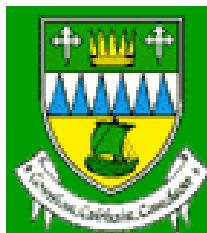


# KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

## EIA SCREENING REPORT

<b>Reference:</b>	Part 8 Planning Application by Water Service, KCC, for a proposed extension to the existing burial ground in the townland of Dromkeen West, Causeway, Co Kerry.
<b>Description and location of the proposed development:</b>	The proposed development consists of the extension of an existing burial ground in the townland of Dromkeen West, Causeway, Co Kerry. The proposed site presently consists of the back gardens of two residences located along Church Street in the village of Causeway. The area of the proposed extension measures 0.2acre.



May 2013

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Project Background

This report is the screening for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) undertaken for a Part 8 Planning Application by Kerry County Council for the proposed extension to an existing burial ground in the townland of Dromkeen West, Causeway, Co Kerry. The proposed site presently consists of the back gardens of two residences located along Church Street in the village of Causeway. The area of the proposed extension measures 0.2acre. The location of the graveyard assessed in this EIA screening report is shown in

Figure 1-1 and

Figure 1-2.

The Part 8 application is also accompanied by a Habitats Directive Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.

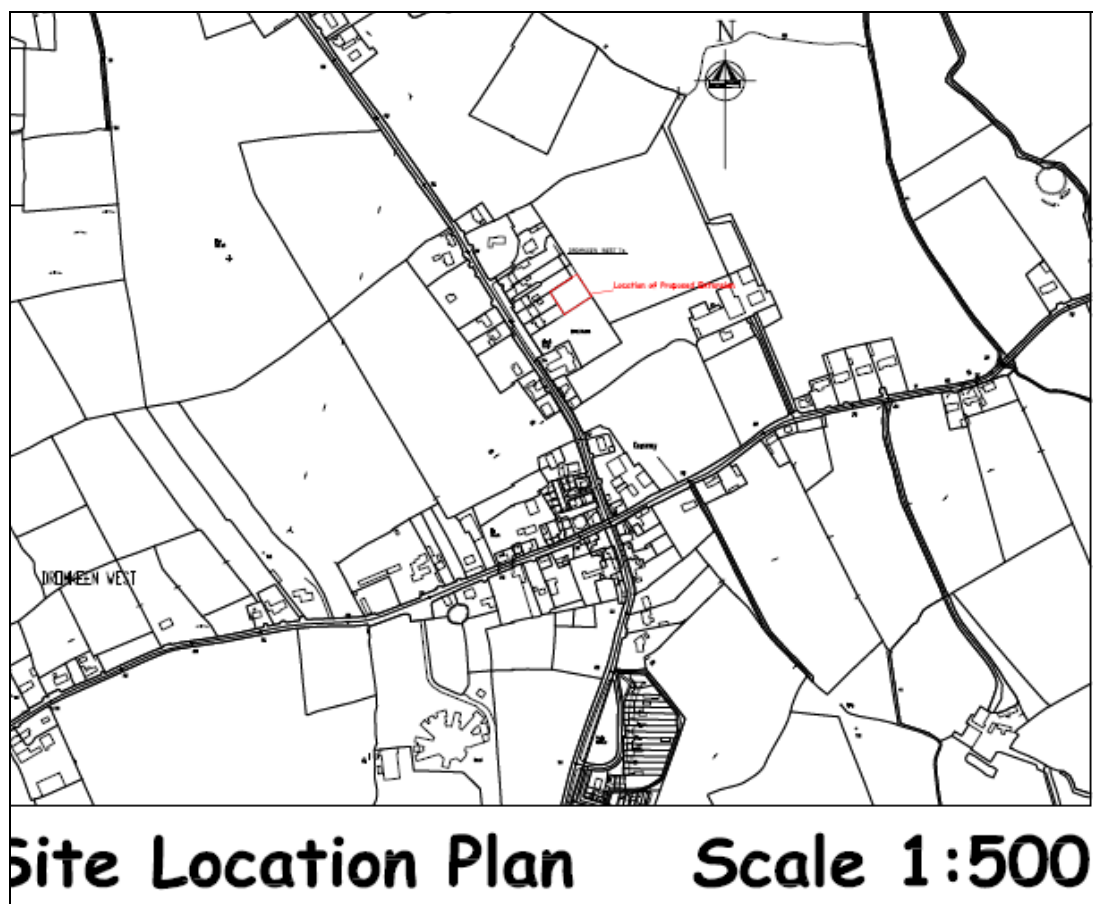
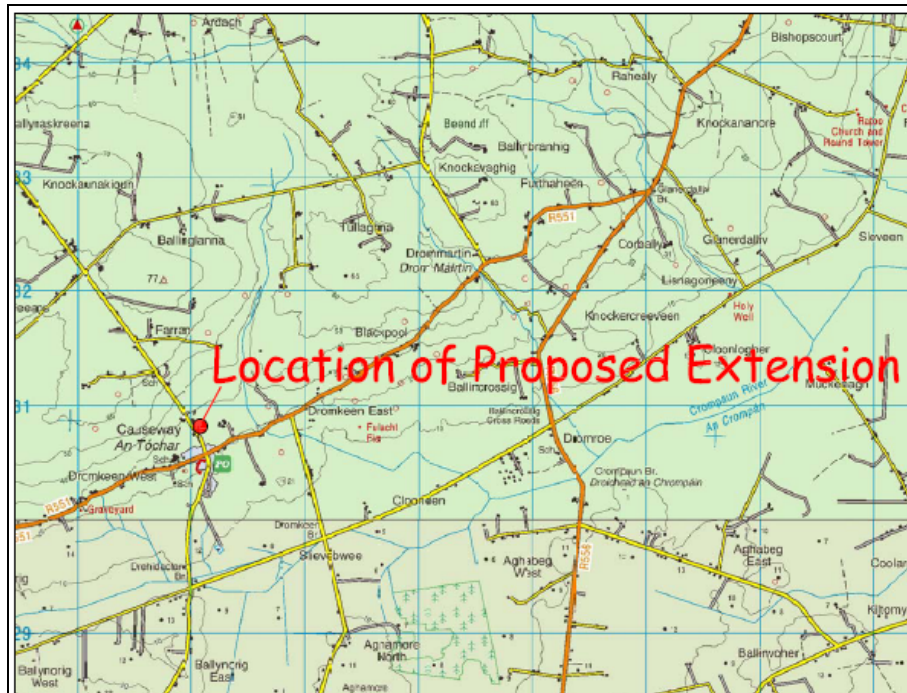
## 1.2. Legislative Context

