is on the site of an earlier foundation (DU007-006001-). There is a mature tree to the E of the church. Grave markers date from 18th century to modern. The earliest is dated to 1754. Previously surveyed by Egan. An access path in the S has cut into grave deposits (D 1.7m). Still in use."*



PIC. 1; O.S.MAP (1840)



PIC. 2; O.S.MAP (1910)



PIC.3; APPROACH FROM SOUTH

2. SETTING & DESCRIPTION.

2.1 This is a single-storey, 3-bay (plus tower) structure, built c. 1815, located near the settlement of Clonmethan. It has a square tower at its western end, complete with stone pinnacles in each corner, and a small single-storey vestry on its northern side.

It is located close to the road (to its east side), towards the western end of a sizeable (c. 2,700 sq. m) burial ground. The church, and the elevated ground of the graveyard, are c. 2 metres higher than the roadway; they are contained by a stone retaining wall along the road edge,

2.2 The vehicular entrance is located at its south-western corner. This is neatly formed, defined by iron gates and piers and is approached by a ramped entrance, splayed from the road. There is a pedestrian pathway connecting the church to the driveway of the glebe house, which is located c. 120 metres to the north-east.

2.3 The immediate grounds of the church, and its relationship to the glebe, are unchanged from that of 200 years ago. There are mature trees in the burial ground (including one very large one near the north-east corner of the building), and to the main roadway, which runs in a north-south direction.

The burial grounds are bounded by stone walls, except to the north, where there is a dense planted boundary.

2.4 The building is unseen as one approaches on the road from the north or south, until one is almost upon it. One imagines it must have made quite an impression on passers by when there were so many fewer buildings in the vicinity.

2.5 The building itself is unextraordinary. A rubble stone building externally, its walls are lined internally, except for the un-lined tower, with brick (of irregular bond, with many "headers" in evidence). The stone is generally limestone.

2.6 Windows and external doors have pointed arches, formed in brick. Internally, the opening from vestry to nave is supported with a flat timber lintol (missing).

All external opes, except at upper levels of the tower, have been blocked up.



PIC. 4: AS SEEN FROM ROAD (LOOKING NORTH).



PIC. 5: FROM WITHIN BURIAL GROUND (LOOKING SOUTH).



PIC.6; TREE NEAR NORTH-WEST CORNER

2.7 There is a projecting stone coping at the eaves, which is carried around the tower as a string course.

The tower is topped with a crenelated parapet, tapering stone pinnacles in each corner.

2.8 Sills are generally of stone; it was noted, however, that the window to the vestry was of render over projecting brickwork, which was supported on iron cramps.

2.9 It was rendered externally, with a “harling”-type material, except for the (projecting) quoins of the tower, which, though not ashlar, were of a more regularly dressed stone. These elements have been repointed, apparently with a cement-rich mortar,

Most of this external rendering is lost, much of it simply having fallen off.

2.10 Internally, the building was lime rendered, with possible exception of the upper level of the tower, which appears to have been unrendered, and the lower section of walling in the church body, which was most probably of timber wainscot panelling.

Interestingly, the internal render consisted of a lime plaster on horizontal laths on vertical battens on a “levelling” coat of lime plaster applied over the original brickwork.

Vestiges of external and internal render remain.

2.11 Roof of the tower could not be examined closely, due to lack of access. It appears to be of slate on battens on timber rafters, set behind a parapet.

The roofs of the nave, and vestry, have been entirely lost.

2.12 The floor has been lost, except in the tower. There are some fragments of sandstone-like material stacked against walls internally, which appear to have been employed as flooring.

2.13 In the grounds, headstones were in abundance. These were of stone, many with low iron rails as borders, mounted on stone plinths.

2.14 A metal seat had been recently fitted near the base of the tower, and the tower had recently been floodlit.



PIC.7; TOP OF TOWER.



PIC.8; TOP OF EAST GABLE.



PIC. 9; INTERIOR, LOOKING WEST.

3. CHARACTER & CONDITION.

3.1 The character of the building comes from (a) its understated, but most agreeable, setting on this stretch of well-traversed road in North County Dublin, (b) the interesting (but far from unique) form and structure, (c) its still extant relationship to the Glebe house and (d) the story of its use, terminating in its current disuse, over the years.

3.2 It is rightly termed a ruin (being roofless and open to the elements), but has much to offer for those interested in historic building,, students of history & heritage and the curious and well-intentioned amateur.

3.3 It is in poor/ruinous condition, with following defects noted:

BODY OF CHURCH.

3.3.1 All vestiges of the roof, including structural timbers, are lost.

3.3.2 Walls have good alignment (not leaning or sagging), but with significant movement having resulted in large vertical cracks, particularly in the south wall.

Walls have been capped with a layer of in-situ concrete poured over top of walls

External render mostly lost.

There was significant ivy growth on wall (including the tower). This seems to have been (at least partially) killed and cut back; this work may be incomplete.

Fragments only of internal render remaining. Lower parts of the walls generally have no traces of render applied; finish here (presumed panelling; see 2.10 above) is lost. There are voids in brickwork which are probably where grounds were inserted to fix the panelling.

The lintol to opening from vestry to nave is missing; this is presumably have resulted from decay.

3.3.3 All internal features have been lost.



PIC.10; INTERNAL RENDER REMNANTS.



PICS 11 & 12; CRACKING IN MASONRY WALLS.

3.3.4 Floors were lost; some (apparently) remaining fragments of stone flooring – were stacked vertically against walls.

The remains of several cut-down trees were evident in the church body and tower.

TOWER.

3.3.5 Roof poor; in need of repair or (more likely) replacement.

3.3.6 Walls sound, generally true, but with dislodged stonework and (apparently) unstable pinnacles.

3.3.7 External render mostly lost.

Most of internal render remaining.

3.3.8 Ground floors intact: first floor substantially lost; timbers badly decayed.

GROUNDS.

3.3.10 The west-facing boundary wall (facing the road – shows signs of outward movement of perimeter walls.

3.3.11 A path seems to have been formed parallel to the south wall, possibly leading to the disruption of some graves.

4. PROPOSAL.

4.1 If only the tower (arguably its most striking and prominent feature) were conserved and/or restored to some degree, it would represent a worthwhile contribution to the heritage of Fingal.

However, the main body of the church must also be protected from endangerment; if not restored; in doing so, its status as a ruin is noted.

4.2 An additional justification for the conservation of the nave is that it probably provides a significant degree of lateral structural support to the tower. If the two are not at present structurally engaged, there is an opportunity to do so now.



PIC.13; CONCRETE TOPPING TO STONE WALLS.



PIC.14; CEMENTITIOUS COATING TO BRICK SILL; IRON CRAMP.



PIC.15; FIRST STAGE, VIEWED FROM BELOW

Accordingly, I propose the following works:

TOWER.

