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RMP No.: KE092-034----

## **Graveyard Survey at Templenoe Graveyard, Co. Kerry**



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**Date:** October 2009

**Copies of this report  
have been  
presented by ÆGIS  
to:**

— Client — Michael Connolly, Kerry County Council, County Buildings,  
Rathass, Tralee, County Kerry

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**Please note...**

That the archaeological recommendations, mitigation proposals and suggested methodology followed in this report are similar to those used on previous similar projects approved by the Archaeological Planning and Licensing Unit National Monuments Service, Dún Scéine, Harcourt Lane, Dublin 2. The National Monuments Acts 1930-2004, The Planning and Development Act 2002 and the most recent EPA guidelines were consulted. Guidelines and Plans issued from time-to-time by the statutory bodies have been consulted. These are listed in the reference section of this report. Some of this work has been undertaken under an archaeological excavation licence. Every effort has been taken in the preparation and submission of this report to provide as complete an assessment as possible within the terms of the brief, and all statements and opinions are offered in good faith. However, ÆGIS cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from the data supplied by any third party, for any loss or other consequences arising from decisions made or actions taken on the basis of facts and opinions expressed in this report, (and any supplementary information), howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived, or as the result of unknown and undiscovered sites or artefacts.

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**Acknowledgements**

ÆGIS acknowledges the information supplied by the client and information gathered from the SMR.

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# Contents

	page
I. Abstract	4
II. List of Figures, Plates and Tables	5
III. Abbreviations and Terms Used	6
<b>1. Description of Site</b>	<b>8</b>
1.1 Site Location and Cartographic Background	
1.2 Site Description	
1.3 Suggested Mitigation	
<b>2. Project References</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>3. Signing-Off Statement</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>4. Appendix I – Photographic Survey of Headstones</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>5. Appendix II – Photographic Survey of Named Memorial Plaques</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>6. Appendix III – Photographic Survey of Named Tomb</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>7. Appendix IV – Plan of Numbered Graves</b>	<b>39</b>

# I. Abstract

This report details a graveyard survey, which was undertaken by ÆGIS ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED on behalf of the client. The report contains an accurate ground plan of all upstanding remains in the graveyard, including boundaries, paths/desire lines, grave-markers, tombs, architectural fragments, churches, areas of collapse and other miscellaneous features as discovered at the time of survey. A photographic record of the features at the site is included.

The ground plan was produced using a Trimble GeoXH 2005 Series GPS handheld receiver and datalogger survey instrument. Each position surveyed with the instrument is linked to GPS and has an Irish National Grid reference. The survey was downloaded from the instrument and corrected with Trimble GPS Pathfinder Office software. All ground plans were enhanced in AutoCAD 2010 and reproduced with added symbols and colours in Adobe Illustrator CS3.

This report contains a brief written description and statement of the general condition of the site and the condition of the features surveyed. Damaged and unstable features are noted and remedial actions to address potential issues of public safety are suggested.

A photographic record of all headstones, named memorials and named tombs linked to the survey drawing is included in the report. The names on some headstones have become worn or are covered with vegetation and cannot be read. These headstones are included in the photographic survey and have been listed as 'Unknown'. Photographic surveys of named tombs and other memorials in the burial ground have been included in this report.

## II. List of Figures & Plates

### FIGURES:

	<i>page</i>
1. Site Location, OS Discovery Maps 78 & 84.	8
2. Location of site indicated on aerial image	9
3. RMP constraints map Sheet 92 showing RMP KE092-034----	9
4. 1842 1 <sup>st</sup> edition 6" OS map 92	10
5. 1895 25" OS map 92	10
6. Plan of Tempenoe graveyard	11

### PLATES:

1. Entrance on E side of graveyard	13
2. Boundary wall on N side of graveyard	13
3. N side of boundary wall on W side of graveyard	13
4. S side of boundary wall on W side of graveyard	13
5. Boundary wall on S side of graveyard	14
6. Boundary wall on E side of graveyard	14
7. Ivy covered N wall of church	14
8. Ivy covered S wall of church	14
9. Ivy covered tombs on S side of graveyard	14
10. Ivy covered tombs on W side of graveyard	14
11. Broken headstone placed against a tomb on the S side of the graveyard	15
12. Fallen headstone near NE corner of church	15
13. Fallen headstone on the N side of the graveyard	15
14. Recumbent headstone in a plot near the NE corner of the church	15
15. Recumbent headstone in the centre of the church	15
16. Recumbent headstone in a plot near the NW corner of the church	15
17. Damaged grave plot at NE corner of graveyard	15
18. Re-used architectural fragments near the SE corner of the church	16
19. Architectural fragment on the N side of the graveyard	16
20. Rubble against outside of N wall of church	16
21. Rubble against tomb on N side of graveyard	16
22. Rubble near entrance to graveyard	16
23. Rubble against N boundary wall	16
24. Rubble inside W wall of church	17
25. Rubble against E boundary wall	17

