

# Clós Reilig na Páirce Bán / Whitefield Grave Yard

## Reilig an Ghoirt Bháin – Tearmann Bithéagsúlachta

Mar is dual do sheanreilig, is tearmann tábhachtach don fhiadhúlra í Reilig an Ghoirt Bháin. Cuireann ainmhithe, feithidí agus plandaí fúthu i gclúideacha ar na huaigneanna, sna ballaí cloiche, sna toir agus sna toim. Bíonn na héin agus na sciatháin leathair in ann neadacha a dhéanamh sna crainn, dul ar an bhfara iontu agus bia a lorg ina measc, agus bíonn plandaí ag fás agus pailneoirí ar a ndualgas san fhéar fada agus sna háiteanna suaimhneacha.

I measc na pailneoirí anseo tá beacha, beacha gabhair, bumbóga agus féileacán ildaite.



Tá an ghnáthóg féaraigh anseo sa Ghort Bán lán le speicis éagsúla, ar nós mínfhéar reatha, féar cumhra, coirce bréige, feorainn mhín, agus giúnach caoráin. Má bhreathnaíonn tú go géar, feicfidh tú luibh na bhfeor gonta agus foltchaonach.

Tá crainn agus fála sceach dúchasacha ar imeall an tsuímh – an fhuinseo, an sceach gheal, an caorthann agus an t-eidhneán. Is tearmann iad na brucha cré agus na ballaí cloiche don léicean agus don raithneach agus uaireanta bíonn speicis eile ag cónaí iontu, cosúil leis an laghairt, an ghráinneog agus an broc.

### Éagsúlacht Plandaí

Tá Reilig an Ghoirt Bháin lán leis an iomaí cineál plandaí. Bain lán na súl as na dathanna geala sa chúinne thoir theas, áit a bhfeicfidh tú croibh éin corraigh, athair thalún, cnó léana, seamair dhearg, donnlus, agus mínscoth. Tá sabhaircíní, créachtlus agus néalfartach shraoilteach in aice leis na suíocháin adhmaid. Breathnaigh thart ar na speicis éagsúla ar an taobh thoir, ar nós lus cré talún, tursarraing bheag, agus croibh éin.



### Éin

Bí ag faire amach agus ag éisteacht i gcomhair speicis éagsúla éan, cosúil leis an gcaipín dubh, an ceolaire saill, agus an rí rua agus iad ag gabháil fhoinn go sona sásta i rith an tsamhraidh. Is annamh an rud é an scréachóg reilige a fheiceáil ach tugadh faoi deara sa cheantar seo í. Thuigfeá óna hainm gur í reiligi a chloistí í san am a bhí caite freisin.

Molaimid duit suí síos san áit shuaimhneach seo agus feiceáil cén sórt fiadhúlra atá thart timpeall ort.

## Taifead na nAdhlacthaí

Ba mhinic reiligi a bheith taobh leis na séipéil seo ó aimsir na bPéindlíthe, agus sin mar atá sa Ghort Bán, ach lean pobal na gCaitliceach orthu ag baint úsáid as an reilig a ghabhann leis an eaglais pharóiste a tógadh sa mheánaois, Cill Chomáin i dTigh na hÉille. Tá reilig mhór timpeall ar an nGort Bán, ach níl ach 46 leac uaighe le feiceáil inti, agus an ceann is sine acu ag gabháil siar go 1802. Mar sin féin, tá an méid céanna leaga beag seasta sa reilig gan aon inscríbhinn orthu, a léiríonn cá bhfuil uaigh. I measc na leac uaighe, tá tuamaí boird, sínteáin, crosa iarainn, agus leaga seasta.

### Saoir Chloiche – William Higgins

Tá leac uaighe amháin anseo a rinne an saoir cloiche William Higgins sa bhliain 1816. Bhí an-tóir ar shaoir cloiche dá leithéid an tráth sin agus bhí cáil orthu as a oilte a bhí siad maidir le snoí agus greanadh na leac uaighe. Tá a gcuid scileanna den scoth le sonrú i bhflúirse agus i gcaighdeán na leac uaighe i gCill Chomáin, Tigh na hÉille, agus i reiligi eile i gCill Mhantáin.

Is i ndeisceart an chontae is mó atá saothair de chuid Higgins le feiceáil, sna reiligi i gCaisleán tSiomoin, i nGleann Fhaidhle, i nGleann Dá Loch, i Maigh Chríodáin, sa Phreabán, i Rosach Án, i Muileann Mhíic Dhuibh agus anseo sa Ghort Bán.

## Whitefield Graveyard

### - A Haven of Biodiversity

Like many historic graveyards, Whitefield Graveyard provides an important sanctuary for wildlife. The graves, stone walls, shrubs and hedges provide plenty of nooks for wildlife to thrive, trees offer roosts, foraging (feeding) and nesting sites for birds and bats, long grass and undisturbed areas allow plants to grow and pollinators to thrive. Our pollinators include bees, hoverflies, bumblebees and colourful butterflies.

The grassland habitat here at Whitefield is species rich, featuring a mix of Creeping soft-grass, Sweet vernal-grass, False oat-grass, Common bent, and Heath wood-rush. Look closely to spot Heath bedstraw and Common haircap moss.