4.3 Roof & floor:

- 4.3.1 Make good by removal of section of rotten timber from rafters and splicing new members or replacing of timbers which are considered unsalvageable.
- 4.3.2 Re-fix (or, where lost, replace with like) slating, on battens on felt. There is no need, obviously, for insulation, or lining.
- 4.3.3 Replace (presumably lead) valley gutters on boarding. Ensure soundness of rainwater goods (hopper & downpipe); discharge clear of walls to existing gullies.
- 4.3.4 Make good mid-stage floor, trimmed for trapdoor; save timbers where possible. Fix to perimeter walls with proprietary fittings.

4.4 Walls.

- 4.4.1 Remove all invasive growth. Note: ivy is to be removed over a period of time; aggressive removal may damage the structure.
- 4.4.2 Check walls for adhesion of render; remove and protect any render considered to be well-adhered; save sample of render for future sampling. After carrying out masonry repair and stitching, re-render as existing.
- 4.4.3 Remove pinnacles; re-fit to later instruction, following removal of ivy & repairs to walls.
- 4.4.4 Re-fit individual stones which has been displaced or dislodged; bed in place.
- 4.4.5 Render walls with identical lime-based “harling” material.

NAVE & VESTRY.

4.5 Walls



PIC. 16; (LOOKING THROUGH DECAYED FLOOR) LEAKING ROOF.



PIC. 17; LINTOL MISSING (OPE; VESTRY TO NAVE).



PIC. 18; FRAGMENTS OF FLOOR FLAGS?

- 4.5.1 Remove all invasive growth. Note: ivy is to be removed over a period of time, as aggressive removal may damage the structure.
- 4.5.2 Engineer to check cracking referred to at 3.3.2 above. Cracks to be secured by “stitching” and re-bedding of stone.
- 4.5.3 Consideration should be given (subject to Engineer’s advice) to (a) physically connecting the fabric of nave and tower (b) provide of diagonal bracing to walls of church at corners and (c) making good to pointing of church body, if. It is not being rendered.
- 4.5.4 The missing/defective lintol between vestry and nave should be reinstated. In the immediate term, masonry over should be propped.
- 4.5.5 Tops of walling, which is capped with concrete(see) should be further protected by the application of a suitable waterproof membrane, finished with a “drip” detail.

ONGOING INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE .

- 4.6 The works already carried out are indicative of the good will that exists in the community towards this building. These include (a) removal of invasive vegetation, (b) topping of walls and building up opes, (c) floodlighting of the tower (d) insertion of a seat, (e) painting of gate and (f) provision of a headstone on the (re-interred) remains of a former rector of St. Mary’s.

It is recommended that this concern should be amplified by ongoing inspection of (the entire) structure and the rectification of any defects that may arise. Appropriate professional Conservation-oriented advice should be sought in all instances

- 4.7 It is appreciated that much of these works may be eligible of partial funding. Every effort should be made to make use of available grants and, by harnessing such good will, raising the required funds.

GROUNDS.

- 4.8 This report does not address the condition of the grounds, as this is intrinsically linked with archaeological matters; the appropriate advice should be sought.



PIC. 19; GRAVE OF REV. F. H. ALDHOUSE.



PIC. 20; RECENTLY-INSTALLED SEAT AT BASE OF TOWER..

5. RESEARCH, RECORDING & METHODOLOGY.

5.1 In considering these completed works, the recommendations contained in the following specific publications have been noted:

- “Architectural Heritage Protection (Guidelines for Planning Authorities)”
- “Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023”, specifically Section 10
- The “Advice Series”, specifically “Ruins”.

5.2 The photographs included above, and the many others which are retained for record purposes, were taken on 12th November 2014.



Dermot Nolan, Dip. Arch., FRIAI, Architect accredited in Conservation (Grade 2)

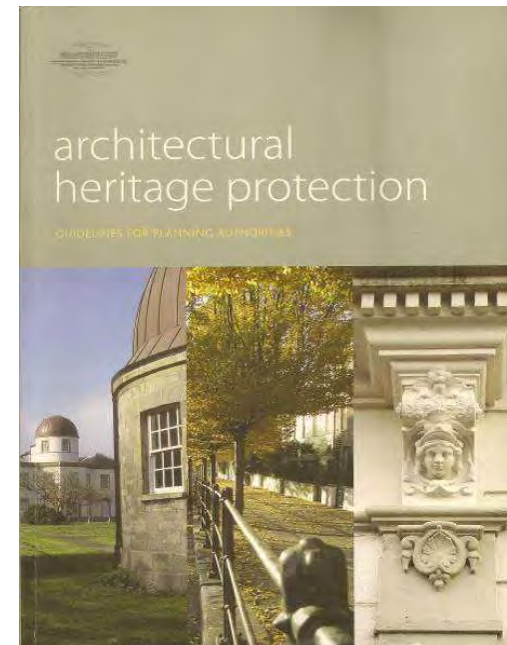
November 2020

The author is a practicing Architect, qualified since 1975, RIAI member since 1982, and principal of Dixon McGaver Nolan. In 2003, He completed the RIAI course leading to accreditation (Grade 3) in conservation. In 2010, he was assessed by an RIAI Board, leading to Grade 2 accreditation.

Dermot Nolan has extensive experience in conservation and has been the principal architect involved in such projects on listed buildings/protected structures as:

- Refurbishment and renovation of 33 Parnell Square, Dublin (18th Century) for Comhar Linn Credit Union
- Renovation and refurbishment of 19 Kildare St., Dublin (18th Century) for Mitchell & Son
- Alterations & refurbishment of The Temperance Hall, Longford (1905) for the Parish of St Michael
- Conservation and repair of metal railings and stone plinths to front of nos. 34 to 39 Parnell Square for the I.N.T.O.
- Structural works to roof and provision for disabled access at Church of the Holy Name, Beechwood Avenue, Ranelagh, Dublin (1914)
- Conservation & restoration of perimeter walls, “Gandon Gate” and lodges, Carriglas Manor, Co. Longford.
- Measured, Photographic & Condition survey of Gandon yards & Manor House; various Enabling and Temporary works at Carriglas,

He has given Conservation advice to Castlebar Urban District Council on planning applications for protected structures and has prepared a number of Section 57 Declarations for that Authority.







7



8



9



10



11



12









711090
784810

Boundary edge
not accessible



22

23

R
O
A
D
W
A
Y

5

7

26

6

8

10

9

11

Beech Tree
trunk = Ø 1.6m
spread = Ø 20m
height = Ø 25m

St. Mary's
Church

74m

74.5m

73.5m

74m

75m

74.5m

74m

74m

73.5m

74m

Pedestrian
Gate

2

Main
Entrance
Gate

24

19

1

27

21

20

15

18

74.6m

16

14

13

17

12

29

28

711090
784800

711175
784800

POSITION FROM WHICH PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN
(SITE & IMMEDIATE SURROUNDINGS)

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PROPOSED CONSERVATION WORKS TO ST. MARY'S CHURCH
OF IRELAND, CLONMETHAN, OLDTOWN, CO. DUBLIN.

