

Project code: KCCG11
Client: Kerry County Council
Date: July 2011

Archaeological Survey of Dysert Burial Ground, Farran, Castleisland, County Kerry

Surveyors: Ann Frykler & Robert Hanbidge
Report Author: Robert Hanbidge

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SUMMARY

Townland:	Farran (ED Castleisland)
Parish:	Castleisland
Barony:	Trughanacmy
Local name of graveyard:	Dysert Burial Ground
NGR:	98491/107845
RMP No.:	KE039-086
No. of named tombs:	4
No. of unnamed tombs:	12
No. of lintelled graves:	0
No. of named headstones and plots:	39
No. of unnamed headstones and plots:	3
No. of named gravemarkers:	3
No. of unnamed gravemarkers:	21
No of miscellaneous items:	1

1 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological survey conducted at Dysert Burial Ground, Farran, Castleisland, Co. Kerry (NGR: 98491/107845) (Figure 1). The work was undertaken on behalf of Kerry County Council, in accordance with survey specifications provided by the client.

The report comprises a detailed survey including boundaries, location of paths and desire lines, gravemarkers, tombs, architectural fragments, remains of churches or buildings, dangerous areas of ground collapse and a photographic survey of headstones and gravemarkers linked back to survey drawings. Also included are written descriptions of buildings, cross-slabs and early enclosures; statements on the condition of buildings; suggested suitable/necessary remedial action that may be needed to secure these structures; breaches of the boundary walls, open or collapsed tombs and the condition of paths and entrance gates. A photographic survey of damaged and dangerous structures or features is also included.

2 SITE DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

Dysert (Farran) Graveyard (Plate 1) is located within the townland of Farran, Co. Kerry, situated approximately 2 km southwest of Castleisland and approximately 6.4 km northeast of Farranfore (Figure 1). It is overlooked to the north by the Stack and Glanaruddery Mountains (approximately 6.7 km to the north). The graveyard fronts directly onto the N23 main road and is situated approximately 170 m to the west of an unnamed tributary of the River Maine. Notable structures within the vicinity of the site include a number of recent dwellings which are located immediately to the northeast and north of this graveyard.

The graveyard is located on a relatively level area and is sheltered from the prevailing winds by the surrounding tree cover. The graveyard is recorded in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) as KE039-086001, and contains the ruinous remains of a church listed as KE039-086. Outside the boundaries of the graveyard, nine other recorded features are present; an ecclesiastical enclosure (KE039-140) five huts (KE039086001-005), souterrain (KE039-141) a second enclosure (KE039-142) and second souterrain (KE039-142001). All the monuments are located within the townland of Farran and may be associated with either ecclesiastical activity or earlier activity within the surrounding area.

Overall the burial ground is in very poor condition, with access to the graveyard hazardous. There is no car parking facilities for visitors to the graveyard, with a wide verge located some 20 m to the north of the graveyard at a busy road junction providing the official area to park. In addition the N23 is an extremely busy road with heavy traffic passing by the graveyard entrance. This is compounded by the location of the graveyard entrance, which is positioned on a slight bend on the N23 and restricts the visibility of oncoming traffic from the graveyard entrance. There is no suitable hard shoulder or grass verge on which to safely walk to the graveyard from the impermanent car parking area. A short roadside verge to the northwest of the graveyard has more advanced views of oncoming traffic and is thus a safer option for pedestrians. There is no verge to the southeast and this area is especially dangerous to pedestrians as the road narrows, diminishing the view of oncoming traffic. It also results in traffic passing very close to the graveyard wall.

In the interior of the graveyard it appears that the area was subjected to a broadcast application of a concentrated herbicide, as much of the grass cover has been killed leaving the soil exposed. This has led to a loss of soil structure and has resulted in much of the graveyards grounds appearing a dead brown colour. The ground surface has been partially recolonized by weed growth which has been unmanaged since the initial spraying of the graveyard. The graveyard surface itself is quite uneven and undulated. The boundaries of the graveyard are also in poor condition and demonstrate the effects of the broadcast application of herbicides, with much of the lichen growth to the stonework having died and begun to peel away. The walls are also in poor condition with areas of collapse occurring around the graveyard. Judging by the different styles of masonry, it appears that the boundary was constructed in two different episodes with the junction located roughly midway along the southern and northern boundaries. There are some large areas of overgrowth where trees have been allowed to grow unrestricted and now cover many of the burials, thus limiting access. Generally, much of the graveyard is litter free; however some fly-tipping has taken place in the south-eastern corner of the graveyard where there is also some accumulation of plant debris and other graveyard rubbish.

Only a low section of the church wall survives in the interior and is in poor condition. Of the tombs, the majority are also in poor condition with small areas of collapse and breaches to the walls evident. Generally the headstones appear in reasonable condition with recent additions of newer graves situated in the north-eastern corner of the graveyard.

The oldest grave recorded within the graveyard bore a headstone date of 1788 and belongs to Laurence Hickey (Grave No. 42).

3 METHODOLOGY

The site survey was carried out on 19th May 2011 by a team of two surveyors.

An electronic survey was conducted on the Irish National Grid using a Trimble GPS & GLONASS R6 base and rover. The GPS was supplemented with a Leica TCR407 Total Station and Panasonic Toughbook Rugged Tablet PC with Penmap software when necessary due to tree cover and any resulting loss in GPS signal. All grave plots, gravemarkers, headstones and tombs were surveyed in plan as were any structural remains, boundary walls, openings, paths and desire lines. Finished survey files were exported to AutoCAD where final edits were carried out. A digital copy of the drawings is provided on DVD (Appendix 5).