### III. Abbreviations and Terms Used

<b>Architectural Fragment</b>	A piece of worked wood or carved stone that has been removed from a building. These may be of any date from the early medieval period (5th-12th centuries AD) onwards
<b>Barony, Parish, Townland</b>	These terms refer to land divisions in Ireland. The barony is the largest land division in a county, which is formed from a number of parishes. These parishes are in turn made up of several townlands, which are the smallest land division in the country. The origins of these divisions are believed to be in the Early Medieval/Christian period (AD500-AD1000), or may date earlier in the Iron Age (500BC-AD500)
<b>Bullaun Stone</b>	The term 'bullaun' (from the Irish word 'bullan', which means a round hollow in a stone, or a bowl) is applied to boulders of stone with artificially carved, hemispherical hollows or basin-like depressions. They are frequently associated with ecclesiastical sites and holy wells. They date to the early medieval period (5th-12th centuries AD)
<b>Burial Ground</b>	An area of ground, set apart for the burial of the dead, not associated with a church and sometimes defined by a low earthen or stone bank. These date from the medieval period (5th - 16th centuries AD) up to the 20th century
<b>Chapel</b>	A free-standing building which is used for private worship. These date from the late medieval period (c. 1400 to the 16th century AD) up to the 20th century
<b>Children's Burial Ground</b>	An area of unconsecrated ground for the interment of unbaptised or stillborn children, often known under various Irish names: Cillin, Caldragh, Ceallunach or Calluragh. The graves were generally marked by simple, low, upright stones or slabs almost invariably without any inscription or other carving. This burial practice may be medieval in origin and continued in Ireland until the 1960s
<b>Church</b>	A building used for public Christian worship. These can be of any date from c. 500 AD onwards
<b>Cross-slab</b>	A slab of stone, either standing or recumbent, inscribed with a cross and generally used as a grave-marker or memorial. This term is applied only to slabs dating to pre-1200 AD
<b>Ecclesiastical Enclosure</b>	A large oval or roughly circular area, usually over 50m in diameter, defined by a bank/banks and external fosse/fosses or drystone wall/walls, enclosing an early medieval church or monastery and its associated areas of domestic and industrial activity. These date to the early medieval period (5th-12th centuries AD)
<b>Grave Marker</b>	A simple low un-inscribed stone marking the location of a burial. These may be situated at the head or foot of the burial or both
<b>Graveslab</b>	A stone designed to be recumbent and marking a grave, AD 1200-1700 in date
<b>Graveyard</b>	The burial area around a church or the site of church. These date from the medieval period (5th-16th centuries) onwards
<b>Headstone</b>	An upright stone placed over the head of a grave. These date from 17th century AD onwards
<b>Holy Well</b>	A well or spring, which usually bears a saint's name and is often reputed to possess miraculous healing properties. These may have their origins in prehistory but are associated with devotions from the medieval period (5th-16th centuries AD) onwards
<b>Plot</b>	A kerbed area enclosing a burial or burials
<b>KE</b>	This number is the number of the site on the RMP map (see below). It begins with the county code, here KE for Kerry, the 6-inch sheet number, followed by the number of the archaeological site
<b>Mass Grave</b>	A grave containing multiple, usually unidentified burials
<b>Memorial Plaque</b>	A plaque serving as a focus for memory of the named deceased placed in a graveyard but not necessarily indicating the location of a burial

<b>Memorial Monument</b>	A monument erected to commemorate a person or group of persons associated with an important historical event
<b>OS</b>	Ordnance Survey
<b>RMP</b>	Record of Monuments and Places. An update of the older SMR, (sites and monuments record), on which all known archaeological sites are marked and listed in an accompanying inventory. The record is based on the 6-inch map series for the country and is recorded on a county basis. Each archaeological monument on the RMP has a unique code known as the RMP number
<b>Tomb</b>	A monumental grave or sepulchre. These date from the medieval period (5th-16th centuries AD) onwards

