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Archaeological Survey of Derryco Burial Ground, Ballyduff, Tralee, Co. Kerry.

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SUMMARY

Townland:	Derryco
Parish:	Rattoo
Barony:	Clanmaurice
Local name of graveyard:	Derryco Burial Ground
NGR:	88530/137085
RMP No.:	KE009-022
No. of named tombs:	6
No. of unnamed tombs:	1
No. of lintelled graves:	0
No. of named headstones and plots:	36
No. of unnamed headstones and plots:	2
No. of named gravemarkers:	1
No. of unnamed gravemarkers:	10
No. of architectural fragments:	0
No. of cross slabs:	0
No. of font/bullaun stones:	1

1 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological survey conducted at Derryco Burial Ground, Ballyduff, Tralee, Co. Kerry (NGR: 88530/137085) (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

Derryco Graveyard is located within the townland of Derryco, Co. Kerry, approximately 2.5 km northeast of the village of Ballyduff and approximately 4.5 km southeast of the town of Ballybunnion (Figure 1). The graveyard is located on a level flood plain at the southern side of the tidal estuary to the Cashen River which in turn flows into the mouth of the River Shannon. In the immediate vicinity of the graveyard, the land is relatively level and remains so in the lower portions of the Cashen River basin. Beyond this river basin, the surrounding land rises gradually and becomes more undulating with significant rises including Knockanore Mountain, the highest mountain (267m) in North Kerry region, located approximately 6 km to the northeast. Notable structures within the vicinity of the site include an adjacent farmyard complex which originally formed part of the Derryco Creamery as illustrated on the OS 25" Map Sheet 09-04 (1910) (Figure 3). A derelict five-bay single-storey thatched house within this creamery complex is included on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage Survey of County Kerry (Record number: 21300906) (NIAH 2011).

Situated within open pasture and considering the surrounding topography, this graveyard is quite open to the elements in all directions. Some shelter is provided to the south of the graveyard from a hedgerow that forms one of the surrounding field boundaries. Substantial marshy areas approximately 70m to the north-west, which partially extend to the south-west of the graveyard, suggest that the immediate vicinity of the graveyard formed almost an island/promontory within the Cashlan River Estuary. Within the central area of this graveyard (Plate 1), is located the ruin of a church of which only the north, south and east walls remain. For the most part, the church walls survive in reasonable condition with the addition of a later buttress to the eastern gable providing additional support. The church is recorded in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) as KE009-022, while the graveyard is listed as KE009-022001. Located approximately 170 m to the southeast and adjacent to the access lane to the former creamery is a circular enclosure (KE009-023). Situated approximately 400 m directly east of the graveyard with the Cashen River at the boundary between the townlands of Derryco and Mweevo, is the site of a submerged timber bridge (KE009-076). Considering the local tradition that the graveyard is on the site of an Early Christian site (Toal 1995), it is possible that both the enclosure (KE009-023) and bridge (KE009-076) are associated with this ecclesiastical activity.

The burial grounds are very well maintained, the grass having been recently cut during the time of this survey. The graveyard is rectangular in plan and is enclosed to the north, east and west by rubblestone walls with rubble stone coping. Enclosing the graveyard to the south is a field boundary consisting of rubblestone faced earthen bank surmounted by a hedgerow. The primary entrance to the graveyard is to the east and consists of a pair of overgrown square-profile dressed limestone gate piers which support a later single-leaf wrought-iron gate. Flanking the entrance to the south is a stone stile which comprises of a number of stones projecting from the wall to form steps on both the east and west elevations of the boundary wall. A small carpark area is located to the east of the graveyard where the access avenue widens. The access avenue is orientated on an east/west axis for a distance of approximately 80 m (Plate 2) before it takes an abrupt turn southwards adjacent the site of the Creamery.

An annual mass is held on in the graveyard on the 2nd July (www.kerryman.ie 2009). The oldest grave recorded within the graveyard belongs to the Stack tomb (Grave No. 50) which was erected by John Stack of the "Stacks of Kerry Arms" in 1722 (Plates 3 & 4). A second tomb dating to eighteenth century (Grave No. 46) was located to the west of Grave No. 50 and has a date of 1799 and contained the interred remains of the Stack and Walsh families (Plate 5).

