

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

## **Archaeological Survey of Kilnanima, Cordal, County Kerry**

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

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## SUMMARY

<b>Townland:</b>	Cordal East
<b>Parish:</b>	Ballincuslane
<b>Barony:</b>	Trughanacmy
<b>Local name of graveyard:</b>	Kilnanim
<b>NGR:</b>	106226/108024
<b>RMP No.:</b>	KE040-106
<b>No. of named tombs:</b>	2
<b>No. of unnamed tombs:</b>	1
<b>No. of lintelled graves:</b>	0
<b>No. of named headstones and plots:</b>	21
<b>No. of unnamed headstones and plots:</b>	0
<b>No. of named gravemarkers:</b>	0
<b>No. of unnamed gravemarkers:</b>	1
<b>No. of architectural fragments:</b>	0
<b>No. of cross slabs:</b>	0
<b>No of miscellaneous items:</b>	0

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

This report presents the results of an archaeological survey conducted at Kilnanimma Burial Ground, Cordal, Co. Kerry (NGR: 106226/108024) (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**

Kilnanim Graveyard is located within the townland of Cordal East, Co. Kerry, situated approximately 6.45 km east-southeast of Castleisland and approximately 0.5 km east of the village of Cordal (Figure 1). It is overlooked to the north and east by the Glanaruddery Mountains. Notable structures within the vicinity of the site include a number of modern dwellings.

The graveyard is located on the crest of a hillock and is sheltered from the main prevailing winds by the surrounding higher ground. The graveyard is recorded in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) as KE040-106001, and contains the ruinous remains of a church listed as KE040-106.

Situated on the western side of a third class road, a car parking area is present at the southeast side of the graveyard. The graveyard is well maintained with the interior notably raised in comparison to the surrounding ground surface. Its position on the crest of a hillock affords the graveyard extensive views to the west. The hillock also overlooks the village of Cordal as well as a tributary of the Cordal Stream to the south. The church ruins survive in poor condition, being extensively overgrown and having been impacted upon by the construction of tombs.

The oldest grave recorded carried a date of 1818 and belonged to the Fitzgerald tomb (Grave No. 13).

### 3 METHODOLOGY

The site survey was carried out on 20<sup>th</sup> April 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 made. A digital copy of the drawings is provided on DVD (Appendix 4).

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 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 4).

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. 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 consist of roughly dressed coursed rubble limestone with roughly dressed limestone coping (Plates 1-4).

Dressed limestone piers flank the entrance and are surmounted with dressed limestone capping. For the most part the walls appear stable and are in very good condition. There are occasional areas of ivy, however these are insignificant. The occurrence of distinctive pale lichens are a frequent feature of the historic walls and compliment their charm and character.

#### *Recommendations*

Continued maintenance of the graveyard boundaries. Areas of ivy growth should be monitored.

Spraying or broadcast application of herbicides on the wall 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:

*“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*

### **4.2 Entrance**

The primary entrance consists of a pair of dressed limestone block square-profile piers surmounted by roughly dressed flagstone capping, which support a single-leaf wrought-iron gate (Plates 5 and 6). The entrance survives in good condition. Stone steps are located in the interior of this entrance.

The second method of entry consists of a historic stile which is located immediately to the south of the main entrance and comprises of projecting flagstones protruding from the wall in the east elevation, forming steps to provide access over the wall (Plates 5, 7 and 8). A large dressed limestone slab forms a level stable surface at the coping level. This entrance is also in good condition.

#### *Recommendations*

Continued high standard of maintenance.

#### **4.3 Pathways**

There is one primary gravel pathway which extends around the east, north and west sides of the graveyard. This pathway is well maintained.

##### *Recommendations*

Continued high standard of maintenance.

#### **4.4 Desire lines**

No desire lines were present within Kilnanimma Graveyard.

#### **4.5 Named Tombs**

There were only two named tombs recorded at Kilnanimma Graveyard. Both tombs are located within the church ruins.

The first tomb, Grave No. 7, is located in the south-eastern corner of the church. The tomb belongs to the Fitzgerald Family and is structurally stable, however access to the tomb is restricted by overgrowth (Plate 12).

