

Archaeological Survey,  
Freemount Graveyard,  
Co. Kerry.



September 2012

Client: The Heritage Office,  
Kerry County Council,  
County Buildings,  
Ratass,  
Tralee,  
Co. Kerry.

RMP No.: KE023-010

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**Townland:** Freemount

**Parish:** Kilcummin, (Civil)

**Barony:** Magunihy

**Local name of graveyard:** Knockacappul

**ITM Co-ords:** E512521, N592423

**RMP No.:** KE068-003

**No. of named headstones:** 53

**No. of unnamed, unhewn gravemarkers:** 98

# 1. Introduction

Freemount graveyard was surveyed using a Magellan ProMark 3 Rover and Base station and presented in Irish Transverse Mercator (ITM). The GPS graveyard survey datasets were exported using Hangle software from GPS Ireland and then exported into AutoCAD and finished using Adobe Illustrator. Reference numbers mentioned in the main body of the report relate to the ID point given when the survey was undertaken (see A3 plan, Figure 2 below). A digital photographic record and surname database was also compiled to complement the cartographic survey (see Appendices). Digital photographs of all the features within the graveyard are referenced in the appendix and all photographs are included on the attached disc.

The survey was undertaken with due regard to:

- Conservation principles as produced by ICOMOS in the Venice and Burra Charters
- The publication in 2004 of the Architectural Heritage Protection-Guidelines for Planners by the DoEHLG, (now DAHG)
- The heritage objectives as outlined and adopted in the current Kerry County Council Development Plan 2009-2015, Built Heritage (Chapter 10)

The Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe was signed at the Granada Convention in 1985 and ratified by Ireland in 1997. The conservation aims as stated in the Burra Charter are for the retention or restoration of historical significance with the minimum of physical intervention and that such intervention work be reversible, maintain the structure's character and setting and that all conservation works should be undertaken following comprehensive research.

An information booklet on care and maintenance for tombs should be compiled and supplied to the relevant parish church.

All of these graveyards are recorded monuments protected under the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994 and under the jurisdiction of Kerry County Council. All proposed works should be carried out by experience competent personnel under expert archaeological / architectural guidance and supervision. As these sites are recorded monuments conservation and restoration works can only be carried out under license from the National Monuments Service of the Dept. of Environment, Heritage and Local Gov.

## 2. Site Location

Freemount graveyard is situated in the townland of the same name a short distance north of the N72 mid way between Barraduff and Rathmore (Figure 1).

## 3. General

In 1841 John O'Donovan inspected Freemount graveyard and records that there was no sign of Knockacappul church at that time. Curiously, Knockacappul is the name of the adjoining townland-the boundary of which runs beside the graveyard. (Figure 1). There is no account of the earlier church and the name Knockacappul does not appear in the ecclesiastical taxation lists. Similarly, Freemount is possibly an 18th century name from Humphry Moynehan who was known as 'Phry'-phonetically 'Free'who built a house there in 1751 (Bary 1994, 119).

The graveyard at Freemount is little used or visited today and is generally neglected (Plate 1).

## 4. Approach and parking

Freemount is approached from a third class road north from the N72. The graveyard is situated on a right angle bend immediately beside a train level crossing with no carparking provided or available (Plate 2 & Figure 2).

## 5. Entrance

The entrance into the graveyard is situated at the extreme north-west limits of the graveyard (Figure 2). Entrance is gained via an iron gate in good order set between two square, squat, rubblestone capped piers built to courses. A stepped-squeeze stile abuts the right-hand or northern pier as you enter (Plate 3). The interior of Freemount is substantially higher than the exterior roadside level.

## 5.1 Recommendations

No recommendations necessary

## 6. Services & Signage

There are no water or waste collection services provided .

### 6.1 Recommendations

Water and waste collection should be provided.

## 7. Boundaries

The sub-square graveyard has a distinct swerve along its north-east limits. It is enclosed by a high rubble stone cement capped wall along its entire limits in good order (Plates 2-3). However, on the interior the boundary wall barely rises above 0.50m (Plate 1).

### 7.1 Recommendations

No recommendations necessary.

## 8. Pathways

There is only a single informal grassy pathway the extends into the interior of the graveyard from the gate (Figure 2).

There are no other paths or desire lines in the interior which is bumpy, irregular and poorly kept.

### 8.1 Recommendations

The grass in the interior should be kept low.