The boundaries of the site feature trees and hedgerows, with a good mix of native species like Ash, Hawthorn, Rowan, and Ivy. The earth banks and stone walls provide a refuge for lichens and ferns and a potential habitat for other species such as lizards, hedgehogs and badgers.

### Floral Diversity

Whitefield Graveyard boasts an impressive array of flora. Enjoy the colourful displays of Greater bird's-foot-trefoil, Yarrow, Heath cinquefoil, Red clover, Common figwort, and Knapweed in the south-eastern corner. Admire Primroses, Hedge woundwort, and Trailing tormentil near the wooden seating area. Explore the diverse species like Germander speedwell, Lesser stitchwort, and Common bird's-foot-trefoil on the eastern side.

### Birds

Keep an eye, and ear, out for various bird species, including Blackcap, Willow warbler, and Chaffinch, singing merrily throughout the Summer months. The elusive Barn Owl has been spotted in the area, its distinctive screeching sound is traditionally associated with graveyards and reflected in its name in Irish *Scréachóg reilige*,

We encourage you to sit in this tranquil place and see what wildlife you may observe.

## The Burial Record

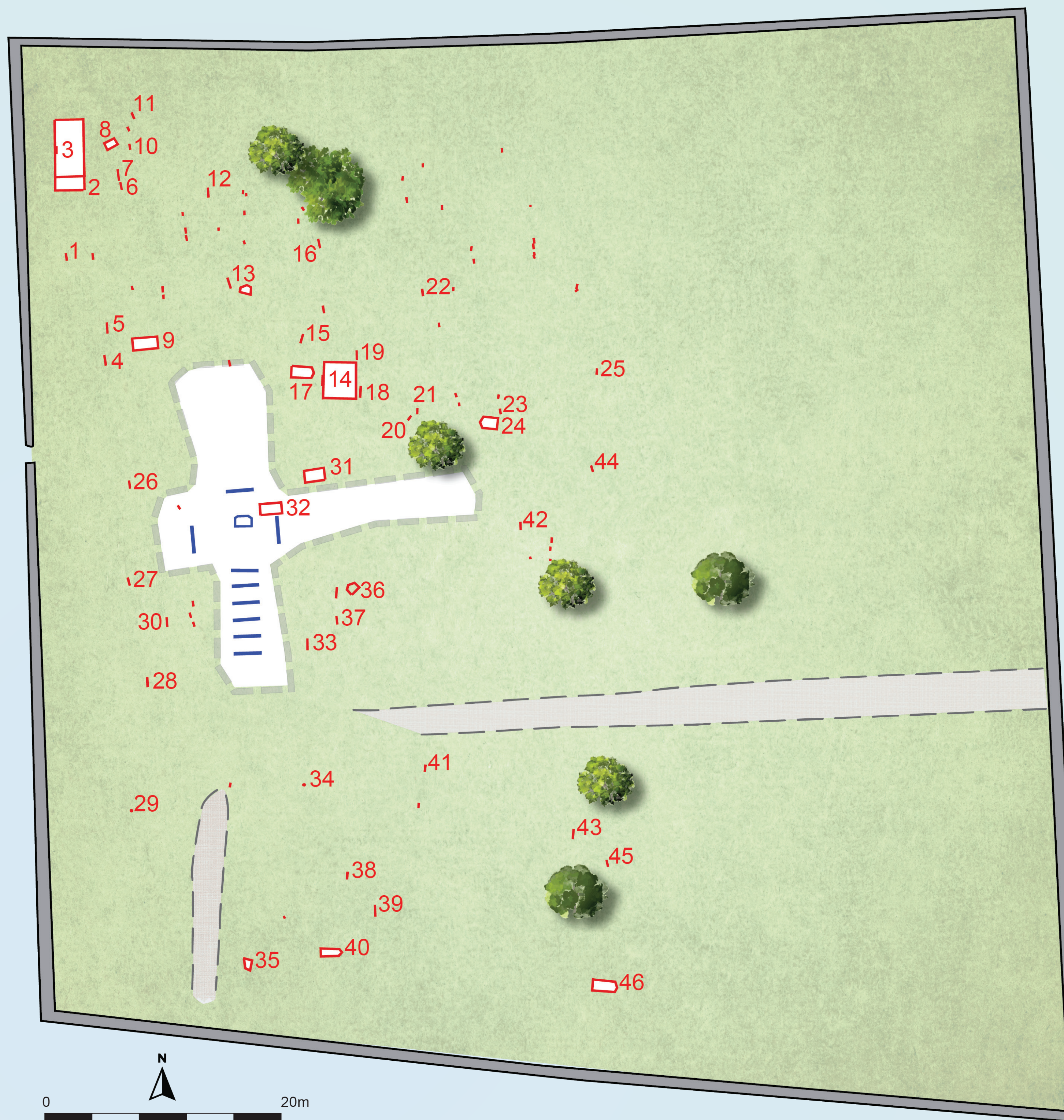
Graveyards often developed beside these Penal Era churches as is the case at Whitefield, however the Catholic community continued to use the graveyard associated with the medieval parish church, in this case Kilcommon in Tinahely. A large burial ground surrounds Whitefield, however only 46 headstones were visible the earliest dating to 1802. There are however as many more grave markers which are small upright stones with no inscriptions. The headstones comprise a mixture of 'table' tombs, ledgers, iron crosses and upright headstones.