# 1. Description of Site

## 1.1 Site Location and Cartographic Background (figs 1-5)

Templenoe graveyard is located in the townland of Greenane, parish of templenoe, barony of Dunkerron South, in south Co. Kerry, approximately 5.5km west of the town of Kenmare on the north shore of Kenmare Bay (NGR 85035/69448). The site is 50m to the southwest of Assroe Quay and accessed by a local road to the south from the N70, the main coastal road around the Iveragh peninsula. The graveyard is an enclosed rectangular area 30m to the north of the north shore of Kenmare Bay. The site is not recorded on the OS Discovery map. It is also listed by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland in the Record of Monuments and Places as KE092-034---- 'Graveyard' and KE092-034001- 'Church'.



Figure 1. Site Location, OS Discovery Maps 78 & 84, north to top (Ordnance Survey Ireland Licence No AR0095409 ©Ordnance Survey Ireland Government of Ireland)





**Figure 2. Location of site indicated on aerial image (north to top)**

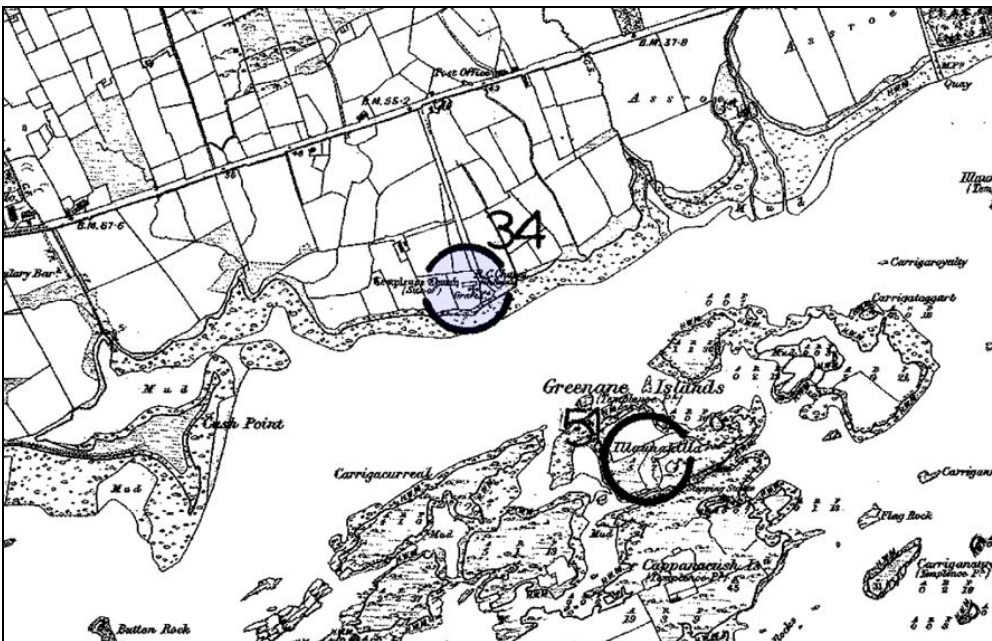


Figure 3. RMP constraints map Sheet 92 showing RMP KE092-034-----

The site was originally indicated on the 1842 1<sup>st</sup> edition 6" Ordnance Survey map as 'Templenoe Church (*in ruins*)', 'Grave Yard' and 'Roman Catholic Chapel'. The 1895 25" Ordnance Survey map records the site as 'Templenoe Church (*site of*)', 'Grave Yard' and 'R.C. Chapel (*in ruins*)'. The extents of the graveyard, an irregularly-shaped enclosed space, as shown on the Ordnance Survey maps appear to have changed with removal of the RC chapel and the enlargement of the graveyard to the north and west before 1895.