## 9. Named Headstones

There are fifty-three (53) recorded named headstones in total at Freemount of which only 14 have formal grave settings around them. Otherwise there is no apparent formality to the graveyard whatsoever. The earliest headstone recorded in Freemount records the death of J. Moynihan who died in 1898, (Plate 4 & Appendix 1).

### 9.1 Recommendations

No recommendations necessary

## 10. Unnamed, unhewn, Gravemarkers

There are ninety-eight unhewn, unnamed gravemarkers in Freemount. These unnamed gravemarkers are denoted on the plan of the graveyard as blue triangles (Figure 2).

### 10.1 Recommendations

The grass in Freemount should be kept low around all of the gravemarkers.

## 11. Summary of recommendations for future management/conservation of Freemount church & graveyard

- Keep the grass cut low. The graveyard is neglected, however the regular cutting of grass would improve it considerably.

### **Note on Recommendations**

**All recommendations as set out above are recommendations only based on visual site fieldwork undertaken by the writer. No invasive or other intervention work was undertaken in the course of producing this report. Access into the surviving church tower was not possible as the entrance was boarded up. Ultimately, no responsibility will be accepted by the writer with regard to the undertaking of the conservation work as recommended in this report and based only on visual inspection. The ultimate decision on recommendations etc rests with Kerry County Council and the National Monuments Service of the Dept. of Environment Heritage and Local Government.**



## 12. References

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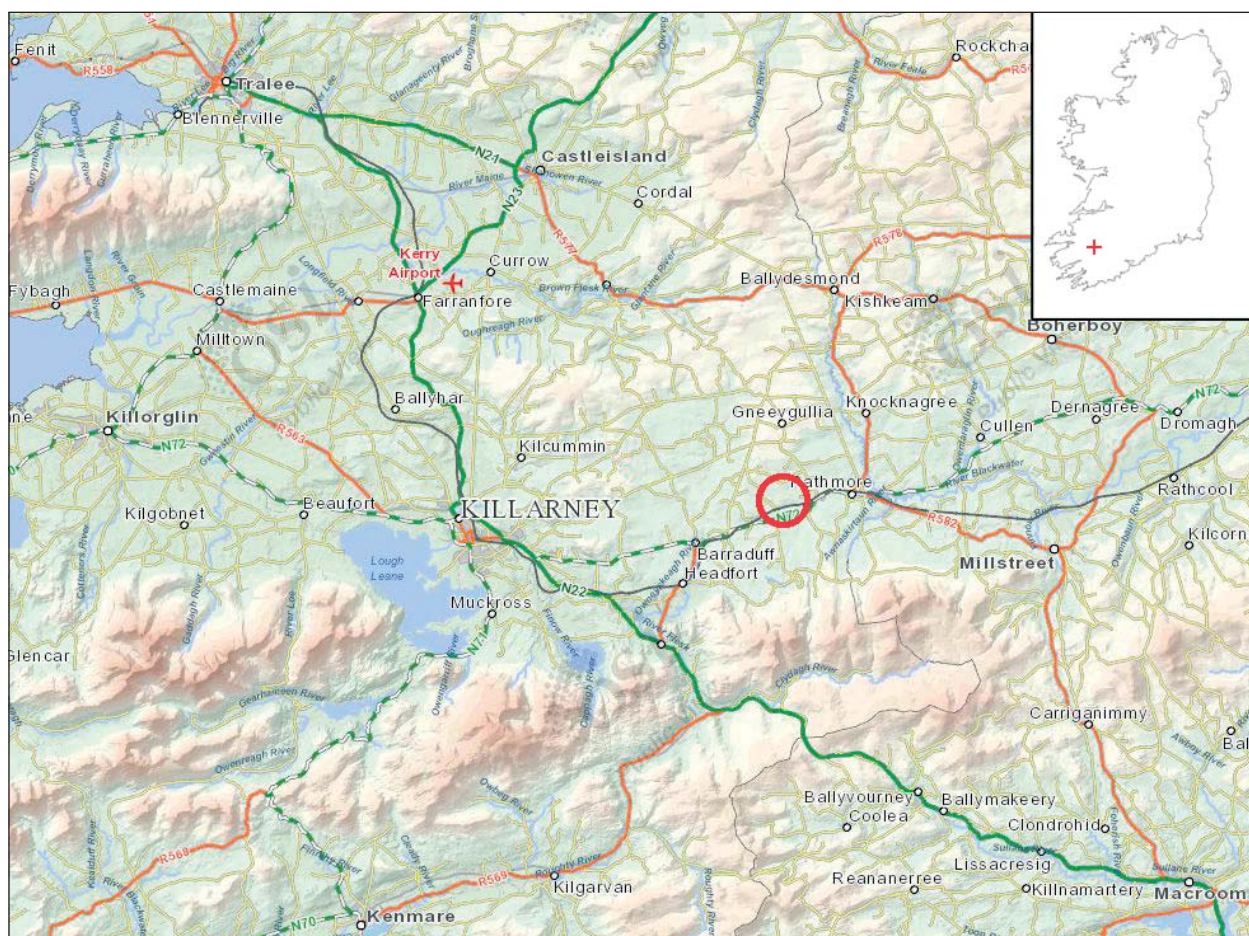
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## 13. Figures



