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Graveyard Survey at Feaghna Graveyard, Co. Kerry



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Date: October 2009

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That the archaeological recommendations, mitigation proposals and suggested methodology followed in this report are similar to those used on previous similar projects approved by the Archaeological Planning and Licencing Unit National Monuments Service, Dún Scéine, Harcourt Lane, Dublin 2. The National Monuments Acts 1930-2004, The Planning and Development Act 2002 and the most recent EPA guidelines were consulted. Guidelines and Plans issued from time-to-time by the statutory bodies have been consulted. These are listed in the reference section of this report. Some of this work has been undertaken under an archaeological excavation licence. Every effort has been taken in the preparation and submission of this report to provide as complete an assessment as possible within the terms of the brief, and all statements and opinions are offered in good faith. However, ÆGIS cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from the data supplied by any third party, for any loss or other consequences arising from decisions made or actions taken on the basis of facts and opinions expressed in this report, (and any supplementary information), howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived, or as the result of unknown and undiscovered sites or artefacts.

Acknowledgements

ÆGIS acknowledges the information supplied by the client and information gathered from the SMR.

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I. Abstract

This report details a graveyard survey, which was undertaken by ÆGIS ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED on behalf of the client. The report contains an accurate ground plan of all upstanding remains in the graveyard, including boundaries, paths/desire lines, grave-markers, tombs, architectural fragments, churches, areas of collapse and other miscellaneous features as discovered at the time of survey. A photographic record of the features at the site is included.

The ground plan was produced using a Nokia DTM 332 Total Station survey instrument and a Trimble GeoXH 2005 Series GPS handheld receiver and datalogger survey instrument. Each position surveyed with the instrument is linked to GPS and has an Irish National Grid reference. The survey was downloaded from the instrument and corrected with Trimble GPS Pathfinder Office software. All ground plans were enhanced in AutoCAD 2010 and reproduced with added symbols and colours in Adobe Illustrator CS3.

This report contains a brief written description and statement of the general condition of the site and the condition of the features surveyed. Damaged and unstable features are noted and remedial actions to address potential issues of public safety are suggested.

A photographic record of all headstones, linked to the survey drawing is included in the report. The names on some headstones have become worn or are covered with vegetation and cannot be read. These headstones are included in the photographic survey and have been listed as 'Unknown'. Photographic surveys of named tombs in the graveyard have been included in this report.

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III. Abbreviations and Terms Used

Architectural Fragment	A piece of worked wood or carved stone that has been removed from a building. These may be of any date from the early medieval period (5th-12th centuries AD) onwards
Barony, Parish, Townland	These terms refer to land divisions in Ireland. The barony is the largest land division in a county, which is formed from a number of parishes. These parishes are in turn made up of several townlands, which are the smallest land division in the country. The origins of these divisions are believed to be in the Early Medieval/Christian period (AD500-AD1000), or may date earlier in the Iron Age (500BC-AD500)
Bullaun Stone	The term 'bullaun' (from the Irish word 'bullán', which means a round hollow in a stone, or a bowl) is applied to boulders of stone with artificially carved, hemispherical hollows or basin-like depressions. They are frequently associated with ecclesiastical sites and holy wells. They date to the early medieval period (5th-12th centuries AD)
Burial Ground	An area of ground, set apart for the burial of the dead, not associated with a church and sometimes defined by a low earthen or stone bank. These date from the medieval period (5th - 16th centuries AD) up to the 20th century
Chapel	A free-standing building which is used for private worship. These date from the late medieval period (c. 1400 to the 16th century AD) up to the 20th century
Children's Burial Ground	An area of unconsecrated ground for the interment of unbaptised or stillborn children, often known under various Irish names: Cillin, Caldragh, Ceallunach or Calluragh. The graves were generally marked by simple, low, upright stones or slabs almost invariably without any inscription or other carving. This burial practice may be medieval in origin and continued in Ireland until the 1960s
Church	A building used for public Christian worship. These can be of any date from c. 500 AD onwards
Cross-slab	A slab of stone, either standing or recumbent, inscribed with a cross and generally used as a grave-marker or memorial. This term is applied only to slabs dating to pre-1200 AD
Ecclesiastical Enclosure	A large oval or roughly circular area, usually over 50m in diameter, defined by a bank/banks and external fosse/fosses or drystone wall/walls, enclosing an early medieval church or monastery and its associated areas of domestic and industrial activity. These date to the early medieval period (5th-12th centuries AD)
Grave Marker	A simple low un-inscribed stone marking the location of a burial. These may be situated at the head or foot of the burial or both
Graveslab	A stone designed to be recumbent and marking a grave, AD 1200-1700 in date
Graveyard	The burial area around a church or the site of church. These date from the medieval period (5th-16th centuries) onwards
Headstone	An upright stone placed over the head of a grave. These date from 17th century AD onwards
Holy Well	A well or spring, which usually bears a saint's name and is often reputed to possess miraculous healing properties. These may have their origins in prehistory but are associated with devotions from the medieval period (5th-16th centuries AD) onwards
Plot	A kerbed area enclosing a burial or burials
KE	This number is the number of the site on the RMP map (see below). It begins with the county code, here KE for Kerry, the 6-inch sheet number, followed by the number of the archaeological site
Mass Grave	A grave containing multiple, usually unidentified burials
Memorial Plaque	A plaque serving as a focus for memory of the named deceased placed in a graveyard but not necessarily indicating the location of a burial