3 METHODOLOGY

The site survey was carried out on 12th 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 made. 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 in 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 each graveyard (and its internal features) to be linked together; entries can also be queried by item type e.g. tomb, headstone, gravemarker, cross slab. Appendices 1-4 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 graveyard is enclosed by mortared rubblestone walls using locally sourced sandstone and limestone. Surmounting the wall is rubblestone coping. For the most part the north, east and west enclosing walls remain in good condition (Plates 6, 7, 8 & 9) with the exception of a few small areas where some stones are missing from the coping. However much of these walls are overgrown with ivy which could be covering other defects within the wall (Plates 6 & 7). The ivy growth has been assisted by the application of herbicide sprays which have removed any weed or lichen growth, leaving the area open for colonisation by ivy. It appears that the majority of the ivy growth has been monitored and managed as it has been cut low and tight to the wall, although substantial ivy overgrowth does still remain in the south-western corner of the graveyard. Some holes are visible in the external elevations of these boundary walls where stones have fallen out

The boundary wall to the south differs to that elsewhere in that it consists of drystone facing to an earthen bank surmounted by a hedgerow (Plate 10). This boundary is quite overgrown with grass and shrub growth with only small patches of the drystone facing visible. Root activity and soil movement within the earthen bank has had a detrimental effect on the drystone masonry. Disturbed stones appear not to be replaced and have been recently discarded. A large tree positioned in the south-eastern corner of the graveyard adjacent the stile and entrance obscures the intersection between this southern boundary and the mortared eastern boundary wall. This specific corner is also used as a dumping area for mown grass clippings and as a collection area for discarded rubbish (Plate 11) which includes a removed wooden gravemarker (Plate 12).

Recommendations

Restore the damaged areas of the coping and external elevations using suitable locally sourced stone and using correct (lime) mortars with flush or recessed pointing, which are sympathetic to the historic character of the walls.

Continue management of the ivy, ensuring that areas where excessively overgrown areas are cut and maintained. Ideally the partial removal of ivy surrounding the entrance would enhance the visual appeal of the graveyard.

Restoration of the drystone facing to the southern boundary would considerably enhance the character of the graveyard. This would ideally involve the trimming and removal of the overgrowth that covers this portion of the boundary. This could then be followed by the removal of the areas of collapsed soil and stone from the bank; this should be undertaken carefully with the possibly of unknown grave markers been uncovered during this process.

Removal of discarded rubbish within the southeastern corner would greatly enhance the appearance of the graveyard.

Ideally, mown grass clippings should be removed from the graveyard. The current situation of the dump of grass clippings to the southeastern corner is not only an unsightly feature, but its location adjacent the entrance is unsuited. Not only is the mound of grass clippings easily seen as one enters and leaves the graveyard, but also the decomposing grass clippings emit a slightly pungent smell around the entrance and car park area. Further safety issues arise as the grass clippings partially cover the lower steps of the stile which make the steps extremely slippery.

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. As stated in the "Guidance for the Care Conservation and Recording of Historic Graveyards" issued by the Heritage Council (2010):

"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

There is only pedestrian access to this graveyard from the car park area to the east (Plates 13 & 14). The entrance comprises of a pair of square-profile dressed limestone gate piers with rubblestone coping and a recent single-leaf wrought-iron gate. Both piers appear in good condition but are unfortunately completely covered by ivy. The gate, although maintained and painted, is in fair condition. However the structural integrity of this gate will quickly deteriorate as the metal is quite thin and has almost rusted through from the inside.

A secondary method of entry is provided by the stone stile to the south of the entrance. This stile consists of a recess within the vertical coping to the boundary wall formed by a large horizontally bedded stone. Projecting stones from the wall to both the interior and exterior elevations form steps up the wall. For the most part the stile remains in good condition overall with the only exception been to the exterior side where the bottom step has been broken making the stile unsafe to use. Further obstructions caused by the recent dumping/collection of rubbish and grass clippings to the interior make entering and exiting the stile extremely unsafe.

Recommendations

Some improvements should be made to the entrance which will greatly enhance the character of the graveyard. The covering ivy growth to the piers should be removed. As an entrance feature, gate piers often display fine stone work which form an essential element to the historic appeal of the associated graveyard as they are often the first and last feature which people see entering and leaving a graveyard. Provisions should be made for the future replacement of the entrance gate. Consideration should be given to obtaining a gate that will be a design sympathetic to the historic character of the graveyard.

4.3 Pathways

No pathways were visible within this graveyard. The modest-size of this graveyard coupled with the frequent mowing of the grass eliminate the need for a specific pathway. However it must be noted

that there is a broad but shallow linear feature, measuring approximately 1 m wide which almost extends around the entire limit of the graveyard immediately inside the boundary walls (Plate 8). This feature, similar in form to a very shallow ditch, may be associated with drainage within the graveyard, have formed a pathway around the graveyard and/or is an element that was created before the present masonry boundary walls. Previous spraying of herbicides in this shallow linear (and the boundary walls) especially along the northern section of this depression has resulted in the loss of a protective grass cover, thus destroying the soil structure and exposing the area to soil erosion (Plate 8). This erosion has exposed a substantial amount of human bones on the surface, which from a quick examination seem to be those of young children and infants.