Individual graves and/or associated markers or headstones were assigned a unique grave number on the digital survey whether the latter was being carried out using GPS or with a Total Station and Panasonic Toughbook. This unique grave number is also used to identify the individual graves within the database (see below).

The photographic elements of the survey were accomplished using a Canon Power Shot A650 IS digital camera. The camera was set to assign a consecutive sequence of unique photo numbers throughout the survey. These numbers were cross-referenced with unique database entries and in a hard copy photo register. The photographic survey encompassed all extant structures/remains, boundaries, entrance gates, damaged/dangerous structures or features as well as individual graves and grave furniture. All photographs are provided on DVD (Appendix 5).

All descriptive data relating to the survey was entered into a custom-designed Microsoft Access relational database, which comprises of four linked tables. One table relates to the graveyard, one to the individual graves within it and one to all other significant features surveyed within that graveyard; the final table is a register of all photographs. The database allows all relevant information for the graveyard (and its internal features) to be linked together; entries can also be queried by item type e.g. named and unnamed, tombs, headstone, gravemarker, miscellaneous etc. Appendices have been generated automatically from the database using filtered reports.

The descriptions throughout the database and within this report were compiled using standard National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) terminology and methodology where suitable, with guidelines and techniques from other established UK and Irish government sources being respected throughout (RCHME 1996; DEHLG 2001; RCAHMS 2004; EH 2004 and 2006; NIAH 2006). In addition, terminology and methodology was cross referenced to standard texts of buildings archaeology and architectural history (Robertson 1990; Curl 1999; Morris 2000).

4 THE RESULTS

4.1 *Boundaries*

The boundary walls surrounding the graveyard to the west are of random roughly dressed mortared rubble stone with rubble stone coping (Plates 1 and 2). However in the eastern section the masonry changes to courses consisting of dressed rubblestone walls with rubblestone coping (Plates 3, 4 and 5). A recess to the south of the entrance within the western boundary accommodates a tomb (Grave No. 8) (Plate No. 6).

Generally the walls are in fair to poor condition and are in immediate need of repointing. There are notable areas of repair work which do not match the historic fabric of the wall, and these are especially evident in the western boundary where rendering has been used to fill a small breach in the external surface of this boundary. There are parts of the wall where inappropriate rendering containing large aggregates has been applied to the coping (Plate 1) which also detracts from the historic character of the graveyard. The northern and eastern walls of a three-bay single storey ancillary building to the south of the graveyard (Miscellaneous No. 02) are integrated into the boundary of the graveyard, with a slight southerly projection to the southeast corner (Plate 7) to the east of this ancillary building. Numerous areas of collapse are visible at the boundaries with some large areas of collapse present in the eastern section of the northern boundary wall. In one case a piece of a wrought-iron railing from one of the plots has been used to partially block the breach in the wall (Plate 5). Occasional sections of coping are also missing throughout the boundaries. The wall in the south-eastern corner is in especially poor condition and in need of repair as it is cracked and leaning outwards. The eastern wall is partially overgrown with ivy, while there are frequent patches of overgrowth on all the other boundaries.

During the duration of this survey, it was observed that the walls have been subjected to broadcast spraying of herbicides. This has not only had a detrimental effect to the chemical composition of the masonry (limestone) and mortars, but it is also causing the distinctive pale lichens which grow on the stone to die and peel away. Such concentrated amounts of herbicides pose a serious health risk and threat to the environment.

Recommendations

Remove any inappropriate rendering on the graveyard wall and prevent further disturbance to the walls by preventing the opening of any new graves next to the wall. The road side elevations are coated with dirt thrown up by passing traffic. A suitable wash of the boundaries would rejuvenate the appearance of the graveyard and would aid in preparing a clean surface for the bonding of the repointed mortar to the masonry.

The spraying or broadcast application of herbicides on the paths must be avoided. Spot-spraying can be used to control noxious weeds but the cheapest and most wildlife-friendly solution is to clip any rambling weeds such as brambles, ivy, etc. The "Guidance for the Care Conservation and Recording of Historic Graveyards" issued by the Heritage Council (2010) states that the:

"Spraying of herbicides to control weeds or grass is very undesirable as it kills native plants and the insects that live on them and may poison birds and animals that either come in contact with the chemicals or eat seeds and insects that have been sprayed. These chemicals can also cause pollution of streams by being washed into nearby

*drains,
As most historic graveyards are relatively small in area it is
usually feasible to use more environmentally-friendly plant
control methods such as hoeing or digging or pouring on
boiling water. Boiling water should not be used on or
very close to graves or headstones."*

The repointing and restoration of areas of wall collapse should be undertaken.

Any re-pointing of the walls should be carried out using the correct (lime) mortars with flush or recessed pointing which are sympathetic to the historic character of the graveyard. Ribbon pointing must be avoided as its use would damage the walls historic character.

4.2 Entrance

Access to the graveyard is extremely hazardous. Since the graveyard fronts directly on to a main road and is sited on a bend, the visibility of oncoming traffic is restricted (Plates 1 and 8). There is no substantial hard shoulder or verge to provide an adequate or sufficient safe area to walk along the road to the graveyard. Parking facilities are very limited with only a wide verge located approximately 20 m to the northwest of the graveyard at the road junction available. On entering the graveyard, there is little space to stand in away from passing traffic while opening and closing the gate.

The primary entrance consists of a pair of roughly dressed limestone block square-profile piers which are located in the western boundary and are surmounted by roughly dressed flagstone capping supporting a single-leaf wrought-iron gate.