The EIA Directive 85/337/EEC, as amended, is key legislation in EU environmental policy. The EIA Directive aims to determine the likely significant effects of a project on the environment. The EIA process involves a number of stages, namely screening; scoping and the production of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Screening is the first stage in the EIA process required by Article 4 of the EIA Directive and determines whether an EIA is required for a specific project.

The Directive outlines in Article 4(1) 21 *Annex 1* projects that require a mandatory EIA. Article 4(2) outlines *Annex 2* projects that require consideration for EIA further to a case-by-case examination or through thresholds and criteria set by Member States. In an Irish context, projects requiring a mandatory EIA or consideration for EIA further to a case-by-case examination or thresholds are listed in Schedule 5, Part 1 and 2 respectively, of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended). In the case of developments which are under the relevant EIA threshold, planning authorities are required under article 103 of the 2001 Regulations, as amended, to request an EIS where it considers that the proposed development is likely to have significant environmental effects. In such cases the significant effects of the project on the environment are assessed relative to criteria outlined in Schedule 7 of the regulations, namely the project's characteristics; sensitivity of the project location and characterisation of potential impacts.

This report relates to the screening for an EIA of the proposed extension of an existing burial ground in Dromkeen West, Causeway. Under Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, the proposal is a sub-threshold project. However the project will be screened as per Schedule 7 of the regulations to determine if there is likely to be significant effects on the environment from the implementation of the project. This report is written in accordance with guidelines provided in:

- *Guidance for EIA Screening*, European Commission, June 2001,
- *Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in an EIS*, EPA, March 2002,
- *EIA, Guidance for Consent Authorities Regarding Sub-Threshold Development*, DoEHLG, August 2003.
- *Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on Carrying Out Environmental Impact Assessment*, DoECLG, March 2013.



### 1.3. Environmental Factors to be Considered in the EIA Screening

Schedule 6 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended, outline the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by a proposed development. These are:

- human beings,
- fauna and flora,
- soil,
- water,
- air/climatic factors
- the landscape,
- material assets, including the architectural and archaeological heritage, and the cultural heritage,
- the inter-relationship between the above factors

In addition to the above environmental parameters and further to the recommendations made in the *Planning System and Flood Risk Assessment. Planning Guidelines for Local Authorities*, OPW 2009, the following is added to the list:

- Flood Risk Assessment and Management.

This EIA screening will therefore assess each of the above factors in order to ascertain if the development is likely to significantly affect the environment. In addition to screening for EIA, a Habitats Directive Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive was also undertaken. Where relevant the HDA informed the EIA screening.

## 2. EIA Screening

### 2.1. Project Description

The proposed development consists of the extension of an existing burial ground at Dromkeen West, Causeway. The proposed site presently consists of two rear residential gardens off Church Street in the village (Figure 2-1). The southern boundary of the proposed extension is marked by a high block wall of the existing St John's Church and graveyard. The eastern boundary consists of a hedgerow that separates the gardens from adjoining agricultural fields. The northern boundary is marked by a row of trees that divide the proposed extension site from the neighbouring residential garden. The western boundary is to be constructed.

The development of the proposed burial ground will involve the following works:

- Construction of a stone faced concrete wall that will demarcate the new extension along the western and northern boundary. Existing hedgerows will be retained along both boundaries.
- The southern boundary is presently marked by an existing stone built wall. A new opening will be placed in this existing northern cemetery wall to allow pedestrian access to the new extension.
- Lands within the extension will be divided to create 240 graves.
- Within the extension plots will be separated by concrete paths measuring 1.8m in width. Headstones will be developed on a standard 0.375m high and 0.75m wide concrete base. Grave spaces will measure 2.75m x 1.25m.

The potential of the above proposal to significantly effect the environment will be assessed below relative to the following environmental factors: human beings; biodiversity/fauna and flora; geology (soil); hydrology/hydrogeology (water); air; climatic factors; landscape; material assets, and cultural heritage including the

architectural and archaeological heritage. The inter-relationship between all these factors will also be considered.

## 2.2. Human Beings

### 2.2.1. Existing Environment

Causeway burial ground is located in the village in the environs of St John's Church. The proposed extension consists of the two rear gardens of neighbouring properties to the north of the existing burial ground. The population of Causeway was recorded in the 2011 census as 264<sup>1</sup>.

### 2.2.2. Proposed Works – Construction and Operational Phase

The works, listed in Section 2.1 will involve the use of machinery to topsoil strip lands required for the initial development of the burial ground. There will be works required to create an opening in the existing wall that marks the northern boundary of the burial ground and works to construct concrete paths and a boundary wall to the north and west. Operational works will vary from general maintenance works and excavation of graves, as required.

## 2.3. Fauna and Flora (Biodiversity)

The proposed development site is located 4.10km from Kerry Head SPA 004189 and 4.50km from the Lower Shannon cSAC 002165 (Figure 2-2). Both sites are a considerable distance from the proposed extension and are not considered further in this report. There are no other ecological designations in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development.

The proposed development site is located within the 10km Grid Square Q83. According to the NPWS map viewer the following protected flora is recorded within the square –*Scripus triqueter*<sup>2</sup>. Full details are provided in Table 2-1.