Figure 4. 1842 1<sup>st</sup> edition 6'' OS map 92

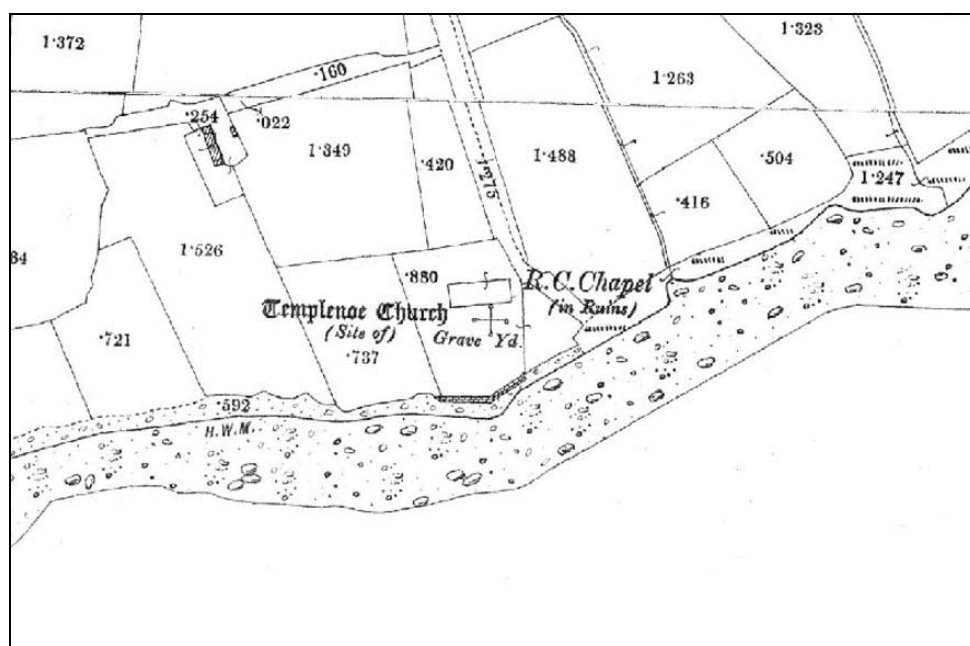


Figure 5. 1895 25'' OS map 92



1.2 Site Description



Figure 6. Plan of Templenoe graveyard

Templenoe graveyard is sub-rectangular in shape and measures 70m north-south by 48m east-west. It is bounded by a random rubble stone wall on all sides. The graveyard contains the remains of a medieval church, 138 named headstones, of which 13 have accompanying footstones. Two of these named headstones are simple low rough stones without names but with inscribed initials (Appendix I, nos. 22 & 138). The graveyard also contains 3 named memorial plaques in grave plots and one named tomb. Fifty-one kerbed plots enclose graves with named headstones. Twenty-seven un-named tombs have been counted at the graveyard but this number may be less than the total as vegetation has enveloped many tombs and a precise count is difficult. A total of 341 grave markers have been recorded. The grave markers are randomly spread throughout the graveyard and it is difficult to differentiate between those which mark the head or foot of any particular grave. Three recumbent headstones – intentionally laid flat in grave plots with the inscribed side facing up – are located at graves on the north side of the graveyard. Eleven broken or ex-situ fragments of headstones are located throughout the graveyard and fragments of architectural or worked stone have been identified at locations close to the southeast corner of the church and to the north of the west end of the church.

The entrance to the graveyard is in good order. The boundary is a random rubble stone wall, in good condition though covered in places with vegetation. The north, south and east walls of the church are extant and sections of the walls are covered with ivy on all sides. It would appear that the removal of ivy was undertaken at a short section of the north wall. There are no pathways in the graveyard. The west wall of the church is no longer visible and a tomb is standing across the area where the west wall would have stood. The numerous tombs around the graveyard are covered in vegetation with a heavy growth of ivy enveloping most of the tombs. The entrances to the tombs, where visible, all appear to be closed.

The inscriptions on many of the headstones in the graveyard have become worn and are difficult to read. Some of the headstones, particularly on the eastern side of the graveyard, have become covered with ivy (see Appendix I, nos. 28, 83, 84, 85, 89 & 132). A number of older headstones are leaning and in danger of collapse (see Appendix I, nos. 8, 16, 20, 104, 121). One side of a walled plot containing a named headstone (Appendix IV, no. 117) at the north-east corner of the graveyard has become detached and is in danger of collapse. The grass has recently been trimmed in all areas and this has exposed some fallen and broken headstones. It is clear that some of these headstones have been moved from their original

positions. Some headstones have been intentionally laid flat on grave plots with associated named headstones in the graveyard. An architectural fragment, possibly a surround from a door or window of the church, has been re-used as a grave marker to the north side of the church. Three worked stone slabs have been used as kerbing for a plot close to the south-east corner of the church.