The second tomb, Grave No. 13, also belongs to the Fitzgerald family and is distinguished by its very large size (Plate 13). The tomb dates to 1818 and is located on the site of the western church wall. The tomb is quite overgrown with ivy and is excellently constructed utilising limestone blocks.

##### *Recommendations*

Access to the tombs is restricted as a result of ivy and tree overgrowth. Excess overgrowth should be trimmed which will improve access to the tombs and allow for any conservation works.

#### **4.6 Unnamed Tombs**

Only one unnamed tomb, Grave No. 25, was recorded within Kilmurry Graveyard. The tomb is situated on the external side of the eastern wall of the church ruin. The tomb is in poor condition and is heavily overgrown (Plate 14).

##### *Recommendations*

Management of the overgrowth at the tomb will allow for conservation works on the structure of the tomb.

Any such works should use the necessary skills and materials which are sympathetic to the historic character of the graveyard.

#### **4.7 Named Headstones and Plots**

There are 21 named headstones and plots at Kilmurry Graveyard. The majority of these are in good condition and mostly date to the twentieth century. The earliest headstone with a date of 1879 is

associated with Grave No. 22, commemorating a member of the Evans family (Plate 15). This headstone is also of artistic value and displays some pleasing artistic ornamentation.

Most of the headstones and plots within this graveyard are of simple forms consisting of limestone or polished stone headstones. Most of the plots are in good condition with the only exception being the plot of Grave No. 2 which is overgrown with weeds (Plate 16).

#### *Recommendations*

General maintenance of the plots including replenishment of existing grave surfaces (gravel) will aid in the prevention of weed growth.

### **4.8      *Unnamed gravemarkers***

Only one gravemarker was recorded within Kilmurry Graveyard and this belonged to Grave No. 21. This was a typical type of unnamed gravemarker and consisted of a simple limestone block (Plate 17).

#### *Recommendations*

Continued graveyard maintenance.

### **4.9      *Church Ruin***

Within the central area of the graveyard are the ruins of a church (Plates 18-21). The ruin is in poor condition and only low portions of the walls survive at the south, east and north. The walls are built from roughly dressed rubblestone. In the interior of the church there are five burials, but access is restricted by overgrowth (Plates 22, 23 and 24). The eastern and western ends of the church ruin are the most impacted on by overgrowth and trees.

#### *Recommendations*

Measures should be taken to ensure that all the graves in the interior of the church are easily accessible; this could primarily be achieved through the control and management of the attached vegetation and preventing it from spreading further. The Ivy should not be removed as this would leave the building in need of immediate conservation, and may cause structural collapse. Conservation 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 complete removal of the Ivy would also result in a loss of a natural habitat and should be avoided. Even though the church ruins are not substantial, the structural stability of the building needs to be monitored.

## **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 Kilnanimma:

- The vegetation throughout the church ruins in Kilnanimma Graveyard 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 habitats that this vegetation provides to local wildlife.
- The use of broad spectrum weed killers should not be used during the clearance of vegetation under any circumstances.
- The removal of grass and other deeply rooted vegetation should only be carried out under archaeological supervision in order to insure that the full extent of any concealed burial markers and tombs are exposed without damage.
- Any re-pointing of the church structure or tombs should use 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.
- Prevention of any more graves within the church.
- Any proposed ground works should be monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist.

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



Figure 2 - Kilnanimma Graveyard, Extract from OS 1st Edition 1846, Sheet 040



Figure 3 - Kilnanimma Graveyard, Extract from OS 2nd Edition 1894, Sheet 040-11



Figure 4.2 -Archaeological survey plan of Kilnanima Graveyard, 2011.





