2025

2025 Updated Conservation and Management Plan, Donard Church and Graveyard, Co. Wicklow.

HERITAGE COUNCIL AWARD CH4561

MONUMENT NUMBERS

WI021-005003- WI021-005004-	DONARD LOWER DONARD LOWER	Graveslab Memorial stone
WI021-005005-	DONARD LOWER	Graveslab
WI021-005001-	DONARD LOWER	Church
WI021-005002-	DONARD LOWER	Graveyard

DECEMBER 2025

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council

CMP 2024 PRODUCED BY YVONNE WHITTY(ARCHAEOLOGIST) WITH ASSISTANCE FROM FIN DWYER (HISTORIAN), DERMOT NOLAN (HISTORIC BUILDINGS CONSULTANT AND CONSULTING ENGINEER), FAITH WILSON (ECOLOGIST).

THIS 2025 REPORT IS AN UPDATED CMP WHICH CONTAINS A SCHEDULE OF WORKS AND DRAWINGS.

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1 Section 1: Background Information

1.1 Introduction

This updated Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for Donard with accompanying specialists' reports is submitted in compliance with the Community Heritage Grants Scheme 2025 (CH4561) for the Heritage Council.

Donard Church and Graveyard, Co. Wicklow, represents an important medieval ecclesiastical site within the landscape of west Wicklow. The surviving church ruins, graveyard, and associated features retain significant archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage value, but long-term deterioration, vegetation growth, and structural failure have increasingly threatened their preservation.

A Conservation Management Plan (CMP) was first prepared in 2024 to provide a structured framework for safeguarding the site which was supported by a Community Heritage Grant in 2024. In 2025, a successful Community Heritage Grant from the Heritage Council enabled essential preparatory work to advance this conservation strategy. These works included the selective trimming of vegetation from the church and boundary walls, archaeological monitoring and recording, a full measured survey, and a detailed structural engineering assessment and schedule of works for a future 2026 CMF application. The removal of vegetation allowed for a far more accurate understanding of the site's condition, this was completed out outside the bird-nesting season as per the recommendations of the ecology report which was completed in 2024.

The engineering inspection and measured survey completed in 2025 have identified clear priorities for stabilization and repair, particularly the urgent need to reconstruct the leaning and collapsed southwest section of the graveyard wall, cap all surviving church wall tops, repoint eroded masonry, and stabilizing architectural features such as the east window and west doorway. These findings underpin the updated conservation policies and phased action plan set out in this report.

This CMP provides a long-term framework for the protection, management, and presentation of Donard Church and Graveyard. It aims to ensure that the site's heritage significance is preserved while supporting responsible access, community engagement, and continued research. The plan will guide the next phases of conservation, subject to funding and statutory approvals.

1.2 Objectives and Aims of the Project

The principal objective of this plan is to enable the local stakeholders to establish a framework within which the significance of the monument and its setting can be preserved and enhanced for future generations as outlined below:

- To understand the historical importance of Donard Church and Graveyard
- To situate the church in its historical context and how it relates to the wider environment (section 2)
- To assess and understand the current condition of the church and site with an evaluation of threats to its survival and its vulnerabilities (section 3)
- To set out a strategy for conservation works
- To be mindful of the natural and ecological heritage and character of the place

The methodology for this conservation plan is loosely adapted from the James Semple Kerr model (Semple Kerr 2013). The aim is to situate Donard Church and graveyard within its archaeological and historic context (the past), to evaluate its current condition (the present), and to assess its vulnerabilities and recommend actions to best conserve the physical structure and to suggest ways that the church can deliver a sense of participation and local identity to the community (the future). This report has been divided into Sections to follow the James Semple Kerr Model with Section 1 providing the background to the project, Section 2 discussing the past history of the monument, Section 3 the current condition and Section 4 the future of the monument.

1.3 Steering Group and Stakeholders

Steering Group

- Donard Tidy Towns Association and Donard Imaal History (iCAN)
- Wicklow County Council

Stakeholders

- Donard Tidy Towns Association and Donard Imaal History (iCAN)
- Heritage Office Wicklow County Council
- The Heritage Council

Project Team

The multi-disciplinary team involved in the project includes:

- Dermot Nolan- Historic Buildings Consultants and Consulting Engineers
- Fin Dwyer – Historical Research
- Faith Wilson – Ecologist
- Yvonne Whitty– Archaeologist

1.4 Statutory Protection & Guidelines

Donard Church and Graveyard is protected under national legislation and statutory guidance. These include the National Monuments Acts 1930- 2004, the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2013 and the County Wicklow Development Plan 2016-2022 which will have a bearing on any proposed policies and actions in this conservation management plan. In relation to natural heritage, the following directives and acts should be noted: the European Birds (1979) and Habitats (1992) directives, Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations 2011, the Wildlife Acts 1976, and the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000-2010.

1.4.1 National Monuments Acts 1930-2004

is listed in the Record of Monuments. The following are the SMR monument numbers at Donard.

WI021-005003- WI021-005004-	DONARD LOWER DONARD LOWER	Graveslab Memorial stone
WI021-005005-	DONARD LOWER	Graveslab
WI021-005001-	DONARD LOWER	Church
WI021-005002-	DONARD LOWER	Graveyard

Table 1: SMR Numbers associated with Donard (www.archaeology.ie).

As a result, the site is protected under the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004. When the owner or occupier of a property, or any other person, proposes to carry out any work at, or in relation to, a recorded monument, they are required to give notice in writing to the Minister two months before commencing any work.

1.4.2 Planning and Development Acts 2000-2013

The 2000 Act set out the development plan as the basic policy document of the planning authority in which the overall strategy and specific objectives for sustainable development and proper planning within an area are set out (Grist 2012, 11). The legislation requires that each

planning authority renew its development plan every six years. The planning authority have an obligation to create a record of protected structures (RPS) which lists structures of architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social, or technical interest. This record forms part of the planning authority's development plan (DAHG 2011, 15). In addition, the National Monuments Acts (1930-2014) protects monuments of archaeological, historical, or architectural interest creating an overlap with the 2000 Act in the protection of structures of special interest. Newchurch is a Recorded Monument afforded statutory protection under the National Monuments Acts.

1.4.3 County Development Plan (2016-2022)

The current County Wicklow Development Plan (2016-2022) recognises that 'Wicklow has a significant archaeological heritage, which provides a valuable cultural, educational and tourism resource and that Wicklow County Council recognises the importance of preserving, protecting, and fostering a greater public appreciation of the County's archaeological heritage.

1.4.4 Wildlife Protection

Protection to a number of species and designated landscapes is provided under the European Birds (1979) and Habitats (1992) directives, Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations 2011, the Wildlife Acts 1976, and the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000-2010. Where development is proposed that impacts upon a protected species or place, a derogation license must be sought from the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

1.4.5 Guidelines

This report has been compiled in accordance with best practice outlined in the following resources and at all times complies with the National Monuments Acts and amendments (1930 – 2014):

- 'Framework & Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage' (1999) Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht & the Islands.

- 'ICOMOS charter for the Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage Sites.' ICOMOS (2008)*
- 'Ruins – The Conservation and Repair of Masonry Ruins' (2010) Department of Environment, Heritage, and Local Government

- Architectural Heritage Protection – Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2011) Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht

- ‘Conservation Plan. Seventh edition.’ James Semple Kerr (2013)

ICOMOS Australia.

The core principles of the ICOMOS charter aim to ‘safeguard the tangible and intangible values of cultural heritage sites in their natural and cultural settings and social contexts’ and to ‘respect the authenticity of cultural heritage by communicating the significance of their historic fabric and cultural values and protecting them from the adverse impact of intrusive interpretive infrastructure, visitor pressure or inappropriate interpretation’.

1.5 Methodology & data collection:

The methodology for this conservation plan is loosely adapted from the James Semple Kerr model (Semple Kerr 2013). The aim is to situate Donard Church and graveyard within its archaeological and historic context (the past), to evaluate its current condition (the present), and to assess its vulnerabilities and recommend actions to best conserve the physical structure and to suggest ways that the church can deliver a sense of participation and local identity to the community (the future).

Using these three strands is a useful way of improving our understanding of this monument.

- The past is our understanding of why Donard Church and Graveyard is significant and why this significance must be recognised (Section 2)
- The present is how Donard Church and Graveyard is now: who owns it, who has responsibility for conserving it, what condition is it in? (Section 3)
- The future is constructed out of our understanding of both the past and the present: the condition of Donard Church and Graveyard now, together with the needs of relevant stakeholders dictates what must be done to ensure the site has a future.

Information and data gathered for this document have been obtained in a variety of ways and from a variety of sources.

1.5.1 Desktop assessment:

A desktop assessment was completed by the author. The historical background research was completed by Fin Dwyer.

1.5.2 Site inspection

Yvonne Whitty has carried out a site inspection which have provided a detailed picture of the present condition of the site.

1.5.3 Baseline Ecological Assessment

A baseline ecological assessment was prepared by Faith Wilson, Ecological Consultant and is attached as Appendix 2 to this report.

1.5.4 Structural Survey

A structural appraisal and recommendation for the repair of church and associated featured was undertaken by Dermot Nolan, Historic Buildings Consultant and Consulting Engineer and is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

1.5.5 Community Engagement

A series of meetings were held with the group. A bat walk was held by Faith Wilson as part of a Heritage Week Event in 2024. The project has been shared on social media and this report will be uploaded to www.ourwicklowheritage.org.

Plate 1:.Site meeting with local community to discuss the project.

1.6 Sources Consulted

DAHGI 1999 *Framework & Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage*.

Government Publications.

DAHG 2011 *Architectural Heritage Protection – Guidelines for Local Authorities*.

Government Publications.

DEHLG 2010 *Ruins- The Conservation and Repair of Masonry Ruins*

Grist, B. 2012 *An Introduction to Irish Planning Law. Institute of Public Administration*.

Kerr, J. 2013 *The Conservation Plan 7th Edition*. ICOMOS Australia.

2 Section 2: Understanding the Monument- The Past

Section 2.1 completed by Fin Dwyer provides a detailed historical background on Donard Church and Graveyard and its surrounding area. It begins with an exploration of the site's broader historical context, followed by an archaeological assessment of the site in Section 2.2 by Yvonne Whitty.

2.1 Historical Background

2.1.1 Overview

Situated at the northern end of the Glen of Imaal in Co Wicklow, Donard has a rich history stretching deep into the prehistoric period. Monuments in the locality indicate a human presence throughout this time.

In the early Middle Ages, the wider West Wicklow region, and Donard in particular, had strong links to the earliest Christian missionaries to Ireland.

The Norman invasion of the 13th century led to the erection of a fortification beside an existing church. These sites formed the nucleus of the modern village. However, its position along a medieval frontier limited the expansion and development of the settlement. The region was beset by violent conflict into the dawn of the modern era.

The settlement has enjoyed a period of comparative peace and stability over the last two centuries, remaining a small rural village with multiple sites of historic and archaeological importance. Despite a dramatic population decline since the Great Hunger, it has experienced modest growth in recent times. It has attracted surprisingly limited commentary in historical and archaeological sources.

2.1.2 Donard in Prehistory

The significance of Donard as a site in Irish prehistory is attested by the range of monuments in the immediate landscape. The presence of a portal tomb at Broomfield indicates human activity as far back as the Early Neolithic.

Rock art, tentatively dated to the Early Bronze Age or possibly even the late Neolithic[1] can be found at Kilbaylett. This is one of several sites in the West Wicklow/Carlow area with similar features, indicating the emergence of a distinct culture in the region around this time. The

[1] *O'Connor, B. (2006 unpublished PhD thesis) Inscribed landscapes: contextualising prehistoric rock art in Ireland https:/researchrepository.ucd.ie/handle/10197/3703*

stone circles at Athgreaney (the Piper Stones) and Kilruddery to the south are of a similar date.

In the immediate vicinity of Donard itself, there are numerous earthworks and ringforts suggesting continual human activity into the Iron Age and early historic period.

That the area has a long history is unsurprising. Donard and the surrounding hinterland have strategic importance, shaped by the Wicklow Mountains to the east of the town. Prior to the construction of the Wicklow Military Road in the early 19th century, there was no route running north-south through the uplands. This left a road that ran along the western slopes of the hills through Donard as an important routeway[2].

Donard is also situated in close proximity to one of the three east-west routes through the mountains. Of these routes, two remain of great importance: the Sally Gap and the Wicklow Gap. However, in centuries past, a southern route along the modern walking path, the Table Track, linked the Glen of Imaal with Glenmalure. This provided access between Brittas Bay and the plains of Kildare[3]. This was recorded on Neville's map of Wicklow in 1760[4]. A corrected 1820 copy of this map survives today (see below).

Figure 1: Allens' Map of the County of Wicklow Engraved from Mr R. Nevill's Map and corrected from a recent survey. Source https://virtualtreasury.ie/item/LBC-GJ-9

[2] Walshe, The Antiquities of the Dunlavin-Donard District, p115-116
[3] O'Keefe, Alexander Taylor's Road Works in Ireland 1780-1827, p27
[4] Wicklow Grand Jury Map by Jacob Nevill, https://virtualtreasury.ie/item/LBC-GJ-9 Accessed Sep 30th 2024

This track remains inaccessible in inclement weather, and as discussed below, the failure to develop it into a road was one of the factors that impacted the development of Donard (although it did preserve the scenic beauty of the area).

2.1.3 The origins of the settlement of Donard

The location of the earliest settlement at Donard is unclear. The name Donard itself and most variants—Dunarde, Dunardathe, Dunardache, Donardet, Downarde—are derived from the Irish, Dún Ard, meaning 'high fort'. The Anglo-Norman motte and bailey erected in the late 12th century probably stands directly on the original fortification[5].

Walshe (1931) posited an alternative theory, arguing the name may have derived from the term Domhnach Ard, meaning 'high church'[6]. A reference from the opening years of the 14th century recorded Donard as Donarchmor[7], lends a degree of credence to this argument. However, most agree the etymology of the name lies in Dún Ard, meaning 'high fort'.

While it seems likely the site was occupied in the pre-Christian period, there is no question that Donard's early history was shaped by strong links with the early Christian Church and Paladius (one of the earliest Christian missionaries to Ireland) in particular.

He remains a figure of significant debate but has a long association with South and West Wicklow. There are numerous sites stretching across the wider region associated with the pre-Patrician missionary sent to Ireland in 43[8].

Along with Killeen Cormac, in Kildare, Donard is regarded as a Paladian foundation[9].

Donard, in particular, has a strong folk association with an associate of Paladius, St Sylvester. His relics were reputedly held at Donard until the 6th century, with Ronan (1941) noting

Donard is said to be Domnachairtef, one of the three churches of Palladius, in which the relics of SS. Sylvester and Solinus, his two companions, were preserved until the end of the 6th century when they were removed to Inisboheen, south of Wicklow town, for safety. The ancient granite slab, with inscribed cross, in the old church is regarded as marking the tomb of St. Sylvester who is the patron of other churches in the vicinity.

[5] *Logaimn.ie, Accessed Sep 30th 2024*
[6] *Walshe The Antiquities of the Dunlavin-Donard District p116*
[7] *Calendar of Documents Relating to Ireland (C.D.I) Vol V, p283. The text Donartchinon was corrected in the corrigenda p. =xi*
[8] *O Croinin, Early Medieval Ireland, p.43*
[9] *O Croinin, Early Medieval Ireland, p.43*

The slab referenced, which is discussed below, is of much later medieval provenance. Nevertheless, folklore certainly suggests a strong link with St Sylvester. The School's Folklore Collection recorded the following account in a discussion about the medieval church.

At either end is a cross the larger one at the head is one ft: eight ins long while the base of that at the foot is continued to meet the base of the head Cross. Local tradition holds that the body of St Sylvester, brother Presbyter of Solenius, whome Palladius left in charge of the Church he founded in Donard was buried beneath this Stone. His remains being afterwards removed across the mountains to Ennis [sic][10]

The original medieval church underwent major redevelopment in the late Middle Ages, making it difficult to date its precise origin. Archaeological investigation and surveying may yield more evidence regarding the nature and dating of the settlement in the early medieval period.

2.1.4 Later Medieval History

In a process replicated across multiple medieval sites in Wicklow, the history of Donard was shaped by the emergence of Glendalough as a major religious centre from the 7th century. Over the following centuries, it expanded its power and influence across the mountains, and Donard, along with numerous other sites in the wider vicinity, was among the vast domains in the possession of the monastery by the 12th century.[11]

As mentioned above, the precise nature of the early medieval ecclesiastical settlement is very difficult to determine without further analysis and work. The site that survives today is somewhat atypical for an early medieval church site. The surrounding enclosure is square (rather than oval).

Early Ordnance Survey maps indicate this has been the case for at least two centuries. However, Henry Shearman in 1873 recorded major changes to the site in the 19th century in the following passage:

there was an ancient disused cemetery, containing some rugged boulders, pillar-stones, some of the latter were removed when the place was tilled, some built into fences, and others were unfortunately destroyed. [12]

Archaeological excavation would help deepen understanding about the provenance of this site. While an ecclesiastical settlement provided a foundation, the development of the modern

[10] *The Schools' Collection, Volume 0914, Page 178*

[11] *McNeill Alen's Register p.2 p.21*

[12] *Shearman No. III. Loca Patriciana. The Palladian Churches. Teach Na Roman, Domnach Arda, p490*

settlement can be traced back to the seismic events that followed the Anglo-Norman invasion of the late 12th century.

2.1.5 Anglo-Norman Donard

The strategic significance of Donard and the wider Glen of Imaal may have been evident to the Norman invaders from the earliest days of the conquest. While small contingents of Norman forces arrived in the late 1160s, the main invasion force arrived in Waterford in the late summer of 1170. Led by Strongbow (Richard de Clare), they captured Waterford in a brutal siege before marching on the strategically key city of Dublin.

As an alliance of Gaelic Irish and Hiberno-Norse forces prepared a defence of the city, the Norman army and their allies in the kingdom of Leinster took a circuitous route through the Wicklow mountains to circumvent the defensive line being prepared to the southwest of Dublin. Geraldus Cambrensis, the Norman chronicler who visited Ireland in the 1180s, described this in the following terms:

Diarmuid having received intelligence that the citizens of Dublin had summoned the people from all parts of Ireland to succour them in defending the place, and that all the roads through the woods and other difficult passes were beset with armed men, was careful to avoid mischance, and leading his army by the ridges of the mountains of Glyndelachan (Glendalough)[13].

While an exact route was not recorded, O'Toole (2016) among others have speculated that march may have brought Strongbow through the Glen of Imaal past Donard, along the Table Track into Glenmalure before turning North to Glendalough and then Dublin.[14]

In the following decades, Donard would go on to enjoy an importance it had not previously or arguably since. While the site commanded a view over one of the main egress points from the Wicklow Mountains through the Glen of Imaal, it also (and potentially more significantly) lay on the frontier between two major figures in the emerging Norman lordship of Leinster: the emerging Fitzgerald family in Kildare and the Archbishops of Dublin.

Donard, as discussed above, had become a key possession in the lands of the monastery of Glendalough. In the decades after the Norman conquest, the Normans took steps to take this vast holding into their possession. This was done through the aegis of the church and the office of the Archbishop of Dublin, a position exclusively held by Anglo-Normans following the death of the prelate Lorcan O'Toole in 1180.

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[13] *Cambrensis, Expugnatio Hibernica p.26*
[14] *O'Toole, Glenmalure: The Wild Heart of the Mountains p.4*

Through the late 12th century, lands were already being transferred from Glendalough to the Archbishopric of Dublin. In 1216, the dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough were merged. In May 1216, Pope Innocent III confirmed the transfer of the vast estates of Glendalough, including Donard, to the See of Dublin[15]. This in effect made the archbishop one of the largest landowners in Leinster.

In West Wicklow, these estates at Donard and to the north at Hollywood abutted against other Norman lords, the most significant of whom were the Fitzgerald family, who would in time become the Earls of Kildare.

This perhaps explains why Archbishop John Comyn elected to grant the lands in West Wicklow to the de Marisco family. Hollywood was granted to Geoffrey de Marisco, while a large tract of land around Donard was granted to his brother Jordan de Marisco.[16]

The choice of tenant in the de Marisco family was significant. Not only was the family one of the most powerful figures in early 13th-century Ireland, but Geoffrey and Jordan were nephews of Archbishop Comyn in Dublin[17]. The motives behind this are worth exploring in greater detail.

That the bishop would reward his own nephews with preferential treatment was common practice in medieval society. However, the assumption that their greatest concern was the Gaelic Irish in the mountains is questionable. The decision to directly administer the lands in the heart of the mountains, where Gaelic Irish were strongest and the Norman presence weakest, suggests the archbishops had little concern in this regard in the early 13th century.

Indeed, there is some anecdotal evidence that relations between the Normans and the Gaelic Irish in West Wicklow were peaceful. Around the turn of the 12th century, a certain Finnachta Macgrogane was listed as a tenant in the Glen of Imaal[18].

An alternative explanation lies in what Colin Veach described 'inbuilt trend towards factionalism'[19] in the Anglo-Norman lordship of Ireland, a feature promoted by successive kings in England. While this prevented any individual and potential rival from emerging in Ireland, it fomented unrest, which led to outbreaks of violence between these aristocratic landowners. This at times erupted into full-scale civil war. Such fears over attack or encroachment from rival Norman lords gave Donard a strategic significance for the archbishops of Dublin.

[15] *McNeill, Alen's Register, p.191*
[16] *McNeill Alen's Register p.191*
[17] *Brooks, the Family of Marisco p.50*
[18] *McNeill Alen's Register p.191*
[19] *Cambridge History of Ireland Vol 1 p.168*

Historian Emmet O'Byrne has speculated this move may have been prompted by the growing power of the Fitzgeralds to the west in Kildare[20]. This is supported by the fact that in summer of 1243, the King ordered the Fitzgeralds 'not to molest the king Luke the archbishop of Dublin or his tenants'[21].

While the document recording the grant of land to Jordan de Marisco is undated, Brooks (1932) argued that it was around the year 1192[22]. We can say with a degree of confidence, therefore, that the motte and bailey castle (the site known as the Ball Moat) was erected around the turn of the 13th century. The choice of location, to the south of the early medieval ecclesiastical site, presumably was where the original earthwork that gave Donard its meaning of 'high fort' was located.

While defence was a primary concern, the motte and bailey would have also served as an administrative centre for de Marisco's lands in the Glen of Imaal. There is little documentary evidence about the nature or size of the settlement that emerged around the fortification in the early 13th century. We know, as discussed already, it was situated in close proximity to a medieval church.

Unfortunately, little is known about the nature of the church building in the 13th century either. The current ruins on the medieval site date to the 15th or 16th centuries (see below). The site does contain artefacts from the late Middle Ages, however. The crude stone-carved grave slab, often claimed to be the 6th-century grave of St Sylvester, dates from this period.

However, as Corlett (2003) points out, this slab was probably moved in the 18th or 19th century. While difficult to date, Corlett provided a 'tentative' date of1 3th or 14th century[23]. Indeed, in the medieval period and much of the following centuries, records of this church provide one of the best insights into life in the area.

In the early 13th century (between 1213 and 1228), the church in Donard and several others in the surrounding locality were transferred into the possessions of the Hospital of St John of Newgate in Dublin. The intention was that the tithes and revenues from associated lands were to be used in 'support of the sick'[24]. Whether this reflected a prosperous time in West Wicklow or an aspiration for what the settlement might become is unclear.

[20] *O'Byrne, War Politics and the Irish of Leinster Vol 1 p.72*
[21] *C.D.I. Vol I p.256*
[22] *Brooks, the Family of Marisco p.69*
[23] *Corlett The Hollywood Slabs p.105*
[24] *McNeill, Alen's Register p.287*

By the early 14th century, there is evidence Donard was struggling. In the opening years of that century, the deanery of Donard was valued at 40 shillings, one of the lowest in the entire See of Dublin[25].

Extrapolating the exact reasons for this low value is difficult, but there is no question life in the wider Wicklow region was becoming increasingly difficult.

The years between 1270 and 1370 marked a period of intensive conflict in the wider Wicklow area as the Gaelic Irish, who had appeared surprisingly accepting of the Norman presence, revolted. Numerous settlements came under attack and, in some cases, were abandoned by the Anglo-Normans.

While the neighbouring valley of Glenmalure was the centre of this conflict in the 1270s, the first record of the impact of the conflict in Donard can be found in surviving documentation from the early 14th century.

After accusations of financial irregularities were levelled against the then Archbishop of Dublin, Alexander de Bicknor, his archiepiscopal estates were taken into the hands of the king. This prompted a valuation, which was conducted by royal officials in 1326 and revealed Donard was a frontier settlement increasingly engulfed by war.

Four carucates of land (around 500 acres) at Donard were described as 'waste and in the hands of the Irish'[26]. The region seems to have been a frontier. Rents at Kilbaylett, to the north of Donard, were described as '13s 4d in decrease of rent' for similar reasons[27].

This conflict resulted in the refortification of several medieval settlements such It was certainly peripheral to the unfolding conflict in the mountains. Records of expenditure on this conflict provide great insight into life in the 14th century; however, Donard is not mentioned in Exchequer Rolls.

While these records royal expenditure, castles held by the archbishop or aristocratic families such as Castlekevin and Wicklow were sequestered by the royal authorities for this campaign.

While Donard generally was clearly on a frontier, there is no evidence to suggest the town fell from Anglo-Norman control as did several other mountainous settlements. However, the conflict must have taken an inevitable toll on the development of Donard. McNeill (1925), for

[25] *C.D.I. Vol V p.238*
[26] *McNeill, Alen's Register p.38*

[27] *ibid*

example, noted how the Hospital of St John in Dublin, whose activities its possessions in Donard supported, struggled to exert influence over some of its more distant possessions.

This is evidenced by the fact the institution had to reduce its capacity from 155 beds in the early years of the 14th century to just 50 by the 1530s[28]. It is difficult to determine, what exact impact this had in places like Donard.

However, gleaning other records in the later 16th century does provide some insight into the nature of life in Donard. Vicars, for example, included Dionisins O'Somaghan (1532)[29], Gerald MacKeagho (before 1562) and Hugh Cawgane who was appointed in 1562[30].

The fact all men were Gaelic Irish suggests an increasing Gaelicisation of the community.

While the connection between the town and the Hospital of St John was formally ended in 1539 when the hospital was dissolved by Henry VIII, the institution had long ceased to have any direct involvement in life in Donard. By the early 16th century at the latest, the Hospital had leased the tithes and lands of Donard to the Fitzgerald Earls of Kildare[31].

The growing interest and influence of the Fitzgerald family in Donard provoked the Gaelic Irish leader Art Og O'Toole to burn the town in 1533[32]. What size the settlement was at this point is difficult to determine.

It was during this time period that the medieval church was completely rebuilt. Grogan and Kilfeather (1997) dated the new nave to the 15th or 16th centuries, while speculating the porch was added at a later point[33]. A more precise date would help determine whether this took place before or after the Hospital of St John in Dublin was dissolved. One suspects it was after 1539, given the institution's limited involvement in the community.

The fragmentary evidence that survives suggests a continued unsettled life in the community. In 1549, a certain Ferral McThomas of Donard received a pardon, although unfortunately his crimes were unspecified.[34] However it was certainly indicative of what was to come. After nearly three centuries of declining influence, the later 16th century witnessed renewed efforts

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[28] *McNeill, Hospital of S. John without the New Gate, p63*

[29] *PROI PUB/Chancery1/17 VirtualTreasury.ie Accessed Sep 27th 2024*

[30] *PROI PUB/Chancery1/3247 VirtualTreasury.ie Accessed Sep 27th 2024*

[31] *White, Extents of Irish Monastic Possessions, 1540-1541, p.66*

[32] *ibid p.63*

[33] *Grogan & Kilfeather. Archaeological Inventory of County Wicklow*

[34] *PROI PUB/Chancery1/1491 VirtualTreasury.ie Accessed Sep 29th 2024*

on behalf of the English authorities to re-exert influence across the island of Ireland. This led to the Laois-Offaly plantations of the mid-16th century, followed by the Munster Plantation and then the Ulster Plantation in the early 17th century. Wicklow was not immune from this process.

2.1.6 Early Modern Donard

While Wicklow did not experience anything as dramatic as the Munster or Ulster plantations, Donard nevertheless witnessed its own process of colonisation and resettlement from the 16th century onwards.

In the 1540s, the Fitzgerald Family fell from favour after the Silken Thomas revolt. This resulted in large tracts of land being taken from the family. In West Wicklow, this led to territory around Hollywood and Donard, being passed to new settlers from England—the Travers family. By the later 16th century, these lands, including Donard, passed through marriage into the hands of Robert Pipho[35].

While the Pipho family were resident in the region, a change from previous centuries they were based in Hollywood, and this was one of the factors that saw Donard somewhat eclipsed by the neighbouring town (Hollywood) in the following 150 years.

Nevertheless, the granting of Donard church and associated tithes to English knight Sir Edward Moore, on the condition he would not grant them to anyone 'except to persons of the English Nation or born in the Pale', is evidence of how colonisation affected the settlement.[36]

This reflected a new assertiveness among the royal authorities in Dublin regarding Wicklow more generally. The process of shiring Wicklow began in 1579, a move the authorities viewed as part of taming a mountain wilderness inhabited by 'idle and evil disposed persons'.[37] Interestingly, the maps produced for this do not record Donard (Hollywood is marked on the map).

This drive by settlers to control life not only in Donard but also the wider region provoked a major revolt. In 1580, Fiach McHugh O'Byrne defeated a major English army at the Battle of Glenmalure. However, the following seven decades would witness unparalleled bloodshed and turmoil across the island that resulted in English domination.

[35] *Corrigan, The history of Hollywood West Wicklow, 21*
[36] *PROI DKPRI 13/7 VirtualTreasury.ie Accessed Sep 29th 2024*

[37] *Cambridge History of Ireland Vol II p26*

The plantations also had a strong religious element, with new settlers mainly being Protestant, which would transform life in Donard—the local church became a site of Protestant worship. However, the nature and size of the early Protestant community is difficult to determine.

In 1630, the church in Donard, now Protestant, was described as 'fallen down to the ground'[38]. Only 16 families were attending religious services in what was a joint parish of Donard and Hollywood[39]. How representative this was of the wider community is difficult to state given the state of the churches.

We also have no sense of the overall population of Donard. The first detailed picture comes in the 1660s; however, the three decades between 1630 and 1660 were some of the most violent in Irish history.

The 1641 rebellion and the subsequent Cromwellian invasion devastated the island. Donard was far from a centre of activity even on a local level. As mentioned earlier, the Pipho family were resident in the town of Hollywood, elevating its status. This is evidenced by the scant references to Donard in the 1641 depositions.

Nevertheless, the community at Donard did survive. The Hearth Money Rolls in the 1660s record Donard as a small community of 30 houses; 24 had just one hearth, and 2 had no chimney at all. We do get some sense of the changing life in the area. While the Pipho family were still major landowners[40], wealthier residents (those with more than one hearth) were listed as G. Heighington, J. Jackson, Wm. Shortcliffe, and J. Weatherell. [41]

2.1.7 The Emergence of Modern Donard

he 18th century was a time of comparative peace and stability in Ireland. Unfortunately, we have very limited information about life in Donard at the time. The village held a fair twice a year[42]. However, the failure to complete a road over the Table Track into Glenmalure left Donard unable to take advantage of the mining that began in the western end of Glenmalure around this time.

One notable visitor to Donard in the 1760s was John Wesley, the English founder of Methodism. His recollection of his visit and a sermon he gave was brief:

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[38] *Ronan, Archbishop Bulkeley's Visitation of Dublin, 1630 p78*

[39] *Ibid p7*

[40] *Books of Survey and Distribution. Co. Dublin, Co. Wicklow, 1641-1701.p148*
[41] *Price, The Heart Money Rolls for Co Wicklow, p.173*
[42] *Corrigan The history of Hollywood West Wicklow p43*

I rode to Donard a small town in the Co of Wicklow. Here I met with more noise and stupid senseless impudence, than I have since I left England. But the chief man of the town having handled one of the disturbers roughly and another of them being knocked down (not by a methodist) I concluded my discourse without any further hindrance.[43]

Wesley's experience hints at sectarianism, a feature of life that would shape modern history in Donard. While Wicklow in general had a comparatively high Protestant population, the Barony of Talbotstown, where Donard was located, was something of an exception. Early 19th-century data records the Protestant population of Talbotstown numbered just 5% of the overall total[44]. However, Donard was an outlier with a significant protestant minority of around 30%[45]. This community appears to have been well established by the 1790s given a branch of the Orange Order was established in the town.

Unsurprisingly, the 1798 Rebellion, a revolt marred by sectarian violence, had a major impact on the town. Tensions had been rising in the locality in the preceding years, but during the rebellion itself, Donard was severely damaged[46]. Samuel Lewis, who visited in the 1830s, claimed:

During the disturbances of 1798, the village was burnt by the insurgents, the inhabitants having been driven to seek refuge in Dunlavin[47].

This is supported by contemporary sources. There were dozens of claims for compensation in the aftermath of the rebellion from the residents of Donard. The Vestry book in the neighbouring parish church of Donoughmore described the rebellion as a 'cataclysm'[48].

Tensions would remain high in Donard for years. Meetings of the Orange Order frequently resulted in members firing shots at the house of Anthony Byrne, who it was believed had aided Michael Dwyer[49].

One of the major casualties in terms of architecture was the medieval church. In the absence of a fortified position, the military occupied the Protestant church. Unfortunately, this took a major toll on the building, pushing it beyond repair. [50]

Samuel Lewis described:

[43] *Wesly, The Journal of the Rev. John Wesley Vol III, p.224*
[44] *Nolan & Hannigan, Wicklow History and Society, p795*
[45] *Ibid.*
[46] *Ibid. p449*
[47] *Lewis, A topographical history of Ireland, p471*
[48] *O'Donnell, R. Aftermath: Post rebellion insurgency in Wicklow p28*
[49] *ibid p181*
[50] *Styles, The Inheritance of My Fathers, p.10*

the church was garrisoned by the yeomanry, on this occasion, which greatly injured it, and it has since become dilapidated.[51]

Nevertheless, in the following decades, the town slowly recovered. The Heighinton family, one of the largest landowners in the locality, built Donard House, a large two-storey country house. Their previous residence had been damaged in the 1798 rebellion, with George Heighinton claiming over £160 compensation for furniture, clothes, and general provisions.[52]

In the 1820s, a Catholic church was erected on the site of the current community hall[53]. Then, in the 1830s, a new Protestant church was built on a new site. This was funded by the Board of First Fruits, an organisation which funded church construction and repair.

Nevertheless the town continued to struggle. When Samuel Lewis visited in the 1830s, he noted that Donard:

A market and two fairs were formerly held here by patent, but both have been discontinued, though a pleasure fair is yet held on the 15th of Aug.[54]

This was followed by the Great Hunger, which had a devastating impact on Donard. In 1841, the town comprised 86 houses and a total population of 513 residents.[55] Ten years later, as the Famine was easing, the number of houses had fallen by 12, while the population had declined by over 35%[56]. In 1851, there were only 328 residents[57]. This was followed by decades of slow decline. By 1881, there were only 59 houses occupied. The population had declined by a further 20% to 262. [58]

Many of the institutions of village life struggled. The Orange Lodge was in existence as late as 1842 but not afterwards. In 1872, the Protestant church amalgamated the parishes of Donard and Donoughmore, although services continued to be held in Donard[59]. Despite its decline, sectarian tensions continued to flare, notably during the Home Rule crisis of 1886.

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[51] *Lewis, A topographical history of Ireland, p471*

[52] *Cantwell, 1798 Claimants and Surrenders, https://www.findmypast.ie Accessed Sep 11 2024*

[53] *https://donardimaalhistory.wicklowheritage.org/places/chapel-of-ease-the-church-of-the-holy-trinity-donard*

[54] *Lewis, A topographical history of Ireland, p471*

[55] *1881 Census Report the Province of Leinster, p1117*

[56] *ibid*

[57] *1881 Census Report the Province of Leinster, p1117*

[58] *Ibid.*

[59] *Styles, The Inheritance of My Fathers, p12*

2.1.8 The 20th Century

By the turn of the 20th century, Donard had declined still further. Its population was just 187 people. In 1900, the British military began to use the Glen of Imaal as an artillery range, which has continued by the Irish Army up to the present day.

However, the town itself struggled. By 1914, church attendance at Protestant services was around 40. However, through the vicissitudes of the 20th century, these stabilised, remaining similar into the late 1950s.[60] Services continue into the present on a rotational basis between Donard, Donoughmore, and Dunlavin.

One of the few major additions to the town in the early 20th century was a new Catholic church erected in 1926.

On the whole, the 20th century proved a relatively sedate period in Donard, standing in contrast to its past. There was very limited activity in the town during the Revolution and Irish War of Independence. In a pattern reflected across the island, the population of Donard continued to decline, falling to just 151 in 1951.[61] This represented a 70% decline since 1841.

At various times, the idea of building a road along the Table Track was mooted, which would have connected Donard to east Wicklow and potentially increased tourist traffic; however, this never came to pass.

Nevertheless, in the late 20th century and 21st century economic growth, the expansion of Dublin, and improved transport have combined to see the town enjoy modest renewal. By the 2020s, the population of Donard had grown to 238.

[60] *ibid p12*

[61] *1951 Census Alphabetical list of towns with populations, 1951, CSO.ie Accessed Oct 4th 2024*

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*https://*Logaimn.ie

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2.2 Archaeological Background

Donard church and graveyard are in the townland of Donard Lower, the Barony of Lower Talbotstown, in the Civil Parish of Donard, located at the northern end of the Glen of Imaal, in the western part of the Wicklow Mountains. The village is surrounded by Table Mountain (702m), Church Mountain (546m), Lugnaquilla (925m), the highest in Wicklow, and Keadeen Mountain (655m) (Figure 1).

The previous section of this report completed by Dwyer, provides a comprehensive history of Donard. In summary, prehistoric monuments, such as portal tombs and rock art from the Bronze Age, suggest early human activity in the area. Donard's location along important ancient routes through the Wicklow Mountains further emphasized its strategic importance.

In summary, during the early Christian era, Donard had strong connections to some of the first missionaries to Ireland, including Paladius. This period shaped the village's ecclesiastical heritage, with St. Sylvester being a key figure, and relics tied to him were reputedly held in Donard.

In the medieval period, the arrival of the Normans saw Donard become a frontier settlement, with the construction of a motte-and-bailey castle by the powerful de Marisco family. The village's development was hindered by its location on the edge of the Norman-controlled lands and by ongoing conflict with the Gaelic Irish.

The early modern era brought colonization and religious changes, particularly during the 16th and 17th centuries, with settlers from England establishing a Protestant community. The town was affected by the 1641 rebellion and Cromwellian invasion, as well as subsequent conflicts, but remained largely under the control of English landowners.

By the 19th century, Donard experienced further challenges, including a sharp population decline due to the Great Famine, and its significance waned. The village was heavily impacted by sectarian tension during the 1798 Rebellion, when it was burned by insurgents.