**Table 2-1** List of Protected Species found within the 10km Grid Square Q83.

Species	Common Name	Location	Year Recorded	*Protection Status
<i>Scripus triqueter</i>	Triangular Club Rush	River Casheen	1905	FPO

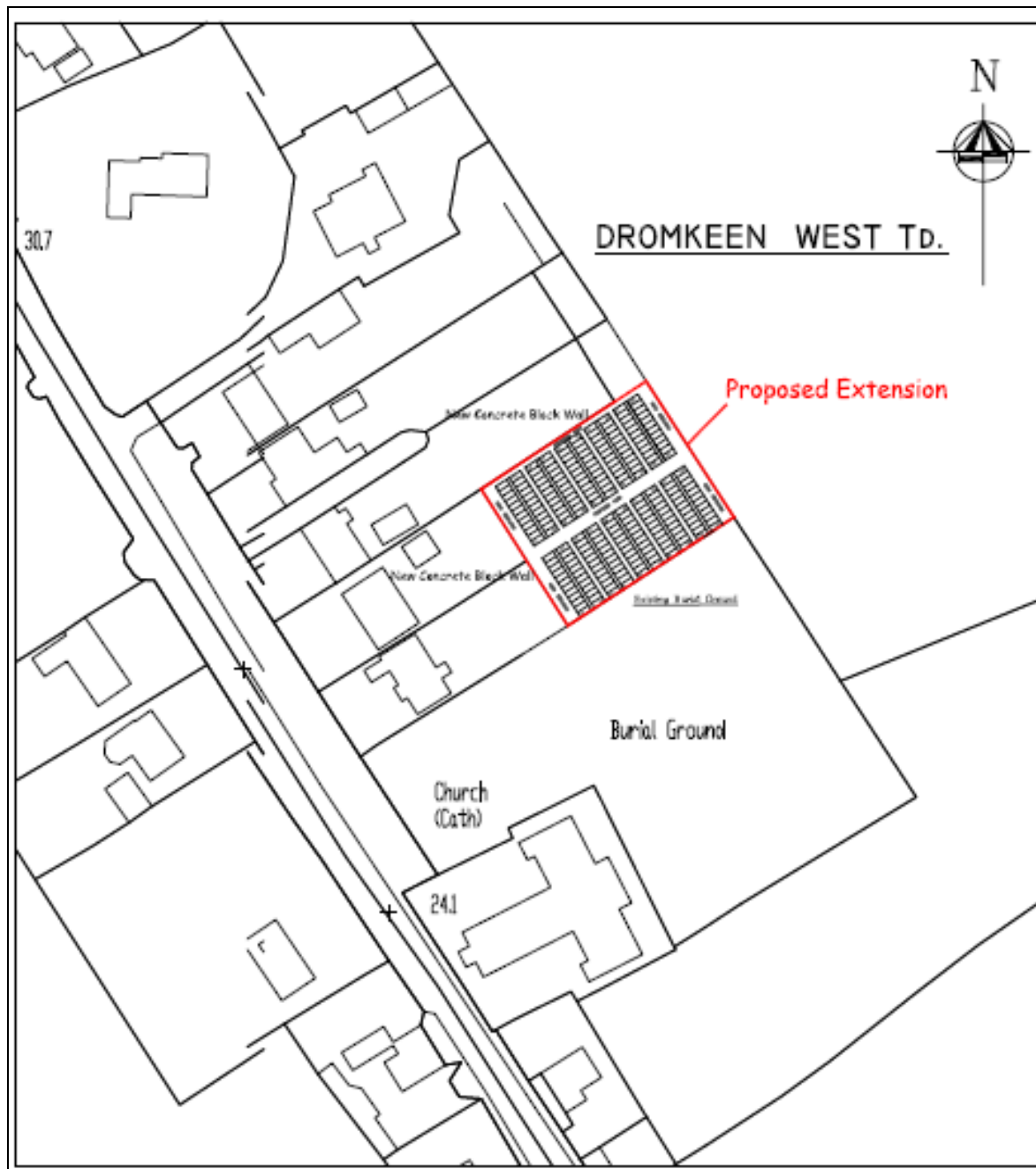
\*FPO=Flora Protection Order; HDII=Annex II; HDIV=Annex IV.

The potential for the development to significantly affect Natura 2000 sites is addressed separately in the Article 6 Habitats Directive Assessment which accompanies the planning application. Briefly, the HDA screening report determined that the proposed development is unlikely to significantly affect Natura 2000 sites. A Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment was not required.

The site of the proposed development was inspected on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May, 2013. The aim of the inspection was to undertake a baseline ecological survey of the site and evaluate its nature conservation importance. The survey informed the assessment of any direct, indirect and cumulative ecological implications or impacts of the proposed development presented in this report. Habitats were classed according to Fossit's 2000 *A Guide to Habitats in Ireland* and nomenclature according to Webb's 2012 *An Irish Flora* and Rose's 2006 *The Wild Flower Key*.