Recommendations

The current high degree of maintenance eliminates the need for a pathway. This should be continued. However the spraying of soil near the boundary walls results in the destruction of the soil structure, allowing it to become friable. Erosion occurs which exposes the remains of those interred within the graveyard and creates an unsightly feature. The use of herbicide sprays should be reduced as they have a detrimental effect to the visual appearance of the graveyard. Grass seeds should be planted in these exposed areas to reintroduce grass cover to not only enhance the overall visual affect of the graveyard, but also to cover over the exposed human remains and reduce the opportunities for weed growth to get established.

4.4 *Desire lines*

No Desire lines where present

4.5 *Named tombs*

Seven tombs were represented within Derryco graveyard, of which six were named (Grave Nos. 15, 21, 45, 46, 49 & 50) and are located in and around the church ruin. All of the tombs belong to the Stack family with the exception of Grave No. 21 which belongs to the O'Callaghan family, while Grave No. 46 bears both the Stack and Walsh family names.

Grave No. 15 is the eastern most tomb, has a rectangular shape in plan and follows a neo-Classical design with recessed panels flanked by pilasters to the sides and surmounted by an architrave, moulded cornice and an ogee-curved hipped roof (Plate 15). Finely constructed utilising high quality tooled limestone, the tomb is in very good condition. However some settling of the foundations is causing some of the joints to part and a crack to form in the entrance slab (Plate 15).

Grave No. 21, positioned adjacent the southern elevation of the church, is a more modestly constructed tomb with dressed rubble limestone walls having tooled limestone quoins rising to a hipped roof. The tomb is in moderate condition but is severely overgrown by ivy.

Grave No. 45 is located to the northwest of the church ruin and is constructed in a similar Neo-Classical design to Grave No. 15, however it is not as elaborate and features ashlar tooled limestone block walls. The tomb is in good condition with the exception of the early stages of weed and grass growth occurring along the pointing planes within the masonry.

As already mentioned Grave No. 46 is the second oldest inscribed monument within the graveyard and is positioned directly west of the church ruins. It is distinguished by the inclusion of an unusual

court area to the façade of the tomb which faces in a westerly direction. Clearly influenced by contemporary Neo-Classical designs, this tomb is rendered externally with a pitched roof and displays the characteristic recessed panels that are found on the more elaborate limestone masonry tombs. The tomb survives in good condition with no notable areas of damage to the external rendering, although the tomb is partially overgrown by ivy to the south.

The two remaining tombs (Grave Nos. 49 and 50) are positioned within the interior area of the church.

Grave No 49 is positioned between the western termini of the church ruins and is in good condition. The rectangular plan of the tomb is slightly larger than the other masonry tombs and is more modest in design with plain rendering to the external elevations and low convex roof. Some ivy growth is commencing on the external walls of the tomb.

Grave No. 50 is positioned in the south-eastern corner of the church ruins and forms the oldest inscribed grave within this graveyard. The tomb structure itself is modestly constructed and consists of dressed rubblestone walls with tooled stone quoins. Beautiful ornate carvings to the front (west) elevation of a finely carved Coat of Arms of the Stack family flanked by inscriptions carved in a form commonly associated with the eighteenth century, form notable highlights and enhance the artistic and historical value of the tomb. The tomb is in moderate condition and appears structurally intact, however the flat roof of the tomb is heavily overgrown with ivy, grass and nettles with a thick humus soil layer developing.

Recommendations

Generally the majority of the tombs are in good condition with the exception of Grave No. 21 which urgently requires repointing to ensure the tomb remains structurally intact. Excessive areas of ivy growth to this tomb (Grave No. 21) along with tombs (Grave Nos. 46, 49 & 50) should be managed and ideally removed, especially in regard to Grave No. 21 which would facilitate full access for maintenance works. Repointing is also required to some of the other tombs where some movement of the foundations has occurred causing some joints to part. Repointing is also required to the walls of Grave No. 50. Such work would involve the re-pointing of the walls using correct (lime) mortars with flush or recessed pointing which are sympathetic to the historic character of the church. Ribbon pointing must be avoided as its use would damage the structures historic character.

Investigations should be made to assess the type of roofing to Grave No. 50 which would allow for a suitable program of maintenance for the tomb if it was deemed necessary.