In the 20th century, Donard remained a small rural community, though the area around it, particularly the Glen of Imaal, became a military artillery range. Despite ongoing population decline, recent economic growth and the expansion of Dublin have brought modest renewal to the village, with its population rising slightly in the 21st century. This section of the report is

a desk-based assessment coupled with a site visit in order to understand the monument and establish a receiving baseline environment.

2.2.1 Principal Data Sources

The following sources (documentary, cartographic and databases) were consulted to a) establish the nature of the receiving baseline environment. The result of this research is contained within the following paragraphs.

- Place Name Analysis.
- Record of Monuments and Places (RMP).
- Sites and Monuments Record (SMR).
- National Monuments in State Care Database
- Preservation Orders List.
- Register of Historic Monuments
- Record of Protected Structures, Architectural Conservation Areas, and Conservation Areas
- Topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland (NMI).
- Cartographic and historic photo sources relating to the study area.
- Aerial Photographs.
- Database of Irish Excavation Reports (1970- 2023).

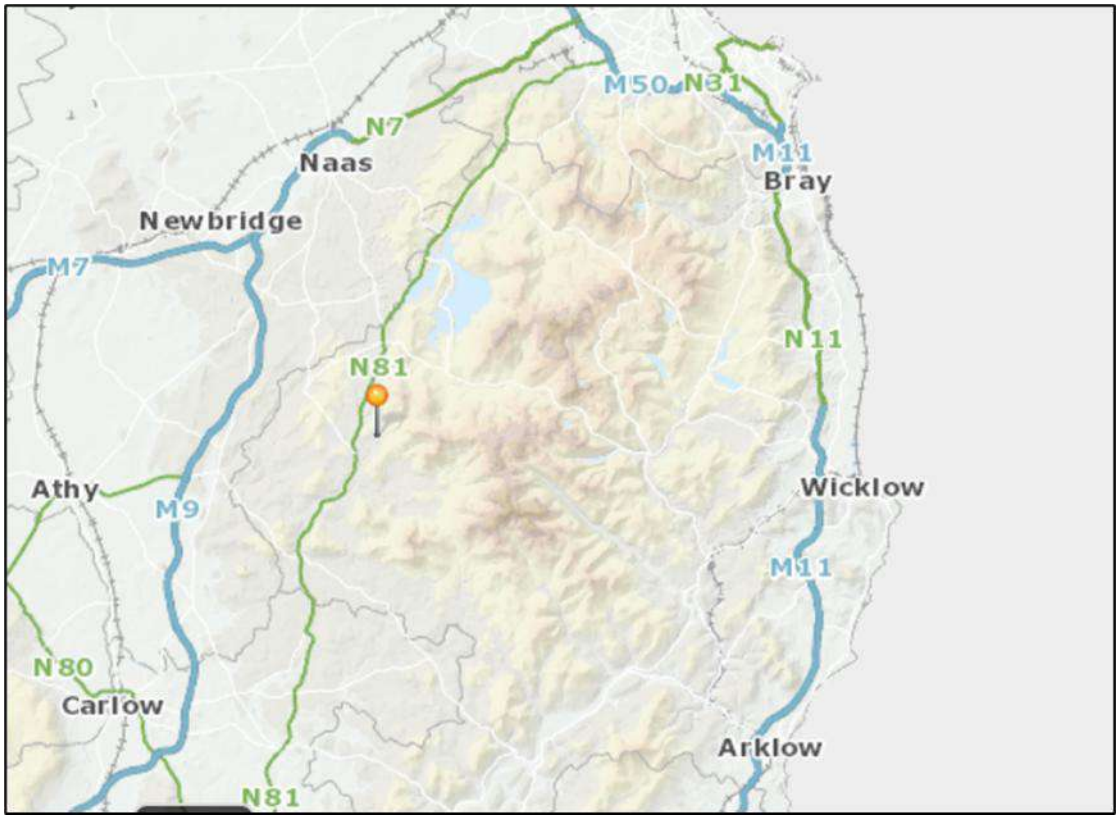

Figure 2: Location Donard, County Wicklow.

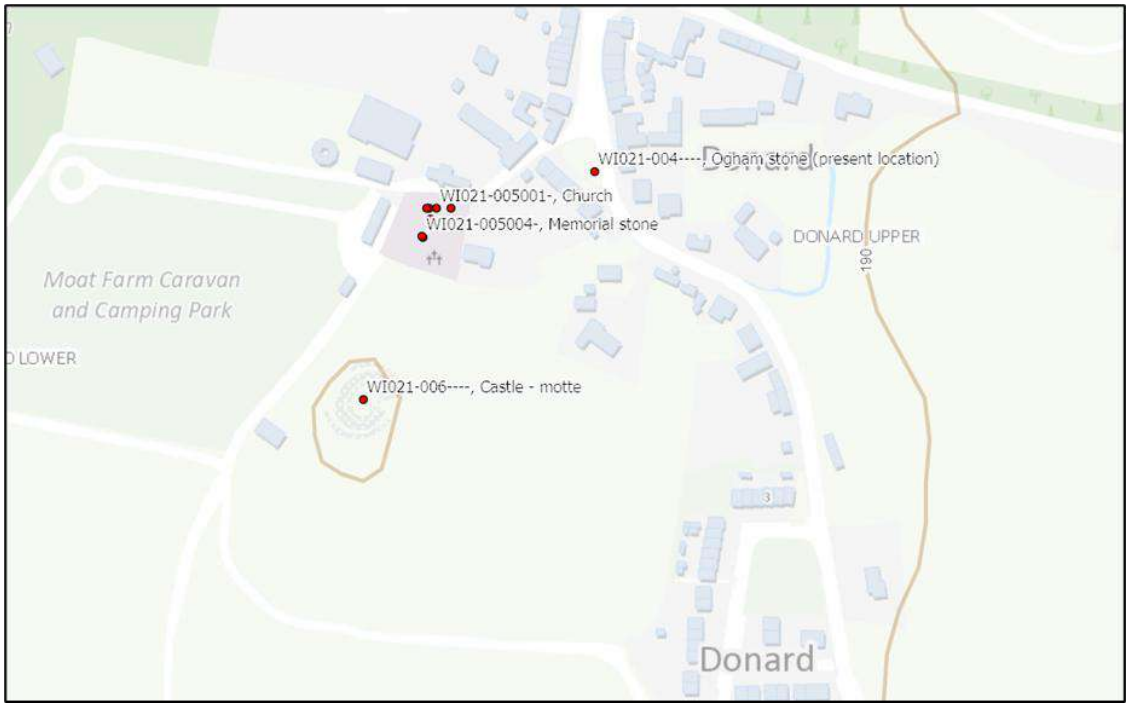

Figure 3: Site location map Donard Church and graveyard Co. Wicklow. With SMR number listed.

2.2.2 Place Name Analysis.

Below is a table that lists historical references for Donard from www.logainm.ie The Placename Database of Ireland.

1172-6	Dunarde	Alen's Reg.
1172 -6	Dunard	Crede Mihi
1173	Dunard	Crede Mihi
1181-99	Dunardathe	Alen's Reg.
1185-95	Dunardathe	Alen's Reg.
1185 -95	Dunardach	Crede Mihi
1190 c.	Dunarde	Reg. St. Jn. B.
1192c	Dunliard	RBO
1192	Dunarde	Alen's Reg.
1192	Dunard	Crede Mihi
1200	Durand'	CDI
1216	Donard	Alen's Reg.
1216	Donardet	Crede Mihi
1230	Dunhardach	CDI
1280	Donard	Crede Mihi
1290	Dunarde	Alen's Reg.
1302-6	Donartchinon	CDI
1326	Donnarde	Alen's Reg.
1530	Donard	Alen's Reg.
1533	Donarde	Rep. Vir.
1538	Donarde	F *Alt: 543*
1540	Donard	Ir. Mon. Poss. *Leathanach: 66*

1540-41	Villata de Downarde	Crown Surv.
1549	Donarde	F *Alt: 298*
1549	Donarde	F *Alt: 279*
1551	Donarde	F *Alt: 774*
1560	Donarde	F
1561	Donard (Presentation of Hugh Cawgane to the Vicarage of)	CPCR
1569	Donarde	F
1571	Donarde	F
1575	Dún Ard	LBran.
1579	Donarde	F
1579	Donarde	F
1594	Donarde	F
1595	Downard	CSPI
1600	Donarde	F
1605	Donard	CPR *Leathanach: 69*
1606-07	Donarde	CSP J I
1625	Dunard & Hollywood	CPR *Leathanach: 588*
1641-47	Downard	Outlaws
1668	Doonard, Donnard	HMR (CM)
1683	Donard	Dublin Wills
1692	Donard	Dublin Wills

1712	Dunnard	CGn.
1713	Dunard	CGn.
1713	Dunard	CGn.
1725	Donard	Dublin Wills
1747	Donard	CGn.
1760	Donard	Nevill 1760
1778	Donard	T&S
1791	Donard	Dublin Wills
1793	Denard	Dublin Wills
1809	Dunnard	Scale's Atlas
1817	Donard	CGn.
1821	Donard	Duncan
1839	Donard Parish	Wilson, J.:AL *Leathanach: CM034,36*
1839	Donard Parish	Doody, P.:AL *Leathanach: CM034,36*
1839	Donard Parish	Fox, P.:AL *Leathanach: CM034,36*
1839	Donard Parish *"& townland! - Remarks are on the parish" [pl];*	Rec. Name:AL *Leathanach: CM034,36*
1839	Donard Parish	BS:AL *Leathanach: CM034,36*
1839	Donard	LSO (CM)
1910	D[omnach]. airte fd. by Palladius in Lein., Tl. 30; ¶ in E. of c. Wick., Lb. 26; ¶ Donard p. and 5 tls. in Wick.	Onom. Goed

1910	D[ún]. árd in d. Glendal., c. Wick., Cr. 1192, 1173; ¶ Donard in Balimór dry., Dublin, Cr.; ¶ raided by Aodh O Byrne, siad aráon anesbaidh cruidh, D. A. as Baile an Blacuigh, Caithréim Aodha, Bran. 92.	Onom. Goed

Table 2: Historical references for from www.logainm.ie.

Donard is a townland located in the civil parish of Dún Ard (Donard) within the barony of Talbotstown Lower in County Wicklow. It translates as Dún which means fort in English and ard, meaning high, so high fort.

The placename "Donard" (and its various historical forms such as Dunarde, Dunard, Dunardathe, Donardet, Downard, etc.) is in the civil parish of the same name and also the barony of Talbotstown Lower. Donard is associated with an elevated fortification or "Dún Ard" in Irish, which translates to "high fort" or "high stronghold."

Throughout historical records, from the 12th century to modern times, Donard and its variations have appeared in significant legal and ecclesiastical documents. The earliest records, such as those in Alen's Register from the late 12th century, reference "Dunarde" and "Dunardathe," indicating its importance as a place of note, possibly a landholding or religious settlement. Similarly, references in Crede Mihi confirm the presence and status of Donard in the same period.

By the late 1500s, Donard had become a well-established parish, as seen in several records, including church and property documents, such as the Crown Survey and entries in Fiant registers, which track the administration of English crown lands in Ireland. By this period, the placename also appeared in the Irish Monastic Possessions and Presentation of Hugh Cawgane to the Vicarage of Donard in 1561, indicating its religious significance.

Over time, as seen in the 18th and 19th centuries, the name stabilized as "Donard," continuing its ecclesiastical and administrative relevance, often noted in Dublin Wills and other landholding documents. References to the area are also found in geographical sources such as Scale's Atlas in 1809 and various scholarly works in the 20th century.

2.2.3 Archaeological Landscape of the Early Medieval Period c. 500-1100 AD

By 380 AD, Christianity formally became the professed faith of the powerful Roman Empire after the Emperor Constantine attributed his victory at the Battle of Milvian Bridge to divine intervention by a Christian God who had brought him victory [62]. New contact between Ireland and Romanised Britain formed because of trading and raiding. New settlers and traders brought new customs with them to Ireland: they brought a new religion that included a new form of burial practice – supine, extended inhumation together with the establishment and construction of churches.

Despite the general belief that St Patrick 'brought Christianity to Ireland' in 432 AD, there were already Christians in this part of Ireland before his arrival and they were roman raiders and traders. During the early Christian era, Donard had strong connections to some of the first missionaries to Ireland, including Paladius. This period shaped the village's ecclesiastical heritage, with St. Sylvester being a key figure, and relics tied to him were reputedly held in Donard.

The Romans replaced the practice of cremation with inhumation in the second century AD. This inhumation burial rite spread to Ireland by the later fourth or early fifth century[63]. Cremation was the dominant burial practice in Ireland before this. The east-west orientation of the burial (head to the west) was traditional by the fourth century in Britain and eventually became identified with Christianity in both Britain and Ireland.

The early Christian monastic system adopted the native Irish settlement style by enclosing their early monasteries with earthen banks [64]. In addition to internationally famous monastic sites such as Glendalough and Clonmacnoise, there were smaller Christian communities throughout the Irish countryside like Donard. These communities mostly consisted of lay people and were concerned mainly with ministering to the spiritual needs of the people in their area[65]. Most early ecclesiastical sites appear to have originated with a founding saint who lived in the sixth century, and Saint Sylvester is associated with Hollywood [66]. These settlements along with containing churches and cemeteries, were also centres of craft working and the occupants engaged in farming [67]. During the gradual conversion from paganism to Christianity,

[62] Noonan, 2015, p. 1
[63] O' Brien, 2020, p. 49
[64] Noonan, 2015, p. 4
[65] O Sullivan & Downey, 2020, p. 43
[66] Ibid. p. 44
[67] O Sullivan & Downey, 2017, p. 18

the laity would have still buried their dead in familial cemeteries that would have supported a local, secular community.

This practice was tolerated by the church up to the eighth century. Prior to this, burial in monastic centres like Donard would have been reserved for high-ranking members of society; typically, bishops, abbots, clerics and patrons. However, from the eighth century onwards, the Church began to legislate regarding acceptable burial practices and the '*Collectio Canonum Hibernensis'* ('Collection of Irish Canons') urged the faithful to abandon burial among their ancestors in favour of burial in church cemeteries[68] This is where early medieval church sites such as Donard came into use. These sites range from the better-known monastic complexes like Glendalough and Clonmacnoise, to small and almost forgotten places in secluded fields, there are over 100 historic graveyards listed in the SMR for Co. Wicklow.

The earliest churches were small timber structures. They were founded in the period 500–800 AD and were built primarily of timber frames with post-and-wattle walls and clay[69]. Only twenty timber churches have been identified to date. Mortared stone churches may have replaced an earlier wooden church in many instances. There are approximately 140 churches in the country which were built between the tenth and mid-twelfth centuries.

These early church sites were defined by one or more curvilinear enclosing elements which could comprise ditches, banks, stone walls and palisades. The remains of inner enclosure is possibly still visible in the graveyard at Donard, however further analysis including geophysical survey may highlight the location of the enclosure in the surrounding landscape. Recent research suggests that there are approximately six thousand ecclesiastical sites in Ireland which is on average, one for every ten townlands[70].

Many small early medieval church sites contained a church and cemetery on the eastern side with domestic and craft areas in the western part of the enclosure. The innermost core was called a vallum in which the church and graveyard were located, and this was considered scared[71]. Carved stone crosses often mark the boundary of this sacred area defining it from the outer enclosed areas where craft, domestic, agriculture, cereal processing and iron working were carried out[72]. Some people also lived in and around the monastic sites, either as monks living within the enclosure or workers on the monastic estate living in the area outside the enclosure. A range of features are associated with these sites comprising the

[69] Ibid.
[70] O Sullivan & Downey, 2020, p. 44
[71] Noonan, 2015, p. 5
[72] O Sullivan & Downey, 2020, p. 46

church and graveyard, dwellings, various ovens / kilns, wells and mills as well as field systems, although some of these would have been located outside the ecclesiastical enclosure.

The three main farm animals on early church sites were cattle, sheep/goats and pigs. Barley was the dominant cereal, followed by oats and occasionally wheat and rye. Mills were often erected near the church sites, with corn-drying kilns typically within the outer precincts.

At Donard there is very little above ground traces of the early medieval church site, the graveyard is roughly square and the original church was replaced and the current one dates to possibly the 15th or 16th century.

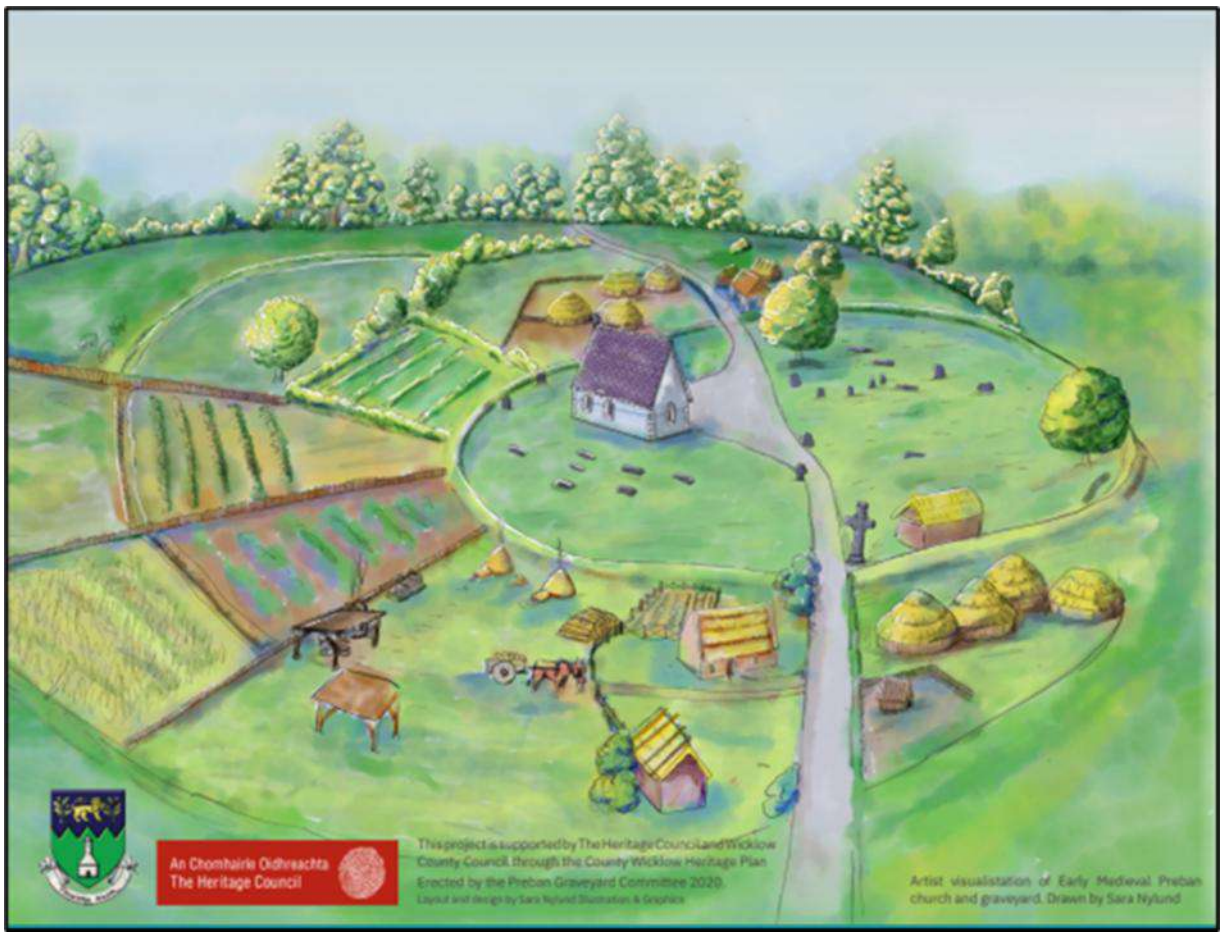

Plate 2: Reconstruction drawing of an early medieval church site by Sara Nylund.

2.2.4 Archaeological evidence for the Anglo-Norman Period in Donard

In 1169, Richard de Clare (Strongbow) and his Norman forces arrived in Ireland, invited by Diarmuid MacMurrough to help reclaim his kingship of Leinster. The Normans swiftly advanced through the south and captured Dublin within two years. Diarmuid was restored as King of Leinster and solidified his alliance with the Normans by offering his daughter Aoife in marriage to Strongbow. At that time, Diarmuid's brother-in-law, Lorcan O'Toole, was the

Archbishop of Dublin and played a crucial role in negotiations between the Normans and the Irish, being trusted by both sides.

After Lorcan O'Toole's death in 1180, King Henry II was determined to prevent another Irishman from becoming Archbishop of Dublin. He influenced the election of John Comyn, an Englishman who had served the king for many years. Comyn, who had assisted the king in various state affairs and negotiations with the pope, was consecrated as Archbishop of Dublin on March 21, 1182, after being ordained a priest one week earlier.

In 1192, Comyn persuaded Prince John to transfer most of the estates from the bishopric of Glendalough to Dublin, arguing that Glendalough was sparsely populated while Dublin was impoverished. This transfer made Comyn one of the wealthiest landholders in the area. He granted Donard to his nephew, Jordan de Marisco around 1192 as discussed by Dwyer previously in this report. It is around this period that the motte and bailey castle, known as the Ball Moat, was established. Positioned south of Donard's early medieval ecclesiastical site, this fortification likely marked the location of an original earthwork that inspired Donard's name, meaning "high fort."

After the Anglo-Norman invasion in 1169, the new settlers began the construction of castles to extend their control, the majority of which were built of earth and timber. These were favoured materials because of the speed with which castles could be erected and they may also have customized pre-existing earthwork[73]. Early castles were of two principal types: mottes and ringworks.

The motte and bailey consisted of a flat-topped, steep-sided, earthen mound supporting a wooden tower, with an associated courtyard or bailey, which is often raised and enclosed by a bank and fosse, as it is at Donard.

The motte and bailey castles were constructed by piling up layers of earth and stone. They were quick to build using local materials and did not need skilled labour. The motte would have had steep sides making it easy to defend in times of attack.

The bailey which would have been a bustling settlement would have been possibly surrounded by a wooden palisade, and a ditch (called a fosse). If it was possible, nearby streams were diverted into the ditches to produce a moat.

[73] O Keefe, The archaeology of Anglo-Norman castles in Ireland. Part 2: Stone castles, 1990, p. 15

The residential, administrative, farm and other buildings essential to the day-to-day activities of the Anglo-Norman fortification may have been in or adjacent to the bailey which in some instances may also have functioned as a fortification for a military garrison[74]. Access from the bailey to the motte was probably by some form of wooden bridge or gangway.

Plate 3: Extract from the 70m long Bayeux Tapestry which tells of the conquest of England by William the Conqueror in 1066.

The motte at Donard is described in the SMR files as a predominantly natural, steep-sided mound with a diameter of approximately 40 meters and a height ranging from 4 to 8 meters. Its summit is relatively level and circular, measuring about 24 meters in diameter and encircled by an earthen bank that is 1.7 meters wide and between 0.4 and 0.7 meters high. Access to the summit is provided by a 3-meter-wide entrance, along with an access ramp situated on the northeastern side. On the eastern side, a possible fosse lies approximately 4 meters below the summit level, balanced by a berm on the western side, adding both functional and defensive elements to the structure.

While the subjugation of the more remote parts of the island would take generations, Norman settlement in Wicklow was well underway by the late 12th century. To develop an Anglo-Norman system of agriculture, which differed considerably from that of the Gaelic Irish, most of the land was divided into political and economic units known as manors. These manors encompassed several thousand acres of land around an administrative center, or caput, which usually took the form of a village or small town built around a fortified site. The site at Donard was chosen as there was a pre-existing church site there as is the case with many other

[74] O Keefe, 2007

examples including Hollywood. While primarily defensive, the motte and bailey also served as the administrative center for de Marisco's holdings in the Glen of Imaal.

It was observed that many medieval villages and towns had designated areas, known as burgage plots, where the burgesses constructed their houses, typically situated at the street end of the property. These features manifested as traces of elongated, narrow plots. The size of these medieval plots varied depending on their location and intended land use, with dimensions often based on a medieval unit of measurement known as a "perch''. There is no historical sources which reference burgage plots at Donard.

Plate 4: Aerial view of Motte at Donard WI021-006----.

2.2.5 Cartographic Analysis

Analysis of historic mapping shows the human impact on the landscape and its evolving nature over clearly defined time intervals. The comparison of editions of historic maps can show how some landscape features have been created, altered, or removed over a period of time. The following paragraphs detail all the maps that specifically relate to Donard.

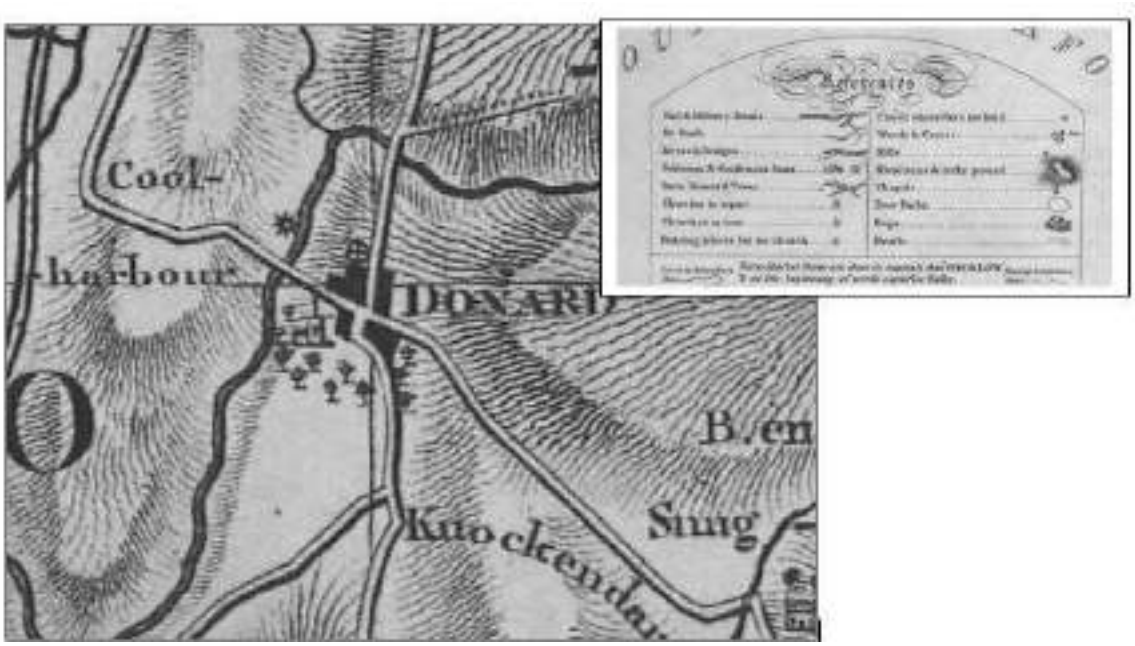

Figure 4: Wicklow Grand Jury Map 1760 content, created 1812[75]

At the time of the Grand Jury Map, the content dates to 1760 and the map was created in 1812, Donard is depicted as having a market place, a church in repair, with farmhouses around the village (Figure 4). A mill is also depicted to the west of the village. As Dwyer notes in section 2.2 a southern route along the modern walking path, the Table Track, linked the Glen of Imaal with Glenmalure and this is depicted on the Grand Jury Map by Neville (see Figure 1).

[75] Wicklow Grand Jury Map by Jacob Nevill - Virtual Treasury

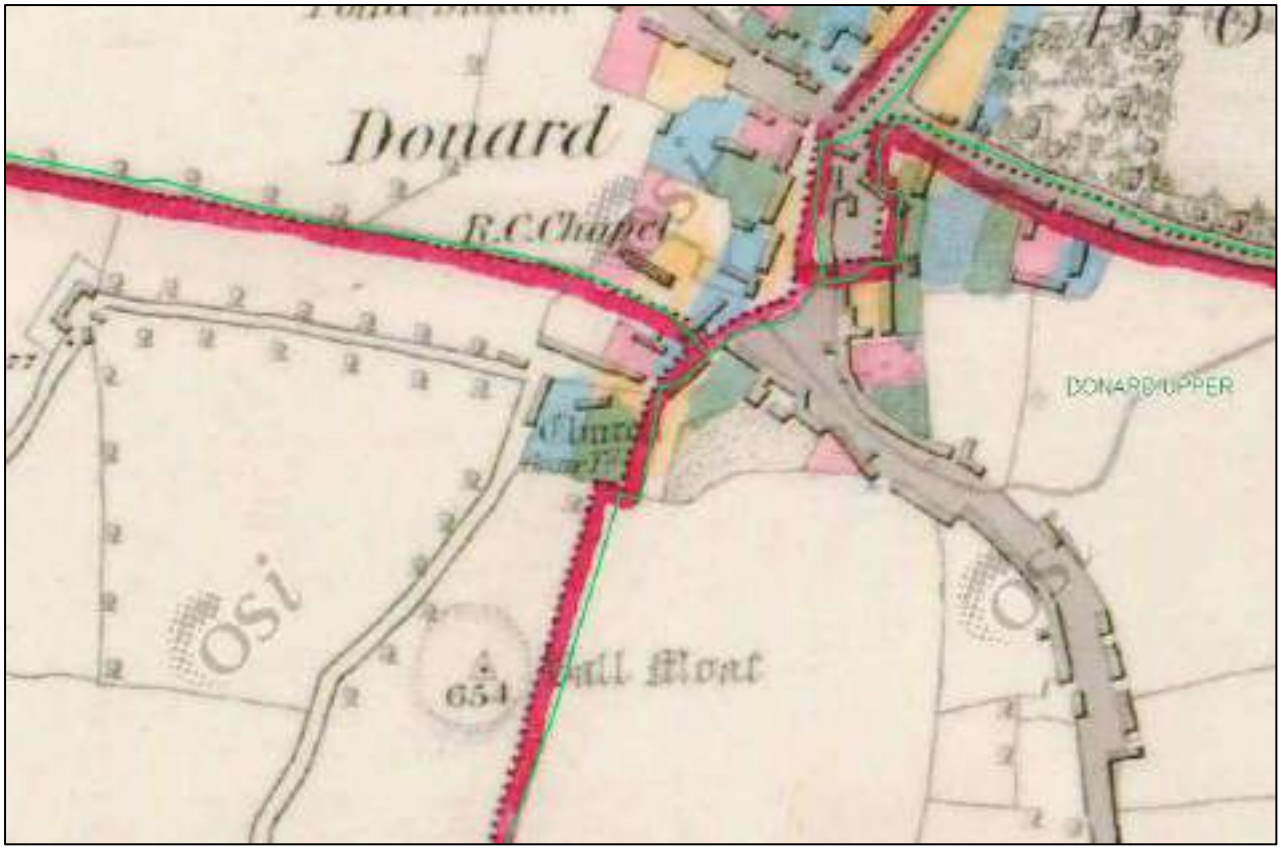

Figure 5: First edition 1829 – 1841 OS map (www.archaeology.ie).

On the first edition map, the church and graveyard are clearly marked (Figure 5). The church appears as a long rectangular building aligned east to west, situated within a roughly square graveyard. The northern boundary of the graveyard coincides with the townland boundary separating Donard Upper and Lower. A laneway runs along the western side of the graveyard, with a building depicted near its western boundary. The motte is shown as a circular raised area and is labelled the "Ball Moat." Additionally, the map labels the R.C. Chapel, along with numerous houses lining the streets.

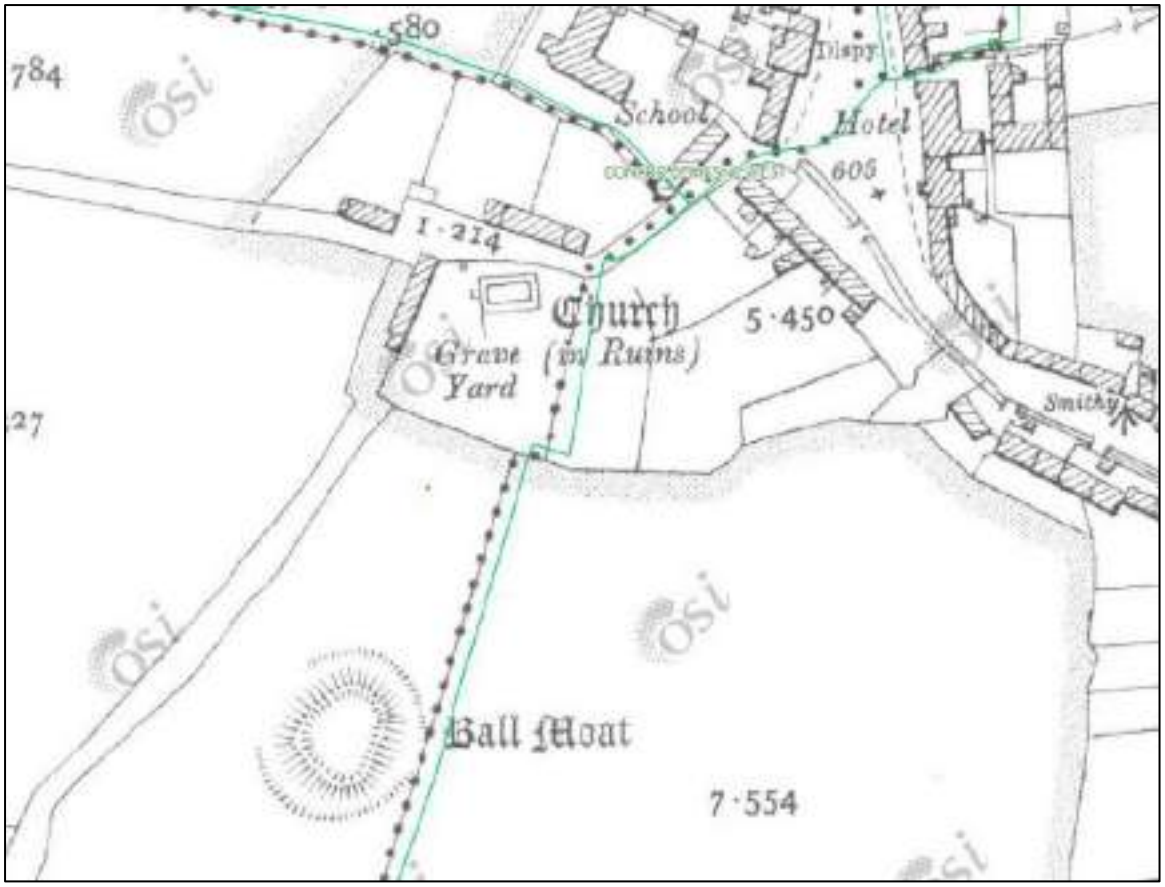

Figure 6: Third edition OS map 1908-09 (www.archaeology.ie).

On the third edition map, the church is labelled as being in ruins, with the graveyard also marked. The building adjacent to the laneway, shown on the first edition map, remains extant. A small L-shaped wall is attached to the western end of the church, and a possible wall extends from the southwest corner of the graveyard. The Ball Moat, with its flat top and steeply sloped sides, is also depicted.

2.2.6 Record of Monuments and Places

The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) was established under section 12(1) of the 1994 National Monuments (Amendment) Act and provides that the Commissioners (now the Minister) shall establish and maintain a record of monuments and places where the Minister believes there are monuments, such record to be comprised of a list of monuments and relevant places and a map or maps showing each monument and relevant place in respect of each county in the state.

It is based on the older non-statutory Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and information from county archaeological inventories. It records known upstanding archaeological monuments, the original location of destroyed monuments and the location of possible sites identified through documentary, cartographic, photographic research, and field inspections.

The following the SMR details for Donard as extracted from (www.archaeology.ie).

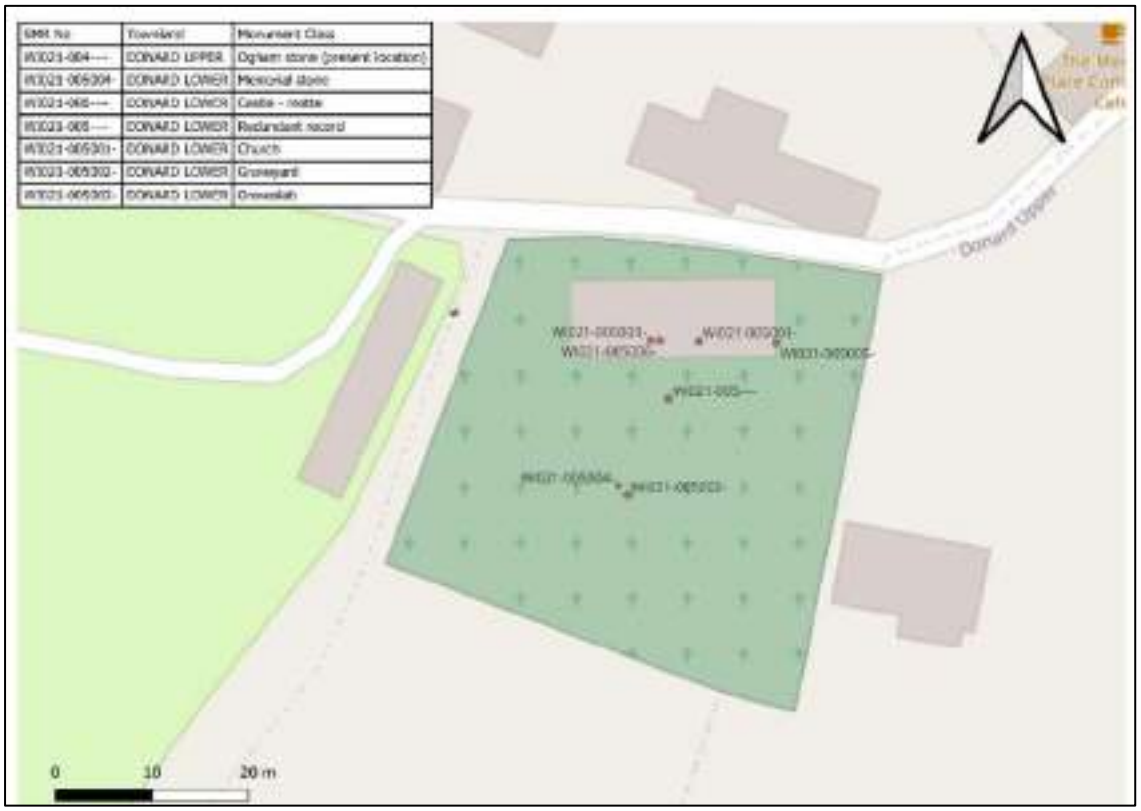

Figure 7: SMR sites Donard, Co. Wicklow.