SCALE: N.T.S.
DRAWN BY: D. NOLAN
DATE: OCT. 2022
REVISED:

DRAWING NO.
C20/10-707



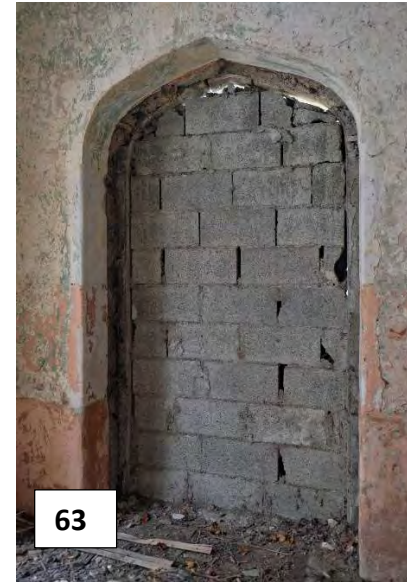






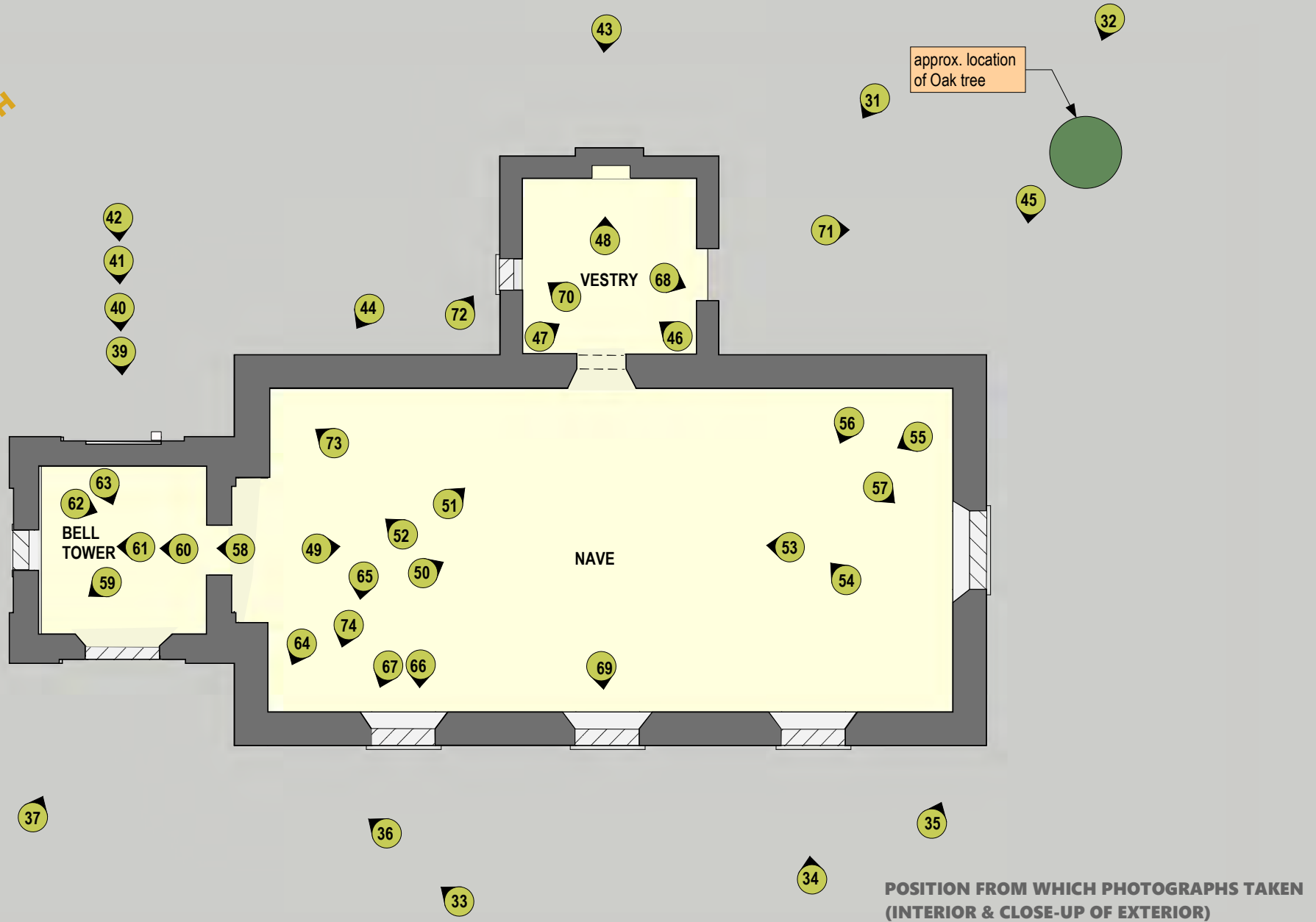












DERMOT NOLAN CONSERVATION ARCHITECT
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**PROPOSED CONSERVATION WORKS TO ST. MARY'S CHURCH
OF IRELAND, CLONMETHAN, OLDTOWN, CO. DUBLIN.**

SCALE: 1:100
DRAWN BY: D. NOLAN
DATE: OCT. 2022
REVISED:

DRAWING NO.

C20/10-708

INSPECTION REPORT

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

CLONMETHAN

OLDTOWN

CO. DUBLIN

DATE: 26th OCTOBER, 2022

Inspection Report: St. Mary's Church, Clonmethan, Oldtown, Co. Dublin.

Date: 26th October, 2022

1. Introduction.

1.1 At the request of The Friends of Clonmethan Committee, the above Church was visited on Thursday 20th inst. in the company of Mr. Dermot Nolan, Conservation Architect. The purpose of the visit was to carry out a visual superficial structural inspection of the partially ruined Church and to prepare a report on the findings of this inspection.

1.2 As stated above, the inspection of this Church was of a visual superficial nature. It is noted that no exploratory investigative opening-up works were carried out at this time. Therefore, this report cannot take account of any part of the structure covered up and/or not readily accessible for visual inspection. This report cannot be construed to guarantee a soundly constructed building free from flaws and defects other than those noted in this report.

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1.3 The church building, which was built circa. 1800, is comprised of a Vestry on the northern elevation, a Nave and a Bell Tower. As stated above, the Church is partially ruined with no roof over the Nave and no ground floor throughout. The roof of the Bell Tower is in poor condition and the First Stage Floor (ringing platform) is effectively missing. The walls of the church are constructed in stone with a brick inner lining leaf and brick surrounds to the window and door openings.

2. **Inspection Notes (Internal).**

2.1 **North Elevation.**

2.1.1 There is full height vertical cracking at the north-west internal corner. See Photograph No.1. It is recommended that the remaining remnants of ivy be removed in full at this corner. The active ivy should be treated with an appropriate herbicide and allowed to die off and dry out fully before removal takes place. The masonry coursing at this corner will need to be examined to establish whether the corner can be strapped or tied.

2.1.2 There is hairline cracking above the top left-hand corner of the door to the Vestry. There is also vertical cracking above the door opening. See Photograph No.2. This cracking is, most likely, associated with failure of the original lintels above this door. The original lintels consisted of timber planks which have completely perished. The masonry is currently propped. The installation of new lintels will be required in order to stabilise the existing structure at this door opening.

