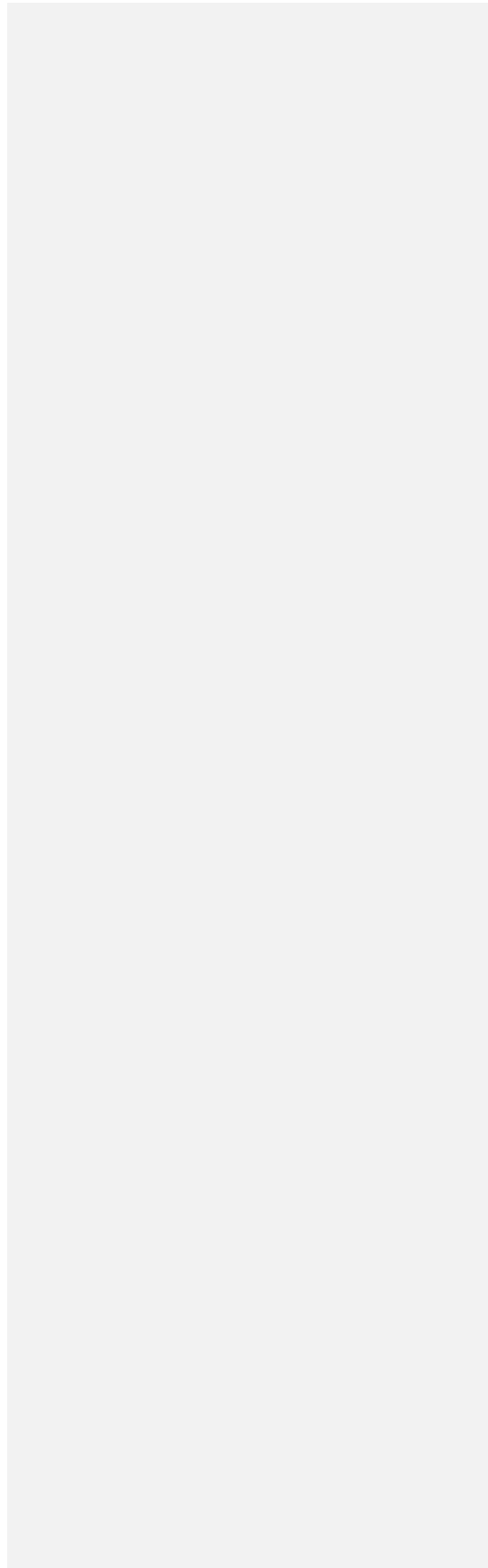


CONSERVATION PLAN
KILLAHEAR GRAVEYARD, CORLAT
COUNTY MONAGHAN

ON BEHALF OF
MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL

DATE OCTOBER 2016

IAC Irish Archaeological
Consultancy



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

As the primary output of the early Christian Monaghan Project, Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd has compiled this plan on behalf of Monaghan County Council to assess the significance and identify conservation issues associated with the Early Christian elements of the graveyard at Killahear, which is located within the townland of Corlat in the Barony of Cremorne, County Monaghan (OS Sheet 27). This plan was undertaken by Paul Duffy and Christina O'Regan of IAC Ltd. with specialist input from Paul Stevens of the School of Archaeology, UCD. The resultant reconstruction drawing was drafted during the Conservation Plan process by Philip Armstrong of Paint the Past, Archaeological Reconstruction.

Summary of objectives

The Conservation Plan for Killahear, County Monaghan, provides a framework for the conservation and management of the historic graveyard (MO027-002), while setting out the key objectives and future vision for the management of the site.

The objectives of the Conservation Plan are to:

- outline the significance of the site;
- present a brief history and description of the site;
- identify the issues that affect the core values of the site;
- draft policies for effective management of the site into the future while maintaining and highlighting the integral part that the site plays in the social and cultural significance of the area;
- deliver a practical programme, operable within community networks, to enable communities to take responsibility for and participate in the development and conservation of their heritage assets.

Summary of Significance

Killahear is a site of significant antiquity with over 200 years of Christian burial practice visible and evidence to suggest that it provided a focus for continuing Christian worship from the early medieval period. The place retains a sense of serenity, peace and tranquillity, and remains relatively untouched by modern life.

The surviving above ground elements and associated features that have the potential to survive below ground and which are suggested by local topography and evidence from historic maps, are valuable heritage assets which possess a spectrum of significance across a number of designations including archaeological, historic, social and artistic:

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

In the summer of 2016, the Monaghan County Heritage Officer conceived and launched the 'Early Christian Monaghan Project' with the aim of promoting and safeguarding four sites of early Christian significance within the county. Following a successful tender bid, IAC Archaeology with specialist input from Paul Stevens (UCD), was appointed to undertake a series of community workshops based around these four sites and was tasked with the production of conservation plans for three sites; Clones Round Tower, High Cross, House-shaped Shrine and Graveyard, Killahear Graveyard and Innishkeen Round Tower, MacMahon Vaults and Graveyard.

This conservation plan has been developed in line with international best practice guidelines as outlined in James Semple Kerr's *The Conservation Plan – Seventh Edition* (2013) and endorsed and upheld by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), Venice (1964), Washington (1987) and Burra (1981) charters. The plan addresses cultural heritage issues in an integrated manner and has been developed in consultation with key stakeholders including the Killahear Graveyard Group and Monaghan County Council Heritage Officer.

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Figure 1: Killahear Graveyard in the modern landscape (OSI map www.archaeology.ie)

1.2 OBJECTIVES

The Conservation Plan for Killahear, County Monaghan, provides a framework for the conservation and management of the historic graveyard (MO027-002) while setting out the key objectives and future vision for the management of the site with particular focus on any potentially early medieval features. The purpose of the plan is to ensure the long-term conservation, preservation of the site to international standards by putting in place a management framework that will protect the unique qualities of the graveyard at Killahear.

The plan aims to ensure that the site's unique qualities and local significance are understood in order to conserve and safeguard the inherited cultural and historical assets. The project aligns with Section 6 of the 1995 Heritage Act to promote interest, education, knowledge and pride in, and facilitate the appreciation and enjoyment of the national heritage, and with the actions outlined in the County Monaghan Heritage Plan 2012-2017.

The objectives of the Conservation Plan are to:

- outline the significance of the monument and associated features;
- present a brief history and description of the surviving features of the site;
- identify the issues that affect the core values of the various components of the site and of the site in its entirety;
- draft policies for effective management of the graveyard and any potentially early Christian components at Killahear into the future while maintaining and highlighting the integral part that these elements play in the local community;
- deliver a practical programme, operable within community networks, to enable communities to take responsibility for and participate in the development and conservation of their heritage assets.

The plan will inform the day-to-day and long-term management of the various elements discussed. It will be a working document that is open to periodic review, with additions or amendments being made as conditions change.

1.3 PROJECT TEAM

The following is a summary of the team involved in developing and delivering this plan.

- Paul Duffy BA Hons, MIAI – IAC Ltd.
- Christina O'Regan BA MSc MIAI – IAC Ltd.
- Paul Stevens BA, PHD Candidate UCD School of Archaeology

1.4 CONSULTATIONS

Following initial research a number of statutory and voluntary bodies were consulted to gain further insight into the cultural background of the individual monuments and the overall site. These were as follows:

- Monaghan County Council Heritage Officer, Shirley Clerkin
- Killahear Graveyard Group
- Ana Dolan, Office of Public Works, Senior Architect, Trim District
- Pauline Gleeson, Senior Archaeologist, National Monuments Service
- Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs – the Heritage Service, National Monuments and Historic Properties Section: Record of Monuments and Places; Sites and Monuments Record; Monuments in State Care Database; Preservation Orders; Register of Historic Monuments and the database of current licences (2009–2011);
- National Museum of Ireland, Irish Antiquities Division: topographical files of Ireland;
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage: County Monaghan;
- Trinity College Dublin, Map Library: Historical and Ordnance Survey Maps;
- National Library of Ireland.

2 CONSERVATION PLAN METHODOLOGY

The Conservation Plan seeks to set out what is significant in a place and identify what policies are appropriate to enable that significance to be retained in its future use and development (Kerr 2013). In the words of James Semple Kerr, the most influential proponent of the Conservation Plan, Conservation Plan methodology is particularly applicable to the ‘study of complex or composite monuments in vulnerable, dynamic and changing environments’ (1999).

Conservation Plan methodology involves two principal stages, namely Stage I – Understanding the Place. Stage I of the process seeks to set out:

- What the current location, physical composition and current presentation of a monument or place is;
- Why that monument or place is culturally or materially significant;
- How that significance may be vulnerable.

And Stage II – Conservation Policy and its implementation which seeks to:

- Assess the source of the issues faced by a monument or place;
- Evaluate the potential impact or change and development on or close to the monument or place;
- Advise and manage that change in order to conserve by adding value.

Gathering evidence for the Conservation Plan (Stage I) has been undertaken in three phases. The first phase comprised a paper survey of all available archaeological, architectural, historical and cartographic sources. The second phase involved a field inspection of the monument, the overall site and its overall setting. The third phase consisted of a workshop at Derrygooney Community Centre (former National School) on 14th of September 2016. Approximately ten representatives from the Killahear Graveyard Group and members of the general public attended with the aim of consulting the relevant local stakeholders.

2.1 PAPER SURVEY

The following sources were examined to provide background, context and specific detail on the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage of the monument, and the overall site of Killahear Graveyard:

- Record of Monuments and Places for County Monaghan;
- Sites and Monuments Record for County Monaghan;
- Monuments in State Care Database;
- Preservation Orders;
- Database of current archaeological investigation licences (2009–2011);
- Topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland;
- Cartographic and written sources relating to the study area;

- County Monaghan Development Plan 2013–2019;
- County Monaghan Heritage Plan 2013-2017;
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage;
- Place name analysis – Logainm.ie;
- Schools Folklore Collection Co. Monaghan;
- Aerial photographs;
- Excavations Bulletin (1970-2015)

Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) is a list of archaeological sites known to the National Monuments Section, which are afforded legal protection under Section 12 of the 1994 National Monuments Act and are published as a record.

Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) holds documentary evidence and field inspections of all known archaeological sites and monuments. Some information is also held about archaeological sites and monuments whose precise location is not known e.g. only a site type and townland are recorded. These are known to the National Monuments Section as ‘un-located sites’ and cannot be afforded legal protection due to lack of locational information. As a result these are omitted from the Record of Monuments and Places. SMR sites are also listed on the recently launched website created by the DAHG – www.archaeology.ie.