The piers survive in fair condition, however they are in need of repointing. There is also notable damage to the flagstone capping with the stone cap of the northern pier appearing to be loose and in danger of been hit by oncoming traffic. The gate survives in good condition and only has surface rust.

The second method of entry consists of a historic stile which is located immediately to the northeast of the main entrance. This is comprised of projecting flagstones protruding from the wall of both the southeast and northwest elevations, forming form steps to provide access over the wall (Plates 8 & 9). Due to the extremely hazardous conditions caused by oncoming traffic, this method of entry is unused.

Recommendations

The provision of a suitable and adequate car parking facility would be advantageous for attracting visitors to the graveyard. The establishment of a suitable path to provide safe access to the graveyard along with a possible speed restriction would improve safety for those entering and leaving the graveyard. Rumble strips and adequate signage along with other measures would be a suitable method of informing drivers of the potential hazards and of potential pedestrians walking on the road. If this is not possible, the establishment of a new entrance to the graveyard to the north would provide a safer alternative for access.

Cleaning of the entrance will rejuvenate the appearance of the graveyard as would the application of a rustic inhibitor and paint to the entrance gate.

Repointing of the gate piers and the re-bedding of the capstones will secure the pillars.

Any re-pointing of the walls should be carried out using the correct (lime) mortars with flush or recessed pointing which are sympathetic to the historic character of the graveyard. Ribbon pointing must be avoided as its use would damage the walls historic character.

4.3 Pathways

A gravel path commences in the interior of the graveyard entrance and partially extends around the graveyard to the north and northeast (Plate 11). A worn dirt path extends south-eastwards from the entrance around the hawthorn tree located immediately to the east of the entrance.

The gravel path is in poor condition with much of the gravel eroded away. Weed growth has also been allowed to penetrate through the gravel which has accelerated the erosion of the path.

Recommendations

Clear the existing gravel path of weeds and replenish with new gravel. Extend the present gravel path over the existing dirt pathway to lead around the church ruins and into the southern area of the graveyard.

Spraying or broadcast application of herbicides on the paths must be avoided. Spot-spraying can be used to control noxious weeds but the cheapest and most environmentally-friendly solution is to clip any rambling weeds such as brambles, ivy, etc.

4.4 Desire lines

Due to a lack of visitors, overgrowth and the existence of a gravel path to the north which gives access to the more recent graves, there are no desire lines present. The broadcast spraying of herbicides may also have deterred visitors from straying off the gravel path into the long grass.

4.5 Named Tombs

There are only four named tombs represented at Dysert Graveyard.

The Coghlan family tomb (Grave No. 5) is positioned parallel to the southern wall of the church and uses part of the church wall to form one wall of the tomb (Plate 12). The remaining walls of this tomb are more crudely built rubblestone constructions with occasional un-mortared rubblestone used to fill the gaps. A large limestone slab forms the capstone and a headstone is positioned in the western end of the tomb.

The O'Connor family tomb (Grave No. 23) is one of the more elaborate examples of tomb architecture within this graveyard and is positioned to the northeast of Grave No. 5. It is positioned in the general vicinity of where the northern church wall would have been located. This tomb is in good condition, probably owing to its high quality tooled limestone construction (Plate 13).

Located close to the southern boundary of the graveyard, the Carroll Family tomb (Grave No. 13) is in poor condition (Plate 14). Much of the walls survive intact and are constructed from dressed and

tooled limestone blocks. The roof was originally a render hipped design with a large limestone capstone on the top. It appears that this tomb was recently severely overgrown but this vegetation has been removed.

The O'Rourke tomb (Grave No. 8) is an unusual tomb, not for its low design but for its location within a recess of the north-western boundary (Plates 1, 6, 8 and 15). The tomb does not occupy a perpendicular angle in the boundary and thus its north-western corner abuts the interior of the boundary wall. A short section of rubblestone walling fills the sides of the gap between the tomb's south-western corner and the boundary, thus effectively maintaining the external boundary. The rubblestone coping is continued across the western end of this tomb. The tomb is in good condition owing to the relatively recent restoration works which have been applied to the exterior. The original capstone survives at the top of the tomb and is inscribed, though weathering has made it virtually illegible.

Recommendations

A sign in the graveyard interior erected by the Water Services Department of Kerry County Council which states that it is intended to seal the tombs within the graveyard is welcome, given the poor condition of some of these features. However, such works should use the necessary skills and materials which are both sympathetic to and complement the historic character of the tombs and the graveyard. Since the majority of these tombs date to the early nineteenth century, the mass use of Portland type cements should be avoided as this will have a detrimental effect on the historic character of the graveyard. Attention should be drawn to the use of historic materials instead of modern materials.

Due to the close proximity of a main road, many of the graves are dark in colour due to road dust and traffic film. Cleaning of the tombs would rejuvenate the graveyard, as would the establishment of a grass covered surface.

4.6 Unnamed Tombs

Twelve unnamed tombs were recorded within Dysert Graveyard. Generally these tombs were of similar construction to the named tombs, although some were of a cruder construction with dressed limestone adding highlights to the roof or capstones e.g. Grave No. 20 (Plate 16).

Of particular interest is Grave No. 10, which is distinguished by its unusual round-headed entrance at the west elevation (Plate 17). This elaborate entrance features a finely crafted arch carved from a single limestone block. Further uncomplicated ornamentation of chamfering both to the arch and surrounds adds further refinement to this tomb. Such an entrance is unusual and the exact origin of this elaborate masonry is interesting, considering the possibility that the masonry may have originated from the church within the graveyard; thus this tomb may be of further architectural importance. The roof of this tomb has collapsed and is represented by a low mound of rubble.