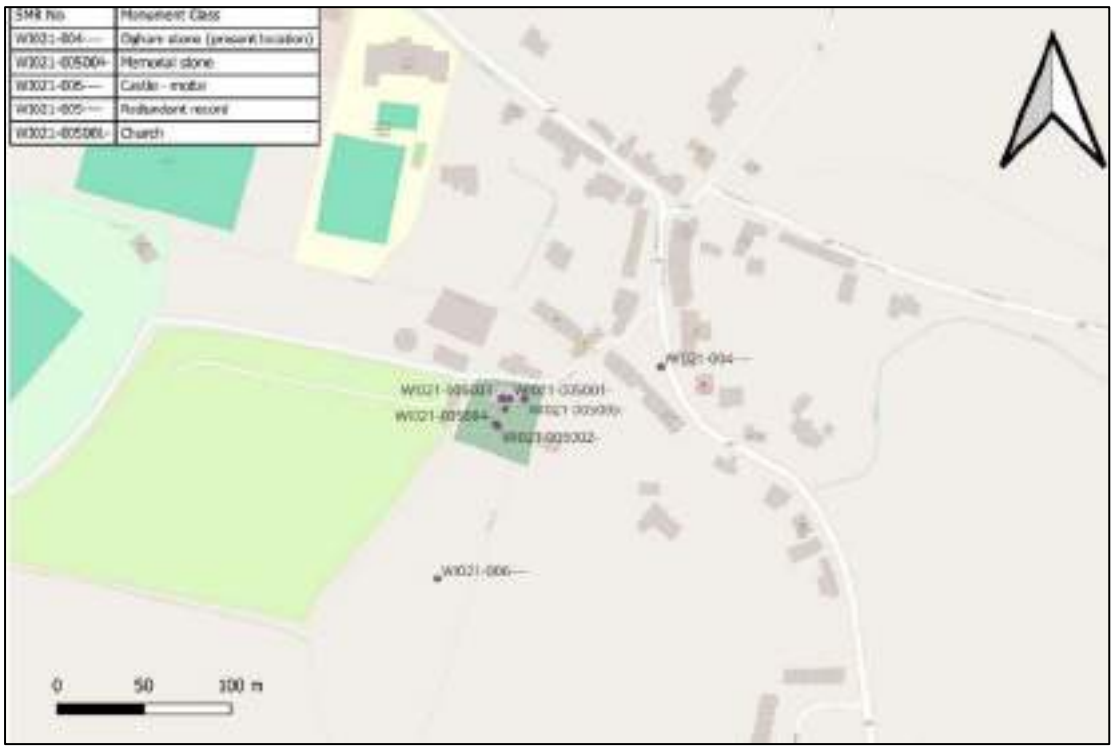

Figure 8: Zoomed out view SMR sites in Donard.

SMR No	Townland	Monument Class	WebNotes
WI021-005003-	DONARD LOWER	Graveslab	One of two late medieval graveslabs at Donard church (WI021-005001-). A recumbent tapering slab (L 1.79m; Wth 0.74-0.53m; T 0.19m) with bevelled edges immediately inside W door believed locally to cover the grave of St. Sylvester. The upper face is ornamented by a cross in outline at either end joined by shafts. A second tapering slab (WI021-005005-) (L 1.06m; Wth at top 0.54m; T 0.28m) with similar but cruder ornament is now erect outside the E gable of the church. (Corlett 2003, 95-97) Compiled by: Mary Tunney Date of upload: 20 November 2012
WI021-005004-	DONARD LOWER	Memorial stone	Listed as 'Miscellaneous' in the SMR (1986), this record relates to the original location of a subrectangular inscribed granite slab (L 0.5m; Wth 0.28cm; T 0.25m) described by Walsh (1931, 139) as reading: ') M T (' on the first line and '171) 1V' on the second line, perhaps representing the builder's initials and a date. The present location of the stone is unknown. Compiled by: Mary Tunney Date of upload: 20 November 2012
WI021-005005-	DONARD LOWER	Graveslab	Set upright against the outer face of the E wall of a church (WI021-005001-). A granite trapezoidal graveslab (visible above ground to a height of 1.06m; Wth 0.54m at broad top end; T 0.28m). The upper end is decorated with a cross defined by a groove (D 0.005m; Wth 0.002-0.003m) and two grooves extend down to ground level. The slab and decoration are in the same style as the other slab (WI021-005003-) inside the church but are considerably cruder. Compiled by: Mary Tunney Date of upload: 20 November 2012
WI021-005001-	DONARD LOWER	Church	Situated on level ground at a break in a S/SW-facing slope. A fifteenth or sixteenth-century nave and chancel parish church (ext. dims. 12m x 6.5m) built of uncoursed masonry with punch-dressed quoins. The W wall has a bellcote and a central door with a possibly later porch. The window in the E wall has glazing-bar-holes and the internal tracery has been removed. Lying on the floor of the church at the W end is a late medieval graveslab (WI021-005003-) (L 1.79m; Wth 0.53-0.74m; T 0.19m) with bevelled edges. The upper face has the outline of a cross at either end joined by a shaft. A second tapering graveslab (WI021-005005-)(min. L 1.06m; Wth at top 0.54m; T 0.28m) stands upright against the outer face of the E wall. The ornament is similar to the former but is more crudely executed. There is no trace of the inscribed granite slab (WI021-005004-) described by Walshe (1931, 139-40). The church stands towards the N side of a rectangular graveyard (WI021-005002-)(dims. 45m NE-SW; 40m NW-SE) defined by a modern stone wall. A motte (WI021-006----) lies 75m to the SW. The above description is derived from the published 'Archaeological Inventory of County Wicklow' (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1997). In certain instances the entries have been revised and updated in the light of recent research. Date

			of upload/revision: 20 November 2012 Revised by: Mary Tunney
WI021-005002-	DONARD LOWER	Graveyard	Situated on level ground at a break in a S/SW-facing slope. A rectangular graveyard (dims. 45m NE-SW; 40m NW-SE) defined by a modern stone wall. A fifteenth or sixteenth-century nave and chancel parish church (WI021-005001-) stands on the N side. A medieval graveslab (WI021-005003-) lies within the church and another (WI021-005005-) lies against the outer face of the E wall. Revised by: Mary Tunney Date of revision: 20 November 2012
WI021-006----	DONARD LOWER	Castle - motte	Situated overlooking the medieval church of Donard (WI021-005001-). Archbishop John Comyn of Dublin granted Donard to Jordan de Marisco before 1190 and this may be the site of a motte built by him (Price 1953, 189). Largely natural steep-sided mound (diam. c. 40m; H c. 4-8m) with a level, roughly circular summit (diam. 24m) defined by an earthen bank (Wth 1.7m; H 0.4-0.7m). There is an entrance (Wth 3m) and an access ramp at the NE, a possible fosse at the E (c. 4m below the summit), with a corresponding berm at the W. The above description is derived from the published 'Archaeological Inventory of County Wicklow' (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1997). In certain instances the entries have been revised and updated in the light of recent research. Date of upload/revision: 17 December 2008 This monument is subject to a preservation order made under the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014 (PO no. 119/1940).

Table 3:SMR details from www.archaeology.ie.

2.2.7 Historical Photographic Analysis

Plate 5: Photograph on display in Donard Community Centre, Donard Co Wicklow.

Plate 6: View of the village from Donard Imaal History Archive, church and graveyard to left of image.

Plate 7: Bellcote on west wall of Church from 2012.[76]

Plate 8: East round-headed window in east wall of church from 2012.[77]

[76] Ireland In Ruins: Old Donard Church Co Wicklow
[77] Ireland In Ruins: Old Donard Church Co Wicklow

2.2.8 Recorded protected structures (RPS)

Donard Church and graveyard is not a Recorded Protected Structure nor is it listed on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage's website.

2.2.9 Topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland (NMI).

The topographical files are held in the National Museum of Ireland in Kildare Street. These files identify all recorded finds which are held in archive and have been donated to the state in accordance with national monuments legislation. Stray finds from the townland of Donard was checked and no finds were recorded.

2.2.10 Database of Irish Excavation Reports (1970- 2023).

A review of the excavations bulletin indicates that there have been no excavations in the townland of Donard.

3 Section Three: The Present: Donard Church and Graveyard Current Condition

3.1 Site Description

The church is located on the northern side of a rectangular graveyard (WI021-005002-), which measures 45 m northeast-southwest and 40 m northwest-southeast (Plate 9). The graveyard is now enclosed by a modern stone wall. The entrance to the graveyard is on the northern side, which is bounded by a small road 1.9 m lower than the graveyard (Plate 10). The northern graveyard wall is 1.9 m high and 0.6 m wide, constructed of roughly coursed stones bound with a whitish-grey mortar. Entry to the graveyard is through two stone pillars with pyramidal granite caps, though the westernmost pillar has been dislodged. Six granite steps lead into the graveyard, measuring 1.6 m wide at the top and 2 m wide at the bottom (Plate 11). The church ruins will be described followed by the graveyard and then the boundary walls.

3.1.1 Church ruins and setting

Plate 9: Overview of Donard Graveyard.

Plate 10: View of church and graveyard from the road.

Plate 11: Entrance to the graveyard note pillar on gate is dislodged.

The parish church, dating from the fifteenth or sixteenth century, measures 12m by 6.5m externally and the gables are covered in vegetation (Plate 12 -Plate 15). It is constructed from uncoursed masonry, with punch-dressed quoins at the corners.

3.1.2 Western gable of Church

A bellcote is located on the west wall, which also features a central doorway. This doorway may have been altered later to include a porch external to the building. The doorway measures 1.20m wide and is 2.15m in height and 0.70m in depth (Plate 16 - Plate 18). The top of the doorway is framed by an arch of 10 voussoir stones. Traces of a harling are visible on the doorway. The tomb of the Heighton family is located to the west of the church, and three large ledger slabs rest against the western gable.

Plate 12: Aerial view of church ruins.

Plate 13: Western gable of the church, bellcote and doorway, the railings in the foreground is the family plot of the Heightons.

Plate 14: View of doorway in west gable of the church from inside the ruins.

Plate 15: Internal view of west gable, note bellcote and entrance doorway.

Plate 16: South jamb of doorway.

Plate 17: View of arch of doorway.

Plate 18: View of northern jamb of the doorway.

There is a small later east to west aligned wall which is built against the western gable of the church and is 1.9m high and 0.60m in width. It appears to have continued running north to south but has collapsed and may represent a porch. It comprises roughly coursed stone,

different to the church and is bound with mortar. Three large graveslabs are standing upright resting against the western gable of the church (Plate 21).

Plate 19: Later wall which abuts the west gable of the church at the doorway.

Plate 20: View of later wall, from southern side, may be the remains of a porch.

Plate 21: Slabs resting against the western gable of the church.

3.1.3 Interior of Church

Inside the church, near the west end, there is a late medieval graveslab (WI021-005003-) in addition to many 19th and 21st century headstones. The medieval cross slab lies on the south side of the interior. It is 1.82m long, but its full width is obscured by a large slab. The cross slab is made of granite and appears to taper towards its foot. The decoration includes an incised cross measuring 0.4m wide and 0.5m long. A narrow line, 0.07m wide, runs for a length of 0.99m, ending in a small cross measuring 0.23m across and 0.12m high (Plate 23 - Plate 25).

Plate 22: View of interior of the church facing southeast.

Plate 23: East terminal of late medieval graveslab (WI021-005003-).

Plate 24: View of late medieval graveslab (WI021-005003-).

Plate 25: Western terminal of late medieval graveslab (WI021-005003-).

A second graveslab (WI021-005005-), more roughly executed and tapering in shape, stands upright against the exterior of the east wall. This slab measures at least 1.06m in length, 0.54m

wide at the top, and 0.28m thick, and has similar ornamentation to the first slab. An inscribed granite slab (WI021-005004-), mentioned by Walshe in 1931, is no longer present.

Plate 26: Graveslab (WI021-005001-).

Set against the exterior of the eastern gable wall of the church (WI021-005001-), this granite graveslab stands upright, with only 1.06m visible above the ground (Plate 26). It is trapezoidal in shape, measuring 0.54m wide at the broader top end, and has a thickness of 0.28m. The upper section features a cross design, outlined by a shallow groove (5mm deep and 2-3mm wide), while two grooves run down the length of the slab to ground level. Though it shares stylistic similarities with another slab inside the same church (WI021-005003-), this external slab appears to be much cruder than the graveslab inside the church.

3.1.4 South wall of church

There is evidence of two windows on the south side of the church, which was once plastered on the inside, with traces of plaster still visible. The south wall survives to a height of 0.90 m, while the windows reach 1.90 m. The wall itself is 0.90 m thick. The north wall, standing at a height of 1.05 m, is built from roughly coursed stone, primarily sandstone with occasional granite, all bound together with mortar.

Plate 27: South wall of the church with western gable and bellcote.

Plate 28: South wall of the church with evidence of window and plaster.

Plate 29: South wall of church with evidence of blocked up window at eastern end.

Plate 30: Overview of south wall of church.

3.1.5 Eastern Gable

The eastern gable of the church features a large window, measuring approximately 1.5m in width and 4 m in height. The window is constructed from finely cut granite, with visible glazing-bar holes, and it has a rounded head. However, it is now almost entirely concealed by vegetation. Photographs from 2012, when the window was less overgrown, clearly show its shape and reveal that it originally had tracery (Plate 8).

Plate 31: View of east gable window from inside church.

Plate 32: View of eastern gable of church from the exterior of the building.

Plate 33: View of southeast corner of eastern gable of the church.

Plate 34: View or granite window jambs with glazing bar holes.

Plate 35: View of granite windowsills from interior of the church.

Plate 36: View of collapsed masonry at base of window in east gable.

Plate 37: View of plaster below east gable window.

Set against the exterior of the eastern gable is the previously discussed granite graveslab (WI021-005001-) (Plate 26).

3.1.6 North wall of church

The north wall of the church survives to a to a height of 1.05m. It comprises roughly coursed sandstone with occasional granite all bound with mortar. The north least section of the wall appears to have been built in clay and faced with stone.

Plate 38: North wall of church and western gable.

Plate 39: North wall of church and eastern gable. Note the clay wall is where solitary bees were identified by the ecologist.

3.1.7 The graveyard

The rectangular graveyard (WI021-005002-) measures 45 m from northeast to southwest and 40 m from northwest to southeast. Irish yew trees grow throughout the graveyard, which is elevated 1.9 m above the road level to the north. Access is provided by a set of granite steps flanked by pillars. The graveyard is enclosed by stone walls on all sides, except to the west, where a concrete wall forms the boundary. Historical maps from the first and third editions show a house once located in this area.

The headstones in the graveyard date from the 19th to the 21st centuries, and a comprehensive record, along with a plan of the site, has been created by the local community. This information is stored in the community hall. The majority of headstones are upright, though there are also ledgers, tombs, and occasional iron crosses. The most notable monument is the Heighton family tomb, located near the western gable of the church and enclosed by iron railings. There is also a noticeable difference in ground level in the southeast corner, possibly indicating the remains of an earlier enclosure. There is a late medieval graveslab and granite cross in the graveyard.

Plate 40: View of graveyard facing north with Irish Yew trees.

Plate 41: View of graveyard with difference in ground level.

Plate 42: Tomb and upright headstones.

Plate 43: View of graveyard and iron cross facing west.

Plate 44: Granite cross.

Plate 45: Southwest corner of the graveyard wall which has collapsed.

Plate 46: Crack at southwest corner of the graveyard boundary wall.

Plate 47: Concrete retaining wall on west boundary of the graveyard where the houses which were visible at the time of the first and third edition map were located/

Plate 48: Northern graveyard boundary wall.

Plate 49: Eastern boundary wall of the graveyard.

Plate 50: View south towards Motte.

3.2 Ecological Setting

The following information was extracted from the accompanying ecological report which is attached as Appendix 2 and should be read in conjunction with this report as it contains detailed photographs of the receiving environment. Below is an extract from this report which describes the ecological setting of Donard Graveyard.

The dominant habitat in Donard Old Graveyard is Dry Meadows and Grassy Verge Grassland (GS2), surrounded by stone walls and other stone work (BL1). Species identified from the grassland within the grounds of Donard Old Graveyard included Sweet vernal grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*), False oat grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) and Cock's-foot grass (*Dactylis glomerata*). Herbaceous species within the graveyard include; Sheep's sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), Silverweed (*Potentilla anserina),* Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), White Clover (*Trifolium repens*), Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), Hairy Bitter-cress (*Cardamine hirsuta),* Cuckoo Flower (*Cardamine pratensis*), Smooth Hawksbeard (*Crepis capillaris*), Nettle (*Urtica dioica*), Chickweed (*Stellaria media*), Marsh Thistle (*Cirsium palustre*), Creeping Thistle (*Cirsium arvense),* Germander Speedwell *(Veronica chamaedrys*), Ribwort Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), Dandelion (*Taraxacum agg.*), Ivy *(Hedera helix*), Cat's-ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*), Daisy *(Bellis perennis*), Broad-leaved Willowherb (*Epilobium montana),* and Nipplewort (*Lapsana communis*). Around the perimeter of the graveyard is a clipped hedgerow (WL1) with Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Gorse (*Ulex),* and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus),* There are some Irish Yew (*Taxus baccata fastigiata*) and the remains of a Cypress (*Cupressus sp.)* in the north eastern corner overhanging the wall. The non-native shrub Firethorn (*Pyracantha sp.)* is also found within the hedgerow alongside saplings of Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior).* A nice community of Liverworts (*Marchantiophyta sp.)* were recorded at the base of the wall alongside species such as Groundsel (*Senecio vulgaris),* Herb Robert (*Geranium robertianum*), Cleavers (*Gallium aparine*), Bush Vetch (*Vicia sepium),* Nipplewort and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus agg.).* The walls supported populations of Maidenhair Spleenwort (*Asplenium trichomanes),* Ivy (*Hedera helix),* Barren strawberry (*Potentilla sterilis),* Ivy leaved toadflax (*Cymbalaria muralis*) growing in the lime mortar with Broad leaved Willowherb, Nipplewort, Smooth hawk's-beard, Dandelion, and Early hair grass (*Aira praecox*). The non-native and invasive Red valerian populations on the wall and monument should be removed and controlled. Some use of herbicide was noted in the graveyard and around the headstones. This is both environmentally unfriendly and unsightly and can cause the headstones to move as the bare ground cracks and shrinks when the vegetation is removed. There was also an area of dumping at the rear of the graveyard with Nettle (*Urtica dioica),* Gorse (*Ulex europaeus),* Foxgloves (*Digitalis*

purpurea), Yellow clover (*Trifolium dubium),* Chives (*Allium schoenoprasum),* False oat-grass, Yorkshire fog, Rough meadow grass (*Poa trivialis),* Broad-Leaved Dock (*Rumex obtusifolius),* and some scattered Grey willows (*Salix cinerea).* Tree species in this area include Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) and Figwort (*Scrophularia nodosa),* Dog Rose (*Rosa canina),* and Slender speedwell (*Veronica filiformis)* were also noted. The treeline of Ash that leads from the graveyard to the motte is of high ecological value for foraging bats and the mature Hawthorn here have a rich lichen flora. species such as Hedgehog, Pygmy shrew, Brown rat and Wood mouse are likely at Donard. The bare earth near the motte supports solitary bees and wasps.

During this study, two species of bats were recorded in the environs of Donard Old Graveyard; Common Pipistrelle and Soprano Pipistrelle. Figures 17 – 18 contain sonograms of the bat echolocation calls recorded during the survey. Preliminary examinations of the monument found no evidence of bats roosting in either the stonework or any of the trees in the vicinity of the monument site based on a visual examination, but they all offer potential for roosting bats. There are a series of suitable crevices, holes and areas of dense ivy within the monument. The landscape surrounding Donard Old Graveyard offers a darkened and safe hunting area for bats with a diversity of natural vegetation which in turn supports a variety of insects on which bats feed.

The graveyard contained a limited number of birds during the survey but the dense ivy and holes in the stonework offer birds a location in which to nest. These should be conserved and not infilled/repointed.

3.3 Statement of Significance

Cultural significance, as defined by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), refers to the ability of places to enrich people's lives by connecting them to their community, environment, and heritage. This connection often spans generations and is deeply rooted in both shared history and personal experiences. Donard Church and graveyard embodies these qualities, representing an important cultural and historical landmark. Its significance is multi-dimensional, reflecting the key values highlighted by the Burra Charter: architectural, historical, archaeological, cultural and social significance.

3.3.1 Architectural Significance

The Donard Church, dating back to the 15th or 16th century, has distinctive features, including a bellcote and a large window which has glazing bar holes and tracery. Despite its partial ruin, the building retains much of its original character, with punch-dressed quoins and medieval graveslabs.

3.3.2 Historical Significance

Donard has a rich historical heritage, linked to early Christian missionaries. The church and graveyard serve as a testament to centuries of religious and social change, including the Norman influence after the 12th century and the religious upheavals of the 16th century. The church also bears scars from the 1798 Rebellion, when it was garrisoned and damaged.

3.3.3 Archaeological Significance

The site holds significant archaeological value due to its medieval foundation and late medieval graveslabs. The presence of an early medieval motte nearby enhances its importance as a multi-period archaeological site.

3.3.4 Cultural Significance

The church and graveyard form an integral part of the cultural identity of Donard village. Over the centuries, it has been a focal point for the local community, witnessing key life events such as baptisms, marriages, and burials. The associated folklore, including the belief that St. Sylvester's relics were kept here, ties the site to local traditions and oral histories. Its connection to both Catholic and Protestant communities add to its multicultural significance in the region.

3.3.5 Ecological Significance

Ecologically, the site plays a vital role in supporting local biodiversity. The graveyard's variety of habitats, including dry meadows, stone walls, and mature trees, provide homes for numerous species. The presence of solitary bees in the vicinity, bats, and other fauna highlights its importance from an ecological perspective.

3.3.6 Social Significance

The church and graveyard continue to hold social significance as a symbol of community identity and continuity. The site is still used for burial and this fosters a strong sense of place and connection to the past for residents of Donard. Community-led conservation efforts reflect local engagement in preserving this important historical landmark for future generations.

3.4 Issues and Vulnerabilities

This section highlights the main concerns and potential risks associated with Donard , as determined through the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) process. These challenges are typical of many culturally significant sites, shaped over centuries by human intervention and weathering. Below are the vulnerabilities which have been identified. The below are summaries taken from the accompanying specialist reports where appropriate.

3.4.1 Structural Condition- Dermot Nolan

Extracts from the Structural Report by Dermot Nolan is attached as Appendix 1 to this report and below are extracts from this report.

The site was visited by the writer, Dermot Nolan on the 6th of June 2024 and sketches were made, photographs and measurements were taken. The church structure is in a ruinous state and, at the time of the visit was largely covered in vegetation which obscured many of the details and prevented a comprehensive assessment of the structure. The graveyard walls were likewise partially covered in vegetation and, in places inaccessible.

Phase 2 of the current project, to be carried out in the future, will involve complete removal of the vegetation from the church and graveyard walls and a measured survey of the extant fabric will be prepared. This will permit detailed structural proposals to be prepared and illustrated on the drawings.

It should be noted There is no evidence of subsidence in the remaining church walls and therefore it is unlikely that any underpinning or subsurface work will be required.

3.4.2 Ecological Vulnerabilities- Faith Wilson

The Donard Church and Graveyard Ecological Survey attached as Appendix 2 outlines several key ecological vulnerabilities at the site which are detailed below as follows:

Invasive Species: Non-native plants, such as Red Valerian, were identified and noted as a concern due to their potential to disrupt native plant communities. Strict control measures are recommended to prevent their spread.

Herbicide Usage: The use of herbicides around headstones was observed, which not only affects the appearance but may destabilize headstones by causing ground cracks when vegetation is removed. Herbicide use also poses broader ecological risks to flora and fauna at the site.

Lighting Impacts: The presence of artificial lighting from nearby sources affects local bat populations, particularly by disturbing their nocturnal feeding patterns. Reducing artificial lighting is advised to maintain dark skies, beneficial for local wildlife, including bats.

Grassland and Habitat Management: Improper mowing schedules threaten the flowering cycles of native plants essential for insects and birds. The report recommends leaving some areas uncut until after flowering and adjusting mowing frequency to support pollinators and small mammals.

Protection of Bats and Birds: Structural features in the graveyard, such as crevices and ivy-covered walls, provide nesting or roosting sites for bats and birds. Conservation work should prioritize maintaining these features, as their removal could significantly impact roosting and breeding habitats for these species.

Butterfly and Pollinator Habitat: The graveyard supports essential plant species for butterflies and other pollinators. Ensuring suitable overwintering habitats, such as leaf litter and uncut vegetation, is vital for the butterfly life cycle. Overly tidy landscaping could diminish these resources.

These vulnerabilities highlight the need for careful management to preserve Donard's biodiversity while maintaining the cultural heritage of the site.

3.4.3 Climate Change and Environmental Impact

The remaining structures and graves are vulnerable to the effects of climate change, including extreme weather events such as heavy rainfall, flooding, and wind damage. Long-term climate changes, such as warmer, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers, could accelerate the deterioration of organic materials and the erosion of the medieval granite grave markers and inscriptions on the headstones. Studies indicate that these patterns are expected to continue, increasing the site's vulnerability over time.

4 Section 4: The Future- Conservation Policies and Actions (Updated 2025).

4.1 Conservation Policy

A comprehensive framework is essential for identifying, conserving, and managing the significance and setting of heritage sites and landscapes. The guidelines provided by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) establish best practice principles recognized globally for cultural heritage conservation. The primary goal of these conservation guidelines is to enable informed decision-making and establish a sustainable, transparent management system for all aspects of the historical environment.

The Burra Charter, a key document for heritage management, promotes a cautious approach to change: “Do as much as necessary to care for the place and make it usable, but change it as little as possible to retain its cultural significance” (ICOMOS, 2013). This philosophy ensures that heritage sites remain both preserved and accessible.

Global best practices emphasize the importance of collaboration in the management and preservation of heritage sites. A well-defined framework assesses the site’s current condition, outlines objectives and strategies for conservation, and provides a clear plan for future actions. This approach ensures that all stakeholders are involved and aware of their roles in safeguarding the heritage site’s value.

The work in preparing this CMP for Donard Graveyard which received Heritage Council Funding in 2024 and 2025 have highlighted the significant history and heritage attached to the site and also the issues and vulnerabilities which are extant.

The following policy recommendations are based on best-practice conservation principles and have been formulated in the light of the advice presented in the following state-issued guideline documents:

- Ruins – The Conservation of Masonry Ruins, ‘Framework & Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage’
- Architectural Heritage Protection – Guidelines for Planning Authorities’.
- Conservation Plan – 7th Edition (ICOMOS Australia)’ by James Semple Kerr (2013)
- Framework & Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage’ issued by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht & Islands (1999)

These polices have also been formulated within the guidelines of Objectives 3 & 4 of the 'ICOMOS Charter for the Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage Sites' which are to:

- Safeguard the tangible and intangible values of cultural heritage sites in their natural and cultural settings and social contexts.

- Respect the authenticity of cultural heritage by communicating the significance of their historic fabric and cultural values and protecting them from the adverse impact of intrusive interpretive infrastructure, visitor pressure or inappropriate interpretation.

The policies have been formulated taking the views of the identified stakeholders into consideration and a list of actions to achieve each of the below mentioned policies is listed below in section 4.3.

4.2 Management of the Site

Donard Church and Graveyard is owned by Wicklow County Council. This CMP provides the framework for the long-term management and conservation of the site.

A successful conservation strategy for Donard Church requires:

- Clear vision and leadership
- A phased programme of stabilisation and repair
- Interdisciplinary collaboration (archaeology, engineering, ecology, local authority, and community)
- Sustainable funding
- Annual maintenance cycles and monitoring
- Responsible access and interpretation
- Community involvement in stewardship and education

The 2025 phase of work has significantly clarified the site's immediate needs, especially:

- Structural vulnerabilities identified by the conservation engineer
- Biodiversity considerations
- Previously obscured architectural features

- The extent of wall-top fragmentation
- The critical failure of the southwest graveyard wall
- The survival of medieval plaster
- The updated policies and actions below respond directly to this newly documented condition.

4.3 General Conservation Policies

(Updated and expanded in 2025 to reflect engineering, archaeological, survey, and ecological findings.)

4.3.1 Policy 1 — Protection

Protect the archaeological, architectural, ecological, and cultural heritage significance of the site. Minimise change and ensure that all works respect the monument's authenticity.

4.3.2 Policy 2 — Conservation, Stabilisation & Maintenance

Ensure all conservation work is based on expert recommendations (engineering, archaeological, ecological) and adheres to best practice and statutory requirements.

4.3.3 Policy 3 — Access & Presentation

Provide responsible access and interpretation while protecting the physical integrity of the site and ensuring visitor safety.

4.3.4 Policy 4 — Interpretation, Education & Community

Support public understanding of the site, encourage community participation, and foster long-term stewardship.

4.4 Polices and Actions

Recommended actions have been expanded to reflect 2025 findings.

4.4.1 Policy No 1: Protection:

The primary goal is to ensure the protection of the archaeological, architectural, natural, and intangible cultural heritage associated with the site. Preservation efforts should focus on minimizing alterations and preserving the site's significance.

Policy No 1	Objective	Recommended Actions (Updated 2025)
1.1	Ensure the protection of the archaeological, architectural, natural, and intangible cultural heritage associated with the site. Preservation efforts should focus on minimizing alterations and preserving the sites significance.	➢ Recognise Donard Church as a Recorded Monument protected under the National Monuments Acts. ➢ Submit Section 12 Notifications for all works; secure licences where required. ➢ Submit Method Statements to NMS for review prior to commencement of conservation works. ➢ Protect bat roost potential, nesting birds, and habitats as per ecological guidance. ➢ Maintain partnerships with NMS, NPWS, Wicklow County Council, local groups, and professional advisers. ➢ Ensure all works follow the engineering Schedule of Works and archaeological recommendations.
1.2	Protection to a number of species and designated landscapes is provided under the European Birds (1979) and Habitats (1992) directives, Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations 2011, the	➢ Where built heritage repair works are proposed that impacts upon a protected species or place, a derogation license must be sought from the National Parks and Wildlife Service. All works must be carried out under the guidance of an ecologist and following the recommendations

	Wildlife Acts 1976, and the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000-2010.	as outlined in the Ecological survey report.

4.4.2 Policy 2: Conservation and Maintenance

To ensure the archaeological, architectural, natural and intangible cultural significance of Donard 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.

Policy No 2	Objective	Recommended Actions (Updated 2025)
2	Ensure conservation interventions follow best practice and enhance the long-term stability of the site.	➢ Establish a five-year maintenance and conservation programme (2026–2030). ➢ Ensure no works proceed without NMS notification and archaeological oversight. ➢ Implement conservation works strictly in compliance with engineering guidance—NHL mortar, stone reuse, wall capping, consolidation of loose stone, and plaster protection. ➢ Maintain a detailed log of all conservation works and site inspections. ➢ Protect and enhance biodiversity as per ecological recommendations: o Prune ivy, do not remove roots unless approved o Install bird boxes if habitat loss is identified o Retain mosses, lichens, and ferns where possible ➢ Seek funding for conservation through HC, CMF, and other heritage bodies.

4.4.3 Policy 3: Access and Presentation

To enhance and manage access to the site in a way that ensures safe, convenient entry for all visitors, while preserving the site's historical and archaeological integrity.

Policy Number No. 3	Objective	Recommended Actions (Updated 2025)
3	Provide safe and accessible entry for visitors while ensuring archaeological protection.	➢ Manage visitor movement to avoid unstable areas until conservation works are completed. ➢ Repair the graveyard boundary wall and pillar cap to ensure safe access. ➢ Install clear signage and, as appropriate, a graveyard plan. ➢ Ensure all signage is sympathetic to the medieval setting.

4.4.4 Policy 4: Interpretation and Community Involvement

Enhance public appreciation and support community involvement in safeguarding the site.

Policy Number 4	Objective	Recommended Actions (Updated 2025)
4.1	Initiate community heritage projects to enhance public appreciation and community involvement.	Hold an open day to illustrate the repair works and discuss the history and archaeology of the site.
4.2	Support research initiatives to deepen the understanding of the site's archaeology, history, and cultural significance	Geophysical survey to find the monastic enclosure and any features associated with the motte.

4.3	Develop interpretive strategies that balance historical significance with functionality.	Implement digital interpretation methods, such as QR codes, linking to heritage trails or digital content.
4.4	Encourage community involvement in heritage projects to foster a sense of stewardship and ownership.	Organize community heritage projects, such as open days when the works are being completed. Collaborate with the local community in hosting events like Heritage Week. Encourage visitors to the camping site in the village to visit the graveyard and church ruins.

4.5 Conservation Actions Completed in 2025

In 2025, Donard Church and Graveyard received a Community Monuments Fund (CMF) grant that enabled essential preparatory conservation works. Vegetation was trimmed from the church and boundary walls, allowing the condition of the masonry to be properly assessed.

Following this clearance, a measured survey, structural engineering inspection, and archaeological photographic record were completed. These works have clarified the condition of the monument and provide the basis for the updated conservation policies and phased action plan going forward.

4.5.1 Vegetation Trimming (2025)

Vegetation trimming was carried outside bird nesting season following the recommendations of the Ecology report completed in 2024, which is attached as Appendix 3. The works were carried under strict archaeological supervision and following approval from NMS, see Appendix 5. The objective was to reduce ivy and woody growth on the medieval church walls to allow safe structural inspection and to reveal fabric previously obscured by dense vegetation.

Scope of Work

- Ivy stems were cut 500mm above ground level, following ecological best practice, to avoid destabilising the root systems embedded in the masonry.

- Dense ivy mats, mosses, and accumulations of plant matter were reduced to expose stone surfaces.
- Overhanging branches and vegetation immediately adjacent to wall faces were trimmed to enable engineering access and survey sightlines.
- All material removed from the site was chipped and transported off-site to avoid impacting grave surfaces.

Results

- Structural defects were fully visible for the first time, including voids, fractures, loose masonry, and wall-top deterioration.
- Following the trimming, the archaeologist undertook a comprehensive photographic survey of all newly visible wall faces, openings, and internal features.
    - This photographic record now forms a crucial baseline for future conservation work.

This trimming phase was essential in enabling both the measured survey and the structural engineering assessment.

4.5.2 Updated Condition Survey and Schedule of Works

A detailed condition survey of Donard Church and Graveyard was undertaken in 2024 by Conservation Engineer Dermot Nolan. This assessment identified extensive deterioration across the medieval church walls—including mortar loss, collapsed masonry, vegetation intrusion, fragmented wall tops, and substantial quantities of fallen stone mixed with broken memorial fragments. It also concluded that there was no evidence of subsidence, and therefore no underpinning or subsurface works were anticipated. The 2024 survey further outlined significant vulnerabilities in the graveyard boundary wall, particularly at the southwest corner where leaning and collapse were noted. The full 2024 Condition Survey is included in this CMP as Appendix 1A.

Following vegetation trimming in 2025, additional areas of masonry and wall-top fabric became visible, enabling a more refined and accurate inspection. The updated 2025 Schedule of Works (Appendix 1B) now replaces and expands upon parts of the 2024 assessment, particularly with respect to:

- Visibility of the west gable, bellcote, and porch
- Exposure of structural cracks, voids, and damaged joints

- Detailed condition of the east gable window dressings
- Identification of surviving medieval plaster
- Full inspection of newly exposed wall tops
- Updated evaluation of the north and south wall stability
- Verification of graveyard wall collapse and leaning
- Updated prioritisation of required interventions

The Schedule of Works identifies the precise conservation interventions required for the long-term stabilisation of the monument.

4.5.2.1 General Findings

- The walls are in a ruined but stabilisable condition.
- No subsidence was noted, but structural decay caused by vegetation, weathering, and mortar loss is widespread.
- Original medieval plaster survives on three internal walls
- Extensive quantities of collapsed stone—mixed with broken memorial fragments—need to be sorted and reused where appropriate.
- Vegetation will regrow and must be controlled prior to any intervention.
- All mortar repairs must use NHL with suitable aggregates.

4.5.2.2 Specific Work Requirements

West Wall

- Repoint both faces (103 m²).
- Repair door reveals and voussoirs.
- Cap the gable wall and bellcote to prevent water ingress.
- Reset loose masonry (approx. 1.5 m²).
- Protect and stabilise surviving internal plaster.

East Wall

- Reset the granite sill and ashlar architrave.
- Rebuild collapsed masonry below the window (3 m²).
- Repoint both faces (70 m²).

- Cap wall top (12.8 m).
- Protect internal plaster remains.

South Wall

- Repoint the surviving east portion (30 m²).
- Stabilise and repair window reveals.
- Cap wall tops (14 m).
- Repoint interior lower masonry (5 m²).
- Address severe fragmentation in central section.
- Protect plaster and mortar surfaces.

North Wall

- Repoint and stabilise the short surviving sections at east and west ends.
- Cap wall tops (8 m).
- No reconstruction of the earthen bank, which is stable.

Graveyard Boundary Wall – Critical Structural Issue

The southwest corner of the boundary wall is in a state of structural failure:

- A 10–15 m section is leaning outward, cracked, and dangerous.
- A further 5 m section has fully collapsed.
- The entrance pier cap on the north wall has dislodged.
- Much of the south wall has lost mortar and is effectively drystone.
- This was seen as the highest priority conservation requirement for the entire site and will form the centrepiece of the 2026 funding application.

See Appendix 1B for Required Works

4.5.3 Measured Survey & Graveyard Mapping (2025)

A full measured survey and GPS graveyard mapping program were undertaken by a chartered surveyor as part of the 2025 work package. Below is a list of the works completed.

- **Scaled plans**, including accurate wall footprints and interior layout of the church.
- **Elevations** of all surviving wall faces, capturing height variation, wall-top profiles, and masonry irregularities.
- **Sections**, mapping the uneven ground levels inside the church and the raised exterior ground against the south wall.

Graveyard Survey

- Full GPS mapping of all headstones, providing a digital plan for future interpretation and biodiversity management.

Please see Appendix 3 for a full set of survey drawings and graveyard plan.

4.5.4 Archaeological Photography and updating CMP (2025), Heritage Week Event.

Following vegetation trimming, an additional photographic survey of the church ruins at Donard was undertaken.

These images now serve as:

- A baseline condition record for future conservation
- Supporting documentation for the Schedule of Works
- Material evidence for future grant applications
- A means of tracing deterioration or emergent risks

This expanded photographic record significantly enhances the CMP as the following plates illustrate.

Plate 51: Donard Church after the removal of vegetation facing west with view of west gable, central door and bellcot..

Plate 52: South wall of church and view or bellcote.

Plate 53: View of east gable from interior of the church.

Plate 54: South wall of church and west gable, note the missing masonry.

Plate 55: East gable of church.

Plate 56: North wall and east gable of church.

Plate 57: East gable of church and east window exposed.

Plate 58: West gable of church and bellcote.

Plate 59: East gable of church with intact granite voussoirs.

Plate 60: East window of church with intact granite voussoirs and possible remnants of tracery.

Plate 61: Bellcote in west gable of church and central doorway in west gable.

Plate 62: South wall of church and location of window.

Plate 63: North gable wall of church.

Plate 64: View of church from village towards east gable wall.

Plate 65: Medieval graveslab outside the east gable of the church.

As part of Heritage Week 2025, Yvonne Whitty supported an event organised by Donard Tidy Towns Association in collaboration with Donard Imaal History iCAN, which centred on the medieval church and graveyard in Donard village. The event was extremely well attended, with approximately 60 people gathering in Donard Community Hall.

Yvonne opened the evening with a talk on the archaeology and history of the site, outlining the development of the medieval church, the evolution of the surrounding graveyard, and the significance of the monument within the wider upland landscape of west Wicklow. This was followed by a short presentation from Conservation Engineer, Dermot Nolan, who provided an overview of the conservation issues identified to date and the proposed approach to stabilisation and repair.