2.1.3 All vegetation should be cleared from around the structure. See Photograph No.3. The upper courses of brickwork will need to be raked out and repointed.

2.1.4 There is a full height crack above the top left-hand side of the fireplace within the Vestry. See Photograph No.4. Stitching of this crack with a proprietary crack stitching product (eg. Helibar) in addition to repointing of the brickwork is recommended.

2.1.5 The vertical crack above the door to the Nave is also visible on this side of the wall. See Photograph No.5.

2.1.6 The timber lintel above the window on the west wall of the Vestry is badly degraded and will need to be replaced. See Photograph No.6.

2.2 **South Elevation.**

2.2.1 There is significant cracking above the right-hand side window opening, adjacent to the south-east corner. The cracking is estimated to be in the order of 40mm in width in places. See Photographs No.7 & No.8. Considerable movement has taken place at this location and significant remedial works may be required in order to stabilise the structure at this window opening. It is possible that settlement at the south-east corner of the Nave is the source of this cracking. In the short term, we recommend that the masonry arch be propped in order to safeguard same.

- 2.2.2 There is cracking at the left-hand side window (adjacent to south-east corner). See Photograph No. 9. There is diagonal cracking visible in the brickwork at this corner. See Photograph No.10. This cracking is, most likely, associated with settlement at the south-east rear corner of the Nave. Remedial works will include the removal of all ivy growth, stitching of cracks, repointing of brickwork and possible underpinning of the rear corner of the Church.

2.3 East Elevation.

- 2.3.1 This end gable wall appeared to be in relatively good condition. See Photograph No.11. The brickwork at the top section of the wall will need to be raked out and repointed.
- 2.3.2 The walls of the Nave have been capped with an in-situ concrete capping. This capping will have provided essential protection to the tops of the walls in preventing water from penetrating into the fabric of the wall. As the concrete now appears to be quite weathered, it is recommended that the existing capping be sealed with a layer of torch-on felt membrane in order to extend the level of protection along these walls for the medium term.

2.4 West Elevation.

- 2.4.1 There is hairline vertical cracking at the top of the access door to the Bell Tower. See Photograph No.12.
- 2.4.2 It is recommended that the ivy growth be removed from this elevation, including the Bell Tower.
- 2.4.3 The brickwork at the upper section of the Nave wall will need to be repointed and built up in places. See Photograph No.12.
- 2.4.4 The stone masonry of the upper section of the Bell Tower will need to be repointed.
- 2.4.5 There is vertical cracking above the window opening in the western elevation of the Bell Tower. See Photograph No.13. This cracking will, most likely, need to be stitched in order to locally stabilise the structure at this location.
- 2.4.6 The Level 1 Stage floor consists of timber boarding on timber floor joists. This floor is in very poor condition overall. See Photograph No.14. Given the current condition of this floor, we recommend that the remnants of the floor be taken down in the interest of health and safety.

- 2.4.7 The roof of the Bell Tower is also in poor condition overall, with missing slates, etc. Maintaining the Bell Tower in as dry a condition as possible is an essential element of preserving the integrity of same. Therefore, notwithstanding the longer term plans for the Church, we recommend that the Bell Tower roof be reinstated in full or, at least, made watertight for the medium term.

3.0 Inspection Notes (External).

3.1 East Elevation.

- 3.1.1 The east elevation end gable wall appeared to be in reasonable condition overall. See Photograph No.15.

3.2 South Elevation.

- 3.2.1 Overall, the south elevation appeared to be in reasonable condition. See Photograph No.16. The cracking outlined above in Item 2.2.2 (right hand side window) is not visible externally.
- 3.2.2 The cracking at the window opening outlined in Item 2.2.1 above (left hand side) is visible externally. See Photograph No.17. There is also cracking at the bottom left-hand corner of the window. See Photograph No.18. A gap has opened between the left side window reveal and the infill blockwork. See Photograph No.19. This gap, coupled with the cracking at the top of this window, may indicate that movement at the south-west corner of the Nave is ongoing. The remnants of a large tree/shrub are visible adjacent to this corner. It is possible that the killing of this tree/shrub and the subsequent shrinkage of the roots has led to settlement of the structure at this corner. It is possible that underpinning of the wall will be required at this corner in order to stabilise same.
- 3.2.3 The Bell Tower appears to be in reasonable condition overall. See Photograph No.20. The stonework at the top section of the Bell Tower is in need of repointing.
- 3.2.4 The infill masonry in the Bell Tower door opening has shifted outwards. This infill panel will need to be propped in order to stabilise same or be rebuilt.

3.3 North Elevation.

- 3.3.1 The Bell Tower appears to be in reasonable condition overall. The stonework at the top section of the Bell Tower is in need of repointing.

3.4 West Elevation.

- 3.4.1 Overall, this elevation appeared to be in reasonable condition. The Bell Tower appears to be in reasonable condition overall. See Photograph No.21.
- 3.4.2 Please refer to Item 2.4.7 above with regard to the sealing of the roof of the Bell Tower.
- 3.4.3 It is reported by the Committee that a visual inspection of the upper sections of the Bell Tower was carried out from a Hoist. It is reported that the stone at the upper section of the Bell Tower is in poor condition and that the cappings and pinnacles can be moved by slight hand pressure. The stonework at the top section of the Bell Tower will need to be repointed. The cappings and pinnacles will need to be reset in place. In addition to this, all loose or dislodged masonry will need to be reset and bedded.

3.5 Entrance Wall & Gates.

- 3.5.1 The left-hand side gate pillar has moved with associated cracking in the wall. See Photograph No.22. It is likely that the gate pillar will need to be underpinned in order to stabilise same.
- 3.5.2 The boundary wall along the right side of the front entrance is retaining a higher ground level of approximately 1.0metre. There are also mature trees growing behind this wall. Whilst the wall appears to be in relatively good condition overall, there is a noticeable outward bulge in one area of the wall. See Photograph No.23. It would appear that a section of the wall adjacent to this bulge has been rebuilt or, at least, repointed.

3.6 Front Boundary Wall along Road.

- 3.6.1 This boundary wall is retaining approximately 2.25 metres of ground. There is a sizeable crack in the wall adjacent to a tree stump. See Photograph No.24. It is most likely that the tree roots are responsible for the damage to the boundary wall. Therefore, the killing of this tree will be necessary in order to prevent further damage to the wall.
- 3.6.2 There is also cracking in the wall at the end of the site. See Photograph No.25.

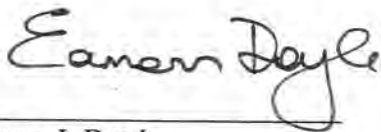
3.7 Boundary Wall at Graveyard.

- 3.7.1 At the back corner of the graveyard, the boundary wall is retaining ground on the side of the Church. It is reported that this ground level difference is due, in part at least, to spoil from grave maintenance works being deposited in this

area. In the short term, this built-up material could be removed in order to relieve an amount of pressure at the back of the wall.