All maintenance and repair work should utilise the necessary skills and materials which are sympathetic to the historical character of the graveyard.

4.6 *Unnamed Tombs*

A single unnamed tomb (Grave No. 47) was located immediately to the south of the named tomb (Grave No. 46). The tomb has a rectangular shape in plan and is constructed in tooled limestone. It is in poor condition and has suffered a partial, if not full collapse of the roof along with and part of the walls. Subsequently the tomb is not maintained and is very overgrown with ivy and grass, and has a

hawthorn tree growing on top. A large limestone slab resting to the western side might be one of the roofing stones.

Recommendations

Further investigation is required to assess the structural integrity of the remaining sections of the tomb and to assess if the tomb could be fully restored. The control of overgrown vegetation should be the primary concern in this case and should be clipped to prevent the overgrowth extending further to the surrounding memorials. Full removal of the overgrowth vegetation would represent a loss of habitat for wildlife. Any such substantial works that involved disturbance/maintenance of the overgrowth should not be performed in the period beginning the 1st day of March and ending on the 31st day of August in any year in accordance with Section 40 of the Wildlife Act 1976, incorporating section 46 of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000.

4.7 *Named Headstones and Plots*

There are 37 inscribed headstones and plots within the graveyard and most of these are in good condition. The majority of the graves date to the 20th century, however there are more recent graves from the 21st century e.g. Grave No. 6 is the latest dating from the 13th of February 2011 and is located in the eastern portion of the graveyard (Plate 16).

Almost all of the named headstones are associated with plots with the only exceptions including grave Nos. 11, 12, 48 and 53, which are free standing. There is great variation in the types of headstones that are present. Types include Celtic Cross forms, simple inscribed limestone uprights along with modern polished marble and granites headstones of different designs being the most common. Grave No. 18 has one of the more elaborate headstones consisting of a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Plate 17).

The headstones associated with Grave No 16 which is located abutting the eastern elevation of the church are partially covered by overhanging ivy growth on the church walls. A rose bush planted beside the main headstone has also grown in amongst the overhanging ivy. Otherwise the grave is maintained with the mown grass.

Recommendations

In general the majority of the graves are well maintained and are easily accessed. In regards to Grave No. 16, the overhanging ivy from the church ruin should be cut back tight to the wall to allow full access to the plot. The overgrown rose bush should not be removed but managed and maintained to an ideal size that complements the plot and adds to the visual appeal of the graveyard.

4.8 *Unnamed Headstones and Plots*

There are 2 unnamed plots at Derryco Burial Ground (Grave Nos. 43 & 55). The first, Grave No. 43 is an enclosed plot which is located in the north-western quadrant of the graveyard and consists of ashlar tooled limestone plinth surmounted by cast-iron railing. Unfortunately, the internal area of this plot along with areas of the plinth walls and railing, are overgrown with ivy which is forcing the bedding planes in the masonry to part (Plate 18). The railing survives in fair condition with only surface rust and a loose entrance gate being the only major concern here. No headstone or inscriptions were visible with the possibility of these being hidden by the overgrowth.

Grave No. 55 is located parallel to the northern wall of the church ruin and consists of a low narrow earthen mound with a memorial plaque to the western end. No headstone or name plaque was present during the time of this survey although the presence of a commemorative plaque along with a potted plant indicates that the grave is still maintained.

Recommendations

Removal of the overgrowth to Grave No. 43, the application of a suitable rust inhibitor and painting of the cast-iron railing will enhance and preserve the railing. With the removal of the ivy, repointing of the bedding plains will be required to the plinth walls to stabilise structural integrity.

4.9 *Named Gravemarkers*

One named gravemarker (Grave No. 51) was recorded within the graveyard. This modest gravemarker was located to the interior of the church ruin adjacent the east elevation and consisted of a wooden cross with a brass mounted plaque (Plate 19). No other singular named gravemarkers were present during this survey. Although a discarded wooden cross gravemarker, observed within the tree (Plate 12) surrounded by the mound of grass clippings to the southeast corner, may have originated from an unknown grave within the graveyard or is a discarded gravemaker that was replaced by a headstone.

4.10 *Unnamed Gravemarkers*

Ten unnamed gravemarkers (Grave Nos. 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 19, 20, 23, 24 & 54) were recorded. However due to some slippage of bank material to the southern boundary and the presence of a large grass collection area to the south-eastern corner of the graveyard, there is a possibility of more unnamed gravemarkers being present that were not visible during the time of this survey. Well maintained grass to the rest of the graveyard meant that all exposed gravemarkers were visible.