Memorial Monument	A monument erected to commemorate a person or group of persons associated with an important historical event
OS	Ordnance Survey
RMP	Record of Monuments and Places. An update of the older SMR, (sites and monuments record), on which all known archaeological sites are marked and listed in an accompanying inventory. The record is based on the 6-inch map series for the country and is recorded on a county basis. Each archaeological monument on the RMP has a unique code known as the RMP number
Tomb	A monumental grave or sepulchre. These date from the medieval period (5th-16th centuries AD) onwards

1. Description of Site

1.1 Site Location and Cartographic Background (figs 1-5)

Feaghna graveyard is located in the townland of Garranes, parish of Kilcaskan, barony of Glanarought, in south Co. Kerry, approximately 7km southeast of the town of Kenmare and 4km west of the Kerry/Cork county boundary (NGR 96670/64035). The site is on a west facing slope on the south side of the hill at Barrerneen, 1.5km to the northeast of the village of Bunane. The graveyard is within a sub-rectangular enclosed area to the west of a local road leading to the southeastern slopes of Barrerneen. The site is recorded on the OS Discovery map 79 as 'Ch'. It is also listed by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland in the Record of Monuments and Places as KE102-038001- 'Church', KE102-038002- 'Graveyard'. Other recorded archaeological features within or in the immediate environs of the graveyard are KE102-038003- 'Bullaun Stone', KE102-038004- 'Holy Well' and KE102-038005- 'Bullaun Stone'.