- 3.7.2 There is significant cracking in the boundary wall and capping. See Photograph No.26. The ground conditions at the base of the wall will need to be inspected, as it is possible that the wall may need to be underpinned at this location. Partial rebuilding of the wall in order to fill the gaps in same will also be required.

Signed:



Eamonn J. Doyle
Chartered Engineer
for Eamonn Doyle Associates.



Photograph No.1



Photograph No.2



Photograph No.3



Photograph No.4



Photograph No.5



Photograph No.6



Photograph No.7



Photograph No.8



Photograph No.9



Photograph No.10



Photograph No.11



Photograph No.12



Photograph No.13



Photograph No.14



Photograph No.15



Photograph No.16



Photograph No.17



Photograph No.18



Photograph No.19



Photograph No.20



Photograph No.21



Photograph No.22



Photograph No.23



Photograph No.24



Photograph No.25



Photograph No.26



Habitat Survey

St Mary's Church, Oldtown

By: CH Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants

For: Archaeological Management Solutions

Date of Issue: 03/11/2022

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1 Introduction

1.1 Scope of Survey

The scope of this survey was to identify significant ecological habitats within and around the site at St Mary's Church, Oldtown. An additional aim was to provide recommendations for increasing biodiversity at the site in future management plans.

1.2 Survey Area

St Mary's Church is located just north of Oldtown, Lucan, Co. Dublin. The site consists of an old church and the surrounding cemetery (figure 1).



Figure 1. Location of survey area

2. Methodology

An ecological field survey of the proposed development site was carried out on the 24th October 2022. Habitat survey and mapping followed the Heritage Council's Best Practice Guidance (Smith et al. 2011). Habitats were classified according to the Heritage Councils Scheme (Fossitt, 2000).

3. Results



Figure 2: Habitat map of site

Hedgerows and Treelines (WL)

The northern and eastern boundaries of the site are marked by hedgerow (WL1) and treelines (WL2). On the eastern boundary a hedgerow containing Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* sp), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) blends with a treeline of Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). Ivy (*Hedera helix*) covers the bases of many of these trees but seems to have been cut, as the vines were dead higher up. A birdbox was noted in one Sycamore, though no evidence of use was recorded during the survey.

The northern boundary is a predominantly mature Sycamore and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) treeline. Ivy coverage was high here and the crevices in the mature trees presented potential roosting features for bats. These trees and surrounding trees supported a significant rookery, and large numbers of Rooks (*Corvus frugilegus*) were active throughout the survey. Dead wood that had been naturally or intentionally removed had been left to decompose under and around this treeline and a rich variety of fungi and invertebrate species were noted.

Stonework (BL1) and Recolonising Bare Ground (ED3)

A stone wall (BL1) marks the western and southern boundaries of the site. The old church building itself is also stonework. The roof of the church's main chamber was missing and the interior had been recolonised by large quantities of Cleaver (*Gallium aparine*). The inner floors of the belfry were partially collapsed and provide suitable roosting features for bats. Small mammal droppings (likely bat) were recorded in this area.

Cemetery (GS2 and ED3)

The cemetery at the site represents a Grassy Verge habitat (GS2) in the north and east of the grounds and Recolonising Bare Ground (ED3) in the south and west. Sunlight availability may be responsible for this variation, though another possibility is herbicide application that has been part of the site management plan previously. The grassy area contains species such as Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), Daisy (*Bellis perennis*), and Dandelion (*Taraxacum* spp). The bare area has infrequent occurrences of Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and Dandelion. In both areas, older gravestones supported a diverse range of mosses and lichens. One mature Beech (*Fagus* spp) and Cypress (*Cupressus* spp) was present in the cemetery. A small patch of grassy verge is also present just outside the cemetery entrance.

Surrounding habitats (GA1 and FW1)

The surrounding environment was largely agricultural land (GA1) separated by treelines and hedgerows. Livestock was seen grazing in nearby fields. A river (FW2) passed within 60m of the site, providing additional foraging and habitat potential for wildlife. Several mature Beech trees were present in Clonmethan Glebe to the east.

4. Biodiversity recommendations

The diversity of habitats at this site and the surrounding area have high biodiversity potential. Certain actions could continue or be expanded upon, for example, the leaving of dead wood *in situ* to support fungi and invertebrates and the addition of more bird boxes. Several actions could be taken to increase biodiversity even further.

Filling northern treeline

Biodiversity value in the northern treeline could be increased with the filling in of the gaps between trees. Gaps could be filled with native hedgerow species such as hawthorn and blackthorn. Short, thick hedgerows create wildlife corridors and increase the foraging and nesting potential for small mammals and birds.

An example of a bird that could benefit from this is the Yellowhammer (*Emberiza citrinella*). National Biodiversity Data Centre records for the area are few, and the closest is a recording of a Yellowhammer from 2020, 3km to the northeast¹. The Yellowhammer is a Red conservation status species in Ireland, and North County Dublin is considered to hold “good numbers” of the birds, according to the Birdwatch Ireland species profile².

Flower rich margins

Flower-rich margins support a wider range of insects (including pollinators) than grassy margins. This, in turn, supports mammal and bird populations. There are several areas of the church grounds that could be managed in this way. For example, the grassy verge directly outside the cemetery entrance could be managed as a wildflower patch. Shade-tolerant flowering species such as Foxglove and Bluebell could be planted near hedgerows and walls, adding visual appeal and acting as a further food source for pollinators

Signage

Local residents regularly visit this cemetery. Indeed, several were seen during this survey. Additionally, the local national school is less than 1km away. The installation of educational signage explaining the biodiversity actions being taken would add amenity value for local visitors.

Bird and Bat Boxes

Additional bird boxes in nearby trees would increase the nesting potential of the area for cavity-nesting birds such as Blue Tits and Great Tits. Bat boxes would increase available roosting spots for bats.

¹ <https://maps.biodiversityireland.ie/Dataset/155> (accessed 03/11/2022)

² <https://birdwatchireland.ie/birds/yellowhammer/> (accessed 03/11/2022)


References



Collins, J.(ed) 2016. Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (3rd edition). The Bat Conservation Trust. London. ISBN – 13 978-1-87-2745-96-1



Fossitt, J.A. (2000) A Guide to Habitats in Ireland. The Heritage Council, Kilkenny.

Smith, G.F., O'Donoghue, P., O'Hora, K. and Delaney, E. (2011). Best practice guidance for habitat survey and mapping. The Heritage Council: Ireland.

Appendix I: Photos

Figure no.	Description	Images
1	Northern Treeline	

2	Rook activity	
3	Fungi on dead wood	

<p>4</p>	<p>Stone wall and cemetery</p>	
<p>5</p>	<p>Mature beech adjacent to church</p>	



Preliminary Ecological Appraisal for Bats

St Mary's Church, Oldtown

By: CH Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants

For: Archaeological Management Solutions

Date of Issue: 03/11/2022

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1 Introduction

1.1 Scope of Survey

All Irish bat species are protected under the Wildlife Act (1976) and Wildlife Amendment Act (2000). All bats are listed in Annex IV of the Habitats Directive and the greater horseshoe bat and lesser horseshoe bat are further listed under Annex II.