After the talks, we walked together to the site, where Dermot and I continued the discussion on the ground. This allowed the community to see first-hand the architectural features highlighted in the Conservation Plan and to understand the practical challenges of caring for a medieval ruin, including vegetation management, and stabilization works. We explained the grant process looked at defects in the structure of the building and outlined the next funding steps to undertake repairs.

Plate 66: Heritage Week Event in Donard Community Hall.

Plate 67: Heritage Week Event in Donard photo Mike Cummins © 2025.

Plate 68: Heritage Week Event Donard Hall.

5 Conservation Action Plan 2026–2028

The following Conservation Action Plan outlines the priority works required to stabilise, conserve, and manage Donard Church and Graveyard over the period 2026–2028. These actions are informed by the findings of the 2025 CMF-funded programme, including vegetation trimming, structural engineering assessment, archaeological recording, and the measured survey. Together, these investigations have clarified the condition of the monument and identified the interventions needed to protect the surviving medieval fabric, address structural risks, and support responsible public access and interpretation.

The actions are organised under the four overarching conservation policies set out in this CMP—Protection, Conservation & Maintenance, Access & Presentation, and Interpretation & Community—in addition to dedicated Environmental and Biodiversity measures. Each action is assigned a priority level, timeframe, and responsible parties to assist with planning, funding applications, and coordinated project delivery.

Policy No.	Action	Priority Level	Timeframe	Responsible Parties
Policy 1: Protection				
1.1	Submit Section 12 notifications and method statements for all conservation works	High	2026 (pre-works)	Archaeologist; NMS; WCC
1.2	Ensure protected species compliance (bats, birds, habitats) before works	High	2026 (pre-works)	Ecologist; Contractor
1.3	Maintain collaboration between NMS, WCC, Heritage Council, Donard Tidy Towns	Medium	Ongoing	Project Team; WCC

Policy 2: Conservation & Maintenance				
2.1	Rebuild collapsed/leaning southwest graveyard wall (foundation + reconstruction)	**Critical Priority**	2026	Engineer; Contractor; Archaeologist
2.2	Cap all church wall tops to prevent water ingress and further masonry loss	High	2026–2027	Engineer; Contractor
2.3	Repoint walls (west 103 m², east 70 m², south 30 m², north 9 m²) using NHL 1:2.5	High	2026–2027	Contractor; Engineer
2.4	Reset ashlar elements at east window & west doorway; stabilise window reveals	High	2026–2027	Contractor; Engineer; Archaeologist
2.5	Sort, record, and reuse fallen stone under archaeological supervision	Medium	2026–2028	Archaeologist; Contractor
2.6	Conserve surviving medieval plaster using specialist conservators	High	2026–2028	Specialist conservator; Archaeologist
2.7	Maintain conservation logbook of all actions and inspections	Medium	Ongoing	Project Manager; WCC

2.8	Continue to seek and apply for HC/CMF and other funding streams	Medium	Annual	Project Team
Policy 3: Access & Presentation				
3.1	Repair graveyard entrance pier capping and stabilise access routes	Medium	2026	Contractor; Engineer
3.2	Install signage and graveyard plan following completion of major works	Medium	2027–2028	WCC; Tidy Towns
3.3	Protect visitors by restricting access to unstable areas during works	High	2026	WCC; Contractor
Policy 4: Interpretation & Community				
4.1	Host open days/Heritage Week events during conservation phases	Medium	2026–2028	Donard Tidy Towns; Project Team
4.2	Develop online interpretation (QR codes, ICAN website, digital content)	Medium	2027–2028	Community Group; Historian
4.3	Support research, including geophysical survey of monastic enclosure	Low–Medium	2027–2028	Archaeologist; WCC

4.4	Continue community involvement in stewardship and visitor engagement and prepare Storyrmap of Graveyard with searchable headstone function.	Medium	Ongoing	Donard Tidy Towns; Local Groups
Environmental & Biodiversity Actions				
EB1	Annual ivy pruning, vegetation management outside nesting season	High	Each Autumn	Ecologist; Contractor
EB2	Install bird boxes if vegetation removal reduces habitat	Medium	2026	Tidy Towns; Ecologist
EB3	Conduct bat survey prior to major works and maintain access points where possible	High	2026	Ecologist; NPWS
EB4	Retain lichens, mosses, and ferns during stone removal/reuse	Medium	2026–2028	Contractor; Ecologist

5.1 Working within a Historic Graveyard – Do's and Don'ts

When undertaking work within a historic graveyard there are a number of procedures which should be followed. First it is important to determine the level of work to be carried out. In general maintenance work can be undertaken with lawnmowers or strimmers to keep down high grass growth. However beyond this level of work Notification to the National Monuments Service will be required[78]. The Heritage Council has published an advice booklet entitled 'Guidance for the Care, Conservation and Recording of Historic Graveyards', which can be downloaded at Publications & Reports - Heritage Council. It is recommended that all persons working with historic graveyards download a copy of this document.

Do's	**Don't**
Contact Wicklow County council or the National Monuments Service for advice before you commence works.	Don't remove any vegetation from graveyard walls without professional advice. Doing so may affect the structural integrity of the remaining walls and also have ecological implications in terms of birds and bats.
To properly manage the grassland as a biodiversity-rich resource, it should not be cut between March and September to allow the species within it to flower and seed.	Don't bring any mechanical excavators or dumpers within the confines of a historic graveyard without professional advice. These machines cause damage to the historic character of the site.
Check who owns the historic graveyard; sites may be in private or local authority ownership	Don't excavate into the ground for any reason in a historic graveyard.
	Don't cut back hedges within the nesting bird season which runs from 1st March to 31st August. Doing so is illegal under the Wildlife Act.
	Don't remove small stones from the graveyard surface. The stones are burial

[78] NMS Notification Form (archaeology.ie)

	markers or footstones which indicate the presence of historic graves.
	Don't use weedkiller in graveyards. Weedkiller is not recommended due to the effects it has on the flora, fauna and architecture of the historic graveyard.
	Don't attempt to uncover gravestones; doing so constitutes archaeological excavation and should never be attempted without professional advice. It may also cause damage to stones.
Consult an ecologist and ensure that the works including vegetation removal from ruins, tree felling will not impact upon bats which are strictly protected under both Domestic and European Legislation.	

Work which can be undertaken without Section 12 (3) Notification

- Lawnmowing
- Strimming
- Weeding

Work which requires Section 12 (3) Notification:

- Removal of vegetation from church ruins and boundary walls
- Installation of new pathways
- Installation of signage
- Excavation for any reason (i.e., drainage, signage, fencing etc.)

5.2 Funding

Funding is crucial to ensure the long-term preservation, maintenance, and enhancement of Donard Church and Graveyard. A variety of funding sources are available and should be explored to cover the different aspects of conservation, interpretation, and management of the site. The following funding opportunities should be explored.

- Community Heritage Grant Scheme

Managed by the Heritage Council, the Community Heritage Grant Scheme funds projects by community groups and non-profit organizations. The scheme focuses on improving the management and maintenance of heritage collections, buildings, and sites. The application process is annual, with grants usually announced in the early part of the year. Applications are made through the Heritage Council's Online Grants System. It is recommended that an application is made for this scheme in 2025. The minimum amount available is €500 up to a maximum of €25,000. They envisage the average offers to be in the €10,000 to €15,000 range and that about 150 groups or organisations will be supported by this scheme. Funding will be allocated on a competitive basis.

- Adopt a Monument Scheme

This scheme, funded by the Heritage Council and managed by Abarta Heritage, aims to help communities actively engage in the conservation and interpretation of local archaeological and cultural heritage sites. It offers specialist expertise, mentoring, and ongoing support for maintenance and protection.

- Community Monuments Fund (CMF)

The objective of this fund is to support the conservation, maintenance, protection and promotion of local monuments and historic sites. It contains a number of different measures aimed at enabling conservation works to be carried out on archaeological monuments which are deemed to be significant and in need of urgent support, encouraging access to archaeological monuments and improving their presentation and also building resilience in archaeological monuments to enable them to withstand the effects of climate change. This fund is administered by Wicklow County Council and covers 100% of the proposed works with no match funding required.

To secure and manage funding effectively, the following actions are recommended:

- **Monitor funding opportunities:** Regularly review updates from funding bodies, including the Heritage Council and Local Authorities, to identify new funding rounds or changes in application criteria.

- **Engage professionals:** Ensure that all applications include oversight from qualified conservation professionals to meet eligibility requirements.

- **Community engagement:** Leverage community involvement to apply for grants aimed at both conservation and public engagement.

- **Long-term planning:** Establish a rolling funding strategy that targets smaller, phased projects under schemes such as the Community Heritage Grants Scheme, alongside larger, more comprehensive applications to the Community Monuments Fund.

5.3 Conclusion

The 2025 CMF-funded programme has significantly advanced the understanding and management of Donard Church and Graveyard. Vegetation clearance, carried out under archaeological and ecological supervision, exposed key architectural and structural features that had long been obscured. This allowed for a detailed measured survey, comprehensive photographic record, and a full structural engineering assessment, forming the most accurate and complete condition baseline for the monument to date.

The findings confirm that while the church remains in a ruined but stabilisable condition, several urgent conservation measures are required. Chief among these is the reconstruction of the collapsed and leaning southwest section of the graveyard wall, followed by the capping and repointing of the church walls, conservation of surviving internal plaster, stabilisation of openings, and appropriate management of fallen stone. These interventions, along with ongoing biodiversity safeguards, are essential to preventing further deterioration and ensuring the long-term survival of the site.

The updated Conservation Action Plan provides a clear, phased roadmap for these works and reflects the collaborative efforts of engineers, archaeologists, ecologists, Wicklow County Council, and the Donard community. Continued support through the Community Monuments Fund and other heritage funding streams such as the Community Heritage Grant will be vital in delivering the next phases of conservation in 2026 for conservation works to the site.

Donard Church and Graveyard is a valued part of the local heritage landscape, and this CMP sets out the measures needed to protect its character, significance, and cultural legacy for future generations. With sustained management, community involvement, and targeted conservation works, the site can continue to be safely enjoyed and appreciated while its historic fabric is secured for the long term.

APPENDIX 1- CONDITION REPORT ON DONARD MEDIEVAL CHURCH AND GRAVEYARD 2024 Report.

Dermot Nolan & Associates
Historic Buildings Consultants and Consulting Engineers

13 Lanesville, Monkstown, County Dublin, A96N2X7
Telephone 087 2431189
Email dermotnolanandassociates@gmail.com

STRUCTURAL CONDITION REPORT ON DONARD MEDIEVAL CHURCH AND GRAVEYARD

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report is an outline report on the structural condition of the medieval church at Donard, County Wicklow. It forms part of the Conservation and Management Plan for the site, which is prepared by Yvonne Whitty, Archaeologist. The report is funded by a grant from the Heritage Council under the Community Heritage Grants Scheme 2024 (CH 2119).

The site was visited by the writer on the 6th of June 2024 and sketches were made, photographs and measurements were taken. The church structure is in a ruinous state and, at the time of the visit was largely covered in vegetation which obscured many of the details and prevented a comprehensive assessment of the structure. The graveyard walls were likewise partially covered in vegetation and, in places inaccessible.

Phase 2 of the current project, to be carried out in the future, will involve complete removal of the vegetation from the church and graveyard walls and a measured survey of the extant fabric will be prepared. This will permit detailed structural proposals to be prepared and illustrated on the drawings.

This report contains:
(a) Outline drawings (to approximate scale) showing the condition of those parts of the church structure and graveyard walls which are currently visible.
(b) A methodology for removal of vegetation
(c) A methodology for carrying out the necessary conservation works when these have been detailed.

2.0 GENERAL

The structure is in a ruined state and has many of the defects common to decayed medieval structures including washed out mortar, collapsed masonry, roots embedded in masonry, voids within the masonry, fragmented wall tops. There is aa considerable amount of fallen stone around the exterior and some in the interior of the church. The

fallen stone is mixed with collapsed and broken grave markers and much of it is partially embedded in grass and earth. The stone should be exposed and sorted for reuse in the conservation works. The grass and vegetation should be cut, and the stones should be sorted and collected under the supervision of the archaeologist. As far as possible the stone should be reused in repairing the masonry adjacent to where it is found.

There is no evidence of subsidence in the remaining church walls and therefore it is unlikely that any underpinning or subsurface work will be required.

Attention shall be paid to the necessity of identifying and protecting the necessary access routes within the graveyard and around the church for personnel and movement of materials and equipment during the course of the works.

The stone used generally appears to be the Ordovician sandstone of the locality. The stone used in the later porch is different and may be mica-schist which is found nearby.

3.0 WEST WALL

The West wall contains the main access door to the church and carries the bellcote. The upper part of the wall is completely obscured by vegetation and details of the bellcote and its condition will not be available until the vegetation is cleared. A photograph from 2012 appears to indicate that the bellcote was reasonably intact at that time. The west ends of the north and south walls have been ruined and only remnant junctions with the west wall remain. These areas will have to be pointed and mortared. The corner formed with the South wall is badly damaged and reconstruction of this end of the wall will be required. The architrave (which it is presumed would have been stone) is entirely missing and the exposed wall returns have lost their mortar. The returns and the inner and outer wall faces will have to be filled and pointed. Consideration may be given to grouting this wall. There are formed arches on the inner and outer faces and all the voussoirs are intact. They are in good condition and require only minor work. It is likely that the gable wall top will require to be capped with mortar.

The remnant of the porch is in good condition and will require local repointing and the provision of capping along the wall top.

4.0 EAST WALL

The upper part of the East wall is entirely obscured by vegetation, and it is not known whether any elements of the former East window survive at the upper level. However, a photograph from 2012 shows a fine curved window with intact ashlar all around the window opening. There is a carved granite sill and architrave. The visible part of this appears to be in good condition. It is not known whether additional parts of the architrave survive behind the vegetation in the upper parts of the wall. The granite architrave will have to be reset and secured in place and repaired as necessary. The inner face of the

wall below the sill has collapsed and will have to be rebuilt. There is some remnant plaster on the interior wall face at low level and this should be stabilised as necessary and retained. The junction of the wall with the South wall is intact almost up to eaves level. A short section of the North wall survives at the end of the East wall and the corner is relatively intact. The wall faces will require pointing and the wall top will have to be capped.

5.0 NORTH WALL

A short length of the North wall survives at the east end. The ground level outside the North wall is approximately 1 metre higher than the floor of the church and a lengthy section of the wall (ca 5 metres) at the east end has been completely demolished and this has exposed the face of the earthen bank. Some of the fallen stones are on the floor of the church beside the bank. The remainder of the wall is about 1 metre high and rises to about 2 metres at the west end where it adjoins the West wall. Where the masonry wall survives, the top should be capped and damaged wall faces should be mortared. Consideration might be given to rebuilding the demolished section of the wall to provide protection to the face of the earthen bank which appears stable at present but is vulnerable to erosion.

6.0 SOUTH WALL

The east end of the South wall for a length of about 4 metres is intact up to a height of about 2 metres and appears securely bonded to the East wall. This section requires repointing on both faces and capping. The west end of this section appears to be a roughly filled in window opening. The filling is unmortared. The best way to stabilise this rough work may be to grout it. The former window is bounded on the west side by another approximately 2 metres high section and 1 metre long of badly damaged wall. This will have to be stabilised, pointed and capped. The next section is approximately I metre high above the church floor and 300 mm above the exterior graveyard ground. This section has retained interior plaster and will have to be carefully repaired without damaging the remnant plaster. This section requires to be capped. The section west of this includes a destroyed window opening of which only the west reveal remains and a higher section of wall adjoining the west wall. Interior wall plaster remains on this part of the wall also. This part must also be capped, and the interior plaster should be conserved.

7.0 GRAVEYARD WALL

The graveyard wall is formed as an approximate square, each side of which is approximately 40 metres long. Like many graveyard walls this wall appears to date from the nineteenth century. The wall is approximately 500 thick rubble masonry and is capped by a ‘soldier’ course of stones. The wall appeared in part to have been repointed in cement. The ground level of the graveyard has risen considerably over the years, particularly near the front (north side). Although substantial sections of the wall are completely covered in vegetation, the entire length of the top of the wall is generally

affected by light vegetation. This should be removed, and it may be found necessary to reset stones and mortar the wall top.

The wall on the north side is approximately 2 metres high above the road and the graveyard level is at the top of the wall. The graveyard entrance is near the west end and comprises steps between two substantial wall piers. The capping stone on one pier has been dislodged and needs to be reset. About 50% of the wall is completely covered in vegetation and could not be assessed. However, the visible section of the wall appeared to be in good condition. Subject to inspection after removal of the vegetation, it will be necessary to repoint the wall locally. The top of the wall may need remedial work as mentioned above.

The central section of the west wall has been replaced by a reinforced concrete retaining wall which is in sound condition. The north and south sections were completely covered in vegetation and could not be assessed. At the south-west corner of the graveyard a section of the wall is leaning out quite badly and impinging on a timber pole. There is a substantial crack at the point where the wall begins to lean out. The leaning section of the wall is about 10 metres long and beyond this is a section of completely collapse wall about 5 metres long. It is likely that the leaning section of the wall will have to be taken down and 15 metres of the wall will have to be reconstructed. This will have to be done very carefully to avoid any interference with graves in the vicinity.

The south section of the wall rises about 1.6 metres above the adjacent field and its height above the graveyard varies along its length. It appears to be intact although much of the mortar has been washed out so that it is effectively a drystone wall at this stage. Consideration should be given to repointing the wall if funds are available but, as noted, it appears to be intact. It may be appropriate to effect repairs in several locations where stones have been dislodged from the wall.

The east section of the wall abuts the garden of an adjacent house, and the exterior face could not be closely examined because of dense vegetation within the garden. On the graveyard side the wall height varies from ground level at the north end to about 1.5 metres at the south end. No serious defects were note at this wall except for leaning at the south end, possibly caused by a tree in the adjacent garden.

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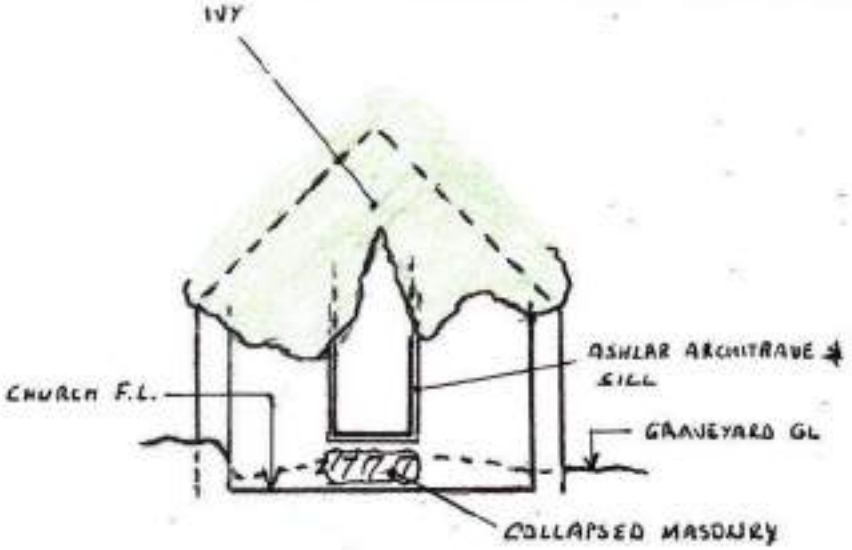
Sketches of the Church Walls

EAST WALL - EXTERNAL



EAST WALL - INTERNAL

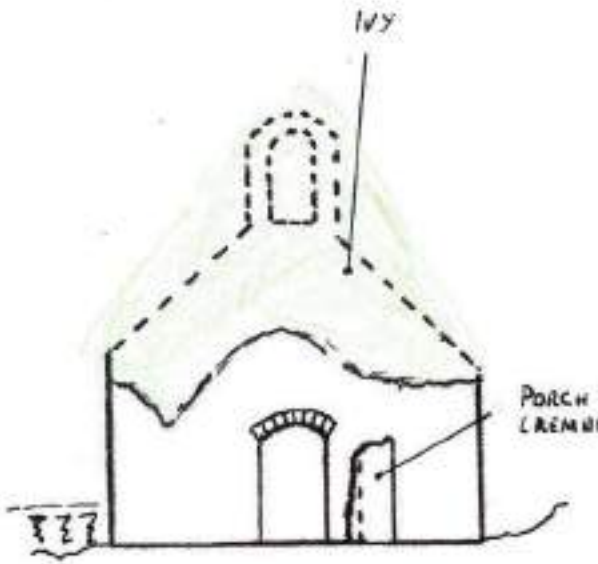
NTS (APPROX 1:100)

NOV 2024

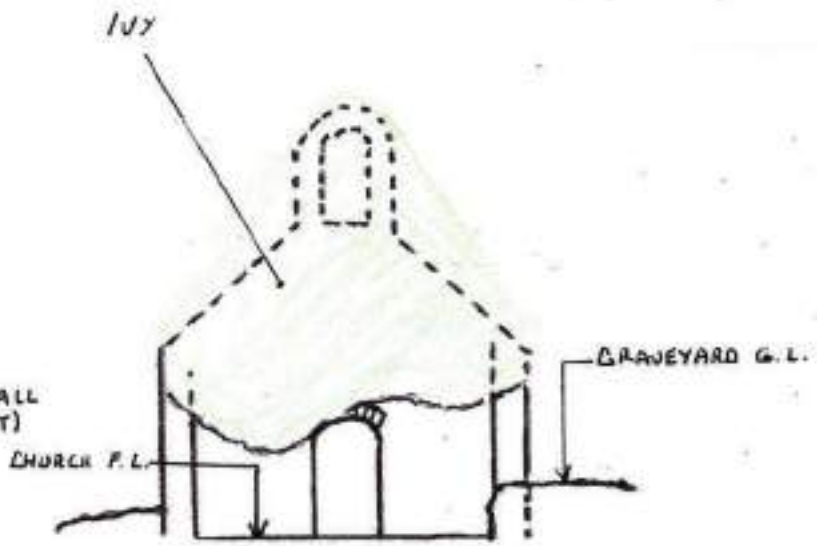
DONARD CHURCH

Dermot Nolan & Associates
Historic Buildings Consultants and Consulting Engineers

Dermot Nolan
dermotnolanandassociates@gmail.com
13 Larkville
Monkstown, Co. Dublin
087 2431189



WEST WALL - EXTERNAL



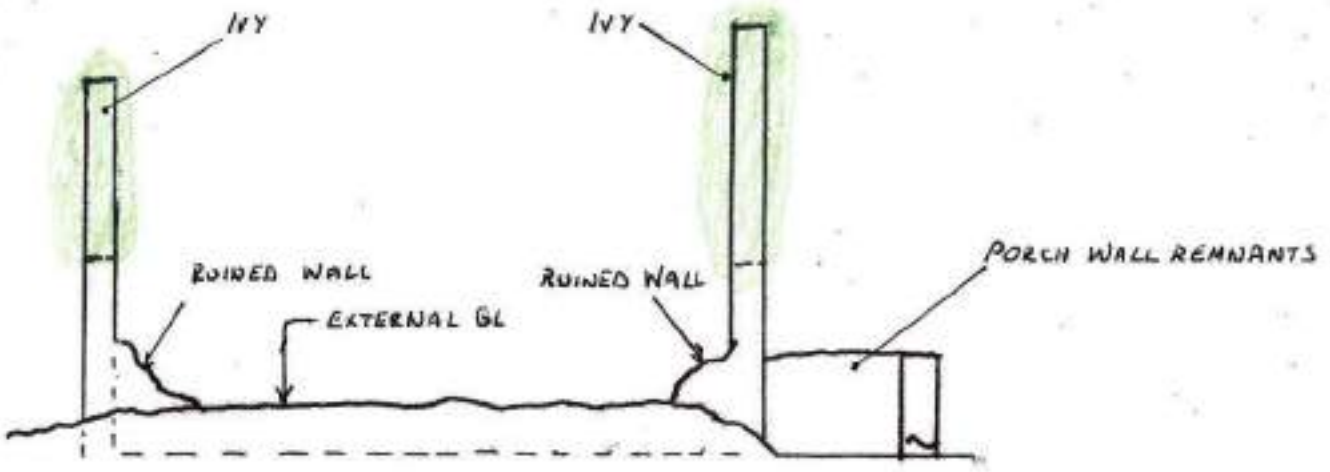
WEST WALL - INTERNAL

NTS (APPROX 1:100)

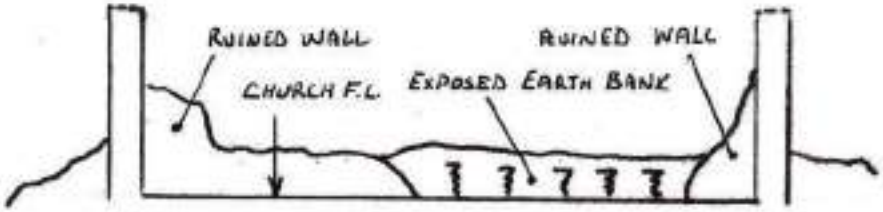
NOV 2024

DONARD CHURCH

Dermot Nolan & Associates
Historic Buildings Consultants and Consulting Engineers
Dermot Nolan
dermotnolanandassociates@gmail.com
13 Lansville
Monkstown, Co. Dublin
087 2453189



NORTH WALL - EXTERNAL

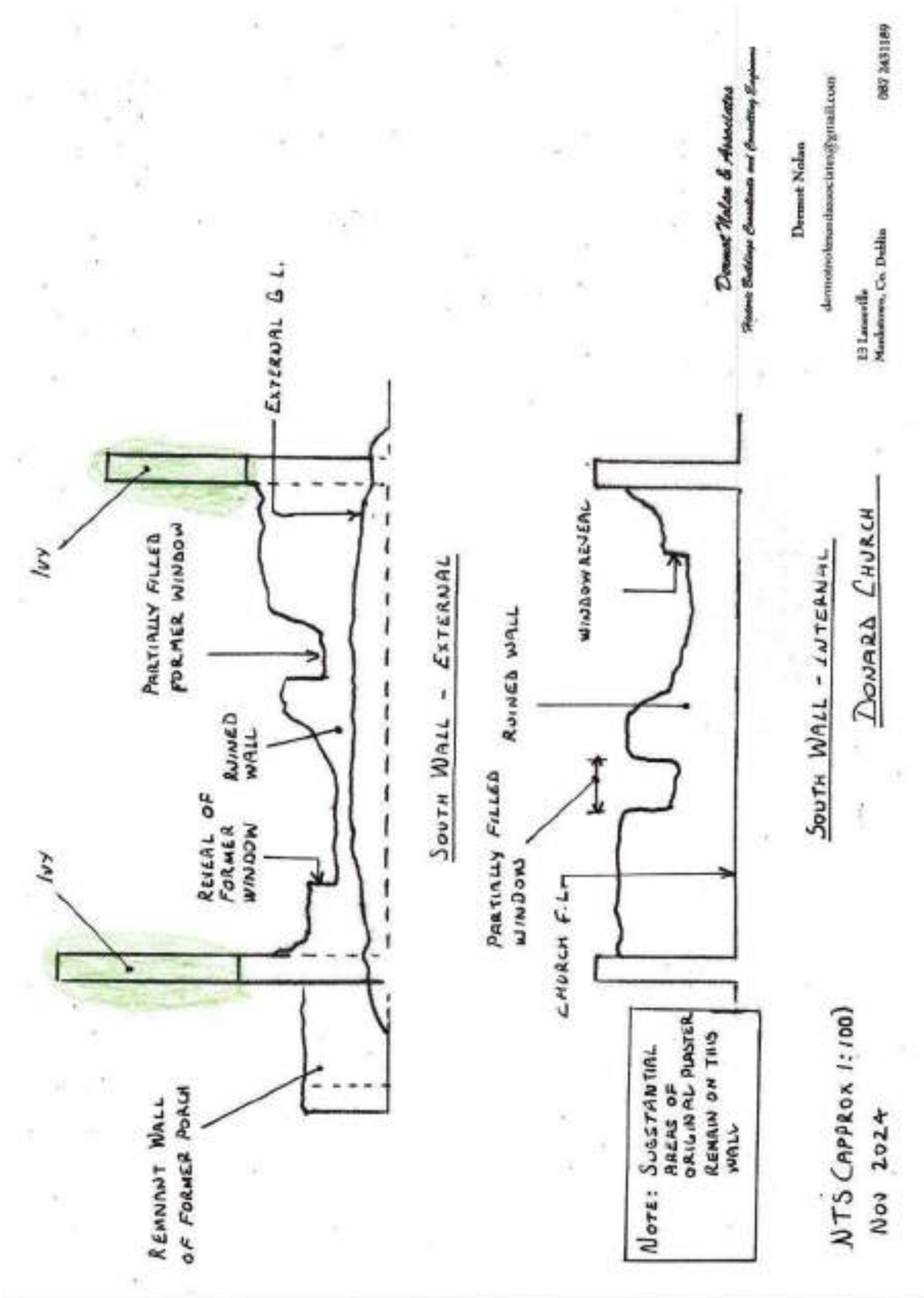


NORTH WALL - INTERNAL

NTS (APPROX 1:100)
NOV 2024

DONARD CHURCH

Dermot Nolan & Associates
Historic Buildings Consultants and Consulting Engineers
Dermot Nolan
dermotnolanandassociates@gmail.com
15 Lanesville
Monkstown, Co. Dublin
087 2431189


IVY
IVY
PARTIALLY FILLED FORMER WINDOW
EXTERNAL G.L.
REVEAL OF FORMER WINDOW
RUINED WALL
REMNANT WALL OF FORMER PORCH
SOUTH WALL - EXTERNAL
PARTIALLY FILLED WINDOW
RUINED WALL
WINDOW REVEAL
CHURCH F.L.
NOTE: SUBSTANTIAL AREAS OF ORIGINAL PLASTER REMAIN ON THIS WALL
SOUTH WALL - INTERNAL
DONARD CHURCH
NTS (APPROX 1:100)
NOV 2024
Dermot Nolan & Associates
Dermot Nolan
13 Lanesville
Monkstown, Co. Dublin

PHOTOGRAPHS

1. West Wall (Note porch wall remnant at arched entrance)

2. Detail of arch in West Wall

3. Door Reveal in West Wall (Note mortar wash out)

4. Detail of South-West corner (exterior)

5. South Wall, west end (note window reveal at left side)

6. South Wall, centre (note partially filled in window)

7. South Wall, east end

8. South Wall inner face (Note historic plaster)

9. East Wall (Note heavy vegetation and fallen rubble)

10. East Wall detail (Note ashlar sill and reveals and rubble)

11. East Wall, north end and North wall east end (Note collapsed masonry under windowsill, and earthen bank on the line of the North wall).

12. View of ruined North wall.

13. North Graveyard wall, east end (Note vegetation).

14 North Graveyard wall central section

14. North Graveyard wall entrance (Note dislodged pier cap)

15. West graveyard wall, north end (Note vegetation)

16. West Graveyard wall, south end (Note concrete replacement in central section).

17. Serious crack in the wall at the south-west corner.

18. Graveyard wall leaning out at the south-west corner

19. South Graveyard wall collapsed at the west end.

20. South Graveyard wall. (Note local damage)

21. North-east corner of the Graveyard. (Note ground level is at the top of the wall)

22. East Graveyard wall, general view looking north.

23. East Graveyard wall (Note severe leaning)

PRINCIPLES OF METHODOLOGY FOR CONSERVATION WORKS

DONARD CHURCH AND GRAVEYARD

PRINCIPLES OF METHODOLOGY FOR CONSERVATION WORKS

GENERAL

As the building is a Recorded Monument the design and execution of all works to the existing fabric or which may affect it will be guided by the following documents and advice books:

1. The Burra Charter (2013) prepared by Australia ICOMOS provides the internationally recognised framework for investigating, understanding and developing and implementing policies for the appropriate protection and management of places of cultural significance. The principles and recommendations of the charter will govern all works to, or affecting the protected structure.
2. The recommendations of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DAHG) *advice series booklets* (2007 – 2011). The relevant booklets are those which provide guidance on:

   Ruins
3. The detailed recommendations of the relevant English Heritage *Practical Building Conservation* books (2011-2013) as follows:

   Conservation Basics

   Stone

   Mortars, Renders and Plasters

   DAHG *Architectural Heritage Protection – Guidelines for Planning Authorities* (2011).
4. Other publications including:

   BS 7913 Guide to the Conservation of Historic Buildings

   Historic Scotland conservation advice leaflets

BEST CONSERVATION PRACTICE

All works will be carried out in accordance with the conservation best practice.
The following principles will be applied to all interventions in historic fabric:

Expert advice and supervision

All conservation works shall be designed and detailed and site works shall be supervised by qualified and experienced conservation professionals.

Special Character

The special character of the structure and its elements including its setting shall be identified and the works shall be designed, planned and carried out ensuring that the special character is

protected at all times. All proposed interventions shall be assessed to ensure that any negative impact on the special character of the structure is minimised.

Previous interventions or alterations

It is understood that previous interventions form part of the history of protected structures and may add to the special character and in some cases may make an important contribution to it. Such interventions will be identified and taken into account in planning and executing the conservation works.

Minimum intervention

All works will be designed and carried out on the basis of ensuring that interventions in the historic fabric are minimised.

Reversibility

All conservation works will be designed, planned and executed in a manner which ensures the maximum possible reversibility of all interventions.

Recording

Before any intervention the historic fabric shall be recorded by photograph, drawing and written description, as appropriate. Recording will be carried out during the course of the works and at the end a full record of all interventions will be prepared. All works shall be dated and recorded in a site diary.

Works to be carried out by skilled operatives

Only workers experienced and skilled in conservation shall be engaged in carrying out the works.

Protection

The historic building will be fully protected from the weather and from inadvertent damage at all times during the works. A protection plan shall be elaborated prior to the commencement of the works.

Particular care shall be taken in designating and isolating or protecting, as appropriate routes through the site which will be used for movement of personnel and materials. Where necessary the floors, walls and ceilings of such routes shall be protected with sheet plywood or equivalent. The designated routes and their protection shall be approved by the conservation consultant.

Detailed Method Statements

No intervention, no matter how small, shall take place until a specific method statement has been prepared by the contractor and signed off by the conservation consultant.

The method statement shall contain:

(a) A description of the methodology and level of recording which will be used

(b) Details of the materials and of the sources of the materials which will be used in the work.

(c) Details of the temporary works and equipment to be used.

(d) A description of the sequence of operations to be carried out.

(e) A programme for the works.

Materials

Only appropriate and compatible materials shall be used. All materials used in the works must be approved by the conservation consultant. Under no circumstance should Portland cement be used anywhere in the works without specific authorisation by the consultant.

Salvage

As far as possible, materials salvaged on the site should be kept on the site and reused in the works. If this is not possible they should be delivered to the County Council or another approved recipient for appropriate reuse elsewhere. Salvaged materials retained on site for later reuse should be carefully identified, stored in a secure location and protected. As far as possible materials which are temporarily removed should be stored close to their original location.

Salvaged materials from other historic sites should not be used unless absolutely necessary and with the specific approval of the conservation consultant. The provenance of such materials shall be established and recorded.

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METHODOLOGY FOR REMOVAL OF VEGETATION FROM STRUCTURES

DONARD CHURCH AND GRAVEYARD

IVY REMOVAL

It is recommended that Ivy growth at Donard Church is assessed and treated in accordance with Coombes et al. (2017), as detailed below. All decisions concerning ivy removal and the specific methodologies to be used in each case shall be referred by the contractor to the consultants. The following is a general guidance on the procedures to be adopted. At present partial removal is proposed which will involve pruning the vegetation. The ivy will not be cut at the roots but will be cut approximately 500mm above the roots. The purpose of the pruning work is to permit closer examination of the masonry and carry out a measured survey.

Partial Removal

Initially, the Ivy should be partially removed to fully assess whether the ivy is damaging the buildings or not. With partial removal it is important to ensure the juvenile (climbing) stems are fully removed from the cutting point forwards to the growing tip. Ivy will regrow from the cut point, but this does not encourage the formation of 'true' roots which grow into the structure. Any portion of stem left between the cut point and the growing tip may, however, sprout 'true' roots. The arboreal stems, which may grow in excess of three metres in length can be cut back to any point along their length and will regrow from this point.

Situations where partial removal may be advisable include:

 Where the arboreal (flowering) stems of ivy are growing outwards and rubbing against sections of the structure when moving in the wind.

 When the mass of ivy stems, particularly the arboreal stems, threatens to destabilise a structure.

 Where the structure needs to be inspected (removal of some growth, particularly dense arboreal growth may uncover enough of the structure for inspection, but this will not always be the case).

 Where the ivy is encroaching on particularly vulnerable or visually important parts of a structure.

Management

Ivy growth can be managed in the same way as any plant growth. Regular cutting back of growing stems or arboreal growth as described above can be undertaken without detriment to the plant or the structure it covers. Management in this way needs to be undertaken on a regular, though not necessarily frequent, basis.

Adopting a regime of pruning is an option if the partial removal of ivy has shown that it is not causing obvious deterioration of the structure. Regular management may be annually, biennially, or even longer, as the scale of the work and vigour of the plant dictates.

Situations where management may be advisable include:

 Where the arboreal (flowering) stems of ivy are growing outwards and begin to rub against sections of the structure.

 Where it is necessary to maintain the mass of ivy stems, juvenile and/or arboreal, to a size which cannot de-stabilise a structure.

 Where the ivy needs to be kept away from a vulnerable or visually important parts of a structure.

Herbicide

Vegetation shall be removed by physical means as described above where practicable. The use of airborne sprayed herbicide is not permitted. Targeted direct herbicide application should only be used where vegetation removal by physical means is not possible. In such a case, the use of persistent herbicides will be prohibited. The application of herbicide can only be carried out by an 'Approved Pesticide User' as per the requirements of the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive. Refer to PRCD - Pest Management Trained Professional Users (PMUs) Register (agriculture.gov.ie) for a list of registered professionals.

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Appendix 2

PROPOSED CONSERVATION WORKS

AT

DONARD MEDIEVAL CHURCH

SCHEDULE OF WORK 2025

PROPOSED CONSERVATION WORKS

AT

DONARD MEDIEVAL CHURCH

SCHEDULE OF WORK

JOB REF (17/24)

Dermot Nolan & Associates,
Historic Buildings Consultants,
& Consulting Engineers,
13 Lanesville
Monkstown
County Dublin

Email: dermotnolanandassociates@gmail.com

November 2025

1.0 GENERAL

The structure is in a ruined state and has many of the defects common to decayed medieval structures including washed out mortar, collapsed masonry, roots embedded in masonry, voids within the masonry, fragmented wall tops. There is a considerable amount of fallen stone around the exterior and some in the interior of the church. The fallen stone is mixed with collapsed and broken grave markers and much of it is partially embedded in grass and earth. The stone should be exposed and sorted for reuse in the conservation works. The grass and vegetation should be cut, and the stones should be sorted and collected under the supervision of the archaeologist. As far as possible the stone should be reused in repairing the masonry adjacent to where it is found. Stone which is not reused in the conservation works should be stored in gabion baskets on a location to be chosen by the consultants within the site. Cut or worked stone shall be identified by the archaeologist and stored in separate gabions.