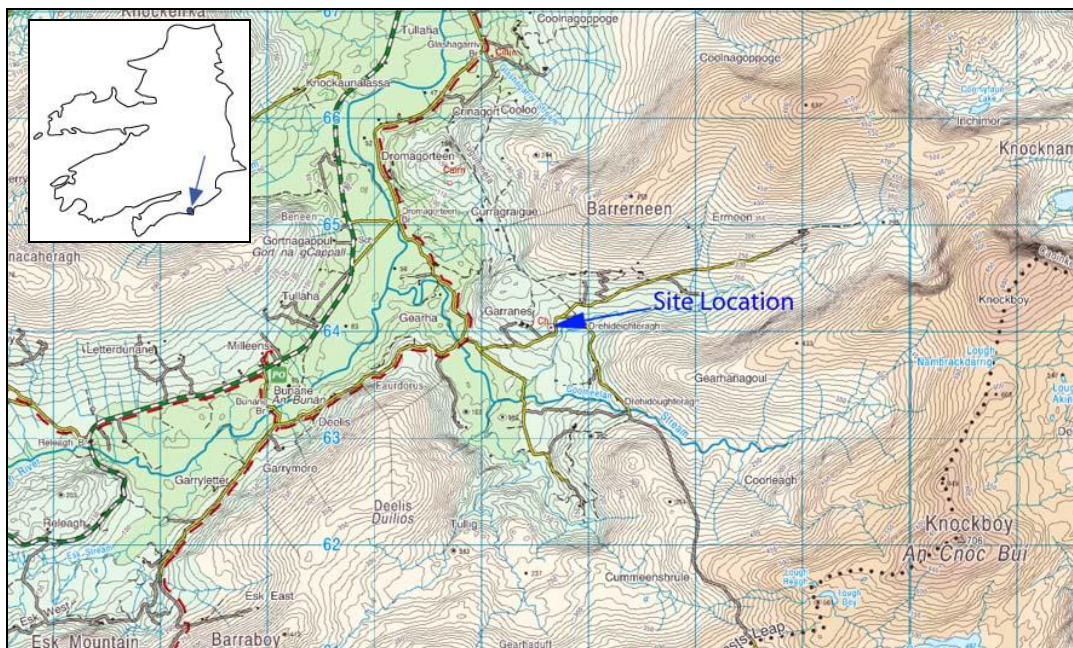


Figure 1. Site Location, OS Discovery Map 85, north to top (Ordnance Survey Ireland Licence No AR0095409 © Ordnance Survey Ireland Government of Ireland)



Figure 2. Location of site indicated on aerial image (north to top)

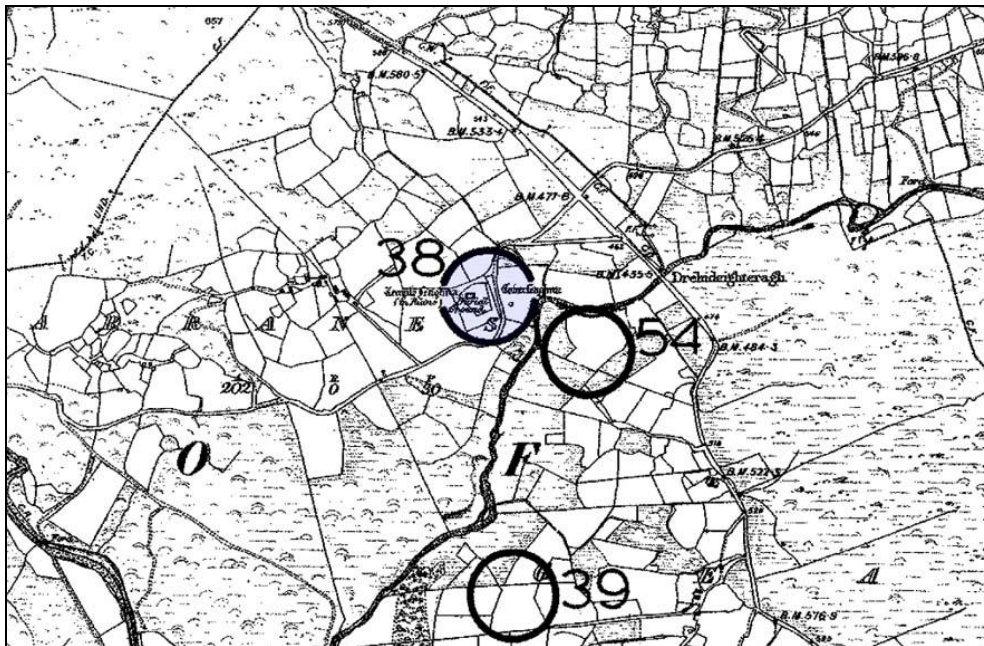


Figure 3. RMP constraints map Sheet 102 showing RMP KE102-038----

The site was originally indicated on the 1841 1st edition 6" Ordnance Survey map as 'Templefeaghna (*in ruins*)' with the holy well 'Toberfeaghna' and on the 1895 25" Ordnance Survey map as 'Temple feaghna (*in ruins*)' and 'Burial Ground' with the holy well 'Toberfeaghna'. The extents of the burial ground, a sub-rectangular enclosed space, as shown on the 1841 Ordnance Survey map appears to be the remaining enclosing bank that is

still present in the graveyard. The 1895 map shows a change with the enclosure further enclosed within a rectangular boundary wall.