Piles of rubble are located against the inside face of the boundary walls on the north and east sides of the graveyard, near the entrance. The rubble is made up of stone piles and would appear to be gathered clearance as a result of tidying of the graveyard in the past. Other stone piles are located against the outside face of the north wall of the church, inside the west wall of the church and against the inside face of the south wall of the church. There are also two piles of stone against a tomb to the north of the church.



**Pl. 1. Entrance on E side of graveyard**



**Pl. 2. Boundary wall on N side of graveyard**



**Pl. 3. N side of boundary wall on W side of graveyard**



**Pl. 4. S side of boundary wall on W side of graveyard**





Pl. 5. Boundary wall on S side of graveyard



Pl. 6. Boundary wall on E side of graveyard



Pl. 7. Ivy covered N wall of church



Pl. 8. Ivy covered S wall of church



Pl. 9. Ivy covered tombs on S side of graveyard



Pl. 10. Ivy covered tombs on W side of graveyard





Pl. 11. Broken headstone placed against a tomb on the S side of the graveyard



Pl. 12. Fallen headstone near NE corner of church



Pl. 13. Fallen headstone on N side of graveyard



Pl. 14. Recumbent headstone in a plot near the NE corner of the church



Pl. 15. Recumbent headstone in the centre of the church



Pl. 16. Recumbent headstone in a plot near the NW corner of the church



Pl. 17. Damaged grave plot at NE corner of graveyard





**Pl. 18. Re-used architectural fragments  
near the SE corner of the church**



**Pl. 19. Architectural fragment on the  
N side of the graveyard**



**Pl. 20. Rubble against outside of N wall of church**



**Pl. 21. Rubble against tomb on N side of graveyard**



**Pl. 22. Rubble near entrance to graveyard**



**Pl. 23. Rubble against N boundary wall**





Pl. 24. Rubble inside W wall of church



Pl. 25. Rubble against E boundary wall

### 1.3 Suggested Mitigation

This graveyard is well maintained with the grass cut recently by local volunteers with the assistance of Kerry County Council. However, the ivy cover on the boundary walls, the walls of the church and the tombs may become a problem in the future. In addition stone on the tops of the tombs and walls, particularly on the north and south walls of the church, may become dislodged and develop into a hazard. A careful removal of the heavier vegetation at the affected walls and tombs would reveal the presence of any loose or damaged stonework, allowing for further assessment of the stability of these stretches of walls and the hazards they may present. The walls and tombs should be monitored for any possible future collapse of stone. The presence of piles of stone around the graveyard would suggest that vegetation has dislodged stone from the walls and tombs of the graveyard and church for some time. These piles of rubble are the result of the clearance of stone from around the graveyard and though they do not create an obstacle to movement through the graveyard, they may be added to with further displacement and clearance of stone. Therefore, any future cleaning of the graveyard or clearance of loose stone should be monitored.

The stability of leaning headstones in the graveyard should be assessed and the careful removal of ivy from headstones conducted, which would assist in the identification of ownership. The stability of the damaged railed plot boundary at the north-east corner of the graveyard should be assessed and any necessary repair work should be considered to avoid possible collapse in the future.

## 2. Project References

**1982** *General Alphabetical Index to the Townlands and Towns, Parishes and Baronies of Ireland*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co.

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**Ordnance Survey of Ireland 1895** *Second edition twenty-five-inch maps for Co. Kerry*. Dublin: Ordnance Survey of Ireland.

**The Heritage Council 1999** *Regulatory Environment for the Management and Repair of Historic Buildings*. Dublin.

[www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)

### 3. Signing-Off Statement

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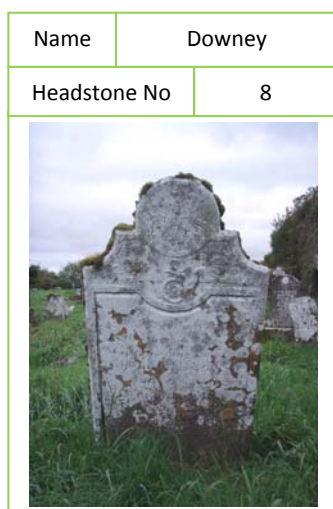
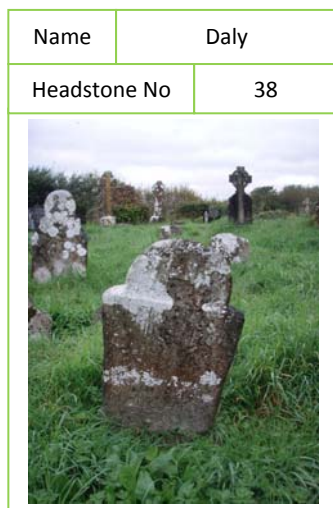
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For ÆGIS ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED

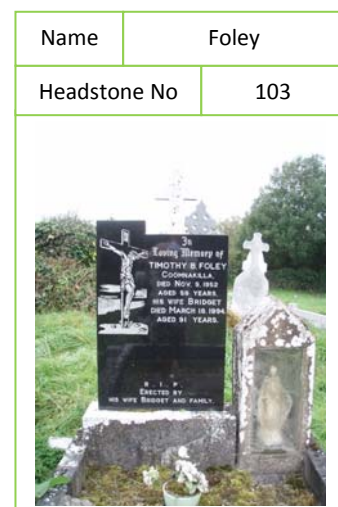
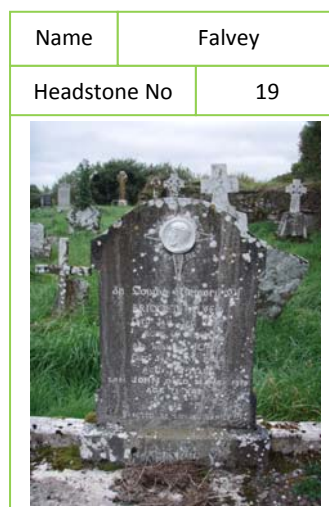
**Dated:** October 2009

## 4. Appendix I - Photographic Survey of Headstones

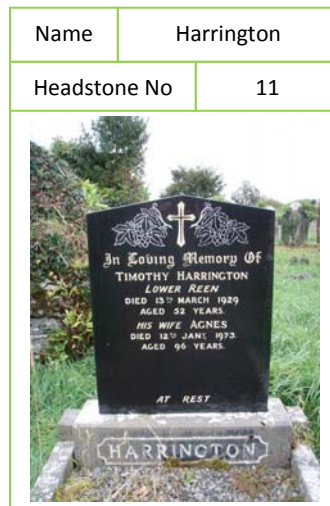
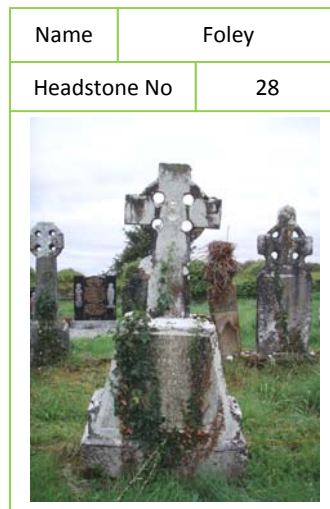



















Name	Kelly
Headstone No	78
	

Name	Lavery
Headstone No	110
	


Name	Mahony
Headstone No	102
	

Name	McCarthy
Headstone No	1
	

Name	McCarthy
Headstone No	118
	

Name	Moriarty
Headstone No	62
	

Name	Moriarty
Headstone No	63
	


Name	Moriarty
Headstone No	64
	


Name	Moriarty
Headstone No	65
	


Name	Morley
Headstone No	81
	


Name	Morris
Headstone No	13
	


Name	Nash
Headstone No	70
	

Name	Noonan
Headstone No	3
	

Name	Ó Seagda
Headstone No	48
	

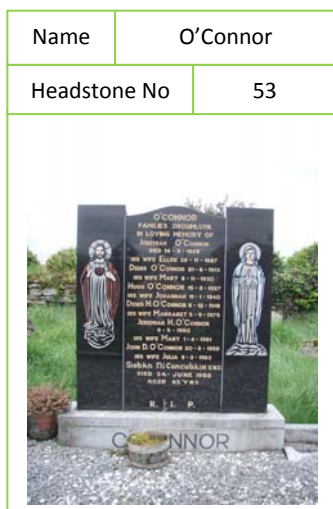
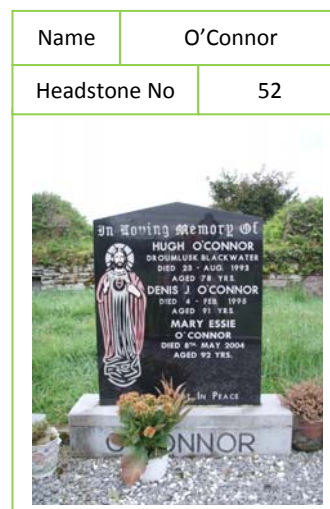
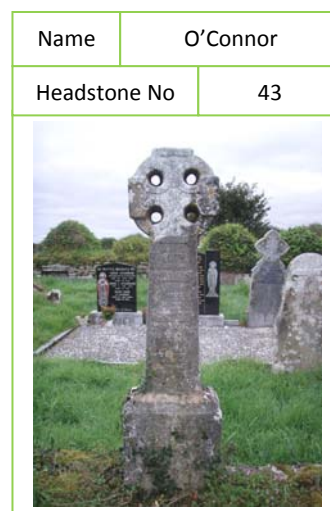
Name	O'Callaghan
Headstone No	108
	

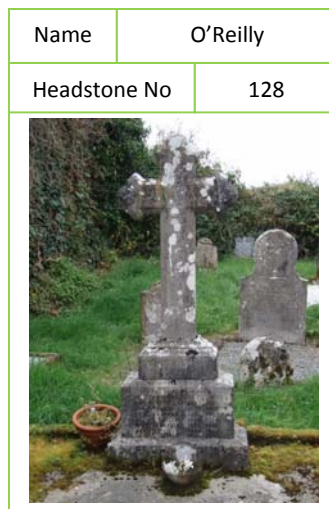
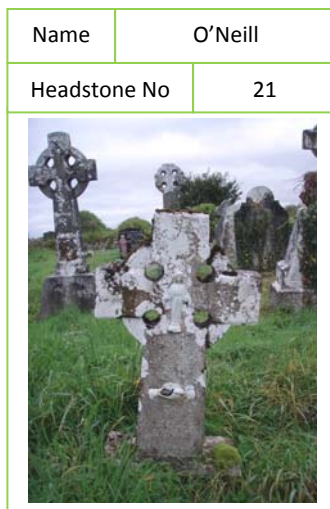
Name	O'Connell
Headstone No	6
	

Name	O'Connell
Headstone No	7
	

Name	O'Connell
Headstone No	80
	

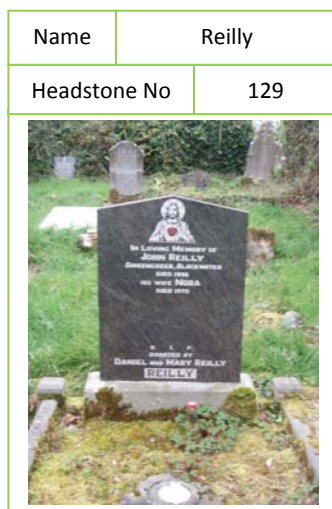
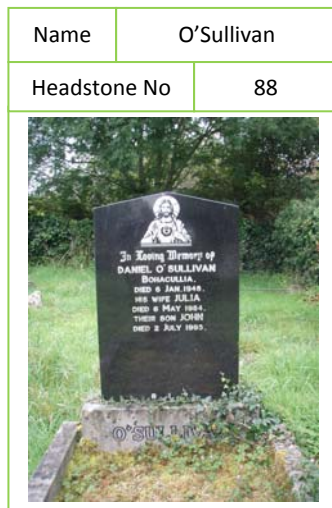
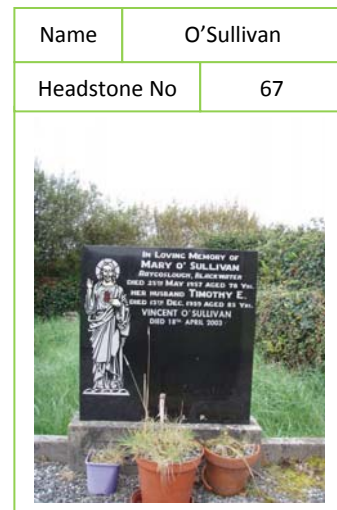






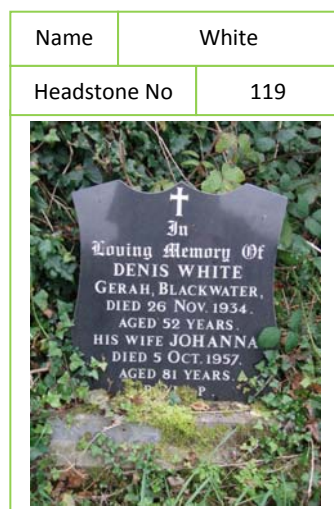
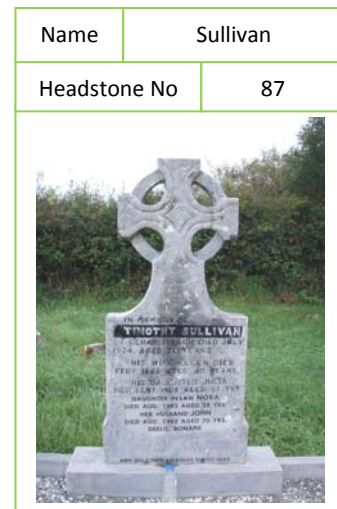






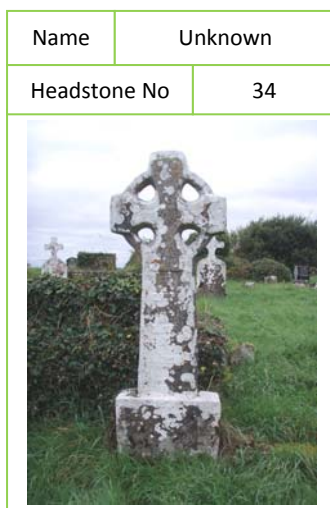
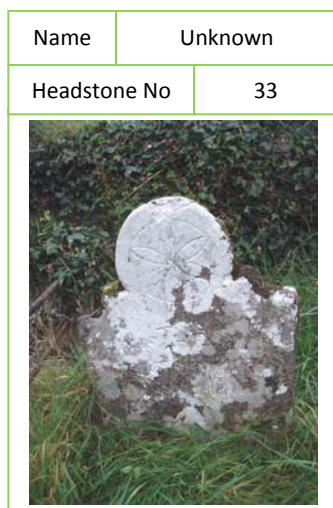




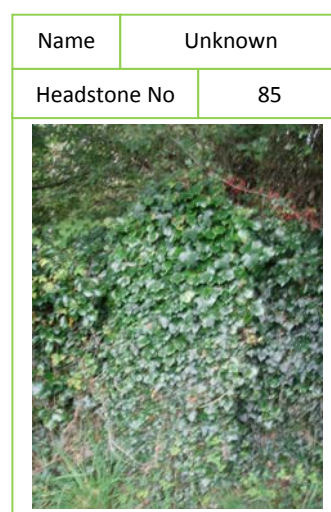
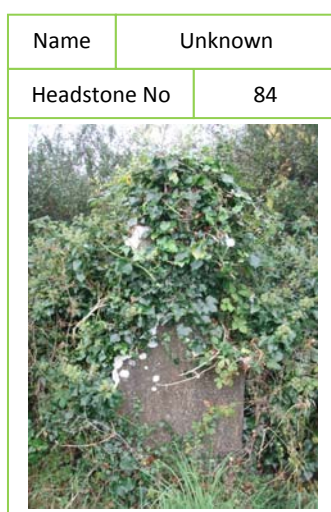
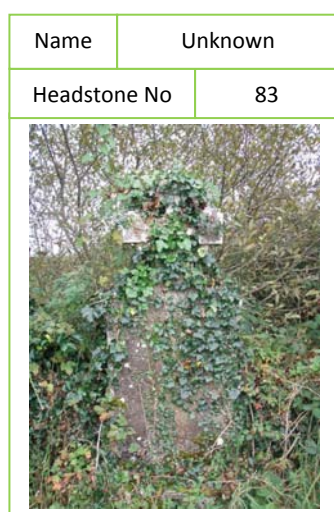













Name	Unknown
Headstone No	89
	

Name	Unknown
Headstone No	91
	

Name	Unknown
Headstone No	98
	

## 5. Appendix II – Photographic Survey of Named Memorial Plaques

Name	Morley
Plaque No	139
	

Name	Morley
Plaque No	140
	

Name	O'Shea
Plaque No	141
	

## 6. Appendix III – Photographic Survey of Named Tomb

Name	Sullivan
Tomb No	142
	



7. Appendix IV – Plan of Numbered Graves