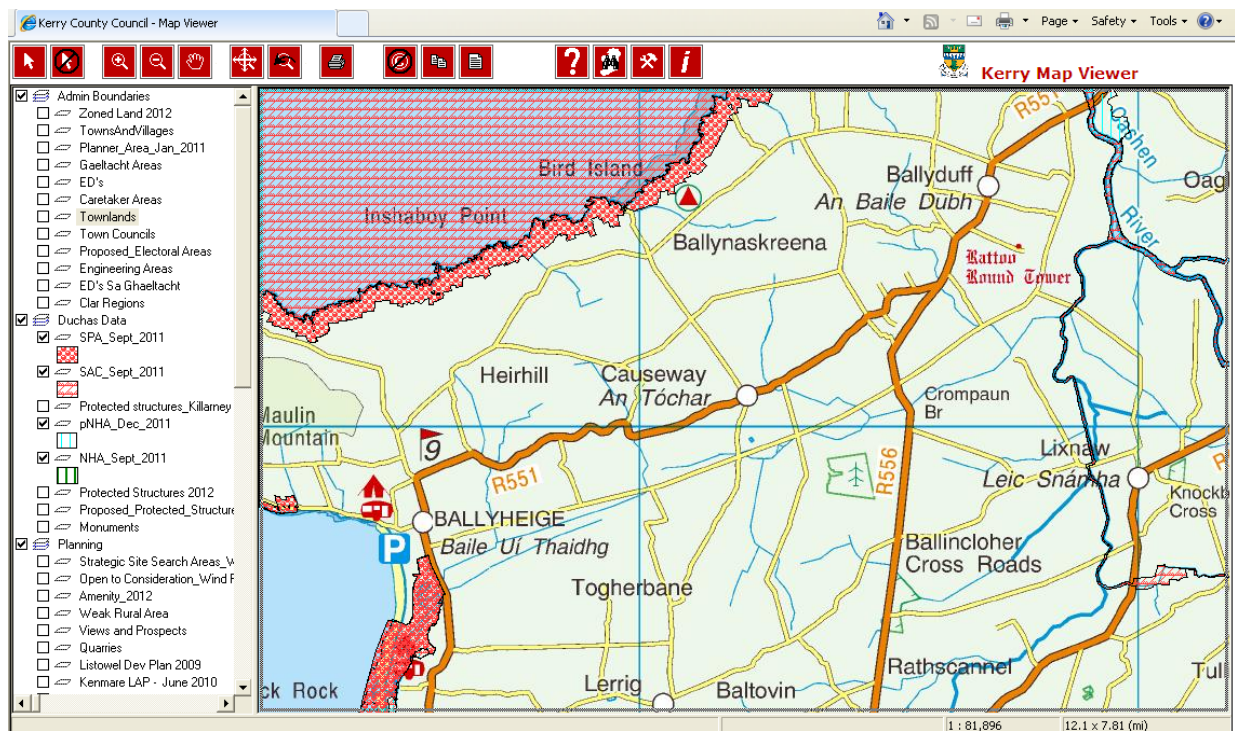
<sup>1</sup> <http://census.cso.ie/sapmap/> [accessed 10/05/13]

<sup>2</sup> <http://webgis.npws.ie/npwsviewer/> [accessed 10/05/13]



**Figure 2-1 Proposed extension and associated works to the existing burial ground at Causeway.**





**Figure 2-2 Location of the proposed extension relative to the Lower Shannon cSAC 002165 and Kerry Head SPA 004189 (hashed red) to the north of Causeway.**

The proposed development site consists of the two rear residential gardens of properties that adjoin the existing Causeway burial ground to the northwest (Photo 1 & 2). Only a portion of these gardens are to be used as part of the proposed extension, c0.2acres (see Figure 2-1).

Both gardens are presently maintained and landscaped as a garden lawn with garden plantings. The gardens would be classed as a combination of Flower beds and borders (BC4) and Amenity grassland (GA2).

A hedgerow survives to the rear (east) of both gardens (Photo 3). The hedgerow consists of planted conifer trees to the south with a lower hedgerow of Bramble and Ivy to the north. The northern boundary consists of a line of planted trees (mostly conifers). This boundary, which divides the neighbouring property, is to be retained. A wall will be erected inside the line of trees (Photo 2). The boundary to the south is the existing stone wall of the Church yard and burial ground. The boundary to the west is to be constructed (Photo 1 and 2). The hedgerows and stone walls and other stone work would be classed as (BL1) and (WL1), respectively.

No evidence of use of the site by fauna was noted. No prints, spraints or other markings/prints were noted. The species listed above in Table 2.1 was not recorded on site, the species is a wetland species and would not be found in the habitat recorded on the site of the proposed extension.

## 2.4. Geology and Soil

The development site is underlain by Devonian Red Sandstone<sup>3</sup>. Subsoil is classified as *Made Ground*<sup>4</sup>. Bedrock and subsoil classifications are shown in Figure 2-3 and Figure 2-4.

<sup>3</sup> <http://spatial.dcenr.gov.ie> [accessed 10/05/13]

<sup>4</sup> <http://spatial.dcenr.gov.ie> [accessed 10/05/13]



## 2.5. Hydrogeology and Hydrology

### 2.5.1. Hydrogeology

Groundwater vulnerability maps completed as part of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) programme indicates the development site occurs in an area where groundwater vulnerability is defined as *Moderate* (Figure 2-5)<sup>5</sup>. Aquifer productivity in the area of the development site is classed as *Locally\_Important Aquifer Bedrock which is Moderately Productive only in Local Zones* (Figure 2-6)<sup>6</sup>.

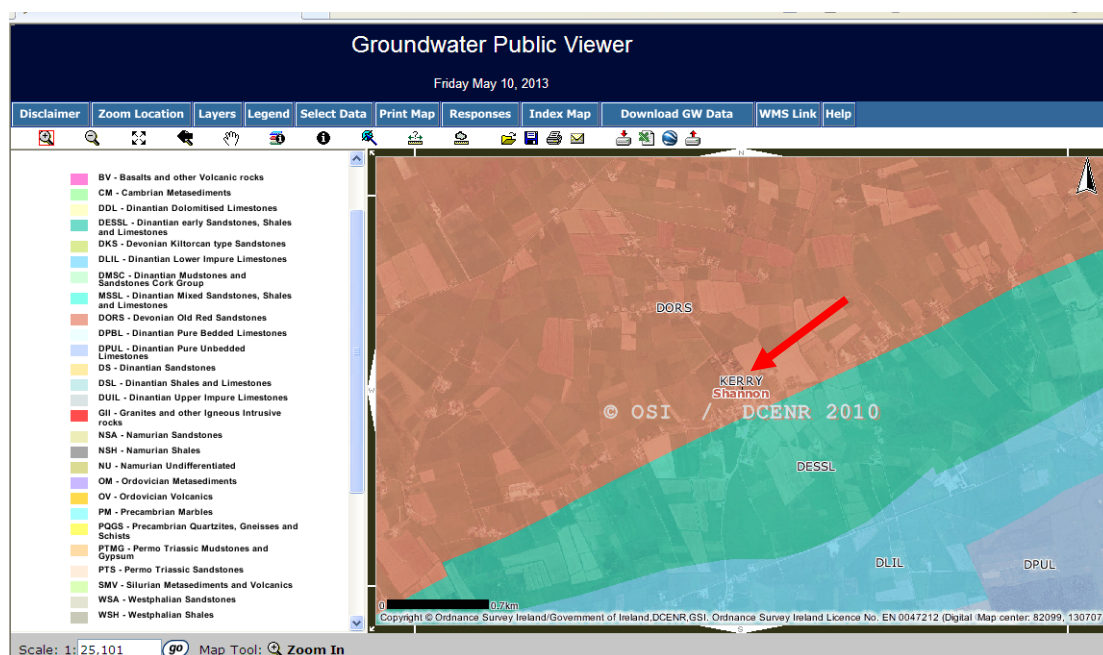


Figure 2-3 Bedrock underlying the proposed development site (indicated by arrow)