National Monuments in State Care Database is a list of all the National Monuments in State guardianship or ownership. Each is assigned a National Monument number whether in guardianship or ownership and has a brief description of the remains of each Monument.

The Minister for the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht may acquire national monuments by agreement or by compulsory order. The state or local authority may assume guardianship of any national monument (other than dwellings). The owners of national monuments (other than dwellings) may also appoint the Minister or the local authority as guardian of that monument if the state or local authority agrees. Once the site is in ownership or guardianship of the state, it may not be interfered with without the written consent of the Minister.

Preservation Orders List contains information on Preservation Orders and/or Temporary Preservation Orders, which have been assigned to a site or sites. Sites deemed to be in danger of injury or destruction can be allocated Preservation Orders under the 1930 Act. Preservation Orders make any interference with the site illegal. Temporary Preservation Orders can be attached under the 1954 Act. These perform the same function as a Preservation Order but have a time limit of six months, after which the situation must be reviewed. Work may only be undertaken on or in the vicinity of sites under Preservation Orders with the written consent, and at the discretion, of the Minister.

Database of current archaeological investigation licences is a list held by the National Monuments Section of the DAHG that provides details of licences issued that have yet to appear within the Excavations Bulletin (2014–2015).

Topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland is the national archive of all known finds recorded by the National Museum. This archive relates primarily to artefacts but also includes references to monuments and unique records of previous excavations. The find spots of artefacts are important sources of information on the discovery of sites of archaeological significance.

Cartographic and Pictorial sources are important in tracing land use development within the development area as well as providing important topographical information on areas of archaeological potential and the development of buildings. Cartographic analysis of all relevant maps has been made to identify any topographical anomalies or structures that no longer remain within the landscape.

- *William Petty, Down Survey map of County Monaghan 1654-6*
- *First Edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey Map, 1836, scale 1:10560*
- *Ordnance Survey Map, 1910, scale 1:2500*

Documentary sources were consulted to gain background information on the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage landscape of Killahear Graveyard.

Aerial photographic coverage is an important source of information regarding the precise location of sites and their extent. It also provides initial information on the terrain and its likely potential for archaeology. A number of sources were consulted including aerial photographs held by the Geological Survey of Ireland, the Ordnance Survey and Google Earth.

Place Names are an important part in understanding both the archaeology and history of an area. Place names can be used for generations and in some cases have been found to have their root deep in the historical past.

County Monaghan Development Plan 2013-2019 contains a catalogue of all the Protected Structures and archaeological sites within the county. The County Monaghan Development Plan was consulted to obtain information on cultural heritage sites in and within the immediate vicinity of Killahear.

County Monaghan Heritage Plan 2013-2017 contains an action plan for the heritage of the county up to 2017. It also contains a synopsis of the relevant legislation governing sites and an explanation of the levels of protection afforded to different monuments.

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage is a government based organisation tasked with making a nationwide record of significant local, regional, national and international structures, which in turn provides county councils with a guide as to what structures to list within the Record of Protected Structures. The architectural survey for County Monaghan was completed during 2011 and 2012. The NIAH have also carried out a nationwide desk based survey of historic gardens, including demesnes that surround large houses. This has also been completed for

County Monaghan and was examined in relation to the surviving demesnes within the surrounding area of Killahear.

Place name analysis – Logainm.ie is a comprehensive management system for data, archival records and place names research conducted by the State. The website is made available as a public resource and administered by DCU and DAHRRGA.

Schools Folklore Collection - Ducas.ie In 1937 the Irish Folklore Commission, in collaboration with the Department of Education and the Irish National Teachers' Organisation, initiated a revolutionary scheme in which schoolchildren were encouraged to collect and document folklore and local history. The website makes these entries available as a public resource and administered by UCD, the National Folklore Collection, the National Folklore Foundation, DCU and DAHRRGA.

Excavations Bulletin is a summary publication that has been produced every year since 1970. This summarises every archaeological excavation that has taken place in Ireland during that year up until 2010 and since 1987 has been edited by Isabel Bennett. This information is vital when examining the archaeological content of any area, which may not have been recorded under the SMR and RMP files. This information is also available online (www.excavations.ie) from 1970–2015.

2.2 FIELD INSPECTION

Field inspection is necessary to determine the extent and nature of archaeological and architectural remains, and can also lead to the identification of previously unrecorded or suspected sites and portable finds through topographical observation and local information.

The archaeological and architectural field inspection entailed:

- Visiting and assessing the condition of each of the monuments.
- Walking the graveyard at Killahear and its immediate environs.
- Noting and recording the terrain type and land usage.
- Noting and recording the presence of features of archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage significance.
- Verifying the extent and condition of the site and its various elements.
- Visually investigating any suspect landscape anomalies to identify potentially unrecorded features of cultural heritage significance.

2.3 CONSULTATIONS

Consultation was undertaken with Shirley Clerkin, the Heritage Officer for County Monaghan upon IAC Archaeology's appointment to the project. A meeting was undertaken on the 27th July 2016 in Monaghan County Council offices in order to formalise IAC Archaeology's appointment and to outline timescales and expand upon projected outputs of the project. Particular emphasis was placed upon capturing the

social and cultural significance of the monuments and the sites within the modern landscape.

In furtherance of this objective, an open workshop was held in the Derrygooney Community Centre (former National School) on 14th of September 2016. Approximately ten representatives from the Killahear Graveyard Group and members of the general public attended.

Concerning the feasibility of recommending archaeological interventions, Pauline Gleeson, senior archaeologist with the National Monuments Service was consulted.

3 UNDERSTANDING THE MONUMENT

3.1 TOPOGRAPHY AND LANDSCAPE SETTING

The drift geology of the region is Ordovician shale and sandstone bedrock, located at the far southwestern extent of a band of stretching from Belfast Lough to Dundalk bay, and overlain by brown earth tertiary deposits (McConnell et al. 2003; Geological Survey of Ireland 2008; McDermott 2010).

The immediate site topography is characterised by small post-glacial lakes and drumlins, known as the Central Lakelands Uplands Zone. Two lakes border the southern boundary of the townland of Corlat—Lough Lisnakillewbane and Lisnakillewduff Lough to the southeast and Lough Bawn (White Lake) and the adjacent Black Lough to the west. Killahear burial ground lies at the southeast end of a narrow northwest-southeast aligned drumlin ridge, overlooking Lough Bawn to the south and various other drumlin ridges on all sides.

3.2 HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

3.2.1 Early Documentary Sources

The earliest cartographical source of Ireland is a gazetteer of lakes, rivers, settlement and people in c. AD 150, and comes from the Classical Greek Geographer *Claudius Ptolemy*, who identified a *Voluntii* tribe in the northeast region—believed to be *Ulaid*, from which the root name of **Ulster** is derived. Two important settlements were also identified in the area - *Regia* (Clogher) and *Isamnion* (*Emain Macha*/Navan Fort), both have been subject to extensive archaeological excavation and revealed significance later prehistoric and Iron Age ceremonial and settlement evidence (Warren 1974; Lynn et al. 2013; Mallory 2000; Waterman 1997).

Both were important early royal centres and regional caput of the Ulaid. However, early documentary sources list their decline with Fergus Fogha (†AD 392) as the last king of Emain Macha, and the Ulaid contracted and were forced into the northeast, to the modern counties Down and Armagh. Emain Macha was largely forgotten to be replaced by Armagh, which ultimately became the primatial ecclesiastical centre for Ireland. With the emergence of a new powerful polity, **Clogher** became the Royal seat of *Oirghialla* / *Airghialla* (later known as *Oriel* / *Uriel*), carving lands that at its most expansive stretched from Lough Erne to Lough Neagh, including modern Co.s south-[London]Derry, Tyrone, Fermanagh and most of Monaghan.

County **Monaghan**: *Muineachán* in Irish, was formed in AD 1585 and comprised the five baronies of Truagh, Dartree, Monaghan, Cremorne and Farney from the countries of *Iriell*, *Dartrey*, *Loghtie*, and *Trow*. The territory is often referred to as Mac Mahon's Country. According to the annals, the region took its name from the 4th century *Manaigh* or *Monaigh*. It was part of the larger ancient territory of *Oirghialla* (also known as Oriel) overseen, until the 12th century, by *Uí Cremthainne* (Cremorne) and *Clan Colla* dynasties and originally ruled from Royal caputs of Clogher (west) and

Emain Macha (east). During the later medieval period, it was known as ‘Mac Mahons country’.

Barony of **Cremourne**, *Críoch Mhúrn* in Irish, preserves the earlier placename *Crích Mugdorna* meaning ‘borderlands to Mug’—originally the island of Ireland was divided into Conn’s (northern) half and *Mumu* or Mug’s (southern) half—names preserved in the modern provinces of Connacht and Munster (the ‘-ster’ element being of Viking origin). Up to AD 800, the *Mugdorna* territory stretched from modern Co Monaghan to the River Boyne in Co Meath—still very much enshrined in the folklore of Ulster. The area lay north of the border territory of the *Fir Rois*, a sub-ordinate branch of the *Uí Maine*, in the control of the *Southern Uí Neill* of *Mide*. Following the Norman invasion, the lands were forfeit to the O’Hanraghty (Hanratty) lords from *Ui Meith Macha* in Co. Louth.

3.2.2 Ecclesiastical History

Four early ecclesiastical foundations are mentioned in the Annals of Ulster up to AD 600, the monasteries of Louth, Devenish, Clones and Killeevy and Armagh, with the addition of Killyman before AD 700. In the 8th–9th century, the region largely escaped to the early Viking rampages wrought on the east coast, with waves of Viking incursions and raids between the years AD 795-835/836-902. However, the closest Viking raid was at the monastery of Louth.

An important ecclesiastical centre in Clogher developed and became the seat of the 12th century Diocese of Clogher, which was roughly co-extensive with ancient territory. The ancient Sees of **Clones**, *Ardsrath* and *Louth* were later appended to it and under Bishop David O’Brogan, the diocese was reduced in size, with parts of Co Tyrone given to *Ardstraw* / Rathlure, (later to Derry), and most of the Co Louth to the Archbishopric of Armagh. The modern Diocese of Clogher now comprises Co Monaghan, and most of Co Fermanagh, and parts of southern Tyrone, plus small parts of Co.s Donegal, Louth, and Cavan.

There is still some debate as to the nature of early church organisation in Ireland, from the early missionaries and hermitic foundations to the emergence of diverse and complex ecclesiastical settlements and Episcopal-monastic centres. The early medieval church could be characterised as a range of pastoral churches, private foundations, hermetic and powerful ecclesiastical estates, Episcopal *civitates* in Latin, meaning ‘Cities of God’, with no clear governing central authority, and dynastic appointments, intertwined with secular ruling families and ambitions up until the AD 1001 Synod of Cashel, which abolished inheritance, and clerical marriage reducing dynastic influences. After the AD 1101, the Synod of Rathbressail and the AD 1152 Synod of Kells, the Primacy of Armagh was formally recognised and a national ecclesiastical administrative system of Parish, Diocese, and Arch-diocese or Metropolitan units established that broadly continues unchanged to this day.

In The 13th century the district came under the sway of the powerful MacMahon clan of whom it was said ‘Ran with the hares and hunted with the hounds’ (McMahon

1996, 107-8). MacMahon claims that the former name of the area comprising the barony of Aughnamullen West was Eoghenach which later became Owenagh (McMahon 1996, 107).

A number of local histories mention Killahear graveyard and Saint Cera:

‘Where the townlands of Corlea, Corlatt and Rebane converge, about four miles from Shercock and seven miles from old Ballybay and eight miles from Ballybay and Castleblayney, we find the old graveyard of Killahear [...] The last families to be buried in Killahear were the O’Reilly’s and Curry’s [...] Saint Cera was skilled in linen work, making altar breads, bee-keeping and ornamental writing on wax tablets. Her feast day is May the sixth. Annually, as the graveyards of the Parish are cleared of over-growth Killahear is not forgotten. Many families in this Parish have ancestors and relatives buried in this ancient cemetery [...] Killahear is the oldest graveyard in Ireland as far as can be ascertained.’ (Magee pamphlet, 23).

‘Saint Cera is patroness of the Parish; a fifth century Saint. A Church was built in her honour in Killahear consecrated by Saint Tighernach. Killahear, meaning the Church of Saint Cera, was situated on a hill above Corlat Lake, near bawn. The saint had a convent in Lisdoonan and May 6th is her feast day. It is recorded that Killahear and Moyle (Lough Egish) cemeteries are registered in Rome as two of the oldest burial grounds in Ireland. Last families buried in Killahear were Currys, O’Reillys and O’Connells. In a report on the state of Popery during Penal law times (1744) it stated that these were two priests and two altars in the parish, one at Killahear and the other at Lattonfasky’ (McMahon 1996, 107-8).

TABLE 2: Documentary references to Cera or similar female Saints names (Sources: *Martyrology of Tallagh* (MT); *Martyrology of Donegal* (MD))

FEAST	NAME(S)	FOUNDATIONS	NOTES	SOURCES
5-Jan	Ciar, virgin of Cill-Ceira	<i>Dombnach-moin</i> [Donaghmoyne], <i>diocese of Clochar (Clogher)</i> , in the country of <i>Mac-Mathghamhna</i> [Airgialla] Monaghan	(<i>Ciar and Larrar, virgins, patrons of the parish church of</i> (MD))	MD
5-Jan	Ciar = Cere	Of Cill Chen, <i>Muscraidhe Thíre</i> , (Co Tipperary NR) Nunneries at <i>Cill Ceire</i> Kilkeary (nr Nenagh) n-Tipperary & <i>Tech Tellí</i> Tehelly, Offaly	Mid-6th Century (<i>daughter of Duibhrea</i>) Other Association(s): Brendan; Fintan Munnu/ Died: Ciar †677; Cera †679	MT FoO
5-Feb	Ceara, virgin	-	-	MD
8-Feb	Ceara, virgin	-	-	MD
9-Feb	Cere, Vir.	-	-	MT
9-Sept	Cera Vir	-	-	MT

16-Oct	Ceara	Church of Kill-chere, Magh-ascad	-	MD
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3.2.3 Later Medieval Sources

There are no specific records available for Killahear. A local tradition noted in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) records the possible existence of an abbey site on the nearby peninsula of Shantony, in Lough Bawn, 1.1km east of Killahear, however the record found “no evidence to support this” (RMP ref. MO027-023; Brindley 1986). The tradition of a religious foundation in the vicinity is significant, as it may either refer to a lost medieval site or be an oblique reference to a long-lost settlement at Killahear.

3.3 CONDITION ASSESSMENT

A number of historic elements survive at the Killahear Graveyard MO027-002. These include the c. 19th century graveyard boundary in addition to a range of memorials dating from the late 18th century to the 20th century.

3.3.1 The Graveyard Boundary Walls

The current graveyard comprises an uneven, roughly rectangular enclosed area of approximately 0.3Ha in surface size. The graveyard is located on the summit of a prominent drumlin (Plate 1), of which there are many in the surrounding landscape and affords a commanding view across Lough Bawn to the southwest, Lisnakillewbane Lough to the southeast. Approach to the graveyard is currently via an agricultural track which leads northwards, skirting the western base of the drumlin before meeting a northwest-southeast farm track (Plate 2). A south running track is accessible from this farm track which leads up the northern flank of the Drumlin to the gateway into the graveyard (Plate 3). The graveyard is accessed by a stone built gateway constructed of local shale and limestone (Plate 4) accessed by a series of semi-circular stone steps (Plate 5). A high square pillar to the east of the opening carries a wrought iron gate which is set into a large semi-circular spud stone (Plate 6). To the west of the gate a mortared rubble built wall extends for c. 4m. Inside of the gate, the ground surface slopes up steeply. Several steps have been cut into the ground surface and are paved with large limestone flags and edged with a retaining wall (Plate 7).

The current boundary is defined by a drystone, rubble-built wall which is grassed over/covered in vegetation in many places. Bramble, hawthorn, ash sapling, mature ash, digitalis, elder bush and rusty back fern were noted growing on the boundary. To the east of the gate, the boundary stands to a height of c. 2m. The upper 1.3m is composed of a drystone wall which is constructed on top of an earthen bank/scarp (Plate 8). A number of displaced stones were observed downslope of the wall in the adjoining field. The eastern boundary wall stands to an average height of c. 1.7m and is constructed in a similar manner. It is lined with mature ash trees which appear to be growing from the earthen bank/scarp below the wall (Plate 9). The southern boundary wall stands to an average height of c. 1.5m and is constructed directly on the ground level (Plate 10). The entire height of the boundary is composed of

drystone wall (Plate 11). Though, in general, this is the least overgrown side of the boundary wall, it is also the side which has suffered most from disturbance from tree growth, particularly in the southeast corner (Plate 12). There has been a small amount of disturbance to the southwest corner of the enclosure possibly relating to the recent construction of a post and wire fence in recent times (Plate 13). The western boundary is the lowest part of the enclosing element standing at an average height of c. 1.25m and is heavily overgrown with mature ash and elder (Plate 14).

3.3.2 Memorials and Interior of Graveyard

The interior of the graveyard occupies a ridge of ground which slopes away to the north and east (Plates 15 and 16). The site affords excellent views southeast towards Lough Bawn (Plate 17). The eastern part of the graveyard is heavily overgrown with stickyweed (*galium aparine*), grass and box hedge (Plate 18). A large windblown ash tree has partially damaged the boundary wall in the southeastern corner of the graveyard (Plate 19). The tree has fallen into the graveyard, narrowly missing a large 19th century slate memorial.

The memorials within the graveyard are of varied type and structure. These range from undecorated, undressed stone memorials to ornate decorated memorials such as two mortuary enclosures defined by metal railings. The oldest inscription in the graveyard dates to c. 1781, erected by James Ward to the memory of his father and mother.

Two wrought iron cross memorials are present close to the centre of the graveyard (Plate 20). A number of later 19th century Celtic Revival style ringed crosses are present within the graveyard (Plate 21). A particularly fine slate headstone dated to c. 1877 bears an image of a ringed cross in relief (Plate 22) which is reminiscent of the early medieval example visible at the 'Wee Abbey' in Clones (MO011-010001).

The centre of the graveyard close to the highest point of the drumlin is largely devoid of memorials (Plate 23). A thick layer of dried out scraw was observed throughout this area which was teeming with wolf spiders at the time of the visit. The presence of this thick layer of scraw and decayed grass matter suggests that despite the sloped nature of the ground surface here, the area is not free draining.

A survey was made of the legible dedications and published in a local pamphlet entitled 'Aughnamullen West, Five Graveyards', 41-43. No further publication details were available for this pamphlet. It contains the following record of inscriptions:

Inscriptions on tombstones, right hand side of the entrance

Erected by Ellen hand in Memory of her Husband Peter Hand of Forhill, died Aug 18th 1854 aged 43 yrs & her son Thomas died Dec 2nd 1877 aged 27 yrs R.I.P.

In loving memory of Margaret Mcconnell Ballytreatan died July 16th 1938. Her son John Francis died July 7th 1925.

Erected by James Mc Connell Ballytreen Died 14th Oct. 1877 aged 82 yrs, his mother died 11th March 1882 aged 75 yrs and his children Peter, Margaret & Jas, Joseph, who died in infancy. The above James died 1906 aged 57 yrs. "May their souls rest in peace".

This stone was.....Bready who died.....(unclear).

This burial place was erected by Patk. McArdle in the year of our Lord 1796 for to be a repository for the releques of his posterity forever

Inscriptions on tombstones, right hand side of the entrance

This stone was erected by Jas Connolly of Ballytreen in memory of Terence McCabe who departed this life the 2nd April 1793 aged 82.

Erected by Margaret Dwire of Curkisbane in Memory of her dearly beloved husband Thomas Dwire who departed this left May 9th 1865 aged 77 years.

In memory ofGartlan who departed this life June the 13th 1798 agedyears. Also Mother.....(unclear). Good man who departed this life May 18th 1798 aged.....(unclear)

This stoen was erected by James Ward in memory of his Father Peter Ward who departed this life January 9th 1783 aged 74 years. Also his mother Bridget Ward who departed this life February 6th 1781.

This stone was erected by Patrick Conoly in Memory of his father Owen Conoly who departed this life January the 2nd 1801 aged 70 years.

In Memory of our dearly beloved mother.....who departed this life 1784.

Here lies the Body of Francis Mac Aneany who departed this life November 19th 1784 aged 97 years. Erected by Patrick Mac Eneaney.

Here lies the Body of Judith McAneaney who departed this life January 27th 1783. Erected by John McAneaney.

This stone was erected by Hugh McBryed in memory of his wife Catherine Keenan who departed this life April the 9th 1796 aged 58 years.

Erected by John Gartlan in memory of his Father, mother, sisters and brothers. "May their souls rest in peace".

Erected by John Conlon in Memory of his beloved mother Catherine Conlon who departed this life 1833 aged 45 years. Also his beloved Father Simon Conlon who departed this life 1835 aged 42 years.

Erected by Anne McCarey of Faraghey in memory of her beloved Father Michael McCarey who died in 1878 aged 70 years. And her brother Peter McCarey died 27th February 1890 aged 46 years.

Here lies the body of Martha Dearnott who departed this life 1789. Erected by James Dearnott.

This stone was erected by James McCollan of Carga Moar in memory of his sister Eleanor McCollan who departed this life August the 11th 1794 aged 55 years.

This stone was erected by Thomoas McHenry in memory of his wife Rose McHenry. Alias McCullan who departed this life March the 6th 1804 aged 74 years.

Erected by their family. Their Father and Mother James and Anne McGuirk also their daughter Maggie.

Of your charity pray for the souls of Sarah Brennan who doed in 1821 aged 58 years. And for Thomas Brennan her husband who died 1832 aged 73. And for their sons Daniel Brennan of Carrickmacross who died Dec 31st 1851aged 45. And Patrick Brennan of Ballybay who died 3rd August 1879 aged 65. Also for Mary, relic of the above Daniel Brennan who died April 7th 1871 aged 47. Underneath are interred also the remains of Sarah who died 11th of June 11th 1852 aged 7 ½. And Patrick who died Aug 24th 1847 aged 1 year. Children of the above Daniel and Mary Brennan and their Daughter Mary died 5th Sept 1892 aged 40 years.

This stone was erected by Patrick Brennan of Ballybay in memory of his mother Sarah Brennan who departed this life in the year 1821 aged 58 years. Also Thomas Brennan her husband who departed this life in the year 1832 aged 73 years. And Daniel Brennan their son who departed this life in the year 1861.

3.3.3 Mortuary Enclosures

Two mortuary enclosures within the graveyard are defined by metal railings. The first is located in the southwestern part of the site and encloses two 19th century headstones. The ornate, wrought iron railing defining the pot is intact but is badly rusted and comprises wrought iron rail posts topped with cast iron *fleur-de-lys* finials connected by two levels of horizontal runners, the top being square in section and the

bottom round. The rail posts are set into the ground. The interior of the plot is overgrown (Plate 24).

A second mortuary enclosure of more elaborate design is located downslope in the northwest of the graveyard. The enclosing element here is constructed of cut limestone kerbing which is levelled where required by the sloping ground by cut stone slabs (Plate 25). A wrought iron fence is set into this kerbing with cast iron finials and ornate decorations and established ewe trees are growing within the enclosure (Plate 26). The railing and kerbing has been badly affected in recent years by vegetation growth (Plate 26), in particular, the growth of an ash tree within the enclosure which has subsumed a portion of the railing (Plate 27), and has caused a part of the kerbing to become detached and tumble downslope. An assessment of the memorial within the enclosure could not be made due to the density of the vegetation.

3.3.4 Drystone Structures

Two drystone structures are located close to the highest point of the graveyard, south of the current entranceway. The largest of these is a roughly square enclosure wall c. 8.1m long x c. 7.7m wide (Plate 28). The width of the wall averages 0.8-0.85m and it stands to a maximum height of 0.6m (Plate 29). The enclosure is orientated west-northwest – east-southeast respecting the orientation of the crest of the drumlin upon which it is situated. The interior of the enclosure is accessed by an entranceway in the western wall (Plate 30). This entrance way is c. 1.2m wide (Plate 30) and is flanked by what appears to be the best built section of wall (Plate 31). While the enclosure is not significantly overgrown when compared to the other parts of the site, an elder bush has taken root in the southeastern corner of the wall and is causing damage (Plate 32). A memorial to the McArdle family is located within the enclosure and bears the following inscription:

*This burial place was erected by
Patk. McArdle in the year
of our Lord 1796 for to be
a repository for the releques
of his posterity forever*

This inscription (Plate 33) has been interpreted to mean that the drystone enclosure is contemporary with this memorial and the feature is described as a mortuary enclosure by the archaeological survey of Ireland and associated with the McArdle memorial (www.archaeology.ie). However, the memorial is not centred in the enclosed space, nor it is correctly aligned to the walls.

A second drystone feature is located c. 5m to the east of the drystone enclosure. This feature is described as a 'wall' by the archaeological survey of Ireland (www.archaeology.ie). The feature measures c. 4.3m in length, 1.2m in width with a maximum height of c. 0.5m (Plate 34). The feature is overgrown with grass and moss

and is difficult to discern the exact shape. However, it appears to comprise a rectangle with squared off edges with loose heaped stones in the centre (Plate 35).

The eastern portion of the site is entirely overgrown and it is unclear if any further features survive in this area. An arrangement of stones was observed through the long grass which may form part of a drystone wall footing (Plate 36). Several memorials in this area are almost invisible due to the long grass (Plate 37).

3.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES IN THE SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE

The archaeological settlement surrounding the site is particularly significant, as one dominated almost exclusively by early medieval and possible early medieval settlement site types, and includes seven bi-vallate ringfort or *rath* sites, five *crannóg* sites, two uni-vallate and two tri-vallate rath sites all located within a 2km radius of Killahear (see Table 1). The presence of high-status tri-vallate sites together is particularly unusual, although the number of lake dwellings may be inaccurate, as many sites are not easily identified from field survey alone, and excavation of *crannóg* sites can reveal significant deposits below the water line. It is also noteworthy that, despite archaeological evidence at the location reported, a local tradition records the existence of an abbey in the neighbouring townland of Shantony (Schools Folklore Collection MSS 940, pp. 57-8), whilst this is no more than folk lore, there may be an early ecclesiastical presence in the locality that has thus-far gone unrecorded.

TABLE 1: Adjacent Recorded Archaeological Site (RMPs) to Killahear (Source: archaeology.ie)

RMP. NO.	TOWNLAND	CLASSIFICATION	DESCRIPTION	DISTANCE TO SITE/ITM
MO027-002	Corlat	Burial Ground	Rectangular walled-graveyard, 75m x 45m, with rectangular mortuary encl. NE entrance/avenue	672528/811544
MO027-024	Corhelshinagh	Crannog	In Lough Lisnakellewbane, surrounded by marsh	0.6km S 672516/810966
MO027-003	Rebane	Ringfort-Rath	Bi-vallate Circular, 32m x 31m. SE entrance	0.9km ESE 673417/811300
MO027-023	Shantony	House – 17th C.	Poss. Abbey (site). Late 17th century building incorp. in 18th century single-storey, rectangular 'Loughbawn House' (burned 1809).	1.1km SW 671594/811008
MO027-025	Tullyrain	Ringfort-Rath	Bi-vallate, circular, 35m x 34m. ESE entrance/causeway	1.1km SE 673486/811086
MO027-017	Lackan	Crannog	In Lough Bawn. Small cairn incorp. natural sand bank, c. 15m in diam.	1.2km W 671349/811464
MO027-042	Corhelshinagh	Crannog	Mound, c. 10m in diam., in Lough Avattan.	1.2km S 672684/810397
MO027-022	Corhelshinagh	Crannog	Oval cairn, 23m x 16m incorp. natural island in Lough Bawn	1.3km SW 671561/810671
MO027-044	Lisrill	Ringfort-Rath	Tri-vallate, circular, 37m x 26m. 3 banks / 2 ditches. E entrance/causeway	1.4km SSE 673113/810275

MO027-001	Lackan	Enclosure.	Uni-vallate oval 'Fort', 65.7m x 46.5m. Scarped bank.	1.5km NW 671085/811941
MO027-016	Shantony	Ringfort-Rath	Uni-vallate, circular, 35m x 38m. SSE entrance/causeway	1.5km WSW 671058/811286
MO027-046	Lisirril	Ringfort-Rath	Bi-vallate circular, 29m x 27.5m. SE entrance.	1.6km SE 673671/810450
MO024-030	Formil	Ringfort-Rath	Bi-vallate, circular, 39m x 36m. ESE entrance/causeway	1.7km NE 673371/813098
MO027-018	Lisinisky Shantony	Crannog	Oval cairn, 9m x 7m extends below waterline in Black Lough	1.9km SW 670837/810770
MO027-004	Dooraa	Ringfort-Rath	Bi-vallate circular 'Fort', 25.8m x 24.5m.	1.9 km E 674403/811716
MO027-015	Cortober	Ringfort-Rath	Bi-vallate circular, 40m x 39m. ESE entrance.	1.9 km WSW 670649/811190
MO027-026	Tullyrain	Ringfort-Rath	Tri-vallate, circular, 37.6m x 34.8m. 3 banks/2 ditches. E entrance.	1.9km SE 674333/811046
MO024-029	Cooltrim	Ringfort-Rath	Bi-vallate, oval, 54m x 47m. 2 banks/1 ditch. ESE entrance/causeway	2km NW 671413/813214

3.4 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

There have been no previous archaeological excavations within vicinity to the graveyard at Killahear.

3.5 CARTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

A number of historic cartographic sources have survived for Killahear. These are as follows:



Figure 2. Extract from the Down Survey County Map of Monaghan

William Petty, Down Survey map of County Monaghan 1654-6

The barony map for Cremourne has not survived. There is no detail specific to Killahear depicted on the Monaghan County map.

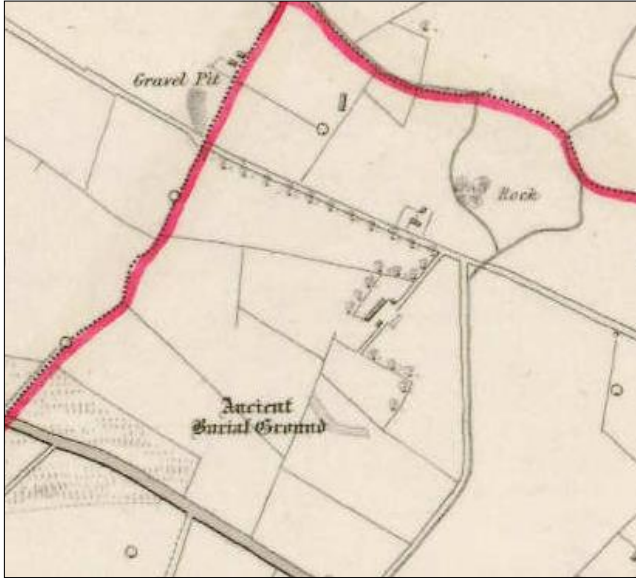


Figure 3. Extract from the first edition 6 inch OS mapping 1836

First Edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey Map, 1836, scale 1:10560

This is the first accurate historic mapping coverage of Killahear Graveyard. The current upstanding graveyard boundaries are visible in this mapping. The graveyard is annotated in gothic script as 'Ancient Burial Ground'. Interestingly, this lettering is positioned beside a shaded arcing feature c. 6m wide and c. 60m long. This feature aligns with the slight curve depicted in the eastern graveyard boundary. It is unclear however what exactly this shaded arc represents, whether it is a depression or potentially a remnant bank feature. This arcing shape, taken in conjunction with the slight arc of the eastern graveyard boundary is suggestive of an earlier enclosure pre-dating the rectangular graveyard boundary which survives in the modern landscape. No features are depicted within the graveyard enclosure.

The surrounding field system is broadly the same as that visible today with some minor differences. The eastern and northeastern portion of the graveyard boundary is depicted as tree lined. The access to the graveyard follows the pathway which survives in the modern landscape. A farmhouse with two small attendant buildings, possible sheds is depicted c. 30m north of the graveyard boundary. It is surrounded by a small tree-lined boundary to the north and west. This house is also serviced by the laneway which runs to the graveyard.

A roadway is shown running northwest-southeast to the north of the house. This is depicted as an active, public road with numerous houses and farm buildings fronting onto the road further northwest and southeast. This roadway corresponds to the closed access lane which currently runs to the north of the graveyard. The road running to the east of the site is depicted as an active road.

A notable number of limekilns are shown in the immediate surroundings of the site with six examples shown within 250m. A quarry is shown c. 377m to the west and a gravel pit was shown c. 235m northeast of the site. The townland boundary between Corlat and Corlea is shown c. 180m northwest of the site while the boundary between the townlands of Corlat and Rebane is shown c. 220m to the north.



Figure 4. Extract from the 25-inch OS mapping 1910

Ordnance Survey Map, 1910, scale 1:2500

Some minor changes are evident in the landscape since the drawing up of the 1836 mapping. The graveyard is annotated as 'Killahear Grave Yard'. The access way to the graveyard is substantially wider than in the previous mapping, particularly close to the gateway. The curvilinear feature visible to the south of the graveyard on the first edition mapping is no longer depicted. The eastern boundary of the graveyard retains the slight curve visible on previous mapping. In addition, a small defined laneway is shown skirting around the northwest corner of the graveyard, presumably a feature associated with the farmstead c. 40m north of the graveyard. The road to the north of the graveyard has changed from a throughway to a discontinuous series of access lanes into various properties. The farmstead to the north of the graveyard is now depicted with a small attendant structure to the southwest and a well adjacent to the property also. The current access track from the road to the south is represented and can be seen curving around the base of the drumlin upon which the graveyard is situated. A watercourse is depicted running alongside this track. The surrounding field pattern has changed very little from the earlier mapping.

3.9 SOCIAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY/HERITAGE

Killahear is located within the townland of Corlat. The surrounding townlands consist of Corlea, Cortaghart, Lackan, Lisinisky, Lisirril, Rebane, Shantony. These are townlands are located within the Parish of Aughnamullen, within the Barony of Cremorne, County Monaghan.

3.9.1 Place Name Analysis

Corlat: a common name in Ulster, from *Choirr Leacht* in Irish, meaning the 'round hill of the *sepulchres*' also interpreted as grave, grave-mound, monument (Joyce Vol 1, 338). Also recorded as Corlatt (AD 1607; 1773; 1793; 1835), Corlate (AD 1610), Corlagh (AD 1660-7), Cor-lauth / Cor Leacht (AD 1835) (Logainm.ie/en/39344). A leacht or leachta (pl.) form part of a range of Irish early Christian ritual monuments, also including Holy Wells, shrines and trees, and were usually designed as an open-air focal point for veneration of a Saint or Holy person interred or partially interred nearby, often forming part of a pilgrimage route. Frequently rectilinear, drystone constructions, many excavated examples have been identified on early medieval Irish monasteries particularly on the Atlantic coast, eg Inishmurray, Co Sligo, High Island, Co Galway, Illaunloughan or Skellig Michael, Co Kerry (O'Sullivan and Ó Carragáin 2008, 239-43, Cuppage 1986, 295; Horn, Marshall and Rourke 1990, 42-5; Marshall and Walsh 2005, 46-51; Marshall and Rourke 2000, 36-7; Scally 2015, 111-13). Previously, scholars believed these feature were part of the upsurge in pilgrimage, and veneration of pre-Christian wells and places, in the nineteenth century (Hughes and Hamlin 1977, 108; Edwards 1990, 116). While recent excavations have demonstrated that some are early modern in date, such as the recent excavations of the *leachta* at Glendalough (MacDermott et al 2011; 2012). However, it now agreed 'this development was essentially a rejuvenation or reorganisation of earlier practices', originating during the early medieval period (Herity 1995, 83; O'Sullivan and Ó Carragáin 2008, 317; Harney 2016, 120). The word 'leacht' however can also mean 'slab' or 'paving'. The townland name is interpreted as 'Hill of the Flag Stone' in McMahon 1996, 106.

Killahear: *Cill a Cheara* in Irish, meaning church or cell of Ceara. No record of an ecclesiastical foundation exists for this site (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970). However, the placename is also an indicator of antiquity, as the exclusion of the 'na' is indicative of an earlier derivation of the pre-9th / 10th century (Shelly 2007, 7). The placename also indicates a link to a St Ceara (aka Ciara, Cera, Chiar, Ciar, Cyra), however, there is some confusion over the precise association, as the name is relatively common in the sources and two share the same feast day. There are several documentary references to a female Irish saint of the same or similar name (Table 2). One reference to St Ceara (feast day 5th January) was the daughter of *Duibhrea*, (Dubhrea/Duibrea) born into royalty of 'royal race of Conor/Conaire, King of Ireland' in the seventh century (OSH). Although, another mid-sixth century St Cera/Ciar of *Muscraidhe Thíre*, modern Co Tipperary North Riding, accredited with the Miracle of 'pestiferous fire' and is associated St Brendan the Navigator of Clonfert, (b.484 †577), founder and patron of the church and Parish of Killkeary, near Nenagh, Co Tipperary and also Tehelly in the Termonn of Durrow, Co Offaly (Feast of Telle, 25 June [MS A7 23v]; OSH). Also named

in the poem the Feast of St. Oengus in *Leabhar Breac* (OSH). However, both are unlikely candidates and have no connection to Monaghan. More likely is the **St Ciar** of *Cill-Ceira*, co-patron (St Lastra) of the (neighbouring) parish of *Domhnach-moin* (Donnaghmoynne), 17.5km from the site, and also reputedly St Ceara's burial place. A pilgrimage to St Lastra's Holy well is still held on the 1st Sunday in May. Local tradition also accredits St. Ceara as the patron Saint of Aughnamullen Parish, (feast day, 5th May), and founding a nunnery in Lisdoonan and she was also associated with St. Tigernach in Clones (McMahon 1996, 107).

Lough Bawn. Lisnakillewbane Lough, Lisnakillewdubh Lough

Killahear overlooks three lakes which are named Lough Bawn, or white lake and Lisnakillewbane Lough which could be translated as the lake of the fort (líos) of the white (bán) wood (coillte). Lisnakillewdubh by the same reasoning could mean the fort of the black wood.

3.9.2 Cultural Heritage Sites

The term 'cultural heritage' can be used as an over-arching term that can be applied to both archaeology and architectural. However, it also refers to more ephemeral aspects of the environment, which are often recorded in folk law or tradition or possibly date to a more recent period. No individual sites have been identified that could be defined as purely Cultural Heritage.

3.9.3 Folklore

Several traditions were recorded during the workshop at Derrygooney, including stories from recent decades which have entered the local folklore in relation to Killahear.

A number of entries from the schools' folklore collection contain references to Killahear and elements of the surrounding landscape:

'The oldest graveyard I know of is Kill a – here. It is situated on a kind of hill and it is surrounded by a thick overgrown hedge.

For many years past, only a very small number of people have been interred there. It would be very difficult to find any special grave in it, because there are very few tomb stones, and a good majority of the graves are covered with briars and other wild brambles, because it is most probable that no relatives of the deceased persons live to take care of the graves.

There is no church near this graveyard either but there remains a slight trace of the foundation stones still, which shows that there must have been one many years ago.' (Schools Folklore Collection MSS 939 248-50)

Another record reads:

'There are five churchyards in this parish. Killahere in the townland of Corlatt, Corlea in the townland of Corlea, Bawn in the townland of Lough Bawn, Latton

in the townland of Latton, Aughnamullen in the townland of Aughnamullen. These churchyards are still in use and are of different shapes. There are churches in all of them with the exception of Killahere. The churchyard of Killahere is one of the oldest in the country. Some of the graves being there for two hundred years. There were crosses of wood up to some years ago and there are some fine stone crosses but they lack ornamentation. It is seldom used now except by some of the old families. Tradition tells us that it got its name from the following story: Two men took away a girl to kill her and when they came to this field they said "We'll kill her here". (Schools Folklore Collection MSS 940, p. 157)

This is echoed in the following story recounted by the local historian James McGinnity of Lurgangreen, Tullynahinera recorded in a local paper (unprovenanced) which was provided during the workshop at Derrygooney:

'The burial place of Killahere is in the townland of Corlatt in the parish of Aughnamullen West, district of Bawn and Latton. This old cemetery had a sad and tragic history. The traditional record goes that a Monk or Friars kidnapped by a band of British soldiers in the days preceding the Reformation. They held him up for information but the Friar would not disclose anything regarding where Monasteries and other religious places were. The Cromwellian horsemen took him to a lonely spot near Corlatt lake and killed him there next morning. When the tragedy was discovered, the people came in vast numbers to pay their respects. He was buried on the ground where he was murdered and it was immediately consecrated as a Catholic burial place. It lies in the immediate vicinity of Corlatt lake. Many historical old tombstones of ancient aristocratic people are to be seen here. A great saint called Saint Celia lived in Corlatt some five centuries ago. The people of the district are of a marked degree of intelligence and can still recount the old legends of its past history. A great number of eloquent schoolteachers and professional people were brought up in early life in Corlatt. There is a beautiful lake here which is an ideal pleasure ground for the tourist. It may also be described as a fisherman's paradise. Lough Bawn is also in the immediate proximity with its ancient castle and traditional environment.'

A legend which recounts an interaction between Saint Ceara and Saint Tigernach survives in the local folklore. The story goes that Saint Tigernach visited Saint Cera's convent at Lisdoonan. In anticipation of the Saint's arrival, Cera ordered the killing of their only sheep to provide food for Tigernach. As a result of this act, the nuns were left without fleece for their religious habits. But Saint Tigernach, on hearing what had happened, worked a miracle and provided a full flock of sheep so that the nuns were adequately clothed (Magee pamphlet, 23).

3.9.4 Killahere workshop - 14th September 2016

An open workshop was held in the Derrygooney Community Centre (former National School) on 14th of September 2016. Approximately ten representatives from the

Killahear Graveyard Group and members of the general public attended the workshop and later the site visit to the graveyard (a local funeral delayed several participants). Following on from presentations by Paul Duffy and Paul Stevens on the early medieval history and archaeology of the wider area in addition to some preliminary conservation issues, a recent chronology of works at the site was related by participants.

Early on it was noted that the graveyard is located very close to the parish, barony and townland boundaries and that the blessing of the graves occurs on the 11th of September. It was asserted that Killahear was not a mixed graveyard and that the cemetery contained only Catholic interments. In the late 1970s the site was apparently covered in a dense growth of blackthorn scrub. Site cover cleared by voluntary labour organised by the parish priest of the time.

It appears that the site however was not maintained in succeeding years as in 1986, a FÁS scheme was undertaken at the graveyard. Two men who participated in the scheme attended the workshop and were able to furnish much specific detail on the works as carried out. The stone wall surrounding the precinct was partially repaired as many of the stones from the drystone wall were scattered about both upslope and downslope of the walls. The entrance gate was rebuilt and repointed at this time and the semi-circular steps leading to the gate were built. The steps immediately inside of the gate were cut into the earth of the steep incline of the ground surface and were paved with limestone. In removing the vegetation and scraw from the top of the drumlin - ie the flattest and highest part of the graveyard, the two participants recalled that below the sod, the entire surface of the graveyard was cobbled in a crude fashion. Hardcore laid outside entrance and roadway rebuilt. Both men shared a recollection that a skeleton was discovered c. '1 foot below the surface between two graves' and was subsequently reburied. This information appears to relate to a modern interment which was subsequently followed up by the Garda. This line of inquiry was not pursued.

The men stated that they cleared the graveyard of loose stone in the area of the drystone enclosure and possible leacht and piled these stones atop the enclosure wall and leacht. They stated that the foundation was already there as was the entranceway. This might account for the loose stones on top of both of these structures.

Both men also described a 'font' that was discovered during the 'removal of clay' from the top of the drumlin and removed from site. They described this as a 'hollow, dished stone' and indicated dimensions of approximately 0.5m x0.5m x0.4m. After some discussion, each man was independently shown a photograph of an average bullaun stone and they both had the same reply: 'that's exactly it'.

Works in 1986 included widening of an area at the head of the laneway and the laying down of hardcore to provide for carparking spaces for visitors to the graveyard. It was noted that although permission was granted by the then landowner this was not a formal written arrangement and the land has since changed ownership.

The tradition recorded in McMahon (1996, 107) that records exist in Rome to identify Killahear as one of two of the oldest graveyards in Ireland was repeated by several men in attendance at the workshop.

A variant of the legend of Tighernach and the sheep at Lisdoonan was also recounted. In this version, Tighernach did not bestow a flock of sheep upon the convent but rather took the wool and blessed it and the wool kept growing year on year so that Saint Cera's foundation was never without wool.

A suggestion followed that the association of Cera with sheep and wool is reflected in the saint's name which is close to the Irish word for sheep – Caora. A discussion followed this suggestion which explored the possibility that Saint Cera's foundation may have been a centre of wool and linen production and that this renown is reflected in later legends which may have tried to explain the convent's prominence in textile production.

It was also attested that Saint Cera is mentioned in the text of the 'Clones (*Corpus Christi*) Missal'. This text was interrogated (Warren 1879) but no mention of Saint Cera or Saint Tighernach was identified. Recent scholarship has suggested that the 'Clones Missal' was more likely produced in the 12th century in Armagh.

During the visit to the graveyard, the Killahear group outlined their concerns with regard to the site access. While the current landowner, a Mr. Frank O'Duffy is well disposed towards public access to the site, his farming activities often necessitate the closure of certain gates across the access track leading to the site. The group stated a desire to construct a new access trackway leading from the local road to the south, directly up the southern flank of the drumlin upon which the graveyard is located. The route the group have in mind for such an access track follows along the western side of a hedgerow, crossing an area of bog at the base of the slope before crossing a field boundary and climbing pasture towards the summit of the drumlin along the western side of the graveyard.

4 ASSESMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

4.1 HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Examination of each the elements that make up the whole of a historic place provide a wider perspective and context the whole site. This assessment of significance is based on the various elements which distinguish Killahear Burial Ground as a special place and an analysis of the combination of these various elements and the ways in which they combine.

4.1.1 Killahear is a Sacred Place of Great Antiquity

Killahear is a site of significant antiquity with over 200 years of Christian burial practice visible and evidence to suggest that it provided a focus for continuing Christian worship from the early medieval period. The place retains a sense of serenity, peace and tranquillity, and remains relatively untouched by modern life.

4.1.2 Fragmentary Documented History is Significant

There is (little or) no surviving documentary evidence directly relating to the site of Killahear. Toponymy (placename) evidence is significant and insightful in both locating early Christian worship to the vicinity, and linking the site directly to pre-9th century nunnery associated with Ceara. This is most likely St Ciara of *Cill-Ceira*, a native of Monaghan whose feast day falls on the 5th January, is patron of Aughnamullen and is buried in Donaghmoynes. The name Ceara (also Cera, Ciar or Ciara) is common in the early documentary sources, and there is some confusion with a 6th- or 7th-century St Cera, daughter of Duibhre, from Tipperary. The site appeared to remain a special place of Christian practice and tradition in the locality, from the eighteenth-century to the present day. A number of plain gravestones and fallen slabs are undated and may suggest earlier medieval or post-medieval burial.

4.1.2 There is a Vibrant Folklore Associated with the Region

Continuity of early Christian veneration of St Ceara in the regional traditions of the area, can be best characterised by her inclusion in the modern stained glass windows of St Joseph's church, Carrickmacross. This depicts the four main patrons of the County four Saints: Ceara, Dympna, MacArtan and Tigernach, and is continuing evidence of the importance of Ceara. The early church of Donaghmoynes, in the neighbouring parish, is believed to be the burial place of St Ceara (Ciara), and is strongly linked to St Lassar, co-founder of Cill Chier, and strongly suggestive of pre-12th century links.

4.2 ARCHITECTURAL AND ARTISTIC SIGNIFICANCE

4.2.1 Structures Associated are of Local Architectural Significance

No original architectural fabric survives on the site. The graveyard enclosure drystone wall is likely to be eighteenth century or later in date. A rectangular drystone enclosure is located close to the summit of the hill, to the south of the entrance. This feature has been interpreted as a late eighteenth-century mortuary enclosure, primarily due to the fact that a memorial stone dedicated to the McArdle family and dated to 1796 is located within the enclosure. However, the memorial is not centred

in the enclosed space, nor it is correctly aligned to the walls unlike other examples such as the Plunkett Shrine at Inishkeen. Consultation with local men who participated in a FAS scheme at the graveyard in the 1980s revealed that loose stones were placed upon the walls of this enclosure accounting for the loose, uncoursed nature of the upper portion of the wall. The lower courses are more formally arranged. There remains some potential for this feature to represent an earlier structure. Further analysis would require archaeological investigation. A rectangular drystone wall or plinth is located to the east of this enclosure. While currently overgrown, the structure has the potential to represent a leacht. Further investigation and clearance would be required to characterise the significance of this feature. The entrance and associated steps of cut-limestone slabs are modern.

4.2.2 18th-19th Century Memorials are of Regional Artistic Significance

The collection of 18th, 19th and 20th century decorated gravestones provide an important complete local collection with nuanced variation in style, iconography and style worthy of preservation. These memorials range from ornate mortuary enclosures and fine slate memorials to simple undecorated, unhewn stones. While not as significant as other collections of memorials in the South Ulster style (such as Clones or Errigal Truagh) the gravemarkers at Killahear are of regional interest from an artistic and archaeological perspective.

4.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

4.3.1 Early Medieval Landscape Setting is of Archaeological Significance

The landscape setting is characterised by lakes and low undulating drumlins. Lough Bawn forms part of a lake system navigable to the Atlantic, via the Lough Erne system. The immediate area lies close to the present County Cavan border to the south, but was part of an ancient marginal territory celebrated in the Barony and County names and of significance from late prehistory to the early Middle Ages. The site is surrounded on all sides by an unusually-high number of early medieval multi-vallate *rath* and *crannóg* site types—generally classified as higher status / petty royal secular settlements.

4.3.2 Archaeological Potential for early Enclosure is Significant

A possible sub-surface earthwork or scarp feature can be traced along the southwestern quadrant of the hillside, just beyond the present graveyard enclosure wall. It is further supported by early cartographic evidence (1834 OS 6inch map), which depicts a curvi-linear feature. The significance of this feature cannot be confirmed without archaeological or geo-physical investigations.

4.3.3 A Recorded Monument of Historical Significance.

Killahear burial ground is an archaeological site of historical significance listed on the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP Re: MO027-002). It is therefore subject to statutory legal protection and advance notice is required in advance of any ground-works or conservation works. There is a high potential for surviving sub-surface

archaeological deposits, soils, features or artefacts to exist due to lack of any significant development or excessive disturbance from burials.

4.3.4 Artefacts Associated with the Site and Surrounds

As discussed above in section 3.9.4, there is strong evidence that a Bullaun Stone was unearthed within the graveyard in 1986 and was removed from the site. This information is of crucial importance as it provides a tangible link to the early medieval period. While the location of the graveyard, its surrounding landscape and the cartographic and topographic evidence indicates that the graveyard was likely to have been surrounded by an enclosure, the identification of a bullaun stone provenanced onsite bolsters the interpretation of Killahear as an Early Christian site.

TABLE 3: Artefacts and stray finds (Source: National Museum of Ireland Topographic Files).

MUSEUM NO	1965:275
TOWNLAND	Corlea
PARISH	Magheraclonne
BARONY	Farney
FIND	Vessel – butter
FIND PLACE	Found 4ft deep in bog
DESCRIPTION	Wooden keg of bog butter. Cylindrical keg containing bog butter. Convex on outer surface. Sloping shoulder. Vertical cylindrical neck. Adze marks to be seen on exposed surface. Two lug handles on opposite sides of vessel, each with sloping top and bottom and a circular hole nearer the upper end. Lid missing. Butter projects upwards beyond rim. H 31.5cm Dpt of body c. 27cm ext Diam at rim 26cm L of lug handle 11cm Wth of handle 2.3cm
REFERENCE	NMI Topographical Files

MUSEUM NO	1978:160
TOWNLAND	Corlea
PARISH	Magheraclonne
BARONY	Farney
FIND	Quernstone
FIND PLACE	Surface find from ditch
DESCRIPTION	Rotary quern. Bee-hive type. Bun-shaped upper stone. Funnel shaped central hopper leading to a cylindrical feed pipe. Splayed outwards in hour-glass fashion near the base. The base is smooth with a slight concavity. Side bears an oblique handle hole, long and oval in cross-section. Diam. max 32cm Diam at base 30.5cm H 14.5cm Handle hole: 2.9cm x 1cm Dpt 2.6cm. Dpt of hopper 9.5cm Dpt of feed pipe 1.7cm L of feed pipe 7cm.
REFERENCE	NMI Topographical Files

4.5 SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

There is a Vibrant Folklore Associated with the Region. The site is of acute local significance and a very active and engaged local group is in place with a mission to maintain and promote the site in a local, national and international context.

4.4 SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE - HIGH

The graveyard is significant to the local population given that it contains some plots still tended by descendants of the people interred there. The existing graveyard enclosure walls and entranceway are not intrinsically important, although they are symbolically important in defining the modern graveyard.

A public consultation/workshop was held during the drafting of the Conservation Plan in the former Derrygooney National School. The consultation enforced a sense of the public appreciation of and the social significance of Killahear graveyard in the contemporary landscape.

4.5 ECOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE - HIGH

The habitat value of the graveyard and the hedgerows must be recognised as a habitat which is not subject to agricultural practices, therefore encouraging biodiversity.

Flora

The hedgerows comprise of mature ash trees, ash saplings, hawthorn, elder bush and bramble. A large ash tree has taken hold within the mortuary enclosure in the northern part of the site, to the east of the graveyard. An overgrown yew tree is also present within this enclosure.

A large overgrown box hedge was noted in the eastern part of the site. When the site was visited in August, a large number of flowering digitalis were present on the enclosing bank and wall.

The interior surface of the graveyard is covered in a depth of scraw and a decaying matt of grass. This may be due to heavy clays or even a cobbled surface beneath the surface which is impeding drainage.

Fauna

The graveyard is likely to provide a habitat for larger mammals such as foxes, badgers or rabbits. One potential burrow/den was observed in the north of the site.

The mature trees along the boundary of the graveyard are certain to provide a home for nesting birds though these were not identified during the site visit. It is possible that bats are also present living within gaps in the drystone walls.

The less well-maintained areas, notably around the boundary and in the east and northeast of the graveyard can provide a valuable habitat that should not be entirely removed without due consideration of potential ecological impacts. All vegetation

clearance should take due cognisance of the prohibitions on such works during the nesting season.

Under the Wildlife Acts 1976-2000, all bats (10 species) and bat roosts are protected. All birds, nestlings and active nests are protected. Broad-scale spraying of herbicides is prohibited and hedge cutting/ scrub removal etc. is only allowed from September to March.

Under the EU Habitats and Birds Directives a number of bats (e.g. Lesser Horseshoe Bat) and birds: (e.g. Peregrine Falcon) are afforded protection. Adopted in 1992, the Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora aims to promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements. It forms the cornerstone of Europe's nature conservation policy with the Birds Directive and establishes the EU wide Natura 2000 ecological network of protected areas, safeguarded against potentially damaging developments.

5 ASSESSMENT OF CONSERVATION ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

5.1 ISSUES AND VULNERABILITIES

5.1.1 Vegetation damaging masonry elements

The most pressing conservation issue with relation to the built fabric at Killahear is the damage being caused to the mortuary enclosure in the northeast of the site by a large, mature ash tree. Growing from the enclosure over an area which slopes severely to the north, this tree risks becoming top heavy and blowing down in strong winds. This would result not only in catastrophic damage to the stone and iron enclosure, but also significant damage to the northern portion of the graveyard boundary wall.

5.1.2 Upkeep and maintenance of memorials

Several of the memorials are in a state of disrepair and their condition is likely to further deteriorate without intervention. While a number of stone monuments are at risk from unchecked vegetation growth or from falling trees/branches (particularly in the east of the site), the iron memorials and mortuary enclosure elements are in immediate danger of further degradation.

5.2 POTENTIAL THREATS

5.2.1 Access

While the current landowner is well disposed to the granting of access to the graveyard, this situation has the potential to change at any time. Revocation of rights to access the site would result in significant problems not only for the maintenance of the graveyard but also for the social significance of the site within the community.

5.2.2 Damage to subsurface Archaeology

Study of the cartographic and aerial photographic information, in addition to consultation with the local community and historical research has indicated that archaeological features may survive within and surrounding the current graveyard at Killahear. The area possesses high potential for previously unrecorded subsurface archaeology to survive. This potential archaeology is at risk from ad hoc works or development, particularly within the context of providing alternative access to the site.

5.2.3 Anti-social behaviour at the Graveyard

The relatively remote, rural location of the graveyard has resulted in the site remaining free from significant incidences of anti-social behaviour. If vehicular access or parking were to be made off the main road, this may have the potential to become an issue.

5.2.4 Inadvertent damage to habitats of protected species

There is potential for the presence of protected bat, bird or insect species within the graveyard at Killahear. Without identifying the habitats of such species that may be present, the potential remains for inadvertent damage or destruction of such during any future maintenance work.

5.3 RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE GAPS

5.3.1 Nature and extent of Archaeology onsite

From the current state of archaeological and historical research, it is impossible to accurately define the extent of antiquity of the Killahear site, or the existence and possible extent of an original ecclesiastical site. Cartographic evidence provides tantalising indications of a partial enclosure bank or wall, as depicted on the 1st edition OS mapping, but is inconclusive without the confirmation of further archaeological research. A raft of potential (non-intrusive and/or intrusive) archaeological techniques could be used to provide clarity. Traces of low earthworks, no-longer visible above ground, have been successfully detected using non-intrusive techniques, such as geodetic topographic contour surveys, and the relatively new, Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR). Monaghan County Council has a particularly extensive range of LiDAR coverage, although the site is not presently covered.

Sub-surface features such as walls and ditches can be detected using various geophysical survey methods, which that may clarify the morphology, extent and orientation of feature-which could also be outcropping natural rock. However, without archaeological excavation, evidence of date or stratigraphic association cannot be accurately determined.

Similarly, the date, nature and function of the two drystone structures within the graveyard (the 'leacht' and the 'mortuary enclosure') cannot be characterised without further archaeological investigation.

5.3.2 Women in the early Irish Church

There is generally an overall deficit in the study of women in the past. This is particularly apparent in the lack of research into archaeological visibility, potential roles, and involvement of Irish women in the development of the early medieval church. Further historical and archaeological research into women in the early Irish church would be profitable. Many of the placenames and Sainly associations have not survived into later administrative units. Women were of particular importance to St Patrick in *Confessio*, as he identified women as the key to success of the introduction and adoption of the new religion in Ireland, particularly amongst the aristocracy. However, as the early medieval church in Europe, it developed hierarchical structures, based on Roman administrative senatorial model, it developed a patriarchal structure. However, the prevalence of women Saints in the Irish devotional traditions is particularly well-preserved.

5.3.3 Survival of Local Placenames

Recording the surviving local traditions, pilgrimages, sacred places and folk lore of the region is particularly important in the study and presentation of early ecclesiastical affiliations with sites, such as Killahear. Links are often maintained, without survival of formal documentary sources or lost records. An important study into Irish placenames has recently been made available for the Republic of Ireland online (Source: loganim.ie). The level of information is currently only available to County, Civil Parish and Townland. However, research is continuing and the recording and interpretation of local field and site-specific placenames, such as the Killahear Burial Ground, is vital to be incorporated into this resource, and prevent the loss of information.

5.3.4 Borders in Early Medieval Settlement Patterns

The surrounding archaeological landscape is rather unusual in the extent and frequency of almost exclusively high-status early medieval settlement including Tri-vallate and bi-vallate rath, and crannog sites. Additional historical and archaeological survey of the wider area, possibly through a combined study of topographic landscape study, field survey, lakeside and underwater dive surveys, would clarify the validity and potential of this cluster. It is likely this area was a developed secular landscape in the early medieval period, similar to case studies have proved highly important, e.g. Lough Derravagha, Co Westmeath and Lough Gara, Co Sligo (Fredengren 2002; O'Sullivan et al. 2007).

5.3.5 Community Catalogue of Gravestones

A comprehensive graveyard survey of the burial ground's graves inscriptions, location and condition would prove invaluable as a future research tool for historians, local studies and genealogical research. An increasing number of Irish examples are now completed and digitally accessible, including several in Co Monaghan (e.g. Annaghkilly, Camaghy, Donagh, Errigal Truagh, Gallagher and Tydavnet; see www.historicgraves.ie). Surveys can be undertaken non-intrusive using basic technology of a GPS-enabled Smart phone with camera, with local communities being encouraged to assist in conducting archaeological surveys across the country (see Co Laois and Co Cork). Results can be made available online or for a fee, and a number of models are available (<http://historicgraves.com/graveyard/killeevan/mo-klvn>).

5.4 TOURISM, INTERPRETATION AND SITE ACCESS

5.4.1 Inappropriate Access

The current access to the graveyard is via an agricultural track which is blocked off periodically dependant on farm activities. While the current landowner is amenable to visitors to the graveyard, this is very much dependent upon the continuing goodwill of this and future landowners. The Killahear Graveyard Group have obtained a strip of land leading from the main road to the graveyard. It is worth investigating if access could be secured in this way, without undue impact upon the ecological, landscape and visual or archaeological aspects of the site.

5.4.2 Tourism Potential

Tourism to the graveyard is very difficult to quantify given that the site is accessible for free without any requirement for a visitor to log their presence. The biggest potential attraction for tourists comes in the form of genealogical and local history research. If Killahear were to be included in an Early Christian Monaghan trail, this would strengthen its tourist draw. Adequate interpretation onsite would add to the tourism potential of the graveyard however, a satisfactory solution with regard to access would need to be secured first.

6 POLICIES, RECOMMENDATIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION

6.1 POLICIES

6.1.1 Policy 1: Protection and Retention of the Historic Integrity of the Site

To place the conservation of all elements of Killahear Graveyard, both known and unknown, and the protection of the significance of its various elements at the heart of planning and management of the monument.

6.1.2 Policy 2: Conservation, Repair and Maintenance

To implement effective regimes for maintenance and repair, while protecting the significance and historic integrity of the various elements of Killahear Graveyard while observing exemplary standards of conservation practice.

6.1.3 Policy 3: Enhancement and Improvement

To enhance the historic character and visual qualities of the various elements of Killahear Graveyard by consolidating eroding elements, removing intrusive elements and addressing impacts upon setting.

6.1.4 Policy 4: Access and Interpretation

To encourage public understanding and enjoyment of the various elements of Killahear Graveyard, by promoting both physical and intellectual access to the monument and meeting the needs of a broad variety of users.

6.1.5 Policy 5: Research, Education and Tourism

To develop an understanding of the various elements of Killahear Graveyard through informed archaeological investigation and research, ensuring their preservation in an accessible form. To promote the various elements as an integral site of interest and a historical resource for learning about the past.

6.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

A series of recommendations for specific programmed actions which will support the policies contained within the Conservation Plan are as follows:

Recommendation 1. That Killahear Graveyard Group, with the support of the Heritage Office of Monaghan County Council establish a Steering Group which includes representatives of all key stakeholders, to oversee the implementation of the Conservation Plan policies and recommendations.

Commented [P2]: Ana Dolan has commented:
Recommendations should make clear to whom the responsibility to act refers to. I have had a go at this. Let me know what way you think this should be approached.

Recommendation 2. That the Steering Group carry out/commission a costed feasibility study and impact assessment for the construction of a new accessway to the graveyard from the main road, being sure to explore all construction options and routes.

Recommendation 3. That Monaghan County Council carry out remedial works at the graveyard boundary wall and at memorials which are under threat, prioritising management of the vegetation currently damaging the mortuary enclosure in the northeast of the site and the drystone enclosure in the centre of the site. The National Monuments Service will need to be consulted prior to any such works and it is recommended that all ground disturbances be carried out under archaeological licence.

Recommendation 5. That the Steering Group with the support of Monaghan County Council commission an ecological habitat survey in order to characterise the species present within the graveyard with a view to safeguarding any protected species or the habitats of such that have the potential to exist within the graveyard. The survey should be conducted during the summer months with input from the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Recommendation 6. That the Steering Group explore the available options for a graveyard survey using digital resources with a view to making it openly accessible, with the local community being encouraged to assist in conducting the survey using rubbings/photogrammetry/illustration as appropriate) as per previous surveys at Clontribret, Tydavnet, Errigal Truagh and Old Donagh.

Recommendation 7. That the Steering Group develop a Graveyard Maintenance/Management Scheme which should incorporate rostered maintenance of the grounds and structures and. The Scheme should also address biodiversity aspects of the site, in line with the Monaghan County Heritage Plan, and include management schemes for flora and fauna and should follow the guidelines issued by the Heritage Council (2010). Undertake any proposed conservation and repair with reference to the principles outlined in the ICOMOS Venice, Burra and Washington Charters, promoting an approach of minimum intervention rather than restoration.

Recommendation 8. That the Steering Group draft interpretative signage at the graveyard, incorporating information from the Conservation Plan and reconstruction drawing commissioned as a part of the early Christian Monaghan Project. Explore the feasibility of displaying these at the site.

Recommendation 9. That the Steering Group and Monaghan County Council explore the feasibility of developing a number of dedicated car parking spaces immediately north of the main road.

Recommendation 10. That the Steering Group build upon the early Medieval Monaghan Project to include Killahear in a county-wide driving trail comprising

initially of the sites at Clones, Iniskeen, Killahear and Errigal Truagh with potential for further additions during the scoping phase.

Recommendation 11. That the Steering Group commission geophysical survey of lands immediately surrounding the graveyard. Use the survey and the results of such as an instrument to garner community interest and local support. It is recommended that the results of the survey be used in conjunction with the information within the Conservation Plan to design the interpretation panels for the site.

Recommendation 12. That the Steering Group engage a licence eligible archaeologist to design a programme of minimal intervention that will allow the following research questions to be answered: the nature and character of the drystone structures onsite, and the presence or not of a cobbled surface beneath the scraw in the centre of the graveyard.

Recommendation 13. That the Steering Group develop a research framework and partnership with academic institutions for future archaeological, architectural and historic research and targeted investigation to increase understanding of the separate elements (outer enclosure, leacht, drystone enclosure) and their place within the overall context of the site.

Recommendation 14. That the Steering Group make efforts to align with Action 26 of the Monaghan Heritage Plan, to ‘Develop a series of heritage booklets and make them available on the internet’ with reference to Killahear Graveyard.

6.3 IMPLEMENTATION

The Conservation Plan is not a statutory document. However, it will assist in the implementation of existing statutory policy and law. The Conservation Plan is the beginning of a long term process and its successful implementation will depend on as wide acceptance and active support as possible. In preparing the Plan, consultation was held with a range of interest groups and statutory bodies. Further consultation and dialogue will be necessary at times during the life of the Plan.

Management Procedures

It is essential that any works carried out to the various elements of Killahear Graveyard are done so by suitably trained and experienced professionals. Irreparable damage can be caused to historic monuments by inexperienced or inadequate professional advice. The implementation of procedures and policies contained within the Conservation Plan can only be successfully achieved if conducted under the advice and guidance of suitably experienced individuals.

Archaeologists employed to work at Killahear Graveyard should have demonstrable experience of work on similar monuments.

Commented [P3]: Ana Dolan: Implementation section should mention the people required to be involved in the works – conservators, structural engineers etc

Tradespersons and craftspeople should be informed of the significance of the monuments prior to conducting any works. Ideally, they will have past experience of conducting restoration/remedial works on similar monuments.

Architects, where employed, should have demonstrable experience in working on historic monuments and should have an accreditation in conservation from a professional body or possess a third-level qualification in building conservation.

Statutory Provisions and Procedures

Any works affecting the various elements of Killahear Graveyard are governed by the requirements of the National Monuments Act 1930 - 2004. These are necessary constraints which delimit the type and nature of any work planned for the various elements of the site. Any enhancement of the visitor experience will ultimately require funding, and the sourcing of such funds is a key constraint to any works planned.

Maintenance

The historic fabric which comprises the graveyard will require an ongoing Graveyard Maintenance/ Management Scheme, which should be based on the OPW biennial inspection and should follow the guidelines on the care of historic graveyards issued by the Heritage Council (2010), particularly the following points:

- Draw up a management plan with your Conservation Officer/Heritage Officer.
- Set out policy and strategy for management of the physical attributes of the graveyard such as painting of the graveyard ironwork, maintenance of graveyard wall etc.
- Implement multi-annual plan, such as cutting grass regime, ivy control, sycamore control and control of other deep rooting species that may cause damage to memorials and other masonry structures within a graveyard
- Identify who is going to carry out the plan every year and at what time this work needs to be carried out
- Undertake quinquennial (5 year) inspection of masonry structures within your historic graveyard
- Do not attempt major conservation works on masonry structures, maintain them as they are – ivy clad ruins should be maintained as ivy-clad ruins – such work is expensive and can only be undertaken by a professional conservation team (Heritage Council 2010).

The below actions can serve as a basis for the drafting of a Graveyard Maintenance/ Management Scheme.

General inspection of monument	
Task	Visual inspection to identify any sudden changes such as vandalism, development of potential risks etc
Location	Graveyard, headstones, enclosures

Equipment	None
Frequency	Monthly
Comments	This task will ensure that any potentially damaging changes are captured in the short term.

Dry cleaning of surfaces	
Task	Inspection of horizontal surfaces to remove accumulation of leaf litter, general litter, dust, etc
Location	Access tracks to graveyard, entranceway
Equipment	Brush, protective clothing, rubbish bags
Frequency	Monthly
Comments	This task will reduce the risk of slips and trips which may occur due to the accumulation of mossy growth, leaf litter etc. Also help to improve the general appearance of the graveyard.

Treatment of snow and ice	
Task	Application of 'salt' to slippery surfaces
Location	Access paths to front and rear of graveyard
Equipment	None
Frequency	When required
Comments	This task should be carried out when there is a possibility of snow/ice accumulation. Consideration should be given to the visual impact of the 'salt' residue.

Treatment of minor vegetation such as weeds	
Task	Removal of weeds
Location	Access paths, wall, high cross
Equipment	Spraying equipment, hand tools
Frequency	Annually
Comments	Due cognisance should be given to the fact that any works – including vegetation clearance, directly affecting a recorded monument will need to be reported first to the National Monuments Service.

Redecoration of metalwork	
Task	Repainting metalwork
Location	Mortuary Enclosures, gate
Equipment	Painter's equipment and suitable paint
Frequency	Biennial
Comments	It should be established who is currently responsible for this work in order to avoid duplication of treatment.

6.4 IMMEDIATE/SHORT TERM ACTIONS

The Conservation Plan has made recommendations for short term actions which should be implemented by the Steering Group at an early stage. These are:

- Seek consultation with the National Monuments Service to inform of intended works;
- Remove ash tree within mortuary enclosure in northeast of the site;
- Remove the elder bush growing from drystone enclosure;
- General vegetation maintenance;
- Commission a costed feasibility and impact assessment (to include visual impacts) for the construction of a new access way to the graveyard;
- Commission an ecological habitat survey of within the Killahear graveyard precinct in order to investigate the presence of any species or habitats that require protection.

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