The gravemarkers consisted of a simple natural local stone being placed in the ground e.g. grave no. 4 (Plate 20). There are possibly many unmarked graves within the burial ground which is supported by the exposing of human bones to the sprayed areas parallel to the northern boundary wall. It must be noted that Grave No. 8 was loose and appears to have been removed from its original socket and replaced. A large mound of rubble including some curious examples of stone, to the exterior of the graveyard adjacent the entrance raises questions. Some are clearly from areas of collapse associated with the boundary walls and/or the church ruin. However the possibility of some of these stones being shallow-set gravemarkers which were removed from the graveyard due to collapse or otherwise must not be overlooked.

Recommendations

The current high level of grass maintenance should be continued which allows for the easy access to all of the graves. Areas of collapse to the southern boundary and the dump of grass clippings should be removed with careful attention to the possibility of further gravemarkers being uncovered. Archaeological instruction/supervision may be necessary.

4.11 *Ruined church*

The church ruin is listed in the RMP as KE009-022 and is in reasonable condition with only the north, south and east walls remaining (Plates 21, 22 & 23). The west wall has completely disappeared, so the full dimensions of the church could not be recorded. The church is orientated on an east/west axis. From what remains, the church had a minimum length of 9.6 m and measured 6.6 m wide (internally). The walls measured c. 1.15 m wide and consist of roughly dressed rubblestone with a lime and gravel mortar.

Maintenance work to the western termini of the north and south walls has resulted in unusual bowed terminals (Plate 24). However this is probably a response to the prevailing westerly wind and thus the rounded surfaces not only reduce the impact of the weather on the wall structure but also stabilise the masonry. A later addition of a rubblestone buttress to the east adds support to the east elevation of the church (Plates 23 & 25). The partially ruinous steep pitched wall that forms the east elevation indicates that the church once had a pitched roof.

Within the walls, two narrow windows survive, one to the east end of the south elevation (Plates 26 & 27) and the second centrally located within the east elevation (Plates 28 & 29). Both windows are splayed to the internal elevations with roughly dressed rubblestone forming the internal reveals and sills. The top of the southern window has been destroyed as the southern wall only exists to the impost level of this window. The eastern window survives in greater condition featuring dressed rubblestone surrounds and displays a more modest round-headed arch at the top (partially hidden by ivy).

Within the church, there are a number of burials (Plate 30) which have caused the floor surface to rise very slightly in comparison to the exterior. The oldest inscribed burial (Grave No. 50) in the graveyard is located inside the church (Plates 3 & 4). Two square-headed recesses are located flanking the eastern window at sill level to the interior of the east elevation (Plates 31 & 32). A third interior recess (Plate 33) is located in the east corner of the south elevation directly above the top of Grave No. 50. The location of such a recess in the eastern corner of nave is interesting as similar recesses are often associated with the presence of a piscine which is often located below the recess. However the presence of Grave No. 50 in the eastern corner of the church blocks off any access to investigate if a piscina is present or not.

There are no other visible features identifiable within the church ruin. However excessive overgrowth, especially ivy, has completely covered the northern and eastern walls particularly to the exterior of the east elevation. Ivy growth is present on the southern wall, although its growth has been recently curtailed.

Recommendations

Further measures should be taken to secure the existing church ruin from further collapse; this would be primarily achieved through the control and management of the attached vegetation. The large branches of ivy, especially hanging from the exterior of the east elevation will create an unsustainable weight on the eastern wall and if left unattended, may result in the collapse of this wall over the surrounding burials. However complete removal of the ivy would leave the building in need of immediate conservation, without which structural collapse may occur. Such work would involve the re-pointing of the walls using correct (lime) mortars with flush or recessed pointing which are sympathetic to the historic character of the church. 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 as during the survey, a number of active bird nests where

present within the foliage surrounding the church ruin. The presence of an extensive ornamental rose bush planted in plot to Grave 16 adjacent the east elevation which has intertwined with the ivy branches would also require management and should be retained as it enhances the visual appeal of the graveyard and especially as it is of personal value to the families associated with Plot 16.

4.12 *Miscellaneous Items:*

4.12 (i) *Font/Bullaun Stone*

An unrecorded font/bullaun stone was found immediately to the north of the north elevation of the church ruins beside Grave No. 55 (Plates 34 & 35). The font/bullaun is located close to the western edge of a large irregular-shaped boulder and has a diameter of approximately 25 cm and a depth of c. 8 cm. The boulder appears to have been moved to its current location so the original provenience is unknown this position.

Recommendations

The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) should be updated with this new archaeological item. Investigations should be made as to where the item originated from.