Original plaster has survived on the inner faces of the north, west and east walls and care must be taken to protect plaster remnants during the works.

Although most of the vegetation has been removed, it is anticipated that re-growth will occur prior to the commencement of the works and removal of vegetation will be required and should be allowed for.

There is no evidence of subsidence in the remaining church walls and therefore there is no intention to carry out any underpinning or subsurface work.

Attention shall be paid to the necessity of identifying and protecting the necessary access routes within the graveyard and around the church for personnel and movement of materials and equipment during the works.

The stone used generally appears to be the Ordovician sandstone of the locality. The stone used in the later porch is different and may be mica-schist which is found nearby. The ashlar stones are granite.

All mortar shall be Natural Hydraulic Lime (NHL) in 1:2.5 mix with approved sand.

2.0 WEST WALL

The West wall contains the main access door to the church and carries the bellcote. The bellcote is capped by a large slate stone and appears to be intact. The remnant porch wall is in good condition and will require the provision of capping along the wall top.

The west ends of the north and south walls have been ruined and only remnant junctions with the west wall remain. These areas will be consolidated and pointed. The corner formed with the South wall is badly damaged and reconstruction of this end of the wall will be required.

The architrave is entirely missing, and the exposed door returns have lost their mortar. The returns and the inner and outer wall faces will have to be filled as necessary and pointed. Above the door there are formed arches on the inner and outer faces, and all the voussoirs are intact. They are in good condition and require only minor work. The gable wall top will require to be capped with mortar. There is remnant plaster on the inner wall face and this will be protected and retained.

2.1 Remove re-emerging vegetation.
2.2 Allow for re-pointing both faces of the wall (103 sq m)
2.3 Repair and repoint door reveals and soffit (5.6 lin m)
2.4 Stabilise and cap sloping wall top and bellcote (12 lin m).
2.5 Allow for re-setting the area of loose masonry on the inner face of the wall (ca 1.5 sq m)
2.6 Provide capping for the porch wall (3 lin m).
2.7 Allow for protection and repair of the remnant wall plaster as necessary.

3.0 EAST WALL

There are a carved granite sill and architrave. The granite ashlar will be reset and secured in place and repaired as necessary. The inner face of the wall below the sill has collapsed and will have to be rebuilt. There is some remnant plaster on the interior wall face at low level, and this should be stabilised as necessary and retained. The junction of the wall with the South wall is intact almost up to eaves level. A short section of the North wall survives at the end of the East wall, and the corner is relatively intact. The wall faces require pointing and the wall top shall be capped.

3.1 Remove re-emerging vegetation.
3.2 Allow for re-pointing both faces of the wall (70 sq m)
3.3 Repair re-set and repoint door ashlar architraves and sill (5.6 lin m)
3.4 Stabilise and cap sloping wall top (12.8 lin m).
3.5 Allow for re-setting and reconstructing the area of destroyed masonry below the window on the inner face of the wall (ca 3.0 sq m)
3.6 Allow for protection and repair of the remnant wall plaster as necessary.

4.0 SOUTH WALL

Approximately 5 linear metres of the wall survives at the east end to a height of approximately 3 metres. The ground level outside the South wall is roughly 1

metre higher than the floor of the church and this has exposed the face of the earthen bank. Two sections of the wall which appear to have been the locations of windows are destroyed and some of the fallen stones are on the floor of the church beside the bank. A short section of the wall between the former window openings rises to approximately 2 metres. This section of wall is in very poor disintegrated condition. The remainder of the wall is about 1 metre high and rises to about 2 metres at the west end where it adjoins the West wall. Where the masonry wall survives, the top shall be capped and damaged wall faces shall be mortared and pointed.

4.1 Remove re-emerging vegetation.
4.2 Allow for re-pointing both faces of the east end of the wall (30 sq m)
4.3 Allow for stabilising and repairing the remnant window reveals. (Item)
4.4 Stabilise and cap wall top (approximately 14 lin m).
4.5 Allow for repairing and re-pointing the inner face of the wall which has survived below the exterior ground level and is about 1 m high. (ca 5 sq m)
4.6 Allow for protection and repair of the remnant wall plaster as necessary.

5.0 NORTH WALL

This wall has been lost apart from small sections at the east and west ends. The earthen face is approximately 800 mm high and is exposed for most of its length and slopes upwards at an angle to meet the ground level of the graveyard. There is a small buttress shaped section of wall at each end. The exposed earthen face appears stable and there would be no advantage in reconstructing a section of wall to retain the earth face. The small sections of masonry walling at each end will be stabilised and pointed and provided with a wall capping.

5.1 Remove re-emerging vegetation.
5.2 Allow for re-pointing both faces of the east and west ends of the wall (ca 9 sq m)
5.3 Allow for stabilising and repairing the remnant masonry at each end (Item)
5.4 Stabilise and cap wall top (approximately 8 lin m).

6.0 GRAVEYARD WALL

The graveyard wall is formed as an approximate square, each side of which is about 40 metres long. Like many graveyard walls this wall appears to date from the nineteenth century. The wall is approximately 500 thick rubble masonry and is capped by a ‘soldier’ course of stones. Parts of the have been repointed in

cement. The ground level of the graveyard has risen considerably over the years, particularly near the front (north side).

The wall on the north side is approximately 2 metres high above the road and the graveyard level is at the top of the wall. The graveyard entrance is near the west end and comprises steps between two substantial wall piers. The capping stone on one pier has been dislodged and shall be reset.

At the south-west corner of the graveyard a section of the wall is leaning out quite badly and impinging on a timber pole. There is a substantial crack at the point where the wall begins to lean out. The leaning section of the wall is about 10 metres long and beyond this is a section of completely collapsed wall about 5 metres long. The leaning section of the wall is unstable and will be taken down and 15 metres of the wall will be reconstructed. This will have to be done very carefully to avoid any interference with graves in the vicinity.

The south section of the wall rises about 1.6 metres above the adjacent field and its height above the graveyard varies along its length. It appears to be intact although much of the mortar has been washed out so that it is effectively a drystone wall at this stage. In one location (see photographs) there is degradation due to loss of mortar, and it is proposed to effect repairs where stones have been dislodged from the wall.

6.1 Remove re-emerging vegetation on the specified 20 m length. Allow for clearing rubble and waste adjacent to the wall.

6.2 Take down the leaning section of wall at the southwest corner and set the stones aside. Take the wall down to 300 mm below ground level. (ca 32 sq m)

6.3 Install a 500 x 250 thick concrete foundation, grade 25 concrete with two no 12 mm diameter reinforcing bars to later detail. (20 lin m)

6.4 Rebuild the wall using the original stones as far as possible to a height and thickness matching the original. Masonry style and details to match the original. Allow for making sample panels for approval before re-building. (32 sq m).

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PHOTOGRAPHS

1. East elevation

2. East wall interior

3. Southeast corner internal

4. South wall interior

5. Southwest corner

6. West wall interior (Note view of remnant North wall from outside).

7. Detail of West wall interior (before removal of vegetation). Note area of damaged masonry

8. Northwest corner

9. North wall interior, west end

10. Northeast corner

11. Tracery remnant on East window soffit

12. Remnant of window detail on ashlar reveal of East window

13. South wall East end (external)

14. South wall remaining central section (external)

15. South wall west end (external)

16. Former South porch wall at the west end of the church

17. Detail of arch over west door (External)

18. Detail of West door reveal (note absence of pointing)

19. Destroyed North wall (remnants survive at both ends)

20. Line of the North wall showing raised ground outside.

21. Fracture at leaning perimeter wall at the Southwest corner of the graveyard

22. Leaning perimeter wall at Southwest corner of the graveyard

23. Section of collapsed South graveyard wall

24. South perimeter wall of the graveyard – damaged masonry

DRAWINGS

Graveyard wall works

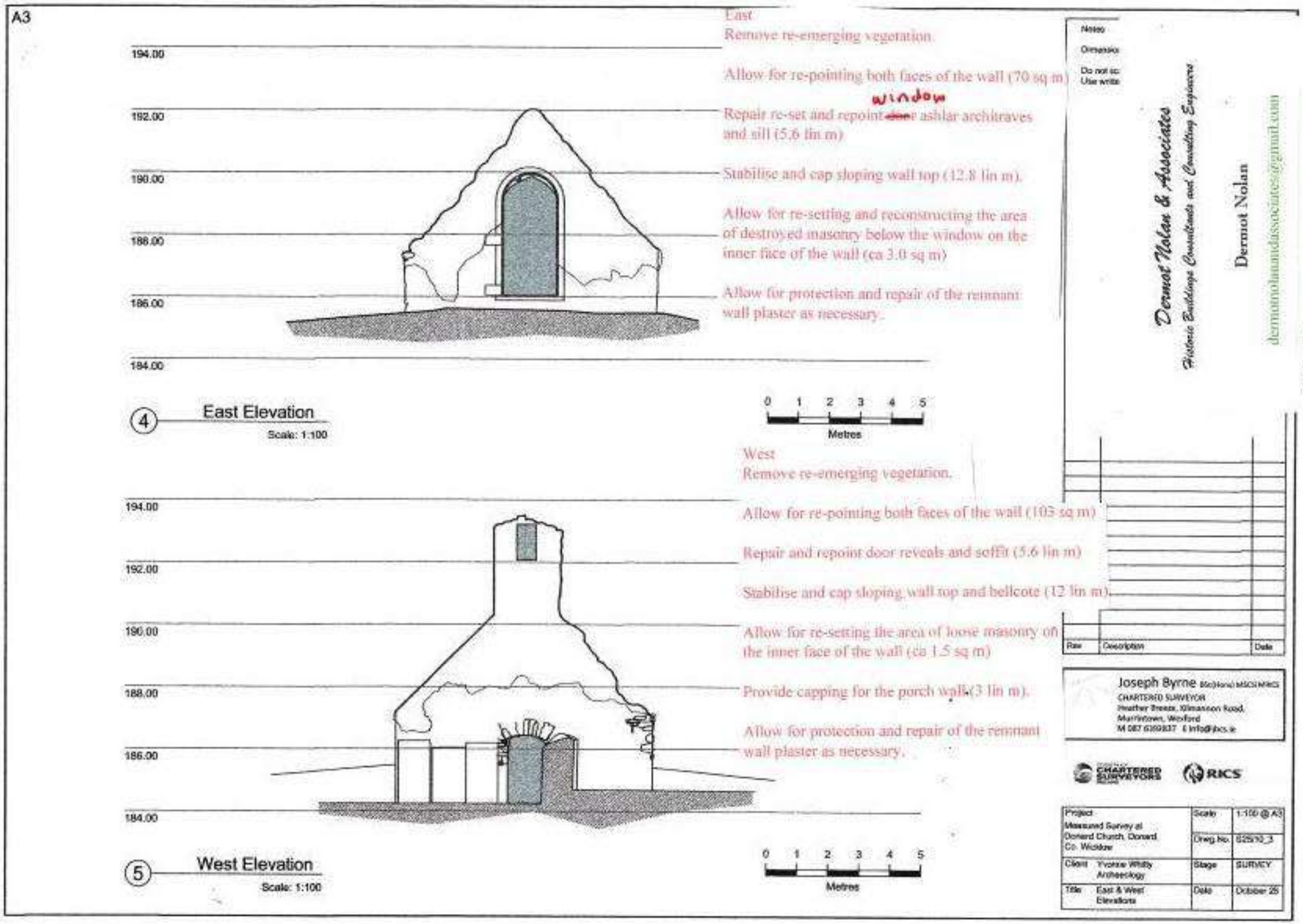
Location of proposed graveyard wall works

6.5 Remove re-emerging vegetation on the specified 20 m length. Allow for clearing rubble and waste adjacent to the wall.

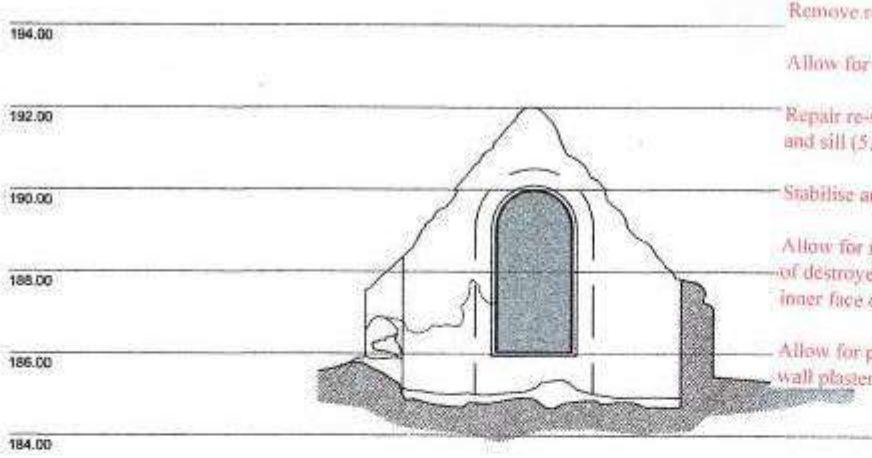
6.6 Take down the leaning section of wall at the southwest corner and set the stones aside. Take the wall down to 300 mm below ground level. (ca 32 sq m)

6.7 Install a 500 x 250 thick concrete foundation, grade 25 concrete with two no 12 mm diameter reinforcing bars to later detail. (20 lin m)

6.8 Rebuild the wall using the original stones as far as possible to a height and thickness matching the original. Masonry style and details to match the original. Allow for making sample panels for approval before re-building. (32 sq m).


A3
East
Remove re-emerging vegetation.
Allow for re-pointing both faces of the wall (70 sq m)
Repair re-set and repoint door window ashlar architraves and sill (5.6 lin m)
Stabilise and cap sloping wall top (12.8 lin m).
Allow for re-setting and reconstructing the area of destroyed masonry below the window on the inner face of the wall (ca 3.0 sq m)
Allow for protection and repair of the remnant wall plaster as necessary.
194.00
192.00
190.00
188.00
186.00
184.00
4 East Elevation
Scale: 1:100
0 1 2 3 4 5
Metres
West
Remove re-emerging vegetation.
Allow for re-pointing both faces of the wall (103 sq m)
Repair and repoint door reveals and soffit (5.6 lin m)
Stabilise and cap sloping wall top and bellcote (12 lin m)
Allow for re-setting the area of loose masonry on the inner face of the wall (ca 1.5 sq m)
Provide capping for the porch walls (3 lin m).
Allow for protection and repair of the remnant wall plaster as necessary.
5 West Elevation
Scale: 1:100
Dermot Nolan & Associates
Historic Buildings Consultants and Consulting Engineers
Dermot Nolan
dermotnolanandassociates@gmail.com
15 Lanesville
087 7431180
Rev
Description
Date
Joseph Byrne
CHARTERED SURVEYOR
Heather Breeze, Kilmannon Road, Murrintown, Wexford
M 087 6369837 E info@jbcs.ie
CHARTERED SURVEYORS
RICS
Project
Measured Survey at Donard Church, Donard Co. Wicklow
Client
Yvonne Whitty Archaeology
Title
East & West Elevations
Scale
1:100 @ A3
Drwg No.
S25/10_3
Stage
SURVEY
Date
October 25

A3



East
Remove re-emerging vegetation.

Allow for re-pointing both faces of the wall (70 sq m)

Repair re-set and repoint ~~door~~ window ashlar architraves and sill (5.6 lin m)

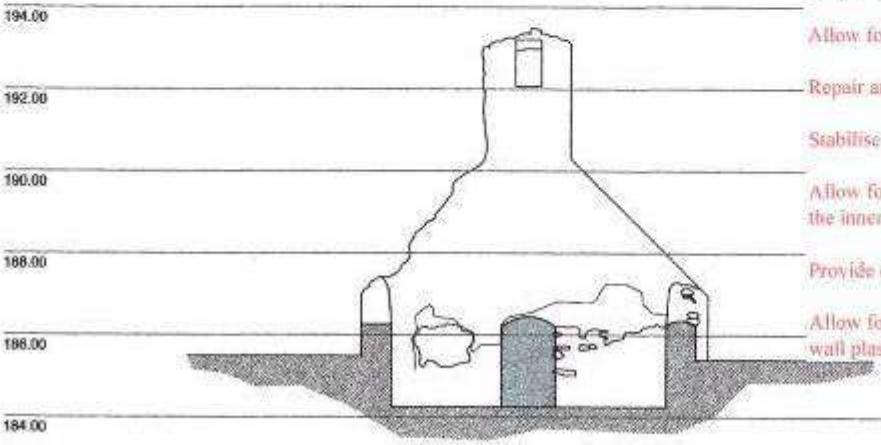
Stabilise and cap sloping wall top (12.8 lin m).

Allow for re-setting and reconstructing the area of destroyed masonry below the window on the inner face of the wall (ca 3.0 sq m)

Allow for protection and repair of the remnant wall plaster as necessary.

8 East Wall - Internal Elevation
Scale: 1:100

0 1 2 3 4 5
Metres



West
Remove re-emerging vegetation.

Allow for re-pointing both faces of the wall (103 sq m)

Repair and repoint door reveals and soffit (5.6 lin m)

Stabilise and cap sloping wall top and bellcote (12 lin m)

Allow for re-setting the area of loose masonry on the inner face of the wall (ca 1.5 sq m)

Provide capping for the porch wall (3 lin m).

Allow for protection and repair of the remnant wall plaster as necessary.

9 West Wall - Internal Elevation
Scale: 1:100

0 1 2 3 4 5
Metres

Notes
Dimensions
Do not scale
Use written

Dermot Nolan & Associates
Historic Buildings Consultants and Conservation Engineers
Dermot Nolan
dermotnolanandassociates@gmail.com
13 Lancesville

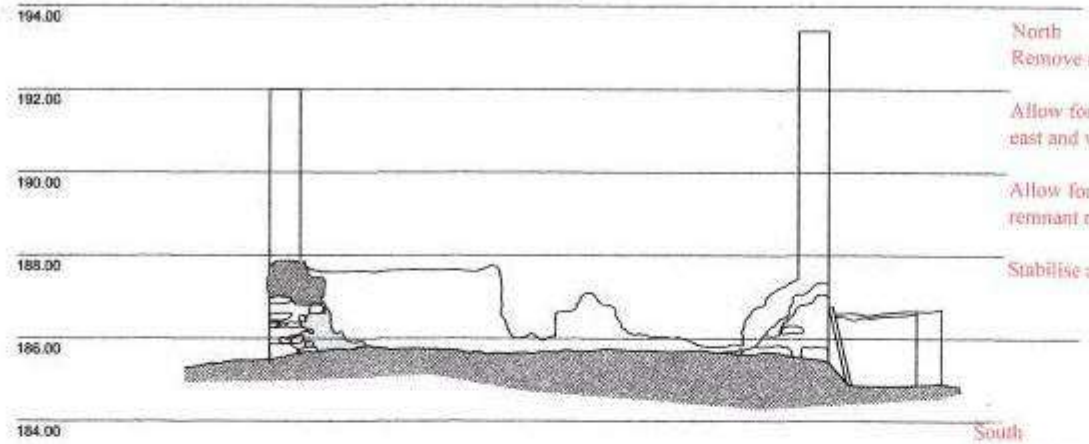
Rev	Description	Date

Joseph Byrne (BA(Hons) MSCSI MRICS
CHARTERED SURVEYOR
Heather Breeze, Kilmannon Road,
Murrintown, Wexford
M 087 6352332 E info@jbc.ie

CHARTERED SURVEYORS RICS

Project	Measured Survey at Donard Church, Donard, Co. Wicklow	Scale	1:100 @ A3
		Dwg No.	S25(10)_5
Client	Yvonne Whitty Archaeology	Stage	SURVEY
Title	East & West Walls Internal Elevations	Date	October 25

A3



North
Remove re-emerging vegetation.

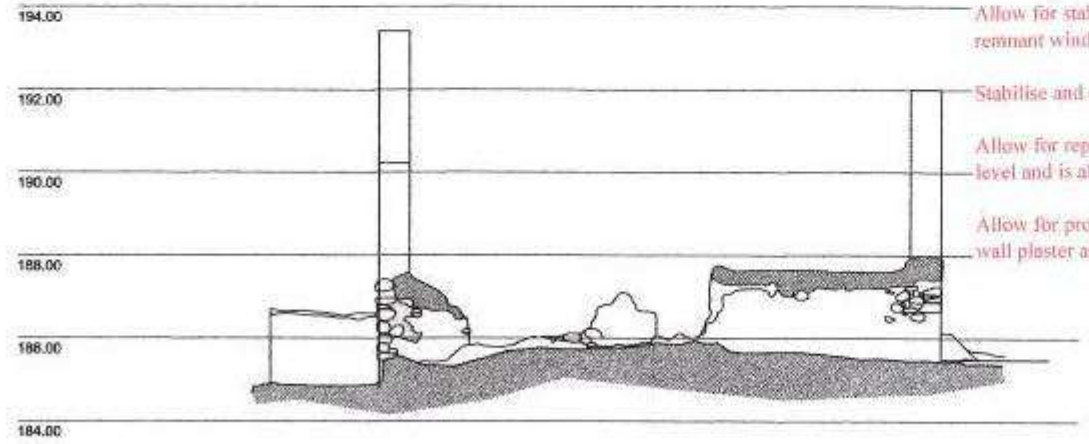
Allow for re-pointing both faces of the east and west ends of the wall (ca 9 sq m)

Allow for stabilising and repairing the remnant masonry at each end (Item)

Stabilise and cap wall top (approx 8 lin m).

2 North Elevation
Scale: 1:100

0 1 2 3 4 5
Metres



South
Remove re-emerging vegetation.

Allow for re-pointing both faces of the east end of the wall (30 sq m)

Allow for stabilising and repairing the remnant window reveals. (Item)

Stabilise and cap wall top (approx 14 lin m)

Allow for repairing and re-pointing the wall inner face level and is about 1 m high. (ca 5 sq m)

Allow for protection and repair of the remnant wall plaster as necessary.

3 South Elevation
Scale: 1:100

0 1 2 3 4 5
Metres

Notes
Dimensions
Do not scale
Use written

Dermot Nolan & Associates
Historic Buildings Consultants and Conservation Engineers

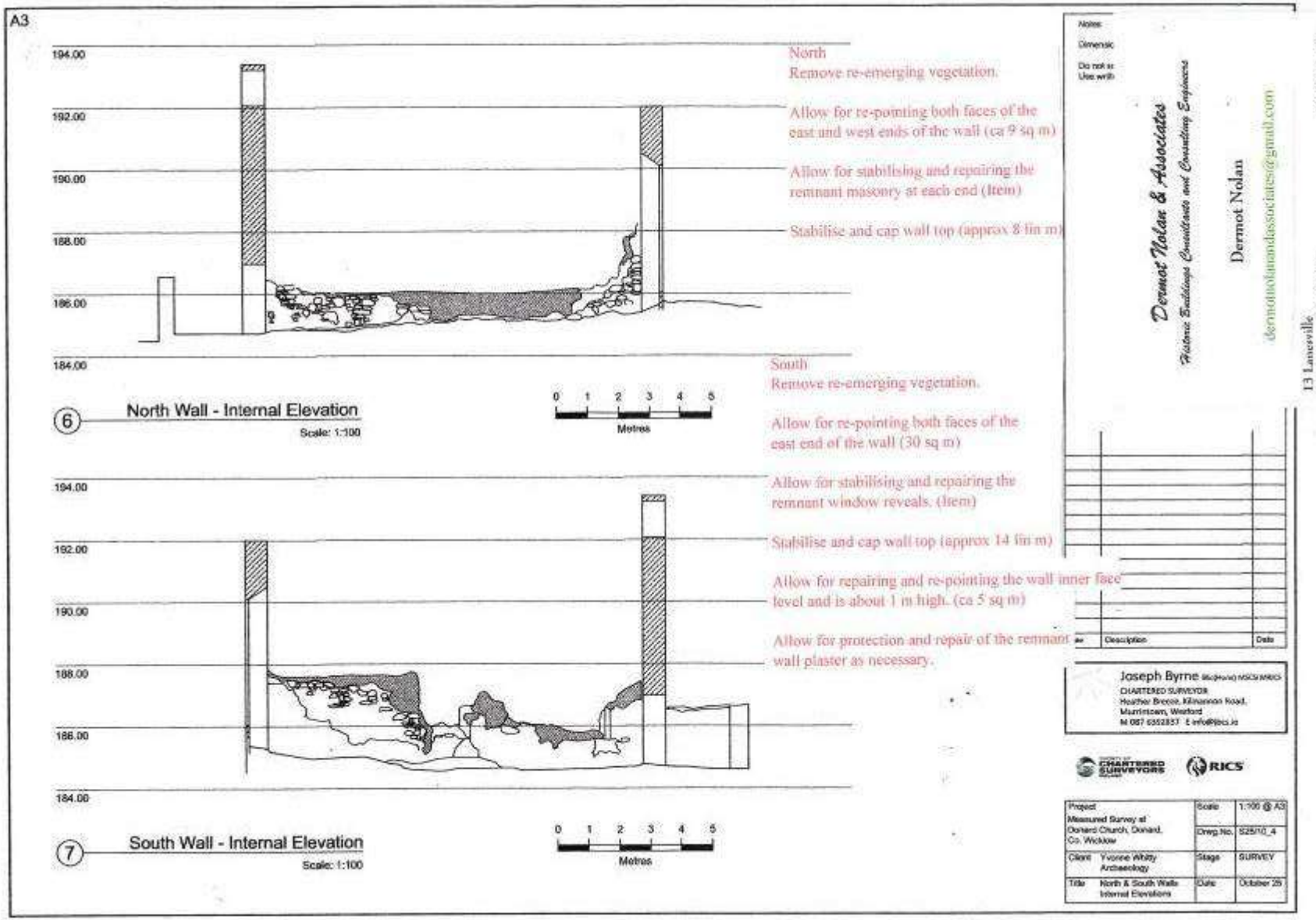
Dermot Nolan
dermotnolanandassociates@gmail.com
15 Lanesville

Rev	Description	Date

Joseph Byrne
CHARTERED SURVEYOR
Heather Breeze, Kilmacoon Road,
Murrintown, Wexford
M 087 6952857 E info@jbcs.ie

CHARTERED SURVEYORS IRELAND
RICS

Project	Measured Survey at: Donard Church, Donard, Co. Wicklow	Scale	1:100 @ A3
		Dwg No.	S25/10_2
Client	Yvonne Whitty Archaeology	Stage	SURVEY
Title	North & South Elevations	Date	October 25


A3
194.00
192.00
190.00
188.00
186.00
184.00
North
Remove re-emerging vegetation.
Allow for re-pointing both faces of the east and west ends of the wall (ca 9 sq m)
Allow for stabilising and repairing the remnant masonry at each end (Item)
Stabilise and cap wall top (approx 8 lin m)
6
North Wall - Internal Elevation
Scale: 1:100
0 1 2 3 4 5
Metres
South
Remove re-emerging vegetation.
Allow for re-pointing both faces of the east end of the wall (30 sq m)
Allow for stabilising and repairing the remnant window reveals. (Item)
Stabilise and cap wall top (approx 14 lin m)
Allow for repairing and re-pointing the wall inner face level and is about 1 m high. (ca 5 sq m)
Allow for protection and repair of the remnant wall plaster as necessary.
7
South Wall - Internal Elevation
Scale: 1:100
0 1 2 3 4 5
Metres
Notes:
Dimensio
Do not sc
Use with
Dermot Nolan & Associates
Historic Buildings Consultants and Conservation Engineers
Dermot Nolan
dermotnolanandassociates@gmail.com
13 Laneville
Monkstown, Co. Dublin
087 2431189
Description
Date
Joseph Byrne
CHARTERED SURVEYOR
Heather Breeze, Kilmannon Road,
Murntown, Wexford
M 087 6552857
CHARTERED SURVEYORS
RICS
Project
Measured Survey at
Clonard Church, Clonard,
Co. Wicklow
Scale
1:100 @ A3
Dwg.No.
S25/10_4
Client
Yvonne Whitty
Archaeology
Stage
SURVEY
Title
North & South Walls
Internal Elevations
Date
October 25

Appendix 3

Ecology Report

Donard Church and Old Graveyard Conservation Plan, Donard, Co. Wicklow

Ecological Survey

FINAL REPORT

23rd October 2024

HERITAGE COUNCIL AWARD CH2119

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council

Faith Wilson
ECOLOGICAL CONSULTANT

Faith Wilson Ecological Consultant BSc (Hons) CEnv MCIEEM
Kestrel Ridge, Tigroney West, Avoca, Co. Wicklow

Donard Church and Old Graveyard Conservation Plan, Donard, Co. Wicklow

Ecological Survey

Table of Contents

Donard Church and Old Graveyard Conservation Plan, Donard, Co. Wicklow

Ecological Survey

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

This report has been prepared by Faith Wilson (an independent ecological consultant and licensed bat specialist) who was appointed by Yvonne Whitty Archaeology, the project archaeologist, to prepare a baseline ecological survey and report for Donard Church and Old Graveyard, also referred to as Heighington Burial Ground, which is located in Donard Village near the Glen of Imaal in County Wicklow (**Figure 1**).

Figure 1. Donard Old Graveyard is located in the townland of Donard Lower in Donard, County Wicklow (Google Maps).

Donard Tidy Towns group successfully received funding from the Heritage Council to prepare a Conservation Plan for the site (CH2119).

In line with best practice an ecological survey was included as part of the work and consisted of:

- Desk study and consultation.
- Habitat survey.
- Invasive species survey.
- Mammal survey.
- Preliminary Bat survey.
- Bat Roost Survey.
- Breeding bird survey.

1.2 Relevant Legislation

1.2.1 Nature Conservation Designations

International Conservation Designations
Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are habitats of international significance that have been identified by NPWS and submitted for designation to the EU. SAC is a statutory designation, which has a legal basis under the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) as transposed into Irish law through the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997, which were amended in 1998, 2005 and 2011. The European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 consolidate the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997 to 2005 and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats)(Control of Recreational Activities) Regulations 2010, as well as addressing transposition failures identified in the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) judgements.

A Special Protection Area (SPA) is a statutory designation, which has a legal basis under the EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC). The primary objective of SPAs is to maintain or enhance the favourable conservation status of the birds for which the SPAs have been designated.

National Conservation Designations
Proposed NHAs are habitats or sites of interest to wildlife that have been identified by NPWS. These sites become NHAs once they have been formally advertised and land owners have been notified of their designation. NHAs are protected under the Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000, from the date they are formally proposed. NHA is a statutory designation according to the Wildlife (Amended) Act, 2000 and requires consultation with NPWS if any development impacts on a pNHA.

1.2.2 Bats

Eleven species of bats occur in Ireland and all are protected under both national and international law.

Wildlife Act 1976

In the Republic, under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife Act 1976, all bats and their roosts are protected by law. It is unlawful to disturb either without the appropriate licence. The Act was amended in 2000.

Bern and Bonn Convention

Ireland has also ratified two international conventions, which afford protection to bats amongst other fauna. These are known as the 'Bern' and 'Bonn' Conventions. The Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention 1982), exists to conserve all species and their habitats, including bats. The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention 1979,

enacted 1983) was instigated to protect migrant species across all European boundaries, which covers certain species of bat.

EU Habitats Directive

All bat species are given strict protection under Annex IV of the EU Habitats Directive, whilst the Lesser Horseshoe Bat (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*) and Greater Horseshoe Bat (*Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*) are given further protection under Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive. Both are listed as a species of community interest that is in need of strict protection and for which E.U. nations must designate Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). The latter is only known from a single site and no breeding populations have been recorded to date. The former are a species of the western seaboard of Ireland and have not yet been recorded on the east coast.

The principal pressures on Irish bat species have been identified as follows:

- urbanised areas (e.g. light pollution);
- bridge/viaduct repairs;
- pesticides usage;
- removal of hedges, scrub, forestry;
- water pollution;
- other pollution and human impacts (e.g. renovation of dwellings with roosts);
- infillings of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools and marshes;
- management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes;
- abandonment of pastoral systems;
- speleology and vandalism;
- communication routes: roads; and
- inappropriate forestry management.

1.2.3 Badgers

Badgers (*Meles meles*) are common and widespread in Ireland, and are found in all lowland habitats where the soil is dry and not subject to flooding (Hayden and Harrington, 2000). Badgers are social animals that live in complex underground tunnel systems called setts. Badger territories may vary in size from about 60-200 ha (Smal, 1995).

Badgers and their setts legally are protected under the provisions of the Wildlife Act, 1976, and the Wildlife Amendment Act, 2000. It is an offence to intentionally kill or injure a protected species or to wilfully interfere with or destroy the breeding site or resting place of a protected wild animal. It is standard best practice to ensure that mitigation measures are taken to limit impacts on badgers and badger populations during developments.

1.2.4 Otter

The Otter (*Lutra lutra*) is a legally protected species under the EU Habitats Directive (where it is listed under Annex II) and is found throughout Ireland (Hayden and Harrington, 2000). The Otter is listed as internationally

important in the Irish Red Data book (Whilde, 1993), is classified as 'near threatened' in Ireland (Marnell, et al. 2009), on a European scale (Temple & Terry, 2007) and on a global scale by the IUCN (2009). It is listed as a strictly protected species under Appendix II of the Bern convention (Council of Europe, 1979). Because it is listed in Appendix 1 of CITES (1979), trade in otter specimens is permitted only in exceptional circumstances.

Annexes II and IV of the E.U. Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) list the Otter as a species of community interest that is in need of strict protection and for which E.U. nations must designate Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). The E.U. Habitats Directive was transposed into Irish law in the European Union (Natural Habitats) Regulations, (SI 94/1997) and 40 candidate SACs have been designated for the otter in Ireland (NPWS (2008)). A Species Action Plan and a Threat Response Plan has been prepared for the otter by NPWS (2008 & 2009).

Otters tend to occupy linear territories along watercourses and are rarely found far away from water. A recent national survey of otters in Ireland (Bailey (2006)) surveyed 37 sites within the Eastern River Basin District, of which 22 (59.46%) recorded the presence of Otter, the lowest rate in the country.

1.2.5 Invasive Species

The legal framework for the control or eradication of non-native invasive species in the Republic of Ireland is the Birds and Habitats Regulations (2011), which include legislation on invasive and non-native species in Sections 49 and 50.

Since then the EU Regulation on Invasive Alien Species (EU Regulation 1143/2014) also came into force on the 3rd August 2016.

The plant and animal species to which the Birds and Habitats Regulations (2011) apply are presented in Schedule Three. Part 1 details the plants species, while Part 3 outlines those animal or plant vector materials and are presented below.

Third Schedule: Part 1 Plants

Non-native species subject to restrictions under Regulations 49 and 50.

Common name	**Scientific name**	**Geographical application**
American Skunk-cabbage	*Lysichiton americanus*	Throughout the State
A red alga	*Grateloupia doryphora*	Throughout the State
Brazilian Giant-rhubarb	*Gunnera manicata*	Throughout the State
Broad-leaved Rush	*Juncus planifolius*	Throughout the State
Cape Pondweed	*Aponogeton distachyos*	Throughout the State
Cord-grasses	*Spartina* (all species and hybrids)	Throughout the State
Curly Waterweed	*Lagarosiphon major*	Throughout the State
Dwarf Eel-grass	*Zostera japonica*	Throughout the State

Common name	**Scientific name**	**Geographical application**
Fanwort	*Cabomba caroliniana*	Throughout the State
Floating Pennywort	*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*	Throughout the State
Fringed Water-lily	*Nymphoides peltata*	Throughout the State
Giant Hogweed	*Heracleum mantegazzianum*	Throughout the State
Giant Knotweed	*Fallopia sachalinensis*	Throughout the State
Giant-rhubarb	*Gunnera tinctoria*	Throughout the State
Giant Salvinia	*Salvinia molesta*	Throughout the State
Himalayan Balsam	*Impatiens glandulifera*	Throughout the State
Himalayan Knotweed	*Persicaria wallichii*	Throughout the State
Hottentot-fig	*Carpobrotus edulis*	Throughout the State
Japanese Knotweed	*Fallopia japonica*	Throughout the State
Large-flowered Waterweed	*Egeria densa*	Throughout the State
Mile-a-minute Weed	*Persicaria perfoliata*	Throughout the State
New Zealand Pigmyweed	*Crassula helmsii*	Throughout the State
Parrot's Feather	*Myriophyllum aquaticum*	Throughout the State
Rhododendron	*Rhododendron ponticum*	Throughout the State
Salmonberry	*Rubus spectabilis*	Throughout the State
Sea-buckthorn	*Hippophae rhamnoides*	Throughout the State
Spanish Bluebell	*Hyacinthoides hispanica*	Throughout the State
Three-cornered Leek	*Allium triquetrum*	Throughout the State
Wakame	*Undaria pinnatifida*	Throughout the State
Water Chestnut	*Trapa natans*	Throughout the State
Water Fern	*Azolla filiculoides*	Throughout the State
Water Lettuce	*Pistia stratiotes*	Throughout the State
Water-primrose	*Ludwigia* (all species)	Throughout the State
Waterweeds	*Elodea* (all species)	Throughout the State
Wireweed	*Sargassum muticum*	Throughout the State

EU Regulation 1143/2014 on Invasive Alien Species

On 14 July 2016 the European Commission published Commission Implementing Regulation 2016/1141 which set out an initial list of 37 species to which EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation 1143/2014 will apply. The associated restrictions and obligations came into force on 3rd August 2016.

Plant species listed on the directive include:

- American Skunk Cabbage (*Lysichiton americanus)*
- Asiatic Tearthumb (*Persicaria perfoliate/Polygonum perfoliatum*)
- Curly Waterweed (*Lagarosiphon major)*
- Eastern Baccharis (*Baccharis halimifolia)*
- Floating Pennywort (*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides)*
- Floating Primrose-Willow (*Ludwigia peploides)*
- Green Cabomba (*Cabomba caroliniana)*
- Kudzu Vine (*Pueraria lobata)*
- Parrot's Feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum)*
- Persian Hogweed (*Heracleum persicum)*

- Sosnowski's Hogweed (*Heracleum sosnowskyi)*
- Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes)*
- Water Primrose (*Ludwigia grandiflora)*
- Whitetop Weed (*Parthenium hysterophorus)*

Animal species listed on the directive include:

- Amur Sleeper (*Perccottus glenii)*
- Asian Hornet (*Vespa velutina)*
- Chinese Mitten Crab (*Eriocheir sinensis)*
- Coypu (*Myocastor coypus)*
- Fox Squirrel (*Sciurus niger)*
- Grey Squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis)*
- Indian House Crow (*Corvus splendens)*
- Marbled Crayfish (*Procambarus* spp.)
- Muntjac Deer (*Muntiacus reevesii)*
- North American Bullfrog (*Lithobates (Rana) catesbeianus)*
- Pallas's Squirrel (*Callosciurus erythraeus)*
- Raccoon (*Procyon lotor)*
- Red Swamp Crayfish (*Procambarus clarkia)*
- Red-eared Terrapin/Slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans)*
- Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis)*
- Sacred Ibis (*Threskiornis aethiopicus)*
- Siberian Chipmunk (*Tamias sibiricus)*
- Signal Crayfish (*Pacifastacus leniusculus)*
- Small Asian Mongoose (*Herpestes javanicus)*
- South American Coati (*Nasua nasua)*
- Spiny-cheek Crayfish (*Orconectes limosus)*
- Topmouth Gudgeon (*Pseudorasbora parva)*
- Virile Crayfish (*Orconectes virilis)*

On 13 July 2017, the European Commission published Commission Implementing Regulation 2017/1263 which added a further 12 species to the current list of 37 species regulated under the EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation (1143/2014).