Plate 1-View of graveyard from south-east



Plate 2-View of southern boundary



Plate 3-View of western boundary



Plate 4-View of northern boundary



Plate 5-View of entrance from east



Plate 6-View of entrance from west



Plate 7-View of stile from east



Plate 8-View of stile from west



Plate 9-View of eastern section of pathway from south



Plate 10-View of northern section of pathway from west

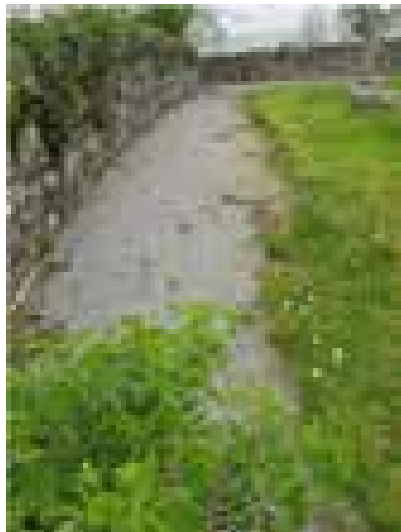


Plate 11-View of western section of pathway from south



Plate 12-View of entrance stone to tomb (Grave No. 07), from west



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



Plate 14-View of tomb (Grave No.) from south



Plate 15-View of headstone to  
Grave No. 22, from east



Plate 16-View of plot to Grave No. 2 from east



Plate 17-View Grave No.21, from east



Plate 18-View of site of west elevation of church



Plate 19-View of south elevation of church ruin



Plate 20-View of east elevation of church ruin



Plate 21-View of north elevation of church ruin



Plate 22-Interior view church ruin from east




Plate 23-Interior view of southern wall




Plate 24-Interior view of church from west


## Appendix 1 - Named Graves

Grave_Type	Headstone
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Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
22	Evans	IMG_0040
<b>Notes</b>		
Single headstone, 1879 with unusual carvings		
		

Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
3	Fitzgerald	IMG_0005
<b>Notes</b>		
Single headstone		
		

Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
4	Fitzgerald	IMG_0006
Notes		
Single headstone		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
12	Fitzgerald	IMG_0020
Notes		
Single headstone		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
8	Fitzgerald	IMG_0012
Notes		
Single headstone		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
10	Fitzgerald	IMG_0017
Notes		
Single headstone		
		





Grave_Type	Plot
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Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
15	Eager/Horgan	IMG_0025
<b>Notes</b>		
Plot in moderate condition, some moss and weeds		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
1	Fitzgerald	IMG_0001
<b>Notes</b>		
Plot in good condition		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
2	Fitzgerald	IMG_0003
<b>Notes</b>		
Plot in moderate condition, overgrown by moss and weeds		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
5	Fitzgerald	IMG_0007
<b>Notes</b>		
Plot in moderate condition overgrown by moss, grass and weeds		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
6	Fitzgerald	IMG_0009
<b>Notes</b>		
Plot in moderate condition		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
11	Fitzgerald	IMG_0018
<b>Notes</b>		
Unlined plot		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
18	Fitzgerald	IMG_0031
<b>Notes</b>		
Plot in good condition some weeds		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
17	Flynn	IMG_0029
<b>Notes</b>		
Plot in good condition		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
23	Fitzgerald	IMG_0042
<b>Notes</b>		
Plot in good condition		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
19	Flynn	IMG_0033
<b>Notes</b>		
Plot in good condition		
		

Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
16	Flynn	IMG_0027
<b>Notes</b>		
Plot in good condition		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
20	Flynn	IMG_0036
<b>Notes</b>		
Plot in good condition		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
9	Murphy	IMG_0013
<b>Notes</b>		
Plot in good condition		
		

Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
24	O'Loughlin	IMG_0044
<b>Notes</b>		
Plot in good condition		
		

Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
14	Twiss/Cronin	IMG_0023
<b>Notes</b>		
Plot in good condition		
		

Grave_Type	Tomb
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Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
7	Fitzgerald	IMG_0015
<b>Notes</b>		
Overgrown tomb		
		

Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
13	FitzGerald	IMG_0021
<b>Notes</b>		
Tomb built into the church ruins west wall, headstone from 1818		
		

## Appendix 2 - Unnamed Graves

Grave_Type	Gravemarker
Grave_No	Notes

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21	Single gravemarker
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Grave_Type	Tomb
Grave_No	Notes

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25	Heavily overgrown tomb in moderate condition
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25	Heavily overgrown tomb in moderate condition
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25	Heavily overgrown tomb in moderate condition
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### Appendix 3 - Unnamed Tombs

Grave_No		Photo_Name
25		IMG_0047
<b>Notes</b>		
Heavily overgrown tomb in moderate condition		