**Figure 1:** Site location map. Extract from OSI online mapping. Freemount Graveyard encircled.

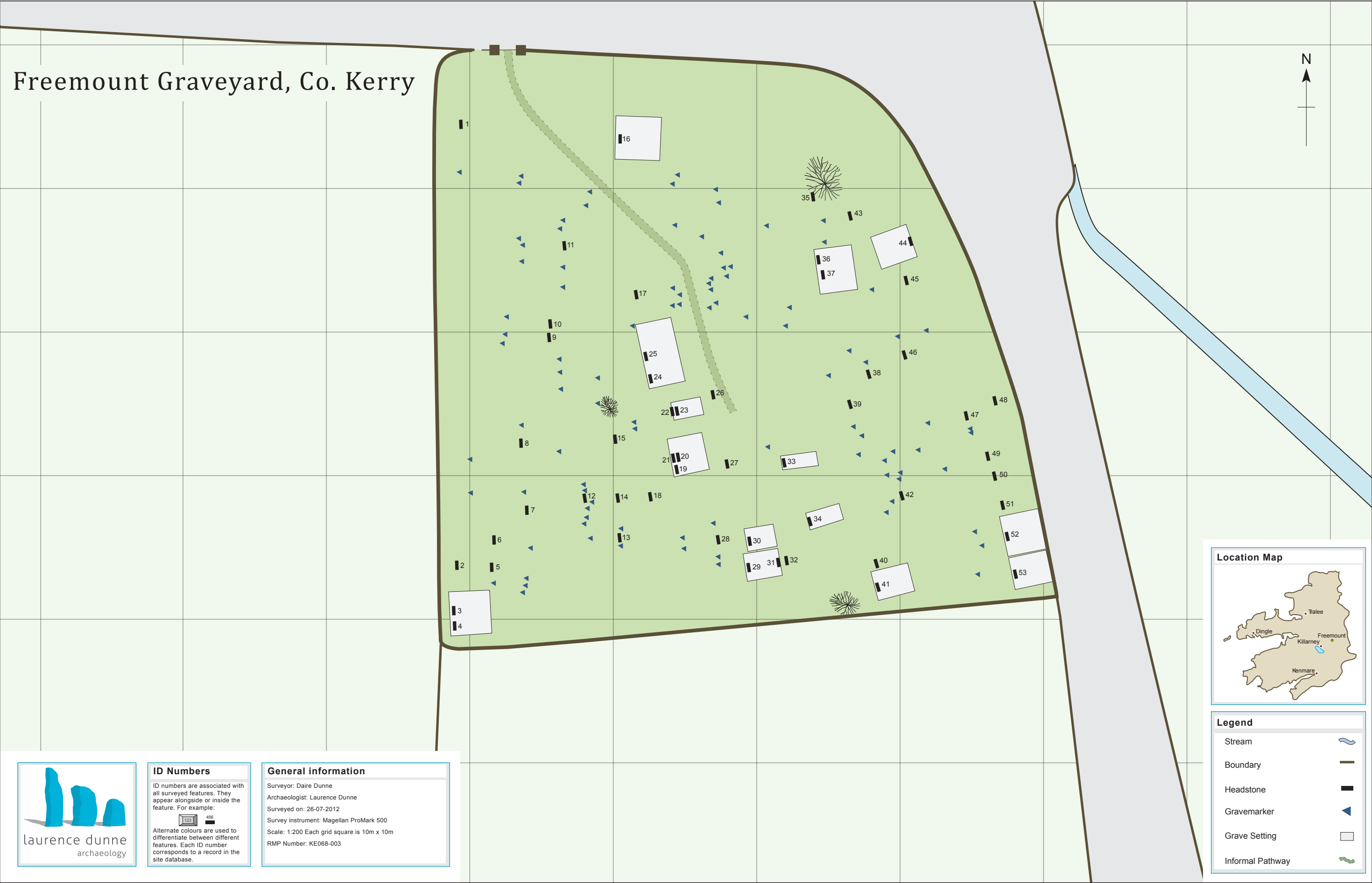


Figure 2: Archaeological survey plan of Freemount Graveyard.



## 14. Plates



**Plate 1:** View of interior north-eastern limits of Freemount Graveyard from south-east. Note neglected state of interior.



**Plate 2:** View from north-east of sweeping approach from link road from N72 and close proximity of railway level-crossing. Further note the enclosing boundary wall and the much higher level of ground in the graveyard.



**Plate 3:** View of entrance gate and stepped squeeze-stile into Freemount graveyard.



**Plate 4:** Close up of headstone of J. Moynihan, 1898.



## 15. Appendix 1 Named Headstones.

<b>Surname:</b>	Brosnahn
<b>Grave No:</b>	50
<b>Photo No:</b>	367



<b>Surname:</b>	Brosnan
<b>Grave No:</b>	51
<b>Photo No:</b>	366



<b>Surname:</b>	Brosnan