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 Derryco:

- The vegetative overgrowth to the church ruins, overgrown tombs and certain areas of the boundary walls should be controlled and tended to regularly in order to prevent future degradation and collapse of walls and interior features including tombs and gravemarkers. This should not however be done 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 or to remove/prevent weed growth from in and around the church and boundary walls.
- The reseeded of grass to areas affected by herbicide sprays will help stabilise the soil and prevent the exposure of interred human remains grass. The removal of 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.
- Areas of collapse to any of the structural walls to the church and boundaries should be repaired using suitable materials and pointing techniques which are sympathetic to the historic character of the graveyard. Areas of walls that are cleared of vegetation should be examined for damage and should be repointed using the correct (lime) mortars with flush or recessed pointing. Ribbon pointing must be avoided as its use would damage the structures historic character.
- Removal of vegetative overgrowth to Grave No. 43 would allow for a full assessment of the plot's condition and would facilitate restoration of the plot.
- Areas of collapse to the southern boundary should be removed with careful attention to the possibility of further graves being uncovered. This work 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.
- Waste materials and rubbish that have been collected in bags should be removed from the site.
- Grass clippings along with scrub and other vegetation which was been dumped in the south-eastern corner near the entrance should be removed and properly disposed of. Attention should be drawn to the possibility of further unrecorded gravemarkers being uncovered beneath this mound.
- The mounds of rubble and other cut vegetation that partially line the approach avenue to the graveyard should be removed and properly disposed of.
- A rust treatment and fresh coat of paint should be applied entrance gate and the cast-iron railing to Grave No. 43.

- Restoration and repointing of the tombs. Tombs which require urgent attention include Grave Nos. 21, 47 and 50.
- The structural stability of the church needs to be frequently monitored due to the exposed nature of the site
- The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) should be updated with the recently found font/bullaun stone.
- The publications: *Guidance for the Care, Conservation & Recording of Historic Graveyards* by the Heritage Council (October 2010). And *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 a graveyard plan along with 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. Derryco: Site location map extract with RMP sites.



Figure 2 - Derryco Graveyard, Extract from OS 1st Edition Map 1846, Sheet 009

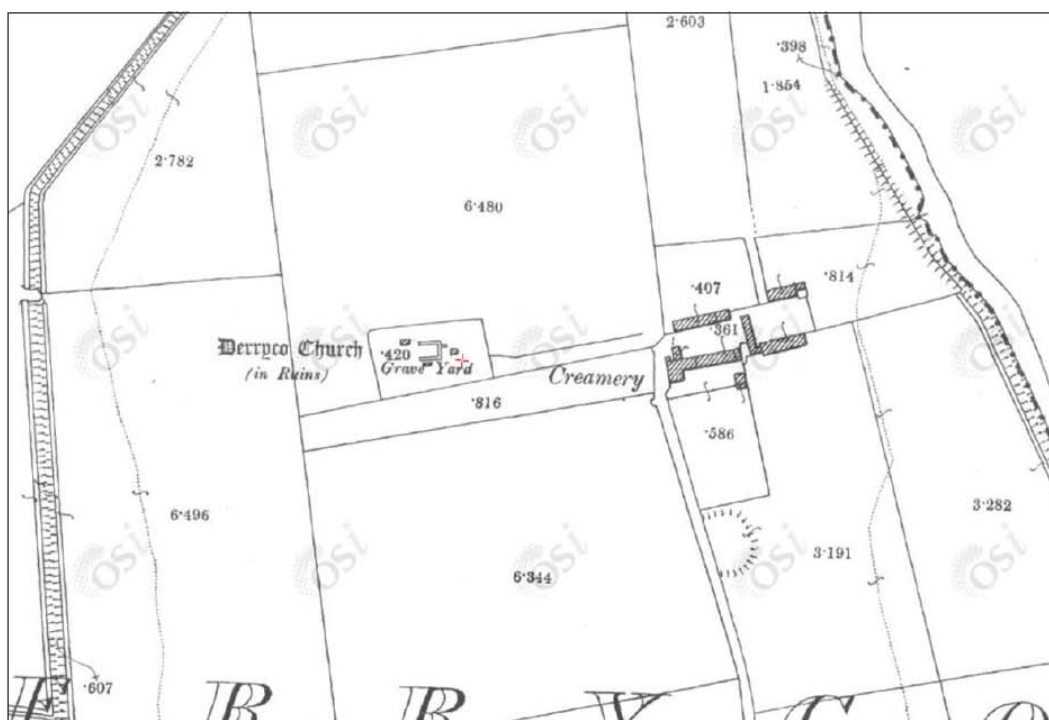


Figure 3 - Derryco Graveyard, Extract from OS 2nd Edition 25 1896, Sheet 009-004

Title:
Derryco Graveyard, Co. Kerry

Project code:
KCCG11

Drawn by:
Brian Mac Domhnaill

Scale:
Each grid square = 10m x 10m

Date:
28/07/11

Key:

Wall:	
Fence:	
Hedge:	
Church:	
Grass:	
Desire Line:	
Path:	
Overgrown:	
Grave Plot:	
Tomb:	
Top of Slope:	
Bottom of Slope:	
Gate:	
Grave ID Number:	56
Misc Item Number:	56
Headstone/Plaque:	
Gravemarker:	
Tree:	





Plate 1 Interior view of Derryco Graveyard from east.JPG



Plate 2 View of approach avenue from west.JPG



Plate 3 View of the Stack family tomb (Grave No. 50) from north.JPG



Plate 4 Detail of inscription to the Stack family tomb (Grave No. 50) from west.JPG



Plate 5 View of the Stack and Walsh family tomb (Grave No. 46) with associated court are, from west.JPG



Plate 6 View of eastern boundary wall from south-east.JPG



Plate 7 Interior view of eastern boundary wall from south-west.JPG



Plate 8 Interior view of northern boundary wall from southwest.JPG



Plate 9 Interior view of western boundary wall from northeast.JPG



Plate 10 Interior view of southern boundary from northwest.JPG



Plate 11 View of dump of mown grass clippings and bagged rubbish from northwest.JPG



Plate 12 Discarded timber gravemarker to southeast corner of graveyard, from northwest.JPG



Plate 13 View of entrance from east.JPG



Plate 14 Interior view of entrance from west.JPG



Plate 15 Front (east) elevation of tomb (Grave No. 15).JPG



Plate 16 View of recent burial to plot (Grave No. 6), from east.JPG



Plate 17 Detail of memorial to Pierse Family plot (Grave No. 18), from east.JPG



Plate 18 View of overgrown plot (Grave No. 43) with cast-iron railing, from west.JPG



Plate 19 View of named gravemarker (Grave No. 51) to interior of church, from west.JPG



Plate 20 View of unnamed gravemarker (Grave No. 4), from east.JPG



Plate 21 Side (north) elevation of church ruin.JPG



Plate 22 Side (south) elevation of church ruin.JPG



Plate 23 Side (east) elevation of church ruin.JPG



Plate 24 Detail to bowed corner of church ruin.JPG



Plate 25 Detail to buttress to side (east) elevation of church ruin, from south.JPG



Plate 26 Exterior view of window to side (south) elevation.JPG



Plate 27 Interior view of window to side (south) elevation.JPG



Plate 28 Exterior view of window to side (east) elevation.JPG

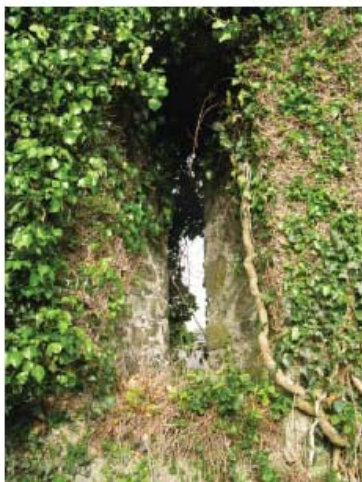


Plate 29 Interior view of window to side (east) elevation.JPG



Plate 30 View of burials to interior of church ruin from west.JPG



Plate 31 View of southern recess to interior of side (east) elevation of church ruin.JPG



Plate 32 View of northern recess to interior of side (east) elevation of church ruin.JPG



Plate 33 View of recess to interior of side (south) elevation of church ruin.JPG




Plate 34 View of fontbullaun within boulder, from east.JPG





Plate 35 Detail to fontbullaun from east.JPG


Appendix 1 - Named Graves


Grave_Type		Gravemarker
Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
51	Breen	IMG_0114
Notes		
Wooden cross		
		


Grave_Type	Headstone	
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Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
11	Scanlon	IMG_0020
Notes		
Single headstone		
		

Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
12	Crotty	IMG_0021
Notes		
Headstone from 1874		
		

Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
25	McCarthy	IMG_0049
Notes		
Small headstone from 1905		
		

Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
38	McKenna	IMG_0075
Notes		
Headstone on west graveyard wall		
		

Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
48	Hayes	IMG_0102
Notes		
Single headstone		
		

Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
53	Boyle	IMG_0117
Notes		
Single headstone		
		

Grave_Type	Plot
------------	------

Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
1	Houlihan/Kearney	IMG_0001
Notes		
Grass covered plot in good condition		



Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
2	Houlihan/Marle	IMG_0004
Notes		
Plot in good condition		



Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
3	Flanagan	IMG_0008
Notes		
Grass covered plot in good condition		



Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
6	Sweeney/O'Connor	IMG_0012

Notes		
Plot in good condition		



Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
7	Stack	IMG_0015


Notes		
Plot in good condition		





Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
13	Meehan	IMG_0022


Notes		
Plot in good condition		





Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
14	Pierse	IMG_0024
Notes		
Plot in good condition		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
18	Pierse	IMG_0037
Notes		
Plot in good condition		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
16	Farrell/Gibbons	IMG_0032
Notes		
Grass covered plot in good condition		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
22	Joyce	IMG_0045
Notes		
Plot in moderate condition, subsiding and broken and corroded wrought iron railings		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
17	Dunne	IMG_0035
Notes		
Plot in good condition		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
26	McCarthy	IMG_0050
Notes		
Plot in good condition		
		

Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
27	Hayes	IMG_0052
Notes		
Plot in good condition		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
30	O'Connor	IMG_0058
Notes		
Plot in good condition, moss		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
28	Moriarty	IMG_0054
Notes		
Grass covered plot in good condition		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
31	Moloney	IMG_0061
Notes		
Plot in good condition		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
29	Moriarty	IMG_0056
Notes		
Plot in good condition		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
32	Stundon	IMG_0063
Notes		
Plot in good condition		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
33	McCarthy	IMG_0065
Notes		
Plot in good condition, flint based gravel		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
36	O'Sullivan	IMG_0071
Notes		
Plot in good condition		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
34	Sullivan	IMG_0067
Notes		
Plot in moderate condition, subsiding, headstone broken		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
37	Horgan	IMG_0073
Notes		
Plot in good condition, headstone moderate, gold writing is flaking		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
35	Gregan	IMG_0069
Notes		
Plot in good condition		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
39	Scanlan/Guiney/Lawl	IMG_0076
Notes		
Plot in good condition		
		


Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
40	Stack	IMG_0079
Notes		
Grass covered plot in moderate condition subsiding		
		

Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
44	Keown	IMG_0087
Notes		
Plot in good condition, moss		
		

Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
41	Stack	IMG_0081
Notes		
Grass covered plot in moderate condition, subsiding		
		

Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
52	Breen	IMG_0115
Notes		
Plot in good condition		
		

Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
42	O'Connor	IMG_0083
Notes		
Plot in good condition		
		

Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
56	O'Connor	IMG_0120
Notes		
Plot in good condition		
		

Grave_Type	Tomb
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Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
15	Stack	IMG_0026
Notes		
Tomb in good condition		



Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
21	O'Callaghan	IMG_0043
Notes		
Tomb in moderate condition, overgrown		



Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
45	Stack	IMG_0089
Notes		
Tomb in good condition, 1870		



Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
46	Stack/Walsh	IMG_0095
Notes		
Tomb in good condition, with court, old headstone 1799		



Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
49	Stack	IMG_0103
Notes		
Tomb in good condition		



Grave_No	Family Name	Photo_Name
50	Stack	IMG_0108
Notes		
Tomb is in good condition, 1722, erected by John Stack of Kerry Arms		




Appendix 2 - Unnamed Graves

Grave_Type	Gravemarker
Grave_No	Notes
4	Single gravemarker
5	Single gravemarker
8	Single gravemarker
9	Single gravemarker
10	Single gravemarker
19	Single gravemarker
20	Single gravemarker
23	Single gravemarker
24	Single gravemarker
54	Single gravemarker

Grave_Type	Plot
Grave_No	Notes
43	Tall overgrown plot with cast and wrought iron fence, in moderate condition. Entrance to the east
55	Bump in the ground with memorial plaque


Grave_Type	Tomb
Grave_No	Notes
47	Heavily overgrown tomb in moderate condition

Appendix 3 - Unnamed Tombs

Grave_No		Photo_Name
47		IMG_0101
Notes		
Heavily overgrown tomb in moderate condition		
		

Appendix 4 - Miscellaneous Items

Type	Building
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Misc_Item_No	Photo_Name
2	IMG_0141
Notes Remains of church ruin, only the east gable and part of the north and south walls remain, the western edges of the south and north walls have been rendered rounded, probably to prevent further collapse and destruction of the walls, one window is still visible and intact on the east church wall and one on the south wall, a small recess on the south walls interior in the east could be associated with a piscina	
	

Type	Bullaun Stone
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Misc Item No	Photo Name
1	IMG_0164

Notes Possible bullaun stone or shallow font, possibly used as gravemarker
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