All of the unnamed tombs are in poor condition with many in a ruinous state. Several tombs have large breaches in their walls. As an example Grave No. 20 (Plate 16) has a large breach in the east elevation and has been vandalised, with some human remains having been extracted and partially scattered on the ground to the east of the tomb. Several other tombs have completely collapsed and have been filled with rubble e.g. Grave No. 24 (Plate 18). Other partially underground tombs have had damage to the lintels which has caused some collapse, creating a series safety issues e.g. at Grave No. 49 which is sited at the eastern end of the church wall (Plate 19).

A number of other tombs are severely overgrown and are now located under unrestricted tree and vegetative growth, making them inaccessible e.g. Grave Nos. 5 and 6.

Recommendations

As it is the intention of the Water Services Department in Kerry County Council to seal the tombs within the graveyard, these unnamed tombs should be prioritised as they are in particular need of conservation and sealing. However considering the potential architectural importance of some of the masonry on the several tombs which may contain robbed out material from the medieval church, any such work on these tombs should focus on maintaining the same historic masonry characteristics. Mass use of modern Portland type cement to seal these tombs would not be compatible with the historic character of the tombs and graveyard and would detract from the visual appeal of such a historic place.

Restoration works to the collapsed tombs will require further investigation. It is highly unlikely that it will be possible to clear out the rubble from these in filled tombs, as this would require archaeological supervision due to the disturbed/crushed human remains that would be uncovered. The laying of a protective geotextile and the construction of a low rectangular structure to cap the tomb would be one suitable remedy if a stable foundation can be laid to maintain the tomb.

4.7 *Named Headstones and Plots*

There are 39 named headstones and plots within Dysert Graveyard. The majority of these are in good condition and mostly date to the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The oldest inscribed headstone carries a date of 1788 and belongs to Grave No. 42 (Plate 20), commemorating Laurence Hickey. Unfortunately this grave is situated beneath excessive tree growth and is partially inaccessible.

There is great variety in the design of headstones and plots within Dysert Graveyard with many consisting of simple inscribed limestone plaques while others are more elaborate examples such as High Crosses with tooled limestone block plinths e.g. Grave No. 15 (Plate 21). More elaborate detailing such as wrought-iron railing and decorative cast-iron railings surrounding other plots e.g. Grave No. 59 (Plate 22) also make a significant contribution to the historic appeal of the graveyard.

Several headstones have become partially illegible, while others have subsided and may collapse unless they are re-erected on more solid foundations. Some of the plots although structurally stable, are overgrown with weeds.

Recommendations

Clearing excessive tree growth would improve access to the graves. The clearing of excessive overgrowth and weeds along with the establishment of grass will improve the visual appearance of the graveyard and improve access to the graves.

Any leaning headstones or loose plinth blocks should be reset in place.

Areas of collapse or deep depressions within the plots should be filled with topsoil to create a level stable surface.

An application of a suitable rust inhibitor and fresh coat of paint should be applied to all the wrought and cast-iron railings of the various plots to prolong their life.

4.8 *Unnamed Headstones and Plots*

In contrast there only 3 unnamed or illegible headstones and plots (Grave No's; 3, 7 and 41) were present during the survey of Dysert Graveyard. Grave No. 3 was located in the north-western corner of the graveyard and was partially hidden by the presence of a large tree. It is likely that all three of these graves were originally inscribed, however due to weathering or collapse they are now illegible. This is supported by Grave No. 41 which bears a date of 1799, though the rest of the inscription is illegible (Plate 23). The collapsed headstone of Grave No. 7 may be inscribed on its downward facing side.

Recommendations

Remove excessive overgrowth. This would allow for increased access to the headstones and would also reduce the likelihood of the headstones being further disturbed by tree or root activity.

The collapsed headstone of Grave No. 7 should be re-erected which may uncover the inscription.

4.9 *Named Gravemarkers*

Three named gravemarkers (Grave Nos. 4, 33 and 53) are present within Dysert Graveyard. These gravemarkers are simple in form. However all of these named gravemarkers are located below or close to an area of tree overgrowth.

The first named gravemarker, Grave No. 4, is located on the eastern side of an unnamed tomb (Grave No. 6) and consists of a simple plaque nailed to a wooden peg (Plate 24).

Grave No. 33 was a similar named plaque, however the provenance for this grave marker is unknown as the plaque is unsecured and loose. The plaque commemorates Mary Lenihan and may have originated from elsewhere within the graveyard (Plate 25). Its current location is on top of a collapsed tomb (Grave No. 35) and it seems unlikely that this tomb is the burial place of this person, although this is mere speculation. No other Lenihan graves were recorded within the graveyard.

The final named gravemarker at Grave No. 53 is a more unusual example of an iron cross, as it consists of cast-iron. No other complete or similar forms of this cross were recorded during the project. It appears to have undergone some restoration, as is evident by the presence of rendering to the plinth block from which this gravemarker is situated. This gravemarker is in good condition with only some surface rust present (Plate 26).

Recommendations

Management of the trees present within the graveyard would improve access to these gravemarkers for graveyard visitors.

Efforts should be made to locate the burial place associated with the disturbed grave plaque that represents the burial place of Mary Lenihan (Grave No. 33).

An application of a rust inhibitor to the unique cast-iron cross that marks Grave No. 53 will ensure that the life of the gravemarker is prolonged and that the inscription remains legible.