The following report details the result of a preliminary ecological assessment carried out by the author in October 2022. The purpose of this study was to assess:

- i. Signs of current bat activity in the area
- ii. Signs of previous bat activity in the area
- iii. Potential of the locality to contain roosting habitat for bats

1.2 Survey Area

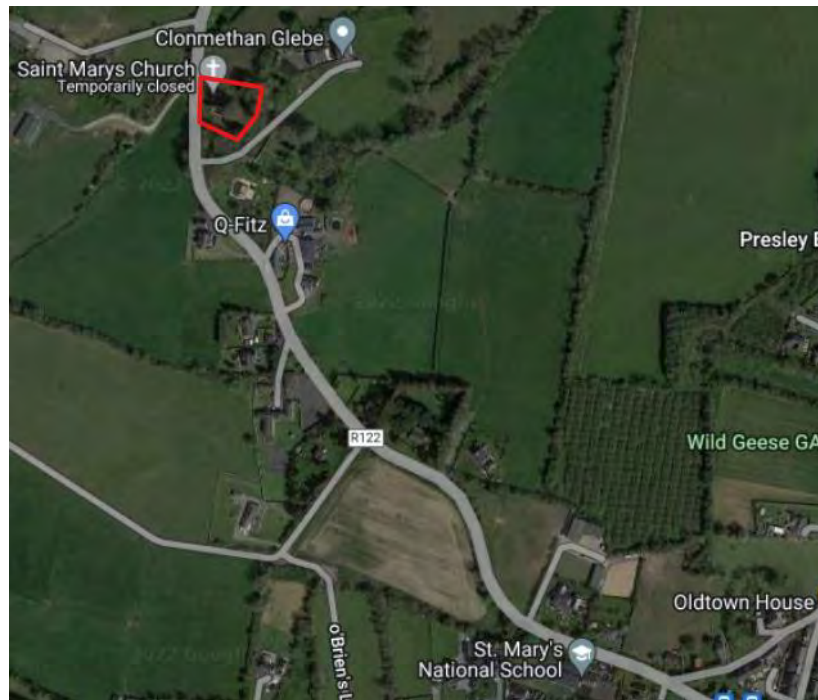


Figure 1. Location of survey area

2. Methodology

A desk study was conducted using National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) records and Google Satellite images of the site.

A preliminary ground-level roost assessment, by eye and binocular, was conducted of the church and its grounds. This was carried out following the guidelines and specifications of Collins, J (2016). The survey was conducted on foot on a clear and windy day with high visibility.

3. Results

3.1 Desk Study

The All-Ireland Bat Landscape classification index for the area is 26.78 (moderate suitability)¹. There are limited NBDC records for the presence of bats in the surrounding area, with two records of Common Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) and one each for Lesser Noctule Bat (*Nyctalus leisleri*) and Brown Long-eared Bat (*Plecotus auratus*) respectively. These date from a 2012 Environmental Impact Assessment near Jordanstown Farm, approx. 1.3 km west of St Mary's Church². There are no closer or more recent records.

3.2 Preliminary Roost Survey

In all trees, features such as cracks, cavities, cankers, and broken/detached branches were examined. Crevices and holes in the stone buildings were examined. The belfry was examined from all. Evidence of bat habitation such as bat droppings and staining on the bole of the tree was sought.

Old small mammal droppings were found underneath the belfry. The age of these droppings made identification difficult, but given their size, shape, consistency, and location it seems likely that they were bat droppings,

While no trees showed evidence of bat activity, many contained Potential Roosting Features (PRFs) for bats. These included heavy ivy cover, crevices, and cracks.

Assessment of the potential suitability of the trees at the site (notable the northern treeline and single, mature beech adjacent to the church), as per Collins (2016), is **Moderate** to **High** suitability, given the presence of several PRFs and the habitat's connectivity to hedgerow and water in the surrounding landscape.

Assessment of the church building itself is **High** suitability, given suitable roosting features in the belfry. The presence of small mammal droppings within the belfry is further evidence.

¹ <https://maps.biodiversityireland.ie/Map/Terrestrial> (accessed 03/11/2022)

² <https://maps.biodiversityireland.ie/Map/Terrestrial/Dataset/128> (accessed 03/11/2022)



Figure 3: Mature Beech next to church



Figure 4. Small mammal droppings under belfry. Likely old bat leavings.

4. Conclusion

This survey was conducted in clear, windy weather with good visibility. Overall, the habitat in the area has Moderate to High suitability for bats. The presence of small mammal droppings within the belfry likely indicates bats, though these were not fresh droppings. Though no signs of current bat activity were recorded, this survey was undertaken outside of the May – September survey season. Given the high-quality bat habitat at the site, it is the author's opinion that bat usage is likely. Follow-up surveys within the survey season would be needed to more definitively establish bat usage.

References

Collins, J.(ed) 2016. Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (3rd edition). The Bat Conservation Trust. London. ISBN – 13 978-1-87-2745-96-1



Arboricultural Report



Beech tree St Mary's Church Glebe, Oldtown Co Dublin

31 October 2022

Prepared for:

Dr Kim Rice

Archaeological Management Solutions

Prepared by:

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Report no: AAR 1911

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Terms of Reference

I was instructed by Dr Kim Rice (Archaeological Management Solutions Ltd) to assess a single mature tree growing beside St Mary’s Church, and report on its condition and to advise on its management in relation to the conservation management plan for the site.

1.2 Site Investigation, Methodology & Scope

On 18 October I undertook a ‘level 2’ visual inspection of the tree from the ground, as per our proposal of 29 August 2022. The tree was number tagged, relevant details recorded, and preliminary management works recommended. The assessment and this report are further subject to the limitations and scope as given at the rear of the report.



Figure 1: Satellite image (© Google) of churchyard, annotated with location of subject tree circled red.

2. INSPECTION FINDINGS

- 2.1 Located within the walled graveyard, the subject tree (tag no. 9109) is a large mature beech [*Fagus sylvatica*], immediately east of the church building.



Figure 2: St Mary’s church and subject beech tree.



Figure 3: Church and subject tree - view from roadside boundary.

2.2 The tree had the following dimensions:

- Tree height (measured with a laser inclinometer): c. 26 m
- Crown spread radii: N 10m, S 10m, E c. 13m, W 7m.
- Stem circumference (girth): 5.86 m measured at 1.5 m height above ground. Measured at 1 m height, stem girth was 6.25 m.



Figure 4: Excellent crown health and density

- 2.3 Crown health is excellent, with no significant disease or deadwood present. A very few, isolated and minor (small) natural dead branchlets are present in the central eastern and lowest western crown. Lower branch tips arch down to 1 - 2 m above ground level. The western crown overhangs above the (roof-less) eastern gable end of the church.



Figure 5: Western crown above eastern gable end of church.

- 2.4 The ground level drops west of the tree towards the church. The stem base of the tree is centred c. 3.3 m from the adjacent (north-east) end corner of the church building. At its closest, the south-western buttresses of the tree are 2 m from the church, and c. 5 m east of the vestry. There was no damage, obvious to me, to the north-eastern corner wall of the church building.