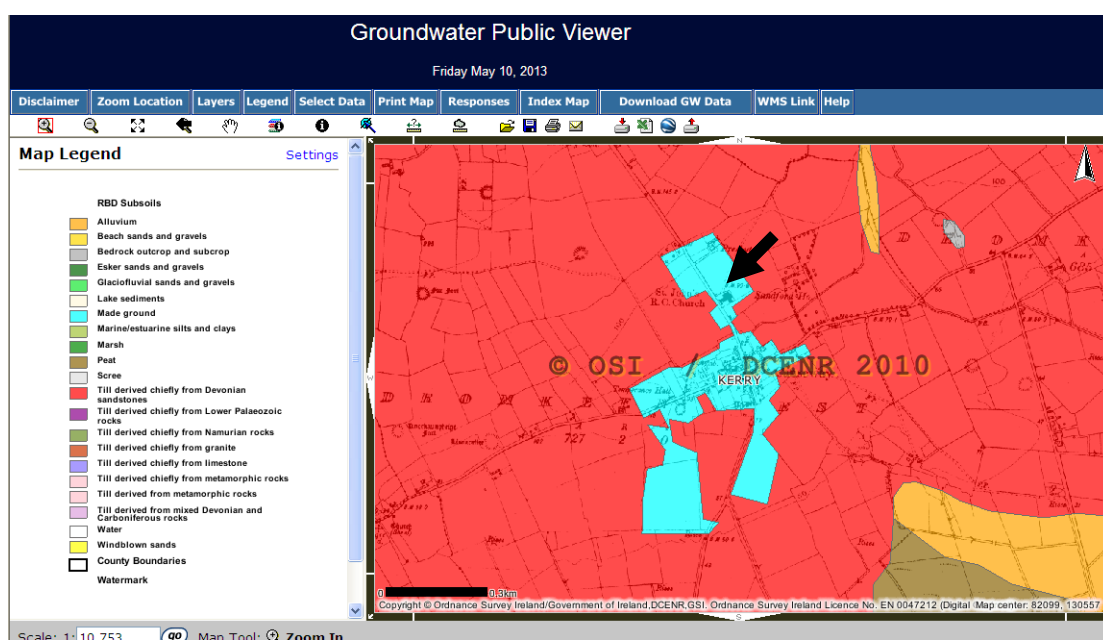
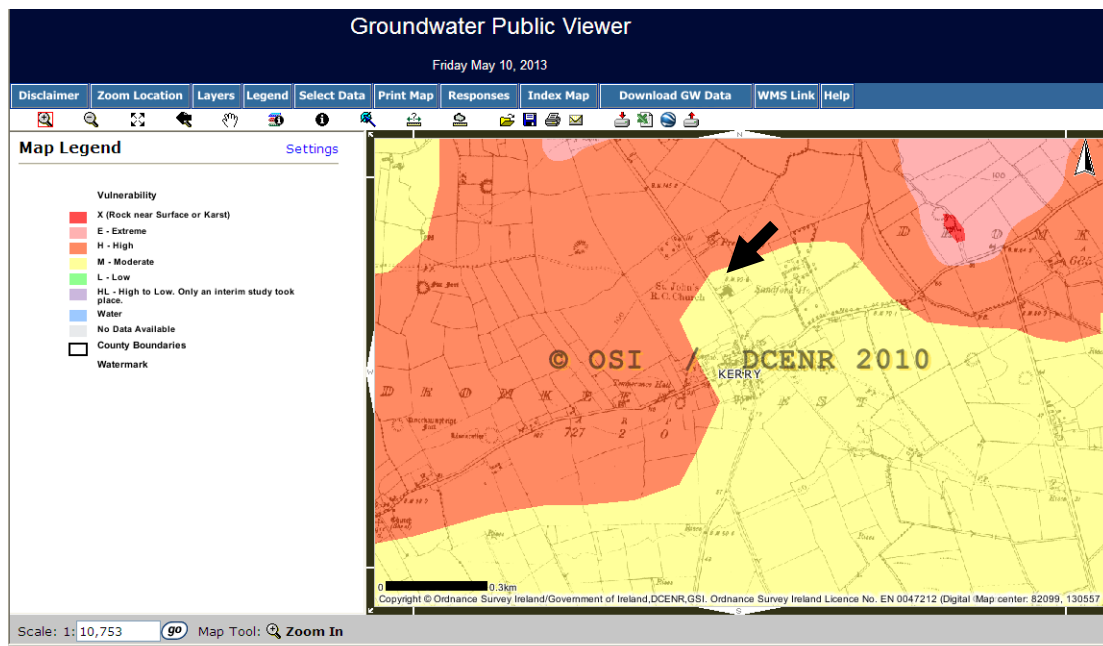