<b>Grave No:</b>	52
<b>Photo No:</b>	365



<b>Surname:</b>	Brosnan
<b>Grave No:</b>	53
<b>Photo No:</b>	364



<b>Surname:</b>	Buckley
<b>Grave No:</b>	38
<b>Photo No:</b>	359



<b>Surname:</b>	Cahill
<b>Grave No:</b>	40
<b>Photo No:</b>	362



<b>Surname:</b>	Cahill
<b>Grave No:</b>	41
<b>Photo No:</b>	363



<b>Surname:</b>	Counihan
<b>Grave No:</b>	15
<b>Photo No:</b>	342



<b>Surname:</b>	Creedon
<b>Grave No:</b>	43
<b>Photo No:</b>	355



<b>Surname:</b>	Cronin
<b>Grave No:</b>	20
<b>Photo No:</b>	337



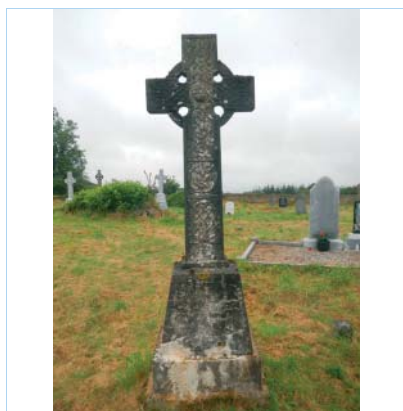
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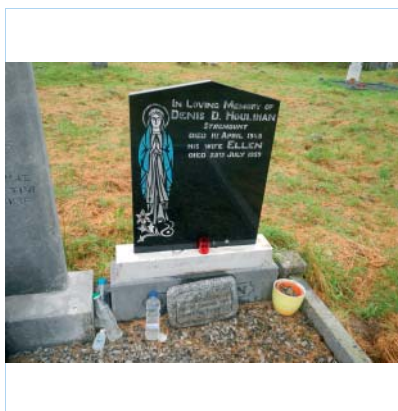
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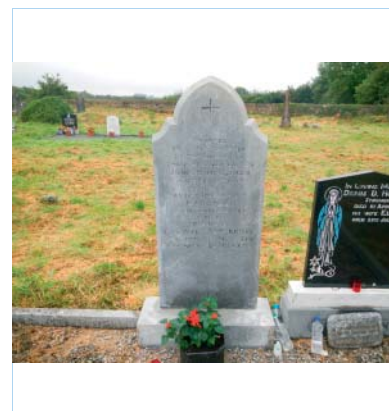
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<b>Grave No:</b>	45
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<b>Surname:</b>	Houlihan
<b>Grave No:</b>	36
<b>Photo No:</b>	353