### Stone Masons- William Higgins

There is one headstone which can be assigned to the stonemason William Higgins, dating to 1816. William Higgins and his contemporaries were highly sought-after stone masons, renowned for their expertise in carving headstones.

The abundance and quality of finely carved headstones in Kilcommon, Tinahely, and other graveyards in Wicklow bear testament to their exceptional skills.

Higgins's work is predominantly seen in southern parts of the county, gracing the graveyards of Castletimon, Glenealy, Glendalough, Macreddin, Preban, Rosahane, Mullinacuff, and now Whitefield.



### Leac Uaighe Higgins sa Ghort Bán

Is é an dearadh atá ar leac uaighe Higgins sa Ghort Bán ná teampall le mullaí colúin a bhfuil scrollaí orthu thart timpeall ar iomhá de Chríost, ina léirítear é á chéasadh. Tá sleá i gcliathán Chríost agus tá dréimire le feiceáil freisin. Tá dhá aingeal ag barr na leice uaighe agus greim acu ar eochracha gheataí Neimhe. Le taobhanna an teampaill tá cailís agus eocairist, oisteansoir agus túiseán. Tá scrolla galánta thart timpeall ar an iomhá ar fad, agus tá na focail 'Gloria in Excelsis Deo' ag barr na leice uaighe.

### The Higgins Headstone at Whitefield

The decoration on the Higgins headstone at Whitefield comprises a temple with scrolled capitals which frames a central depiction of Christ, representing his crucifixion. Christ's side is pierced with a spear and a ladder is also depicted. Two angels grace the top of the headstone, holding the keys to the gates of heaven. Flanking the temple are representations of a chalice and eucharist, monstrance, and thurible. The entire composition is elegantly framed by a scroll, with the words 'Gloria in Excelsis Deo' adorning the top of the headstone.



Cloch chinn 42 Higgins / Headstone 42 Higgins



Cloch chinn 42 eochracha chuig geataí na bhflaitheas saor in aisce / Headstone 42 keys to gates of heaven

Surname	First Name	Year of Death	Headstone Number
Beal	Bridget	1869	24
Breen	Hannah	1888	38
Breen	Patrick	1857	38
Brinnan/Brennan	Mary	1808	22
Brinnan/Brennan	Michael	?	22
Bolger	Ellenore	1856	39
Bolger	James	1842	39
Byrne	Arthur	1814	12
Byrne	Edward	1817	9
Byrne	Henry	1802	9
Byrne	James	1810	26
Byrne	William	??	18
Byrne	Sarah	1857	9
Byrne	William	1813	26
Carroll	Marey	1911	43
Cullen	Edward	1932	28
Cullin	Elizabeth	1814	37
Cullen	Elizabeth	1898	28
Cullen	Mary	1915	28
Cullen	Roseanna	1910	28
Cullen	William	1899	28
Cunniam	Anne	1830	16
Darcy	Patrick	1838	19
Doyle	Bridget	1915	14
Doyle	Elenor	1807	31
Doyle	Elizabeth	1954	14
Doyle	Ja	1813	8
Doyle	James	1840	31
Doyle	John	1809	27
Doyle	John	1896	14
Doyle	Sarah	1841	46
Doyle	Thomas	1816	42
Dowzard	Charlotte	1836	40
Gahagan	John	1891	1
Gorman	John	?	17
Gorman	Judith	?	17
Goslin	Alice	1859	33
Goslin	Peter	1855	33
Goslin	William	1815	36
Grant	Edward	1817	13
Grant	Margaret	1823	13
Kavanagh	Annie	1934	45
Kavanagh	Catherine	1869	2
Kavanagh	Moses	1928	45
Kehoe	Anne	1885	2
Kehoe	Annie	1924	3
Kehoe	Bridget	1925	3
Kehoe	Bridget	1954	3
Kehoe	John	1810	2
Kehoe	John	1909	2
Kehoe	John	1945	3
Kehoe	Joseph	1942	3
Kehoe	Joseph	1887	2
Kehoe	Laurence	1875	2
Kehoe	Laurence	1943	3
Kehoe	Michael	1834	2
Kehoe	Thomas	1945	3
Kirwan	Julia	1873	17
Lawlor	Mary	1842	17
Lawlor	Patrick	1863	17
Mernaugh	Patrick	1820	15
Mulhall	Darby	1843	4
Synnott	Bartholomew	1939	7
Synnott	Bartholomew	1846	7
Synnott	Bartholomew	1908	6
Synnott	Julia	1869	7
Synnott	Patrick	1847	7
Toole	Catherine	1848	5
Toole	Darby	1816	30
Toole	Luke	1834	5
Toole	Mary	1812	30



An Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage



An Chomhairle Oidhreacht The Heritage Council

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