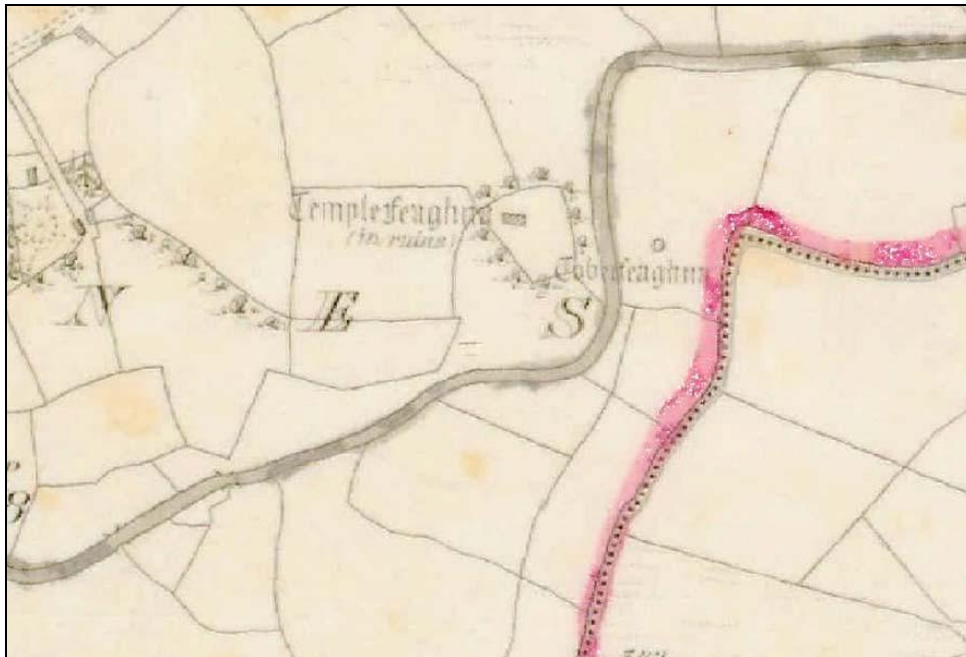


Figure 4. 1841 1st edition 6" OS map 102

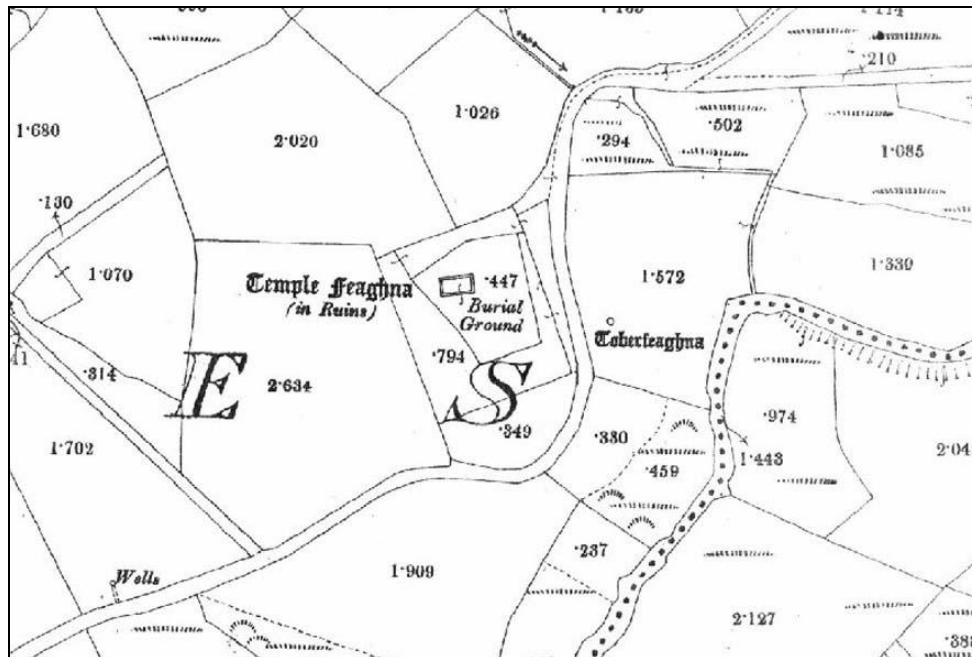


Figure 5. 1895 25" OS map 102

1.2 Site Description

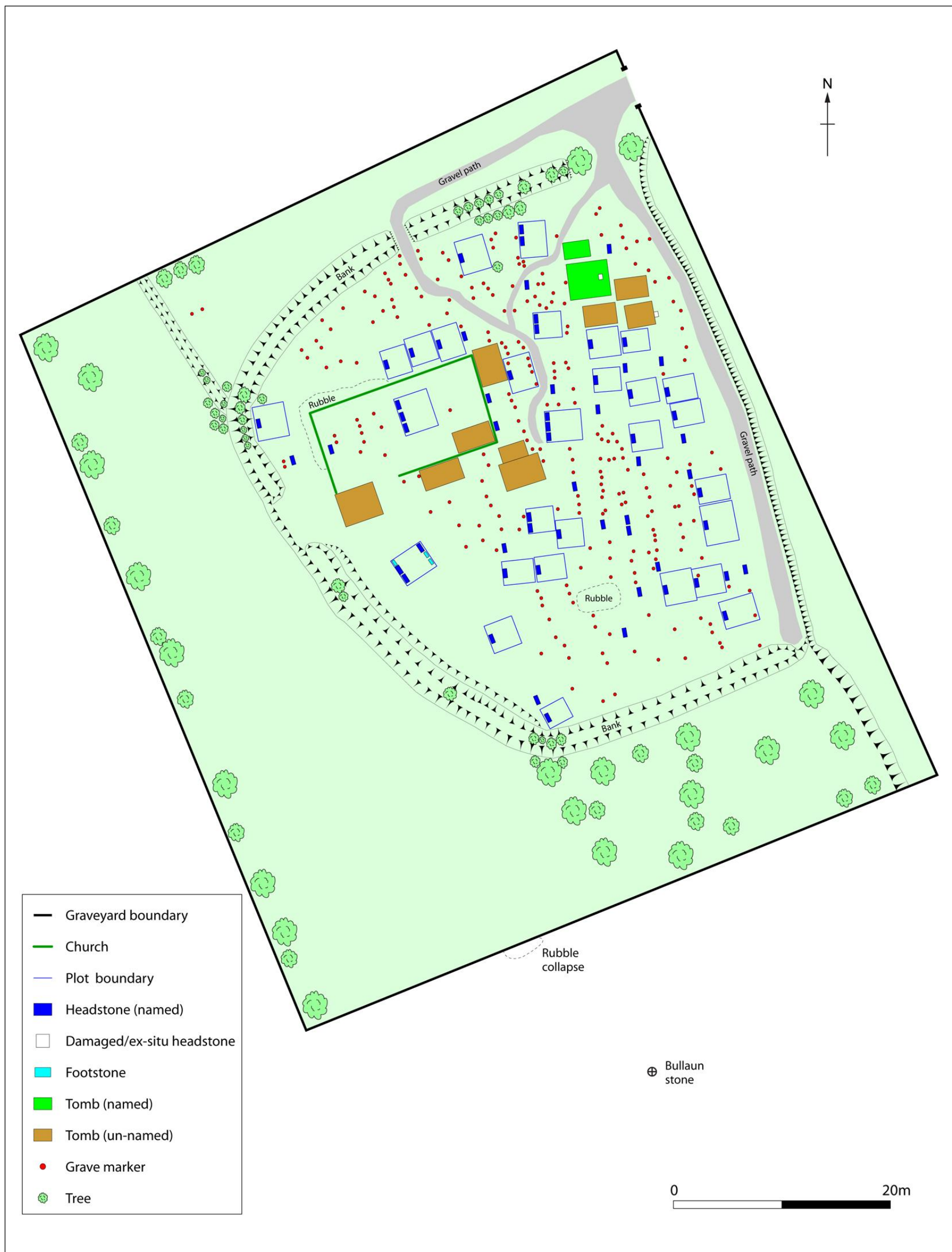


Figure 6. Plan of Feaghna graveyard

Feaghna graveyard measures approximately 75m north-south by 75m east-west. It is located on high ground overlooking the valley of the Coomeelan Stream to the east and south. The eastern side of the graveyard slopes steeply to an adjacent roadway. The graveyard is accessed from this adjacent roadway at the northeast corner by a gravel covered ramp. The graveyard is enclosed on all sides by a random rubble stone wall. A gravel pathway gives access from the entrance to the centre and north and east sides of the graveyard. The ruins of a medieval church stand to the north of the centre of the graveyard. The graveyard contains 65 named headstones, 29 of which are in enclosed plots and 2 of which are ex-situ. There are 2 named tombs, 9 un-named tombs and 246 low un-inscribed stone grave markers in the graveyard. All features within the graveyard except 2 low un-inscribed stone grave markers at the northwest corner are contained within