4.10 *Unnamed Gravemarkers*

In total 21 unnamed gravemarkers were recorded in this survey of Dysert Graveyard. The majority tended to be concentrated in the eastern area of the graveyard and usually consisted of simple locally sourced stone which was placed in an upright position, e.g. Grave No. 65 (Plate 27). During the duration of this survey, much of the eastern area of the graveyard was overgrown with weeds and there is a possibility that more unnamed gravemarkers do exist which were not visible during this survey. It also must be noted that in the very south-eastern corner of the graveyard there are some areas of what appears to be bedrock breaking through the ground surface.

4.11 *Church Ruins*

The remains of two structures are present within the graveyard, one of which consists of the ruinous remains of the church (only two walls survive), the second is of an associated three-bay single storey building to the southeast of the graveyard.

Located to the northwest of the central area of the graveyard are two low surviving portions of the walls of a church, the east and south elevations (Plate 28, 29 and 30). The church ruin is listed in the RMP as KE039-086 and is depicted on the OS First Edition 6 Inch Map Sheet 039 (1846) and on the OS Second Edition map Sheet 039-12 (1893) as a rectangular building described as 'in ruins'. The surviving portions of the walls survive to a maximum height of 1 m and are very weathered. They consist of roughly dressed rubble limestone walls with a lime and aggregate mortar. The largest section of surviving wall is the eastern elevation. Only a low portion (10 cm high) of the southern elevation is partially visible and this is heavily impacted on as a result of the presence of tombs (Grave Nos. 5 and 49). It is most likely that the majority of the stone work within the church walls has been robbed out to aid in the construction of the surrounding tombs and graves.

Recommendations

Measures should be taken to secure the existing church ruin from further collapse or disturbance; this could primarily be achieved through the control and management of the attached vegetation. The church ruin is in need of immediate conservation work. Such work would involve the re-pointing of the walls using correct (lime) mortars with flush or recessed pointing. Ribbon pointing must be avoided as its use would damage the structure's historic character.

Any conservation works on the church ruin should take into account that the walls also form vital components of a number of associated tombs and graves, and care should be taken not to disturb these.

The low form of much of the surviving portions of the walls of the church ruin also causes a significant trip hazard. Any conservation works should address this concern and use appropriate action to ensure that the wall is made stable. Suitable signs should inform the public of this hazard which should also aid in reducing the risks involved.

4.12 *Miscellaneous items*

Miscellaneous No. 02: Located in the south-eastern portion of the graveyard and orientated on a north/south axis is a three-bay single-storey former house. This house, now in a much ruinous condition forms an integral part of the graveyard, as the external elevations to the east and north form part of the graveyard's boundary walls (Plates 31, 32 and 33). The house walls consist of mortared roughly dressed rubblestone and it originally had a pitched roof, (the gables survive). The ruin is in reasonable condition with the only collapse occurring at the northern gable where the site of a possible window has been enlarged or a breach has been created to allow access (over a mound of rubble) to the interior. Internally, the building is overgrown with trees. Square-headed window openings flank a central square-headed door opening on the west elevation. Examination of the OS First Edition 6 Inch Map Sheet 039 (1846) depicts the entrance to this building in the west (now overgrown and completely inaccessible) while to the east was the site of another smaller structure, possibly an outbuilding, the site of which now forms part of the graveyard. Examination of the OS Second Edition map Sheet 039-12 (1893), indicates that this smaller possible outbuilding was no longer extant at this time and the graveyard had been extended to occupy its site.

Recommendations

Measures should be taken to secure the existing ruin from further collapse or disturbance. This could primarily be achieved through the control, management and removal of both the attached vegetation and the management of the trees in the internal and external areas which currently have a negative impact on this structure.

Conservation works should be carried out to secure the masonry work as the building is of importance considering its age and the function it plays within the boundaries of the graveyard. Such work would involve the re-pointing of the walls using correct (lime) mortars with flush or recessed pointing. Ribbon pointing must be avoided as its use would damage the structure's historic character. The structural stability of the building needs to be frequently monitored due to the nature of the site, which is in close proximity to a wooded area. Efforts should be made to discourage people from climbing through the breach in the north elevation of the associated building to the southeast.

Any such ground works should take into account the possibility of the uncovering of unmarked graves or disarticulated human remains outside the graveyard boundary. It is well documented that those who were not baptised, children which were born dead or even criminals were not permitted to be buried within the graveyard, and were often buried outside the graveyard boundary.

5 SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE MANAGEMENT/ CONSERVATION

The following recommendations are made in relation to the on-going and future management and conservation of the graveyard at Dysert (Farran) Graveyard:

- Many safety issues have been raised during the survey of this graveyard and mainly centre on access to and from the graveyard. The current entrance is inadequate and dangerous to visitors to the graveyard who have severely reduced visibility of oncoming traffic. The possible restructuring of how the graveyard is accessed and the construction of a new entrance at the northern section of the graveyard would be one possible means of providing a safer area for access.
- The establishment of a car parking facility would encourage visitors to the graveyard and facilitate in creating a safer environment.
- The vegetation growth throughout the burial grounds should be controlled and tended to regularly in order to prevent future degradation and collapse of walls and interior features including tombs, gravemarkers and headstones. This should not be carried out at the expense of the natural habitat that this vegetation provides to local wildlife.
- Restoration works should be carried out on the boundary walls which are in need of repointing. Areas of wall collapse and breaches should be addressed immediately along with the stabilisation of areas which are gradually subsiding.
- Any re-pointing of the walls should be carried out using the correct (lime) mortars with flush or recessed pointing which are sympathetic to the historic character of the graveyard. Ribbon pointing must be avoided as its use would damage the walls historic character.
- The use of broad spectrum weed killers should not be employed during the clearance of vegetation under any circumstances, as these have already had a negative impact on Dysert Graveyard.
- The removal of grass and other deeply rooted vegetation should only be carried out under archaeological supervision in order that the full extent of any concealed burial markers and tombs may be exposed without damaging them.
- Domestic waste materials and rubbish should be removed from the site, and if fly tipping becomes a persistent problem preventative measures should be taken.
- A rust treatment and possibly a fresh coat of paint should be applied to the entrance gate along with the various iron crosses and plot railings to prevent further degradation.
- Clear the existing gravel pathway of weeds and replenish with new gravel. Extend the present gravel path over the existing dirt pathway to lead around the church ruins and into the southern area of the graveyard.
- Clearing excessive tree overgrowth would improve access to the graves. The clearing of excessive overgrowth and weeds will also improve the visual appearance of the graveyard and improve access to the graves.

- Any damaged graves, collapsed or broken headstones, collapsed or damaged tombs should be repaired and re-erected if they have fallen over.
- Efforts should be made to locate the burial place associated with the disturbed grave plaque that represents the burial place of Mary Lenihan (Grave No. 33).
- The establishment of a grass surface in the interior of the graveyard will stabilise the interior of the graveyard and prevent further soil erosion as well as greatly enhancing visual appeal. This should be routinely managed and frequently mown to ensure that all the visible gravemarkers remain accessible.
- The presence of a sign in the interior erected by the Water Services Department in Kerry County Council, stating that it is intended to seal the tombs within the graveyard is welcome given the poor condition of some of these features. However, such works should use the necessary skills and materials which are both sympathetic to and complement the historic character of the tombs and the graveyard. Since the majority of these tombs date to the early nineteenth century, the mass use of Portland type cements will compromise the historic character of the graveyard. Attention should be drawn to the use of historic materials instead of modern materials.
- Restoration works to the collapsed tombs will require further investigation. It is highly unlikely that it will be possible to clear out the rubble from these in filled tombs which would require archaeological work as disturbed/crushed human remains will be uncovered. The laying of a protective geotextile and the construction of a low rectangular structure to cap the tomb would be a suitable remedy if a stable foundation can be laid.
- Measures should be taken to secure the church ruin from further collapse through the control and monitoring of all attached vegetation and the re-pointing of the structure using appropriate (lime) mortars with flush or recessed pointing. Ribbon pointing must be avoided as its use would damage the structures historic character.
- The publication: The care and conservation of graveyards by the office of public works should be consulted prior to the carrying out of any maintenance work on the burial grounds or church.
- An information board presenting historical and archaeological information would make an excellent addition to the site.
- An information board on the possible dangers associated on site.
- Prevention of any more graves within the church and surrounding structures.
- Conservation of the church walls along with the conservation of the ruins of the three-bay single-storey former house.
- Any proposed ground works should be monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist.

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Figure 1. Dysert: Site location map extract with RMP sites.



Figure 2 - Dysert (Farran) Graveyard, Extract from OS 1st Edition 1846, Sheet 039



Figure 3 - Dysert (Farran) Graveyard, Extract from OS 2nd Edition 1893, Sheet 039-12



Figure 4.2 -Archaeological survey plan of Dysert (Farran) Graveyard, 2011.



Plate 1-View of graveyard from northwest



Plate 2-View of southern boundary, from northwest



Plate 3-View of boundary to south-east corner, from north



Plate 4-View of eastern boundary wall from southwest



Plate 5-View of northern boundary wall from southeast



Plate 6-View of recess accommodating Grave No.8, from west



Plate 7-View of east elevation of ancillary building
(Miscellaneous No. 02)



Plate 8-View of entrance from northwest



Plate 9-Interior view of entrance from east



Plate 10-Detail to pier from east



Plate 11-View of path from north



Plate 12-View of tomb (Grave No. 5), from east



Plate 13-View of tomb (Grave No. 23) from northwest



Plate 14-View of tomb (Grave No. 13), from southeast



Plate 15-View of tomb (Grave No. 8) from east



Plate 16-View of Grave No. 20 from east



Plate 17-View of tomb, Grave No. 10, from west

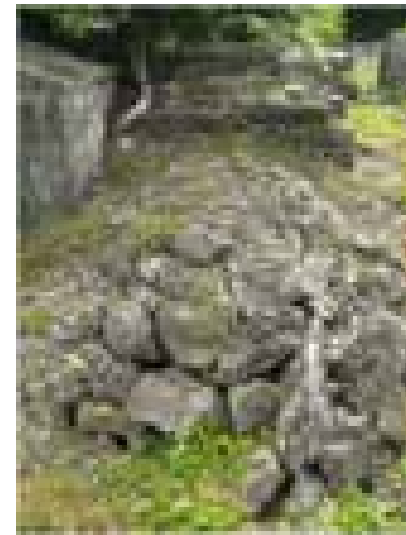


Plate 18-View of collapsed tomb (Grave No. 24), from west)