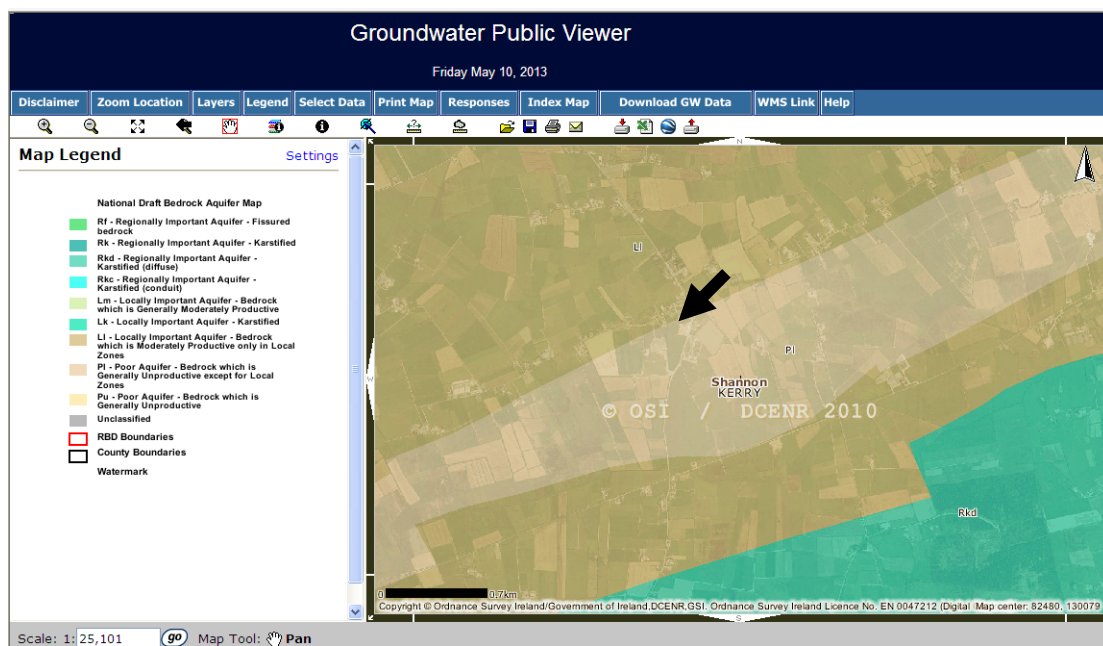
Figure 2-4 Subsoil classifications underlying the proposed development site (indicated by arrow)

<sup>5</sup> <http://spatial.dcenr.gov.ie> [accessed 4/4/13]

<sup>6</sup> <http://watermaps.wfdireland.ie/> [accessed 4/4/13]



**Figure 2-5 Groundwater vulnerability in the vicinity of the proposed development site (indicated by arrow)**



**Figure 2-6 Aquifer productivity in the vicinity of the proposed development site (indicated by arrow)**

## 2.5.2. Hydrology

There is no watercourse in the vicinity of the proposed development. The nearest watercourse is a tributary of the Crompaun river, located 500m to the east.

## 2.6. Air/Climatic Factors

Under the EU Framework for Directive on Air Quality (1996/62/EC) legislation on air quality requires that member states divide their territory into zones for the assessment and management of air quality. In Ireland there are four air quality Zones A, B, C and D. Zone A is the Dublin conurbation, Zone B is the Cork conurbation with Zone C comprising 21 large towns in Ireland with a population

>15,000. Zone D is the remaining area of Ireland<sup>7</sup>. Kerry is divided into two Zones. Tralee is in Zone C and the remainder of the county falls into Zone D. Tralee is also one of sixteen towns and cities where bituminous coal is banned for marketing, sale and distribution under the Air Pollution Act 1987.

The nearest air quality monitoring station to the proposed development site is the Valentia Observatory in Cahirciveen, Co Kerry. The current air quality for Zone D is indicated as 'Good' on the EPA Environment Monitoring Website<sup>8</sup>. The EPA air quality index is calculated based on the latest available measurements of ozone, nitrogen dioxide, PM10 and Sulphur Dioxide. Air quality in the county is therefore very good and falls well within EPA standards. The greatest threats to air quality are localised and relate to car emissions and domestic/commercial heating and fuel consumption.

## **2.7. Landscape**

The development site is situated in the village of Causeway in the environs of St John's Church. The area is zoned as *Proposed Residential* in the North Kerry Settlement Local Area Plan 2007-2013.

## **2.8. Material Assets, including the Architectural and Archaeological Heritage, and the Cultural Heritage**

### **2.8.1. Architectural Heritage**

There are two Protected Structures (PS) in the vicinity of the proposed development. RPS KY 015-003, The Forge and RPS KY 015-001 St John's Church. St John's Church is adjacent to the proposed extension while the Forge is approximately 110m to the south.

### **2.8.2. Archaeological Heritage**

There are two archaeological monuments listed in the Record of Monuments and Places located in the vicinity of the existing burial ground at Causeway. KE015-008, an Enclosure site is 110m to the east. KE015-007(1), a Rath and Souterrain, are located 370m to the northwest. The sites are shown in (Figure 2-8).

From discussion with local landowners, a former mass path runs along the eastern boundary of both properties. It was once used by the local community in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century to access St John's Church via a short cut<sup>9</sup>. The path has not been in use for a number of years.

## **2.9. Flood Risk and Management**

The site is located outside areas designated as prone to coastal, fluvial and pluvial flooding on the OPW's Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) maps (Figure 2-9).