an enclosure made up of a low earthen bank on the north, west and south sides and a natural steep slope on the east side. A short section of the bank is lower on the north of the western side and this may have been an entrance to the interior at one time. A shallow ditch is visible on the inside of the bank along the western side. This enclosed area is sub-circular in shape. Though the Archaeological Survey of Ireland lists 2 bullaun stones at the site, only one can be found and this is located approximately 12m to the south of the southern boundary of the graveyard. A fragmented rotary quern stone has been placed on the bullaun stone.

The graveyard is maintained. The boundary wall is in good order apart from some collapse at a short section on the south side. This collapse may have occurred with the movement of people over the wall from the graveyard to the nearby bullaun stone. The ground throughout the graveyard is uneven but pathways throughout are well maintained. A short section of the enclosure bank has been removed on the north side and another section appears to have been removed at the northeast corner. The presence of the gravel pathways through these breaks in the bank would suggest that these sections of the bank were removed to aid access through the graveyard. Some large trees are growing on the top of the bank on the north and west sides. The steep slope on the east side of the graveyard may be a hazard to public safety.

The ruins of the church remain as very low walls on the north, south and west sides. Rubble collapse is visible at the base of the north and west walls and against the base of the inside of the east wall. The east wall of the church is ivy-covered and this vegetation extends to a tomb built against the outside of the east wall. Vegetation growth, to varying degrees, is

present on all tombs in the graveyard. A tomb against the south wall of the church is in danger of collapse. A pile of rubble to the south of the centre of the graveyard may be the remains of a tomb. The plots and most of the headstones are in good condition. One headstone on the east side of the graveyard is leaning and may collapse (App I, no. 47). A headstone has been incorporated into the roof of a tomb at the northeast corner of the graveyard (App I, no. 64) and a broken headstone has been placed against the entrance of a neighbouring tomb (App I, no. 65).