These are:

<u>Plant species</u>

- Alligator Weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*)

- Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*)
- Nuttall's Waterweed (*Elodea nuttallii*)
- Chilean Rhubarb (*Gunnera tinctoria*)
- Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)
- Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*)
- Japanese Stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*)
- Broadleaf Watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*)
- Crimson Fountaingrass (*Pennisetum setaceum*)

Animal species

- Egyptian Goose (*Alopochen aegyptiacus*)
- Raccoon Dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*)
- Muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*)

The associated restrictions and obligations came into force from 2 August 2017 for all these species apart from the Raccoon Dog, which came into force on 2 February 2019.

Other Invasive Species

The main guidance document that has been prepared dealing with invasive species/noxious weeds on sites is the NRA *'Guidelines on The Management of Noxious Weeds and Non-Native Invasive Plant Species on National Roads'* which was published in 2010. This document details other non-native species of note.

A detailed survey for such species within the environs of Donard Old Graveyard was conducted in order to ensure that any proposed works do not result in the disturbance and spread of any invasive species.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Desk Study and Consultation

A desk study was carried out to collate any available information on the ecological environment around Donard Old Graveyard.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) database of designated conservation areas and NPWS records of rare and protected plant species were checked with regard to the surrounds of Donard Old Graveyard.

Information on protected species of fauna and flora listed for protection under Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), Annex I of the

Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) and the Wildlife (Amendment) Act (2000) was also sought from NPWS and published sources.

A data search was made for any biological records held by the National Biodiversity Data Centre from the vicinity of the monument.

Recent, high resolution, colour aerial photographs were used to identify habitats of conservation value.

2.2 Field Surveys

A number of site visits were made to Donard Church and Old Graveyard over the course of the summer including a visit with the Wicklow County Council Community Archaeologist, Yvonne Whitty and Heritage Officer, Deirdre Burns on the 6th June 2024. A public bat walk took place with the Wicklow County Council Biodiversity Officer, Hannah O'Kelly on the 21st August 2024.

2.2.1 Habitats and Flora

Donard Old Graveyard was visited to survey and map the habitats present, using the habitat survey and mapping techniques described by Smith *et al.* (2011) and described using the Heritage Council Habitat Classification (Fossitt, 2000). The habitats present were described to Fossitt Level 3 and any correspondence or potential correspondence to habitats listed under Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive were considered and assessed.

A particular focus of the surveys was to determine if any protected species of plant under the Flora (Protection) Order (2022) or listed in the Irish Vascular Plants Red Data Book are present within the environs of Donard Old Graveyard.

Any invasive species present in the environs of Donard Old Graveyard were also identified. A particular focus of the surveys was for those invasive species listed in the Birds and Habitats Regulations 2011.

2.2.2 Mammals

Bats

Consultation with Bat Conservation Ireland was completed to see if there is any information on bats from the environs of Donard Old Graveyard.

In accordance with best practice, a preliminary bat survey of the general environs of Donard Old Graveyard was conducted.

The Church in Donard Old Graveyard was examined for signs of bat use. Bat usage of structures is usually detected by the following signs (though direct observations are also occasionally made):

- Bat droppings (these will accumulate under an established roost or under access points)

- Insect remains (under feeding perches)
- Oil (from fur) and urine stains
- Scratch marks
- Bat corpses

The nature and type of habitats present are also indicative of the species likely to be present.

Trees within the environs of Donard Old Graveyard were assessed for their potential use by bats using the following standard criteria, which were created by bat specialists from Bat Conservation Ireland for use in the assessments of tree roosts on large infrastructure projects and are summarised in NRA (2006):

- Presence or absence of bat droppings (these can be hard to find amongst leaf litter or may be washed away following periods of wet weather),
- Bat droppings may also be seen as a black streak beneath holes, cracks, branches, etc.,
- Presence or absence of smooth edges with dark marks at potential entrances to roosts,
- Presence or absence of urine stains at potential entrances to roosts,
- Presence of natural cracks and rot holes in the trunk or boughs of the tree,
- Hollow trees,
- Presence or absence of creepers such as ivy or honeysuckle on trees (ivy clad trees are often used by bat species such as pipistrelles as roosts),
- Presence or absence of loose bark such as that of sycamore, or flaky bark on coniferous species such as cedars, cypress and Scot's pine,
- Presence or absence of bracket fungi which may indicate a rotten or potentially hollow centre to the tree,
- Known bat roosts previously identified,
- Trees with storm or machinery damage or broken boughs,
- Clutter level - where the branches and trunk are easily accessible, this is considered a better tree for bat roosts,
- Adjoining habitat - if there are a variety of feeding opportunities for bats, this increases the potential of a tree as a bat roost,
- Adjoining potential roosts / known roosts. This raises the likelihood of a tree being of benefit as bats may move roosts if the roost becomes too hot or cold during roosting and a nearby alternative roost is highly desirable.

Other mammals

A dedicated large mammal survey was carried out by Faith Wilson during the site visits using the techniques as prescribed in Ecological Survey Techniques for Protected Flora and Fauna (NRA, 2008). This entailed searching for and identification of signs, tracks and droppings of various mammals (potential/likely species include Badger, Sika Deer (*Cervus nippon*), Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*), Brown Rat (*Rattus norvegicus*), House Mouse (*Mus musculus*) and Pygmy Shrew (*Sorex minutus*),

along with non-native species such as Grey Squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) and Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) within the environs of Church and Graveyard. Direct observations of fauna were also made.

3 ECOLOGY

3.1 Donard Old Graveyard

Donard Old Graveyard is located at the northern end of the Glen of Imaal, in the foothills of the West Wicklow Mountains.

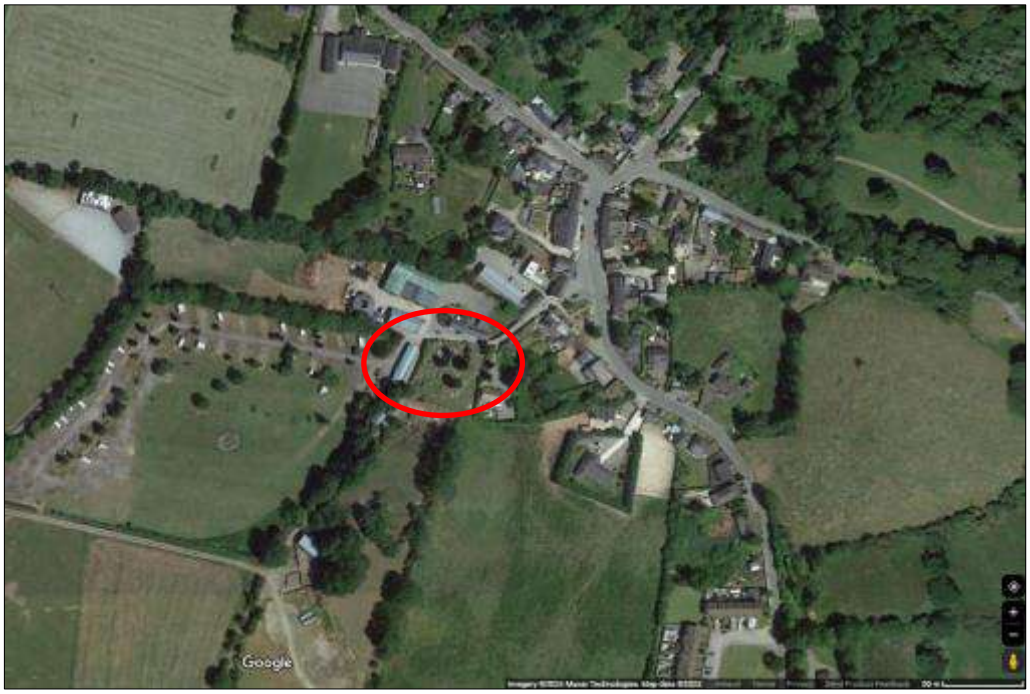


Figure 2. Donard Old Graveyard (Google Maps 2024). Donard Old Graveyard is circled in red.

The grounds of Donard Old Graveyard contain the ruins of a Church of Ireland Church and associated Graveyard, dating from the 15th or 16th century.

Donard Church and Old Graveyard contains a number of monuments listed in the Record of Monuments as can be seen on **Figure 3** below and these are subject to a preservation order made under the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014 (PO no. 110/1940). The motte to the south of the graveyard is also protected.

The SMR/RMP numbers are as follows:

- WI021-005002- : Graveyard
- WI021-005001- : Church
- WI021-005005- : Graveslab
- WI021-005004- : Memorial stone
- WI021-006---- : Castle - motte

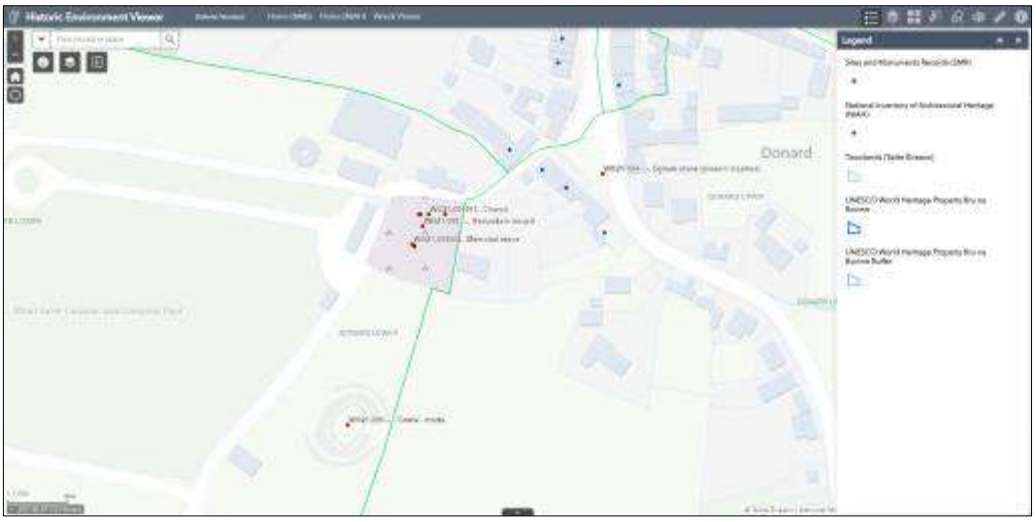


Figure 3. National Monuments recorded in Donard Old Graveyard (National Monuments).

3.2 Donard Old Graveyard in a Wider Ecological Context

Donard Old Graveyard is located in Donard, a rural village south-east of Dunlavin in County Wicklow. The surrounding area is primarily agricultural land with some forestry, and mountains to the northeast and east (**Figure 4**).

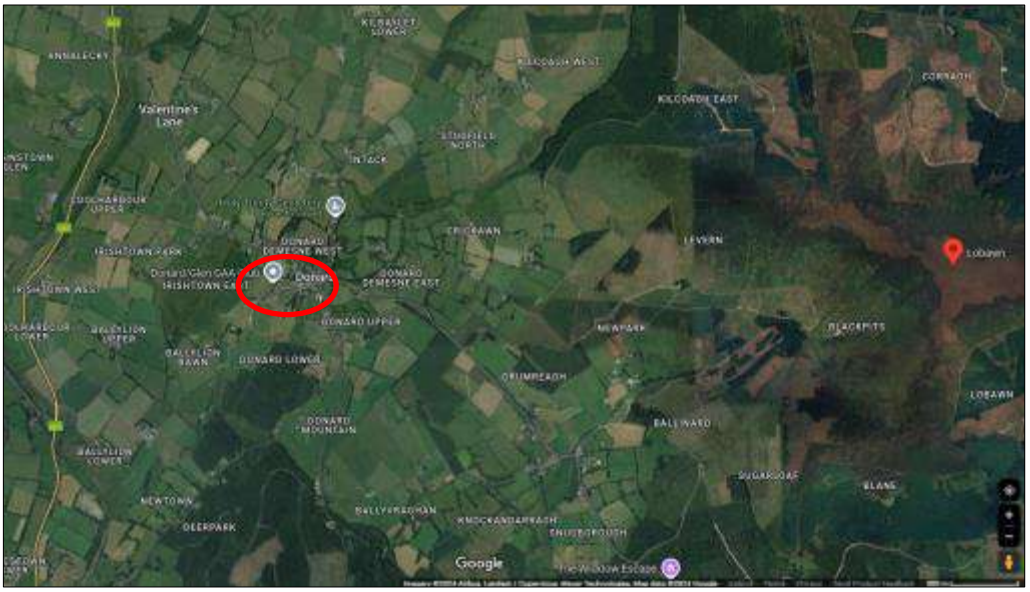


Figure 4. Donard Old Graveyard is located in Donard Village and situated between the N81 and the River Carriggower to the west, Slaney River to the south, the Pinnacle mountain top to the northeast, and the Sugarloaf and Lobawn mountain peaks to the east. Donard Graveyard is shown by the red circle.

The lands at Donard Old Graveyard are underlain by dark slate-schist, quartzite & coticule as shown on **Figure 5** below. The Donard Andesite is found to the west.

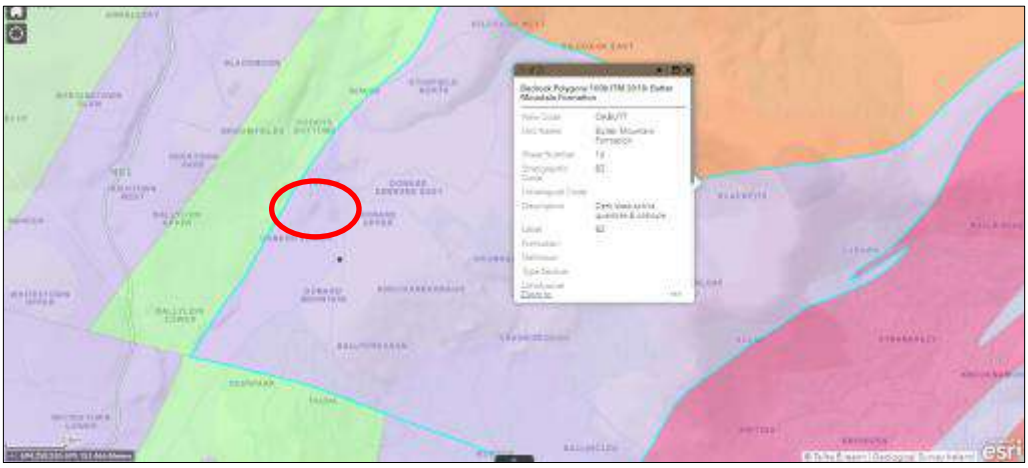


Figure 5. Donard is underlain by dark slate-schist, quartzite & coticule – known as the Butter Mountain Formation (source: Geological Survey Ireland). Donard Graveyard is shown by the red circle.

Soils in this area are described as a 'Fine loamy over mudstone, shale or slate bedrock' and are known as the Borrisoleigh Formation (Source: Teagasc/EPA), as shown in **Figure 6** below. This underlying geology and soils inform the natural vegetation present today.

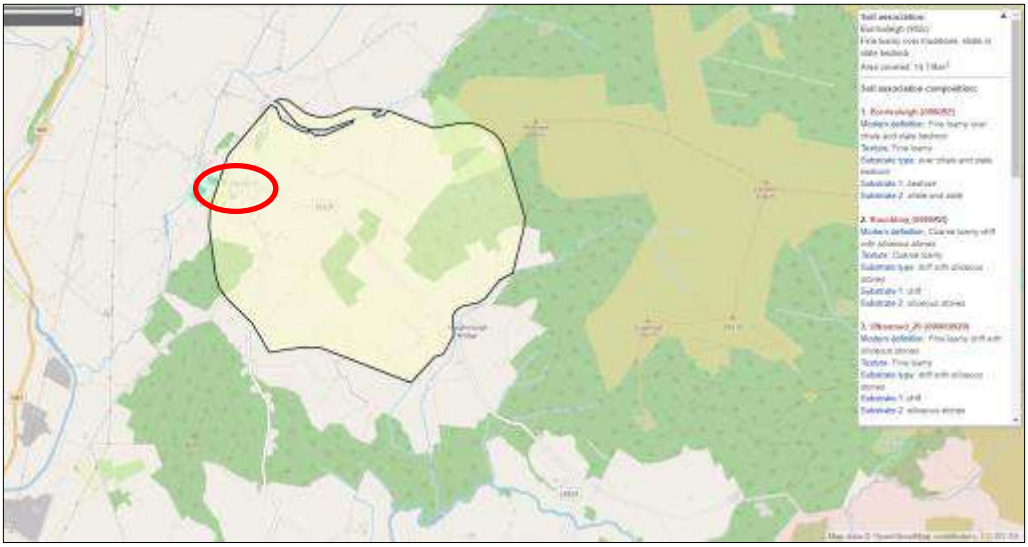


Figure 6. Soils in the Donard surrounds (Source: Teagasc/EPA). Donard Graveyard is shown by the red circle.

Nature Conservation Designations

The lands at Donard Old Graveyard are not currently designated for any nature conservation purposes. The closest designated sites are detailed below and shown on **Figure 7**.

International Nature Conservation Designations

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are habitats of international significance that have been identified by NPWS and submitted for designation to the EU. These are known collectively as the Natura 2000 sites. The Natura 2000 designated sites in the vicinity of Donard Graveyard include:

- Slaney River Valley SAC (Site Code: 000781)
- Wicklow Mountains SAC (Site Code: 002122)
- Wicklow Mountains SPA (Site Code: 004040)

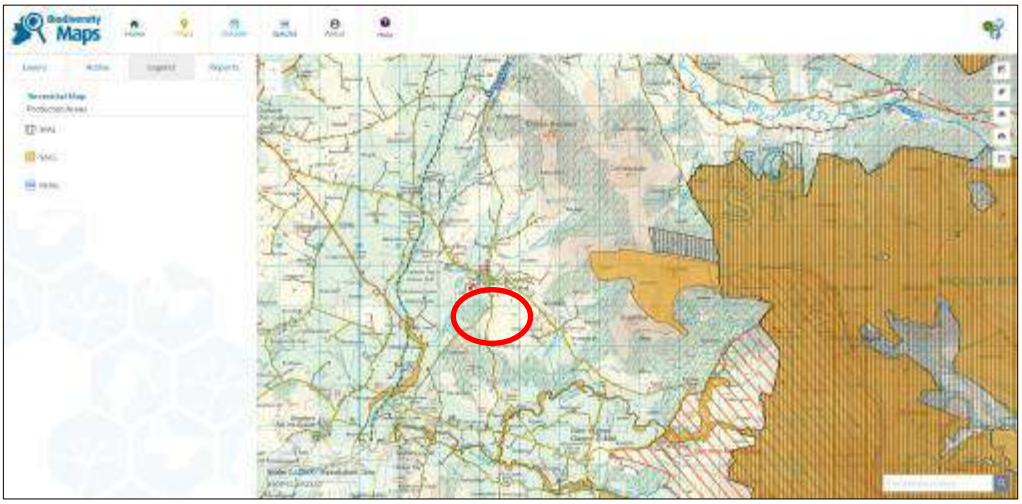


Figure 7. Designated lands close to Donard Old Graveyard (Source: NBDC Biodiversity Maps 2024). Donard Village is shown circled in red.

The Wicklow Mountains SAC protects a number of habitats and species including:

- Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (*Littorelletalia uniflorae*) [3110]
- Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160]
- Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* [4010]
- European dry heaths [4030]
- Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060]
- Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae [6130]
- Species-rich *Nardus* grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230]
- Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]
- Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani) [8110]
- Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210]
- Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220]

- Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles [91A0]
- *Lutra lutra* (Otter) [1355]

The Wicklow Mountains SPA protects breeding populations of two species of birds of prey. These are:

- Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) [A098]
- Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*) [A103]

National Nature Conservation Designations

Proposed NHAs (pNHAs) are habitats or sites of interest to wildlife that have been identified by NPWS. These sites become NHAs once they have been formally advertised and land owners have been notified of their designation. NHAs are protected under the Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000, from the date they are formally proposed. NHA is a statutory designation according to the Wildlife (Amended) Act, 2000 and requires consultation with NPWS if any development impacts on a pNHA.

Hollywood Glen pNHA (Site Code: 002053) is located to the north of Donard Graveyard.

The site synopsis for each of these sites is presented in **Appendix 1**.

3.3 Biological Records held by The National Biodiversity Data Centre

The National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) provides information on biological records submitted throughout Ireland. It does not hold any records from the Donard Church and Graveyard. Donard Church and Graveyard lies within the 1km square S9397 (**Figures 8** and **9**).

Figure 8. Location of Donard Old Graveyard (National Biodiversity Data Centre). Donard Old Graveyard is circled in red.

The species recorded are clearly not indicative of all those likely to be present in the area surrounding Donard Old Graveyard and Village as a total of 228 records across just 16 different species have been recorded for this square, the majority of which were records of bats (**Table 1**). Only one flowering plant species has been reported and no birds.

Figure 9. The location of NBDC 1km square S9397 (Source: NBDC). Donard Old Graveyard is shown circled in red.

Table 1. Number of species in each organism group recorded in square S9397. (Source: NBDC).

Organism group	Number of records in S9397
Flowering Plant	1
Insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	1
Insect - butterfly	1
Insect - moth	3
Terrestrial mammal	222

3.4 Receiving Environment – Habitats and Flora

A review of historic mapping available from the OSI (**Figures 10 - 13**) was completed. Donard Old Graveyard and Church is located within the village alongside both the Protestant and Catholic Churches which remain in use today. Donard Demesne is located to the north east of the village with its associated wooded shelterbelt as can be seen in the First Edition Mapping shown below in **Figures 10** and **11**.

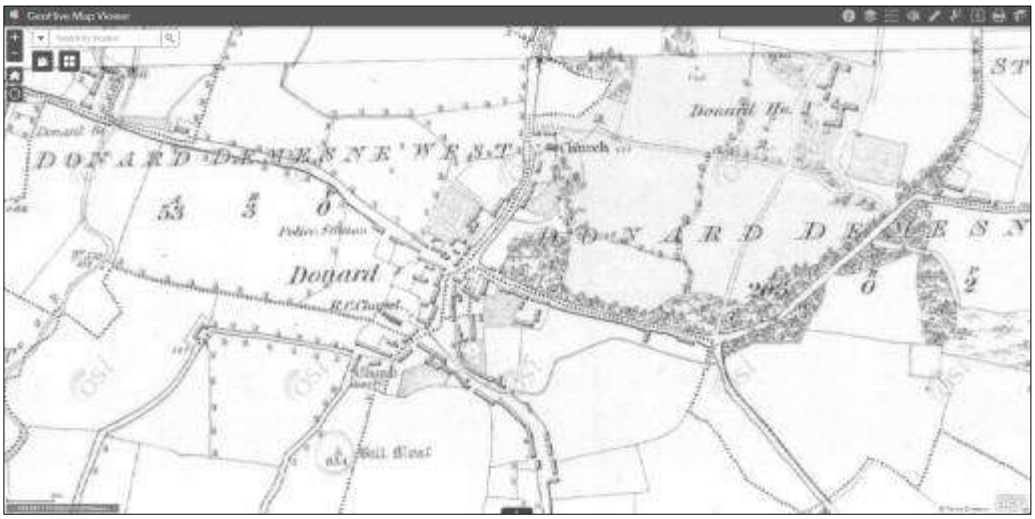


Figure 10. Ordnance Survey Ireland First Edition 6″ series mapping (OSI)

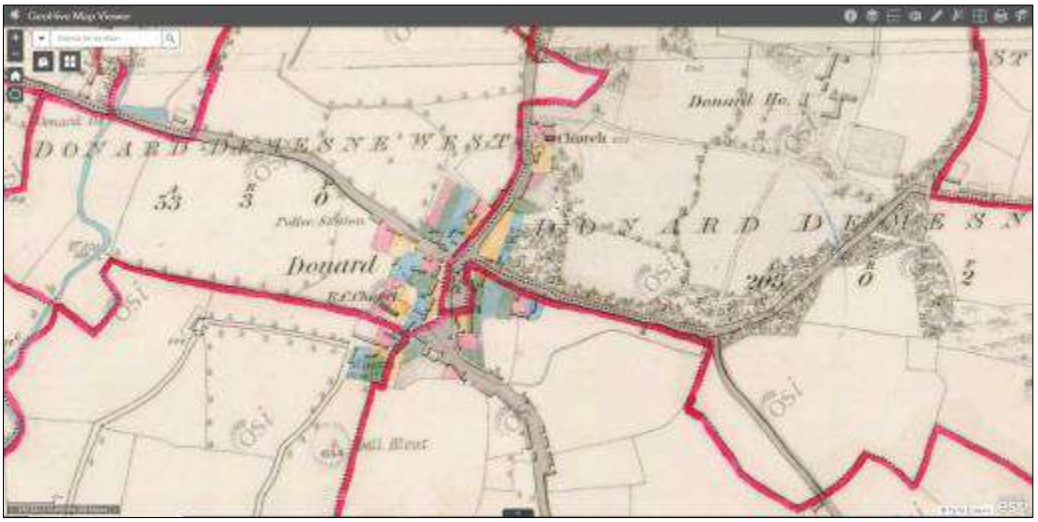


Figure 11. Ordnance Survey Ireland First Edition 6″ series mapping – colour edition (OSI).

By the Second Edition Mapping (**Figure 12**) woodland cover in the vicinity of the village had increased with further woodland cover shown in Donard Demesne West.

In general however the village has remained relatively unchanged with some increased housing in the wider environs.

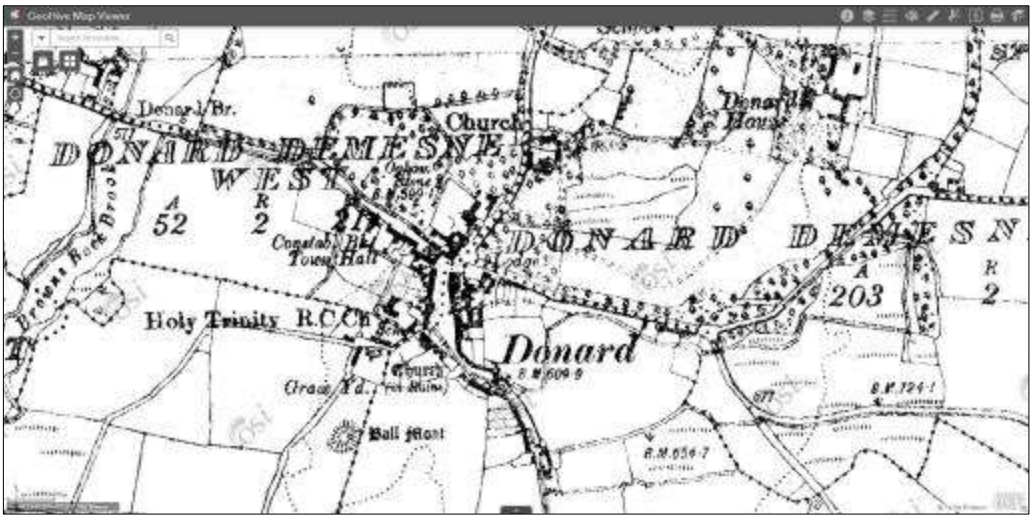


Figure 12. Ordnance Survey Ireland Second Edition 6″ series mapping (OSI).

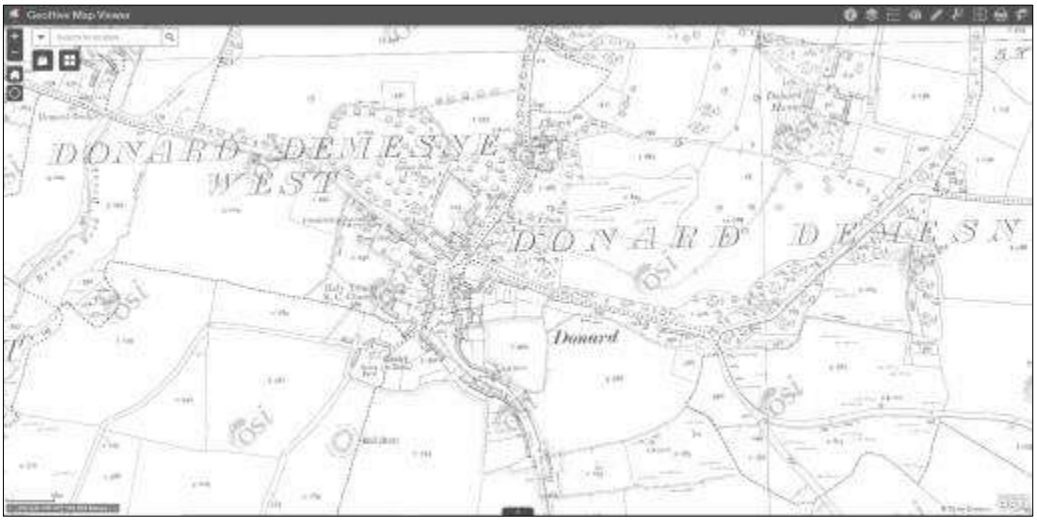


Figure 13. Ordnance Survey Ireland MapGenie 25″ mapping (OSI).

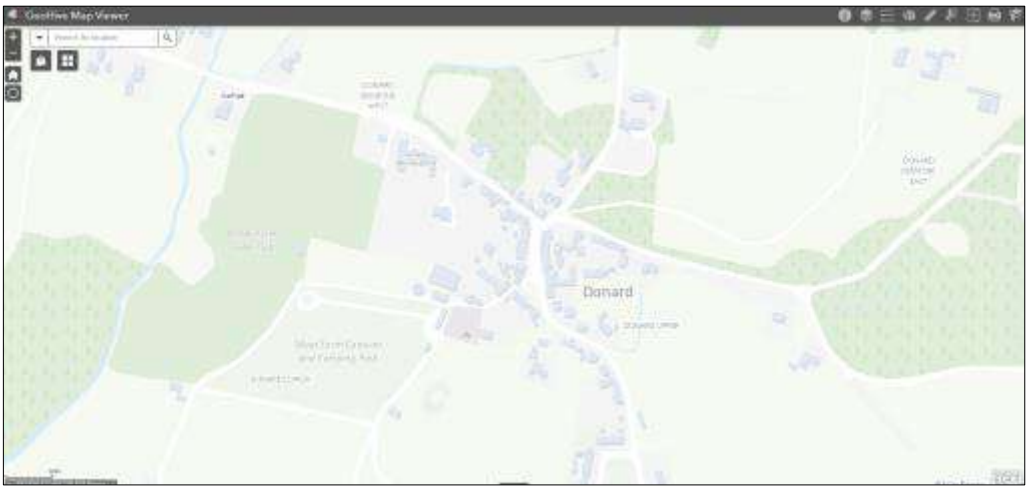


Figure 14. Ordnance Survey Ireland MapGenie Standard mapping (OSI).

3.4.1 Previous Botanical Surveys of Donard Church and Old Graveyard

A survey of trees, shrubs and herbaceous species growing in the graveyard was recorded in 1993. These are presented below on **Figure 15**. Tree and shrub species included:

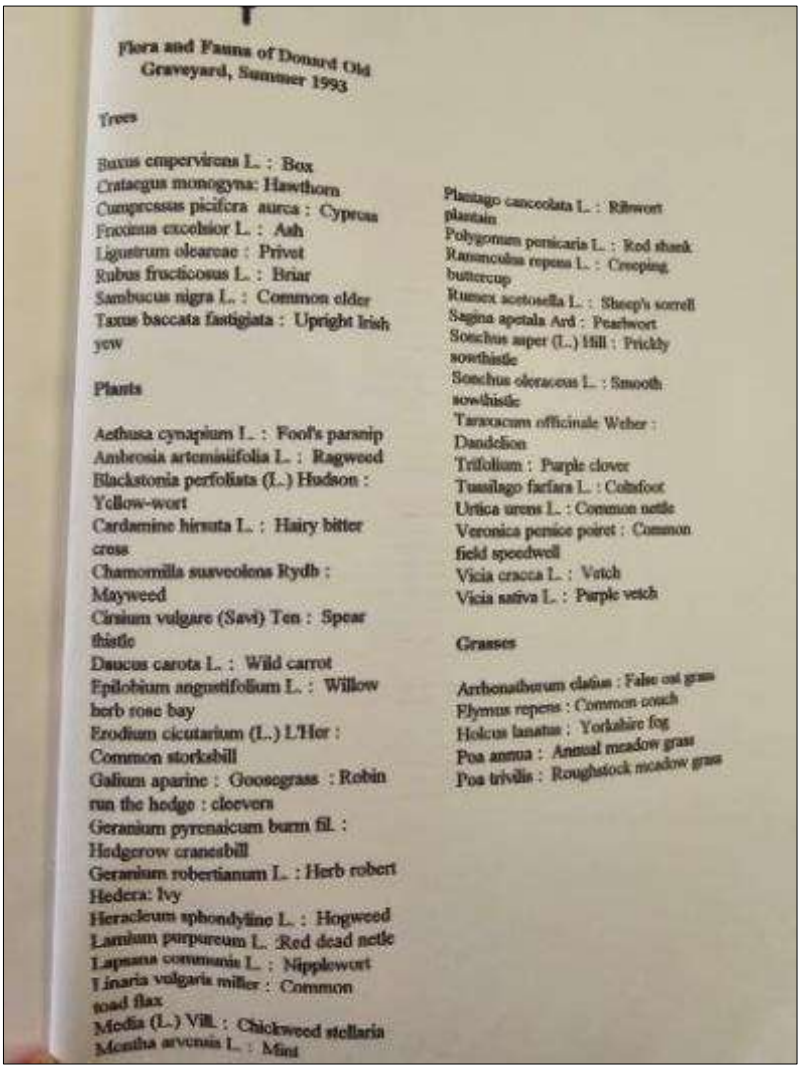
- Yew,
- Ash,
- Cypress,
- Box,
- Elder,
- Hawthorn,
- Privet, and
- Bramble.

Other species recorded include:

- Fool's parsnip
- Ragweed
- Yellow-wort
- Hairy bittercress
- Mayweed
- Spear thistle
- Wild carrot
- Rosebay willow herb
- Common stork's–bill
- Cleavers
- Hedgerow crane's-bill
- Herb Robert
- Ivy
- Hogweed
- Red dead nettle
- Nipplewort
- Common toadflax
- Chickweed
- Mint
- Ribwort Plantain
- Redshank
- Creeping buttercup
- Sheep's sorrel
- Pearlwort
- Prickly sow-thistle
- Smooth sow-thistle
- Dandelion
- Red clover
- Coltsfoot
- Small nettle
- Field speedwell
- Tufted vetch
- Common vetch
- False oat grass
- Common couch

- Annual meadow-grass
- Rough meadow-grass

Species of note from that survey are Yellow-wort and Wild carrot as these are indicator species of calcareous grassland



Flora and Fauna of Donard Old Graveyard, Summer 1993

Trees

Buxus empervirens L. : Box
Crataegus monogyna: Hawthorn
Cupressus picifera aurea : Cypress
Fraxinus excelsior L. : Ash
Ligustrum oleareae : Privet
Rubus fruticosus L. : Briar
Sambucus nigra L. : Common elder
Taxus baccata fastigiata : Upright Irish yew

Plants

Aethusa cynapium L. : Fool's parsnip
Ambrosia artemisiifolia L. : Ragweed
Blackstonia perfoliata (L.) Hudson : Yellow-wort
Cardamine hirsuta L. : Hairy bitter cress
Chamomilla suaveolens Rydb : Mayweed
Cirsium vulgare (Savi) Ten : Spear thistle
Daucus carota L. : Wild carrot
Epilobium angustifolium L. : Willow herb rose bay
Erodium cicutarium (L.) L'Her : Common storksbill
Galium aparine : Goosegrass : Robin run the hedge : cleevers
Geranium pyrenaicum burm fil. : Hedgerow cranesbill
Geranium robertianum L. : Herb robert
Hedera: Ivy
Heracleum sphondylium L. : Hogweed
Lamium purpureum L. Red dead nettle
Lapsana communis L. : Nipplewort
Linaria vulgaris miller : Common toad flax
Media (L.) Vill. : Chickweed stellaria
Mentha arvensis L. : Mint
Plantago lanceolata L. : Ribwort plantain
Polygonum persicaria L. : Red shank
Ranunculus repens L. : Creeping buttercup
Rumex acetosella L. : Sheep's sorrell
Sagina apetala Ard : Pearlwort
Sonchus asper (L.) Hill : Prickly sowthistle
Sonchus oleraceus L. : Smooth sowthistle
Taraxacum officinale Weber : Dandelion
Trifolium : Purple clover
Tussilago farfara L. : Coltsfoot
Urtica urens L. : Common nettle
Veronica persice poiret : Common field speedwell
Vicia cracca L. : Vetch
Vicia sativa L. : Purple vetch

Grasses

Arrhonatherum elatius : False oat grass
Elymus repens : Common couch
Holcus lanatus : Yorkshire fog
Poa annua : Annual meadow grass
Poa trivilis : Roughstock meadow grass

Figure 15. Botanical study from 1993.

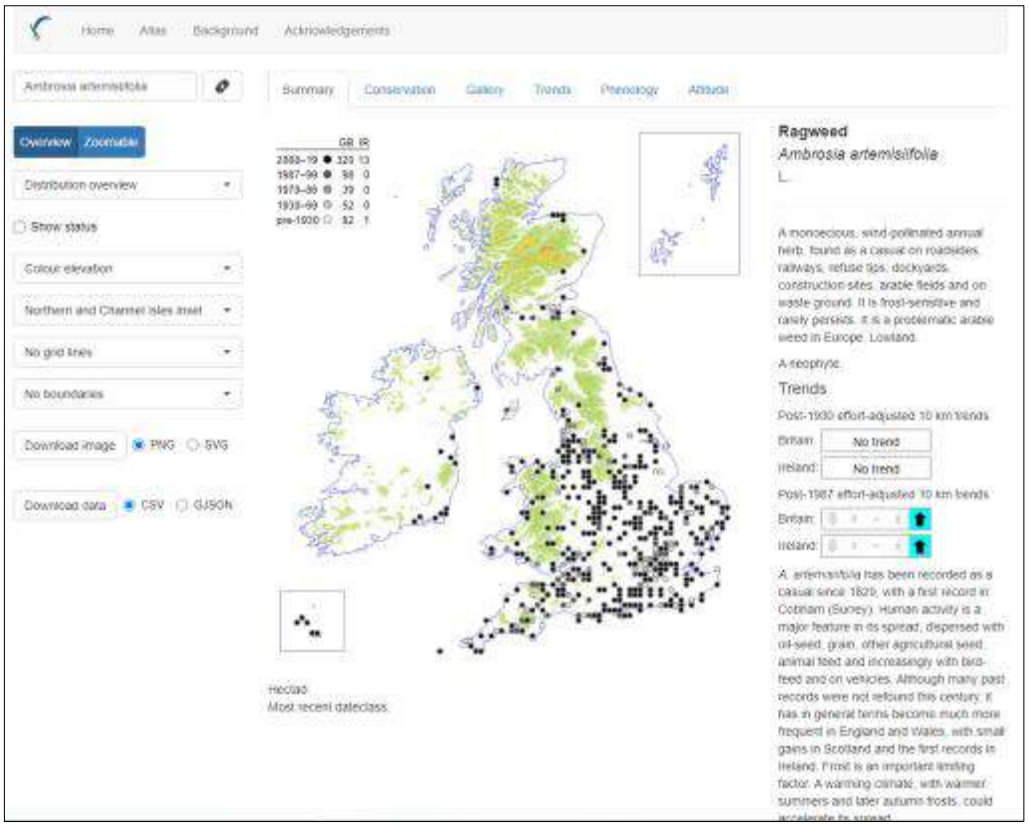


Figure 16. Distribution of Ragweed – a non-native annual invasive species (Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland).