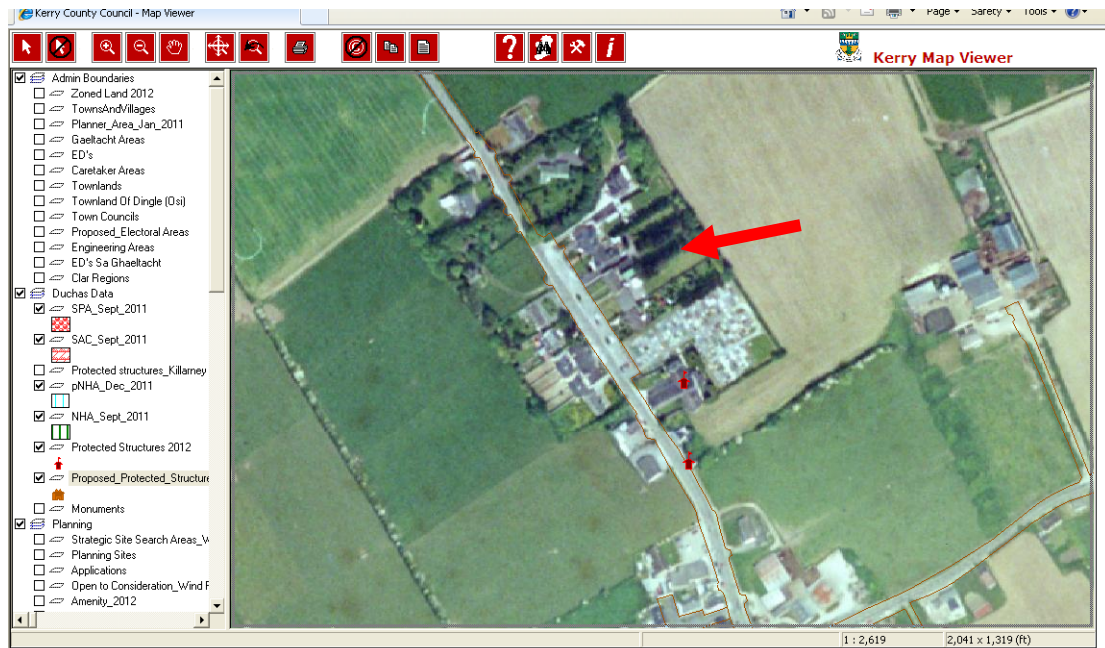
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<sup>7</sup> [www.epa.ie/whatwedo/monitoring/air/index](http://www.epa.ie/whatwedo/monitoring/air/index) [accessed 10/05/13]

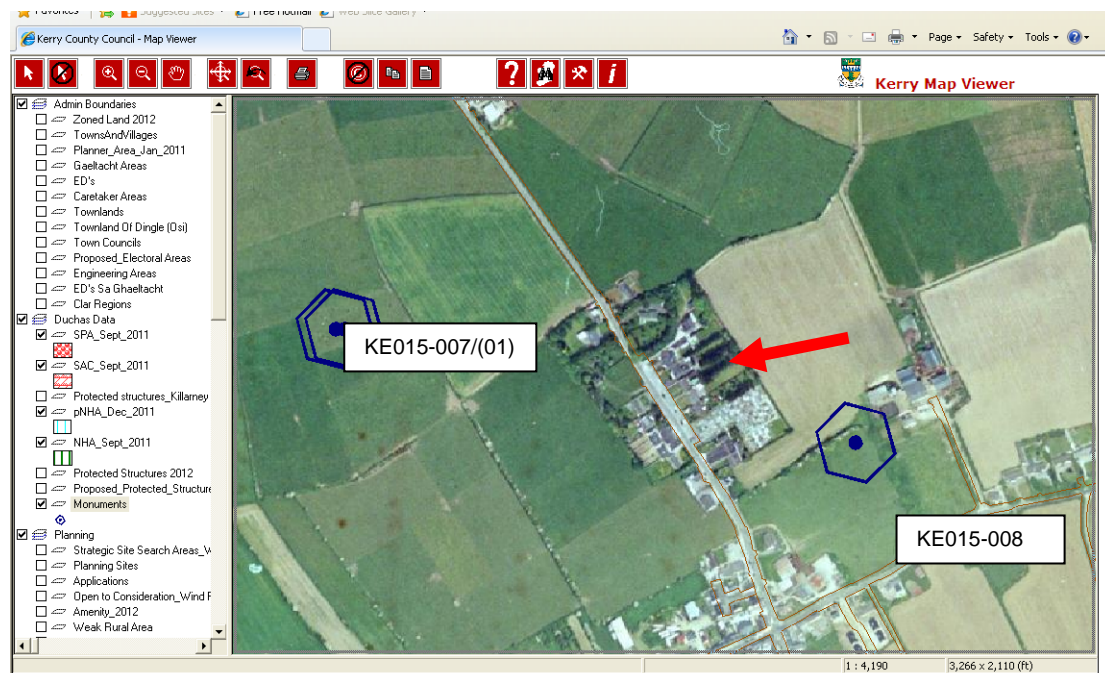
<sup>8</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>9</sup> Local Causeway resident, pers comm 08/05/13.





**Figure 2-7 Protected Structures in the vicinity of the proposed development site (indicated by arrow).**



**Figure 2-8 Archaeological monuments in the vicinity of the proposed development site (indicated by arrow).**



**Figure 2-9 Fluvial flooding and Pluvial Flooding, indicated in blue in proximity of the proposed development site (shown by arrow)**

### 3. Impact Assessment

Having considered the above environmental factors, the aim of the next section is to address likely impacts, if any, on the environment by the implementation of the proposed development. A brief overview of the potential sensitivities and impacts will be highlighted. Whether an EIA would be deemed relevant to the scale of the project and the receiving environment will be determined.

**Table 3-1 Impact Assessment**

Environmental Topic	Potential Impacts	Particular sensitivity	Designations	Statement on effect	EIS relevant
Human Environment / Population	Construction works potential to cause a temporary impact for local residents – noise and dust emissions.	None	None	No significant effect anticipated.  All works to be carried out in daytime working hours. Additional traffic, noise and dust caused by the temporary construction works, unlikely to be significant.	No
Ecology (Flora & Fauna)	Sensitive habitats/species could be impacted by proposed works.	No annexed species or habitat recorded.	The proposed development site is located over 4km from the nearest designated Natura 2000 site.	No significant effect anticipated.  The HDA determined that due to the nature and scale of the works and the distance from the development site to designated Natura 2000 sites, no significant effects are likely.	No
Hydrology and Hydrogeology	Surface water run-off to adjoining ditches or streams during construction or operational works.  Minor excavations proposed so no impact on groundwater likely	Water dependent habitats and species	None identified	No significant effect anticipated.  Considering the location of the excavation works pollution from construction works is unlikely. There are no hydrological linkages between the site and a water course/body.	No
Soils and Geology	Possible contamination of soil from construction works.	None	None	No significant effect anticipated.  Nonetheless best practices in the environmental management of construction works is recommended including: • Fuel or hydraulic fluids spills must be	No