Figure 6: Base of tree beside north-eastern corner of church.



Figure 7: Northern side lower stem – exceptionally large circumference, live and intact.

2.5 At the base of its large diameter stem there are c. nine buttresses, all live and intact. The lower stem circumference is almost entirely live and intact, other than for one old basal wound on the south-western lower stem. This old, long-standing wound cavity between two south-western buttresses is c. 1.4 m in length and c. 50 cm at its widest point at ground level. The exposed wound surface within is decayed, with several atrophying fungal fruit bodies of *Cerioporus squamosus*. Around the edges of this old wound cavity is strong healthy occluding woundwood.



Figure 8: Southern side of lower stem; intact buttresses and old SW basal wound cavity.



Figure 9: Old wound cavity in south-western stem base; old exposed wood naturally decaying. Over many decades the cavity is being occluded and 'reinforced' by strong woundwood edges on the buttresses either side.



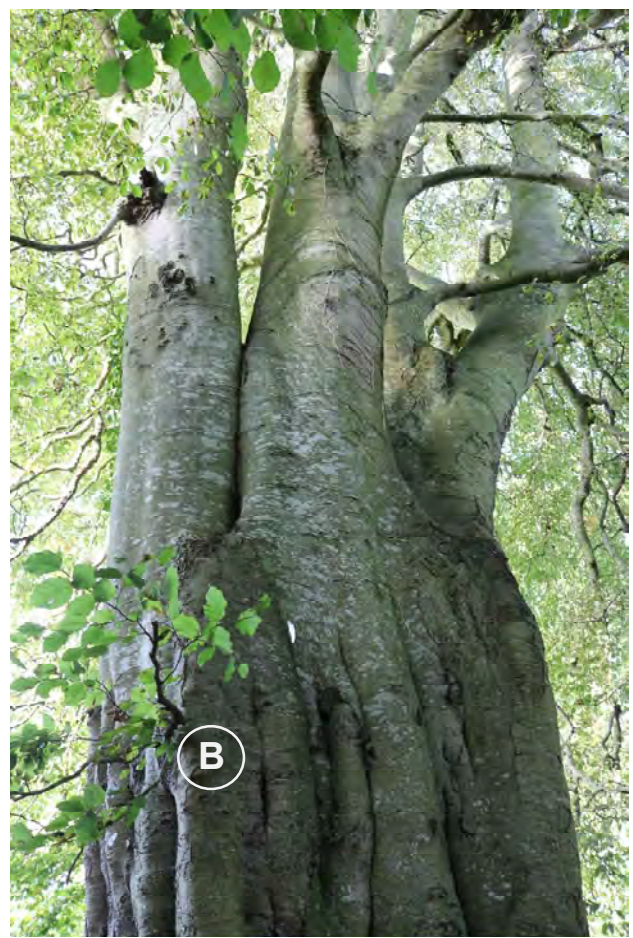
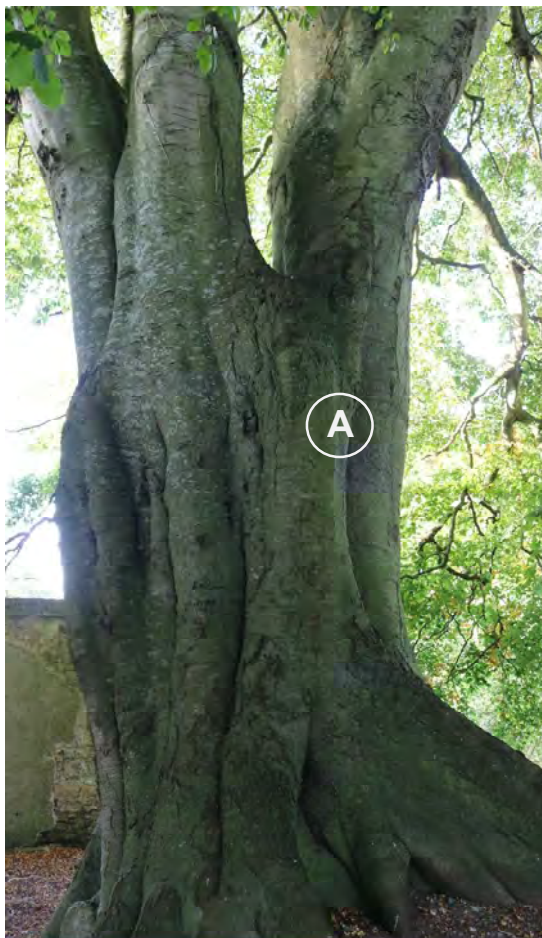
Fig 10: Degrading mushrooms of *Cerioporus* fungus on dead wood within wound cavity

- 2.6 Mallet sounding indicated that other than immediately beside the south-western basal cavity, the lower stem sounded solid. The lower stem presents no other cavities or fungal fruit bodies; there were no splits, necrosis, or other indication of extensive or advanced basal decay, and no signs of unstable root plate movement.



Fig 11: (A): main lower stem junction (fork); (B) southern co-dominant limb fork

2.7 The main stem forks at c. 2.5 – 3 m, and its southern co-dominant stem forks again at 3 - 4 m height (Figure 11, above). These main fork unions appear relatively stable; effectively welded by large rounded columns of adaptive wood growth descending from the junctions. The southern co-dominant limbs are basally appressed but appear effectively welded by a strong, long-standing cambial column on the southern side of the fork junction (Figures 12 & 13, below). No splits, cracks or necrotic inclusions were apparent in the fork unions. There was no recent storm damage (branch or limb fracture failures) apparent.



Figures 12 & 13: Welding columns of stem wood below main forks (A) and (B)

2.8 The other trees in the walled graveyard (not inspected), include a small mature cypress in the south-eastern corner, and a line of early-mature sycamore and ash along the northern boundary with the neighbouring field. Inside the church (nave) are several stumps of semi-mature sycamore trees felled in the past. These were with reasonable certainty self-seeded (after loss of the church roof). They appear chemically treated (effectively killed) and are not re-sprouting.



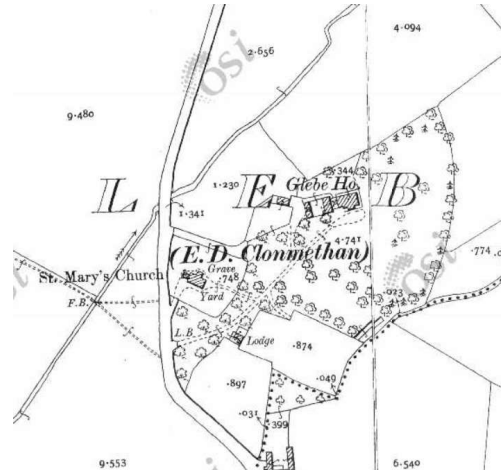
Figure 14: Cypress in SE corner of graveyard.