Plate 19-View of collapse to Grave No. 49, from east



Plate 20-View of Grave No. 42, from east



Plate 21-View of Grave No. 15, from east



Plate 22-View of decorative cast-iron railing to Grave No. 59, from southeast



Plate 23-View of unnamed headstone to Grave No. 41



Plate 24-View of named gravemarker to Grave No.4, from east



Plate 25-View of named plaque representing Grave No. 33, from west

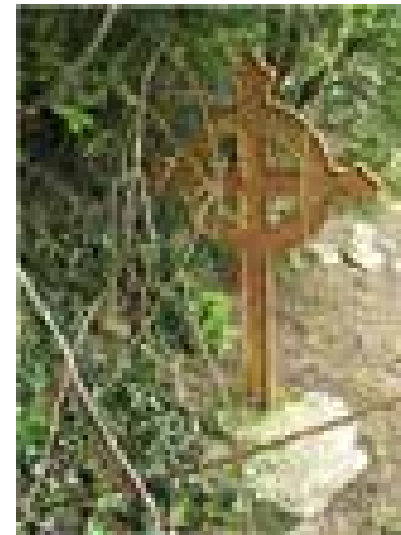


Plate 26-View of Grave No. 53, from east



Plate 27-Exterior view of east elevation of church ruin



Plate 27-View of Grave No 65, from east



Plate 28-Interior view of east elevation of church ruin



Plate 29-Exterior view of south elevation of church ruin



Plate 30-East elevation of associated building




Plate 31-North elevation of associated building





Plate 32-Interior view of west elevation of building


Appendix 1 - Named Graves


Grave_Type	Gravemarker
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Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
4	Drum	IMG_0004
Notes		
Single grave plaque		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
33	Lenihan	IMG_0072
Notes		
Single grave plaque which is unsecured, original location is unknown		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
53	Prendiville	IMG_0098
Notes		
Single cast iron cross		
		


Grave_Type	Headstone	
Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
29	Brosnan	IMG_0067
Notes		
Single headstone		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
18	Casey	IMG_0037
Notes		
Single headstone		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
58	Coffey	IMG_0109
Notes		
Single headstone		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
2	Connor	IMG_0002
Notes		
Single headstone, 1864		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
16	O'Connor	IMG_0035
Notes		
Single headstone		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
42	Hickey	IMG_0082
Notes		
Large headstone in good condition, protected by excessive overgrowth, 1788		
		

Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
51	O'Rourke	IMG_0096
Notes		
Single headstone		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
14	O'Connor	IMG_0030
Notes		
Single headstone		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
9	Prindivill	IMG_0015
Notes		
Headstone from 1812, made by Tobias Vansted		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
45	Prindivill-Taylor	IMG_0088
Notes		
Single headstone 1835		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
17	Reidy	IMG_0036
Notes		
Heavily weathered headstone, becoming illegible, Erected by Ellen Riedy of Boston in memory of Kindred John Reidy died in the year 1890		
		


Grave_Type	Plot
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Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
28	Brosnan	IMG_0065
Notes		
Plot in good condition		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
31	Brosnan	IMG_0069
Notes		
Plot in moderate condition, iron railing is broken to the east		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
43	Brosnan	IMG_0084
Notes		
Plot in moderate condition		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
46	Buckley	IMG_0089
Notes		
Plot in moderate condition		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
61	Coffey	IMG_0115
Notes		
Plot in moderate condition, subsiding		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
15	Casey	IMG_0031
Notes		
Plot in good condition		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
77	Coffey	IMG_0141
Notes		
Plot in good condition		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
19	Casey	IMG_0038
Notes		
Plot in good condition		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
67	Curtin	IMG_0122
Notes		
Plot in good condition		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
44	Dennehy	IMG_0086
Notes		
Plot in good condition		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
74	Flynn	IMG_0136
Notes		
Plot in good condition		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
68	Doody	IMG_0126
Notes		
Plot in good condition		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
75	Greaney	IMG_0138
Notes		
Plot in moderate condition, subsiding, weeds		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
21	Drum	IMG_0046
Notes		
Plot in good condition, subsiding		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
79	Hanafin	IMG_0145
Notes		
Plot in poor condition, plot markers and railings fallen down and headstone fallen over and broken		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
60	Hanafion/O'Connor	IMG_0113
Notes		
Plot in good condition, subsiding		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
78	Hickey	IMG_0143
Notes		
Plot in moderate condition, wrought and cast iron railings are in parts broken, subsiding		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
56	Hickey	IMG_0104
Notes		
Plot in good condition		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
72	Horan	IMG_0132
Notes		
Plot in good condition		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
73	Hickey	IMG_0134
Notes		
Plot in good condition,		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
57	McCarthy/Roche/Kea	IMG_0107
Notes		
Plot in good condition		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
54	Moriarty	IMG_0099
Notes		
Plot in good condition		
		

Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
34	O'Connor	IMG_0073
Notes		
Plot in moderate condition		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
55	Moriarty/Keane	IMG_0101
Notes		
Plot in good condition		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
11	Riordan	IMG_0022
Notes		
Plot in good condition		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
22	O'Connor	IMG_0049
Notes		
Plot in good condition, subsiding		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
59	Walsh	IMG_0110
Notes		
Plot in good condition		
		

Grave_Type	Tomb
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Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
13	Carroll	IMG_0025
Notes		
Tomb in moderate condition, 1823		
		

Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
5	Coghlan	IMG_0005
Notes		
Tomb in moderate condition with headstone		
		

Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
23	O'Connor	IMG_0051
Notes		
Tomb in good condition, 1852		
		

Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
8	O'Rourke	IMG_0010
Notes		
Tomb in good condition, concrete sarcophagus, west elevation part of west graveyard wall		
		