Environmental Topic	Potential Impacts	Particular sensitivity	Designations	Statement on effect	EIS relevant
				<p>cleaned up immediately and contaminated soil removed from site and disposed of through a licensed contractor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waste oils and fluids generated during construction should be collected in leak-proof containers and removed from the site for proper disposal</li> </ul>	
Air quality/Climatic Factors	None identified	None	None	No significant effect anticipated	No
Architecture	Possible impacts on Protected Structures (PS) and/or Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) from construction works or visual impacts to built heritage designations.	PS or ACAs	There are two Protected Structures (PS) in the vicinity of the proposed development. RPS KY 015-003, The Forge and RPS KY 015-001 St John's Church. St John's Church is adjacent to the proposed extension while the Forge is approximately 110m to the south.	<p>No significant effect anticipated.</p> <p>The proposed development relates to an extension to an existing burial ground which surrounds St John Church. No impact on the PS is envisaged from this development.</p>	No
Archaeology	Potential of proposed works to impact on known or <i>hitherto</i> unrecorded archaeological remains.	None the immediate vicinity. The Church is a PS but not recorded on the RMP.	<p>None</p> <p>A local mass path is associated with the rear of both properties.</p>	<p>Considering the likelihood for impact on unknown/unrecorded archaeological remains, the County Archaeologist should review the proposed application.</p> <p>There will be no impact to the mass path which will be incorporated into the cemetery. It will continue to be used as a path.</p>	No, the County Archaeologist's report on the proposed development will suffice.
Noise	Noise pollution possible at construction and	None	None	<p>No significant effect anticipated</p> <p>All works to carried out in daytime working hours. Additional traffic, noise and/dust caused</p>	No

Environmental Topic	Potential Impacts	Particular sensitivity	Designations	Statement on effect	EIS relevant
	operational phase.			by the temporary construction works, unlikely to be significant.	
Landscape	All development has the potential to impact on the landscape.	None	None	No significant effect anticipated	No
Flood Risk and Management	The development could be flooded and/or inappropriate development in flood zones could impact on areas downstream.	The site is located in lands not designated as prone to coastal, fluvial and/or pluvial flooding.	None	No significant effect anticipated	No

Having considered the environmental factors listed in Table 3-1, the aim of the next section is to assess the proposed project relative to the criteria set out in Schedule 7 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, in order to determine if the proposed project is likely to have a significant effect on the environment. The criteria outlined in Schedule 7 require assessment against the project's characteristics; sensitivity of the project location and characterisation of potential impacts. This is undertaken for the proposed development in Table 3-2.

**Table 3-2 Criteria for determining whether the project would or would not be likely to have a significant effect on the Environment**

<b>1. Characteristics of the Proposed Development</b>	
Size	0.2acre
Accumulative impacts with other developments / projects	Unlikely, considering the nature and scale of the development cumulative impacts with other developments is not considered to be significant.
Use of Natural Resources – the production of wastes	No large-scale wastes generated. Unwanted soil from excavations works will be either re-used on site or removed from site to a licensed landfill site.
Pollution and nuisance	Minor, temporary noise during construction works. Considering the sites location in a rural setting, additional noise from temporary construction works is not deemed to be significant.
The risk of accidents having regard to substances or technologies used	Due to the nature and scale of the development, none envisaged.
<b>2. Location of Proposed Development</b>	
Existing land use	Two residential rear gardens
Previous land use	Unknown
Relative abundance, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources in the area	The project will result in the use of two gardens for an extension of an existing graveyard. The habitat is not unique and is locally abundant.
The existing environment and absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Wetlands</li> <li>o Coastal zones</li> <li>o Mountain and forest areas</li> <li>o Nature reserves and parks</li> <li>o Natura 2000 sites</li> <li>o Areas in which environmental quality standards laid down by the EU have already been exceeded</li> </ul>	<p>The scale and nature of the proposed project and habitats/species identified in the proposed development site implies no significant effect on the natural environment.</p> <p>The HDA undertaken as part of this planning application screened out the need for AA. No significant affects on Natura 2000 sites within 15kms of the proposed development were identified.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Densely populated areas</li> <li>o Landscape of historical, cultural or archaeological significance</li> </ul>	
<b>3. Characteristics of Potential Impacts</b> The potential significant effects of the proposed development in relation to the criteria set out in 1 & 2 above and having particular regard to:	
Extent of the Impact (geographical area and size of affected population)	No significant impacts identified, any minor impacts envisaged to occur will be localised in nature and mitigated through the project design including best practices in the environmental management of construction works.
Transfrontier nature of the impact	None.
Magnitude and complexity of the impact	No impacts identified
Probability of the impact	None identified
Duration, frequency and reversibility of the Impact	No impacts identified

#### 4. Conclusion:

In order to determine the potential impacts, if any, on the environment of the proposed extension of an existing burial ground in the townland of Dromkeen West, Causeway, a screening process for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was undertaken. As part of this the likely impacts on the environment were assessed. No significant effects were identified. However it is recommended that the proposed project is reviewed by the County Archaeologist for any specific archaeological mitigation that may be required. It is considered that an EIA is not required in this instance.

Signed Cathy Fisher  
Cathy Fisher, Biodiversity Officer

Date 16/5/13.

Signed Michael McMahon  
Michael McMahon, Director of Planning and Sustainable Development

Date 17/5/2013

## 5. Appendix A: Photographs



**Photo 1** Garden directly adjoining the existing burial ground to the northwest. Looking east.



**Photo 2** Second garden located to the northwest of the burial ground. The northern boundary (to the left of the image) is to be retained but a wall is to be built to the inside of the hedgerow. Looking east.



**Photo 3** The hedgerow to the east to be retained. A former mass path ran along the inside of this boundary towards the St John's Church. Looking south.