Pl. 1. Collapse of wall on S side of graveyard



Pl. 2. Bullaun stone to S of graveyard



Pl. 3. Breach in bank on N side



Pl. 4. Possible breach in bank at NE corner



Pl. 5. Tree growth on bank on N side



Pl. 6. Tree growth on bank on W side



Pl. 7. Steep slope on E side of graveyard



Pl. 8. Rubble collapse at N and W walls of church



Pl. 9. Ivy-covered E wall of church



Pl. 10. Tomb against S wall of church



Pl. 11. Vegetation on tombs at NE corner of graveyard



Pl. 12. Rubble pile at S of centre of graveyard

1.3 Suggested Mitigation

The collapsed wall on the south side of the graveyard should be repaired and access to the bullaun stone over the boundary wall at this side of the graveyard is dangerous and should be restricted. The removal of any further sections of the bank for access to the interior of the graveyard should be avoided. The unsafe nature of the steep slope close to the path on the east side of the graveyard should be addressed. The effect of vegetation growth on the stability of the walls of the church and the tombs should be assessed. Access to areas where the walls of the church and tombs are damaged or collapsed should be restricted.

2. Project References

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3. Signing-Off Statement

Archaeological Firm: ÆGIS ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED

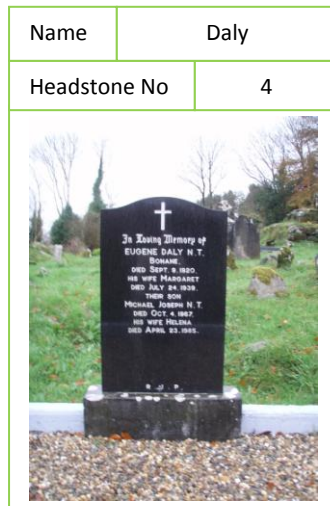
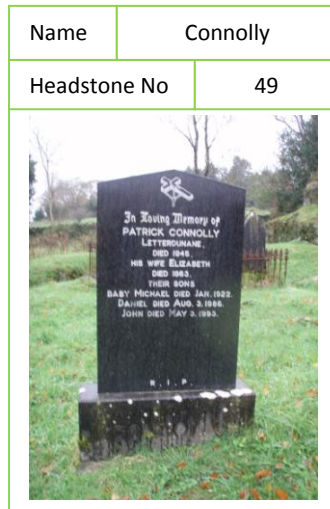
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Rathass
Tralee
Co. Kerry

Signed: _____
For ÆGIS ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED


Dated: October 2009

4. Appendix I – Photographic Survey of Headstones



Name	Jim
Headstone No	2
	

Name	Lovett
Headstone No	1
	

Name	Lucey
Headstone No	8
	


Name	Moynahan
Headstone No	52
	

Name	Moynahan
Headstone No	53
	

Name	O'Connor
Headstone No	20
	

Name	O'Connor
Headstone No	21
	


Name	O'Connor
Headstone No	35
	

Name	O'Connor
Headstone No	59
	

Name	O'Connor
Headstone No	60
	

Name	O'Connor
Headstone No	62
	

Name	O'Reilly
Headstone No	17
	


Name	O'Shea
Headstone No	5
	

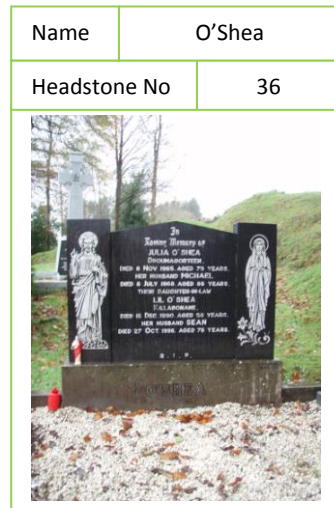
Name	O'Shea
Headstone No	10
	

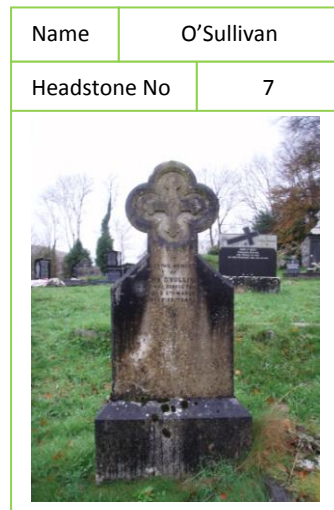
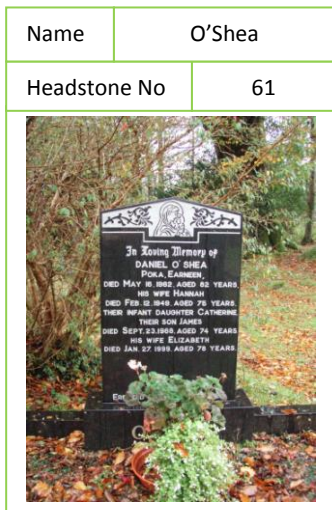
Name	O'Shea
Headstone No	11
	

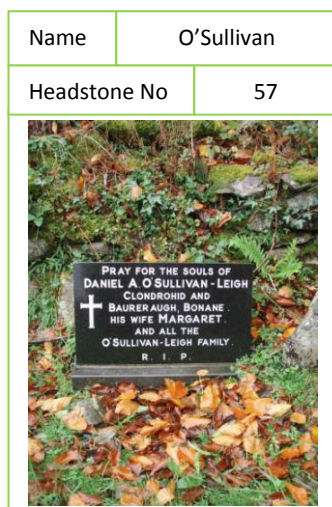
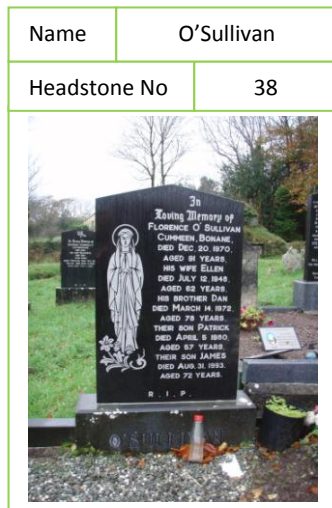
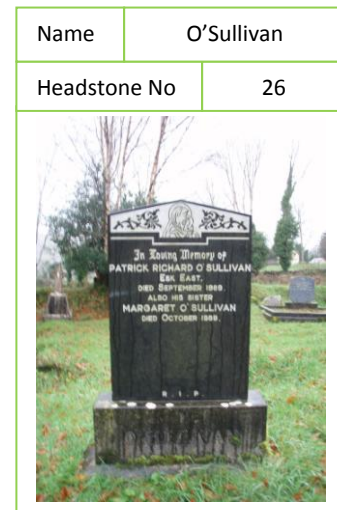
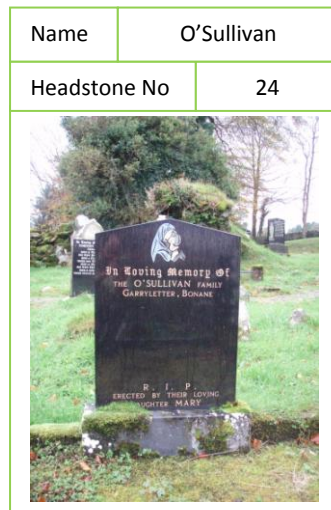
Name	O'Shea
Headstone No	13
	

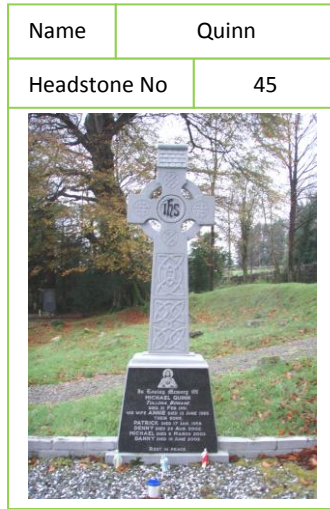
Name	O'Shea
Headstone No	16
	

Name	O'Shea
Headstone No	27
	











Name	Unknown
Headstone No	51
	

Name	Unknown
Headstone No	65
	

5. Appendix II – Photographic Survey of Named Tombs

Name	O'Sullivan
Headstone No	66
	

Name	O'Sullivan
Headstone No	67
	

6. Appendix III – Plan of Numbered Graves