Fig 15: Sycamore stumps within church



Figure 16: Sycamore and ash trees on northern boundary adjoining the graveyard.



Figures 17 & 18: Historic maps from c. 1840 and c. 1900 (© OSI).



Figure 19: Subject tree: a prominent and defining feature.

3. ASSESSMENT

- 3.1 The subject tree is a magnificent and exceptionally fine large old specimen, in excellent health. Its stem girth (circumference) is remarkable; 5.86 m (or 6.25 m measured at 1 m) equates to a stem diameter of 1.865 m (or 1.99 m). On current Tree Register records (TROBI, 2022), it would appear to be the 3rd largest girthed *Fagus sylvatica* in Co Dublin.

- 3.2 The non-invasive estimate of its age (Abbott et al, 1997) would indicate with a 90% probability that the tree is between 190 – 300 years of age. The more simplistic formula of Mitchell (1974) would suggest an age of c. 230 – 240 years old.
- 3.3 The present church is dated c. 1818, with a previous medieval church here before that. The low bifurcation of the stem of this tree, and likely good soil conditions, may in part be responsible for a slightly larger than usual stem circumference. The tree may pre-date the church, on the balance of evidence, however, the tree is considered likely to date from construction of the church in c. 1818.
- 3.4 What is striking for a beech of this age is not only that it has retained a fine large crown, but maintains excellent health, and appears relatively free from significant decay or disease.
- 3.5 There is no evidence that the tree is damaging the church building. The tree has reached full maturity, and will not increase in height. Future incremental secondary growth (increase in circumference) of the lower stem and roots will be extremely slow. No root plate instability was identified, so no movement of the stem base in high winds would be expected that could cause any significant damage to the adjacent church wall. The church building (c. 17 m in length) is obviously within direct falling distance of the tree – in the unlikely event that it were to collapse westwards - as are many headstones.
- 3.6 If there is some direct root contact with the foundations, given the low pressures involved, it is extremely unlikely to cause any deflection or damage to the building; the tree's root growth would rather simply divert or deform around contact. Indirect damage (tree-related differential subsidence) may be discounted, as extremely improbable given regional soil types.
- 3.7 The tree appears to be in remarkably good condition. The south-western wound cavity is considered of minor significance biomechanically, and appears unlikely to represent any significant mechanical instability or any critical elevated risk of failure (collapse). Even at its widest, the (occluding) basal cavity is barely c. 7% of the otherwise entirely live and outwardly intact stem circumference. The *Cerioporus* fungus appears to be naturally acting saprophytically. The majority of the stem circumference is live and intact, and there is no progressive cambial necrosis or active pathogenic decay apparent. There are several large limb forks, but the limbs are upright and their basal unions appear stable currently.

- 3.8 If it remains in good health, the tree should continue to successfully acclimate to its wind climate and continue to withstand future extreme storms. The good health of the tree is dependent upon its root-soil system remaining largely undisturbed.
- 3.9 On current evidence, pruning would be of no benefit. Some minimal selective pruning (specified by an arboriculturist) and expertly executed by suitable contractors should be not unduly detrimental to the appearance or condition of the tree, if it were required for clearance from the outer eastern wall of the church building. Any significant cutting back of the main crown, however, would merely cause physiological stress, xylem (vascular) dysfunction and damage, and thereby increase vulnerability to serious disease and mortality. Similarly, any significant excavation, soil contamination, or machinery tracking in proximity to the tree would be irreparably damaging and could be potentially destabilising.
- 3.10 Its fine form, impressively large size and defining prominence make this a tree of exceptional heritage value.



Figure 20

4. MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Preliminary Recommended Works

4.1.1 No priority works are currently advised as required. During any future restoration works, it is essential to avoid root-soil disturbance around the tree. If the building needs repair works (e.g., necessitating scaffolding to the outer eastern walls) some minor reduction pruning (< 2m) to western branches could be undertaken if needed for clearance - subject to expert execution of such pruning by an approved contractor under the guidance and supervision of a consultant arboriculturist.

4.1.2 The sycamore stumps within the church, appear already to be chemically treated to prevent re-sprouting. If desired, these stumps may best be removed by either stump grinding or very careful excavation. Treatment of ivy on the walls of the church is understood to be addressed in the archaeologist's and engineer's reports.

4.2 Restrictions on Tree Work

4.2.1 There should be no restrictions on the above works. Timing of works should nonetheless comply with the Wildlife Acts.

4.2.2 The subject tree is a potential habitat for protected species such as bats and nesting birds. Notwithstanding any exemptions noted above, any pruning works to any such tree should be preceded by a competent assessment as to the presence of any protected wildlife species such as bats or nesting birds. This may be undertaken by the appointed contractor, but appropriate precautions should still be taken to avoid any damage or disturbance to protected species of resident wildlife or their habitats during the works, and specialist ecological advice sought if required.

4.3 Specification and Standard of Tree Works

Any works to the tree are to be undertaken in accordance with BS3998: **Tree Work - Recommendations** (BSI, 2010), current best practice and health & safety legislation, by suitably trained operatives of an approved, reputable and insured tree work contractor. The chosen contractor should produce a site-specific risk assessment and submit for approval a method statement for the works.

4.4 Monitoring and Re-assessment

If the site is accessible to the public, the tree’s condition should be regularly monitored by the owners/managers of the site, including after severe storms. It is advised that the tree be subject to re-assessment by an arboriculturist within two years, unless otherwise requested or considered a prudent requirement on foot of monitoring or change of site conditions.

4.5 Additional Matters

- 4.5.1 As a simple precaution, access to the site by the public is advised to be restricted during any red- or orange-status wind warning or other extreme weather events.
- 4.5.2 Given the nature of the site, planting of new trees is probably not appropriate, but can be advised upon. Tree planting should only be considered where adequate space for future growth is present and where at adequate distance from any historic or sensitive structures, and in accord with the site’s conservation management objectives.
- 4.5.3 Propagation of new trees from this tree should be considered given its historical value and genetic quality. This could be very easily achieved from seed.

Respectfully submitted:

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Limitations and Scope of this Assessment Report

This report covers only the tree/s mentioned and recorded as inspected, and the record for those trees individually inspected reflects the condition of those trees at the time of inspection. Unless otherwise specified, inspection was limited to a 'level 2' (ISA, 2017) visual examination of the subject trees from the ground only and without diagnostic drilling, coring, tomographic or motion sensor testing, aerial inspection, root excavation examination, or the systematic removal of vines or other obstructing material. There is no warranty or guarantee, expressed or implied, that problems or deficiencies of the subject trees may not arise in the future. The currency of this survey report and its recommendations is approximately one year.

Goodwin-arborist accepts no responsibility for the performance of retained trees whose management is executed not as specified and recommended in this report or in accordance with current good practice. The condition of all retained trees mentioned in this report should be regularly monitored, and is advised to be subject to expert re-assessment within the timeframe/s recommended or as otherwise specified, or when prudent in the event of any significant change of condition or site conditions. This report was produced for the named client only. Public disclosure, copying, or submission of any part of this report without legal title or permission from the author is prohibited.

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