<b>Surname:</b>	Houlihan
<b>Grave No:</b>	37
<b>Photo No:</b>	354



<b>Surname:</b>	Illegible
<b>Grave No:</b>	1
<b>Photo No:</b>	318



<b>Surname:</b>	Kelliher
<b>Grave No:</b>	3
<b>Photo No:</b>	324

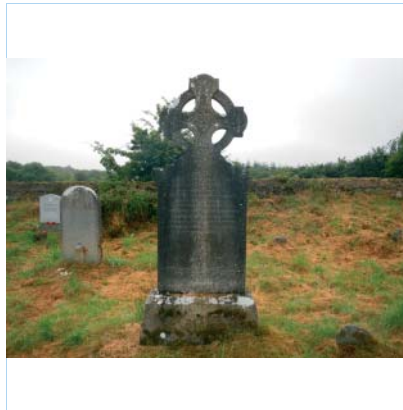


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<b>Grave No:</b>	4
<b>Photo No:</b>	325





<b>Surname:</b>	Kelly
<b>Grave No:</b>	7
<b>Photo No:</b>	320



<b>Surname:</b>	Kelly
<b>Grave No:</b>	33
<b>Photo No:</b>	351



<b>Surname:</b>	Lawlor
<b>Grave No:</b>	16
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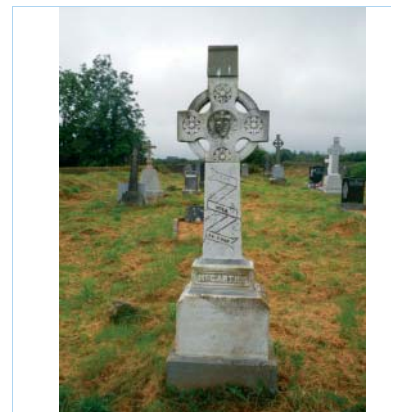
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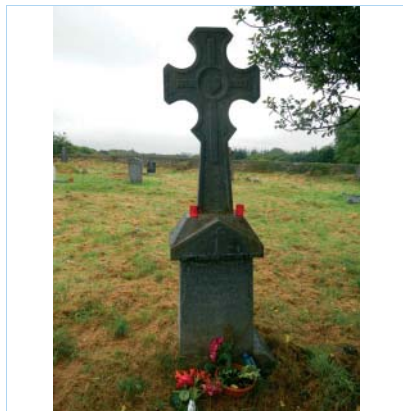
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<b>Surname:</b>	McCarthy
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<b>Photo No:</b>	361



<b>Surname:</b>	McCarthy
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<b>Photo No:</b>	352



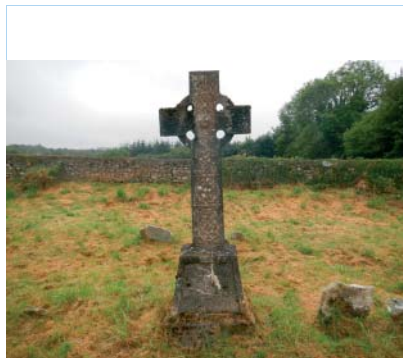
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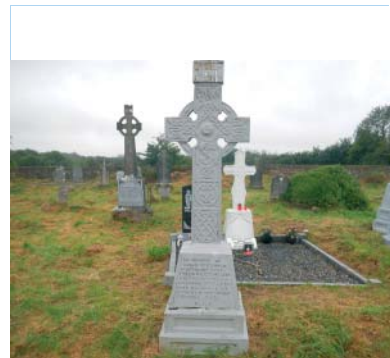
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<b>Photo No:</b>	350



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<b>Grave No:</b>	27
<b>Photo No:</b>	344



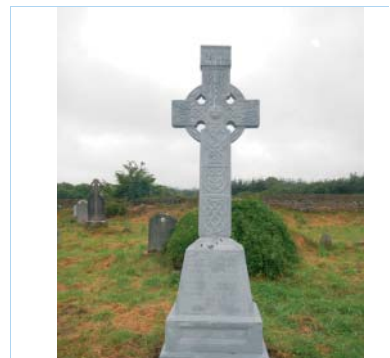
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<b>Surname:</b>	Murphy
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<b>Surname:</b>	O'Keefe
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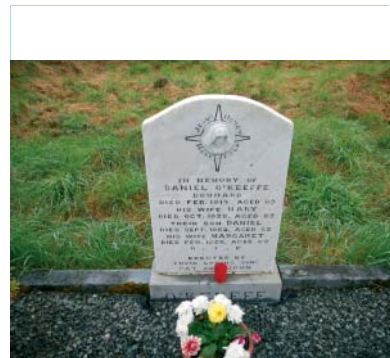
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<b>Photo No:</b>	334