Appendix 2 - Unnamed Graves


Grave_Type	Gravemarker
Grave_No	Notes
12	Single gravemarker
30	Single gravemarker
32	Single wrought iron cross
36	Single gravemarker
37	Single gravemarker
38	Single gravemarker
39	Single gravemarker
40	Single gravemarker
47	Single gravemarker
48	Single gravemarker, base of a large headstone, a carved Re is visible up side down on the eastern elevation
62	Single gravemarker
63	Single gravemarker
64	Single gravemarker
65	Single gravemarker
66	Single gravemarker
69	Single gravemarker
70	Single gravemarker
71	Single gravemarker
80	Single gravemarker
81	Single gravemarker
82	Single gravemarker


Grave_Type	Headstone
Grave_No	Notes
3	Large headstone
7	Fallen over headstone, face facing down, illegible
41	Heavily weathered headstone, 1799

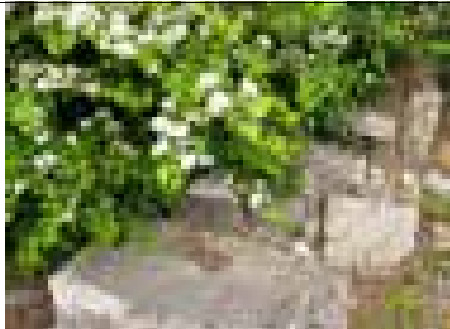
Grave_Type	Tomb
Grave_No	Notes
1	Tomb in poor condition, roof collapsed due to big tree/bush growing in it

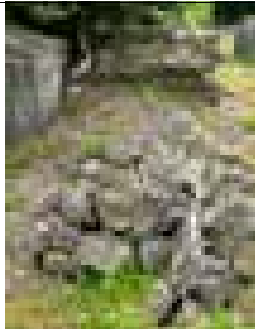
6	Tomb in moderate condition, heavily overgrown
6	Tomb in moderate condition, heavily overgrown
10	Tomb in good condition, an abundance of architectural fragments, probably from the old church are visible in the tombs structure, primarily the entrance to the tomb with a rounded vault
10	Tomb in good condition, an abundance of architectural fragments, probably from the old church are visible in the tombs structure, primarily the entrance to the tomb with a rounded vault
10	Tomb in good condition, an abundance of architectural fragments, probably from the old church are visible in the tombs structure, primarily the entrance to the tomb with a rounded vault
10	Tomb in good condition, an abundance of architectural fragments, probably from the old church are visible in the tombs structure, primarily the entrance to the tomb with a rounded vault
10	Tomb in good condition, an abundance of architectural fragments, probably from the old church are visible in the tombs structure, primarily the entrance to the tomb with a rounded vault
20	Tomb in moderate condition. Entrance has collapsed and human remains are clearly visible inside tomb, a skull fragment is also located just outside the tomb,
20	Tomb in moderate condition. Entrance has collapsed and human remains are clearly visible inside tomb, a skull fragment is also located just outside the tomb,
20	Tomb in moderate condition. Entrance has collapsed and human remains are clearly visible inside tomb, a skull fragment is also located just outside the tomb,
20	Tomb in moderate condition. Entrance has collapsed and human remains are clearly visible inside tomb, a skull fragment is also located just outside the tomb,
20	Tomb in moderate condition. Entrance has collapsed and human remains are clearly visible inside tomb, a skull fragment is also located just outside the tomb,
24	Low collapsed tomb
25	Tomb in moderate condition, partly overgrown
25	Tomb in moderate condition, partly overgrown
25	Tomb in moderate condition, partly overgrown
25	Tomb in moderate condition, partly overgrown
26	Tomb in moderate condition, roof is crumbling
26	Tomb in moderate condition, roof is crumbling
26	Tomb in moderate condition, roof is crumbling
26	Tomb in moderate condition, roof is crumbling
27	Collapsed tomb
35	Collapsed tomb
49	Tomb in poor condition, collapsed
50	Overgrown tomb in moderate condition
52	Overgrown tomb in moderate condition


Appendix 3 - Unnamed Tombs


Grave_No		Photo_Name
1		IMG_0001
Notes		
Tomb in poor condition, roof collapsed due to big tree/bush growing in it		
		


Grave_No		Photo_Name
20		IMG_0040
Notes		
Tomb in moderate condition. Entrance has collapsed and human remains are clearly visible inside tomb, a skull fragment is also located just outside the tomb,		
		


Grave_No		Photo_Name
6		IMG_0007
Notes		
Tomb in moderate condition, heavily overgrown		
		


Grave_No		Photo_Name
24		IMG_0055
Notes		
Low collapsed tomb		
		


Grave_No		Photo_Name
10		IMG_0017
Notes		
An abundance of architectural fragments, probably from the old church, primarily the entrance to the tomb has round-headed opening		
		


Grave_No		Photo_Name
25		IMG_0056
Notes		
Tomb in moderate condition, partly overgrown		
		

Grave_No		Photo_Name
26		IMG_0060
Notes		
Tomb in moderate condition, roof is crumbling		
		

Grave_No		Photo_Name
50		IMG_0095
Notes		
Overgrown tomb in moderate condition		
		

Grave_No		Photo_Name
27		IMG_0064
Notes		
Collapsed tomb		
		

Grave_No		Photo_Name
52		IMG_0097
Notes		
Overgrown tomb in moderate condition		
		

Grave_No		Photo_Name
49		IMG_0094
Notes		
Tomb in poor condition, collapsed		
		

Appendix 4 - Miscellaneous Items

Type	Building
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Misc Item No	Photo Name
2	IMG_0175
Notes	
Remains of building partly inside graveyard	



Misc Item No	Photo Name
1	IMG_0170
Notes	
Remains of church wall	