3.4.2 Rare, Scarce and Threatened Flora

There are old records from 1940 of Bog Orchid (*Hammarbya paludosa*) from the Clashegall River at the foot of Donard Sugarloaf (Brunker, 1950).

3.4.3 Habitats of Donard Old Graveyard

The dominant habitat in Donard Old Graveyard is Dry Meadows and Grassy Verge Grassland (GS2), surrounded by stone walls and other stone work (BL1).

Species identified from the grassland within the grounds of Donard Old Graveyard included Sweet vernal grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*), False oat grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) and Cock's-foot grass (*Dactylis glomerata*).

Herbaceous species within the graveyard include; Sheep's sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), Silverweed (*Potentilla anserina*), Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), White Clover (*Trifolium repens*), Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), Hairy Bitter-cress (*Cardamine hirsuta*), Cuckoo Flower (*Cardamine pratensis*), Smooth Hawksbeard (*Crepis capillaris*), Nettle (*Urtica dioica*), Chickweed (*Stellaria media*), Marsh Thistle (*Cirsium palustre*), Creeping Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Germander Speedwell (*Veronica chamaedrys*), Ribwort Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), Dandelion (*Taraxacum* agg.), Ivy (*Hedera helix*), Cat's-ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*), Daisy (*Bellis perennis*),

Broad-leaved Willowherb (*Epilobium montana*), and Nipplewort (*Lapsana communis*).

Around the perimeter of the graveyard is a clipped hedgerow (WL1) with Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Gorse (*Ulex*), and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*),

There are some Irish Yew (*Taxus baccata fastigiata*) and the remains of a Cypress (*Cupressus* sp.) in the north eastern corner overhanging the wall. The non-native shrub Firethorn (*Pyracantha* sp.) is also found within the hedgerow alongside saplings of Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*).

A nice community of Liverworts (*Marchantiophyta* sp.) were recorded at the base of the wall alongside species such as Groundsel (*Senecio vulgaris*), Herb Robert (*Geranium robertianum*), Cleavers (*Gallium aparine*), Bush Vetch (*Vicia sepium*), Nipplewort and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.).

The walls supported populations of Maidenhair Spleenwort (*Asplenium trichomanes*), Ivy (*Hedera helix*), Barren strawberry (*Potentilla sterilis*), Ivy-leaved toadflax (*Cymbalaria muralis*) growing in the lime mortar with Broad-leaved Willowherb, Nipplewort, Smooth hawk's-beard, Dandelion, and Early hair grass (*Aira praecox*). The non-native and invasive Red valerian populations on the wall and monument should be removed and controlled.

Some use of herbicide was noted in the graveyard and around the headstones. This is both environmentally unfriendly and unsightly and can cause the headstones to move as the bare ground cracks and shrinks when the vegetation is removed. There was also an area of dumping at the rear of the graveyard with Nettle (*Urtica dioica*), Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*), Foxgloves (*Digitalis purpurea*), Yellow clover (*Trifolium dubium*), Chives (*Allium schoenoprasum*), False oat-grass, Yorkshire fog, Rough meadow grass (*Poa trivialis*), Broad-Leaved Dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*), and some scattered Grey willows (*Salix cinerea*).

Tree species in this area include Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) and Figwort (*Scrophularia nodosa*), Dog Rose (*Rosa canina*), and Slender speedwell (*Veronica filiformis*) were also noted.

The treeline of Ash that leads from the graveyard to the motte is of high ecological value for foraging bats and the mature Hawthorn here have a rich lichen flora.

Plate 1. Irish Yew in the old graveyard.

Plate 2. Dense ivy on the church.

Plate 3. Dense ivy and Cotoneaster on the church.

Plate 4. Weed killing within the church.

Plate 5. Remains of the old Cypress in the corner of the graveyard.

Plate 6. Maidenhair fens on the boundary walls.

Plate 7. The stone walls surrounding the eastern and southern boundary of the graveyard.

Plate 8. Rich herbaceous component in the sward.

Plate 9. Marsh thistle.

Plate 10. Rich wall flora – to be protected.

Plate 11. Cotoneaster on the wall.

Plate 12. Cat's ear.

Plate 13. Maidenhair spleenwort.

Plate 14. Broad-leaved Willowherb.

Plate 15. Ornamental roses.

Plate 16. Maidenhair spleenwort.

Plate 17. Early hair grass.

Plate 18. Ivy-leaved toadflax and Early hair grass on wall tops.

Plate 19. Barren strawberry

Plate 20. Liverworts at the base of the wall.

Plate 21. Smooth Hawksbeard.

Plate 22. Holes such as these should be retained for nesting birds.

Plate 23. A short mow meadow regime offer pollinators a nectar source.

Plate 24. Chickweed.

Plate 25. Stictchwort and Germander speedwell amongst the grass.

Plate 26. Nettles are the food plant for many species of butterfly – please stop spraying them. They can be cut back at the end of the autumn and removed if necessary.

Plate 27. Dumping and herbicide use.

Plate 28. Procumbent pearlwort.

Plate 29. Red valerian – a non native invasive species.

Plate 30. Yellow clover.

Plate 31. Nesting ground for solitary bees in the earthen bank.

Plate 32. Hawthorn on the adjoining motte.

Plate 33. Looking from the motte north to the graveyard.

Plate 34. Hawthorn in flower with rich lichen flora.

Plate 35. Ash and rooks.

Plate 36. Nesting holes for solitary bees.

3.5 Faunal Interest

There are no faunal records from the old graveyard in the village but species such as Hedgehog, Pygmy shrew, Brown rat and Wood mouse are likely. The bare earth near the motte supports solitary bees and wasps.

3.6 Bats

The Bat Conservation Ireland Database of bat records was searched for records of bats from the Donard area.

The database holds records of roosts, ad hoc observations or the results of surveys such as the BATLAS 2010 and 2020 projects and the All-Ireland Daubenton's Monitoring Project. Within the wider landscape these include records of:

- Brown Long-eared Bat (*Plecotus auritus*)
- Common Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*)
- Soprano Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*)
- Leisler's Bat (*Nyctalus leisleri*)
- Nathusius's Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus nathusii*)
- Natterer's Bat (*Myotis nattereri*)
- Whiskered Bat (*Myotis mystacinus*)

There are several records of bats from Donard Demesne – an unidentified *Myotis* spp.; Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle, and Brown long-eared bat, while the BATLAS 2010 project recorded Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle, Leisler's Bat and an unidentified *Pipistrelle* spp. from the village itself.

During this study, two species of bats were recorded in the environs of Donard Old Graveyard; Common Pipistrelle and Soprano Pipistrelle. **Figures 17 – 18** contain sonograms of the bat echolocation calls recorded during the survey.

Preliminary examinations of the monument found no evidence of bats roosting in either the stonework or any of the trees in the vicinity of the monument site based on a visual examination, but they all offer potential for roosting bats. There are a series of suitable crevices, holes and areas of dense ivy within the monument.

The landscape surrounding Donard Old Graveyard offers a darkened and safe hunting area for bats with a diversity of natural vegetation which in turn supports a variety of insects on which bats feed.

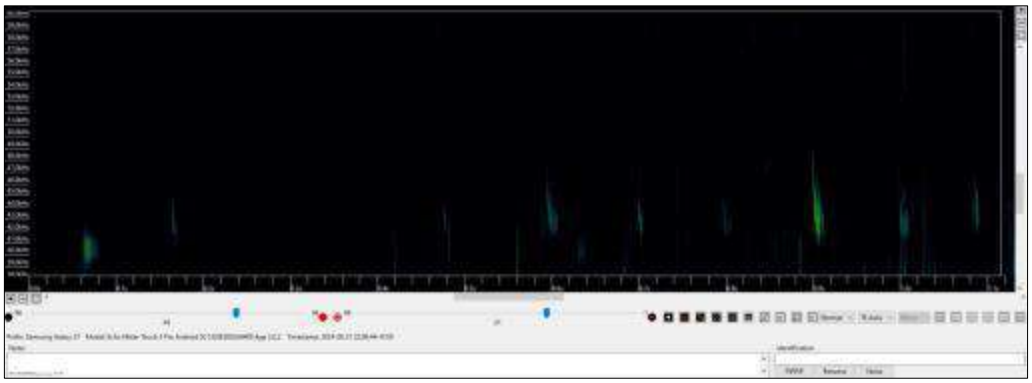


Figure 17. Sonogram of Common Pipistrelle Bat.

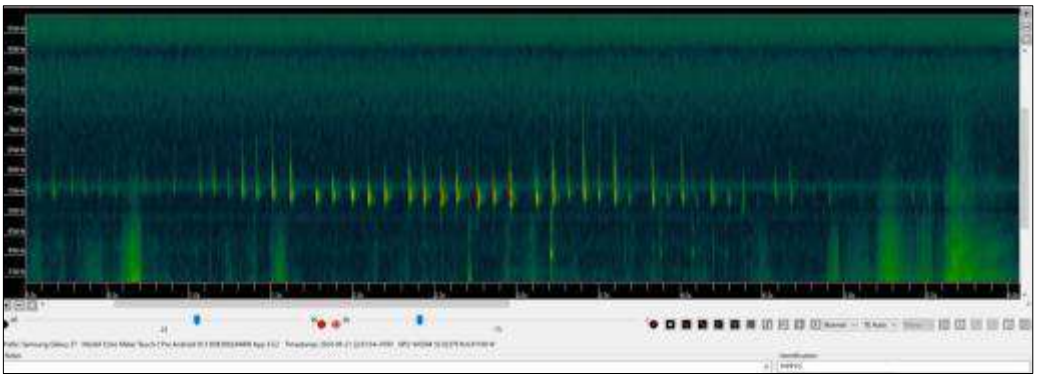


Figure 18. Sonogram of Soprano Pipistrelle Bat.

3.7 Birds

The graveyard contained a limited number of birds during the survey but the dense ivy and holes in the stonework offer birds a location in which to nest. These should be conserved and not infilled/repointed.

4 MEASURES TO PROTECT/CONSERVE BIODIVERSITY

4.1 General Recommendations

Any work undertaken at Donard Old Graveyard to conserve the ruins, gravestones or stone walls should be mindful of the natural heritage and character of the place and should enhance the character and setting of the monument.

4.2 Tree & Vegetation Protection

If any test trenching or excavation works are to take place near the boundary trees protective fencing should be erected in advance of any construction works commencing outside the drip-line of the canopy of retained trees to prevent damage by machinery, compaction of soil, etc. in accordance with BS 5837:2012. This should be signed off on by a qualified arborist or ecologist to ensure it has been erected properly before any machinery is allowed in the vicinity/work commences.

4.3 Protection of Breeding Birds

If any vegetation clearance works are proposed (for example from a built heritage perspective) this will be undertaken outside of the breeding bird season from March 1st to August 31st (in accordance with the Wildlife (Amendment) Act (2000)) to avoid direct impacts on breeding birds.

Section 40 of the Wildlife Act 1976, as amended by Section 46 of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000, restricts the cutting, grubbing, burning or destruction by other means of vegetation growing on uncultivated land or in hedges or ditches during the nesting and breeding season for birds and wildlife, from 1 March to 31 August. **No clearance of vegetation suitable for nesting birds within the site (dense ivy, shrubs, bramble tangles, etc.) should take place during this period. Should such clearance be required, then the area proposed for clearance should be inspected by an ecologist to ascertain if any nesting birds are present.**

4.4 Grassland Management

Where possible, some areas of grass and other vegetation should continue to be left long to allow plants to flower and set seed and provide cover for small mammals, feeding opportunities for birds, small mammals and insects and habitat for invertebrates. Bats feed on insects, so maintaining feeding areas for them is critical.

At the end of the summer (once the breeding season is complete) these areas can be cut/strimmed and the cuttings should be removed.

Other areas could be managed as a short mow meadow throughout the season.

Guidance is available from the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan on how to manage both long flowering and short flowering meadows. Short flowering meadows shouldn't be cut until after the 15th April to allow dandelions to flower (an

important resource for pollinators to forage on in spring) and then cut every six weeks – see **Figure 19** below. Long flowering meadows can be left till the autumn, the seeds allowed to fall and all the cuttings then removed to reduce fertility over time.

Figure 19. Managing a short flowering meadow.

4.5 Protection of Roosting Bats

The survey has confirmed that the church has potential to support roosting bats. Conservation works should be mindful of their presence as set out below. If bats are found using the structure it is a confirmed bat roost and a bat derogation licence from NPWS must be sought to allow works to proceed.

4.6 Resurvey of Potential Bat Roosts prior to Works

There are a series of suitable crevices, holes and areas of dense ivy on the church. These offer roosting potential for bats for both breeding and hibernation purposes and should not be refilled, repointed or otherwise repaired or restored without consultation with a suitable qualified bat specialist.

Given that it is likely that some time will have passed between the current survey and any proposed conservation works the church will need to be resurveyed for roosting bats to inform the works and potentially to reapply for the bat derogation licence if required.

These surveys are seasonally constrained so they will need to be scheduled accordingly. The recommended time period for bat surveys is shown on **Figure 20** and **Table 2** below (Source: NPWS Bat Mitigation Guidelines).

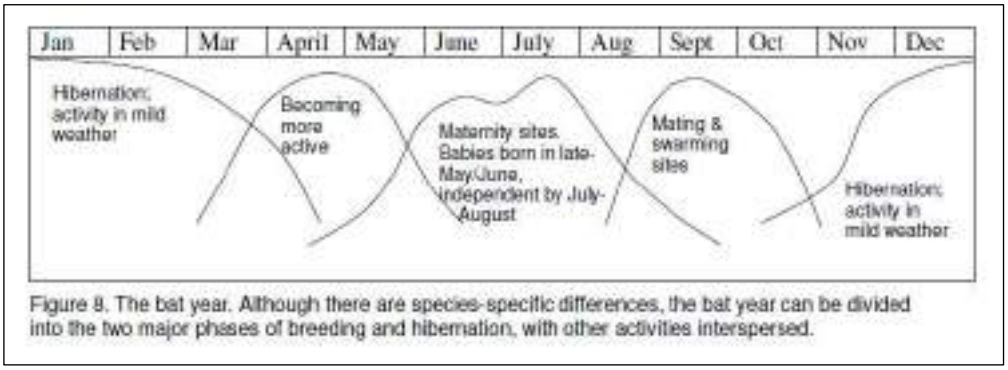


Figure 20. The Bat Year (Source: NPWS Bat Mitigation Guidelines).

Once a bat derogation licence is granted and the works are due to commence any features within the structure which have been identified as having potential for roosting bats will be re-examined prior to any works commencing to ensure that bats have not taken up residence within same in the intervening period.

In general repointing works should be conducted outside the bat breeding and hibernation seasons as shown on **Figure 20** above.

Once a scaffold tower or similar has been erected and the building made safe to work on these features can be inspected using an endoscope by a bat specialist to determine if any bats are present. Suitable bat access points will be shown to the project stone mason and the potential for their retention discussed.

Any areas which do not require pointing from a structural perspective can then be lightly blocked with hessian cloth to ensure that bats cannot re-enter these crevices during the works.

This will then be removed as repointing takes place or on completion leaving these crevices accessible to bats in the future.

Table 2. The appropriate months for bat surveys (Source: NPWS Bat Mitigation Guidelines).

Season	Roost Type	Inspection	Bat detectors and emergence counts
Spring (Mar – May)	Building	Suitable (signs, perhaps bats)	Limited, weather dependent
	Trees	Difficult (best for signs before leaves appear)	Very limited, weather dependent
	Underground	Suitable (signs only)	Static detectors may be useful
Summer (June-August	Building	Suitable (signs and bats)	Suitable
	Trees	Difficult	Limited; use sunrise survey
	Underground	Suitable (signs only)	Rarely useful
Autumn (September – November)	Building	Suitable (signs and bats)	Limited, weather dependent
	Trees	Difficult	Rather limited, weather dependent; use sunrise survey?
	Underground	Suitable (signs, perhaps bats)	Static detectors may be useful
Winter (December - February)	Building	Suitable (signs, perhaps bats))	Rarely useful
	Trees	Difficult (best for signs after leaves have gone)	Rarely useful
	Underground	Suitable (signs and bats)	Static detectors may be useful

4.7 Creation of nesting/roosting opportunity within restored/repaired stonework

Where parts of the church walls are to be rebuilt/repaired, provision for nesting birds/roosting bats can be incorporated into the stonework without compromising the structure or longevity of the repair. **Figures 21** and **22** below give an idea of how to accommodate same for bats.

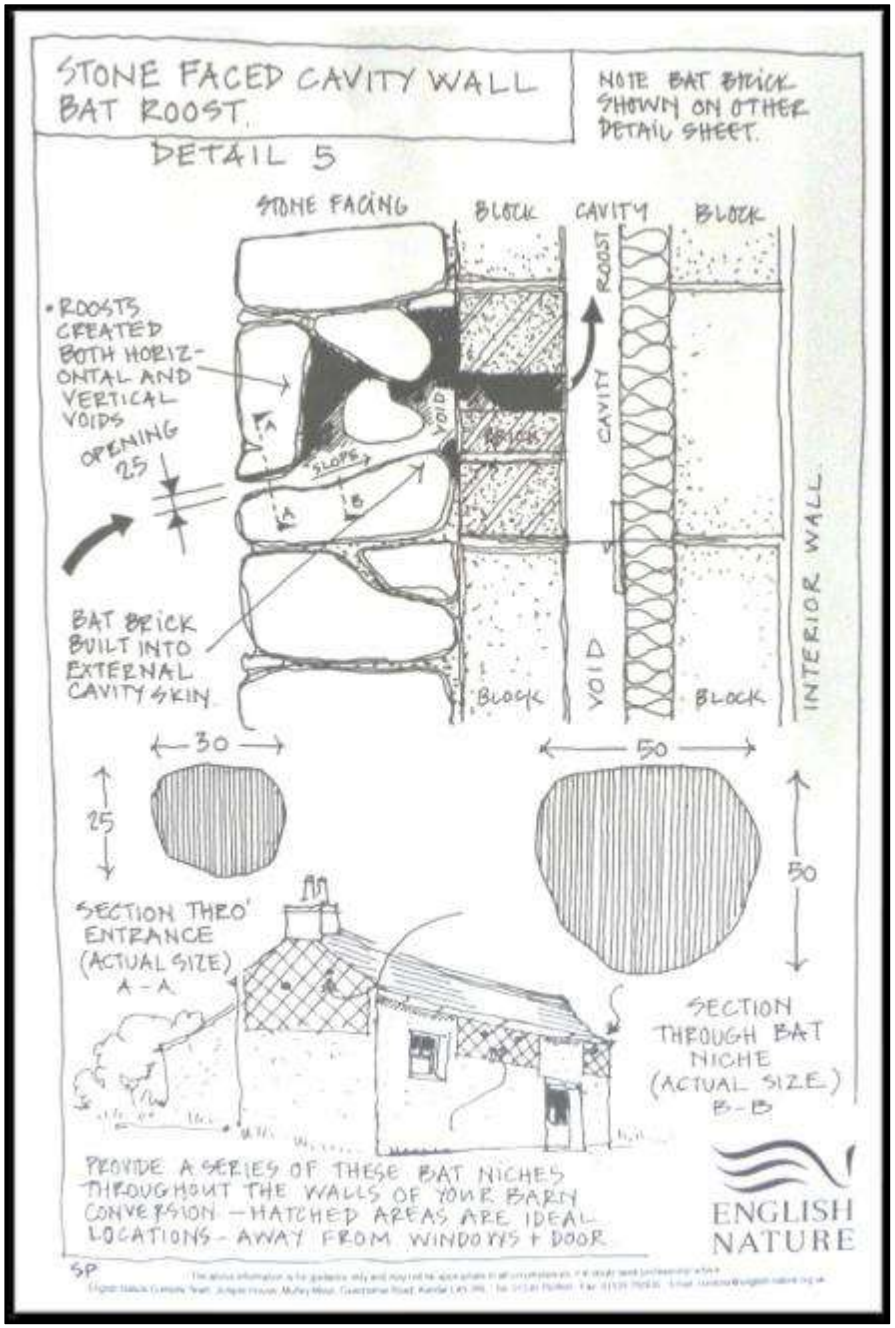


Figure 21. Accommodating roosting spaces for bats in stonework.

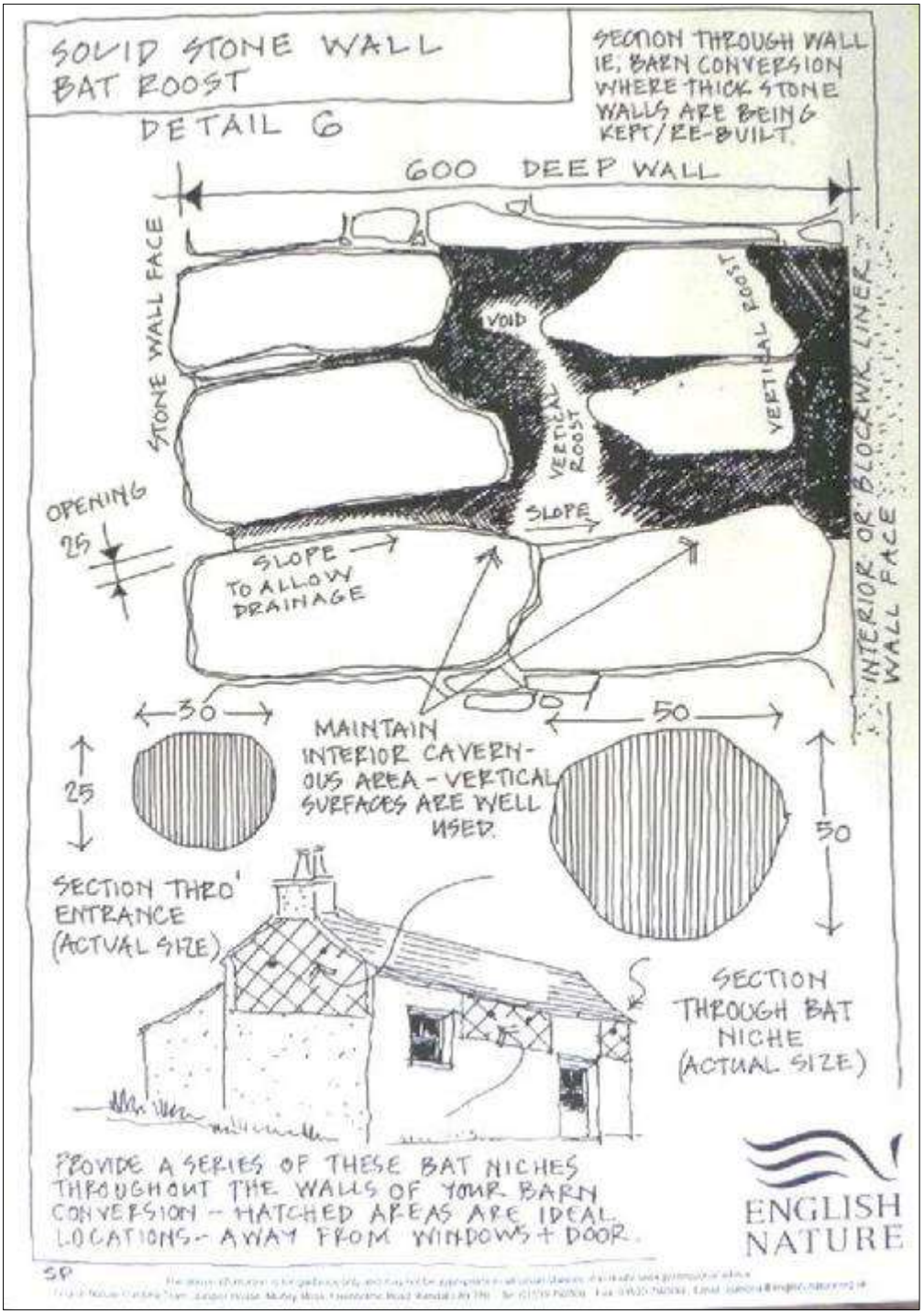


Figure 22. Accommodating roosting spaces for bats in stonework.

4.8 Provision of Bird Boxes

At present there is somewhat limited nesting opportunity for birds in the property and the removal of ivy cover on the church ruins will further decrease this. It is recommended that a series of artificial boxes are erected on trees surrounding the property – a mixture of boxes could be provided. These should be specified by an ecologist and erected under their supervision.

4.9 Bryophyte Survey

A survey of the stonework for bryophytes (mosses and liverworts) is recommended.

4.10 Lichen Survey

The rich lichen flora on the stone walls and gravestones should be retained. A detailed survey of the stonework for lichens is recommended.

4.11 Conservation of Vegetation on Stonework

A population of bryophytes (mosses, liverworts and lichens) and ferns is present on the stonework of the ruins and stone walls and should be conserved during any works. Where such stones need to be removed and reset/ reconstructed they can be kept with the mosses/lichens intact and then reinstated with this vegetation facing outwards so they can still recolonise the structure.

4.12 Invasive Species

Any tools or equipment brought to the monument must be fully cleaned prior to use to ensure that it does not inadvertently introduce any invasive species to the area.

4.13 Lighting

Donard Village is located some distance from the major areas of habitation in East Kildare, but it's amazing to see the impact of street lighting in the village compared to the dark skies of the surrounding area. It would be great to try and reduce the lighting impacts from Donard and to create a dark space to enjoy the night sky (**Figure 23**). Artificial lighting is detrimental to bats as it interferes with their feeding at night. There is also lighting on the Protestant Church which could be reviewed so that if bats were to roost there, they would not be disturbed.

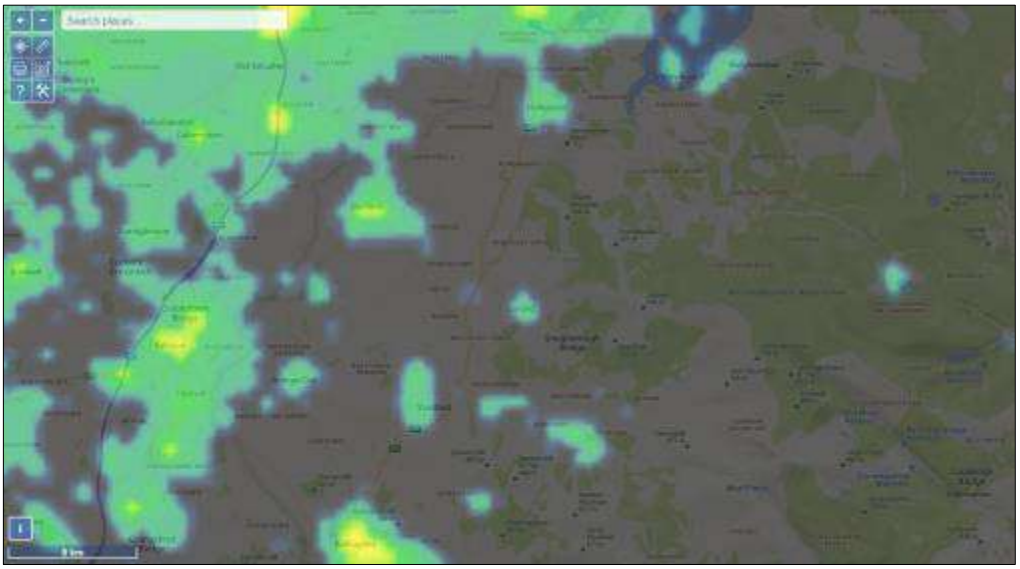


Figure 23. Donard Valley should be retained as a dark sky area.

4.14 Measures for Butterflies in Donard Old Graveyard

On the island of Ireland, 18% of butterflies and 8% of macro-moths are threatened with extinction. We need to consider the life cycle of butterflies and some other principles to conserve them in our gardens and wider landscape. This is shown on **Figure 24** below.

Therefore we need to think about:

- Providing food plants for caterpillars
- Nectar supply for adult butterflies
- Keeping ivy (both immature and mature) on trees and walls
- Providing shelter for butterflies – roosting habitat
- Providing overwintering habitats for butterflies
- Do not buy a "butterfly kit" with caterpillars or release adult butterflies

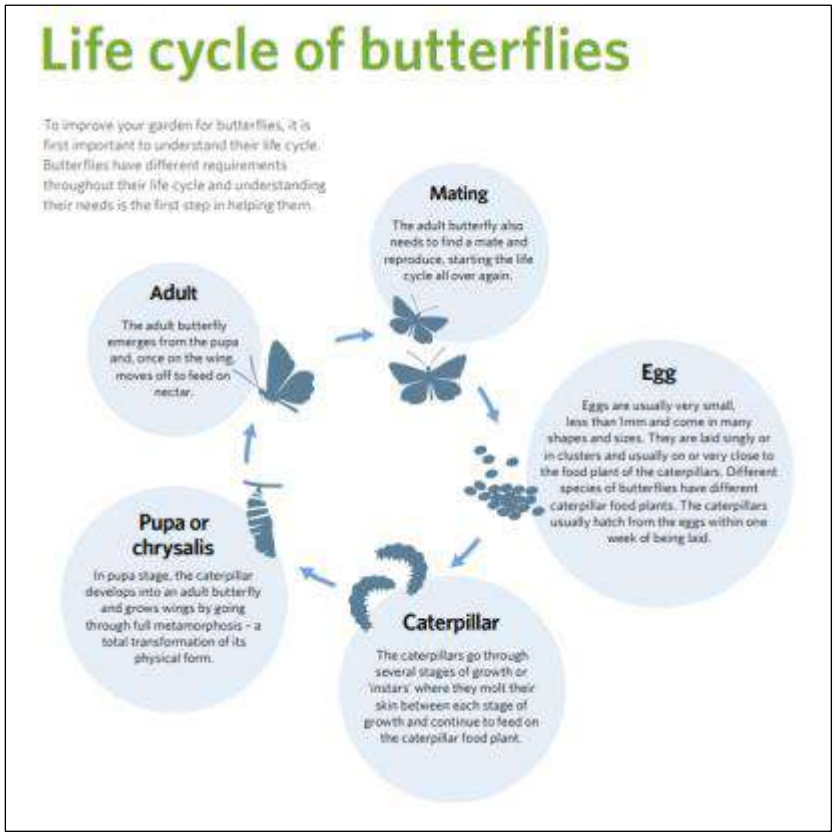


Figure 24. The life cycle of butterflies.

A list of the food plants used by the various species of butterfly is outlined below on **Figure 25.** Some of these are present in Donard Old Graveyard (grasses, nettles, sorrel, thistle, bittercress, etc.) and should be retained for the breeding season, not mown or sprayed.

Butterflies roost on the underside of leaves, in long grass, rock crevices or similar sheltered places. Butterflies roost with their wings closed, often their wings camouflage with their background to protect them from predators while they sleep. If we mow and tidy away everywhere around these

monuments, in our gardens and in our landscape there is nowhere for them to roost.

Butterfly	Caterpillar foodplant
Brimstone	Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) and Alder Buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*)
Clouded Yellow*	Clovers (*Trifolium* spp.)
Comma	Nettle (*Urtica dioica*)
Common Blue	Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*)
Green-veined White	Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), Cuckooflower (*Cardamine pratensis*), Water- cress (*Rorippa-nasturtium aquatica*) and other members of the Brassicaceae family
Holly Blue	Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and Ivy (*Hedera helix*)
Large White	Brassicaceae family
Meadow Brown	Grasses: Fescues (*Festuca* spp.); Meadow-grasses (*Poa* spp.) and Bents (*Agrostis*)
Orange-tip	Cuckooflower (*Cardamine pratensis*) and Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)
Painted Lady*	Thistles (*Cirsium* spp. and *Carduus* spp.)
Peacock	Nettle (*Urtica dioica*)
Red Admiral*	Nettle (*Urtica dioica*)
Ringlet	Grasses: Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), False Brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*), Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*) and Common Couch (*Elymus repens*)
Silver-washed Fritillary	Common Dog-violet (*Viola riviniana*)
Small Copper	Common Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*) and Sheep's Sorrel (*R. acetosella*)
Small Heath	Fine grasses, especially fescues (*Festuca* spp.), Meadow-grasses (*Poa* spp.)
Small Tortoiseshell	Nettle (*Urtica dioica*)
Small White	Brassicaceae family and nasturtiums (*Tropaeolum*)
Speckled Wood	Feed a on a variety of grasses but most commonly on: False Brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*), Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*) and Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*)
Wood White	Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*), Bitter-vetch (*Lathyrus linifolius*), Tufted Vetch (*Vicia cracca*) and Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*)

Figure 25. The food plants butterflies need for their caterpillars to complete their life cycles on.

Butterflies can enter diapause (overwinter) in all four stages, but the majority will overwinter in their caterpillar stage. Before diapause, butterflies produce a form of internal antifreeze to protect them from the cold weather. Because diapause is triggered by shorter day lengths and lower temperatures, they generally overwinter outside.

The habitats that butterflies need for overwintering, as shown on **Figure 26** below, in one of their immature stages are:

- Leaf litter
- Thick/uncut vegetation
- Log piles

Figure 26. Roosting and overwintering habitat for butterflies.

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6. APPENDIX I: SITE SYNOPSIS FOR DESIGNATED SITES

SITE SYNOPSIS

Site Name: Wicklow Mountains SAC

Site Code: 002122

Wicklow Mountains SAC is a complex of upland areas in Counties Wicklow and Dublin, flanked by the Blessington reservoir to the west and Vartry reservoir in the east, Cruagh Mountain in the north and Lybagh Mountain in the south. Most of the site is over 300 m, with much ground over 600 m. The highest peak is 925 m at Lugnaquilla. The Wicklow uplands comprise a core of granites flanked by Ordovician schists, mudstones and volcanics. The form of the Wicklow Glens is due to glacial erosion. The topography is typical of a mountain chain, showing the effects of more than one cycle of erosion. The massive granite has weathered characteristically into broad domes. Most of the western part of the site consists of an elevated moorland, covered by peat. The surrounding schists have assumed more diverse outlines, forming prominent peaks and rocky foothills with deep glens. The dominant topographical features are the products of glaciation. High corrie lakes, deep valleys and moraines are common features of this area. The substrate over much of the area is peat, usually less than 2 m deep. Poor mineral soil covers the slopes, and rock outcrops are frequent. The Wicklow Mountains are drained by several major rivers including the Dargle, Liffey, Dodder, Slaney and Avonmore. The river water in the mountain areas is often peaty, especially during floods.

The site is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive (* = priority; numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes):

- Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110]
- Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160]
- Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* [4010]
- European dry heaths [4030]
- Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060]
- Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae [6130]
- Species-rich *Nardus* grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230]
- Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]
- Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani) [8110]
- Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210]
- Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220]
- Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles [91A0]
- *Lutra lutra* (Otter) [1355]

The vegetation over most of Wicklow Mountains SAC is a mosaic of heath, blanket bog and upland grassland (mostly on peaty soil, though some on mineral soil), stands of dense Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), and small

woodlands mainly along the rivers. Mountain loughs and corrie lakes are scattered throughout the site.

The two dominant vegetation communities in the area are heath and blanket bog. Heath vegetation, with both wet and dry heath well represented, occurs in association with blanket bog, upland acid grassland and rocky habitats. The wet heath is characterised by species such as Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), Cross-leaved Heath (*Erica tetralix*), cottongrasses (*Eriophorum* spp.), Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*), Mat-grass (*Nardus stricta*), bent grasses (*Agrostis* spp.) and bog mosses (*Sphagnum* spp.). In places the wet heath occurs in conjunction with flush communities and streamside vegetation, and here species such as Heath Rush (*Juncus squarrosus*) and sedges (*Carex* spp.) are found. Dry heath at this site is confined to shallow peaty soils on steep slopes where drainage is better and particularly in sheltered conditions. It is characterised by species such as Heather, gorse (*Ulex* spp.), Bell Heather (*Erica cinerea*), Bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*), Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*) and lichens (*Cladonia* spp.). In places the heath grades into upland grassland on mineral soil.

Blanket bog is usually dominated by cottongrasses, Heather and bog mosses. On steeper slopes there is some flushing and here Purple Moor-grass, Heath Rush and certain *Sphagnum* species become more common. The Liffey Head blanket bog is among the best of its kind in eastern Ireland, with deep peat formations and an extensive system of dystrophic pools developed among the hummocks and hollows on the bog surface. The vegetation is largely dominated by Heather and Cross-leaved Heath, with cottongrasses (*Eriophorum vaginatum* and *E. angustifolium*), Deergrass (*Scirpus cespitosus*) and Bog Asphodel (*Narthecium ossifragum*). In drier areas, Bilberry and Cowberry (*Vaccinium vitis-idaea*) are common, while the scarce Bog-rosemary (*Andromeda polifolia*) is also found. Blanket bog occurs over extensive areas of deeper peat on the plateau and also on gentle slopes at high altitudes.

Due to the underlying rock strata, the water of the rivers and streams is acid rather than alkaline. The water is generally oligotrophic and free from enrichment. The lakes within the area range from the high altitude lakes of Lough Firrib and Three Lakes, to the lower pater-noster lakes of Glendalough, Lough Tay and Lough Dan. Spectacular corrie lakes, such as Loughs Bray (Upper and Lower), Ouler, Cleevaun, Arts, Kellys and Nahanagan, exhibit fine sequences of moraine stages. The deep lakes are characteristically species-poor, but hold some interesting plants including an unusual form of Quillwort (*Isoetes lacustris* var. *morei*), a stonewort (*Nitella* sp.) and Floating Bur-reed (*Sparganium angustifolium*).

Alpine vegetation occurs on some of the mountain tops, notably in the Lugnaquilla area, and also on exposed cliffs and scree slopes elsewhere in the site. Here alpine heath vegetation is represented with heath species such as Crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum*) and Cowberry, and others such as Dwarf Willow (*Salix herbacea*), the grey-green moss *Racomitrium lanuginosum,* and scarce species such as Mountain Clubmoss (*Diphasiastrum alpinum*), Firmoss (*Huperzia selago*), and Starry Saxifrage (*Saxifraga stellaris*). Some rare arctic-

alpine species have been recorded, including Alpine Lady's-mantle (*Alchemilla alpina*) and Alpine Saw-wort (*Saussurea alpina*).

Old lead mine workings at Glendasan support an estimated 3.6 hectares of Calaminarian Grassland, with a suite of rare metallophyte (metal-loving) bryophytes, including the moss *Ditrichum plumbicola* and the liverworts *Cephaloziella massalongi* and *C. nicholsonii*.