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<b>Grave No:</b>	25
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<b>Grave No:</b>	29
<b>Photo No:</b>	346



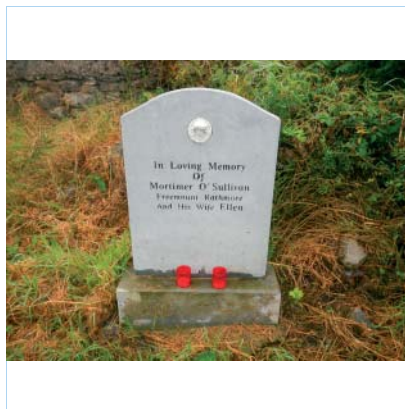
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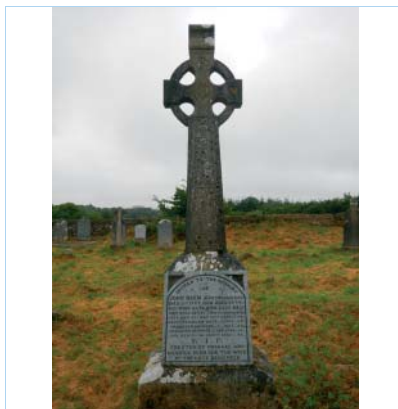
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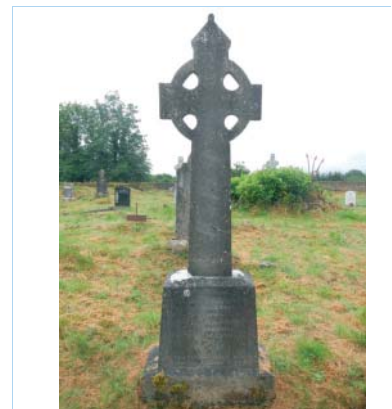
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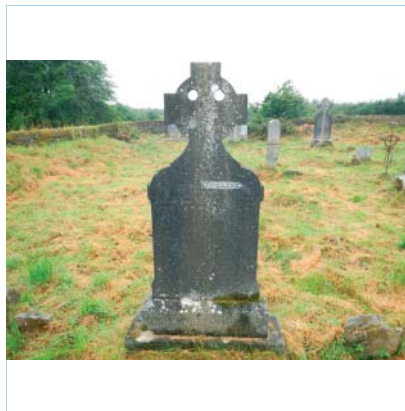
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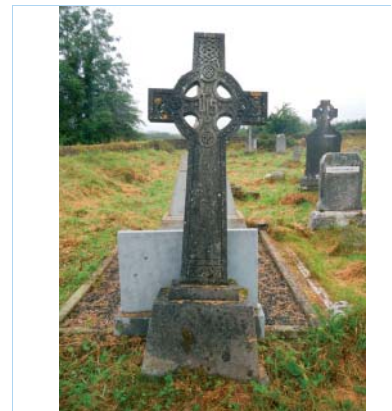
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<b>Photo No:</b>	330



<b>Surname:</b>	Sullivan
<b>Grave No:</b>	32
<b>Photo No:</b>	348



<b>Surname:</b>	Sweeney
<b>Grave No:</b>	8
<b>Photo No:</b>	319



<b>Surname:</b>	Unknown
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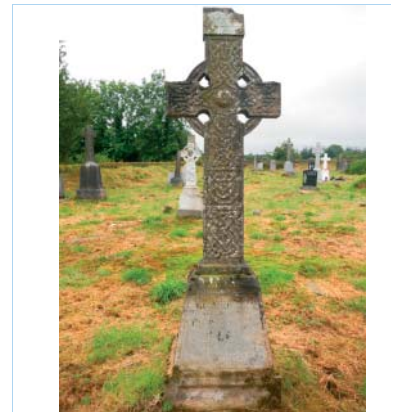
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<b>Surname:</b>	Unknown
<b>Grave No:</b>	49
<b>Photo No:</b>	368



<b>Surname:</b>	Unknown
<b>Grave No:</b>	12
<b>Photo No:</b>	343



<b>Surname:</b>	Walsh
<b>Grave No:</b>	5
<b>Photo No:</b>	322