Small areas of old oakwood (Blechno-Quercetum petraeae type) occur on the slopes of Glendalough and Glenmalure, near Lough Tay and Lough Dan, with native Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*) trees, many of which are 100-120 years old. On wetter areas, wet broadleaved semi-natural woodlands occur which are dominated by Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*). Mixed woodland with non-native tree species also occurs.

The site supports a range of rare plant species. Parsley Fern (*Cryptogramma crispa*), Marsh Clubmoss (*Lycopodiella inundata*), Lanceolate Spleenwort (*Asplenium billotii*), Small-white Orchid (*Pseudorchis albida*) and Bog Orchid (*Hammarbya paludosa*) are all legally protected under the Flora (Protection) Order, 2015. Greater Broomrape (*Orobanche rapum-genistae*), Alpine Saw-wort and Alpine Lady's-mantle are listed in the Irish Red Data Book. The rare Myxomycete fungus *Echinostelium colliculosum* has been recorded from the Military Road.

The Red Data Book fish species Arctic Char has been recorded from Lough Dan, but this population may now have died out.

Mammals and birds which occur are typical of the uplands. Deer are abundant, mainly hybrids between Red and Sika Deer. Other mammals include Hare, Badger and Otter, the latter being a species listed on Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive. Pine Marten has recently been confirmed as occurring within the site. Among the birds, Meadow Pipit, Skylark, Raven and Red Grouse are resident throughout the site. Wheatear, Whinchat and the scarce Ring Ouzel are summer visitors. Wood Warbler and Redstarts are rare breeding species of the woodlands. Dipper and Grey Wagtail are typical riparian species. Merlin and Peregrine, both Annex I species of the E.U. Birds Directive, breed within the site. Recently, Goosander has become established as a breeding species.

Large areas of the site are owned by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and are managed for nature conservation based on traditional land uses of upland areas. The most common land use is traditional sheep grazing, but others include turf cutting, mostly hand-cutting but some machine-cutting also occurs. These activities are largely confined to the Military Road, where there is easy access. Large areas which had been previously hand-cut and are now abandoned are regenerating. In the last 40 years, forestry has become an important land use in the uplands, and has affected both the wildlife and the hydrology of the area. Amenity use is very high, with Dublin city close to the site. Peat erosion is frequent on the peaks. This may be a natural process, but is likely to be accelerated by activities such as grazing.

Wicklow Mountains is important as a complex, extensive upland site. It shows great diversity from a geomorphological and a topographical point of view. The vegetation provides examples of the typical upland habitats with heath, blanket bog and upland grassland covering large, relatively undisturbed areas. In all, twelve habitats listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive are found within the site. Several rare or protected plant and animal species occur, adding further to its value.

31.05.2017

SITE SYNOPSIS

Site Name: Wicklow Mountains Spa

Site Code: 004040

This is an extensive upland site, comprising a substantial part of the Wicklow Mountains. Most of the site is in Co. Wicklow, but a small area lies in Co. Dublin. The underlying geology of the site is mainly of Leinster granites, flanked by Ordovician schists, mudstones and volcanics. The area was subject to glaciation and features fine examples of glacial lakes, deep valleys and moraines. Most of site is over 300 m, with much ground being over 600 m; the highest peak is Lugnaquilla (925 m). The substrate over much of site is peat, with poor mineral soil occurring on the slopes and lower ground. Exposed rock and scree are features of the site. The predominant habitats present are blanket bog, heaths and upland grassland.

The site is a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the E.U. Birds Directive, of special conservation interest for the following species: Merlin and Peregrine.

A series of surveys of the Wicklow Mountains SPA indicates that up to 9 pairs of Merlin breed within the site in any one year. Traditionally a ground-nesting species, Merlin in the Wicklow Mountains are usually found nesting in old crows nests in conifer plantations. The open peatlands provide excellent foraging habitat for Merlin with small birds such as Meadow Pipit being their main prey. The cliffs and crags within the site also provide ideal breeding locations for Peregrine (20 pairs in 2002). Other birds of the open peatlands and scree slopes that have been recorded within the site include Ring Ouzel and Red Grouse.

The Wicklow Mountains SPA is of high ornithological importance as it supports nationally important populations of Merlin and Peregrine, both species that are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive. Part of Wicklow Mountains SPA is a Statutory Nature Reserve.

7.7.2014

SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: HOLLYWOOD GLEN

SITE CODE: 002053

Hollywood Glen is a complex of steep-sided channels, orientated in a north-south direction, and situated approximately 3 km south of Hollywood. The glen was formed sub-marginally beneath the ice, as a result of drainage from the ice-dammed Lake Blessington, which was impounded at 360 m against the flank of the Wicklow range during the Midlandian glaciation. A road now bisects the valley.

The western side of the glen is a mosaic of upland grassland with substantial rocky outcrops in the upper slopes - there is also an area of Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice at the southern end which continues on the slopes at the opposite side. Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*) dominates the grassland, with Fescue (*Festuca* sp.), Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*), Common Dog-violet (*Viola riviniana*) and dense patches of Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*).

The area of Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) has an established and diverse flora, including Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scriptus*), Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), Great Wood-rush (*Luzula sylvatica*), Wood-sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*) and Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*). There is also a variety of mosses - *Thuidium tamariscinum*, *Hylocomium splendens*, *Pseudoscleropodium purum* and *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*.

The remainder of the eastern slope has young conifers growing on a plantation that has been recently felled. Broadleaved trees have been planted near to the road and include Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and Birch (*Betula pubescens*). Other vegetation is representative of woodland flora, such as Great Wood-rush (*Luzula sylvatica*), Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*) and Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*).

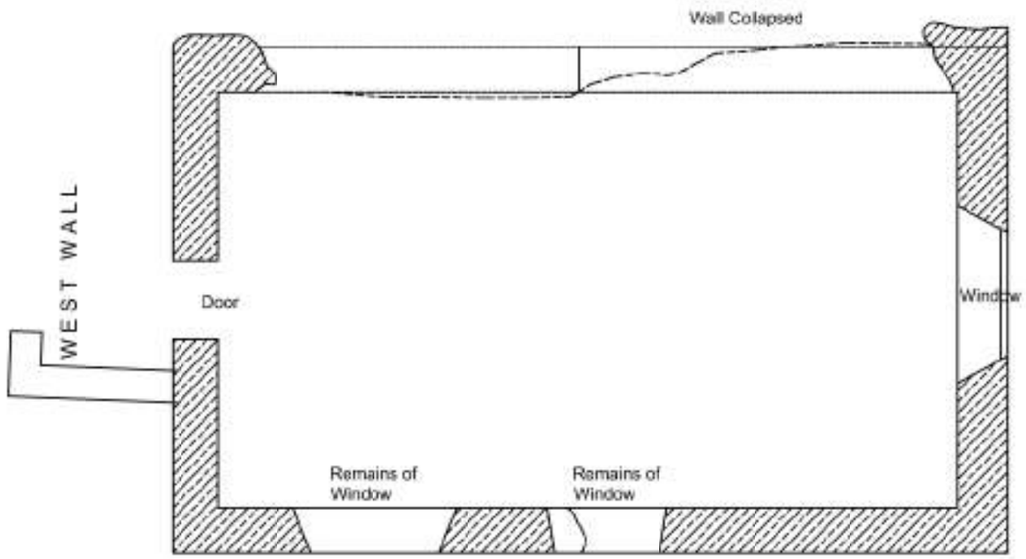
Peregrine Falcon, an Annex I species in the E.U. Birds Directive, breeds within the site. Kestrel also breeds, along with scrub species such as Whitethroat.

The site has a good example of Hazel coppice with a well-developed ground flora. It is also of interest geologically, typifying a glacial meltwater channel cut in rock.

Appendix 4

Measured Drawings and Graveyard Plan

A3



1 Church Plan

Scale: 1:100

Notes

Dimensions in metres

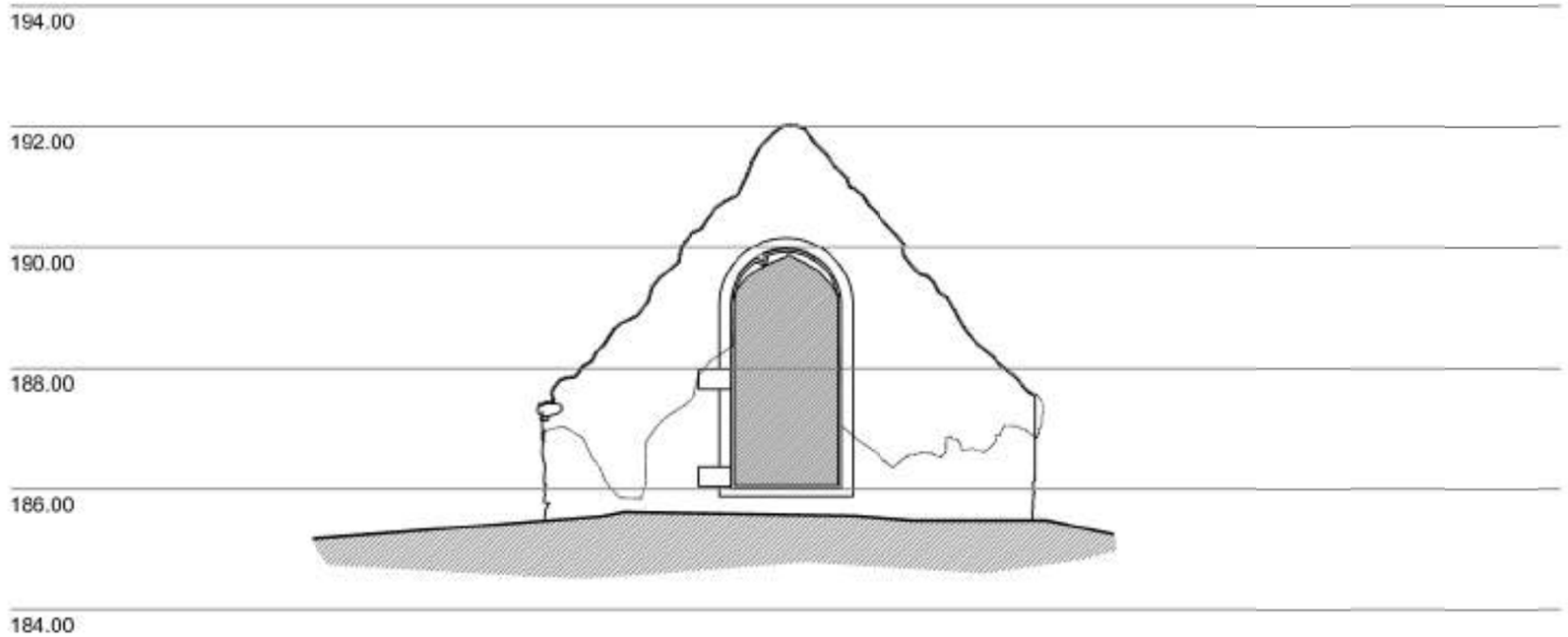
Do not scale from this drawing.
Use written dimensions only.

Rev	Description	Date

Joseph Byrne BSc(Hons) MSCSI MRICS
CHARTERED SURVEYOR
Heather Breeze, Kilmannon Road,
Murrintown, Wexford
M 087 6392837 E info@jbcs.ie

Project	Measured Survey at Donard Church, Donard, Co. Wicklow	Scale	1:100 @ A3
		Drwg.No.	S25/10_1
Client	Yvonne Whitty Archaeology	Stage	SURVEY
Title	Church Plan	Date	October 25

A3

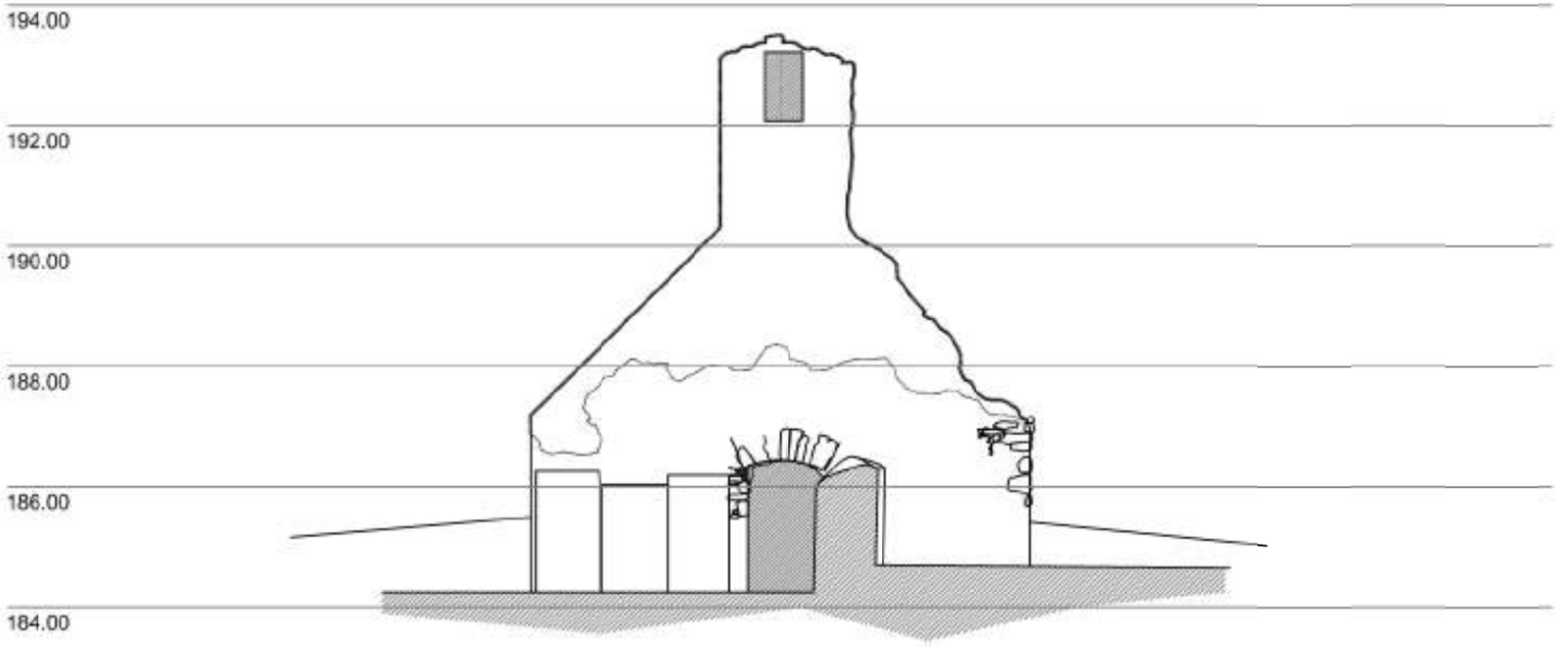


4 East Elevation

Scale: 1:100

0 1 2 3 4 5

Metres



5 West Elevation

Scale: 1:100

0 1 2 3 4 5

Metres

Notes

Dimensions in metres

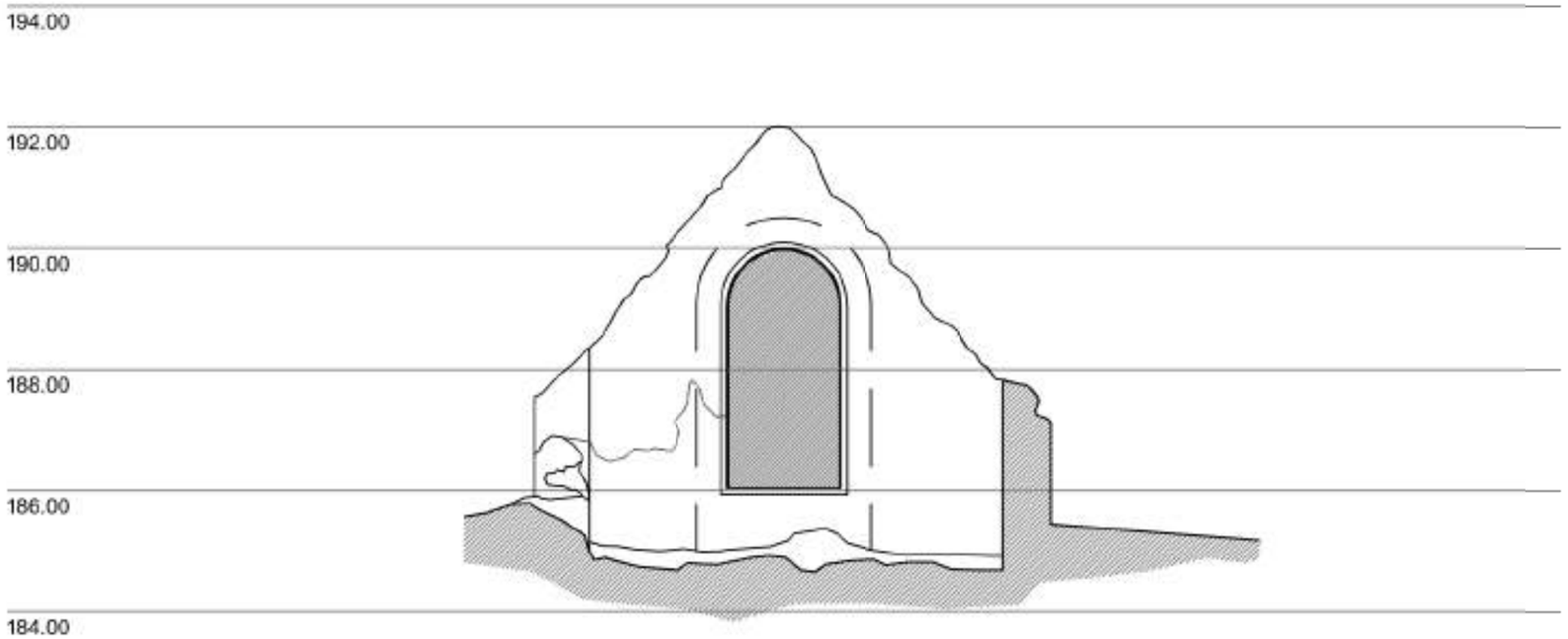
Do not scale from this drawing.
Use written dimensions only.

Rev	Description	Date

Joseph Byrne BSc(Hons) MSCSI MRICS
CHARTERED SURVEYOR
Heather Breeze, Kilmannon Road,
Murrintown, Wexford
M 087 6392837 E info@jbcs.ie

Project	Measured Survey at Donard Church, Donard, Co. Wicklow	Scale	1:100 @ A3
		Drwg.No.	S25/10_3
Client	Yvonne Whitty Archaeology	Stage	SURVEY
Title	East & West Elevations	Date	October 25

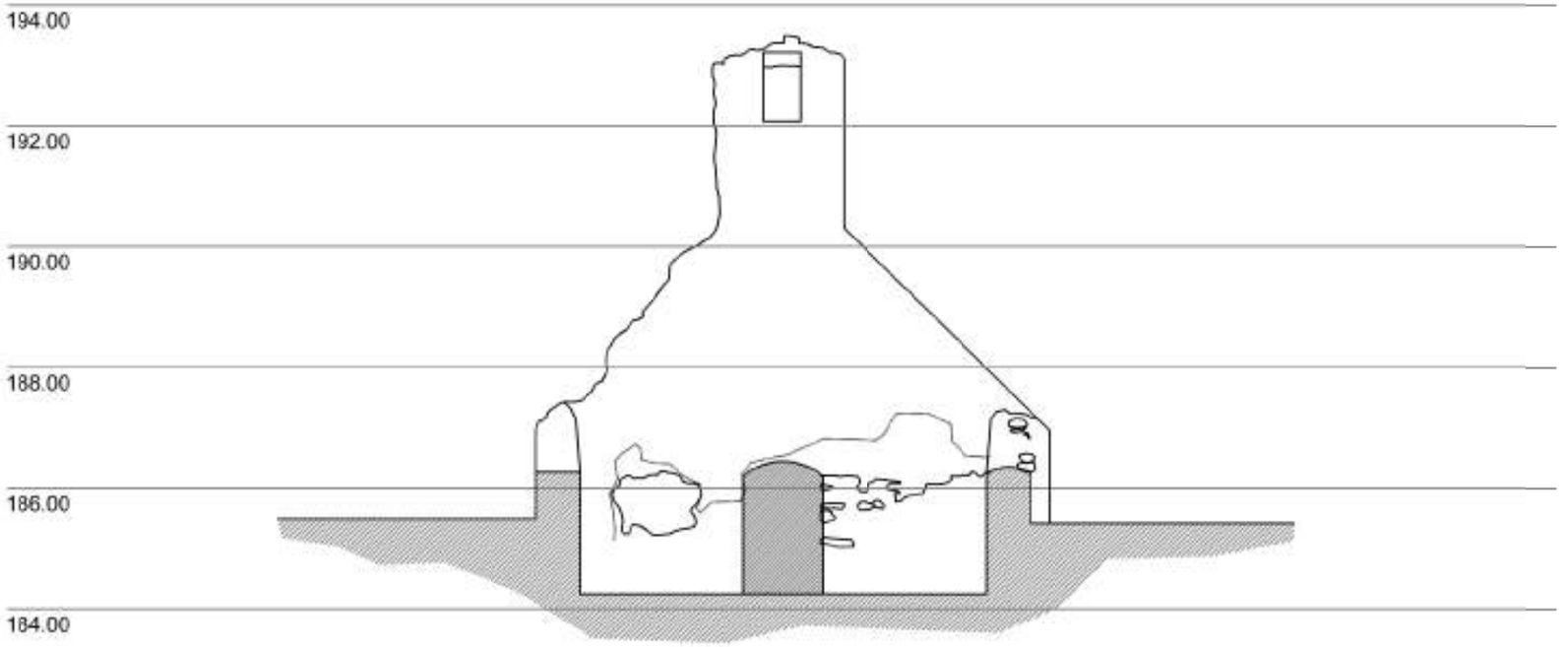
A3



8 East Wall - Internal Elevation

Scale: 1:100

0 1 2 3 4 5
Metres



9 West Wall - Internal Elevation

Scale: 1:100

0 1 2 3 4 5
Metres

Notes

Dimensions in metres

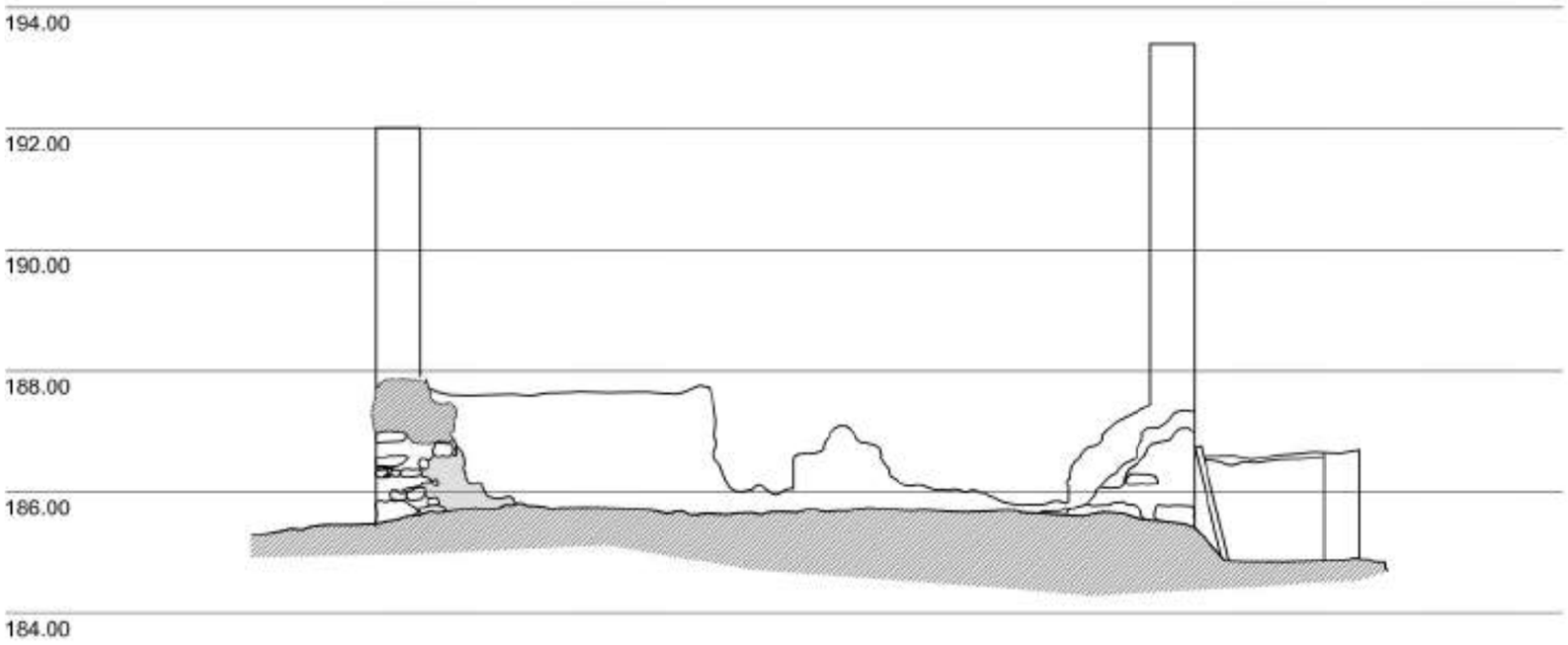
Do not scale from this drawing.
Use written dimensions only.

Rev	Description	Date

Joseph Byrne BSc(Hons) MSCSI MRICS
CHARTERED SURVEYOR
Heather Breeze, Kilmannon Road,
Murrintown, Wexford
M 087 6392837 E info@jbcs.ie

Project	Measured Survey at Donard Church, Donard, Co. Wicklow	Scale	1:100 @ A3
		Drwg.No.	S25/10_5
Client	Yvonne Whitty Archaeology	Stage	SURVEY
Title	East & West Walls Internal Elevations	Date	October 25

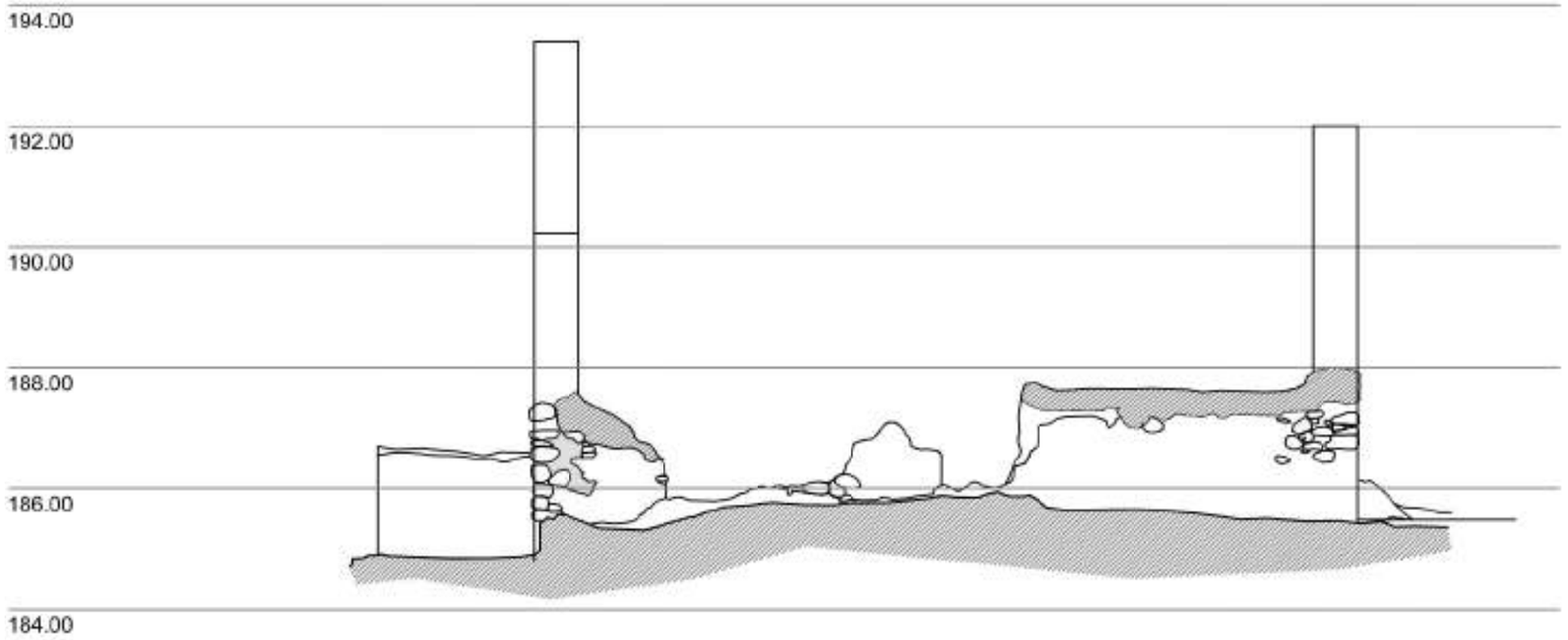
A3



0 1 2 3 4 5
Metres

2 North Elevation

Scale: 1:100



0 1 2 3 4 5
Metres

3 South Elevation

Scale: 1:100

Notes

Dimensions in metres

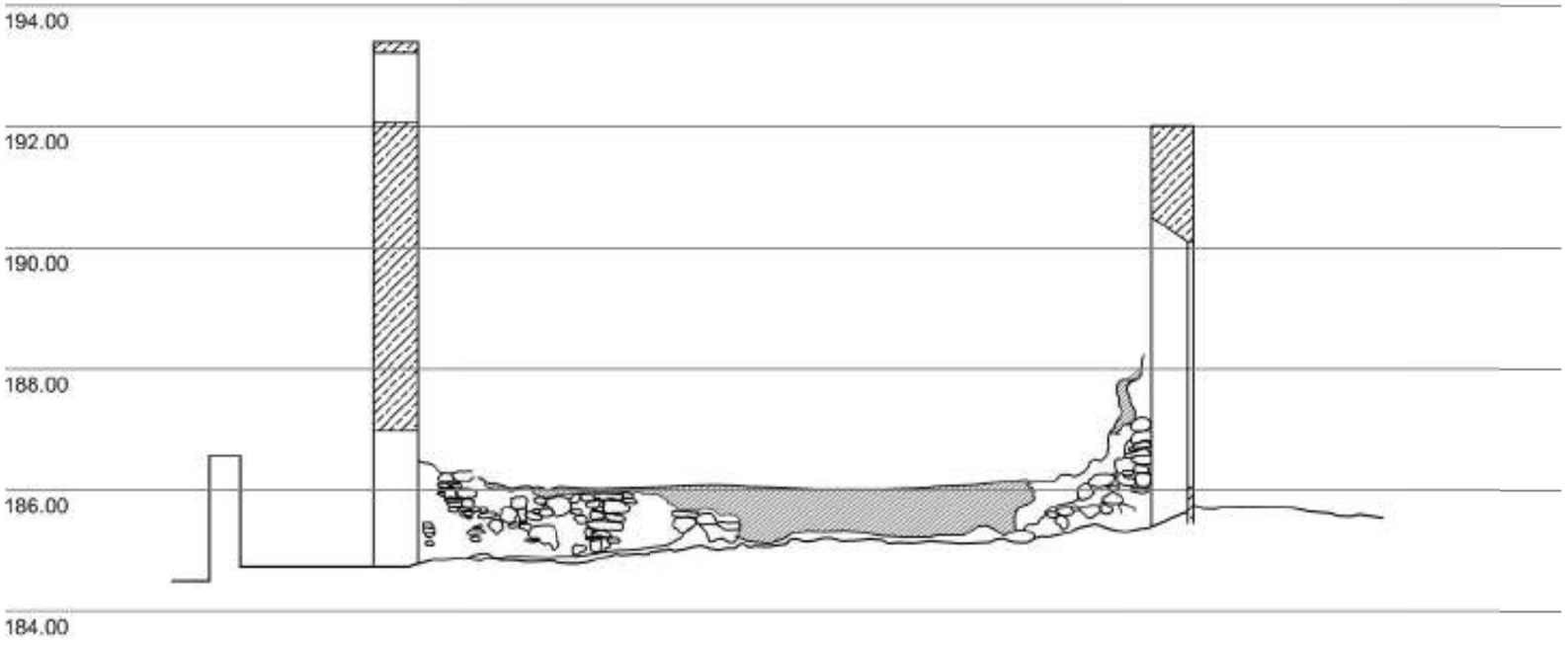
Do not scale from this drawing.
Use written dimensions only.

Rev	Description	Date

Joseph Byrne BSc(Hons) MSCSI MRICS
CHARTERED SURVEYOR
Heather Breeze, Kilmannon Road,
Murrintown, Wexford
M 087 6392837 E info@jbcs.ie

Project	Measured Survey at Donard Church, Donard, Co. Wicklow	Scale	1:100 @ A3
		Drwg.No.	S25/10_2
Client	Yvonne Whitty Archaeology	Stage	SURVEY
Title	North & South Elevations	Date	October 25

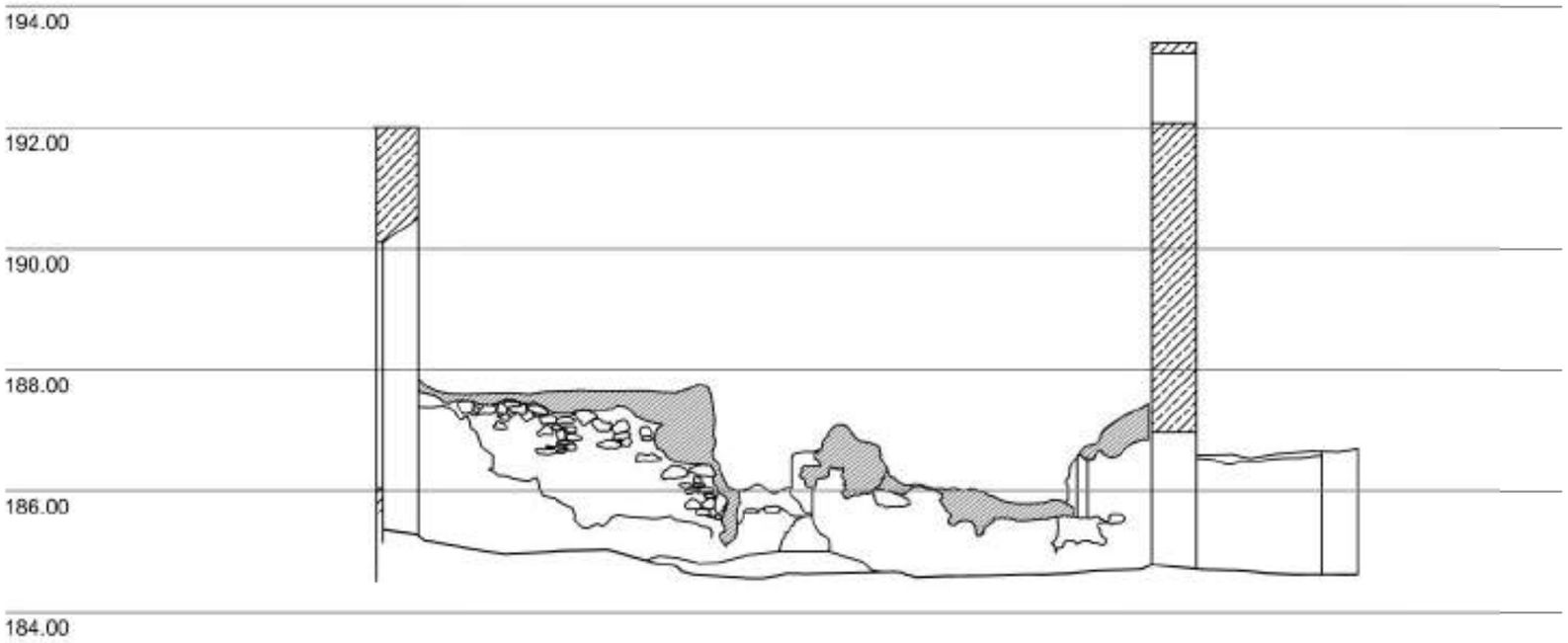
A3



0 1 2 3 4 5
Metres

6 North Wall - Internal Elevation

Scale: 1:100



0 1 2 3 4 5
Metres

7 South Wall - Internal Elevation

Scale: 1:100

Notes

Dimensions in metres

Do not scale from this drawing.
Use written dimensions only.

Rev	Description	Date

Joseph Byrne BSc(Hons) MSCSI MRICS
CHARTERED SURVEYOR
Heather Breeze, Kilmannon Road,
Murrintown, Wexford
M 087 6392837 E info@jbcs.ie

Project	Measured Survey at Donard Church, Donard, Co. Wicklow	Scale	1:100 @ A3
		Drwg.No.	S25/10_4
Client	Yvonne Whitty Archaeology	Stage	SURVEY
Title	North & South Walls Internal Elevations	Date	October 25

A3

1 Graveyard Plan
Scale: 1:200@ A3

Legend

Grave Numbers (58)

Unmarked Memorials ◆

Rev	Description	Date

Joseph Byrne BSc(Hons) MSCSI MRICS
CHARTERED SURVEYOR
Heather Breeze, Kilmannon Road,
Murrintown, Wexford
M 087 6392837 E info@jbcs.ie

Project Survey at Donard Medieval Graveyard, Donard, Co. Wicklow	Scale	1:200 @ A3
	Drwg.No.	S25/03_1
Client Donard Tidy Towns	Stage	SURVEY
Title Graveyard Survey	Date	August 2025

A3

1 Graveyard Plan

Legend

Grave Numbers (58)

Unmarked Memorials

Rev	Description	Date

Joseph Byrne BSc(Hons) MSCSI MRICS
CHARTERED SURVEYOR
Heather Breeze, Kilmannon Road,
Murrintown, Wexford
M 087 6392837 E info@jbcs.ie

SOCIETY OF CHARTERED SURVEYORS IRELAND

RICS

Project Survey at Donard Medieval Graveyard, Donard, Co. Wicklow	Scale	1:200 @ A3
	Drwg.No.	S25/03_2
Client Donard Tidy Towns	Stage	SURVEY
Title Graveyard Survey Overlaid on Aerial Photography	Date	August 2025

Appendix 5

NMS Consent Letter

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

National Monuments Service,
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage,
Custom House,
Dublin 1

Tel. (switch) 01 8882000
Lo Call 1890 20 20 21

Yvonne Whitty,
Unit 10,
Riverside Business Centre,
Tinahely,
Co. Wicklow

18th August, 2025

Our Ref: NM08208

Re: Recorded Monument WI021-005001- medieval church and graveyard at Donard, Co. Wicklow.

Dear Yvonne,

We wish to acknowledge receipt of your Section 12 notification (received 14/7/2025) of the proposed vegetation removal at Donard church in the townland of Donard Lower, Co Wicklow (Recorded Monument WI021-005001-).

We have no objection to the proposed vegetation removal. We would recommend that any contractors engaged for the proposed works are made aware of the presence of the late medieval grave slab the church and the grave slab outside the east end of the church.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Corlett,
Archaeologist,
Monument Protection Unit,
National Monuments Service,
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage